



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

Since 1959



OPEN GATES - OCTOBER, 2026

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

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

Happy early Halloween! As we move into Fall aka “spooky season” the nights (and hopefully days) begin to cool and send our spikey friends into their rest period. Revisit your watering schedules and make sure to avoid overwatering.

As mentioned during the September meeting, 2 of our Board of Directors positions are up for reelection. Should you wish to place your name on the ballot, please see myself or a member of the Board for assistance. Also, we are always looking for garden photos from members. Whether your prized plants are in the ground or on the kitchen window sill, we want to see them!

Remember, besides our regularly scheduled cactus (Ariocarpus) and succulent (Kalanchoe; Crassula) for our October minishow, we are also competing for Best Dead Plant. So crack open the crypts and pry open the coffins, to bring your best dead plants out of the grave for one last chance to bask in the light of the living.

See you all Friday, October 9th. Doors open at 6PM. Halloween treats and culinary tricks are highly encouraged!

Jeffrey Loew
President, Gates CSS



MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER - ELIAS APARICIO

Speaker Biography: Elias Aparicio



Elias Aparicio has been a member of the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society since the Summer of 2022 and has been growing cacti and succulents from his home in Yucaipa, California since 2021. Elias is a geologist by profession with over 14 years' experience in large scale groundwater contamination studies and treatment plant design, and more recently as an Engineering Geologist in the Mining Division with the County of San Bernardino. As a native to southern California, he grew an appreciation for the native plants and desert landscapes of the nearby Mojave and Colorado Deserts. After joining the Gates Club in 2022, his collection of cacti ballooned from just a handful of small plants to hundreds, and now has two small hobbyist greenhouses, a 10-foot by 20-foot shade house, and a seedling germination tent. Elias enjoys growing plants with locality data from seed and grafting plants with an affinity for genus *Ariocarpus*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Copiapoa*, and *Gymnocalycium*.

Program Description: "Cacti Seed Propagation"

This month's talk will be focused on seed propagation techniques for the cacti/succulent hobbyist. We will explore techniques and equipment that can be utilized on a small scale to grow large numbers of plants from seed.

Growing succulent plants from seed can be a cost-effective alternative for hobbyists and collectors to have access to otherwise expensive plants. Seed propagation can also act as a starting point for hybridization or breeding projects. While some folks may fear that the bar



to entry for growing from seed may be too high or too time costly to be viable, with a little ingenuity and experimentation, any hobbyist can have access to ethically grown seedlings.

Come explore a live demonstration of seed sowing/propagation techniques and take home some free seed to start your journey.

OCTOBER 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus: Ariocarpus; Dead Plant

Succulent: Crassula; Kalanchoe; Dead Plant

“Ariocarpus” by Tom Glavich

Ariocarpus is one of the treasures of the world of Cacti. This genus, from Central to Northern Mexico and Southern Texas has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but *Ariocarpus*, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this genus has generated a worldwide cult of devotees.

With all of this, you might expect *Ariocarpus* to be expensive, difficult to come by, and difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than any other central Mexican genera. All of the species and all of the varieties are readily available, and all are affordable. This genus is well within the range of even beginning novice growers. Field collected specimens are occasionally available, and these are much more expensive, and much harder to grow. Recently collected specimens are now almost always illegally obtained. However, interesting hybrids have been produced by several growers, Frank Nudge of our club, Miles Anderson and Gene Joseph of Tucson being just a few.



With all of the fuss we make over the horticultural merits of this genus, we shouldn't overlook the plant which have important ethno-botanical uses from several Native American cultures. The tubercles contain sticky mucilage, and this was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is remembered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. They grow in areas that are very hot in the summer, and that have summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily and fertilized only in hot weather, good growth will result. They need protection from winter rains.

There are six species, several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.

Ariocarpus agavoides, as its name implies "resemble agaves." Discovered only in 1941, it is rare in nature and cultivation. It comes from just a few areas in Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi.

Ariocarpus bravoanus has flattened triangular tubercles. A beautiful species, it is slow growing and still not seen in many collections, although seedlings are now often available. This species also comes from just a few localities in San Luis Potosi.

Ariocarpus fissuratus is much more common. This species spreads from the Pecos River in Texas south to Durango. The wide geographical range of this species; along with the isolation of some of the populations has given rise to several cultivars. This species is one of the more collectable, with many cultivars and hybrids with extra hair, wide tubercles, etc.

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus is the miniature of the genus. This species never gets above ground. It is widespread in Mexico, occurring in silt plains from Coahuila to Queretaro. In habitat, this species is sometimes under water! It is relatively easy to grow, requiring only a good, quick draining potting mix. Multiheaded specimens of this species are especially appreciated.



Ariocarpus retusus was the first species discovered, first described in 1938. This is an easily grown species. It is widespread throughout the Chihuahuan desert. A subspecies *A. retusus ssp. trigonus* has more triangular tubercles. As with *fissuratus*, there are dozens of cultivars, variants, variegates, etc. of the species and the subspecies.

Ariocarpus scaphirostris is another of the small, less collected species. Seedlings are available and it is no more difficult than many others. It is native to Nuevo Leon.



