



*Gates Cactus
and
Succulent Society*

OCTOBER 2007

NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " OCTOBER 3rd

AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.

PROGRAM

Laurel Woodley will be our guest speaker for the October Program. Her talk will cover a trip that she took to South Africa. She is a wonderful presenter and her talk is well worth the time. Laurel is Vice President of CSSA and has traveled across the globe searching out succulent plants. Come early and bring a friend to enjoy the program with you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October will be one of the busiest months for Gates C&SS members this year. Please take note of all of the activities that have been planned and participate if you can. Fall is officially here and our plants loved their September rain. (Depending on your location.)

The annual Gates BBQ will be held on Saturday, **October 6 at the Sims Tree Learning Center**

(TLC.) More details in this newsletter, but here are the highlights. Get there early to tour the grounds. There is a very nice succulent garden, named the "Joe Casey (who's that guy?) Cactus Garden", plus Iris, Pelargoniums, Rare Fruit Trees, a fabulous Conservatory and lots more including Gary Sims' interesting collection of old cars. We are extremely grateful that the Sims open their facility to us and hope all of our members can come and enjoy the day.

The club provides the hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken and the fixings. We also provide the soft drinks and water. Members are asked to bring side dishes, deserts all of your favorite stuff that makes a pot-luck so wonderful. In addition to the regular fare, we have the annual Cactus Cook Off. This is your chance to show off your culinary skills with our favorite plants. This is a judged competition, everyone gets a vote as to their favorite and prizes (cacti, what else?) will be awarded.

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LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2007

On Saturday, October 13, we will have a tour of three of our members homes. Maps are in this newsletter, and here are the details. We will begin at **Dennis Kucera's** home in Moreno Valley at about 9:30AM. We'll move to the **Urmans'** at around 10:15 to arrive at about 10:30 and then move to the **McGrews'** to arrive at about 11:30. Mary Alice McGrew has promised us one of her fabulous lunches, do plan to attend so Yvonne and I don't get it all.

I'm running for a seat on the CSSA Board of Directors, so if you are a member, please be sure to vote.

Will you have your "Best Dead Plant" ready for our October meeting? Dr. Death has promised us a return visit and will judge the show once again. Yes, a real treat for us!

See you at the meeting Buck.

We do want to Thank **Tom Glavich** for the Great Program last month. His Presentation on the 'Miniature Plants from South Africa and beyond' was very informative and tempting. He gave us a good look at the unique cultural requirements of miniature plants. I sure like their minimum space requirements!

Thanks Tom. Buck



MINI-SHOW SUBJECTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2007

OCTOBER 3
EUPHORBIA and OPUNTIA
THIS IS THE LAST MINI-SHOW FOR 2007

NOVEMBER 7
ANNUAL AUCTION

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/03 Donna Bills (47)
- 10/05 Ed Platzner (69)
- 10/12 Dan Griffith (53)
- 10/14 Leo Pickoff (86)
- 10/17 Michael Mazgai (56)
- 10/18 Alice Beardsley (74)
- 10/19 Anna Marie Granillo (50)
- 10/23 Helen Hughes (??)
- 10/23 Vince Conway (59)

To all we send our very best wishes especially to *Leo Pickoff* for the senior birthday this month.



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/15 Lillian & Leo Pickoff(59)
- 10/20 Kim & Barry Urman(22)

Congratulations on your special day. May you be able to do all that you used to do or wish to do! And special best wishes to the Pickoffs on their 59th. WOW 59 years.



Visit our WEB SITE

www.gatescss.org

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 07
SUCCULENTS HAWORTHIA AND GASTERIA**

Karl Osborn and Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE small 6" pot or less
 1st Karl D. Osborn Haworthia margaritifera
 2nd Nancy Hotaling Gasteria batesiana
 3rd Marie Lynn Thrane H. attenuata variegata 3rd
 Marie Lynn Thrane H. obtusa variegata

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
 1st Mike Green Gasteria cv. Green Ice
 2nd Karen Roholt Gasteria marmorata
 variegated monstrose

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Ina Schweitzer Haworthia attenuata ?
 2nd Ina Schweitzer G. bicolor v. liliputana
 2nd Karen Roholt G. "Little Warty"
 3rd Karen Roholt Haworthia fasciata

