



OPEN GATES - FEBRUARY, 2026

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 13, 2026 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

I hope you are all enjoying our exceptionally mild winter! As an Ohio native, the southern California winters always remind me why I moved out here.

While our cacti may be dormant right now, this season is a great time to get out in your garden (or greenhouse) and enjoy your winter-growers. We would love to feature some member content in our newsletter so snap some pics of your winter-growers (Crassula, Gasteria, Pachyphytum, Sedum, Tylecodon, etc) and them our way: (GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com).

We are in the beginning of "cactus and succulent show and sale" season. Many of our fellow clubs are preparing to host guests for their winter shows. Make sure you review the list of upcoming events towards the end of the newsletter. I have also included the flyers for the upcoming San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society's February show and sale at the end of the newsletter.

Please remember that your 2026 membership is now due. In order to qualify for the monthly mini-shows, your membership must be current. I included the mini-show judging standards as an appendix to the newsletter. Please review and take into consideration these standards while you prep your specimen(s) for competition. See Jeff or Cami before the start of the February meeting to complete your renewal.

This February we welcome Tom McCoy as our meeting speaker.

See you all Friday, February 13th. Doors open at 6PM.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew, President



MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR FEBRUARY - Tom McCoy

Speaker Biography: Tom McCoy

Tom McCoy, born in Long Beach, California, developed a deep passion for natural history from a young age, collecting fossils, seashells, reptiles, birds, and plants. His love for botany led him to travel extensively across Asia, Africa, the Americas, Arabia, and Madagascar. For over 30 years, McCoy has lived in Saudi Arabia, balancing his career with a focus on the genus *Aloe*. He has published extensively on the subject, naming over 50 species, and maintains one of the world's largest documented live collections of *Aloe*. McCoy is also an accomplished aviculturist and bibliophile. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London and holds memberships in numerous scientific organizations, including the American Society of Plant Taxonomists and the Botanical Society of America.





Program Description: “The Aloes of Saudi Arabia”

Tom will be speaking about the aloes native to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his personal experiences with them. He has been researching and visiting aloes in Saudi Arabia for almost 35 years, and during that time he has even had the good fortune to discover and describe several species new to science.

He has published many scientific articles related to this subject and wrote the book The Aloes of Arabia.

FEBRUARY 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: Columnar Cacti

Succulent: Miniature Agave

‘Columnar Cacti’ by Kyle Williams

(Photos by Kyle Williams, Ken Lund, Frank Vincentz, Raffi Koijan, & Bernard Gagnon)

Columnar cacti are a highly heterogeneous group defined by growth form rather than any natural grouping or relationship. As such, there is very little that unifies the group outside of growth form, which can roughly be defined as an upright, mostly self supporting, cactus that is at least 3-4x's as tall as wide. Implied in this definition is that the “column” is largely unjointed, thereby excluding cacti such as *Opuntia* and *Schlumbergera*. Even so, we are left with a vast array of cacti that are anywhere from a few inches to over 50 feet tall, ranging from the United States all the way down to southern South America, with cold tolerance ranging from highly frost sensitive to those that can be frozen solid for the winter without harm. To add confusion to the mix, some species start out as globular but after many years become columnar. For example, *Astrophytum* species are usually seen in shows as globular, or short columnar plants at most. However, at the Huntington Garden you can see examples of *Astrophytum* in the ground that are several feet tall!



There is at least one other rule of thumb that can help you decide if you have a columnar cactus. Does it have “cereus” as part of the name, the genus in particular? If yes, then it counts as columnar. *Cereus* was the genus for all columnar cacti at one point. It has since been broken up into multiple different genera, but many of them retain “cereus” in their names. To be clear, all “cereus” count as columnar, but plenty of non-cereus are also columnar (like Saguaro, *Carnegiea gigantea*). So size and shape are still very important.

So what can we say about them? As a rule, they tend to grow faster than globular cacti. They also are more tolerant of full sun, as the nature of their growth means they don’t stay shaded by shrubs and grasses, unlike their more diminutive counterparts. Larger species will eventually need to be put in the ground. Smaller types (like many *Mammillaria*) make wonderful specimen plants in pots for years on end. Some of the taller types may require some staking in windy climates to avoid the risk of snapping in a windstorm. When choosing a place to plant them it is important to know if the cactus stays fairly upright and unbranched or if it sends out multiple stems and branches turning into a giant shrub of sorts. Knowledge of growth rate is also key, as many species can reach 15 feet in a few years, while a Saguaro may take your entire lifetime to reach that height! With such variation between species it is paramount that you look up the specific requirements of the plants you choose.





'Miniature Agave' by Buck Hemenway

Agave is a large genus of succulents with leaves. They range in size from miniature plants such as *A. minutissima* to giants like *A. americana* and *A. salmiana* which have rosettes that are nearly 15 feet across.

This month, we are focusing on the small agaves. Show plants will be those whose mature growth is no more than 15" across the rosette.

There are several ways to identify an Agave:

1. Their leaves are always tipped with a terminal spine. Even the soft tipped *A. attenuata*, has an obvious terminal spine.
2. The leaves are formed in a tightly wrapped bud. There is so much pressure in the bud that those leaves with "teeth" leave permanent "bud imprints" on the leaves fronts and backs.
3. Leaves tend to be fairly rigid and grow in rosette form.

