

## **OPEN GATES - September, 2023**



**\*\*\*NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 - DOORS OPEN AT 6:15 PM\*\*\***

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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PHUC HUYNH**

Typically, the late summer season in Southern California usually sees a few warm, muggy thunderstorms coming from the south and southeast. Some are monsoons. The hot, sticky, humid air mass leaves us wanting for the return of the dryer, hot weather. Or do we?

Now we can add another story to the list of unusual weather patterns for this year. I'm talking about a tropical storm which was a category four hurricane Hilary before it came ripping through Southern California and stretching as far north as the bay area and Nevada. Talking about going from a record-setting hot July to a two-day constant downpour of warm tropical thunderstorms. Making this even more unusual is that it's been 84 years since the last hurricane-force storm visited California. I hope everyone is safe with no or minimal weather-related problems.

Now that we have had enough water for our succulents, please, nobody waters your plant for the next two to three weeks depending on how much soaking you received. So, while our plants dry out, we can all prepare for the Cactus Cook-Off/Summer BBQ extravaganza. There is still plenty of hot weather left until the fall. Concoct the special cactus dish that you have been waiting to share with everyone. That time is now here; more specifically, it will be on Saturday September 9 at Judy Horne's home. The address is 12212 Overcrest Drive in Yucaipa, CA 92399. Our BBQ potluck will start at 4 PM, but please come earlier to enjoy Judy's magnificent succulent garden that's been in the making for decades. The club wil

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PHUC HUYNH - *Continued***

provide burgers, hot dogs, and drinks while everyone else please bring an appetizer or a dessert. I hear that there will be some free plant giveaways.

In the tradition of learning the practicalities of gardening and specifically for succulent plants, Ernesto Sandoval will be our guest speaker from Northern California. He will explain and teach the raw and bare truth about how plants grow. His presentation is filled with facts and humor that will leave you wondering what "makes my plant happy." Here's where you can learn how to maximize your plant growth with some basic plant biology lessons.

In memorial, Linda Walsh passed away the morning of August 8, 2023, due to a long battle with some medical complications. She is survived by her two sons, who have both volunteered during our annual show and sale for the past several years. Linda was never shy to admit that she was a novice succulent enthusiast but her unwavering support and participation in so many club activities goes to show how much she has enjoyed our club and other horticultural organizations. We will miss you, and our prayers and thoughts will be with you Linda, and your family.

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## **MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR AUGUST - ERNESTO SANDOVAL**

**Biography:** Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.



When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

## **MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR AUGUST - ERNESTO SANDOVAL - *Continued***

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

### **Presentation: Plant Hormones for Propagation and Pruning**

Many years ago, Ernesto gave us a full lecture on plant hormones. This time around he will revisit hormones for an important review, but talk more about how they are involved in and used when propagating and pruning plants as well as their role in seasonal growth. (more photos and less diagrams!)



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## **SEPTEMBER MINI-SHOW**

**Cactus:** Epiphytic Cacti

**Succulent:** Aizoaceae (No Lithops)

Epiphytic Cacti - Follow this link for examples of Epiphytic Cacti: [EPIPHYTIC CACTI – Tropiflora](#) (Not an advertisement, just lots of pictures).

Aizoaceae - Click this link for examples of Aizoaceae: [AIZOACEAE](#)

Remember the entire year's Mini-Show plant list is ALWAYS available at [www.gatescactusandsucculentssociety.com](http://www.gatescactusandsucculentssociety.com).

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## **CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA (CSSA) - UPDATE**

WHO THEY ARE: The CSSA was founded in 1929 in Los Angeles County, at Pasadena, California and has grown to encompass over 80 affiliated clubs and thousands of members worldwide. The primary purpose of the society is to enjoy succulent (water-storing) plants through horticulture, travel and scientific discovery, with a particular concern for habitat preservation and conservation issues in deserts worldwide. It is a non-profit tax-exempt organization. Gates CSS is an affiliate of the CSSA and thus, supports the same objectives.

Recently, the CSSA received correspondence from a conservation group questioning the conservation efforts by several CSSA members & affiliates (not GATES CSS). The following correspondence was the CSSA response and we were asked by the CSSA to share this information with you:

Dear CSSA members, CSSA Affiliates, and the C&S community at large,

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) recently raised concerns regarding business practices of several members within our C&S community. These concerns were formalized in letters sent to CSSA and the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show organizing team. These letters have been irresponsibly leaked and have now gone viral on social media.

While the CSSA treats all matters of concern with utmost diligence, it is crucial for our members and affiliates to differentiate between the claims made by the IUCN and the internal review protocols of the CSSA. These mechanisms ensure that any recommended actions are not only consistent with our mandate but also uphold the principles of equity and fairness toward our members.

