



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

Since 1959



OPEN GATES - SEPTEMBER, 2026

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

I hope you are all surviving the summer heat, staying cool, and tending to your thirsty plants. As our Summer season begrudgingly gives way to early Fall, so too must begin the slow wind-down of our area's plant shows and sales. Make sure to take advantage of the last local/ SoCal plants events of the year.

The 43rd annual Succulent Symposium is coming up shortly at the Huntington. See the Events list at the end of the newsletter for registration information. This event is always a wonderful opportunity to dive deeper into the world of cacti/ succulent research, conservation, and education.

This month's speaker is Dylan Zoller. This is his first time speaking at Gates!

See you all Friday, September 11th. Doors open at 6PM.

Jeffrey Loew

President, Gates CSS

MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR SEPTEMBER - DYLAN ZOLLER

Speaker Biography: Dylan Zoller

Dylan Zoller is a California photographer, explorer, plantsman, and horticulturist at Sherman Library & Gardens who is especially focused on plants from the Bromeliaceae family. Raised in coastal Southern California, he developed an early fascination with exotic and succulent plants after discovering Exotica, Pictorial Cyclopedia of Exotic Plants by Alfred Byrd Graf. His passion led him to join both local and international bromeliad societies and begin a career in public horticulture at age 18.



He has conducted expeditions across Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, and Papua New Guinea to photograph and document rare and localized cacti, bromeliads, and orchids. He is currently pursuing a degree in biology.



Program Description: “Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands”

During the past few years Dylan has spent a considerable amount of time traveling great distances across the Brazilian countryside photographing and documenting many unusual species of bromeliads/cacti in their natural habitats. He has devoted much time in locating poorly understood species for which records are few. In a country so large, such a goal means long, often challenging trips to remote locales.

In this presentation he hopes to provide an introduction to the unbelievably varied landscapes of the country and a selection of the many fantastic succulents that inhabit them. From the expansive and semi-arid Serra do Espinhaço in Bahia and Minas Gerais, to the granite massifs (called inselbergs) scattered across the domain of the lush Atlantic Rainforest, you will hopefully gain insight as to why Brazil is one of the powerhouses of cacti and bromeliad diversity.



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SEPTEMBER 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: Eriosyce

Succulent: Aizoaceae (no Lithops)

“*Eriosyce* (including *Neochilenia* & *Neoporteria*)” by Kyle Williams

Eriosyce is a genus of cacti from Chile and parts of Peru and Argentina. They are popular among cactus enthusiasts as they are small, easy to grow and many of the species have colorful bodies and interesting spines. Most species start out globular, with some staying that way and clumping readily, while others slowly become columnar. At least one species, *E. aurata*, becomes large and round, somewhat similar to a Golden Barrel. The name *Eriosyce* means "wooly fruit", one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. The genus in its current form is a relatively recent taxonomic change from up to eleven small genera into a single medium size genus of about 35 species. Of those many genera, *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* are the best known to growers.

Eriosyce is a great example of how good taxonomy can work. Professional taxonomists do not change names for the sake of change. If they make a change, it is because intensive research often spanning several years, shows that a nomenclatural change is in the best interests of science.

In this case we have lots of different genera because numerous taxonomists over the last century or so looked at these plants piecemeal, often using only dry specimens in a museum, or only seeing a small number of species in habitat. They did their best with what they had, but without the big picture it is easy to think you have something unique that deserves its own genus. Then came along a taxonomist who decided to really focus on this group and spent extensive time in the field seeing them in the wild. Once he was able to study the full range of variation within and between species it became clear to him that they really were just a single genus. Interestingly, in 2019 a different researcher did a DNA study (phylogeny) of these species and found they were all closely related and should be a single genus. The combination of field work and laboratory study necessitated the change that led



to 11 different genera being combined into one, *Eriosyce*. A takeaway of this for the average grower is that if you have any cacti labeled as *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* you should change them to *Eriosyce*.

I discuss this not to try to turn you into a taxonomist, but to help explain why a name you are familiar with has changed. Must you follow a name change? Of course not, but don't justify your refusal by claiming scientists just like to change names. Note that I'm referring to professional or very serious amateur taxonomists (the latter being the case for *Eriosyce*) that back up their claims with solid data and publish in respected journals. Bad taxonomy does exist, but it usually has telltale signs.

All of the species of *Eriosyce* are small enough to be potted plants, with some of the bigger ones also working as small landscape plants for a succulent garden. They take general cactus care though they can be especially sensitive to overwatering as most species have tap roots. Well-draining soil is a must. The species with colorful bodies are usually at their best in high light (protect from afternoon sun) and may turn greenish in lower light. Most species can take the occasional light frosts we get in this region.



“Aizoaceae” by Buck Hemenway

We know this plant family by many names. The newest is Aizoaceae and the most familiar are Mesembryanthema (Mesembs), Ice Plant and Vygies. There are about 150 recognized genera of succulent plants and more than 2000 species in this family. They have been categorized in many ways by as many authors who have published books on them.



For our Mini-Show, all Aizoaceae (Mesembs) are welcome except Lithops, which we usually keep for a separate show.

By far the majority of these plants are native to South Africa. It can be completely overwhelming for the succulent enthusiast to be plunked down on a roadside among 10 to 20 varieties of Mesembs, most of which one can only guess the identity of. From the diminutive *Oophytum* to the larger woody stemmed shrubs of the *Ruschia* and *Lampranthus* genera, the variety and scope of this family is truly amazing.

Most of the family are perennial plants that survive in unbelievable conditions. Just a few weeks of rain per year provide enough for them to survive. We need to know a little about how they survive in their native habitats in order to successfully grow them in our collections.

For the most part, the plants of this family are quite easy to grow. Their habitats are very similar to our Southern California. We tend to be hotter and a little colder than most appreciate, but we can find ways to mitigate those differences. The real key is water. Remember that most of them survive on rainfall that happens in a very short time frame and as such cannot stand to be watered when they are not ready for it.

Many of the genera are separated by their seed capsules which are pure nature's genius.



Oophytum nanum



Cheirodopsis peculiaris



Lampranthus viatorus



***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)

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



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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	