



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

Since 1959



OPEN GATES - APRIL, 2026

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 10, 2026 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

Happy Spring!

I hope all of you are enjoying our early summer weather. I know my cacti are all waking up and starting to push out buds and offsets. Remember to start watering and you will start seeing some awesome flowers earlier than usual.

Our annual show and sale will be here in no time! Start getting your show plants cleaned, prepped, and staged. Mid-March I sent you all several documents regarding our show and sale: the schedule of events (set-up, sale and show days, take-down, etc), the show index (alphabetized cacti and succulent category indices), and the entry categories schedule (this document also includes regulations and judging standards). For your convenience I have attached these to the email containing the newsletter. I highly recommend reviewing the regulations and judging standards to not only increase your chances of obtaining ribbons, but to also ensure your entry is not removed from the show or miscategorized. We will have entry forms at the April meeting so that you can start filling them out ahead of time. This will save you time on plant drop-off day.

Please make sure to see Phuc or Nicole for volunteer opportunities. We still need lots of assistance to guarantee a successful event!

This April we welcome back Peter Walkowiak as our meeting speaker.

See you all Friday, April 10th. Doors open at 6PM.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew

President, Gates CSS



MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR APRIL - Peter Walkowiak

Speaker Biography: Peter Walkowiak, Horticulturist



Graduated from U.C. Cal Poly, Pomona in 1985 with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Work for some large nursery operations for the next 15 years as nursery, production and section manager. Started a landscape business that I operated for 12 years with the last 6 years focused on succulent landscapes. At this time I joined the San Diego CSS and then the Palomar CSS and the CSSA. At this time I started propagating succulent plants from my collection. Ten years ago. I switched from landscaping to my nursery, PW Plants that specializes in South African Euphorbias and caudiciforms plants.

I have been fascinated by plants my whole life, my interest in succulent plants really began in college. By the time I graduated I had well over 100 plants in my collection. The succulent bug started up again when my two sons reached mid-teenage. This is when I discovered that there are cactus and succulent clubs when I heard there was a succulent plant show in Balboa Park, I joined the San Diego CSS on the spot. I joined the Palomar CSS and the CSSA in the following year. I am now a member of all the Southern Ca. CSS's. I am past president of the Palomar CSS, the San Diego North County club. I have served on the board of directors of the San Diego CSS and the CSSA. I was the Show Chair for San Diego's two shows and Palomar's one show and co-chair for the Intercity Show, the largest succulent show in the world.



My collection now numbers well over two thousand plants. About half are cacti with the remaining consisting of Euphorbias and caudiciforms. Some of the plants I have now owned for over 40 years.

The talk I will be giving starts with soil, a good soil mix is the foundation of success in growing succulents well. I will be talking about the many do's and don'ts when growing your succulents. This will be a hands-on demonstration starting with soil mix, transplanting and care of your succulent plants. This will be a Q & A program, so bring all your questions you have about growing your succulents.

Program Description: “How to Grow Succulents: Tips from a Grower”

I have been growing plants my whole life. My interest in plants goes back to when I was 5-6 years old. The purpose of this talk is to educate people on all aspects of growing succulent plants. I have a very large and diverse collection of succulent plants and many of you have seen some of them in shows. I grow hard and big. I also have a wholesale nursery.

Topics will include all stages and materials that go into growing succulent plants successfully. During this talk questions will be encouraged, I will have gift plants for great questions. This will be a learning, information talk.

Topics to be covered:

Soil – Fast draining, easy to wet soil. Materials to use and stay away from.

Water – PH, acidity vs alkalinity. Fertilizer. When to water.

Exposure – sun vs shade, air movement.

Growing techniques – pruning, size of pots, saucers

I will be bringing display plants to help demonstrate the points in my talk and for your enjoyment. There are many things that we do, myths that are detrimental to plant growth and vigor and these will be discussed.



APRIL 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: Echinocactus; Ferocactus

Succulent: Gasteria; Haworthia

'Echinocactus and Ferocactus' by Kyle Williams

(Photos by Kyle Williams, Heath MacAllister, & ShineB)

This month we are taking on two genera of cacti with names that say "stay away!", though I suggest just the opposite. The real reason we are talking about these genera is that they are very closely related, and together they make up the vast majority of what we refer to as "barrel cacti". The only significant difference between the genera is the *Echinocactus* has wooly fruit while *Ferocactus* does not. In addition, they both have representatives that you can see growing wild within a couple hour drive from Los Angeles.

