



OPEN GATES - JANUARY, 2026

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 9, 2026 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

Welcome to 2026! Thank you all for an amazing 2025.

2026 brings us a few changes to our leadership. Nicole Oceguera will be serving as both the Vice President and Secretary. Lyndsee Cordes is joining as a Board Member. Past President Phuc Huynh will be taking on the role as Mini-Show Chair/ Judge.

Our December holiday potluck was a delightful success. A huge thank you to all that brought food and assisted with set-up/ clean-up. Congratulations to our Mini-Show High Points winners: Martin Look, Nicole Oceguera, Miriam Mills, Kyle Fiacco, Patrick Reninger, Michael Frank, Karen Roholt, Tom Perez, May Fernandez, and Tommy Dodson. Please see Jeff if you were not at the dinner to receive your pottery award.





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This winter is shaping up to be a wet one! While the water is always needed in California, too much of a good thing over a long period of time can prove fatal to our cacti and succulent friends. As many of us are bringing our potted specimens inside or covering them with plastic, we are reminded of the importance of well-draining soil. If you haven't already, take the time to ensure your plants are in highly porous soil (wait until it's the plant's growing season to repot of course).

This January we welcome back Gunnar Eisel as our meeting speaker.

See you all Friday, January 9th. Doors open at 6PM.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew

MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR JANUARY - Gunnar Eisel

Speaker Biography: Gunnar Eisel

Gunnar Eisel is a German born music educator and former Executive Director of the Guitar Foundation of America whose teaching has shaped many leading performers and college curricula. He has been an avid collector of rare succulent plants since the 1970's and has served as General Manager and later Executive Director of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America from 2009 to 2023. He has twice served as President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society and is currently its Speakerchair as well as a frequent club speaker and show judge. His lifelong interest in cacti and succulents began with childhood encounters photographing night blooming *Cereus* and navigating *Opuntia* glochids in the California deserts.







Program Description: The Succulent Underground -

The Hidden Intelligence and Function of Roots

Join us for an enlightening journey into the "hidden half" of your plants. This presentation bridges the gap between botanical science and practical horticulture, helping gardeners overcome the fear of root disturbance by explaining the physiological benefits of pruning for sanitation and growth stimulation. We will demystify how roots "think" by exploring how organelles called statoliths guide growth through gravity sensing and hormonal signaling.

JANUARY 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: Mammillaria clusters

Succulent: Aloe

'Mammillaria Clusters' by Tom Glavich (2025)

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family and one of the most variable with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks, straight sharp spines, or feathery soft spines.

Although most *Mammillaria* are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. With this wide distribution the cultivation requirements obviously vary considerably. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp but can take considerable cold. With these restrictions aside, most *Mammillaria* are easy to grow. The grower will have better success if they know where their plant is native to and treat them accordingly.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The white and densely spined species want full sun and do best on a table unprotected





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(except from prolonged heavy rain) all year long. The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria's* worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required with thorough washing/ spraying with an insecticide and cleaning the remains off of the plant

Propagation of *Mammillaria* clusters is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to October), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix (pure pumice is even better). Rooting is rapid with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. *Mammillaria* are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Show quality plants can often be grown in just 4 or 5 years and entries can be ready for seedling classes in as little as 6 months. Best results are obtained when the seeds are planted in late March to late May.

Clumping Mammillaria

Mammillaria baumii is a densely spined species with wonderful large yellow flowers. It is easy to grow and makes an impressive specimen in a modest size pot. It comes from Tamaulipas, Mexico

Mammillaria crucigera produces clumps by splitting dichotomously (each head splitting into two). The body ranges from green to almost brown to almost purple. This species is a slow grower.

Mammillaria duwei is from central Mexico. At first it is slow to pup, but persistence and patience pay off.





Mammillaria elongata, one of the first cacti that everyone grows is easy and extraordinarily tolerant of abuse. It has the odd characteristic of being very popular and also unfairly neglected since advanced growers ignore this easy grower even though there are a variety of forms and colors many of which can make a spectacular plant.

