

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:

NAMAQUALAND

WITH STEVE FRIEZE

When Phyllis (my wife) and I decided we wanted to visit South Africa another time we reached out to Rob Skillin, a horticulturist located in the San Luis Obispo area, and he suggested contacting Karel du Toit as a possible guide. Karel as it turns out, is a member of the South African Police force and a former professional rugby player who now is a devoted naturalist who regularly studies the flora of an area in South Africa known as Namaqualand. After conversing with us for a period of time he built a flexible schedule that enabled Phyllis and I to explore and experience the thriving flora of this geographical area. We were introduced to a variety of different succulents – some very small mesembs and some very large *Aloe pilansii* that were captivating even though this area of South Africa has been in drought conditions for several years. We had the extraordinary opportunity to spend almost three weeks traveling north from Cape Town to Springbok seeking out some of the most exotic plants found anywhere on earth. In addition to the plants, we were treated to many different aspects of the South African culture that enabled us to even more appreciate this unique and strange ecosystem. Karel's familiarity and access to locations made the trip even more fulfilling.



Aloe microstigma



Pachypodium namaquanum



Euphorbia caput-medusae

**PLEASE SEND ME PHOTOS FROM YOUR COLLECTION OF
PARODIA, NOTOCACTUS & STEM TYPE EUPHORBIA!**

(EMAIL NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM)

-Kimberly



BIO: STEVE FRIEZE

Steven Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. Steven was one of the founding owners Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent nursery. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Oaxaca Mexico, Cost Rica, and Brazil. He and his wife have now created Distinctive Flora, a new plant business that will specialize in exotic plants such as tillandsias, bromeliads, cactus and succulents.

Prior to his retirement in 2006, Steven was an Administrator for the California State University system serving in a variety of capacities in the area of institutional research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member where he still teaches. He also functions as the Director of the Positive Psychology Lab at the same institution where students get the opportunity to design and execute psychological research studies.



SECOND SATURDAYS *with LACSS*

Save the Date!

DISCOVERING PLANT TAXONOMY

WITH LAUREL WOODLEY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM
AT 10:00AM

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!

"LAUREL WOODLEY IS A RETIRED BIOLOGY PROFESSOR FROM LOS ANGELES HARBOR COLLEGE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURE SINCE THE MID 1960'S.

SHE HAS BEEN A VOLUNTEER AT SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN SINCE 2005 AND A TRUSTEE SINCE 2006 HELPING TO IDENTIFY AND LABEL THE TREES AND SHRUBS IN THE GARDEN. MORE RECENTLY SHE HAS BEEN CONTRIBUTING DAILY INSTAGRAM PICTURES OF PLANTS IN FLOWER WITH COMMENTARY ABOUT CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS.

SHE IS A PAST DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT OF THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA AND NOW SERVES AS ADVISOR. SHE HAS LONG COLLECTED AND GROWN A VARIETY OF SUCCULENTS AND IS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE SUNSET SUCCULENT AND SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETIES. SHE REGULARLY POSTS PICTURES OF SHOW PLANTS ON THE CSSA FACEBOOK PAGE."

2020 OFFICERS

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Debi Heaps

LIBRARIAN

Susan Phillips

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

ZOOM MANAGEMENT TEAM

Emily Akers + John Giesing

A Word From Our President



THERE ARE TIMES WHEN IT SEEMS LIKE TIME WILL NEVER PASS.

And, yet, here it is – October! Our plants have survived the heat, fires, earthquake and pandemic and so have we. Stronger than ever and getting ready for the next year to “bring it on.”

A few months ago, it was brought to our attention that we needed to plan for nomination and election of our “odd year” officers. Since we don’t physically meet, it seemed problematic. Mail-in ballots seem to be suspect. The Board of Directors thought an easy way to solve the issue would be for the incumbents to volunteer to run for another term. That worked well for the positions of VP-Programs (Ron Behar) and VP-POM (Manny Rivera). Rosemary Polito agreed to change her title from “Interim” to “Current” Membership Chair. We thank all of you for your dedication to duty and continued support of the club. Our current Treasurer and Secretary declined to accept and we are currently looking for replacements.

In addition - It is now official – all appointed positions are reappointed for another year unless you let me know you do not want to continue.

In addition - It is now official – all appointed positions are reappointed for another year unless you let me know you do not want to continue.

