



**GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -**

**Since 1959**



## **OPEN GATES - AUGUST, 2025**

**NEXT MEETING: August 8, 2025 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM**

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### **2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew**

Greetings Gates!

I hope you are all having an amazing summer. It looks like our SoCal heat reprieve has come to an end and the hot days are shortly upon us. Make sure that you stay diligent with your watering!




## **42nd Annual Succulent Plants Symposium**

The Huntington's 42nd Annual Succulent Plants Symposium is scheduled for Friday August 29th. The all-day event will feature a continental breakfast, multiple notable speakers, silent auction, lunch, exclusive entry to plant sales, and admission to the grounds. Visit The Huntington's webpage: <https://tickets.huntington.org/> for ticket sales. The symposium's fee is \$100.00.

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 **Fri., Aug. 29, 2025, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

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 **\$100 | Registration includes lunch.**

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 **Education and Visitor Center, Rothenberg Hall**

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## PROGRAM

**8:30 a.m.** | Registration and Continental Breakfast

**9 a.m.** | Welcome

*Nicole Cavender, The Huntington*

**9:15 a.m.** | "Cactus and Canines: How Ecological Scent Detection Dogs Are Aiding Cactus Conservation"

*Steve Blackwell, Desert Botanical Garden*

**9:50 a.m.** | "Soaptree Scents: The Secret Signals and Specialized Pollinators of Yuccas"

*Robert Raguso, Cornell University*

**10:35 a.m.** | Break and Silent Auction Opens

**11 a.m.** | "Succulents: A Botanical History Tour"

*Sandy Masuo, The Huntington*

**11:45 a.m.** | Lunch and Desert Garden Open

**1:45 p.m.** | Update of BGCI's Illegal Plant Trade Awareness Campaign

*Sean Lahmeyer, The Huntington*

**1:50 p.m.** | "Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands"

*Dylan Zoller, Sherman Library & Gardens*

**2:35 p.m.** | Break and Auction Closes (Last chance to place bids!)

**3 p.m.** | "Four New Species of *Ledebouria* Roth. (Hyacinthaceae) from the High Altitude Grasslands of the Steenkampsberg, South Africa"

*Andrew Hankey, South African National Biodiversity Institute*

**4:30 p.m.** | Plant Sale in the Nursery

*Open to symposium registrants only*



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### Steve Blackwell

Desert Botanical Garden

Steve Blackwell is the Conservation Collections Manager at the Desert Botanical Garden, where he has dedicated over 15 years to conserving rare plants of the Southwest. He oversees the Garden's living collection of rare and endangered species, as well as its seed bank and tissue culture lab. Steve also leads field expeditions focused on seed collection, plant salvage, and reintroduction efforts in native habitats. In recognition of his career contributions to plant conservation, he was honored with the Center for Plant Conservation Star Award in 2023. In his presentation, Steve will share insights from his latest work exploring the innovative use of scent detection dogs to support cactus conservation efforts.



### Robert Raguso

Cornell University

Robert Raguso is a research biologist whose work bridges pollination ecology, sensory biology, and chemical communication. He studied butterfly genetics at Yale and earned his Ph.D. at the University of Michigan, pioneering research on floral scent. As a postdoc at the University of Arizona, he examined insect responses to scent and its evolutionary patterns. He chaired the first Gordon Research Conference on floral scent in 1999 and has led international workshops. Now at Cornell, where he recently chaired the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, his research spans plant-pollinator interactions, fungi, and microbes. He has a special fondness for night-blooming plants like evening primroses and moonflowers.



### Sandy Masuo

The Huntington

Sandy Masuo is an editor, educator, author, and conservationist on a mission to inspire wonder in the world around us. She currently serves as the botanical content specialist at The Huntington. Prior to that, she was the associate editor in the Los Angeles Zoo publications division for 18 years, following a 15-year adventure as a music journalist. In 2016, she published her debut novel (under the pen name Rosana DuMas). "Unnatural Selection: Life and Death on the Paper Trail" is the story of a horticulturist/detective investigating the dubious death of a zoo docent. She has taught fiction and business writing as well as a variety of classes from succulent gardening to bird watching at local community colleges. She holds a BA from Brown University and an Ed. M from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.





## **Dylan Zoller**

### **Sherman Library & Gardens**

Dylan Zoller is a horticulturist at Sherman Library & Gardens, where he manages the Succulent and Bromeliad Gardens and their off-display collections. Raised in coastal Southern California, he developed an early fascination with exotic plants after discovering *Exotica*, a pictorial encyclopedia of tropical species. His passion led him to join both local and international bromeliad societies and begin a career in public horticulture at age 18. His current work focuses on cultivating xeric and cloud-forest species, with a growing emphasis on field exploration. He has conducted plant-hunting expeditions across Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, and Brazil in search of rare and localized bromeliads and cacti. He is currently pursuing a degree in biology.