Echinocactus is Latin for "spiny" cactus or "hedgehog" cactus, both of which refer to the prominent, very sharp spines found in every species. The genus has roughly 6-10 species in a range that covers the Southwestern US from Death Valley to Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of Mexico. There are two species native to the US, one covering the western half of the Southwest and the other covering the eastern half. *E. texensis*, commonly called the Horse Crippler, is from Texas, New Mexico, eastern Arizona, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico. *E. polycephalus* is a California native, as well as occurring in Nevada, Arizona, and northern Mexico. It is among the most heavily cloaked in spines of any cactus.

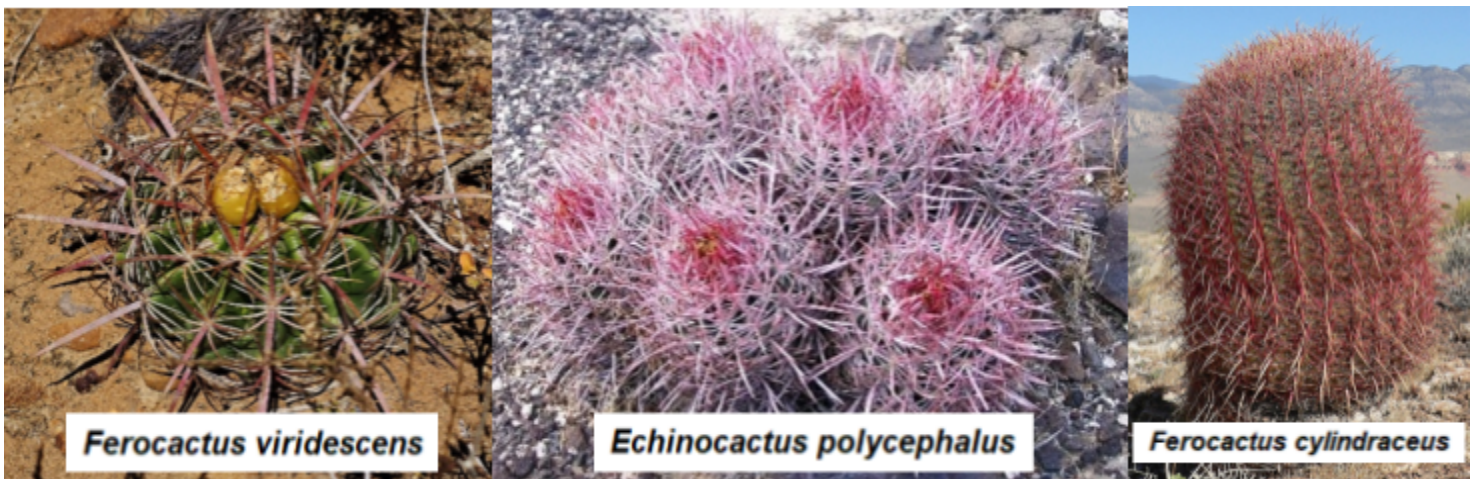
The most famous and widely grown species, *E. grusonii* (Golden Barrel), is also the rarest and most restricted in the wild. There is a link between the two as large numbers of Golden Barrels were dug out of the wild for the horticultural trade. Thankfully large nursery grown specimens are readily available today, reducing the pressure on the remaining plants. Unfortunately, this already threatened species was dealt a more serious blow in the 1990's when the Zimapan Dam was built in the heart of this species range.



Countless plants were destroyed when the lake created by the dam submerged prime *E. grusonii* habitat.

Ferocactus with about 30 species is the better known and more commonly grown genus of the two (excluding *E. grusonii*). The name means "fierce" cactus, a clear reference to the large, curved spines common throughout the genus. It has a similar range to *Echinocactus*, mostly differing in extending all the way to the California coast and into Baja California. Two species are native to California. *F. cylindraceus*, with bright red spines, is found in our desert regions while *F. viridescens*, a fairly small plant, can be found in coastal San Diego County. The greatest diversity in the genus can be found in Baja, as at least 10 species are found there.

Cultural requirements are similar for both genera. While some species are extremely cold tolerant (i.e. the native US species) and others less so, all species of *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* can handle winter temperatures in the Los Angeles region. They do well in the ground, though good drainage is a must as most species do not like our wet winters. They also do well as large potted specimens, requiring normal cactus care.



'Haworthia and Gasteria' by Buck Hemenway

These two genera are closely related and likewise related to Aloe plants, all in the family Aloaceae. They are among the most easily grown succulents. Their structural forms make them prize possessions for the beginner and master collector alike. Both genera are found



in South Africa exclusively. They grow in the driest parts of the winter rainfall areas to coastal areas of the eastern part of the cape which receive fairly large amounts of summer rain.

In general, we consider both genera to be winter growers. They certainly look their best in our cooler, more wet season, but that is not necessarily true in habitat. Most of them bloom in the winter as well.

They are all relatively pest free, but will attract mealy bugs in a collection. The bugs are not difficult to control, but should be watched for.

