



*Gates Cactus  
and  
Succulent Society*

**NOVEMBER 2007**

**NEXT MEETING: " WEDNESDAY " NOVEMBER 7th**

**AT THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM**

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

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

More info following the President's Message

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Are you ready? Do you have your plants ready to bring to the auction? Is your check book fattened up? This is your chance to augment your collection of plants. There are plants for sale at our auction that you will never find in the market. Just a reminder, bring plants that you would buy if they were offered for sale. We love having a lot of plants but please be sure they are in good shape and will help someone else's collection.

For details of the Auction, see a following article.

Be advised, that we have an offer to help out at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center. It is a real win-win situation for our members and for the

Center. More details are in this Newsletter.

Please note that **as of October 2007**, The Gates C&SS is an official not for profit Corporation. Monies donated to the society are tax deductible. We think that Gates C&SS will benefit greatly in the years to come from this fiscal move.

We are accepting nominations for the **Hazelle and Davis Newman Award**. This award is given annually, to a person or couple, who served the Society with contributions of time and talent and have not been so honored before. The nominations must be in **writing** and presented to either Joe or myself prior to the beginning of the December meeting. We'd like to get the nominating letters in the December Open Gates.

The Board has voted to **change the dues** structure of the Society. Effective March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, all NEW Members will pay \$12.00 dues to receive their Newsletter by email. Or they may

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Treasurer	951.369.7180	Karen Roholt	Director/Editor	909.793.5395	Joe Casey
Secretary	951-295-1520	Ina Schweitzer	E-mail:	joekc@juno.com	
Past Pres	951.243.5940	Amber Jones	Librarian	909.796.6417	Barry Urman
Membership	909.793.5395	Joe Casey	<b>LEADERSHIP TEAM -- 2007</b>		

pay \$17 dues and receive the Newsletter by regular mail. All dues are for one year, January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Current member's renewal dues remain at \$12, no change. To continue as a current member you must pay your dues before April 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you wish to contribute more it is certainly your option to do so at any time.

We had a Two very enjoyable events in October, The Home Garden Tour and The BBQ. Both went off as planned on a beautiful days.

Thanks to Dennis Kucera, Kim and Barry Urman, and Don and Mary Alice McGrew, for opening your private places and allowing us to share your obvious love for things green. And a **Special Thanks to the McGrews** for preparing that wonderful lunch.

And how can we Thank the Sims enough for allowing us to use their wonderful Museum Room for our Annual BBQ? For starters, just tell them so when you see them!

The BBQ food 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. Helen, Audrey and Sue spent three hours on Friday setting up the room for our event. Manny and Sonia did a great job cooking all the food.

The Cactus Cook Off was a treat, Anna Marie Granillo stole the show with her Opuntia Napales. Her mother, Mary Alice McGrew, took Second with her Opuntia Robusta Salad. And following in Third Place, was Karen Roholt's Guacamole Dip. And we enjoyed all the other dishes including the Cactus Margaritas.

If you missed these events you missed a couple of wonderful get togethers. We really appreciate the effort all the hosts put into preparing for and entertaining us.

And we do want to Thank Laurel Woodley for her Informative Program last month. Her great

pictures and presentation were just wonderful.

See you at the Auction! *Buck*

## CHANGE IN GATES C&SS BY-LAWS

The Board of Directors has voted to change the bylaws of the society. The purpose is to expand the board and have more input from the members.

The following article is proposed to be added to the by-laws of the Corporation. This amendment will be voted on at the Society's December meeting.

To amend Article III, Board of Directors to read:

***5. The positions of Newsletter Editor and Show and Sale Chair shall be Board level positions. Persons occupying those positions are appointed by the new Board of Directors to serve two-year terms, coinciding with the officers terms. The positions will have full Board of Directors rights and obligations.***

## AUCTION INFORMATION

*This info worked well last year so here it is again*

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



## IMPORTANT! ELECTION of OFFICERS 2008

Here is the Slate of Officers for 2008 proposed by the Board of Directors. We will vote on this slate along with other nominations at the November meeting.

President: Mike Green  
Vice President: Tony Marino  
Secretary: Ina Schweitzer  
Treasurer: Karen Roholt  
Board Member: Joe Casey  
Board Member: Dennis Kucera



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Manny Michelson and Sonia Cody joined GCSS about 6 years ago. Manny likes mammilarias and Sonia likes beautiful plants and some cactus. They both belong to the Moreno Valley Garden Club. He is a retired lithographer and she is a retired dance teacher.