ADVANCED small, 6" pot or less
 1st Dennis Kucera Haworthia coaretata
 2nd Bob Laughlin Haworthia nodulosa
 2nd Dennis Kucera G. Lilliputana X
 G. armstrongii
 2nd Buck and Yvonne Haworthia truncata
 3rd Buck and Yvonne Haworthia reinwardtii var.
 3rd Joella Olsen Haworthia angustifolia
 Var. liliputana
 3rd Bob Laughlin Gasteria species
 H.M. Judy Horne Haworthia cymbiformis
 H.M. Judy Horne Haworthia cymbiformis
 H.M. Buck and Yvonne Haworthia parksiana
 H.M. Joella Olsen Haworthia truncata
 H.M. Joella Olsen Gasteria verucosa

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Tony Marino Haworthia attenuata
 2nd Joella Olsen Haworthia cymbiformis
 2nd Bob Laughlin Gasteria bicolor
 3rd Tony Marino Haworthia cymbiformis
 3rd Buck and Yvonne Gasteria "little warty"
 H.M. Buck and Yvonne Astroloba spiralis

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR SEPTEMBER 07
ASTROPHYTUM, GYLMNOCALYCIUM
PARODIA AND NOTOCACTUS**

Karl Osborne and Dennis Kucera judging

NOVICE small, 6" pot or less
 2nd Karl D. Osborn Astrophytum ornatum

NOVICE LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Karl D. Osborn Gymnocalycium saglione

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
 1st Karen Roholt Astrophytum myriostigma
 2nd Mike Green A. ornatum v. "bicranial"
 2nd Karen Roholt Gymnocalycium saglione
 3rd Karen Roholt Astrophytum ornatum
 3rd Karen Roholt Gymnocalycium mihanovichii

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Ina Schweitzer Gymnocalycium saglione

ADVANCED small, 6" pot or less
 1st Tony Marino Gymnocalycium saglione
 2nd Bob Laughlin Gymnocalycium saglione
 2nd Joella Olsen Astrophytum myriostigma
 2nd Judy Horne Gymnocalycium saglione
 3rd Tony Marino Astrophytum myriostigma
 3rd Bob Laughlin Gymnocalycium mihanovichii
 H.M. Bob Laughlin Notocactus leninghausii
 H.M. Bob Laughlin Astrophytum myriostigma

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Buck and Yvonne Parodia scopa
 2nd Buck, Yvonne Gymnocalycium denudatu
 3rd Dennis Kucera Parodia scopa
 3rd Bob Laughlin Notocactus magnificus
 H.M. Joella Olson Astrophytum nudum

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Karl and Edna Osborn joined GCSS in 2001 because of their love of cactus and succulents. Karl is retired from the Marine Corps and aerospace. Edna is retired, too. They also belong to the Rare Fruit Growers. Karl's favorite plants are mammillarias and aloes. (Ed. Note: We enjoy seeing Karl's plants in the wonderful pots he makes.) Karl and Edna live in Riverside.

Barbara and Karl Lauck joined GCSS because Barbara loves cactus. She is a retired State of California staff analyst and he is a high school teacher. They belong to the Inland Region Iris Society and the San Gorgonio Garden Club. The Laucks live in Banning.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

October 2007

Cactus OPUNTIA

by Dennis Kucera

There are over 300 species of Opuntia's of the Cactaceae, native to the America's from Massachusetts to British Columbia, southward to the Straits of Magellan, the end of South America. Some of the common names are prickly pear, tuna, cholla and beaver tail, depending on the species. Opuntia's are mostly jointed cacti, growing prostrate or as shrubs or trees. If the joints are flattened and commonly oval, they are the platy-opuntia, or cylindrical to conical joints they are the cylindro-opuntia. The leaves are usually small in most species and are early deciduous. The jointed stems contain the chlorophyll for photosynthesis. The larger spines are naked or sheathed or sometimes none but the very minute spines called glochids are found in large numbers in the upper parts of the areoles. The flowers are lateral on stems, sessile and have numerous flower segments most commonly yellow. Some species have flowers that are orange to purple or white.