Agaves are "monocarpic" which means that they have only one life cycle. No matter how long it takes for the plant to produce it, the bloom stalk is a terminal inflorescence. That means that the plant dies after blooming. The bloom stalk can be produced from 7 years to 40 years of life depending on conditions and the variety of the plant.

Agaves grow in the Southwest US and on some Caribbean Islands, south through Mexico. They were an important resource for all people who lived on the land throughout history. The extremely fibrous leaves with the very sharp terminal spines have always been used to sew or bind other materials together. Their roots make good soap. They all will produce a fermented beverage that was used throughout their range. We are most used to Tequila which is derived from the *Agave tequilana* in the state of Jalisco.

Some, such as *Agave americana*, are cold hardy to below 0 deg F. Depending on the variety, they tend to offset and form large clumps of plant material. It is important to know which you are planting and how it normally grows. Most will take full sun and heat, as well as cold and are extremely easy to grow.



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

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There is no more dramatic landscape plant than a large Agave. It can become the key to an attractive succulent landscape. The inflorescence is truly a wonder of nature. The energy used to create those 25-foot-tall trees in just a few weeks is amazing.

Examples of miniature Agaves: *applanata*, *isthmensis*, *Victoriae*, *Reginae*, *macroacantha*, *parviflora*, *toumeyana*, *polianthiflora*, *utahensis*.



Agave albopilosa



Agave potatorum 'Cubic'



Agave potatorum var. verschaffeltii

***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.**



2026	ψ Gates Mini-Show Categories ψ	
	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



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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/>



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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 - www.huntington.org, 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 or www.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 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

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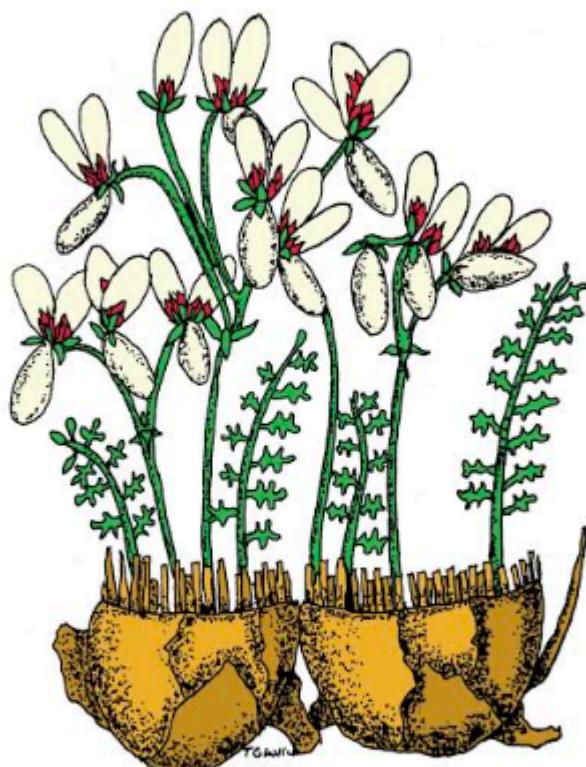
GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2026

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	



**31st Annual San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Society
Winter Show and Sale**



Pelargonium rapaceum

Show and Sale February 20 9 AM – 5 PM

Show and Sale February 21 9 AM – 5 PM

FREE ENTRY FREE PARKING

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W Duarte Road, Arcadia

www.sgvess.com Instagram: @sgvessclub



31st Annual SGVCSS Winter Show and Sale

February 20-21
9 AM-5 PM Daily

Free Admission
and Parking

Arcadia Masonic Center
50 W Duarte Rd,
Arcadia, CA

- Explore unique cacti and succulents our show, shop for rare and unusual plants, and connect with fellow enthusiasts
- Everyone is welcome to join, with accessible facilities for all attendees and participants.
- Visit us: www.sgvcss.com



Pelargonium rapaceum

Appendix A: Mini-Show Judging Standards

General Criteria

The criteria by which plants are judged is not precisely prescribed and there is a certain degree of subjectivity involved. The judges are recognized authorities and experienced growers. However, there is always some disagreement with the results of judging. Exhibitors (both winners and non-winners) should bear in mind that a different group of judges (or the same judges on a different day) might come to different conclusions. If your plants look just the way you want them to look, that should be satisfactory even if they do not receive awards.

Judges consider many characteristics of the entry and will typically use the percentages below:

Condition	60%	Size, maturity, and difficulty of culture	20%
Staging/ Grooming	15%	Nomenclature	5%



Condition, size, and difficulty are considered in relationships with each other. For example, an old plant with a few blemishes would probably be rated higher than a virtually flawless seedling.

A small plant that is difficult to grow might be judged better than a larger one that is relatively easy.

Staging includes many things that are involved in presenting plants, so they look their best – pot, top dressing, position of the plant in the pot, etc. This is a matter of individual taste, but conservative pots and subdued top dressing are generally preferred. Staging and grooming are a real art by which even an ordinary plant can sometimes be made to look special.

Point Awards

Awards include ribbons in all Competitive Classifications as follows:

First (6 points)

Second (3 points)

Third (1 point)

Honorable Mention (0 points, used for tiebreaker)