



# Open Gates

A publication of the  
**Gates Cactus & Succulent Society**  
**March 2020**



**NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, March 4<sup>th</sup> 2020**  
**AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
**1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA**

## Plants of the Month

**Cactus – CA,  
 NV, AZ Natives**

**Succulent –  
 Pelargonium,  
 Monsonia**



## Next Month

**Cactus –  
 Gymnocalycium**

**Succulent –  
 Succulent  
 Bromeliad**

### From Our President:

It's been an amazing but an un-seasonally dry February last month. Depending on how you view this circumstance, some find this dry but cold winter a blessing compared to the other frigid and stormy parts of the country. For the plant and garden lovers, however; we would rather have some more rain to water the plants and replenish the water supply. Regardless of how you may feel about the weather, just take a look at those aloes. They have been showing off their brilliant inflorescence for the last two months. As I drive around the area, there are so many home gardens now landscaped with xerophytic plants. The most common succulent that are still blooming are the aloes. Take the time to slow down and experience their blooms. There's even some ferocacti that are beginning to flower. You may also notice that many other non-succulents are exiting their winter dormancy early. Keep a watchful eye on your plants that may need some extra watering without the rainfall.

This month we have the return of Woody Minnich as our special speaker. His topic of discussion will be conservation specifically relating to our beloved succulents. He is one of the few field explorers who are also active with the conservation movement. This particular talk has been well-received by many other cactus and succulent clubs. It will certainly be both entertaining and educational with Woody, so don't miss the talk.

Congratulations to Ann and John Reynolds for receiving the Hazelle Newman Achievement Award for 2019. The club is so fortunate to have your support and involvement with our many activities. As we are quickly approaching the club's annual show/sale, here's an opportunity for you to get involve and volunteer to have some fun. Let's chat at the meeting...

- Phuc

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**Leadership Team 2020**

# Our Program This Month

## Woody Minnich

“Cactus and Succulent Conservation Around the World”

Never has there been a time when conservation of our cacti and other succulents has been more urgent! Due to many factors, our precious succulents, as well as many other plants and animals, are now facing severe problems. When traveling around the world in succulent rich regions, I have observed an amazing increase in the devastation of habitats and the illegal removal of many rare and endangered species of cacti,



succulents, and other plants and animals. Not only are we losing these very special and unique plants, sadly enough, we are aggressively destroying many valuable and irreplaceable habitats.

Our desires to urbanize and agriculturally develop great numbers of virgin environments have only produced severe ecosystem imbalances, thus the extinction, at a most rapid rate, of many of the world's most beautiful and fascinating plants and animals.

There are many cacti and other succulents that are becoming very valuable to the collector's egos and appetites. Generally, these plants and animals are those that we have a difficult time producing in the nursery. Due to their rarity in cultivation, they often demand high dollars in the trade. Also, because many of these special species take extremely long periods of time (10s to 100s of years) to develop their wonderful character, it is not commercially feasible for growers or breeders to produce them.

The unscrupulous collector will often spend huge sums of money to get these unique and rare specimens. And with the demand and dollars being high, it has become more and more common for commercial collectors to find ways to acquire these special plants and animals. Now, with the internet being a very popular method of acquiring merchandise, our rare and endangered cacti and other succulents are being sold internationally with very little, if any, controls being enforced.



The countries that are most affected with cactus and succulent problems are: Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, Socotra, Somalia, South Africa, Peru, and the United States. All of these countries have well intended conservation programs, but most do not have the funds available to properly enforce their laws or monitor their endemic species. In this presentation you will see many of the cacti and other succulents that are considered threatened or endangered, and what has happened to place them in this perilous position.

Our world is getting smaller and smaller, and as our human population continues to increase, we ALL need to do our part to help protect our amazing world of plants, animals, and habitats. Conservation is not a spectator sport. Please speak out when and where you can, as the future generations of all things depend on us.

## Bio

Woody, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new, sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. With 51 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.





## Mini Show Results

Please remember to **CLEARLY** fill out the Mini show entry forms. Incomplete or illegible forms will be disqualified.

### **Cactus**

#### Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> –
- 2<sup>nd</sup> –
- 3<sup>rd</sup> –

#### Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Rebutia heliosa – Ann Platzer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Rebutia – Karen Roholt
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Rebutia vulpine – Ann Platzer

#### Advanced

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Rebutia heliosa – Frank Nudge
- 2<sup>nd</sup> –
- 3<sup>rd</sup> –

### **Succulents**

#### Novice

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Echeveria perle von Nurnberg – Sally Stout
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Echeveria neon breaker – Sally Stout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sempervivum arachnoideum – Sally Stout
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sempervivum kalinda – Sally Shout

#### Intermediate

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Haworthia sp. – Rene Hernandez
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Haworthia cooperi – Ann Platzer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Haworthia venosa – Ann Platzer
- HM - Sempervivum sp. – Rene Hernandez

#### Advanced

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Haworthia limifolia – Frank Nudge
- 2<sup>nd</sup> –
- 3<sup>rd</sup> –

## Membership Renewal

Please remember to renew your Membership. We be switching to the 2020 membership mailing list soon, so if you have not renewed your membership you will no longer get the Newsletter.

Please see Jo Ann Crabtree to renew your Membership. If you are mailing in your renewal please mail it to the address on the renewal form.  
Thank you.

## The Newman Award

Congradulations to John and Ann Reynolds who have been awarded The Hazelle and Davis Newman Achievement award for 2020. Thank you for your all you do for the Gates CSS and its members. We truly appreciate you both.

## From Our Garden...

This month's photos are from John and Ann Reynolds Garden. A Before and after.



This plant was unattended for years. Before it was given to the Reynolds.



Now, with some love from the Reynold's It's a healthy and happy succulent.



