GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE - Since 1959

OPEN GATES - JUNE, 2026

NEXT MEETING: JUNE 12, 2026 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

This year's show and sale was an amazing success! I am extremely grateful and proud of everyone's participation this year. Not only did we have amazing sales numbers, but we received many new member sign-ups and lots of positive feedback.

Below, please see messages from our Sale and Show Chairs, Phuc Huynh and Nicole Ocegura.

Nicole Oceguera: "As a first-time Show Chair, I was nervous about getting everything right and going smoothly. I'm incredibly grateful to the volunteers who helped with setup, breakdown, and every part of the showcase, as well as the show clerks for their enthusiasm and the judges for their trust. This year's showcase would not have been possible without the dedication and support of everyone involved over all three days. Thank you all - I'm already looking forward to making 2027 even better."

Phuc Huynh: "I want to give some special recognition to all our member volunteers who showed up to help make our 51st Annual Show and Sale such a success. Everyone did such a wonderful job, whether it was setup or cleanup, guest greeter or security personnel, sales register or show clerk. Thank you Karen Roholt for feeding us and all those who brought food. You are amazing! Your commitment and effort are what makes the difference for our highly praised event. Many attendees expressed how much they enjoyed being at our show/sale because of, "how nice and happy everyone was." As always, thanks to the vendors for their continued support of the club. Without them there would be no plants to sell. And finally, thank you to the planning committee for their tireless leadership and unwavering diligence to make this year's show and sale the best yet."

At the end of the newsletter I have included our trophy winners along with some entry statistics. A huge thank you to all of our members that shared their treasured plants with the community!

Our bus trip to the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society's Summer Show and Sale took place over the past weekend. Our adventure to SD was very successful, and a great time was had by all.

Our speaker for June is Dr. Robert H Webb.

See you all Friday, June 12th. Doors open at 6PM.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew

President, Gates CSS

MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR JUNE - Dr. Robert H. Webb

Speaker Biography: Dr. Robert H. Webb

Dr. Robert H. Webb has worked on long-term changes in natural ecosystems of the southwestern United States since 1976 and African ecology since 2003. He has degrees in engineering (B.S., University of Redlands, 1978), environmental earth sciences (M.S., Stanford University, 1980), and geosciences (Ph.D., University of Arizona, 1985). Since 1985, he has been a research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson (retired in 2013) and is Affiliated with the Desert Laboratory of the University of Arizona. Webb does interdisciplinary work to attempt to understand long-term change in the arid and semiarid regions of the United States and Mexico and Africa. Webb has authored or edited 15 books and about 250 publications and given around 400 presentations in his 45-year career.

Webb has been growing succulent plants and cacti for 45 years and, with his wife Toni, is the owner of Arid Lands Greenhouses in Tucson, Arizona, for 20 years. For the last 27 years, he and his wife Toni have travelled extensively in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula looking for Succulent plants. Webb is the former chairman of the International Sansevieria Society And the current editor of its publication Sansevieria. He has described and named 15 species or subspecies of plants, including 2 Agave species from Baja California, Mexico, and 13 Sansevieria species, subspecies, or varieties from East Africa and Somalia.

Program Description: “Tree Euphorbias”

Tree Euphorbias as a group are poorly understood and rarely photographed. If one uses an arbitrary definition of a single-stemmed species with a height of 10 feet or more as a “tree,” then there are 107 species, give or take, that fall into this category. A few are New World, but the majority occur in Africa, the Arabian Peninsula, and the Indian subcontinent. Because Arid Lands Greenhouses has been in operation for 50 years and once specialized in *Euphorbia*, we have perhaps 50 or more tree *Euphorbia* in cultivation, and the speaker’s travels in Africa and Arabia have captured images of more species, some of which have never been photographed before to our knowledge. This talk is a geographical and taxonomic tour of the region depicting many species of tree Euphorbias in habitat and cultivation.

JUNE 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: *Astrophytum*

Succulent: *Pachypodium*

'Astrophytum' by Kyle Williams

Cactus *Astrophytum* are often one of the first cacti that a novice cactus grower buys, yet a well grown, mature specimen will impress even the most experienced collector. There are a small number of species in the genus, but numerous cultivars of those species give the serious collector new plants to add to their wish list all the time.

Astrophytum contains 5-6 species that are native to Northern to Central Mexico, with one species (*A. asterias*) extending into the Big Bend region of Southern Texas. Four species, *A. asterias*, *A. capricorne*, *A. myriostigma*, and *A. ornatum* are very common in cultivation and can often be seen for sale at local nurseries and big box stores. Another species, *A. coahuilense*, is not recognized as a species by everyone because the plant looks nearly identical to *A. myriostigma*. However, the flowers are different (*A. coahuilense* has a red throat while *A. myriostigma* does not) and crosses between the two are extremely difficult to make due to a high degree of sterility. Plants of the same species should cross easily, which they do not.

The most unusual species of *Astrophytum* by far is *A. caput-medusae*. Described only in 2001, this species has numerous long, thin, tubercles that look like arms emanating from a central point. Another interpretation of its appearance is that it looks like a bunch of snakes. In fact, the Latin name "caput-medusae" means "Medusa head" which is a very apt description! This is so completely unlike the rest of the genus that the first taxonomist to name it called it *Digitostigma caput-medusae*, believing it to be a brand-new genus. However, once you get past the bizarre shape of the plant you start to notice the arms are covered in soft white scales or hairs just like the rest of *Astrophytum*. When the plant blooms the flower is indistinguishable from other *Astrophytum*, and the seeds are identical to those of that genus.

Astrophytum grows in very arid regions, with porous mineral soils. Their adaptation to this environment can lead to cultivation difficulties as they have a tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants. The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix, they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks. Despite this, most species will grow well under normal cactus culture. One notable exception is *A. asterias*. This species is extremely rot prone when overwatered or watered at the wrong time. It comes from a region with essentially no winter rainfall. Rain is concentrated in the summer months (just the opposite of us in California).

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids, particularly with *A. asterias* and *A. myriostigma*. The most popular cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *Astrophytum* “Super Kabuto” and *Astrophytum* “Miracle Kabuto.” Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for hundreds of dollars when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to levels that most can afford.

'*Pachypodium*' by Kyle Williams

When most people think of *Pachypodium* they think of Madagascar for good reason. Of the 30 plus species known to science, all but 5 come from there. The rest come from Southern Africa. Some species look like true desert dwellers like *P. namaquanum*, others look like they are from tropical rainforests, but are actually from tropical dry forests, like *P. lamerei*. Yet others, most notably *P. brevicaule*, look like they could come from an alien world!