Opuntia's are mostly course and awkward plants not lending themselves to pot or tub culture and their spines do not encourage their use. Their unusual forms, showy flowers and ability to withstand unfavorable growing conditions make them useful in gardens for sun exposed and rocky banks and in neglected corners. Opuntia's are easily propagated from joints and seed. The Indian fig or tuna, *Opuntia ficus-indica* forms a shrubby tree to 18 feet. It is of unknown origin and has naturalized over much of the subtropical world. It is cultivated for the abundant edible fruit. The fruit are eaten fresh or the pulp is boiled down for syrup or for cactus candy. The half grown pads are cut into strips and boiled in water several times to remove the muscelagenous material and eaten fresh or used in a casserole. This is called nopales. See Joyce Tate's *Cactus Cook Book* for more info.

Some kinds of Opuntia's have run wild, naturalized, and have become serious pests in Australia, S. Africa, India and elsewhere. Edmund C. Jaeger in his *Desert Wildflower* book lists 11 species of Opuntia in the deserts of Southern California, but eight other species are found in the inter-mountain areas and San Diego County coast.

One of the most attractive Opuntias especially when

in flower is the beaver-tail cactus, *O. basilaris*. This is a low spreading species with flat joints occurring in small clumps. The joints vary in size from a few inches, *O. basilaris* var. *brachyclada*, to 12 inches or more long. The pads vary in color, gray bluish green or purple depending on the variety. This species has no long spines but many clusters of glochids. The flowers are among the showiest of the Opuntia's and are up to 4 inches across colored magenta, purple, flaming pink, or sometimes white. They grow wild in many dry and sunny areas of California, Arizona, Mexico, and Baja California. The range in elevation is from sea level in the Mecca Hills by the Salton Sea with creosote bush to 9,200 feet elevation on Sugarloaf Peak in the San Bernardino Mtns. with limber pines and sierra junipers.

The spiniest but most handsome of our native cacti is the Bigelow cholla, also called Tedi-bear and jumping cholla. It is found usually in large groups on detrital fans and benches. They grow tree like to 8 feet crowned with many yellow spined branches. The yellow barbed spines are very penetrating and can cause painful sores. The joints easily break off and by using a comb it can be pulled off your body. Where the joint falls it can root and become a new plant.

An unusual natural hybrid is *O. munzii*, described by botanists in 1938, *O. bigelovii* X *O. acanthocarpa*. This rapidly growing plant, showing hybrid vigor forms a shrubby tree to 12 feet high and almost as wide. It grows much larger than its parents and reproduces only from broken joints scattered by animals. It is found native in a small area of Imperial County along the south edge of the Chocolate Mtns.

Another quite handsome low growing native is *O. erinacea* var. *ursina* of the Mohave Desert, the grizzly bear cactus. Its flat pads is covered with flexible ashy gray spines up to 8 inches long..

One of the best known Opuntia is the bunny ears cactus *O. microdasys* from northern Mexico. It has flat velvet green pads with rows of clusters of glochids of yellow, brown or white color varieties. Another handsome Opuntia is *O. strobiformis* of Argentina, commonly called spruce cones or pine cone cactus. It has blue gray oval joints without spines, with prominent tubercles in circular folds like a pine cone.

There are many other interesting Opuntias. Bring in your choice specimens for the mini show or discussion table. I will bring in cuttings of *O. cholla* for interested members. This is a light blue gray

cylindro- opuntia with few spines originally from northern Baja California deserts.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

October 2007

Succulent Euphorbias of Africa and Madagascar *By Dennis Kucera*

The Euphorbia family (commonly known as the spurge family) has about 280 genera and 7,300 species world wide. They are found from the Arctic to the Antarctic, but are most common in temperate, tropical, and desert climates. This extremely variable family has members growing as annual herbs such as the weedy Euphorbia polycarpa (a flat, spreading annual invading our summer gardens). Other species grow into shrubs like castor bean (*Ricinus communis*) and poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherima*) or as a tall, leafy tree (like *Sapium sebiferum*) known as the Chinese tallow tree and as Chinese poplar. Of most interest to us are the succulent Euphorbias that have spiny cactus-like stems with milky juice. These succulent Euphorbs are most numerous in Africa with about 400 species. Madagascar has about 60 species.

What makes this most variable group of plants members of the Euphorbia family is the unusual flower structure. The very small Euphorbia flower is cupped with five inner lobes alternating with one to five glands and male flowers (along the outer edge) with a female flower in the center. This flower structure is known as a cyathium. With pollination, the flower develops a three celled dry capsule. Some of the more commonly grown Euphorbias are described as follows.

