



Open Gates

A publication of the
**Gates Cactus & Succulent
 Society**
 March 2019



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, March 6th at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

**Cactus –
Coryphantha,
Escobaria**

**Succulent –
Echeveria**

Save the Date!

MAR. 21- 23RD
 ORANGE COUNTY
 CSS SPRING
 SHOW AND SALE

APR 13
 CONEJO CACTUS
 & SUCCULENT
 SOCIETY PLANT
 SALE

March 17
 Desert Garden Tour
 in Palm Springs

From Our President:

Did everyone survive the great deluge of February due to the pineapple express? If you did make it through the deep soak, I hope your plants fared just as well. And meteorologists are still debating whether to call this an El Nino year? March usually sets the tone for another busy upcoming spring garden season.

Not only will there be numerous garden-related events to keep the most avid gardener among us deciding which one to participate; our club will be participating in several local gardening events. This is your opportunity to help the club by volunteering at our exhibit booth. It's easy and it's fun while providing information about our club and drought-tolerant plants to our community and garden enthusiasts. We'll have more details at the meeting to share.

Thank you to Guillermo Rivera for guiding us through his wonderful Bolivia journey last month. Any trip through South America is always worth the time to experience such a variety of succulents in the Americas. This month Woody Minnich returns to our club for some more of his yearly wit and charm. We are in for a treat on all things, copiapoa!

Just another reminder, please remember to renew your club membership if you haven't done so already. You need to be a current full-standing member to participate in the mini show and to be able to enjoy many other membership benefits. The Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley will host its annual Desert Garden Tour in Palm Springs this month. As a Gates CSS member, you will get 50% discount off admission. Plus you are supporting the club and our mission of cacti and succulent education and conservation through your membership.

-Phuc

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Leadership Team 2019

Our Program This Month

Woody Minnich

"20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapoas"

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and



spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.



BIO

Woody, as he is commonly known, 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.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen.

He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria,



Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

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. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, 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

- 1st – Copiapoa calderana – Ann Platzer
- 2nd – Haageocereus sp – Ann Platzer
- 3rd – Eriosyce curvispina – Paul Bouvion

Intermediate

- 1st – Copiapoa hasseltonia – Judy Horne
- 2nd – Copiopoia marginata – Mike Madrigal
- 3rd – Copiopoia tennarissima monsturosa – Mike Madrigal
- HM – Copiapoa calderana – Judy Horne

Advanced

- 1st – Eriosyce occulta – Frank Nudge
- 2nd – Eriosyce senilis – Greg & Anna Cavanaugh
- 3rd – Neoporteria occulta – Greg & Anna Cavanaugh

Succulents

Novice

- 1st – Senecio talinoides cristata – Ann Platzer
- 2nd – Senecio articulades – Ann Platzer
- 3rd – Senecio picticaulis – Ann Platzer

Intermediate

- 1st – Senecio articulades – Ann Reynolds
- 2nd – Senecio anteuphorbium – Mike Madrigal
- 3rd – Senecio rowleyanus rosary plant – Diana Roman

Advanced

- 1st – Othonna euphorbioides – Greg & Anna Cavanaugh

Coryphantha and *Escobaria*

Tom Glavich

Coryphantha and *Escobaria* are two closely related genera. They are both also closely related to *Mammillaria*, and almost all of the species have been described at one time or another as members of all three genera.

Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* have furrowed tubercles (*Mammillaria* do not), and most *Coryphantha* have extra floral nectarines (glands that produce nectar located in the skin of the plant), while *Escobaria* do not. The furrow is a groove that goes from the tip to the base of the tubercle. It is sometimes obvious, and sometimes so faint that it is hard to see. There are also floral differences, with *Escobaria* flowers tending to fringed petals while *Coryphantha* flowers have simple petals. Both *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria* flower from the top of the plant rather than a ring of flowers farther down the plant.

Both of these genera have some spectacular species, and both are neglected by most collectors. They are relatively easy to grow, and are temporarily out of fashion, although *Coryphantha* has recently become more popular.

Coryphantha is a medium sized genus of mostly globular plants from Mexico and the Southwestern United States. The range of *Coryphantha* overlaps that of *Thelocactus*, stretching through Texas into Oklahoma in the north and continuing into Arizona and California to San Bernardino. In the south, the genus stretches to Oaxaca. The center of the range is the central states of Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Zacatecas and Nuevo Leon. There are 50 – 80 species depending on the reference chosen, and the accepted extent of the genus. They are grown for their beautiful spination and large colorful flowers.

Escobaria has about 23 species, some variable. It covers the range from Central Mexico to Southern Canada, with two species accounting for most of the very wide range.

Cultivation of both genera is similar to *Mammillaria*, except that *Coryphantha* are more sensitive to overwatering, and in general, somewhat more prone to rot. They start growing later in the year than *Mammillaria*, and stay active later into the summer. Too much water before active growth starts can lead to their demise. Overall, cultivation is not difficult, and well within the capability of all growers. Since many come from the Southwestern United States and

higher elevations in Mexico, they are tolerant of cold, when dry and should pose no difficult problems in Southern California.



Coryphantha radians



Escobaria minima



Coryphantha elephantidens

Echeveria

Buck Hemenway

Echeveria is a wholly New World genus in the Crassulaceae family. The plants mainly occur in subtropical to tropical zones of Mexico and in South America in the northwestern countries as far south as Peru.

They tend to grow on “pioneer” plant growth plots that have been disturbed by volcanic or other activity. They occur at relatively high elevations (from 3,000 ft up) and most generally on steep, rocky slopes that are not hospitable for other and larger plants. Their habitat seems to be in areas that get heavy summer monsoonal rains, but also allow moisture to help them grow throughout the year. We can see the type of area that they prefer in the road cuts south of Temecula on both sides of old hiway 395 where *Dudleya pulverulenta* grows in profusion. Early explorers of this genus were always amazed at just how small the range of individual species was.

So, we see that the best way to grow them is by heavily watering in summer using a very fast draining planting medium and light watering the rest of the year. Our inland weather tends to be a little too hot for some during the hottest part of the summer. They do well in the ground in fast draining areas. They prefer morning sun with afternoon shade, but will survive in more shady and sunnier spots.

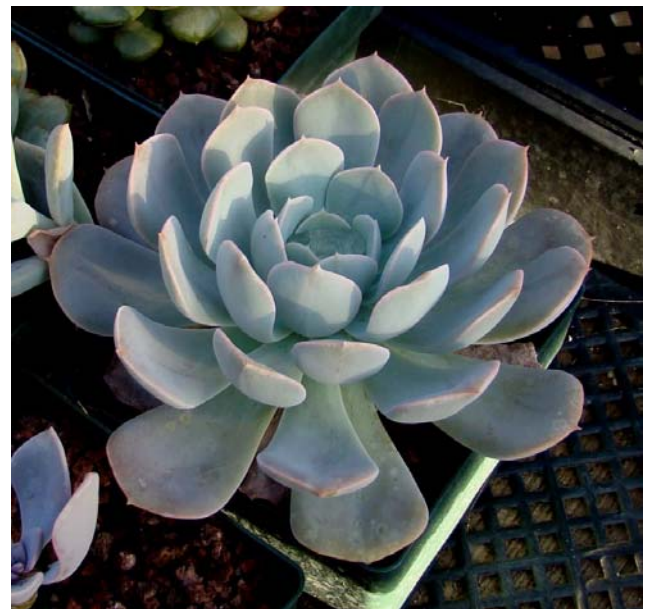
The plants range in size from very tiny (less than 1” across) heads to large (more than 2’ across) ones. Most of them offset naturally and will form attractive clumps over time. The blooms are born on lengthy inflorescences and range in color from white to yellow to red. They mainly bloom in the early spring into summer.

There are hundreds of hybrids that have been produced all over the world. Some of the most attractive plants in our collections are the large hybrid *Echeverias*.

Mealy bugs are the biggest pest problem. One must keep a watchful eye out for them on collection plants. The little beasties love *Echeverias* and will decimate a collection if left unchecked.



Echeveria “Dick Wright”



Echeveria peacockii



Echeveria “Mauna Loa”

2019 Upcoming Events

- MAR 21-23 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY,
SPRING SHOW AND SALE, THURS. 21ST 6-9pm, FRI. 22ND 9-7pm, SAT. 23RD 9-5pm.
1000 STATE COLLEGE BL (Anaheim United Methodist Church)
ANAHEIM, CA INFO 562-587-3357
- APR 13 CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE 9am TO 3pm
ELKS LODGE, 158 N. CONEJO SCHOOL ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362
INFO: conejocss@hotmail.com
- March 17 14 th annual Desert Garden Tour in Palm Springs (Palm Springs, CA) – The 14 th annual
Desert Garden Tour presented by the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley
will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.
Information: www.deserthorticulturalsociety.org



Save the Date!

72nd Annual Riverside Community



Flower Show & Garden Tours

“Bees and Blooms”

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Gardens 10 am – 4 pm 🌻 Show 1 – 6 pm

(Maps & Tickets available at Elks Lodge at 9 am Sat.)

Flower Show opens at 1 pm)

Sunday, April 14, 2019

Gardens and Show 10 am – 4 pm

Flower Show at the Elks Lodge

6166 Brockton Ave. 🌻 Riverside

plus Private Garden Tour

PayPal



Tickets \$15.00

Children under 16 FREE with paying adult

Entry schedule & presale locations listed on the website

It's Free
to visit our
Garden Fair!

🌻 FREE Garden Seminars

- 🌻 Jewelry
- 🌻 Handcrafts
- 🌻 Plants
- 🌻 Garden Art
- 🌻 Food

FOR MORE INFO GO TO: RiversideFlowerShow.com or
Facebook.com/Riversideflowershow or call 951-850-8277

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