



*Gates Cactus
and
Succulent Society*

NOVEMBER 2006

NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " NOVEMBER 1st.

AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

I- 10 AT CALIFORNIA STREET IN REDLANDS, CA.

7:30 PM

**IT IS NOVEMBER AND
THE AUCTION IS HERE.**

More info following the President's Message

leading our tour. If you are there at 10:05 you'll miss out. 10:00 AM is the time at the front gate of the Huntington Library.

We had a very enjoyable time on Oct. 21st. The Home Garden Tour and BBQ went off as planned on a beautiful if a little hot day.

Everyone who saw the Green's yard was blown away with the thought and effort that Mike and Wendy have put in to their fantastic succulent display. Pictures are in the eMail Open Gates.

Helen Hughes' wonderful Victorian house has had me curious for years. It has more interesting things going on than most of us can imagine. From her old tire Serpent to the walk lined with tea cups, the yard and house are non-stop with

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are at my favorite time of the Gates C&SS year. **Auction Time!** A truly fun evening with a chance to help the club and gain fantastic new plants for your collection. Please read the explanatory column and come and enjoy.

Don't forget the tour at The Huntington Desert Conservatory on November 4. This will be an unforgettable behind the scenes experience for all of us. John Tragger is regarded as one of the leading succulent experts anywhere and he is

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LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2006

cute and interesting features.

On to the Sims' botanical paradise. The changes there go on non-stop. Always more and more interesting ways to display botanical wonders and of course Gary's mechanical ones.

The BBQ was fantastic. Thanks again to Helen for making all of the arrangements, getting the meat and fixings and all of the table settings and accessories. Manny and Norm did their usual outstanding job cooking at the BBQ. The Cactus Cook Off was a treat, Kathy Rose's Prickly Pear Jelly on Cream Cheese stole the show and everyone enjoyed the other dishes including the Cactus Margaritas. The Sims have offered their facility for the future and we all are looking forward to next year.

Thanks to all for opening your private places and allowing us to share your obvious love for things green.

Don't forget that our December meeting is the annual Christmas Pot Luck. Get your best holiday dish ready and join in the fun. We have the Rubidoux Madrigals signed to come and entertain us again. *Buck*

AUCTION INFORMATION

Our annual plant auction time has arrived once again. This is the evening when you bring that "one or more, good plants" to our meeting. It will be specially grown, perfectly groomed and labeled, Right? The better the plant, the more \$\$ the auctioneers can pull from the audience. This is necessary because the Auction is our major fund raiser; it supports the expenses of our Spectacular Xmas Party, the BBQ (wasn't it Great!) and many of our other activities during the year. The auction meeting always has been and should continue be a fun get together with lots of spirited bidding especially when a large, rare or specimen plant is on the block.

To make this a worthwhile auction **we need both your plant(s) and your bids.** If you can't **bring** a plant, plan on **buying** one (or more). In

lieu of bringing a plant you might want to bring a cake, pie, cookies, Cactus Jelly or jam, all homemade of course!! We'll auction them and/or eat them!

Speaking of eating, we usually have a good turnout and quite a few guests in attendance. Soooo, We could use some extra goodies. Several members have volunteered to help in the kitchen for this event. They can always use another hand if you're so inclined.

To keep the evening moving, we have a few procedures or routines. We need your help to make it work. First off, ***PLEASE, PLEASE*** try to arrive early, for it takes time to receive your plants and situate them for display so as to intrigue the bidders.

Then **To BID you MUST obtain a bidder's number** by registering with our treasurer Karen Roholt or one of her helpers: Kim Urman, Amber Jones and Helen Hughes. As you enter the Fisk Auditorium, they will be around to the left front.

Your bid **WILL NOT** be honored without a bid number because as plants are sold, the auctioneer calls out the bid amount and your bid number to the record keepers. They will track what you buy and how much you owe. This keeps them rather busy so we don't promise "checkouts or pay ups" while the auction is in progress. However, they will try to accommodate those who wish to leave at the break (8:45). Checkout is a slow process, so be patient especially at the end when everyone wants to be first out.