E. obesa is called a living baseball and gingham golf ball. This plant is dioecious (male or female) which grows into a cylindrical, spineless eight inch stem. It is grey-green in color with transverse ribs. It comes from South Africa.

E. tirucalli is known as milk bush, pencil tree, and rubber Euphorbia. It forms a many branched tree (up to 30 feet), coming from tropical and South Africa. Italian troops, invading Ethiopia in the late 1930's, had more casualties from the

milky juice of this plant as they cut and pushed their way through thickets of this plant.

E. trigona, the African milk tree, is a succulent spiny shrub or tree with three fins to the branch and small leaves. It is a favorite house plant.

E. meloformis, the melon succulent, forms globose stems four inches high and 6 inches thick.

E. ingens is a spiny tree with height of up to thirty feet or more. The ribbed branches form a rounded crown, as wide as it is tall, like a giant candelabra.

E. grandicornis, known as the cow's horn, forms a spiny, many branched shrub with yellow-green ribbed stems. It comes from South Africa.

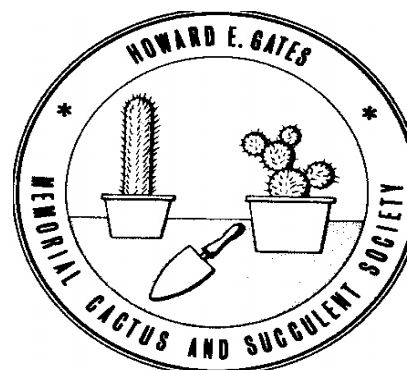
E. caput-medusae, called Medusa's head, is a dwarf perennial, of up to one foot tall with many finger-like stems, spreading to 30 inches across.

E. canariensis is a handsome, spiny tree of up to 20 feet in height with ascending branches (four to six ribbed) with paired spines.

The juice is very poisonous, which calls for care in handling the plant.



The Original
Gates Society
Logo. 1959



NOVEMBER AUCTION.

Please be thinking about NEXT month. The November meeting is our Annual Auction. Members are asked to bring one or two NICE plants to be auctioned. Remember, quality matters, if you wouldn't buy the plant, it's likely no one else will.

We also encourage all to bring their check books. This is our main **Fund Raiser** for the year. We usually bring in about 1/2 of our total year's income from this one event. We need everyone's help to make sure that the Auction is a big success again this year. You can pick up show quality plants to add to your collection at sometimes crazy low prices.

ONE GOOD PLANT



OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Discussion, and Refreshments Tables will be open for the October 2007 Meeting.

Bring your Show and Tell plants to discuss or to get identified. A good picture will also do! Dan Griffith will love you!

If you can, bring some 'Goodies' to support our popular *Refreshment Table*.

And a special thank you to those who frequently bring the goodies we enjoy so much.



Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home, and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

20th ANNUAL GATES BBQ

Where? Sims Tree Learning Center (The TLC)

When? Saturday **October 6 at 3:30 PM.**

Cooking begins at 5:00.

What to Bring? Bring your favorite side dish and/or desert with serving spoons.

The club provides drinks and the meat (chicken, burgers and dogs) and all the plastic ware needed.

What's Happening?

Cactus Cook-Off. Bring your favorite Cactus recipe dish.

Raffle

Garden Tours

Plenty of fun with your fellow Gates Cactofiles.

Other events, time permitting

The TLC Gardens are located at 6111 Appaloosa Ave., Pedley, off Limonite Ave. between Van Buren and Etiwanda Ave. From Limonite turn North on Bain, then one block and right on 60th street. Appaloosa Ave. is the first street to the right. It *is narrow and graveled*. Sims is at the end of the road. There will be a map in the next Open Gates.

Welcome Our New Members

Cletes Williams Sep 07
Sun City, CA

Ed Alvanado/Anna Granillo Sep 07
Riverside, CA

Gregg Bicknell Sep 07
Riverside, CA

John O'Kane (rejoined) Sep 07
Riverside, CA

Kevin & Helen Barber Sep 07
Tucson, AZ

How can there be self-help groups?