Mammillaria geminispina, is a variable species with some varieties having short white spines while others have long flexible centrals.

Mammillaria herrerae is a spectacular small white species with very dense interlacing spines. It comes from Queretaro Mexico.

Mammillaria lenta, from Coahuila forms mounds of off-white to white. Slower growing than the somewhat similar M. plumosa, described below, it is often a show winner.

Mammillaria luethyi from Coahuila and discovered in 1996 is now available in cultivation. A breathtaking miniature with very short white spines on a dark green body.

Mammillaria plumosa is a relatively quick grower forming mounds of white heads. The heads are covered with white feathery spines which must be kept dry if the color is to be maintained.

Mammillaria standleyii can be found as either a single or clumping species. In cultivation, clumping forms are much more common. It is a rapid grower.







'Aloe' by Kyle Williams

Aloe is one of the most popular genera of succulents, especially in Southern California. In fact, Aloe vera may be the most widely cultivated succulent in the world, owing to its medicinal properties. Most species are small herbs to shrubs, though some species (most notably A. dichotoma and A. barberae) can reach tree size. With over 500 species, and at least as many hybrids and cultivars, there is an Aloe for almost any situation and taste.

Aloe species are native to most of the drier parts of Africa, including Madagascar, with a number reaching the Arabian Peninsula. They are naturalized in every Mediterranean environment in the world, as well as some temperate and tropical regions. All but a few Aloes will grow readily in Southern California, either in the ground, or in pots. When in the ground they require minimal care, existing happily on only natural rainfall in most years. Summer growing species will appreciate some summer water. The sheer number of species and habitats make blanket statements on culture impossible, but most will thrive under the general care you give other succulents, so long as you know if you have a summer or winter grower.

Aloe combines interesting form and foliage with beautiful flowers. Most species have orange, yellow, or red flowers that are attractive to Sunbirds in their native Africa. In the Americas hummingbirds regularly visit them. These birds are great at pollinating flowers, and it isn't unusual to see fruit develop. Those looking for other colors can find species with white or even green flowers. Some species, such as *A. tomentosa*, even have hairy flowers!

Given that *Aloe* is such a large and diverse genus it may not surprise you that modern taxonomic studies are showing that some *Aloe* species are best split off into distinct (but still related) smaller genera. The reason for this isn't just to make life more difficult for you! A genus should contain only species that are more closely related to each other than any are to species outside the genus. When we find out that some species in a genus are more closely related to species outside the genus taxonomists have two choices. Either you combine everything into one big genus, or you split the problematic species out of the genus. DNA research has shown that if we want to keep all the





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species we currently think of as *Aloe* in the genus *Aloe* then we have to put a bunch of other species in the genus as well. That doesn't just mean a couple obscure species no one has ever heard of. Instead, it would require putting all of *Haworthia* and *Gasteria* (among others) into *Aloe* itself.

If you want to keep *Haworthia* and *Gasteria* as their own genera (though they have their own issues we won't discuss here) then you have to be willing to split out a few Aloes from *Aloe*. Thankfully the vast majority of traditional *Aloe* species are still in *Aloe* and less than 20 species have to be removed from the genus. The most notable segregate genus is *Aloidendron* which are easy to recognize as they constitute 6 tree or shrub species including *A. barbarae*, *A. dichotomum*, & amp; *A. ramosissima*. The largest segregate genus with 10 species is *Aloiampelos* which tends to be shrubby or climbing species. The third genus Kumara was created for the well-known *Aloe plicatilis* (now *Kumara plicatilis*) and one other similar species. For the sake of our Plant of the Month show you can submit plants from all four "Aloe" genera: *Aloe*, *Aloiampelos*, *Aloidendron*, and *Kumara*.