## **Andrew Hankey**

### **South African National Biodiversity Institute**

Andrew Hankey is a botanical horticulturist with over 32 years of experience at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), where he has played a central role in the development and management of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden and its surrounding nature reserve. He has published extensively on topics related to gardening, botany, and natural sciences in a range of technical, popular, and scientific journals. Andrew is recognized as an authority on the three taxonomically complex Asparagaceae genera *Ledebouria*, *Drimiopsis*, and *Resnova*, which make up the subtribe *Ledebouriinae*. He has made significant contributions to the taxonomy of this group and is currently pursuing an MSc on *Drimiopsis* through the University of the Witwatersrand. At the Walter Sisulu NBG, he leads the threatened plant project, overseeing conservation efforts for a variety of endangered plant species. Notably, he has driven efforts to study and protect the critically endangered Albertina Sisulu Orchid (*Brachycorythis conica* subsp. *transvaalensis*) and to secure the land supporting its last viable global population. Highly regarded in his field, Andrew is frequently invited to speak and present to a wide range of audiences.

Our speaker for August is Jorge Ochoa. He will be speaking on edible succulent landscaping.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew



## **MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR AUGUST - Jorge Ochoa**

### ***“Edible Succulent Landscaping”***

#### **Jorge Ochoa - Biography and Talk**



Jorge Ochoa is an Associate Professor of Horticulture at Long Beach City College and a passionate advocate for plants and urban biodiversity. He has played a pivotal role in enhancing Long Beach's green spaces and leading efforts to catalog the city's trees.

Known for his infectious enthusiasm, Jorge organizes guided wildflower hikes in Griffith Park, where he also contributes to restoration projects. A recognized expert on Southern California's plants, Jorge inspires communities to embrace sustainable gardening and conservation.

Edible Succulent Landscaping is the use of succulent plants for both aesthetic value as well as consumption. Learn the many succulents that are consumed by the people of different nations.



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## **AUGUST 2025 - MINI-SHOW**

### **Cactus: North American Columnars**

### **Succulent: Lithops**

#### **North American Columnars by Buck Hemenway**

The most iconic of all cacti are the columnar plants that inhabit the arid regions of sub-tropical North America. From the giants such as Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*) and Cardon (*Pachycereus pringlei*), to the smaller genera such as *Bergerocactus*, *Stenocereus*, all of them exhibit the same general growth form. Some, don't have the strength to grow upright such as the Creeping Devil (*Stenocereus eruca*), but a casual examination of the plant will show that they all look very similar as far as growth habit.

The two most common plants in the Sonoran Desert which takes up most of Arizona and the Northern Baja California peninsula are Saguaro and Cardon. They are the giants of the North American deserts, growing to well over 60 feet tall and with many stems until they are monster plants weighing in the several tons.

There are species of *Bergerocactus* and *Stenocereus* that grow on hillsides overlooking the Pacific Ocean in San Diego County and Western Baja and others that grow in central Baja where measurable rainfall is very light and summertime high temperatures can be extreme.

In general, we find North American columnars very easy to grow in our inland valleys. Most will stand freezes to the mid-twenties and are happiest when our temperatures are at their highest in the summer. The key to success is drainage and not overwatering. Some of them come from regions that have summer or winter rainfall exclusively. Some care should be taken to not overwater a Saguaro in the winter for example. Others, such as Cardon experience summer and winter rainfall in habitat and are well adapted to life in an Inland Empire garden that gets water years around.

They all tend to have large, showy flowers, mainly white and occurring in late spring throughout the summer.

There is no better example of a cactus in a garden than a columnar plant from our own part of the world.





*Pachycereus pringlei*



*Carnegiea gigantea*



*Stenocereus stallatus*

### Lithops by Buck Hemenway

“Living Stones” are among nature’s most interesting “mimicry” living things. Their survival depends on them looking like just another rock, so the grazing herds won’t see them and eat them. They survive in some of the harshest arid conditions on earth. The main populations of Lithops occur in northwestern South Africa and southwestern Namibia in an area known as Namaqualand.

It is amazing to see them growing in quartzitic fields, no protection from other larger plants and getting rain for a 6-to-10-week period annually, if at all. Some populations are irrigated by fogs only.

The genus Lithops is part of the Aizoaceae family of plants, which include all of the ice plants.