PEST OF THE MONTH

New Monthly Feature

The bugs are coming, the bugs.....?? GONE???

Apparently, I'm the only one in Gates that has ever tried treating for mealy bugs either on the roots or the spines? The purpose of this column is to help all of us, experienced and beginners alike, to deal with the various infestations that mar, discolor or eventually kill the dull, ordinary and ugly plants for which Gate's meets every month and for which we drain our budgets (and pots). And Gate's even has the audacity to hold public shows (since the bugs haven't got 'em yet, they aren't called "viewings"). So, for all who are too proud to admit to ever having them, and for those who don't even know what they look like, here is the "Mealy Bug"



Adult mealy bug
mealy bug

typical wax covering on

The typical spine mealy appears white specks on the spine.

The doctor is "in"?

These are mealy bug remedies found online or in the cactus literature:

Biological control - Introduce *Hypoaspis* and/or *Cryptolaemus* (Australian Ladybird) to the infected plants. *Hypoaspis* is a small mite that feeds on small insects, especially mealy bug.

Manual removal - Pick the bugs off manually in plants that are not severely infested or use a strong jet of water (be careful not to damage plants). Or submerge the entire plant, pot and all, in water overnight with 1 oz safer soap per gallon of water.

Manual Removal - Use a 50/50 mix of water and methylated spirits to wipe away the bugs, the spirits should kill any remaining pests.

Use a Q-tip with rubbing alcohol.

Systemic ("chemical") pesticide options:

Malathion : Neem Oil Mix One tablespoon each per gallon of water

Malathion : Volk Oil Spray 1.0 tsp each per gallon water

or

Malathion : Volk Oil Spray 1.0 tsp malathion and 1.25 oz volk oil per gallon water

Dimethoate spray 1 tbs per gallon water

For all sprays: Spray until the plant is dripping wet. Repeat weekly for three weeks to take care of the eggs, larvae and adults. Malathion will kill crassula.

Dimethoate root drench 1 oz per gallon

Imidacloprid one tablespoon per gallon of water (Marathon is another trade name for Imidacloprid)

Bayer Advanced Plant Care, Tree & Shrub version.

From Cactiguide.com: when I have mealies and scale, I blast them off with the hose and then give the plant a drink of some systemic for the roots to take in.

If you know of any more possible remedies, please email me at firelab@echinocereus.org

Next month: scale

Michael J. Green

Calendar of Garden Events - 2007

October 6 20th Annual Gates BBQ, 3:30
at Sims TLC

October 13 Gates Home Garden Tour

October 20-21 UCR Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale,
UC Riverside. 951.784.6962 www.gardens.ucr.edu

November 3-4 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden,
Fall Plant Sale, Sat. 11-4, Sun. 9-2, 1500 N. College
Ave. Claremont, CA. (909) 625-8767

November 7 Gates Cactus Annual Auction, 7PM,
San Bernardino Co. Museum Meeting place

November 10-11 San Gabriel Valley C&SS, Show
and Sale, LA Co. Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave,
Arcadia, CA

December 1-2 Orange County C&SS Winter Show &
Sale, Fullerton Arboretum, Arboretum,
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA.

From Mike Green

Monument boasts 'new' saguaro
By BRIAN AHNMARK and REYNA PISAÑO, Editor September
26, 2007

Workers with All Arizona Cactus Nursery begin transporting a saguaro cactus to the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. Just two weeks after losing a prize saguaro cactus, the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument found a replacement - and added another cactus for good measure.

A powerful, concentrated weather event known as a "downburst" descended on Coolidge on Aug. 30, toppling 11 electrical poles along the eastern edge of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument. In addition to shutting down the park for two days, the falling poles severed a saguaro cactus near the front entrance of the monument grounds.

Enter two local angels.

According to Jason Lott, CGRNM superintendent, a pair of local women had been offering to donate a saguaro cactus to the park for several months.

"It was a cactus in their front yard," he explained. "They were concerned that it may fall into their house, which had incurred some damage before." Sharon Humphrey said she and Jo A. Lamb had been living in the house for about a year.

"The people who previously owned the house had a cactus in the front yard fall and go through the roof," Humphrey said. "That cactus was right next to the one we ended up donating. When the

big storms come, you get panicky because you don't know how sturdy a cactus like that is."