Now, **for the bidding**, speak up and speak out so the auctioneer can recognize your bid. If we do miss you, **wave and yell**, but get our attention, for **when the auctioneers say sold the plant is SOLD!** President Buck will have several unnamed helpers to conduct the auction,

The minimum incremental bid is 50 cents up to \$10 and \$1 after that. However, you are encouraged to **use jump bids** to move quickly

to what the plants are really worth. Speaking of worth, if you wish you may put a tag in with your donated plant showing a suggested minimum bid. 'Sure would be a big help to the auctioneers.

This promises to be an interesting night and there will be many fine plants (we hope) for us to savor or lust over **and buy**.

Do your 'plant loving neighbors a favor and bring them along to this exciting event. **Your guests do not have to be members to bid or donate.** However, they must register to obtain a bidder's number.

Have fun, enjoy, and we'll be out before 10 PM! There you have it, all the minutia and all the details. I've repeated it all again because of all our many new members. And many of our senior members can't remember the rules from last year. Hopefully, there will be few questions and no misunderstandings at the meeting.

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MEMBERS SPOTLIGHT

Saralyn [Lyn] and Tom Brooks are longtime members from Redlands. Influenced by Sunset Magazine, Lyn joined Gates in 1978. Influenced by Lyn and the many nice members he met, Tom joined in 1988. Lyn is a retired horse breeder and antiques dealer. Tom is a retired San Bernardino City Fireman. Lyn likes echeverias and Tom likes red or white variegated plants and other "oddities".

Joe and Danielle Milligan, new members, joined in 2006. Both are retired. They are Master Gardeners and belong to the Riverside Iris Society. In addition, Joe is a Master Composter and Danielle belongs to the OC Geranium, the OC Begonia, and the Riverside Begonia Societies. Joe and Danielle like epiphiliums. Danielle also likes hoyas and euphorbias. They live in Riverside.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

The following members celebrate a birthday this month. To all we send our best wishes.

- 11/04 Bernie Teunissen (86)
- 11/04 Kevin Sims (19)
- 11/06 Marilyn Reimann (57)
- 11/18 Jeff Johnson (??)
- 11/19 Karen Roholt (53)
- 11/20 Audrey Kenyon (86)
- 11/23 Buck Hemenway (65)
- 11/28 Bill Alexander (40)

Best wishes to Bernie and Audrey, this months over 80 crowd! And Special Wishes to our President, Buck. Thanks for all you do for us!!

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NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

None.

Congratulations to any I MISSED!

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SAY HELLO— To Our New Members

- Kirk & Amy Taylor Oct 06
Rialto, CA
- Elisa Diehl Oct 06
San Bernardino, CA
- Tony & Clara Jones Oct 06
Riverside, CA
- Jim & Morag Westerhoff Oct 06
Calimesa, CA

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**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2006
SUCCULENTS ANACAMPSEROS CERARIA
PORTULACARIA PORTULACA TALINIUM**

Don McGrew and Dennis Kucera judging

ADVANCED small 6" pot or less
 1st Joella Olson Ceraria pygmaea
 2nd Bob Laughlin Portulacaria afra
 3rd Joella Olsen Portulacaria afra
 3rd Joella Olson Talinium paniculata

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2006
CACTUS COPIAPOA, CORYPANTHA,
THELOCACTUS**

Don McGrew and Dennis Kucera judging

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
 1st Janet Burnham Thelocactus bicolor
 flavlidispinus
 2nd Judy Horne Thelocactus species

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Judy Horne Thelocactus
 hexadrophorus

ADVANCED small, 6" pot or less
 1st Dennis Kucera Coryphantha elephantidens
 2nd Bob Laughlin Copiapoa humilis
 2nd Bob Laughlin Copiapoa dura

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Bob Laughlin Copiapoa hypogaea
 2nd Joella Olson Anacampseros telephiastra
 2nd Bob Laughlin Copiapoa boliviana

**MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2006
DEAD CACTUS or DEAD SUCCULENT**

Grim reaper, David Jackson judging

NOVICE LARGE over 6" pot
 1st Mary AliceMcGrew Echinocereus
 polycephalus

INTERMEDIATE small, 6" pot or less
 1st Roholt Unknown cactus
 1st Alice Beardsley Gymnocalycium vatterii

INTERMEDIATE LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Helen Hughs Crassula species

ADVANCED small, 6" pot or less
 1st Yvonne Hemenway Plantus deadwoodii
 2nd Dennis Kucera Echinocereus rubispinus
 2nd Dennis Kucera Mammillaria senillii

ADVANCED LARGE, over 6" pot
 1st Joella Olson Aloe species

Cactus and Succulent Events

November 1 Gates Cactus Annual Auction, 7PM, San Bernardino Co. Museum Meeting place.

November 4 Gates Cactus special tour of the Huntington Gardens, 10 AM , Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA. **Gates Members Only**

November 4-5 Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Fall Plant Sale, Sat. 11-4, Sun. 9-2, 1500 N. College Ave. Claremont, CA. (909) 625-8767

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ONE GOOD PLANT

Visit our Web Sites:

Buck- www.prickleypalace.com
GCSS- www.gatescss.org

IMPORTANT! ELECTION of OFFICERS

Election of Officers is upon us. This year we elect two members to the Board of Directors. Following is the slate that your Board of Directors has proposed for a vote at the November meeting. They will serve two year terms.

Board Member: Dan Griffith
Board Member: Judy Horne

If any member desires to get involved with the administration of the club, please let one of the board members know. In the mean time, we will hold this election at the November meeting.

See you at the Auction.

Buck

We need nominations

HAZELLE & DAVIS NEWMAN AWARD. Each year at the Christmas Party (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. If the nominations are written and given or sent to **President Buck or Joe, the Editor**, they will be published in the December O/G. We'll vote and announce the winner during the December Christmas Party Meeting. The Award will be presented during the January 2007 Meeting. A list of previous Newman Award recipients follows. □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

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

OTHER TABLES

If you can, bring some 'Goodies' to support the **Refreshment Table**. Your offerings will be appreciated because we always have a larger turnout for the Auction.

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

THANK YOU!!

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.DUES ARE DUE (WELL ALMOST!)

Yes, It Is That Time again. The dues remain at \$12, Ten Bucks, a dollar a month, far less than the cost of our world famous Society Newsletter, Open Gates.

To make it easier on me, and to pick up mistakes on our mailing list, I'll have some renewal slips at the Meeting. You'll need to fill one out in order to renew.

I'll start collecting at the Christmas Party Meeting. Too much other activity at this meeting.
Joe

Subject: how about one for cactus???

Sensor battles senseless houseplant death

By Michael Kanellos

Staff Writer, CNET News.com

Published: October 19, 2006, 2:31 PM PDT

Plants can't bark. That's why Matt Glenn founded PlantSense.

The San Francisco-based start-up has developed a 10-inch, stake-shaped sensor that obtains information about light, moisture, soil composition and other factors that can affect plant growth and health. The sensor is placed a few inches into the soil and connected to a computer, via a USB interface, where it downloads the information to PlantSense's Web site.

PlantSense can then tell users what they're doing wrong (too much sunlight, not enough fertilizer, etc.) as well as provide recommendations on what plants might grow best in a particular microclimate in a home or garden. Subscribers to the site can also keep records of the health histories of various plants and microclimates in their house and yard on the site.

"What we have developed is a plant lifecycle development platform," he said, co-opting some of the buzzwords he likely used while working at Cisco Systems and Xircom. [Click for picture](#)

Killing plants is one of America's favorite pastimes. In 2003, Americans spent \$18 billion on indoor and outdoor plants, not including grass. That's \$160 per household, on average.

Roughly 14 percent of plants die in the first few weeks after being bought, and another 18 percent die within five months. That 32 percent mortality rate partly explains why Americans also spent \$23 billion on fertilizer and plant food in that same year.

A big part of the problem is that most Americans have moved off the farm and into cities and suburbs years ago. Plants are also not great communicators: If a dog or cat is hungry, they will let their owners know; plants are more subtle with their signals.