Norm Navarre joined GCSS nearly 20 years ago because he wanted to use cactus for a large section of his garden in Moreno Valley. He likes mammilarias and succulents. He also belongs to the Moreno Valley Garden Club.

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2007 SUCCULENTS EUPHORBIA

*Jim Higdem and Dennis Kucera judging*

**INTERMEDIATE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Lyn Brooks Euphorbia decaryi var.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Roholt Euphorbia aeruginosa

**ADVANCED** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Lyn Brooks E. platyphyllum, long form  
2<sup>nd</sup> Joella Olson Euphorbia decaryi  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Marino E. aeruginosa 'minor'  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joella Olson Euphorbia species  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tony Marino Euphorbia mammilaris  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joella Olson Euphorbia species  
H.M. Vivian Nightingale Euphorbia agregata

**ADVANCED** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Kucera E. polygona 'snowflake'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Buck and Yvonne Euphorbia flanniganii  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Kucera E. nerifolia crest  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vivian Nightingale E. lactea cristata

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR OCTOBER 2007 CACTUS OPUNTIA

*Jim Higdem and Dennis Kucera judging*

**INTERMEDIATE** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Judy Horne Opuntia vestita cristata

**ADVANCED** small, 6" pot or less  
1<sup>st</sup> Joella Olson Opuntia gubro minima  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tony Marino Opuntia rufida minima  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Kucera Opuntia rufida minima

2<sup>nd</sup> Buck and Yvonne Tephrocactus weberi

**ADVANCED** LARGE, over 6" pot  
1<sup>st</sup> Tony Marino O. subulata monstrose  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dennis Kucera Opuntia basilaris  
3<sup>rd</sup> Joella Olson Opuntia species

## MINI-SHOW RESULTS FOR October 2007 DEAD CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

*The Grim Reaper Dave Jackson judging*

**NOVICE**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Peggy Avila Dead from summer heat

**INTERMEDIATE**  
1<sup>st</sup> Dan Griffith Hooked Barrel  
2<sup>nd</sup> Roholt Dead Cactus  
3<sup>rd</sup> Ina Schweitzer Euphorbia 'Grimsii'

**AVANCED**  
1<sup>st</sup> Joella Olson Rhipsalis crisper  
1<sup>st</sup> Dennis Kucera Echinocereus engelmannii  
1<sup>st</sup> Buck and Yvonne Echinocereus polycephalus  
2<sup>nd</sup> Bertie Lou Hazell Old man cactus  
2<sup>nd</sup> Barry & Kim Urman Euphorbia mauritanicus cristata  
H.M. Joella Olson Euphorbia mammilaris

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**Dennis Kucera had the Best Dead Cactus.**

## PEST OF THE MONTH

New Monthly Feature

Michael J. Green

### On a SCALE of one to ten \_\_\_\_????

There are 435 individual species of scale in the United States in two broad categories (1) armoured scales and (2) soft scales. The only cactus reference seen that identifies scale pests implies that armoured scales are not a problem, but lists several soft scales that are. Excellent color keys for scale insects in California are available from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

Soft scale insects seem to vary considerably and cactus are definitely susceptible to soft scale (see photos). One species, *Dactylopius confusus*, commonly found on Opuntias, was and still is grown and harvested for its red dye component carmine. It is a major, multimillion dollar business in certain parts of Mexico.

Diagnostics generally are the presence of honeydew and sooty mold, ants, wilted or discolored leaves, yellow, orange, brown or black little patches (scales) on the stems and the bottom of the leaves (color depends on species and age). Identification needs magnified lenses and photo guides. Ants protect scales from their natural enemies. Some scale species weaken plants and inhibit growth. Plant parts may die if they remain heavily infested with scales.

A correct identification of the scale family to which your pest species belongs is important. Imidacloprid controls most soft scales but does not control armored scales or cottony cushion scale (*Icerya purchasi*) which is commonly mistaken for mealybug.