Make sure you read the announcement regarding Membership fees for 2021.

In planning for next year, with all the current uncertainties, the Board is seeking your input for ways that will help us stay engaged with each other. The Zoom meetings have been great but what else would you like to see offered to continue fulfilling our mission? Please email me if you have any suggestions.

Do you remember the Festival we used to have? Do you remember all the stuff that needed to be placed, hung, sorted, color-coded, printed, on and on and on that showed up on a couple of trucks and then disappeared during tear-down to who knows where? And then next year was always “where is this or that and what do we need?” The problem is now solved. This month the Board approved the acquisition of a storage unit. It is centrally located, on the first floor, and at a reasonable cost. All we need is some shelving and then we can start moving things in. Hooray!!!! At least everything will be in one place!!!!

Please continue to be safe, healthy and positive. See you soon.

Best,
Joyce Schumann

PLANT^{of the} MONTH SUBMISSIONS

THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS ZOOM MEETING ON OCTOBER 1ST TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



LEUCHTENBERGIA PRINCIPIS
CANDE FRIEDMAN



FEROCACTUS CYUNDRAECEUS SSP. TORTULISPINUS
GRETCHEN DAVIS



LEUCHTENBERGIA PRINCIPIS
GRETCHEN DAVIS



FEROCACTUS ROBUS
DUKE + KAZ BENADOM



FICUS SP.
BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH



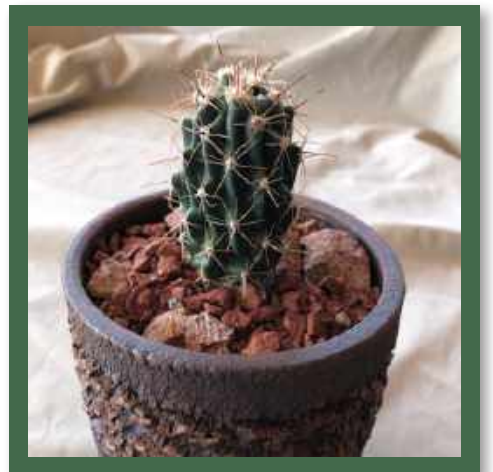
DORSTENIA SP.
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



FEROCACTUS WISLEZNI
DUKE + KAZ BENADOM



LEUCHTENBERGIA PRINCIPIS
BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH



FEROCACTUS SP.
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON

OCTOBER PLANT of the MONTH

FEROCACTUS & LEUCHTENBERGIA BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Stan Shebs, Kyle Williams, & ShineB

Ferocactus with about 30 species is one of the best known genera of cacti to collectors. Most people have at least one species in their landscape or potted collection. The name means "fierce" cactus, a clear reference to the large, curved spines common throughout the genus. While these spines clearly have a defensive function, helping keep larger animals from eating it their primary function is to help radiate heat from the plant by increasing surface area and to provide some shade for the skin of the plant which can be helpful in the extreme light conditions of the desert. This is true of most cacti, but is particularly worth mentioning given the large size of these spines. The plants themselves are usually large, unbranched and comparatively wide compared to the height of the plant. This is where the common name "Barrel Cactus" comes from.

Ferocactus has a large range that covers most of the Sonoran, Chihuahua, Mojave and Baja California deserts, though the ranges of individual species may be quite large or relatively narrow. One of the best known species is *F. cylindraceus*, the Fire Barrel Cactus with bright red spines. It is found in our desert regions and are among the most striking and distinctive plants of the California desert but extends into Nevada, Arizona, Southern Utah and Northern Mexico. Lesser known is *F. viridescens* a relatively rare, coastal species native to San Diego County and northern Baja California. Baja California has the highest Ferocactus diversity with around 10 species (1/3 of the genus) being found there.

Leuchtenbergia contains the single species *L. principis* native to the Chihuahuan desert. It is one of the most unusual looking of all cacti because of the extremely long tubercles. In most cacti tubercles are small bumps with areoles at the tip (i.e. where the spines emerge), but in *Leuchtenbergia* they are branches several inches long by a quarter to half inch wide. The stem itself grows slowly and is hardly noticeable except in mature plants. The tubercles seem even longer as they have long papery spines at the tip.