They are among the most difficult of genera for us to keep alive in our collections. It seems like one watering at the wrong time will kill them outright. All of us have gone out to look at our collections and found rotting Lithops and sworn “NEVER AGAIN”, only to see one at the next sale and scoop it up.

Here are a few tips on keeping Lithops alive. Knowing a little about what is happening with them is helpful. Most of them flower in the fall. That means anytime from September to January in our climate. After they flower, they enter a dormant period. Dormant in this case means that they quit taking moisture from the soil. During this



dormant period their systems are designed to grow new leaves, using the nutrients and liquid stored in the exiting leaves. They don't need us then.

When the old leaves are completely shriveled up to brown husks, sometime in April or so, that's when they get thirsty. They will take water until they flower again, unless it gets really hot. When our daytime temperatures reach over 95 deg for an extended period, they go dormant again.

Watering Lithops during either dormant period is very risky and will cause them to rot and die.

They have beautiful daisy-like flowers which are either white or yellow. There are more or less 40 species with a large number of subspecies recognized by various groups.



Lithops karasmontana  
(new leaves emerging)



Lithops in bloom  
Courtesy of PlantzAfrica.com



Lithops herrei

**\*Remember: You must be up-to-date on your membership dues to be eligible to compete in the monthly mini-show. See Elias prior to submitting your plants to ensure you are current on membership.**





## 2025

## Cactus

## Succulent

January	White Spined Mammillaria	Aeonium, Sedum, Sempervivum
February	Rebutia, Sulco, Weingartia	Rosette (smaller than 10" diam)
March	CA, NV, AZ Natives	Pelargonium, Monsonia
April	Gymnocalycium	Succulent Bromeliad
May	Cancelled	Cancelled
June	Echinopsis	Stem Succulent Euphorbias
July	Copiapoa	Dorstenia, Ficus
August	North American Columnars	Lithops
September	Opuntiadeae	Stapelia, Huernia
October	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead
November	Schlumbergera	"Trailing" Senecios

## TENTATIVE 2025 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS (MOST CURRENT)

*(Version# 4 - updated! - Subject to Change based on updates from the below clubs)*

### **AUG. 15 - 17: INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE**

#### **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Fri. Sale only(no Show) 9am-6:30pm;

Sat. & Sun. Show & Sale 9am-5pm

Info. [www.intercityshow.com](http://www.intercityshow.com) or call 909-624-3227

LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

(See flyer at end of newsletter)

### **AUG. 29: HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**

#### **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

9am-3pm

Info. Reservations- [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org), Symposium-call 626-405-3504

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA



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**SEPT 13-14: MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
FALL SALE & SHOW**

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm

Info mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org

ISTW Portuguese Hall, 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076

**OCT. 5: LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION**

Sun. 1pm-3:30pm

Info. call 714-553-6914

Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA

**OCT. 12: CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE**

Sun. 9am-4pm

Info. www.conejocss.com or conejocss@hotmail.com

558 N. Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320

**OCT. 25-26: PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE**

**San Diego Botanic Garden admission required**

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm Info. rwkopfstein@gmail.com

San Diego Botanic Garden, Conservatory, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA

**NOV. 7-9: HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10am-5pm

Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Sale call 626-405-3571

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

**NOV. 22: LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
HOLIDAY SALE & AUCTION**

Sun. 10am-4pm Collectors Live Auction 12pm Info. www.lacactus.com

One Generation, 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA



## ODDS AND ENDS

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) to our club members via this newsletter, please email me at [GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com](mailto:GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com) or call/text 303-986-6313 or see me at the General Meeting.

Should you wish your cacti and succulent garden to be featured as a "Member Garden of the Month" in our newsletter, please contact Jeff (per above)

Dues are Past Due! Your 2025 Membership fees are were due in March for the 2025 year! Up-to-date membership dues are required to not only receive the newsletter but to complete in our monthly mini-shows and yearly Show. Should you not be up-to-date on your dues, please see a member of the board for membership assistance.

## GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2025

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/ Newsletter	Jeff Loew	330-986-6313
Vice President/ Rescue Chair	Kim Urman	909-222-3326
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Ocegüera	909-935-6218
Treasurer	Camille Gelston	909-645-0975
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909-875-3607
Board Member/ Librarian	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
Board Member	Tom Perez	951-205-5548
Board Member	Karen Roholt	951-897-2220
Past President	Phuc Huynh	909-910-9195
Mini Show Chair/Judge	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
Email	<a href="mailto:Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com">Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com</a>	
Web	<a href="https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com">https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com</a>	

Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 2025 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization