

# CACTUS CHRONICLE



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

# from SAN DIEGO TO CABO

## WITH GUILLERMO RIVERA

The Baja Peninsula is one of Mexico's richest areas for plants. Cactus species are abundant, Ferocactus, Echinocereus, Mammillaria, Stenocereus, Lophocereus and of course chollas! Because of its isolation the peninsula includes quite a few endemics, like Pachycereus pringlei, Echinocereus lindseyi, Lophocereus schottii, among others.

Many other interesting plants grow in Baja besides cacti!!:  
Dudleya, Agave, Fouquieria, Euphorbia, Beaucarnea, etc.

The scenery is spectacular, clear water, beaches, and of course, the visit to a few islands complete this magic trip!



**PLEASE SEND  
ME PHOTOS OF  
DECEMBER'S POM,  
ANY CRESTED AND  
MONSTROSE PLANTS FROM YOUR  
COLLECTION!** (EMAIL NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM) *-Kimberly*

# BIO: GUILLERMO RIVERA

Born in Argentina. Owner of PLANT EXPEDITIONS (former South America Nature Tours) a company dedicated to the organization of tours for the last 20 years, throughout South America (Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador), Mexico and South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia, with emphasis on plants: bromeliads, orchids, cacti, and other succulents. Former researcher at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. BS degree in Biology University of Cordoba MS Marine Biology. Northeastern University. PhD in Botany University of Cordoba.



For 2021 we are planning the following plant adventures to these countries: Baja California, Namibia, Ecuador, South Africa, Madagascar, and Argentina-Chile. If you wish to be kept informed about our future trips, please send email to Guillermo:

info@plantexpeditions.com or plantexpeditions@gmail.com

OR

visit website: [www.plantexpeditions.com](http://www.plantexpeditions.com)

*Save the Date!*

## SECOND SATURDAYS with LACSS

**ACQUIRE IT, PROPAGATE IT, PUT IT IN THE GROUND**  
WITH JOE STEAD

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7**  
**HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM**  
**AT 10:00AM**

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!

JOE HAS WORKED AT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE IN THE HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT FOR 25 YEARS. HIS MAIN INTEREST IN HORTICULTURE HAS BEEN HOW TO PROPAGATE PLANTS AND HELP EASE THE COLLECTING OF PLANTS IN HABITAT.

**2020 OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Joyce Schumann

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Kim Thorpe Chavez

**1ST VP, PROGRAMS**

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**2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH**

Manny Rivera

**3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS**

Jim Esterle

**SECRETARY**

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Kathy Gogol

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Rosemary Polito

**DIRECTOR 2 EDUCATION**

Karen Ostler

**CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR**Kimberly Gomez-Tong  
newsletter@lacactus.com**MEETING REFRESHMENTS**

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**WEBMISTRESS**

Nancy Neymark

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Chris Rogers

**CSSA LIAISON**

Roxie Esterle

**FALL SALE****FESTIVAL CHAIR**

Artie Chavez

**INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVE**

Karen Ostler

**MONTHLY DRAWING**

Al Mindel

**PLANT PROCUREMENT**

Collin O'Callaghan

**HISTORIAN**

Nils Schirmmacher

**HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIR**

Debi Heaps

**LIBRARIAN**

Susan Phillips

**POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS**

Kyle Williams

**ZOOM MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Emily Akers + John Giesing

# A Word From Our President



To the untrained eye, this month looked much like most of the months preceding it. Stay at home. Stay safe. Go only where it is essential. But from the viewpoint of the Festival committee, this month was filled with meetings, conferences, planning, researching, and viewing each point of planning from every possible angle.

Yes!! We are moving forward with plans for the only social-distancing cactus and succulent Fall Sale this year!! Artie Chavez and Jim Esterle spent more hours planning this event than they usually do for the Festival. This will be a new experience for all of us – not too many cactus lovers have tried to plan a community event in the middle of a pandemic. If you haven't signed up to be a volunteer yet, it's not too late. Email me at [ropojo@pacbell.net](mailto:ropojo@pacbell.net) and let me know you are available. If you can't volunteer, then come to the Sale and find the plant you have been looking for.

We are still looking for a Treasurer to replace Kathy Gogol. She has shown us how to read Treasurer's reports, among other accounting skills, and will be difficult to replace – but we must. If you or someone you know has an interest in being our Treasurer, please let me know.

I am very proud of the strength and commitment of the club officers during this major challenge. Our Board members have never wavered in their commitment to continue to provide programs for members by trying new methods to reach out to everyone.

In spite of me being limited in computer skills, others share the good news with me about the Club's other social media sites. Facebook by Kathleen and Instagram by Nicole have become the rage lately. Both have lots of hits and offer lots of fun information and photos. I encourage you to add those resources to your go-to list of cactus & succulent information and entertainment.