***Crassula and Kalanchoe* by Tom Glavich**

The genus *Crassula* is a mostly African member of the *Crassulaceae* family. *Crassula* is distinguished from the rest of the family by having as many stamens as petals and having opposite leaves. Other African members of the *Crassulaceae* have twice as many stamens as petals.

The genus runs the gamut from beginner plants that are virtually indestructible to difficult winter growers that are intolerant of water in the summer, but at the same time prone to drying up if insufficient moisture isn't provided. For the most part these plants are easy to grow, requiring only winter water and some protection from full summer sun.

Many members of the *Crassula* family get leggy with age and need periodic pruning and restarting. Cuttings should be taken when the plants are in active growth, early spring being best, left to dry for a day or two, and then simply potted in the same mix as the original plant. Rooting is almost always rapid and new growth appears in a week or two.



Many cultivars have been developed and are available at shows and even many local garden centers. First quality cultivars can sometimes be found at home centers.

Propagation from seed is possible, but surprisingly difficult. The tiny seeds should be planted in October or November. Germination is sporadic, and keeping the young seedlings alive is often a challenge.

Crassulas to Crave:

Crassula alstonii is a wonderful miniature species with tight hemispherical leaves piling on one another.

Crassula ausiensis from Namibia is a clumping species, one of many that closely resembles a mesemb as much as a *Crassula*.

Crassula barbata from South Africa, only an inch and a half when fully grown is a ciliate (hairy) rosette. It offsets as old heads die.

Crassula falcata, more often a garden subject than a pot plant, can grow to several feet high and across. It has spectacular heads of bright red flowers, often in August when this color is often missing from the succulent garden.

Crassula hemisphaerica from Namibia and South Africa, matches its name.

Crassula suzannae, another of the small clumping species, looks much like a mesemb, and is sensitive to watering at the wrong time of year.

Crassula tecta has many forms and cultivars. White spotted and patterned leaves make this a choice species.

Great cultivars include:

Crassula “Tom Thumb” forms a dense mat of small leaves. The leaves color quickly with red edges setting off the green centers.

Crassula “Morgan’s Beauty” has wonderful gray leaves, with a blush of blue and pink. A classic hybrid between *C. falcata* and *C. mesembryanthemopsis*, its flowers match the beauty of the leaves.



Finally, no discussion of *Crassulas* would be complete without including the wonderful garden plants, *Crassula arborescens*, *Crassula ovata*, and their various cultivars and hybrids. These are easily obtained and cuttings are frequently available at the monthly meeting and workshop.

Kalanchoe is one of the main genera of leaf succulents in the *Crassulaceae* Family. *Kalanchoe* are winter growers and generally look their best in late winter and early spring. *Kalanchoe* is closely related to three other genera, *Cotyledon*, *Adromischus* and *Tylecodon*; many members of all four families were originally described as *Cotyledon*.

Kalanchoe is a pan tropical genus with a large number of species in Africa and Madagascar, with significant (but less well known) populations in Socotra, India, tropical Asia, Indonesia, and a few in Central America.

Kalanchoe is by far the most widely propagated and grown succulent plant in the world. It is produced by the millions as a winter houseplant all over the world. The most popular of all is *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana*, from a cloud forest on Mount Tsaratanana in northeastern Madagascar. Cultivars with red, yellow, orange and even purple flowers developed from this species are produced each year by vegetative propagation (usually by micropropagation or cloning) in large commercial nurseries and sold in florists, supermarkets, and garden shops.

It is virtually indestructible and grows and blooms through the winter in heated apartments, offices, etc. with little care. It eventually gets leggy and stops blooming and is generally thrown out during a spring cleaning.

Kalanchoe care in Southern California is extraordinarily easy. They tolerate light frosts and do well outside in our rains. A few of the more tropical species are sensitive to cold but most tolerate anything we get without more than a few dropped leaves. Most of the species sold in florists will do well as bedding plants in local gardens. Producing a show quality plant requires a bit more work. Pruning and pinching of growing tips to encourage side growth is required to get a full-bodied plant. Since most of the cultivated species come from the cloud forests of Madagascar, they never go through long periods of dryness and require some watering and moisture even during their summer dormant period.

Propagation is easy... take a cutting and stick it in some potting soil. Success is virtually guaranteed. There is no need to wait for the end to dry and no need for growth hormones. Leaves can also be rooted and many leaves falling from a plant will often root on the potting bench or in neighboring pots.



Seed is rarely available but is also easily grown, and sows well in the fall. Growth is fairly rapid, and flowers during the next winter can generally be expected.

Although pot grown *Kalanchoe* lose their bottom leaves when they are stressed for water, *Kalanchoe* grown in the ground do not have this problem. Much larger and better-looking plants can be grown in the ground than can ever be grown in pots. Plants grown in the ground look much more like those from habitat.

Kalanchoes to Keep:

Kalanchoe beharensis is a variable large leafed plant from Madagascar. There are several unusual shaped and colored cultivars available, including 'Fang' and 'Oak Leaf'. The leaves are often felt-like, with a mixture of green and brown.

Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi is another variable species, common in the florist trade as well as succulent shows. There are many varieties and cultivars, and several interesting variegated forms as well. It has blue-purple to gray to white leaves, depending on the cultivar. It is weak stemmed, and is often grown as a sprawling or even hanging plant.

Kalanchoe rhombopilosa is a small plant, reluctant to branch, with dense beautiful gray leaves covered with red spots and lines.

Kalanchoe synsepala has great blue-green leaves with red to purple serrated edges. It produces offsets on long trailing stems. It is great as a hanging plant, or in a show pot.

Kalanchoe tomentosa is a wonderful densely leafed shrub. The leaves are green and white and feel as if covered by felt. When given enough light and water, the edges turn red or brown. It is easy to grow poorly, but very hard to grow well.

Kalanchoe uniflora is another climbing species. In spite of its name, the flowers occur in groups of three, with many groups per plant. It is naturally epiphytic, and is happiest as a hanging plant.

References:

W. Rauh, Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar

M. Sajeve and M. Costanzo, Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary



Kalanchoe rhombopilosa



Kalanchoe hildebrandtii



Crassula tecta



Crassula susannae (Reithaus)



Crassula arborescens



Crassula cv "Coralita"



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

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: PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

FALL SHOW & SALE

Sat. 10am-3pm

1450 East Vista Way, Vista, CA 92084

(Grace Presbyterian Church)

Info: rwkopfstein@gmail.com

NOV. 14: LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

HOLIDAY SALE & AUCTION

Sat. 10am-3pm (9am open for members only), Collectors LIVE Auction 12pm

18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA 91335

(ONEGeneration Senior Center)

Info: www.lacactus.com



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**SAVE THE DATE
MAY 19-24, 2027
TUCSON, ARIZONA**



**CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY OF AMERICA
2027 BIENNIAL CONVENTION
HOSTED BY THE
TUCSON CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

Registration Opens September 1, 2026

Join cactus and succulent enthusiasts from around the world for an unforgettable event of inspiring speakers, field trips, workshops, auctions, exhibits, sales, and opportunities to connect with fellow collectors and growers.

Take advantage of:

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- Special convention rates at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
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World-Class Speakers. Extraordinary Discoveries.

Hear internationally acclaimed botanists, explorers, authors, and growers share the latest discoveries, growing expertise, and unforgettable adventures.

International Presenters

- Alberto Burquez
- Stefan Campbell
- Graham Charles – Keynote Speaker
- Dr. Roy Earle
- Ricardo Ramirez Chaparro
- Ernst van Jaarsveld
- Pijaya Vachajitpan

US Presenters

- Dr. Peter Breslin
- Mark Dimmitt
- Jane Evans
- Lucas Majure
- Sandy Masuo
- Stephen McCabe
- Bill Peachy
- Dr. Michiel Pillet
- Rob Romero
- John Trager
- Robert H Webb



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COPIAPOA

A Comprehensive Review of the Genus and Habitat Guide

by Stefan Campbell

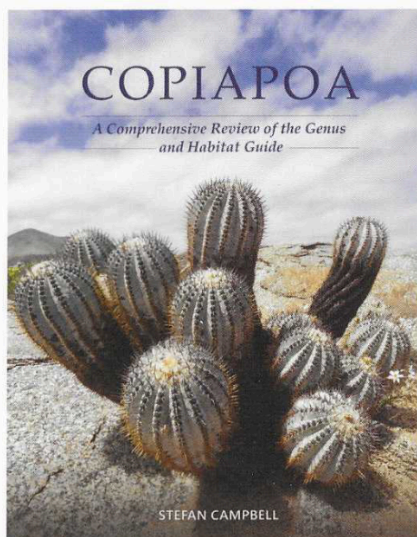
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Discover the Extraordinary World of *Copiapoa*

After more than a decade of field research in Chile, Stefan Campbell presents an extensive new study of *Copiapoa*, one of the most iconic cactus genera of the Atacama Desert.

This richly illustrated volume brings together extensive field observations and current research with taxonomy, ecology, detailed distribution maps, and extensive habitat photography presenting an in-depth account of these remarkable plants in their natural environment.

Inside the Book



- 45 recognized species of *Copiapoa*, including reinstated species names, one new species, one combination, and two infrageneric sections
- Detailed species descriptions and habitat photography
- New and updated distribution maps
- Extensive observations of *Copiapoa* ecology in extreme environments
- Discussion of taxonomy and phylogeny
- Exploration of *Copiapoa* ecology and its extreme environment
- Habitat information on the impact of coastal fog, climate, and geology
- Discussion of conservation challenges, including climate change, habitat destruction, and illegal collection

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Be among the first to own this important new reference on *Copiapoa*.

Publication: September 2026

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Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

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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 Oceguela	909-935-6218
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Oceguela	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	



Appendix 1: Gates CSS member garden photos

Below, please enjoy some lovely garden photos from past president Phuc. If you know anything about Phuc's garden, it is that he loves putting specimens in the ground. The below specimens are pushing out some awesome blooms!





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