In light of this, a conference will take place on September 2, 2023, involving select board members of the CSSA, our executive director, key personnel from Huntington Botanical Gardens, and representatives from the IUCN. CSSA will address our concerns and offer suggestions, and the outcome will be shared subsequently.

As an association, our commitment to strong conservation principles remains paramount. However, it is essential to ensure that actions related to such principles do not inadvertently overshadow the rights and reputations of our dedicated members.

Moving forward, CSSA is committed to fostering robust collaborations with organizations such as the IUCN. Our collective aim is to intensify our efforts against poaching and to conserve endangered succulent habitats across the globe.

Respectfully, Gunnar Eisel

Executive Director,  
Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Any/all questions you may have regarding this information will be answered by our President, Phuc Huynh, at the September 6, 2023, meeting.



## **ODDS AND ENDS**

Barbeque & Cactus Cook Off!!! Save the date: Saturday, September 9, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

Judy Horne has graciously offered to host the annual Summer Potluck Barbeque at her home in Yucaipa this year. Bring your best prepared cactus dish or anything else!!! You will be completely blown over when you see her yard - It is wonderful!!! Judy's address is: 12212 Overcrest Dr, Yucaipa. Very close to Yucaipa Bl and the 10 Fwy. See more info in the President's Message!

STILL WANTED: Volunteer - Kitchen Duty. E Z P Z. Contact Phuc Huynh or Ann Reynolds at our next meeting and a BIG THANK YOU TO ANN!

Our Officer & Board Member elections are coming up soon !! If you haven't done so already, contact one of the following board members to get your name on the list: Phuc Huynh @ 909-910-9195, Jo Ann Crabtree @ 909-633-6934, or Barbara Croonquist @ 909-731-1587.

Remember, you will be voting for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2 positions on the board of directors.

Board Meeting Updates: No board meetings were held this month (summer blackout) but will start up again soon! I will keep you posted if there are updates and/or changes.

**LOOKING FOR FUN THIS SATURDAY?** John and Ann Reynolds are having a cactus and succulent sale at their home this Saturday, September 2, 2023. Not only do they have a stunning garden that is, by itself, a reason to go but they also have a mini-nursery that is wonderful! (Shhhh, don't tell them I said this .... But their prices are great, too!)

### **CACTUS & SUCCULENT SALE**

**Saturday, Sept. 2, 2023, 8 AM to 12 PM, 5086 Via Serena, Alta Loma, CA**

Coming this October - **Cactus & Succulents Sale** plus craft things for the very special people in your life (including Christmas) hosted by Kim & Barry Urmin and friends!

**\*\* Unusual Cactus & Succulents \*\* Bonsai \*\* Knitted Goodies \*\* Sewing Goodies \*\* Handmade Candy Wreaths + MORE**

**Saturday, October 7, 2023 8 AM to 2 PM 34854 Cedar Ave, Yucaipa 909-222-3326**

**Odds & Ends:** If you would like to post yard sales or any other updates/information that you believe would be of interest (pictures, plant sales, yard sales that include plants, events, etc., etc., etc.) to our club members via this newsletter, please email me at [jac1617@gmail.com](mailto:jac1617@gmail.com) or call/text 909-633-6934 or see me at the Treasurer's table during a meeting. Thank you everyone, Jo Ann

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEP 2                    HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**  
9am-3pm **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**  
Info. Reservations- [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org), Symposium-call 626-405-3571  
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA
- OCT 1                    LONG BEACH CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL AUCTION**  
1pm-3:30pm Info. call 714-553-6914  
Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA
- OCT 10                  CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE 9AM-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)
- NOV 3-5                HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED SAT-SUN**  
10am-5pm Info. Reservations- [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org), Sale call 626-405-3571  
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

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## GATES CSS CONTACT LIST

**We welcome your comments, suggestions or questions.** You can reach out to any of the following board members by phone or send an email to [gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com](mailto:gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com)

President	Phuc Huynh	909 910 9195
Vice President	John Reynolds	909 767 5606
Secretary/Librarian	Barbara Croonquist	909 731 1587
Treasurer/Newsletter	Jo Ann Crabtree	909 633 6934
Board Member/Rescue Chair	Jeff Loew	330 986 6313
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909 875 3607
Board Member	Kim Urman	909 222 3326
Board Member	Ann Reynolds	909 987 5706
Mini Show Chair/Judge	Barry Urman	909 328 0901
Greeter	Judy Horne	
Email	<a href="mailto:Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com">Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com</a>	
Web	<a href="https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com">https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com</a>	