And just to clarify, the program that Joe Stead is presenting at our November 7 Saturday Session is not the same as the one he will present on October 31 for the CSSA Webinar. So we need to tune into both of them to get the full story about his experience with plants.

If you are a sports enthusiast, you know about the Lakers and the Dodgers championship year. I would like to believe that LACSS is in their league of overachievers by singing Queen's song "We Are the Champions" (In my head-not our loud!) and Aretha Franklin's "I Will Survive". This year continues to be a challenge but we will get through it. One of the best life lessons I learned was "Change is inevitable."

It might be good or it might be not-good but we will learn to adapt and be better when it is over. And then – probably more change will happen.

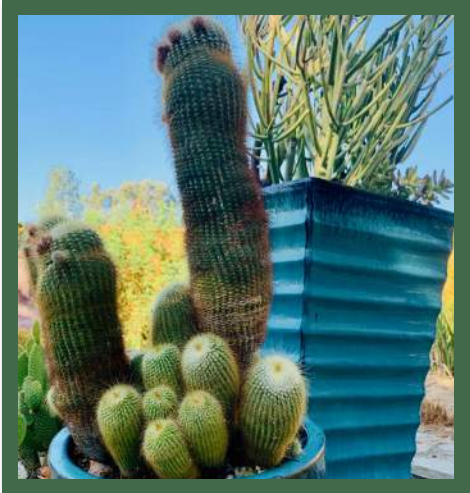
In the meantime, stay safe, stay healthy, stay positive and stay in touch with those you care about.

See you soon.

Best,  
Joyce Schumann

# PLANT<sup>of the</sup> MONTH SUBMISSIONS

THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS ZOOM MEETING ON NOVEMBER 5TH TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



PARODIA LENINGHAUSII  
KENT & BARBARA BUTTERWORTH



EUPHORBIA FRUTICOSA  
CANDE FRIEDMAN



EUPHORBIA GENOUDIANA  
GRETCHEN DAVIS



EUPHORBIA PLATYCLADA  
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING



PARODIA SCOPA SSP. SICCINEA  
AL MINDEL



EUPHORBIA MULTIFLORA  
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



EUPHORBIA STEM TYPE  
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



PARODIA MAGNIFICUS  
FELIPE DELGADO



VARIEGATED PARODIA  
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN

# NOVEMBER PLANT of the MONTH

## PARODIA (INCLUDING NOTOCACTUS)

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Kyle Williams

Parodia is a moderately large genus (70+ species) of cacti from South America. Usually we think of South American cacti as growing along the deserts on the Pacific Coast of Peru and Argentina, but Parodia is found east of the Andes on the Atlantic side in southern Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina. As a general rule the plants tend to be relatively small, clumping, globose (round) to shortly columnar with short stiff spines and pronounced ribs. Most species have big, colorful flowers. Because of their small size they make great potted plants or, for the largest species, moderately sized landscape plants.

Cultivation of Parodia is fairly easy. For the most part you can grow them like any other small cactus, except that they prefer to have some moisture in the soil all the time. This comes from their native habitat being drier regions of South America but not true arid deserts. So they are used to more rainfall than their cousins living on the other side of the Andes in the Atacama Desert would normally see. This does not mean keep them wet, only that they shouldn't dry out all the way especially during the growing season. Propagation is easy as they tend to be clumping plants, so just separate off any pups you'd like to turn into new plants.

One topic, more than any other, comes up time and again when discussing Parodia in any detail. That being the name of the genus and what species belong to it. I realize few readers have the knowledge or interest in a complex discussion of plant taxonomy and nomenclature, so I'll try to keep it simple and relevant to what hobbyist should know. What we call Parodia today is an assemblage of cactus species formerly spread out amongst the genera Parodia, Brasilicactus, Brasiliparodia, Eriocactus, Wigginsia, and most notably Notocactus. In other words, if you have a cactus with any of those genus names you should now call them Parodia.



*Parodia occulta*



*Parodia scopa*

Botanists have determined that all these genera contained species so similar and closely related to each other that there is no meaningful and reliable way to tell the genera apart. For example, a major way of separating these supposedly different genera was to look at the color of the stigma (the female part of the flower) and details of how seeds were attached to the inside of the fruit. These are such minor and inconsistent details that it isn't reasonable to keep them apart.

While taxonomists changing plant names tends to upset the hobbyist world, keep in mind that botany is a science and in science the more accurate and detailed our understanding of a subject, the better. So the changes aren't done simply to annoy hobbyists, and neither are these changes made flippantly (at least by well trained and respected botanists). It is truly an attempt to improve our understanding of the natural world. In this case I think botanists have made things easier for hobbyists, especially those new to the hobby. Instead of learning upwards of six different genera you only have to learn one, Parodia. Easy, right?