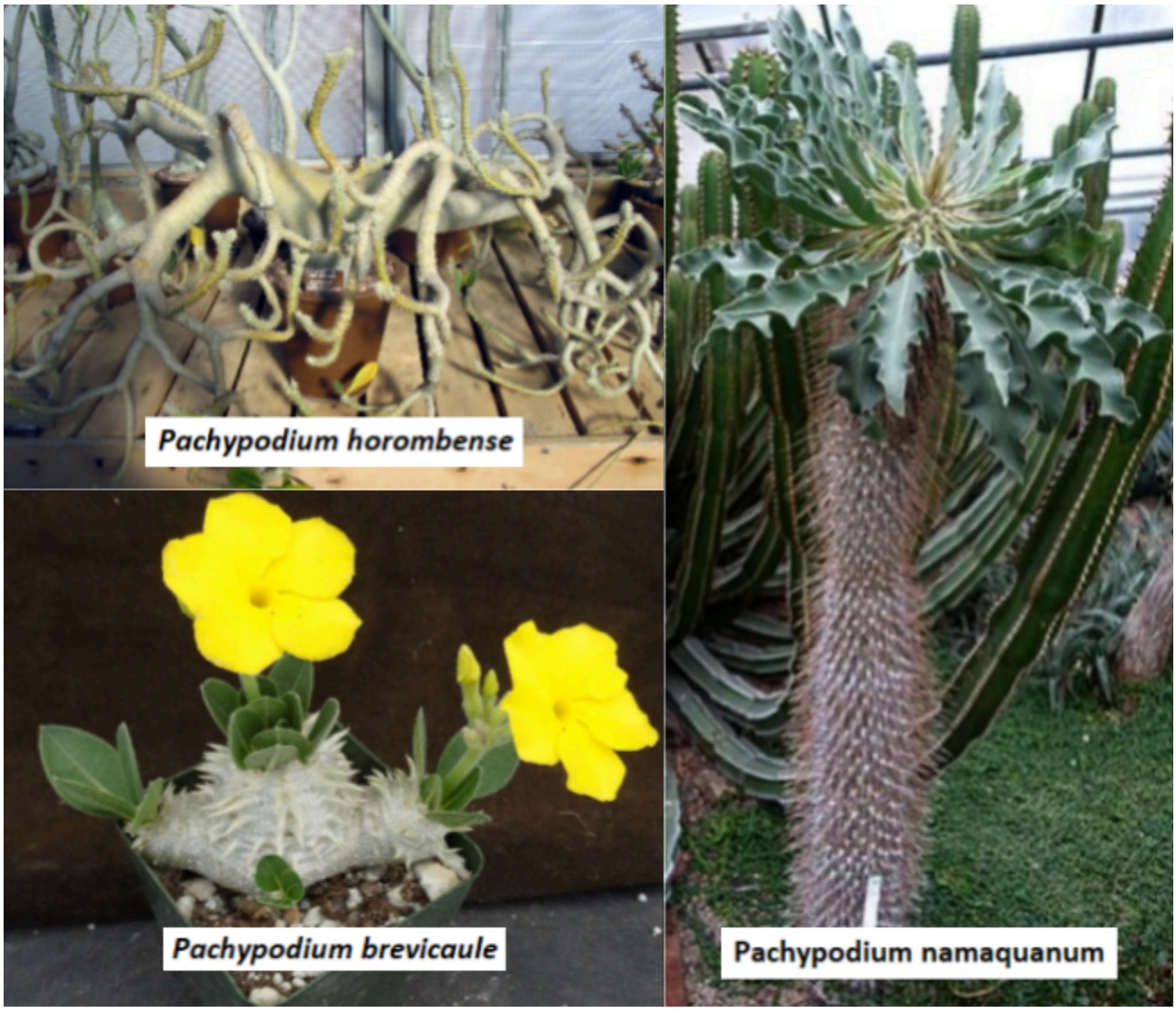
That means every species you see comes from Madagascar, except: *P. namaquanum*, *P. succulentum* (including *P. griquense*), *P. bispinosum*, *P. saundersii*, and *P. lealii*. Interestingly, these African plants tend to be a bit easier to grow on the whole, possibly due in part to more tolerance of our cool winters. Madagascar by contrast is a more tropical island with uniformly warm temperatures, even in the driest regions.

Pachypodium belongs to the Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. It is closely related to *Adenium*, *Stapeliads*, *Fockea*, Oleanders, Milkweeds, *Plumeria*, and many other non-xeric plants. While most similar to *Adenium*, *Pachypodium* can be distinguished from it by having spines, and usually by flower color. While pinks and reds are extremely common in *Adenium*, only a few *Pachypodium* have red or pink in their flowers. *Pachypodium* also stands out from most of the family, including *Adenium*, in having alternate leaves (one leaf at each node) while the rest of the family (usually) has opposite leaves (paired leaves).

Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why some places have more species than others? The distribution of *Pachypodium* may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental Africa? It must be because *Pachypodium* evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree-like, species to form (e.g. *P. lamerei* and *P. geayi*) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while

Madagascar might have had less plants at the time, making it easier for *Pachypodium* to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships of *Pachypodium* suggests this may well be what happened!

Cultivation of *Pachypodium* is generally easy. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter, keep them dry. Some species, like *P. brevicaule, are* more water sensitive than others. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate colder conditions, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. *P. lamerei* is the biggest exception in that it is a Madagascar species that can tolerate the occasional light frost in our region.



