



*Gates Cactus  
and  
Succulent Society*

**OCTOBER 2009**

**NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " OCTOBER 7th.**

**AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM**

**I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.**

**PROGRAM**

*Julia Etter and Martin Kristen* will be our Guests.

Their will tell us all about "Mexico: Off the Beaten Path." This will be more or less a wild ride through almost all of Mexico covering cacti, other succulents and some landscapes. It will be an exciting show, don't miss it!

Since 1997, Julia and Martin have been traveling around the US Southwest and Mexico in their Unimog expedition truck named "PocoLoco" which means "a little bit crazy". Their specialties are Agavaceae and Crassulaceae but they also love all kinds of other plants. They're working on several projects such as their botanical database and the design of an agave garden for a new tequila factory in Mexico. Their photographs

have appeared in several books and articles of cactus journals. For more info please visit their websites:

- [www.globetrotters.com](http://www.globetrotters.com)
  - [www.agavaceae.com](http://www.agavaceae.com)
  - [www.crassulaceae.com](http://www.crassulaceae.com)
- Buck

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

Barry Urman is chairing our nominating committee for the upcoming officer and board member elections. If you have suggestions, concerns etc, talk with Barry. You might even volunteer!

See you Wednesday evening! Mjg

President	951.235.6678	Mike Green	Director	909.384.6819	Dan Griffith
E-mail	firelab@echinocereus.org		Director	909.794.7130	Judy Horne
Vice-Pres	909.591.0280	Tony Marino	Director	951.736.7951	Darryl Craig
Treasurer	951.369.7180	Karen Roholt	Director/Editor	909.793.5395	Joe Casey
Secretary	951.683.7390	Ina Schweitzer	E-mail:	joekc@juno.com	
Past Pres	951.360.8802	Buck Hemenway	Librarian	951.682.3795	Karen Fleisher
Membership	909.793.5395	Joe Casey	Greeter	951.781.8205	Teresa Wassman
Director	951.485.1816	Dennis Kucera	<b>LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2009</b>		

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS SEPTEMBER 2009  
SUCCULENTS AGAVE FAMILY**

Todd Jochum, Dennis Kucera Judging

**NOVICE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Sheldon Lisker Agave Hybrid, Kitchijokan

**INTERMEDIATE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> M. J. Green Agave ferdinand-regis  
2<sup>nd</sup> C and K Roholt Agave macroacantha  
3<sup>rd</sup> Alice Beardsley Agave stricta hybrid

**ADVANCED** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Joella Olson Sansevieria aethiopea  
1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Kucera Agave victoria-reginae  
Miniature form  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Laughlin Agave vicoria-reginae  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dennis Kucera Agave polyantheflora  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dennis Kucera Agave desmetiana  
H. M. Joella Olson Agave celsii  
H. M. Bob Laughlin Agave stricta "nani"

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS SEPTEMBER 2009  
CACTI MONOTYPIC GENERA**

Todd Jochum, Dennis Kucera Judging

**INTERMEDIATE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> M. J. Green Ortegocactus macdougali  
2<sup>nd</sup> M. J. Green Obregonia denogral ?  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Horne Obregonia denegril  
3<sup>rd</sup> K and C Roholt Leuchtebergia principis

**INTERMEDIATE** LARGE, over 6" pot  
2<sup>nd</sup> Judy Horne Denmoza rodacantha

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FROM AUGUST 2009  
DISH GARDENS**

**INTERMEDIATE**  
1<sup>st</sup> Isabelle Moon Dish Garden of succulents

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**OCTOBER 2009 MINI-SHOW SUBJECTS**

**CACTI, OPUNTIA, SUCCULENTS EUPHORBIA**

**AND DEAD CACTUS OR SUCCULENT FOR**

**THE GRIM REAPER**

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**22st ANNUAL GATES BBQ -----2009**

Where? Sims Tree Learning Center (The TLC)

When? Saturday October 10 at 4:00 PM.  
Cooking begins at 5:00. Eat at 5:15.

What to Bring? Bring your favorite e dish and/or desert. NO serving spoons needed but mark your dishes.