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*Parodia magnifica*



*Parodia uebelmanniana*

# NOVEMBER PLANT of the MONTH

## EUPHORBIA (STEM TYPE) BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Kyle Williams

Euphorbia are among the most successful plant genera, covering an amazing geographical and environmental range. Containing over 2000 species, it is one of the five largest genera of plants in the world (some rank it as the second largest behind *Astragalus*, a legume). While we know them as succulents, Euphorbia includes tiny herbs, leafy shrubs, and even giant rainforest trees. In horticulture, they span the range from English Garden plants to trees, stem succulents, geophytic (i.e. underground caudex) miniatures, to medusoid globulars to caudiciforms.

While Euphorbia species can be found on every continent (except Antarctica) and nearly every country, it is the ones from Africa that are of particular interest to succulent growers. The reason is that many Euphorbia are herbs, woody shrubs, or pesky weeds without succulence or a caudex. In other words, “normal” looking plants that wouldn’t really go in a succulent collection. That’s not to say the only interesting Euphorbia are succulent, as the most popular and economically important species of all is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, everyone’s favorite Christmas plant, the Poinsettia.

There is a succulent Euphorbia for everyone’s taste. Want a spiny leafless plant that looks almost exactly like a cactus? Try *Euphorbia horrida*. Need a large landscape specimen plant? Check out *Euphorbia ammak*. Do you prefer woody caudiciforms? Look at *Euphorbia squarrosa*. Like a plant with showy, colorful



*Dorstenia foetida*



*Dorstenia gigas*

leaves? You have to get *Euphorbia francosii*. Love unique oddballs? *Euphorbia obesa* looks like a green baseball, *Euphorbia abdelkuri* ‘Damask’ looks like a pink melted candle, and *Euphorbia piscidermis* looks like it is covered in fish scales! There are countless more species that fill those various roles and more.

Some people confuse the spiny leafless Euphorbia with a cactus. They are completely unrelated plants that show convergent evolution. In other words, Euphorbia colonized the deserts of Africa and evolved to survive in that habitat by forming thickened stems or roots and either dropping their leaves or thickening them to store water. Cacti were once leafy plants that colonized the American deserts and evolved to survive by forming thickened stems or roots and dropping their leaves. If you have a spiny stem succulent and aren’t sure if it is a cactus or Euphorbia the best thing is to jab the stem in an inconspicuous place. If it bleeds white sap it is a Euphorbia, clear or nothing and it is probably a cactus. Also, Euphorbia spines are always in pairs. Cacti usually have single spines or areoles with numerous spines.

The plants eligible for entry into this month’s POM are the “stem type” species. These are the species grown primarily for their stems that have no or very minute leaves. This is not a taxonomic or related group of Euphorbia species. Instead, they are being grouped based on their appearance.



*Ficus petiolaris*

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

# Fall Sale

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**CACTI & SUCCULENTS  
HAND MADE CERAMICS**

**@ONEGENERATION / ENCINO FARMER'S MARKET  
17400 VICTORY BLVD, VAN NUYS**

**NOV 6TH FRIDAY TWILIGHT SALE** \$10 entrance fee **6:30pm-9:00pm**  
\$5 MEMBER entrance fee with BADGE

**NOV 7TH SATURDAY FREE ADMISSION** \_\_\_\_\_ **9:00am-3:00pm**  
**MEMBERS ONLY EARLY ENTRANCE** with BADGE **8:30am-9:00am**

**NO MASK, NO ENTRY.**

LACSS FALL SALE 2020 will be following all CDC & local health guidelines.

## ALL PURCHASES WILL BE MADE DIRECTLY AT RESPECTIVE BOOTHS

Twilight Sale Admission requires \$10.00 cash payment for admission

Event is Rain or Shine

The LACSS FALL SALE 2020 will observe maximum CDC and  
local social-distancing health guidelines

### **MASKS ARE MANDATORY FOR ADMISSION & WITHIN SALE AREA**

- Number of customers entering the sale area will be limited and monitored by club volunteers
- No more than 5 customers at a time per booth
- Hand sanitizer, restrooms, and washing stations will be provided
- When in line for restrooms, please maintain social distancing
- If you are exhibiting symptoms or have been exposed to Covid-19, please stay home. We encourage attending the event only with others within your quarantine bubble
- Food will not be available at the sale. Do not share food brought from home
- We love your pets, but please don't bring them to the sale

## CHECK OUT OUR MEETING SCHEDULE AND OTHER OFFERINGS

### Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

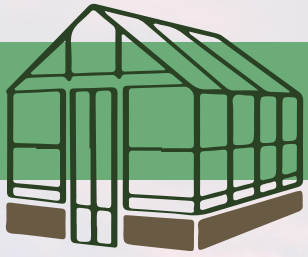
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# GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

**FALL** and as I write this temperatures in the San Fernando Valley remain in the high 90's and even here in the mountains we are struggling through the mid 80's. Summer has decided to remain with a vengeance.