Both genera are well studied by a number of modern botanists and with the advent of DNA testing the names and identities of many have been clouded to say the least. In addition, they tend to hybridize readily and as a result the plants that we grow are in the main not true species. The newest *Haworthia* text is Bruce Bayer's *Haworthia Revisited* published in 1999 and we are waiting for a new book from Ernst Van Jaarsveld on the *Gasteria* genus.

The modern way of looking at a species of a genus is to look at the plant and how it changes over its range. This viewpoint has thrown *Haworthia* names into a mess. It will be some time before the botanists will agree on the names in this genus.

Haworthia

The plants are generally small with rosettes of stiff leaves in many colors. They tend to be divided between ones with a "retuse" shape, like your thumb extended with the pad becoming the window through which the plant takes sun nourishment. The others have pointy leaves or truncated leaves. All of them have very similar flowers and this is what distinguishes this genus from the others in Aloaceae.

Gasteria

The plants in this genus are easily recognizable by the flowers born on long inflorescences. The flowers look like little stomachs and thus the name.

The plants range in size from small (less than 2" across) to large (more than 4') with stiff leaves in many colors. In most of the species, the plants begin life with the leaves growing



in one rank, known as distichous. Some continue to grow that way while others form rosettes.



(More on Gasteria from Kyle Williams...)

'Gasteria' by Kyle Williams

Gasteria is a popular and easily grown genus that has been collected since the 17th century. Some species look very similar to *Aloe* while others resemble *Haworthia*. This is not surprising as these three genera are very closely related. So close in fact that recent evolutionary studies are causing some confusion about where one genus ends and the other begins. That said, *Gasteria* can be differentiated morphologically from *Aloe* and *Haworthia* by examining the flowers. *Gasteria* flowers have a distinctive narrow upper portion that expands out to a fat base that resembles a stomach. Sure enough, *Gasteria* is derived from "gaster" which means "stomach" in Latin. Interestingly the common name for the species is Ox Tongue, another "digestive" reference!

Gasteria come in a much greater diversity of sizes than *Haworthia*, though they are smaller on average than most *Aloe*. *Gasteria* ranges in size from about an inch to several



feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous), although most eventually begin to spiral.

Gasteria are quite variable in appearance. Collectors need to be cautioned that they have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight. Not realizing this runs you the risk of buying the same species twice!

This genus contains approximately 20-25 species, nearly all native to South Africa (one species ranges into Namibia). Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and generally grow under larger shrubs particularly when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy and is nearly identical to that of *Haworthia* and winter growing *Aloe*. They are mostly winter and spring growers, but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They do well in a range of soil mixes and are more tolerant of organic matter than some succulents. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon. However, the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sunburn, as possible.

Gasteria are generally free from most pests. The one difficulty is 'black spot', a fungus that attacks many *Gasteria*. The fungus is rarely fatal, but causes large unsightly black spots on the leaves. Since the spots are actual damage to the leaves, there is no way to remove the spots. The fungus can be minimized by keeping the leaves dry, and particularly keeping dew off the leaves. Fungicides can be used to prevent this disease, but probably aren't worth the hassle unless you have show quality plants you are concerned about.

Gasteria are readily propagated from offsets at the base or on flower stalks, which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily. *Gasteria* flowers are often visited by hummingbirds, and these visits often result in pollination. Seed can be collected as soon as the fruits start to dry. Cross pollination can produce interesting plants and



many hybrids are available, as are several variegated cultivars. Intergeneric hybrids with *Aloe* (called X *Gasteraloe*) and *Haworthia* (X *Gasterhaworthia*) are commonly seen.



***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# 4 - Subject to change based on updates from the below clubs)

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

APR. 18-19: SAN JOSE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 57TH ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Sat. 11am-7pm, Sun. 9am-2pm
1380 Rosalia Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087
(Peterson Middle School)
Info: www.csss.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

**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 9-10: 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



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

Since 1959



**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

**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

**JUNE 27: 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/>

**JUNE 28: SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SALE**

Sun. 10am-3pm
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA 90230
(Veterans Memorial Center, Teen Center)
Info: call 310-822-1783

**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 www.centralcoastcactus.org



Since 1959

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

AUG. 21-23: SAN JOSE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SUMMER CACTUS & SUCCULENT FAIR

Fri. 6pm-9pm, Sat. 10am-6pm, Sun. 9am-2pm

1380 Rosalia Ave, Sunnyvale, CA 94087

(Peterson Middle School)

Info: www.csss.org

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. 26-27: 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. 4: 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

**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 Ocegüera	909-935-6218
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Ocegüera	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	Lyndsee Cordes / Phuc Huynh	909-815-3348/ 909-910-9195
Email	Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com	
Web	https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com	