



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
July 2020



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY ,No July 2020 Meeting
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

**Cactus –
Echinopsis**

**Succulent –
Stem Succulent
Euphorbias**



Next Month

**Cactus – North
American
Columnars**

**Succulent –
Lithops**

From Our President: July is the month of celebration and birthday for everyone. It is America's birthday; it's Independence Day to be exact. Since there won't be any officially, legal sanctioned firework show this year, each of us will spend July 4th probably watching a rerun firework shows on T.V. or a virtual one on the internet. Whatever you choose to do, remember to be safe and don't do anything illegal - like setting off fireworks.

July is also the birthday month for us, the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society! We are sixty-one years young and growing. Let this be another reason to celebrate – buy a new plant, propagate some succulents, take a picture of a bloom. Here's something else that each member can be cheerful for during the celebration. Because we have had to cancel so many meetings and events already this year, the Board wants to thank each of our loyal members for their patience and support during this ongoing health pandemic. Every paid member as of June 2020 will have their membership automatically renew for 2021 at zero cost. That means your current 2020 membership will extend through this year and into next year and will expire on December 31, 2021

I hope you have been taking advantage and enjoying the many virtual cactus webinars through the internet during the last few months. CSSA will be extending this webinar series through the end of the year with two presentations each month. Many well-known succulent and cactus experts in our hobby will be presenting a specific topic through these webinars. Rod Haenni, Buck Hemenway, and Stephen McCabe are just some the scheduled speakers. We certainly know one on these guys. Update and registration information can be found at the CSSA's website: <http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/>.

In the next one to two weeks, CSSA will be re-introducing its publication *To The Point* to members and affiliate societies. This new revision will be in digital format with over twenty-four color pages published every quarter. By going digital, the newsletter will deliver more contents and pictures specifically catered to the mass membership. Members and affiliate clubs will be able to contribute succulent articles and information for each edition. *To The Point* will become a true communication venue to share amongst succulent enthusiasts across the country and with some international affiliates. This would be a great time to consider joining CSSA.- Phuc

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Leadership Team 2020

Our Program This Month

Happy Birthday Gates CSS!

Happy 61st Birthday Gates! A special Thank you to all of our Board members, Volunteers, and members, both past and present, for keeping this wonderful Society alive and well. We may not be able to celebrate together at a meeting, but we can celebrate together in our hearts!



I would like to share with you a little history about who we are and how we became...

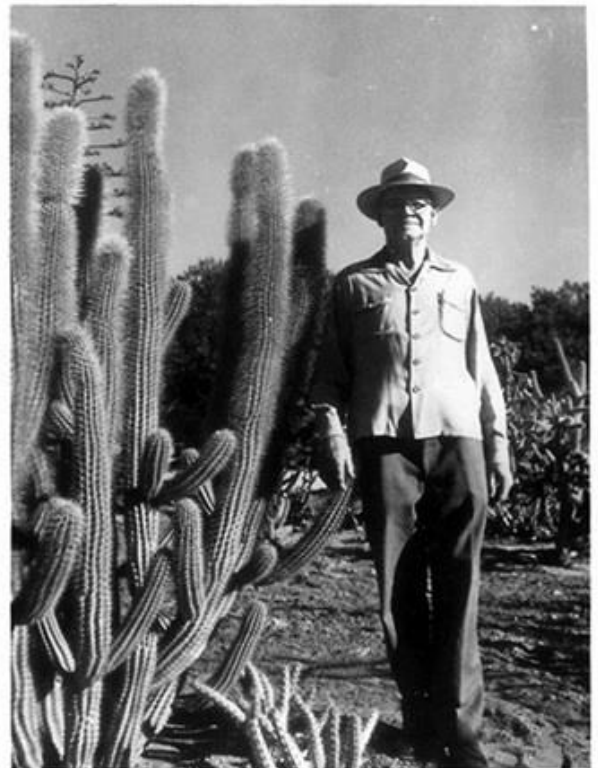
It was in July 1959 that a small group of succulent enthusiasts in this area met in Rialto at the home of Bill and Eleanor Hughes. Although they didn't have a formal meeting as how we do it today, there was enough interest amongst them to proceed forward to form a club. It wasn't until their third meeting in October, held in Redlands, that the group accomplished two important tasks. First they started the process of formulating the bylaws to help govern the club's existence and secondly, they chose a name for the club- "The Howard E. Gates Memorial Cactus and Succulent Society." The following year, 1960, was when our club decided to become a CSSA affiliate.