Aloe x 'Bee's Pink'

Aloe suprafoliata

Aloe erinacea

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



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2026			
	Cactus	Succulent	
January	Mammillaria clusters	Aloe	
February	Columnar	Miniature Agave	
March	Notocactus, Parodia	Dudleya	
April	Echinocactus, Ferocactus	Gasteria, Haworthia	
May	Cancelled - 51 th Annual Gates Show & Sale		
June	Astrophytum	Pachypodium	
July	Hybrids/Cultivars	Hybrids/ Cultivars	
August	Melocactus, Discocactus	Caudiciform, Pachycaul	
September	Eriosyce	Aizoaceae (No Lithops)	
October	Ariocarpus, Dead Plant	Crassula, Kalanchoe, Dead Plant	
November	Miniatures	Miniatures	
December	Cancelled - Gates Holiday Dinner		

TENTATIVE 2026 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Version# 2 - Subject to change based on updates from the below clubs)

FEB. 14: SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW & SALE

1549 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101 (Balboa Park, Room 101) Info: call 619-990-2051

FEB. 20-21: SAN GABRIEL CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW & SALE

Daily 9am-5pm 50 W Duarte Rd., Arcadia, CA 91007 (Arcadia Masonic Center)

Info: Manny Rivera, 626-780-6957 or James Lemos, 626-201-5519



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MAR. 6-7: ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE

Fri. Noon-6pm, Sat. 9am-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA 92806 (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Info: call 657-549-0702

MAR. 6-8: FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE

Daily 10am-5pm

Admission free with paid admission to the Fresno Home & Garden Show 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno, CA 93702 (Fresno Fairgrounds, Garden Pavilion)

MAR. 27-29: CENTRAL ARIZONA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

Daily 8am-4pm
1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008
(Desert Botanical Garden, Dorrance Hall)
Info: https://centralarizonacactus.org/cacss-show-and-sale-2026-save-the-date-central-arizona-cactus-and-succulent-society.html

APR. 10-11: SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Fri.1pm-5pm, Sat. 9am-4pm 5504 Crestridge Rd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 92075 (Palos Verdes Art Center) Info: www.southcoastcss.org or call 310-346-6206

APR. 12: CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE

9AM-4PM

558 N. Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 Info: www.conejocss.com or conejocss@hotmail.com



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APR. 18-19: MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm
124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076
(ISTW Portuguese Hall)
Info: mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org

APR. 25-27: SAN JOSE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Sat.10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3:30pm 1380 Rosalia Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087 (Peterson Middle School) Info:www.csssj.org

APR. 25: PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING FESTIVAL

11am-3pm 210 E. Park Ave., Escondido, CA 92025 (The Park Ave. Community Center) C&S sales and free workshops on growing C&S

APR. 25-26 MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm 1855 41st Ave., Capitola, CA 95010 (Capitola Mall)

Info: mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org

APR. 26: HUNTINGTON SPRING PLANT SALE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

10am-5pm 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108 (Huntington Botanical Gardens)

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







MAY 1-3: SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Fri. 1pm-5pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816 (Shepard Garden and Arts Center) Info: www.sacramentocss.com

TBD: SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Sat. Show noon-4pm, Sale 9am-4pm, Sun. Show & Sale 9am-4pm 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230 (Veterans Memorial Center, Teen Center) Info: call 310-822-1783

MAY 3: LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB SHOW & SALE

Noon-4pm 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA 90706 (Women's Club of Bellflower) Info: call 714-553-6914

MAY 8-9: GATES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Fri. (Sale only) 9am-4pm, Sat. (Show & Sale) 9am-4pm 1307 E.Citrus Ave., Redlands, CA 92374 (Redlands Church of The Nazarene) Info: www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com or call 909-910-9195

MAY 9: SANTA BARBARA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

670 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105 (Santa Barbara Woman's Club) Info:https://sbcactus.org/show-and-sale/







MAY 9-10: SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Sat. 9am-4pm Early Bird (Sale Only) Balboa Park
Casa del Prado Patio
Sun. Sale 9am-4pm, Show 11am-4pm Balboa Park
Casa del Prado Rm 101
1549 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101
Info:www.sdepis.org or call 858-565-0340