I am sticking to my normal schedule as far as my plants are concerned. At the beginning of October I stopped fertilizing with every watering; come April I'll resume my summer schedule, but for now, no matter the heat I will not fertilize my plants because I know how it is; we might be fooled into ignoring the calendar, but winter is coming and so are those low temperatures. I want my plants to harden off before those cold temperatures arrive, without soft new growth that will struggle to grow in low temperatures and low lighting.

However, one nice thing about this time of year is my Ariocarpus; with the shorter days, they flower in a glorious explosion of color... pinks and whites and a wonderful yellow from the species *A. trigonus*. Seedlings are always fun, you never know with *A. retusus*; will the flowers will be white, or pale pink or a beautiful hot pink. Years ago I crossed a white flowering *A. retusus* with a hot pink one and the seedlings are finally large enough to flower and the range of color is delightful. Most are a pale pink, a couple are hot pink, or white. But one, just one, has white flowers with a pale pink at the base of the petals. I'll be keeping that one, and in fact I back crossed it with the pot pink pollen parent. I would love a plant with half and half flower petals; the seeds won't be ripe until next summer, but I can wait.



My new cactus gardens appear to have established, the Agaves are beginning to grow as are the native *Opuntia basilis*. The *Tephrocactus articulatus* loves it here and throws the most marvelous wide papery spines, and the best part is nothing seems to eat them, not even the jackrabbits.

I had planned to divide a multiheaded *Yucca whipplei* but the fires put an end to those plans, so now I'll be taking offsets from our one remaining *Yucca brevifolia* and spreading them around the yard to replace those burned. The damaged ones were not girdled by the fires and might offset and so to that end we have started to water them pretending to be the rain which is slow in coming. So maybe in the spring we'll have new Joshua tree babies to replace those we lost.

Happy growing,  
Karen

# 2021 MEMBERSHIP

## 2021 membership update

We are halfway there. I have received acknowledgements from 88 of the 178 emails that I have sent regarding our 2021 membership campaign. Thanks to all who replied and for the donations that you have sent. I am looking forward to the next batch of emails from 2020 members who want to have their membership honored for the year 2021.

Thanks again.

Rosemary Polito  
Membership Chair

## TIPS, TRICKS AND ANECDOTES

BY LINDA TAMBLYN, KC CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
(ARTICLE TAKEN FROM CSSA TO THE POINT WINTER, 4TH QUARTER 2020 EDITION)

### Cinnamon on the Potting Bench

Not only does it smell great and taste delightful in the kitchen, cinnamon is also useful in a potting area. After a rotted portion of caudex has been pared down to healthy tissue, dust cinnamon on liberally to mitigate further damage. When making cuttings, cinnamon is a quick and efficient styptic for the wound on a cutting and seems to help with the rooting process, also. If a plant or seedlings should show signs of mold, sprinkle it where, and as, needed. I've been told it does a number on gnats, too, though I haven't tried it for that.



After major surgery for soft rot on this *Dorstenia lancifolia*, I poured some cinnamon on the cut and I'm hoping for the best. The rot has stopped and the remaining stem is hard. This photo was taken about 3 weeks after the procedure.



### PLANT<sup>of the</sup> MONTH 2020

**OCTOBER**  
Feroactus & Leuchtenbergia  
Dorstenia & Ficus

**NOVEMBER**  
Parodia & Notocactus  
Euphorbia Stem Type

**DECEMBER**  
Crest & Monstrose  
Crest & Monstrose

### PLANT<sup>of the</sup> MONTH 2021

**JANUARY**  
Columnar cactus  
Sedum & Sempervivum

**FEBRUARY**  
Mammillaria straight spines  
Pelargonium

**MARCH**  
Copiapoa  
Bulb

**APRIL**  
Echinocereus  
Conophytum

**MAY**  
Cacti staged as miniature  
Succulent staged as miniature  
(Diameter of pot  
NO LARGER THAN 2")

**JUNE**  
Favorites

**JULY**  
Echinofossulocactus  
(aka Stenocactus)  
Adenium

**AUGUST**  
Echinopsis  
Euphorbia with caudex

**SEPTEMBER**  
Ariocarpus  
Cyphostemma & Cissus

## DESERT CREATIONS

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APPOINTMENT ONLY

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All LACSS members and family will get 10%

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ADRIANA GARCIA

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