So Humphrey and Lamb began brainstorming ways to remove the cactus. "We knew it was illegal to cut down a saguaro," Humphrey said. "Both of us really adore cactus. This one was huge, and we didn't want anything bad to happen to it. We called around to see who wanted it, and eventually got in touch with the Ruins."

Lott said the women initially offered the cactus to the park about four months ago, but the monument was unable to come up with the money to fund the expensive procedure of moving a cactus. After the Aug. 30 storm, the timing was ripe.

"The chance came up again, and we took it," Lott said. Buck Pettit, a volunteer coordinator at the Ruins, organized the procedure. All Arizona Cactus Nursery of Apache Junction was called in to transport the saguaro, with workers Jeremy "J.D." Steelman and Steve Uselton taking special care to ensure the safety of the cactus. Lott said the cost to relocate the cactus worked out to \$20 per foot, which was applied to the estimated length of 51 feet (including all arms). The roughly \$1,000 cost was minimal compared to the expense of purchasing a new saguaro from a nursery; Lott estimated that a new cactus would sell for \$80 per foot, or at least \$4,000 per specimen.

The 20-foot-tall saguaro, estimated to be 250 years old, arrived at the monument on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

"It was quite a scene," said Carol West, chief ranger at CGRNM. "We raised the cactus with the flag at half-mast in honor of Hero Day."

"We like to think of this as a tribute," Lott said. The saguaro stands in front of the visitor center at the monument. Pettit said the saguaro was one of roughly 30 cactus species on the park grounds.

"When the opportunity presented itself, it was too good to pass up," he said. "This was a great chance to enhance the visitor center. It's a good addition. We have a good variety of cacti on the grounds." When the weather cools, Pettit leads cactus tours at the monument.

"He discusses the uses, ranges, and medicinal purposes of cacti - the whole gamut," Lott said. "He did all the negotiation and coordination for this project. The rest of us got to sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor."

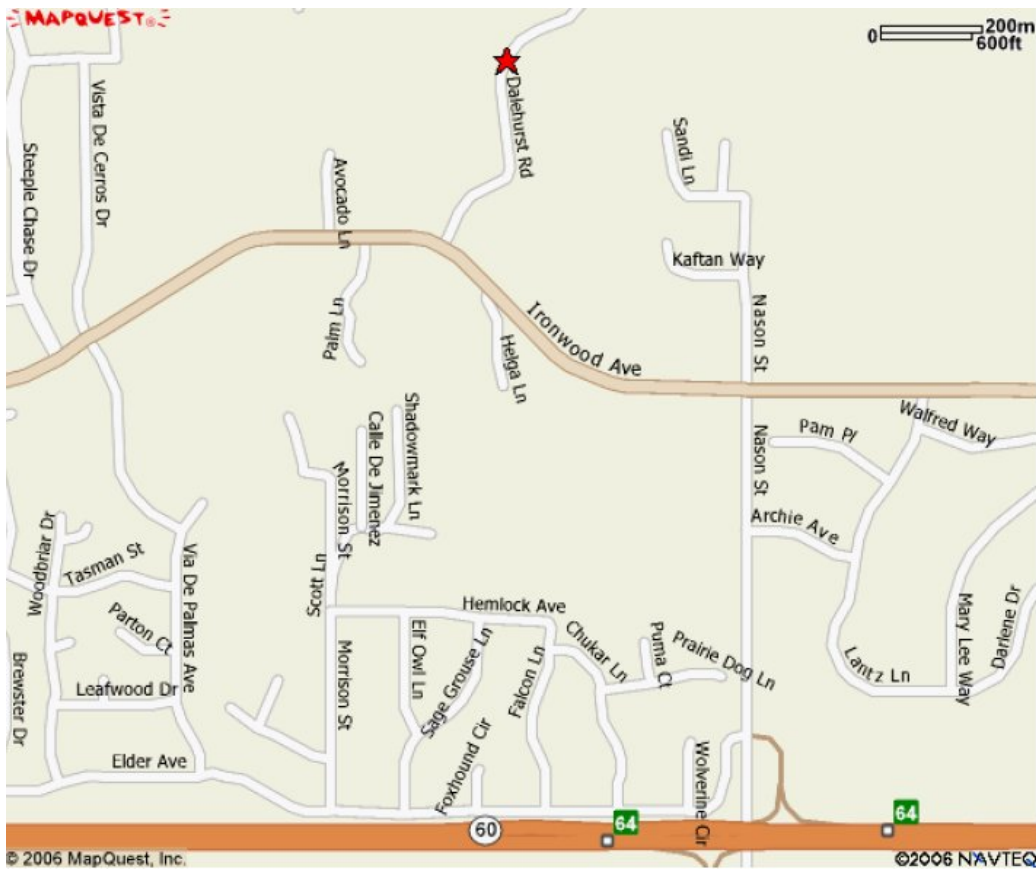
Lott said the Bureau of Indian Affairs put the icing on the cake by donating a second saguaro to replace the one lost at the monument entrance.