The Society 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 or drink. Yvonne will officiate. Your dish must be on the table at 4:30 if you want it to be judged.

Garden Tours

Plenty of fun with your fellow Gates Cactofiles.

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, go one block and turn 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. Parking is limited at the Museum Building where we will dine. However, there is plenty of parking just before the turn on to the gravel road. If the sign is up you'll have to turn to the left, into the Church Parking Lot. Watch for the signs.

For those unaware of the "Tree Learning Center", TLC, it is the 6 acre home of Gary and Susan Sims, our Hosts, and their AG Business. The business supports the "TLC." The garden is dedicated to demonstration, education and research. Currently, there is a Victorian English formal garden, a large palm garden, an Iris garden (Doris Lutz Memorial), a Eucalyptus orchard, Oak and native plant areas, a fruit orchard, a vegetable garden, a Geranium garden

(Robert H. Terrell Memorial), specimen tree plantings (to include the rare and unusual) and of course the Joe Casey Cactus Garden (not yet Memorial). The highlight, not to be missed, is The Conservatory, housing many tropical plants (many in bloom) and rare palms. This collection is Sue's pride and joy, and is very impressive.

The BBQ is some payback for all the hard work and support our members donate to our Society. We are extremely grateful that the Sims open their facility to us and hope all of our members can come and enjoy the day. **New Members----- this is your special invitation to attend the BBQ.**

Don't miss this event!

Be sure to bring your camera.

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### OTHER TABLES

Plant Sales, Display, and Refreshments Tables will be opened for the October 2009 Meeting.

Bring your Show and Tell Stuff, Especially items to bring memories of past good times in our Society. Good pictures are always appreciated.

If you can, bring some 'Goodies' to support our popular Refreshment Table. Here's a special thank you to those who frequently bring the goodies we enjoy so much. They have been especially plentiful so far this year.

### 2009 MINI-SHOW PLANTS

**OCTOBER** Euphorbia, Opuntia, Dead cactus or Dead succulent.

Hey! This is your last chance this year to participate! Bring in something.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10/03 Donna Bills (49)
- 10/05 Ed Platzer (71)
- 10/12 Dan Griffith (55)
- 10/14 Leo Pickoff (88)
- 10/17 Michael Mazgai (58)
- 10/18 Alice Beardsley (76)
- 10/19 Anna Marie Granillo (52)
- 10/23 Helen Hughes (??)
- 10/23 Carlos Ryiz (28)
- 10/23 Vince Conway (61)

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

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### OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/15 Lillian & Leo Pickoff(61)
- 10/20 Kim & Barry Urman(24)

*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 60<sup>th</sup>.*



## OPUNTIA

Dennis Kucera

### PLANT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2009

There are over 300 species of Opuntia's of the Cactaceae, native to the Americas 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 coarse 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 mucilaginous 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.***

# SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

OCTOBER 2009

## 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 of the African Euphorbias is very poisonous, which calls for care in handling the plant.



## HOSTESS DUTY THIS MONTH.

**Alice Beardsley and Connie Ramirez** have graciously accepted the responsibility for the operation of the kitchen and refreshment tables for this Meeting. It is a lot of work so be sure to help and THANK her.

And we need to THANK **Claudia Oaks** and all her helpers for working the kitchen during the last meeting. Their great service and the foods were both plentiful, Thanks to all the donors.

## Calendar of Garden Events - 2009

Oct. 10 Gates Society 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual BBQ and picnic, Sim's TLC, 6001 Appaloosa Dr. Pedley, CA.

Oct 17-18 U.C. Riverside Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale

Oct. 24 Photography Workshop with Dan Griffith at his photographic studio 991 E. Base Line St., San Bernardino

Nov. 4 Gates Society Annual Auction Meeting

Nov. 7-8 San Gabriel Valley Cactus And Succulent Society Show And Sale LA County Arboretum Address Above.

Dec. 5-6 Orange County Show And Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, Ca 92831

## IMPORTANT! ELECTION of OFFICERS 2010

At The November Meeting we will vote for a slate of nominees for the following positions. Barry Urman and his team are preparing the Slate of Officers to serve during 2010/2012 . Think about serving the Society in one of these positions\*.