Imidacloprid can dramatically increase cottony cushion scale populations because it is very toxic to one of its natural enemies (vedalia beetle, *Rodolia cardinalis*). It is poisoned by feeding on scales that have ingested the insecticide. The best control is to carefully quarantine new plants for a while BEFORE adding them to the existing collection. This is always advisable for new plants in the collection to prevent spreading of any diseases and pests! Inspect plants to

determine whether female scales, nymphs, honeydew, or sooty mold are present. To distinguish live scales from dead, try flipping over the female scale body or cover using a sharp tool. Dead scales remain on plants, and sometimes a large proportion of scales are dead or parasitized by natural enemies. During the growing season inspect for ants. If the ants have swollen, almost translucent abdomens, they are probably feeding on honeydew produced by scales or other insects that suck plant juices. Generally, what works on mealybug works.

If infested, gently scrape off the scales with a plastic scrub pad. A hard jet of water can spray off the crawlers on the spines. Manual control should be done away from the collection or in an isolated place. Watch the wind direction, eggs and first generation nymphs can cover great distances when caught by a breeze!

Scales are often controlled by small parasitic wasps and predators including beetles, bugs, lacewings, and mites. Predatory *Chilocorus*, *Hyperaspis*, and *Rhyzobius* species lady beetles (ladybugs) can easily be missed. The twicestabbed lady beetle, *Chilocorus orbis*, is shiny black with two red spots on its back, and reddish underneath. The multicolored Asian lady beetle, *Harmonia axyridis*, is a relatively large, variably colored species. Parasitic wasps are often the most important natural enemies of scales. Natural predators will then die if there is not a sufficient ongoing diet.

Ant control, habitat manipulation, and pesticide management are the key conservation strategies. Grow flowering plants near scale-infested cacti to help attract and support natural enemies. Adult lacewings, lady beetles, and parasitic wasps live longer, lay more eggs, and kill more scales when they have plant nectar or pollen and insect honeydew to feed on. Minimize dust, which interferes with natural enemies. If current levels of scales are intolerable, step up the attack.

Horticultural oils are specially refined petroleum products such as Volk or Neem oils. To avoid oil injury, only to apply to well watered plants. In addition to the oil, insecticidal soap or a mixture

of oil and soap can be sprayed. Horticultural oils can be an advantage, because applying any systemic insecticide, and thus watering, could be catastrophic in the dormant season. Do not apply any oil when it is foggy, freezing (under 32°F), hot (over 90°F), or rainy, or within a day of when these conditions are expected. *Avoid products called dormant oil or dormant oil emulsions.* These are more likely to injure plants.

If you choose to use a chemical pesticide, keep in mind that a scale acts like a cover and thus protects the insect itself against insecticides. Use specific systemic insecticides to control the adults. Apply several times with 10 day intervals, unless otherwise indicated. Try to use insecticides with different active components: malathion, imidriclopid (Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub), carbaryl (Sevin), permethrin, and acephate (Ortho Systemic Insecticide). It will help prevent the insects from becoming resistant.

References:

Gill, R. J. 1982. *Color-Photo and Host Keys to the Armored Scales of California*. Scale and Whitefly Key #5. Sacramento: Calif. Dept. Food Agric.

Gill, R. J. 1982. *Color-Photo and Host Keys to the Soft Scales of California*. Scale and Whitefly Key #4. Sacramento: Calif. Dept. Food & Agric.

Gill, R. J. 1988-1997. *The Scale Insects of California Parts 1-3*. Sacramento: Calif. Dept. Food & Agric.

IN ALL YOU DO, ALWAYS FIND THE TIME TO LAUGH.

IT'S FREE

Visit our WEB SITE

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

**Calendar of Garden Events - 2007**

**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 Rd., Fullerton, CA.

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REMEMBER  
FOR THE NOVEMBER AUCTION  
JUST

ONE GOOD PLANT



**OTHER TABLES**

Plant Sales and Discussion tables are now closed for this year. Will reopen for the January 2008 Meeting.



**Joese objectives fur 2008, to:**

*Use words correctly, irregardless of how others use them*

*Never use a big word when a diminutive one would suffice.*

*Kill all exclamation points!!!!*



**Coccus hesperidum** [www.agro.bayer.gr](http://www.agro.bayer.gr)



**Cochineal scale insects**  
(*Dactylopius coccus*)  
<http://fireflyforest.net/firefly/2005/09/19/cochineal/>



**Saissetia oleae**

<http://www.viarural.com.ar/viarural.com.ar/agricultura/aa-insectos/saissetia-oleae.htm>



**Rodolia cardinalis** adults attacking cottony cushion scale.

PHOTO: J.K. Clark,  
<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/>

[http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/cottony\\_cushion01.htm](http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/fruit/cottony_cushion01.htm)