Ferocactus cylindraceus



Ferocactus macrodiscus



Leuchtenbergia principis

Making these two genera the plant of the month is no coincidence. Botanists have long known that *Leuchtenbergia* is closely related to *Ferocactus*, to the point that they can interbreed giving us the hybrid genus *Ferobergia*. In recent years DNA studies strongly suggest *Leuchtenbergia* actually is a *Ferocactus* and should probably be moved into the genus. The distinctive look of *Leuchtenbergia* is what is maintaining the separation, but botanists consider actual relationships to be the heart of taxonomy so don't be surprised if it gets lumped into *Ferocactus* at some point.

Cultural requirements are similar for both genera. While some species are extremely cold tolerant (i.e. the native US species) and others less so, all species of *Ferocactus* and *Leuchtenbergia* can handle winter temperatures in the Los Angeles region. They do well in the ground, though good drainage is a must as most species don't like our wet winters. They also do well as potted specimens, requiring normal cactus care.

OCTOBER PLANT^{of the} MONTH

DORSTENIA & FICUS BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Kyle Williams

Dorstenia and Ficus are both member of the Moraceae or Fig family. Dorstenia is a strictly tropical genus, mainly from rain forests. A few members have become succulent and are found in the dry lands of East Africa and Socotra. Ficus is one of the largest genera of all plants, with at least 800 species! Most people are familiar with the edible fig (*F. carica*), *Ficus benjamina* (a common houseplant) or the rubber plant (*F. elastica*). However, comparatively few would be classified as succulents. The succulent members of the genus mostly come from either Mexico or South Africa. Most *Ficus* are tropical, though some species reach temperate zones, such as the edible fig.

Dorstenia is the more tropical genus (in regards to the species of interest to us), and is fairly touchy about getting cold and wet. It does best when protected from temperatures below 50 degrees. All the species appreciate reliable watering and feeding when in active growth.

One of the rarest and best known species is *Dorstenia gigas* from Socotra. This species grows on the rocky slopes of the island, with



Dorstenia foetida



Dorstenia gigas

Dendrosicyos and *Adenium*. It gets several feet tall and has shiny, oval shaped leaves that are amongst the most beautiful in the genus. Another commonly seen species is *Dorstenia foetida*. It spreads more horizontally and is small than *D. gigas*. The epithet "foetida" means fetid, or rotten smelling. If you bruise the plant or crush a leaf you will quickly see the name is appropriate! There are many rarely seen species from the jungles and dry lands of Tanzania. With luck they will be in cultivation in the next few years.

The Mexican and South African *Ficus* are altogether much easier to grow. They are happy growing outdoors in pots, and can take cooler temperatures and heavy winter rain without rotting. By far, the two most common species are *Ficus petiolaris* and *Ficus palmeri*. They are very similar in growth habit, with *Ficus petiolaris* being distinguished by its red leaf veins.

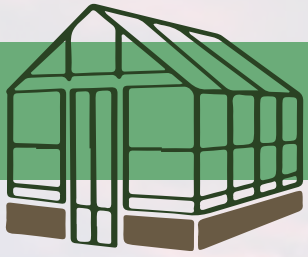
The flowers of *Ficus* are extremely unusual. They are tiny and form on the inside of the "fruit". The only access to these flowers is through a microscopic hole that only very tiny species of wasps can enter. These wasps lay eggs in some flowers while at the same time transferring pollen between other flowers. The pollinated flowers form seeds while the other incubate wasp larve that eventually turn into wasps that fly off to new fig flowers. Sure makes you hungry for a fig, doesn't it! *Dorstenia* flowers are fascinating in that they are something of an evolutionary precursor to the fig flower. They are minute, but the fruit like receptacle is still open, giving an almost alien appearance to the inflorescence.

Both make excellent pot plants, and can be displayed as bonsai. Both are easily grown in root-over-rock style, by growing a plant for a year in a deep, narrow pot, and then taking the resulting roots, pruned back to only a few major ones, and draping them over a rock. The whole assembly should then be buried for a second year, for fast growth. The rock can then be raised to display the roots.

Ficus can be easily propagated from either seed or cuttings. Seed is best planted in late spring, when the weather is guaranteed to be warm. Growth is generally fast, and repotting is necessary soon after germination. Cuttings can be taken any time when in active growth, and simply stuck in damp, loose potting soil. If a cutting is taken with several leaves, best results will be obtained if all the leaves except one or two of the smallest are removed. Rooting is generally rapid.