\*Currently serving (2008/2009) are:

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| President:      | Mike Green     |
| Vice President: | Tony Marino    |
| Secretary:      | Ina Schweitzer |
| Treasurer:      | Karen Roholt   |
| Director:       | Joe Casey      |
| Director:       | Derryl Craig   |
| Director:       | Dennis Kucera  |

Currently serving (2009/2010) are:

|           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| Director: | Dan Griffith |
| Director: | Judy Horne   |

**NOVEMBER AUCTION.** This is an early reminder. With only a month to go it is time to think about your offering to this yearly fun event. But more than that, the auction is a major fund raiser for the Gates C&S Society. Further, it is an opportunity for you to bid and buy large and sometimes rare specimen plants. To encourage greater attendance, interest and participation in the auction and bidding, we need specimen plants.

That's where you come in! We ask each member to grow, pamper, baby, fertilize, talk to, groom, polish and stage **ONE GOOD PLANT**, to be **donated** to the Society. **Just One Plant as Beautiful as You can make it.** You are not limited to just **ONE** plant, however if everybody brings **just ONE GOOD PLANT** we'll have a **GREAT AUCTION** and have a lot of fun to boot. **† ~ \$**

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## TO JOIN OR PAY DUES

If you wish to join or renew by mail, send your check to:

GCSS % Joe Casey  
307 Westwood Lane  
Redlands, CA 92373

Include your name, address, phone number, eMail address. Include your birthday and anniversary dates and we will honor you in our newsletter.

If you take our newsletter, the "Open Gates," by PO surface mail, the dues are \$20 Bucks. By email, the dues are \$15 Bucks.

Our Membership runs from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.

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## HAZELLE & DAVIS NEWMAN AWARD.

Each year at the Christmas Party (the December Meeting) we vote for a Society member to receive this award of honor. Prior to the vote we need nominations from the membership, of those who, over the years, have served the Society with their contributions of time and talent, and have not been so honored before. The nominations must be **written** and given to **President Mike** or Editor Joe. If necessary, the Board will select the three most worthy nominations to be published in the November and December O/G. We'll vote in December, announce the winner, and the Award will be presented at the January 2010 Meeting. See the Previous Recipients List .



May be one of the most brilliant "quotes" you will ever read.....

"If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there would be a shortage of sand."

Nobel prize-winning economist  
Milton Friedman (1912-2006)

Visit the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society at

[www.gatescss.org](http://www.gatescss.org)

## THE NEWMAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD.

Previous Recipients: (\* deceased)

- 1976 COL. J. W. DENNISON\*
- 1977 DAVIS NEWMAN\*
- 1978 HELEN HERMAN\*
- 1979 JOYCE TATE\*
- 1980 MARIAN BELL
- 1981 GONAH SCHRECKENGAST\*
- 1982 BRIG. WILL MOLLET\*
- 1983 SYLVIA GOULD\*
- 1984 MEL PARKS\*
- 1985 JOE CASEY
- 1986 LEO & LILLIAN PICKOFF
- 1987 ELEANORE POUNDS\*
- 1988 EDITH CRINKLAW\*
- 1989 JOE CASEY
- 1990 DAGMAR HERT\*
- 1991 DORIS LUTZ\*
- 1992 PEGGY PARKS
- 1993 JOE GARDNER\*
- 1994 DIANE PARK
- 1995 HOWARD CRAIG\*
- 1996 RIC & MARILYN NEWCOMER
- 1997 HELEN HUGHES
- 1998 AMBER JONES
- 1999 KIMBERLY & BARRY URMAN
- 2000 JANET BURNHAM & JUDY HORNE
- 2001 DENNIS KUCERA
- 2002 LOIS UTTER\*
- 2003 HELEN & BERNIE TEUNISSEN\*
- 2004 BUCK HEMENWAY
- 2005 EVA DYE
- 2006 CHRIS & KAREN ROHOLT
- 2007 BOB LAUGHLIN
- 2008 FRANK NUDGE



ONE GOOD PLANT