Howard Elliott Gates was an accomplished nurseryman, horticulturalist, and botanist known around the world mainly for his work with cactus and other succulent plants.

He made many exploration trips to Mexico and Baja California looking for known plants as well as searching for those new ones. Several new plants were discovered by Howard with subsequent descriptive articles published in scientific journals. For his love for cactus and succulents and for his bountiful energy and contribution to the succulent world, several cactus species were named in honor of him, *Pachycereus gatesii* and *Pereskia gatesii*. His commercial nursery, Gates Cactus, Inc located in Norco., was famous for providing many high quality cacti and succulents throughout the world.

Mr. Gates passed away on October 5, 1957 not knowing that the club would be named for him. Our club's name is now Gates Cactus and Succulent Society.

Happy Birthday Gates CSS!



Webinar Events Coming up!

You must register for the webinar by clicking on this link. You will receive an email verifying your registration. It is very easy!

Registration Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HQrzvpocTFmwASKpm3axnQ

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Program: Nels Christianson: Brazil

Nels Christianson will be speaking and showing a new program featuring his travels in Brazil.

Nels has more than 500 cacti, succulents and Bromeliads and many are growing in his own pottery. He has traveled to most countries in Latin America but favors Brazil. Nels studied Political Science, Hispanic Civilization, Portuguese, Latin American Studies at UC Santa Barbara, Georgetown University and UCLA. Also, he studied Brazilian literature at the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in 1976-77. Since then he has traveled to Brazil around 20 times visiting friends, studying the culture and plants. He is an active member of several local Bromeliad Societies and Cactus and Succulent groups. Nels is a board member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

CSSA presents Rod Haenni:

“Secrets of Success with Cacti/Succulents in Cold Climates”

Saturday, July 11, 10:00 PDT



My passion for cacti and succulents that could thrive in a cold climate began 42 years ago when I traveled the Colorado Plateau and the Southwest desert as a minerals geologist, looking for uranium deposits. Cacti, yuccas, and agaves were commonly seen in my travels and I wondered what I could grow in Denver.

Today, I grow thousands of plants outdoors and in the lightly heated conservatory of my one acre microclimate - based succulent gardens. I have traveled the world to see what exotic cacti and succulents might be hardy in Patagonia, South Africa, and from European collections. I am an adventurous seed grower and utilize a wide network of other growers, nurseries and seed brokers, always expanding my search for new cold-tolerant succulents.

Register: “[Secrets of Success with Cacti/Succulents in Cold Climates](#)”

Echinopsis

Buck Hemenway

The genus *Echinopsis* is one that is not well understood. All of the publishing botanists admit that there is confusion about this very large genus. The plants are all endemic to South America and grow primarily in sub-tropical to tropical locations from low elevations to over 12,000 ft.

Using the New Cactus Lexicon as a guide, the genus now includes *Echinopsis*, *Trichocereus*, *Lobivia*, *Pseudolobivia*, and *Soehrensia* among others. There are 128 species recognized in this genus.

The plants range in size from the small ball-like clumping forms of *Echinopsis eyriesii* to the giant tree-like forms of *E. terscheckii* and *atacamensis*. They are usually branching, forming shrubs of varying stature. They bloom sub-apically, meaning lower on the branch than the very tip, to mid branch.

The blooms are, for the most part, funnel-form, and usually have overlapping scales on the flower tube that are normally tipped with hair-like bristles. They are among the most dramatic of all flowers and can range in color from pure white, to brilliant yellow to hot, bright red. The size of the flowers can range to 12" long and more than 6" wide at the mouth.