Ficus petiolaris



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

OCTOBER is the perfect month to talk about science experiments, remember Frankenstein?

I am talking of course, about experimenting with your plants. I am currently running an experiment with five similar cactus plants; *Turbinicarpus horripilus*. Each of these plants started out exactly the same; 1 ½ inches across and 1 ½ inches high, each in a decent seedling mix in a 2 inch pot.

#1 has had the top ½ inch cut off, after allowing it to rest for two days it was transplanted into a 4 inch pot with my typical potting mix; 1/3 native soil (mostly decomposed granite,) 1/3 pumice and 1/3 a commercial soil mix available from Home Depot. Included in this mix is a granular azalea fertilizer which will feed for 3-4 months at 70 degrees soil temperature.

#2 was center punched 1 inch with a hot nail and again two days later was transplanted in a manner similar to #1.

#3 was abused even more; cut in half from roots to growth point. The roots remaining on #3a were cut away and it was grafted to an available stock planted in the same mix in a 4 inch pot. At this point I should be honest and say I have had very poor luck grafting plants, so I have little hope for #3a. #3b was left to callus over for only two days (it has been hot and these are seedlings) then repotted into a 4 inch pot with my mix.

#4 has gotten a very different treatment. I have been doing a lot of reading; as always; and the mention of gypsum kept coming up in all discussions of habitat. So #4 has been repotted into a 4 inch pot with a new mix; ½ native soil, ½ pumice, an appropriate amount of agricultural gypsum and granular azalea fertilizer.

#5 is my control; it received a new 4 inch pot and my typical soil mix.

I'm looking forward to whatever happens; I may have a new potting mix, I'll certainly get offsets from a couple of the plants. But, how many from each plant, and how healthy each plant is will be is what I'm looking forward to seeing.

I hope all of you are staying safe.

Happy growing,
Karen

MEMBERSHIP

Dear LACSS Members,

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a bad year. We have sequestered in our homes, rode the economic roller coaster, and watched friends and family be tragically impacted by Covid-19.

Even with all the challenges, the LACSS Board has worked hard to keep the membership engaged by hosting its Monthly Meetings and "Second" Saturday Workshops online through the Zoom application.

The Club continues to provide excellent speakers who offer plant knowledge for the beginner to the expert, sharing advice for growing, fabulous photographs, and entertaining travel stories.

Plant-of-the-month submissions have extended to in-ground plants that would otherwise be impossible to share. We may not be interacting face to face, but we are still getting to see each other in our Zoom meetings - to socialize, discuss our plants, and feel part of the community.

The LACSS Board Members considered the impact of this year as we looked at our 2021 membership fees. We do not want to lose any members as an outcome of these troubling times. With this in mind, all 2020 memberships will be honored for the year 2021. Any member who so chooses can make a donation of \$20 to help cover our costs, and your donation will be greatly appreciated.

In the next month, you will receive a personal letter from the Membership Chair asking you to confirm your 2021 membership and roster information. Please enclose any donation check with your renewal confirmation.

We hope that you will join us for 2021 and remain safe and healthy.



PLANT^{the} MONTH 2020

SEPTEMBER

Sulcorebutia & Weingartia
Fockea

OCTOBER

Ferocactus & Leuchtenbergia
Dorstenia & Ficus

NOVEMBER

Parodia & Notocactus
Euphorbia Stem Type

DECEMBER

Crest & Monstrose
Crest & Monstrose

PLANT^{the} 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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

DANIEL ALMANZA
LU YI SHAN (FAMILY)
ANDY LEE

VY NGUYEN
RALPH DEEK
KATHIE MATSUYAMA

THE CSSA CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SUCCULENT PLANTS

GARY LYONS, CHAIRMAN, C.S.S.A. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
CACTUS & SUCCULENT JOURNAL (U.S.), VOL. 51, 1979

INTRODUCTION:

The C.S.S.A. Conservation Code, modeled upon the I.O.S. "Code of Conduct," was adopted at the January 20, 1979 CSSA Board of Directors meeting. This code sums up society policy regarding collecting and collected plants and it is hoped that its articles will be read & thoughtfully considered by all. We now have this code because CSSA recognizes that abusive succulent plant collecting still occurs & that such activity can contribute to the extinction of species. USDA figures for October 1978 through March 1979, indicate that nearly 2 million cacti & other succulents were imported into the U.S. in this brief period. Many of these plants—maybe most of them—were field-collected & their impact on wild populations is only a matter of speculation. Endangered species legislation may have lessened the volume of collected plant trade but these figures indicate that abusive collecting is still no joke. Preparation and editing of the Code of Conduct was the work of the CSSA Conservation Committee. Those providing substantial input are Kathleen Kepner of Detroit, Michigan, Dr. Ronald Monroe, Dr. Leroy Phelps, & Dr. Dan Mahr, all of San Diego State University. Virginia Martin, president of the CSSA, also offered constructive comments & criticisms.

CODE AND PURPOSE:

Recognizing that abusive & indiscriminate collecting of native species of succulents can contribute to the depletion of local plant populations & to the extinction of rare or endemic species, the Cactus & Succulent Society of America adopts as a guide for responsible and conscientious conduct the following principles, & recommends that affiliated societies endorse these principles.

ARTICLES:

- I. Do not damage natural populations of plants. In general, removal of plants from habitat should be discouraged. Such plants are valuable reservoirs of natural history that can be studied and appreciated by all.
- II. If plants are to be collected, obey international, national, and local regulation by doing the following:
 - a. Know and abide by local laws regulating removal and export of both protected and unprotected plants. Obtain and carry all necessary permits with you before collecting and removing the plants. (NOTE: this includes abiding by the provisions of the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora; the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; other laws and regulations prohibiting the taking from protected areas such as national parks and state-owned lands or from public or private preserves; and state laws regulating the taking of protected native plants. Some jurisdictions impose heavy fines and possibly jail sentences for illegal taking.)
 - b. Make absolutely sure that the plants collected are not threatened, endangered, or are being proposed for one of these categories. If so protected, such plants may be removed only for scientific study. You should be content to collect seed, if allowed by law, of these species.
- III. Where possible, collect seed, cuttings, or offsets rather than the whole plant. Remember that large plants are needed in habitat to produce seed for regeneration. If you must collect whole plants, be content with small ones; besides, large plants are difficult or impossible to reestablish.
 - a. Never jeopardize natural populations by taking plants in volume numbers; exercise restraint by taking only a few.
 - b. Avoid casual disclosure of specific locations of desirable plants in the wild because this may result in the depletion of the whole population by collectors less scrupulous than you.
- IV. Make careful field notes. Include locality, altitude, other interesting plant associations, vegetation and soil types, date of collection and your field number. If possible, assess the population density. This material should be useful for your own study of these plants and ultimately be a contribution to their conservation.
- V. If a plant species is thought to be endangered, or if you come across information regarding its possible preservation or destruction, please send a report to the CSSA Conservation Committee Chairman.
 - a. Local cactus societies should actively participate in rescue efforts to save native succulents from destruction resulting from land clearing and land development.
- VI. Photographs of the habitat area are advisable.
- VII. In the management of your own collection:
 - a. Propagate rare plants and contribute to their survival by distributing them.
 - b. Grow plants from seed and make seeds available to others.
 - c. Label plants clearly and correctly, particularly if you specialize in certain groups.
 - d. Maintain good records.
 - e. Make well-grown plants your emphasis, not size or rarity.
- VIII. Buy plants from reputable nurserymen. Do not patronize a supplier who trades in illegally obtained, unpropagated, imported plants, or one who knowingly exports or imports plants contrary to the provisions of the International Trade Convention.
- IX. At cactus shows, judges should give preference to well-grown seedlings rather than to plants that are obvious imports
 - a. Show committees should indicate that more credit will be given to plants that are difficult to grow rather than those that are rare.
 - b. Showing of field-collected plants listed in the Smithsonian Report on Endangered Species and Appendix I of the International Trade Convention should be discouraged.