MAY 16-17: LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING CACTUS SALE

Sat. 9am-5pm Sale, Sun. 9am-5pm Sale and KIDS DAY 19130 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana, CA 91356 (Tarzana Community and Culture Center) Info: www.lacactus.com

MAY 16-17: CARMICHAEL CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 9am-2:30pm 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael, CA 95608 (Carmichael Park Clubhouse) Info:lldewe@gmail.com or www.ccandss.com

MAY 17: EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW & SALE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

10am-4pm 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007 (LA County Arboretum - Ayres Hall) Info: www.epiphyllums.org or call 909-438-8242

JUNE 6-7: SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW & SALE

1549 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92101 (Balboa Park, Room 101) Info: call 619-990-2051



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JUNE 12-14: CSSA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRI./SAT./SUN.

Daily 10am-5pm 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108 (Huntington Botanical Gardens)

Info: Reservations - <u>www.huntington.org</u>, Show/Sale or call Nick Renteria 323-428-2215

JUNE 13-14: FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm 121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno, CA 93702 (Fresno Fairgrounds, Commerce Bldg.) Info: rob_scott85@yahoo.com

JUNE 19-21: SAN FRANCISCO SUCCULENT EXPO

Fri. member-only preview
1199 9th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122
(San Francisco County Fair Building
Info: schedule & details at www.sfsucculent.org

JULY 17-18: ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE

Fri. Noon-5pm, Sat. 9am-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA 92806 (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Info: call 657-549-0702

JULY 18-19: CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE

Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm 525 N.Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA 93444 (Nipomo High School)

Info: rhskillin@gmail.com orwww.centralcoastcactus.org



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AUG. 7-9: INTER-CITY SHOW & SALE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Fri. (Sale only) 9am-6:30pm, Sat. & Sun.(Show & Sale) 9am-5pm 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007 (LA County Arboretum)

Info: www.intercityshow.com or call 909-624-3227

SEP. 4: HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

9am-3pm 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108 (Huntington Botanical Gardens)

Info: Reservations- www.huntington.org, Symposium-call 626-405-3504

SEP. 19-20: MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY **FALL SHOW & SALE**

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076 (ISTW Portuguese Hall)

Info: mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org

OCT. 4: LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB **ANNUAL AUCTION**

1pm-3:30pm 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA 90706 (Women's Club of Bellflower) Info: call 714-553-6914

OCT. 11: CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY **FALL SALE**

9AM-4PM

558 N. Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320 Info: www.conejocss.com or conejocss@hotmail.com



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OCT. 23-25: HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

10am-5pm
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA 91108
(Huntington Botanical Gardens)

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

OCT. 24-25: PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE

San Diego Botanic Garden admission required

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA 92024 (San Diego Botanic Garden, Conservatory) Info: rwkopfstein@gmail.com

NOV. 13: LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY SALE & AUCTION

Sun. 10am-4pm Collectors LIVE Auction 12pm 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA 91335 (ONEGeneration Senior Center) Info: www.lacactus.com

TBD: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CACTUS & SUCCULENT ASSOCIATION SPRING SHOW & SALE

Sat. 8am-4pm, Sun. 8am-3pm, Sat. dinner & rare /specimen size plant auction 301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek, CA 94598 (Heather Farm Community Center – Lakeside Room) Info: norcalcsa@gmail.com or call 650-788-3188

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 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)





GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2026

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

President/ Newsletter	Jeff Loew	330-986-6313	
Vice President	Nicole Oceguera	909-935-6218	
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Oceguera	909-935-6218	
Treasurer	Camille Gelston	909-645-0975	
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909-875-3607	
Board Member	Lyndsee Cordes	909-815-3348	
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	Phuc Huynh	909-910-9195	
Rescue Chair	Kim Urman	909-222-3326	
Email	Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com		
Web	https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com		