The smaller forms have been hybridized for years to produce new flower colors and we see the results in the offerings from the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, which have been hybridized by Bob Schick from plants originally grown at the Paramount Nursery in the mid-1900's.

They are very easy to grow in our Inland climate and do very well in the ground in well-drained conditions and as well as in pots. They tend to be pest-free, but care should be taken to make certain that no mealy bugs infest these plants. A few of the smaller varieties need protection from the coldest nights, but for the most part, they will stand full sun.

They do well in our winter rainfall climate and like some occasional summer watering as well. We always need to make sure that the soil is fairly well dried out before watering.

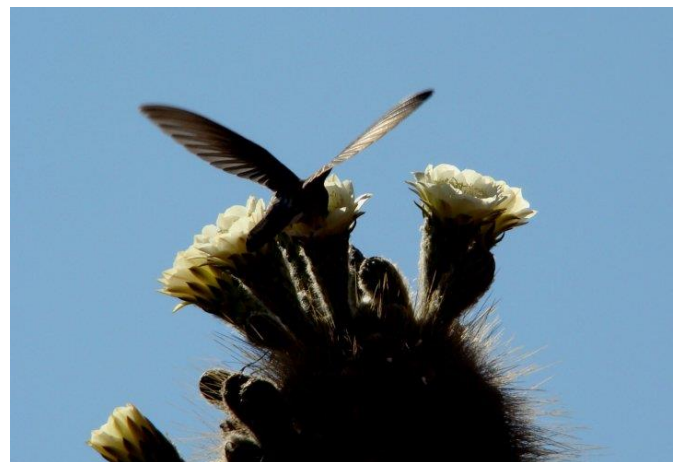
They are easy to propagate. Any branch on any size plant can be removed (best at the joining place) allowed to callous for a few weeks and rooted.



Our friend Ed takes a picture of a very large *Oreocereus celsianus* at 13,000 ft elevation.



Echinopsis poco at 11,700 ft elevation



Giant hummingbird drinks from *Echinopsis atacamensis* ssp. *pasacana* flower at the ruins at Tilcara Argentina

Stem Succulent *Euphorbia*

Buck Hemenway

The Euphorbiaceae family of plants is among the largest in numbers on earth. Plants from this family grow on all continents except Antarctica. We recognize the spurge in our gardens and the Poinsettia as some of the most common of Euphorbia plants.

The evolution of plants in the old world has taken some similar directions as those in the new world. While cacti have populated the arid areas of the new world, succulent Euphorbias are in the old world. The stem types of Euphorbias range in size and stature from the *E. obesa* to the giant candelabra shaped *E. abyssinia*, *E. ammak* and others.

Euphorbias are always recognizable by their flowers (small yellow flowers) and by the sap in the stems which is a latex, white in color and usually very astringent. They are always poisonous and the sap can cause injury if it gets in one's eyes or on sensitive skin areas of the body.

Among the smallest of these is *E. tridentia* which grows in the Little Karoo in South Africa. A fully mature plant is no more than 5" tall and about 3/4" in diameter. The large candelabras can be 40 feet tall and 30 feet wide, so the size and shape range of these is huge.

They grow in all parts of Africa, Madagascar and the Arabian Peninsula. In general, they are opportunistic in their water needs, so as long as they are well drained, they can be watered year around. Some care should be taken to ensure that the soil is fairly dry before adding more water.

They tend to be pest resistant, but scale is a common pest and should be treated as soon as recognized.

Many of the most dramatic of these plants come from sub tropical and tropical Africa. They are frost sensitive, but will survive all but the hardest freeze (below 22 deg f).

As far as the mini-show for this month is concerned, we will use the same definitions as we use for the main Show for this category. Any euphorbia plant that fits the description of "stem succulent" will qualify.



Euphorbia abyssinia



Euphorbia resinifera



Euphorbia pseudocactus (flowers)



Euphorbia obesa

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