## Cacti of California, Nevada, Arizona

By: Buck Hemenway

This month's category of eligible cacti is very large. Included are a number of the smallest cacti up to the huge Saguaro of Arizona. Plants belonging to the genera *Sclerocactus*, *Ferocactus*, *Stenocereus*, *Echinocereus*, *Opuntia*, *Cylindropuntia* and a number of others occur in the Southwest corner of the United States. We have not limited entries to plants that ONLY grow in these states, but to all which grow there, even though they may grow elsewhere, such as Mexico, New Mexico, etc.

The grand plants of our California deserts which include *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Ferocactus viridescens*, *Mammillaria dioica*, *Mammillaria grahamii*, *Echinocactus polycephalus*, *Echinocereus englemannii*, nearly 20 varieties of *Opuntia* and 15 or so *Cylindropuntia* make a good beginning for a potential list of show plants. Add to that list, the many varieties native to Arizona and our mini-show table should be overflowing.

The growing conditions that are present where these plants grow vary in the extreme. *Ferocactus viridescens* grows overlooking the Pacific Ocean in San Diego County, never seeing freezing temps and rarely enduring daytime temps over 85 deg. *Ferocactus cylindraceus* grows in the inland deserts of Southern California, NV and AZ and endures freezing temperatures in the extreme and daytime temps exceeding 120 deg F. *Echinocactus polycephalus* grows in the Mojave Desert and regularly sees snow in the winter and extreme day time temps in the summer.

Most will grow easily in our collections and landscapes in the Inland Empire. Always making sure that there is adequate and fast drainage helps. Those plants that grow at high elevations in Nevada and Arizona need to be protected from our hot afternoon sun in summer. At our nursery, we do not irrigate plants in the ground which are endemic to the Sonoran Desert in the winter at all, keeping our finger crossed that we won't have too much rainfall. We water them thoroughly about once per month in the summer months, to approximate the summer monsoon rains of that region.

Pests are minimal, always keep an eye out for mealy bugs.



***Ferocactus cylindraceus* at Corn Springs, CA**



***Echinocereus englemannii* at Anza Borrego**



***Mammillaria dioica* at Anza Borrego**



## Pelargonium, Monsonia

By: Buck Hemenway

These plants are part of the Geraniaceae family that includes such garden favorites as Geraniums. The only succulents in the family occur in the Monsonia and Pelargonium genera. Sarcocaulon has been redefined as a genus and included in Monsonia. We will recognize both names in all shows for the foreseeable future.

Not all plants in either genus are truly succulent, but we admit all to our shows. The plants in this group are primarily succulent in nature and form woody shrubs and geophytic forms. The stem and bark of the Monsonia genus are highly resinous and flammable and have been used locally as firewood with the resulting name "Bushman's Candle."

All plants in these genera have showy flowers. Pelargonium flowers tend to be small, but the plants are covered with them with colors ranging from purple to bright red to yellow and white. Monsonia flowers are larger, fewer but showy and range in color from reddish pink to yellow.

Plants of both genera are easy to grow in Southern California. Monsonias' habitats are for the most part in Namaqualand and southern Namibia where there is very little rainfall and many of them exist on fog for moisture. Drainage is key to successful cultivation of Monsonias and many Pelargoniums. They do well in the ground and in pots, liking a little afternoon shade in the hottest areas. They will take some freezing, coming back from a cold induced die back and always add showy color to our succulent landscape plantings.

Monsonias have spines and grow in some of the most inhospitable growing conditions in Southern Africa. A few Pelargoniums have spines, but they are such vigorous growers that they outgrow the occasional antelope that might find them delicious in habitat.

Pests are present, but we find that they will be the last to act as home to mealy bugs and aphids. Any bug infestations are quickly cured with normal practices.

If one researches specific Monsonia species, some will be found to grow at very high altitude in South Africa in the Richtersveld and as such will

be hardy in our coldest areas up to 3,500 feet elevation or so.



**Monsonia ciliata**



**Monsonia multifida**



**Pelargonium echinatum**

# 2020 Upcoming Events

**MAR. 19-21**    **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-- SPRING SHOW AND SALE.** THURS 19<sup>th</sup> 6pm-9pm, FRI. 20<sup>th</sup> 9-7pm, SAT. 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-5pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
INFORMATION CALL 657-549-0702

**APR. 4-5**        **SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**  
9-4PM, SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.,  
PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: <http://www.southcoastcss.org>

**APR 19**         **CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE** 9am TO 4pm  
558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320  
INFO: [www.conejocss.com](http://www.conejocss.com) OR [conejocss@hotmail.com](mailto:conejocss@hotmail.com)

**APR. 26**        **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE** 10 to 5pm HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL  
GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504



**You are invited!**

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society  
**48<sup>th</sup> Annual Show and Sale**  
April 4 and 5, 2020 9am - 4pm

South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd  
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

**Garden admission required for entrance:**  
**Effective March 1, 2020**

Adult **\$15**  
Senior/Student w/ID **\$11**  
Age 5-12 **\$5** Under 5 FREE  
Garden members FREE  
Information: [southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org)  
or call 310-346-6206

For anyone who loves  
the beautiful and the unusual

Collectors  
Gardeners  
Landscapers  
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Friends  
Kids and Grandkids

- Thousands of Cacti and Succulents for sale
- Hard to Find plants
- Kids Potting Table
- Beautiful displays by expert growers
- Expert advice for beginners and advanced
- Visit the garden at the same time



## Succulent & Garden Art Sale

LOCATION: 1014 W. Sunset Drive  
Redlands, CA 92373



**Fri & Sat, March 6 & 7, 2020**

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**CONTACT: Jo Ann Levine (909) 793-0680 Voice Mail Only**