The PlantSense stake will likely sell for around \$49.95 when it comes out in the fall of 2007. Buyers will be able to access the PlantSense Web site for a year. A second year's subscription will cost about \$20. Buyers only need to buy a single stake to test all of their soil. The battery in the stake lasts about a year.

That price range is in line with what consumers would expect to pay, according to Glenn. He polled about 200 consumers about whether they would like a product like this--81 percent said yes, and the median purchase price was about \$50. An informal poll (conducted by the author

at a lunch event) reflected similar results.

Glenn came up with the idea in January 2006 while getting a haircut and staring at some dying plants in a window. He asked his hairdresser why they were dying. She said she didn't know, but that it always happened.

By April, a prototype had already been designed. Initially, the PlantSense stake only provided recommendations on what kind of plant might thrive in a particular microclimate in the home or yard. A University of California botanist, however, told him he should add plant diagnostics for sick plants. To the sensor, those two jobs are identical.

The technology for sensing moisture in the soil, he added, comes from the same people who designed software for soil composition sampling on the Mars rovers.

Right now, the company is trying to land venture funding. It has retained a retail expert who worked with iRobot on the Roomba to craft a marketing strategy. In the first phase, the device will be available from the company's site and specialty retailers.

Over time, PlantSense will try to get onto the shelves at big-box retailers. Ultimately, the company would like to get plant growers to put a code on their plants, so that a consumer could get a soil/light/moisture score on a particular plot of land in their yard and then buy a plant with a corresponding rating.

But won't large retailers like Home Depot recoil against such a device? They make money right now by selling new victims to homeowners, after all. It turns out the big-box retailers may actually like the idea, according to Glenn. According to retailers, if people fail at gardening, they stop doing it; if they succeed, they buy more plants.

Sent to us by Mike Green.

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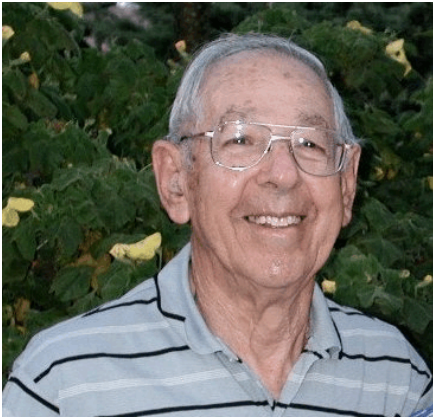
It is hard to understand how a cemetery can raise its burial costs and blame it on the higher cost of living.

Back up my hard drive? How do I put it in reverse?



THIS and THAT

Leo Pickoff



PLEASE: Do not throw your cigarette ends on the floor The cockroaches are getting cancer.

Zoo Sign: Please be safe. Do not stand, sit, climb or lean on zoo fences. If you fall, animals might eat you and that might make them sick.

Thank You

When I save my articles, I have been using the designation disdat and consecutively numbering them since Brig. Mollet started doing the Open Gates If you wish to accept the memory of an old man who is older than dirt. That would mean the articles done when Doris Lutz was the editor were not counted. Also missing in the count are the ones I did when Lillian was the editor for six years. She appointed me as the assistant editor because I could type. Back then, someone had to cut the stencils and run the duplicator. Younger members won't know what I'm talking about. So, ask an older school teacher. Why all this bull? disdat 161 Nov 2006 is in your hands. It comes down to 13 years and 5 months. If the uncounted ones could be added how many years of articles would it be? If you want to get down to unadulterated facts, who cares?

Why all of the above? Because I am signing off. This is the **END!** We are raising flowering plants. Yes, you old timers, even pansies. I hired a head gardener. Her name is Lillian. A very successful and admired gardener around here.

As you well know, we are no longer raising succulents as our main hobby. The few we brought with us are doing well and flowering. Some are now compost. When wet, the clay in our area sticks to your shoes and tools as if it were glued on with Super Glue. When dry, it is as hard as granite.

It is time to say, "So long. It has been great getting to know you, working with you and doing all those things one does when involved seriously in a hobby.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING OUR FRIENDS.
WE DO MISS YOU.**