***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	Gates Mini-Show Categories	
	Cactus	**Succulent**
January	Mammillaria clusters	Aloe
February	Columnar	Miniature Agave
March	Notocactus, Parodia	Dudleya
April	Echinocactus, Ferocactus	Gasteria, Haworthia
May	Cancelled - 51th 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)

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 orwww.centralcoastcactus.org

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.csssj.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 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	Lyndsee Cordes / Phuc Huynh	909-815-3348/ 909-910-9195
Email	Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com	
Web	https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com	

GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE - Since 1959

Trophy and Rosette Awards 2025

Best Plant in Show: Corona Cactus
Plant: *Copiapoa dealbata*

Best Cactus in Show: Tom Perez
Plant: *Turbinicarpus dickisoniae*

Best Succulent in Show: Monalisa Palmer
Plant: *Euphorbia stellata*

Best Novice Plant: Rogelio Hidalgo
Plant: *Astrophytum asterias cv. kikko*

Best Cactus Novice: Rogelio Hidalgo
Plant: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii cv. "Black Widow"*

Best Succulent Novice: Miriam Mills
Plant: *Haworthia cooperi baker*

Best *Euphorbia*: Monalisa Palmer
Plant: *Euphorbia hedyotoides*

Best *Ferocactus*: Miriam Mills
Plant: *Ferocactus chrysacanthus*

Best Haworthia: Rogelio Hidalgo
Plant: *Haworthia emelyae var. comptoniana*

Best *Mammillaria*: Frank Nudge
Plant: *Mammillaria plumosa*

Best Mexican Cactus: Frank Nudge
Plant: *Ariocarpus fissuratus*

Best S. American Cactus: Martin Look
Plant: *Echinopsis oxygona*

Best *Aloe*: Phuc Huynh
Plant: *Aloe erinacea*

Best *Agave*: Karen Roholt
Plant: *Agave parviflora*

Best *Sansevieria*: Martin Look
Plant: *Masoniana* sp. Variegated

Odd-ball Plant: Rene Hernandez
Plant: *Aeonium* sp. "Jack Catun Clone Crest"

Best Mini Succulent: Sandy Wall
Plant: *Haworthia* sp.

Best Mini Cactus: Miriam Mills
Plant: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii inermis*

Best *Echinocereus*: Nicole Oceguera
Plant: *Echinocereus rigidissimus*

Best Opuntioideae: Jeffrey Loew
Plant: *Tephrocactus aoracanthus*

Best *Gymnocalycium*: Nicole Oceguera
Plant: *Gymnocalycium spegazzinii var. unguispinum*

Best Caudiciform: Tom Perez
Plant: *Adenium* sp.

Best Succulent Bonsai: East Los Succulents
Plant: *Operculicarya decaryi*

Best Staged: Nicole Oceguera
Plant: *Obregonia denegrii*

Judges Choice:
- Frank Nudge: *Tylecodon pearsonii*
- Nicole Oceguera: *Haworthia* collections
- Corona Cactus: *Dudleya pachyphytum*
- Corona Cactus: *Copiapoa dealbata*
- Frank Nudge: *Neoporteria occulta*
- Corona Cactus: *Copiapoa echinoides*
- Nicole Oceguera: *Astrophytum asterias cv. kikko*
- Gary Duke: *Weingartia canigueralii var. alba*

Rosettes

Best Novice Cactus – Rogelio Hidalgo
Plant: *Astrophytum myriostigma var. tricostatum*

Best Novice Succulent – Rogelio Hidalgo
Plant: *Pachypodium lealii var. Saundersii*

Best Intermediate Cactus – Tom Perez
Plant: *Ariocarpus retusus*

Best Intermediate Succulent – Rene Henandez
Plant: *Aeonium* sp. "Jack Catun Clone Crest"

Best Advanced Cactus – Nicole Oceguera
Plant: *Oreocereus trolli*

Best Advanced Succulent – Monalisa Palmer
Plant: *Euphorbia stellata*

Other Awards & Statistics

Number of entries in Show: 249

Number of exhibitors: 23
Novice – 8; Intermediate – 9; Advanced – 6