DESERT CREATIONS

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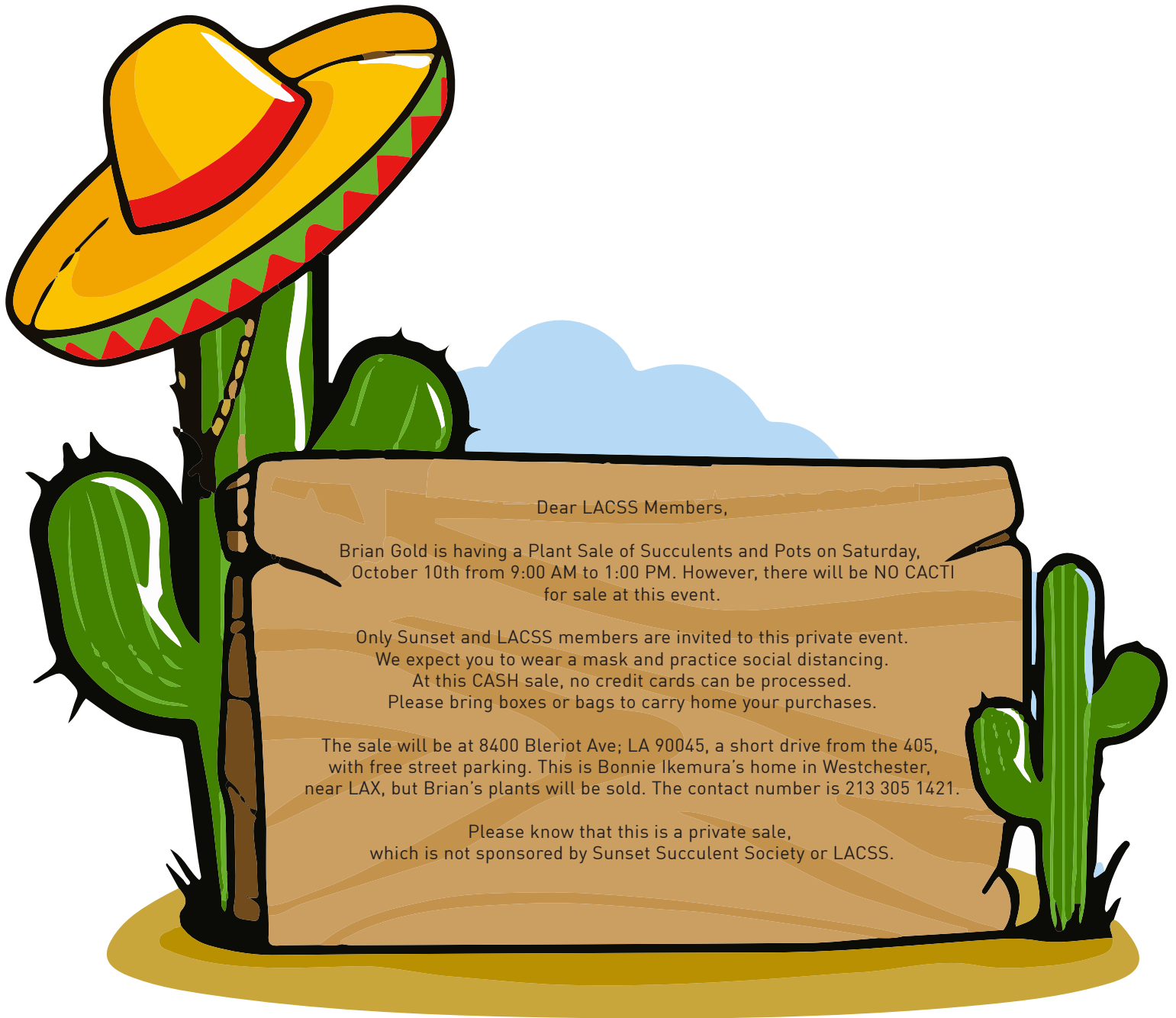
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Lake View Terrace, CA 91342
(Right off the Wheatland exit on the 210 Freeway)

Vendors



Dear LACSS Members,

Brian Gold is having a Plant Sale of Succulents and Pots on Saturday, October 10th from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. However, there will be NO CACTI for sale at this event.

Only Sunset and LACSS members are invited to this private event.

We expect you to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

At this CASH sale, no credit cards can be processed.

Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

The sale will be at 8400 Bleriot Ave; LA 90045, a short drive from the 405, with free street parking. This is Bonnie Ikemura's home in Westchester, near LAX, but Brian's plants will be sold. The contact number is 213 305 1421.

Please know that this is a private sale,
which is not sponsored by Sunset Succulent Society or LACSS.