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GATES C&SS Home Tour October 13, 2007.

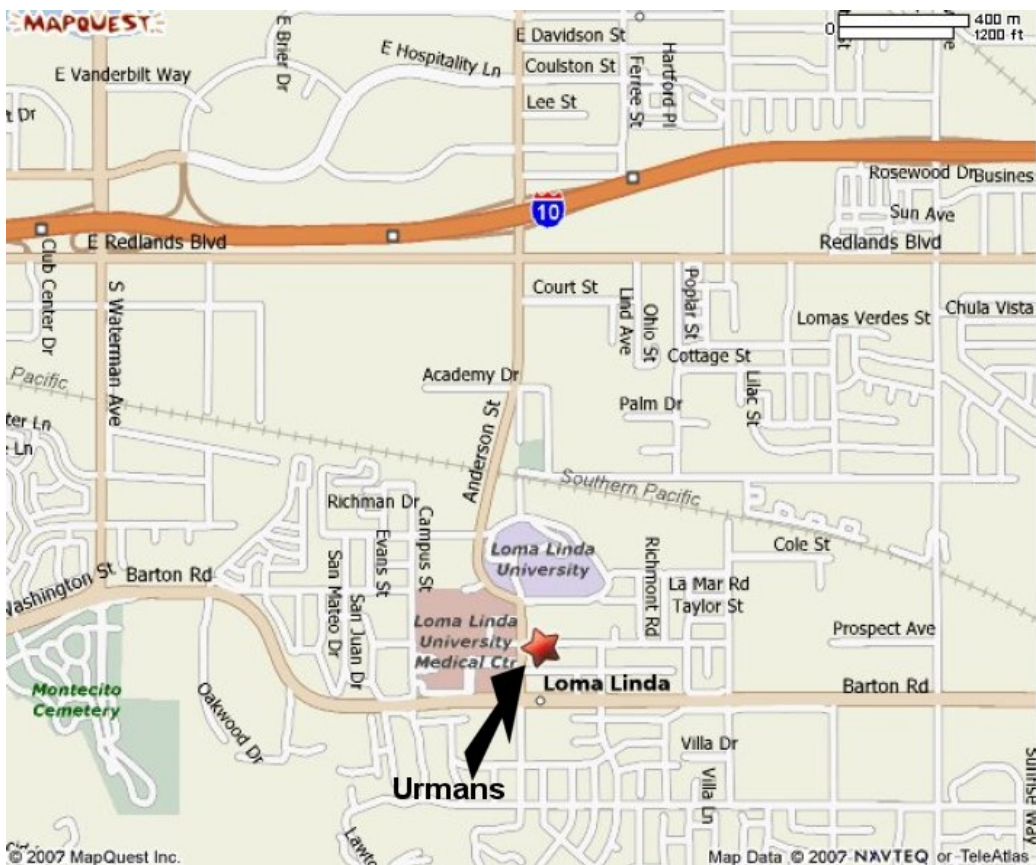
Meet at Dennis Kucera's at 9:0AM

Buck's Phone if you get lost 951-360-8802



Exit Hiway 60 in
Moreno Valley at exit
64, Nason Rd.
Turn Nothr to ironwood
and left to Dalehurst Rd.
Turn right to 11681.

11681 Dalehurst Rd.
Moreno Valley, CA



Leave Dennis' house at
approx 10:15 and travel
to Urmans'

Exit I-10 at
Tippecanoe/Anderson
and turn South to
Prospect Ave. Turn left
to 24951.

24951 Prospect Ave
Loma Linda, CA

