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

OPEN GATES - NOVEMBER, 2026

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

2026 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

I hope you are all enjoying cooler weather and refreshing rains.

This November meeting we will be voting on two director positions for the Board. Should you wish to put your name on the ballot, please email me as soon as possible. At the meeting we will be accepting write-ins and member nominations. All nominated members must be present to accept the nomination.

We will also be preparing for our December holiday potluck. The Gates leadership will be providing the entree meats and non-alcoholic beverages (water and soda). BYOB should you wish to enjoy some wine amongst friends. We will be passing around the sign-up sheet for side dishes and desserts. Should you be unable to attend the November meeting and want to sign up to bring a dish, please email me or another member of the Board.

Our November meeting will be the last meeting of the year to compete in our monthly mini show. Now is the time to enter plants in hopes of winning points! During our December meeting we will announce the high points mini show winners.

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

Jeffrey Loew
President, Gates CSS

MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER - PAUL STERNBERG

Speaker Biography: Paul Sternberg



My name is Paul Sternberg. I have had a deep and life-guiding interest in succulent plants for my entire life, at least since I can remember (age 6 or so), and I have had those plants near me for all that time, I've lived in Southern California all my life, except for 6 years near Sacramento.

I have degrees in geology and soil science from UC Riverside, and worked there as a researcher for 33 years. I found out about Gates C&S Society around 1974 and joined. I also found out about the amazing nursery scene down in north San Diego County, and made many trips down to Vista. Got to know Dave Grigsby and others. When my new wife Karen and I were thinking about where we might want to live someday, Vista came up (she had joined me on plant trips there). We ended up moving there, and the 60+ mile one-way daily trips to UCR became a lifestyle for over 20 years.

I found out about cycads from a 1978 C&S Journal dedicated to them, but it was about 15 years later that my interest escalated. I had forever been hauling my plant collection around to each new place I lived, along with one each of the two commonest cycads (a "sago palm" and a *Dioon edule*, plants from the local K-Mart). Those two plants stood out to Karen, and the rest is history. Cycads had been too expensive for me to consider buying, but with Karen's interest we could justify this extravagance.

Vista was affordable, but to get what we wanted (an acre or more of property) we still had to work extra, in this case meaning we had to build our own house. We did this, preserving as much of the native chaparral on the property as possible. In the mid '90s we started our small cycad nursery, a major reason being to make the plants a little more available and

affordable. Karen and I have co-owned and operated Living Cycads Nursery since. We have made trips to South Africa to see plants in habitat, and made connections for importing. All the cycads are CITES Appendix I, so trade is strictly controlled.

We love lots of kinds of plants, but primarily ones that can grow outside in our climate and with minimal water. So, it's natural for us to grow different plants together in the ground. Very many cycads grow in natural plant communities that include countless succulents, cacti, caudiciforms, and trees, and in some special locations form part of the natural arid and semi-arid paradise that we all cherish.

NOVEMBER 2026 - MINI-SHOW

Cactus & Succulent: Miniatures

"Staging Miniatures" by Kyle Williams

This month we aren't focusing on a specific genus or family of plants. Instead, we will look at a growth form that everyone has space to grow, miniatures! It is important to note that because we are dealing with a descriptive term, not a botanical one, there is no hard and fast rule for what a miniature plant is. The closest we have is a pot size rule, which limits the maximum pot size to 3 inches diameter and requires the plants to be naturally small, not just a juvenile. For our meeting we'll be a little more relaxed and allow juvenile forms, within reason of course (no overgrown plant in a tiny pot!).

A miniature is not necessarily the same thing as a dwarf plant. For example, a number of *Agave* species are considered dwarf sized because they only get a couple feet in diameter. That is very small compared to a huge *A. americana* that can be 10 feet or more across, but isn't really what we mean by miniature. Another example would be a *Bursera microphylla*, the Elephant Tree, which can form a huge shrub or small tree. It is often grown as a caudiciform bonsai just a couple feet tall. That plant has been dwarfed but it still is not a miniature!

So, what are some examples of true miniatures? Two great examples for cacti would be *Copiapoa laui* and *Blossfeldia liliputiana*, the two smallest species in the family. They both form small clumps, but individual heads are usually ½" or less in diameter. Even slightly bigger species such as *Ortegocactus macdougalii*, *Mammillaria theresae,* or *Puna clavaroides* are ideal miniatures so long as the clump hasn't become too big.

While there are quite a number of miniature cacti, the number of miniature (non-cactus) succulents is even bigger. One of the best places to look for miniatures is among the mesembs. Some species of *Conophytum* are the very definition of miniature, in that some species such as *C. pellucidum* are so small that you could have upwards of 100 heads in a three-inch pot! Many species of *Lithops* work well too. Also consider some of the mesembs that aren't living stones types such as *Titanopsis* or *Aloinopsis* species. Outside mesembs, consider some of the smallest *Crassula*, *Haworthia, Sedum,* or *Avonia*. These are just suggestions, but if you have a plant that looks good and proportional in a three inch or smaller pot then you have a miniature!



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

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

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:

- Early-bird registration discounts
- Special convention rates at The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa
- A full schedule of exceptional speakers and events

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 Ramírez 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

scan the code
bookmark convention updates

COPIAPOA

A Comprehensive Review of the Genus and Habitat Guide

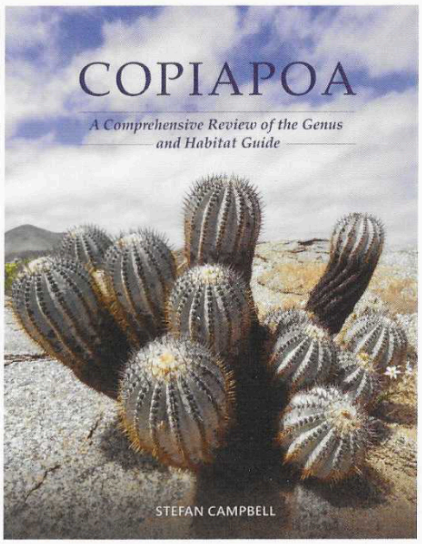
by Stefan Campbell

274 PAGES • FULL COLOR • HARDCOVER

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

Pre-Order Your Copy

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

Publication: September 2026

Price: $55 + Shipping

Mail a check for $55 + $10 for shipping to the address below, scan the QR Code with your phone, or go to the CSSA Shop at https://bit.ly/Copiapoa

Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.

PO Box 41187 | Pasadena, CA 91114 | 909-276-5031 | j.taber@cactusandsucculentsociety.org

cactusandsucculentsociety.org

ODDS AND 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	

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!











