



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.



REFRESHMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER!

LAST NAMES STARTING
WITH: **I - P**

SEE YOU AT THE AUGUST MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3RD
6:30PM

THE ONE GENERATION CENTER
18255 VICTORY BLVD,
RESEDA, CA 91335

Monthly Meeting Program : October

A DREAM COME TRUE

Rare Succulents Nursery

I am very pleased to have convinced Ms. Petra Crist to speak at our Meeting. She is a well-known and respected enthusiast within our hobby. Petra is sensitive about her noticeable German accent, and expressed a little concern that our members will have difficulty understanding her. I find it endearing when I have spoken with her. Her presentation subject will be "How to Develop and Build a Nursery". Petra operates a remarkable one, and her story of how it came to be will be the subject of her presentation.

Ron Behar
V.P. Programs

PETRA CRIST



IN EARLY 1994, I came from Germany to California. Back in Germany I already had a few Cacti and Succulents which I was growing on my window sills. I, of course, had no idea about the difference between the two of them at the time. I was a dressage rider and heavily involved in dressage circles in Germany and beyond. That, besides my job as a lab tech in Pathology, kept me quite busy.

Shortly after moving here, one of my husbands' friends brought up the upcoming Inter-City Show and Sale and we went to have a look - well, what can I say? They had to push me into the building, as I was utterly overwhelmed trying to take it all in at the same time. My collection started right there with the first 10 plants. It got the proverbial ball rolling. I found plants all over the place and eventually joined the San Gabriel club - which made things "worse". The plant addiction had taken hold of me. It changed my life and my interests. We also started traveling to some of the habitats and my desire to grow my plants to the potential that I saw in habitat increased as well. So, I started playing around with what I could do, taking advantage of Southern California weather.

Besides collecting more and more plants, I also started growing from seed and that soon filled up our little back-yard in Whittier. I took over some neighbors' yards as well. Eventually we started looking for property where I could grow and in 2009 we found "The Farm". It felt like "A Dream Come True" and little did I know or realize that I was becoming "The Slave of my Own Dreams".

The funniest occurrence I had after collecting for a year or two was when I proudly told a lady at one of the shows that I had about a hundred plants. She just looked at me and told me to wait till I had a thousand. I thought she was utterly crazy. Needless to mention that as time went on, I became the crazy one exceeding a thousand plants. The lady at the show was Norma Lewis.

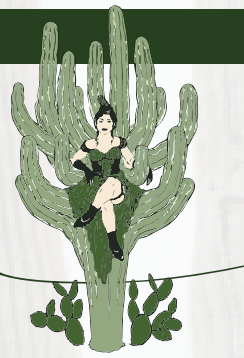
Looking forward to share some of my "craziness" - the development of the nursery = The Farm we bought in early 2009 and that is now the home of Rare Succulents Nursery with you on Thursday, Oct. 04, 2018. It is Called "A Dream Come True".

See you there.

Petra Crist



A Word From Our President



Hello everyone,

Hope you are all enjoying the weather. It has been an amazing September. Our fall sale was a huge success! Kal and his team did a great job. Thank you to everyone that volunteered. The vendors all did a great job of providing a great selection of plants and pottery for the public. Kathleen and her team did an incredible job of signing up many new members. Hopefully many of them will be able to be at the meeting. Unfortunately, I will not be able to be at the meeting because of a work conflict. So please welcome all the new faces and show them around.

We have elections coming up and Joyce will be making important announcements concerning that.

The Holiday Party Committee is already making plans and I hope everyone will plan to attend in December.

Kathleen will be collecting memberships so make sure you bring your checkbook so we can help her get everyone's current information and dues paid. I would love to have it all done by the Holiday Party.

At One Generation, we have to set up the chairs and tables and at the end of the meeting we need to break it down. Please we need help. If you can come a little early or maybe stay a little after

I know Collin has been doing a great job of getting some really great plants for the drawing. Buy your tickets early because we will be doing the drawing before the speaker again.

Don't forget to bring in a picture of or a problem plant to Ask The Expert.

Have a great meeting and a wonderful October. I will see you in November!

Kim Chavez

2019 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT
Kim Chavez

1ST VP, PROGRAMS
Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH
Manny Rivera

3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS
Diane Miller

SECRETARY
Matt Gatskill
LACSS.contact@gmail.com

TREASURER
Gretchen Davis

FALL SALE CHAIR
Kal Kaminer

DIRECTOR 1 (2017-2018) ODD YRS.
Ilona Buratti

DIRECTOR 2 (2018-2019) EVEN YRS.
Artie Chavez

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Joyce Schumann

HISTORIAN
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CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR
Kimberly Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

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Debi Heaps

MEETING REFRESHMENTS
Sylvia Strehlo

MONTHLY DRAWING
Leah Imamura & Juana Williams

KIDS OUTREACH
Nicolene Bova

SEPTEMBER MEETING PHOTO RECAP

Photo credit: Ron Cooper



PLANT OF THE MONTH 2019

OCTOBER

Opuntiod from South America
Adromischus

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

PLANT OF THE MONTH 2020

JANUARY

Turbinicarpus & Gymnocactus
Tylecodon

FEBRUARY

Buiningia & Uebelmannia
Aloe species

MARCH

Eriosyce
Haworthia

APRIL

Obregonia, Strombocactus,
Ortegocactus
Agave

MAY

Small cacti & succulent staged as
miniature

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Aztekium & Geohintonia
Pachypodium from Madagascar
& Plumeria

AUGUST

Sulcorebutia & Weingartia
Fockea

SEPTEMBER

Ferocactus & Leuchtenbergia
Dorstenia & Ficus

SEPTEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Photo credit: Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



ASTROPHYTUM ORNATUM
NICK STEINHARDT



EUPHORBIA LABATII
EMILY + JOHN



ASTROPHYTUM ASTERIAS MONSTROSE
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN & KIMBERLY TONG



EUPHORBIA FRANCOISII
JIM & ROXIE ESTERLE



ASTROPHYTUM CAPUT MEDUSAE
KAREN OSTLER



EUPHORBIA AMBOVOMBENSIS
KAREN OSTLER

PLANT ^{OF THE} MONTH

PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2020

The Plant of the Month competition is an important educational component of our monthly meetings. By showing your specimens, you learn tips about their care and staging, and gain recognition for a job well done.

The most intense competition has been in the "Rookie" division, with exceptional entries from many new members. In order to elevate the levels of competition in the more experienced divisions, the LACSS Board has initiated some new policies that will move people into higher levels of competition and increase the number of entries in the Advanced and Open divisions.

In addition, point counts will begin at 0 in each category, with 6 points for a first place, 4 points for a second place, 2 points for a third place, and 1 point for each plant entered.

Plant voted "BEST OF SHOW" receives 4 extra points.

NEW COMPETITION DIVISIONS

Rookie

0 - 50 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "rookie" award points

Novice

0 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "novice" award points

Advanced

0 to 200 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "advanced" points

Open

Experienced growers who have earned 200 "advanced" points along with vendors who sell at shows outside of LACSS.

1. All plants must be in exhibitor's possession for a minimum of 6 months. This does not apply to Rookies.
2. All plants must be free of pests.
3. 3" Miniature refers to inside diameter of the pot.
4. Size on odd shaped pots is determined by adding length plus width and dividing by two.
5. With the exception of Gasterias and Sansevierias; all variegates, crests, and monstrose must appear only in those categories.
6. Plants stands or risers may only be used if the plant cascades below the level of the pot, e.g. Rhipsalis, Hoya, etc.

OCTOBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

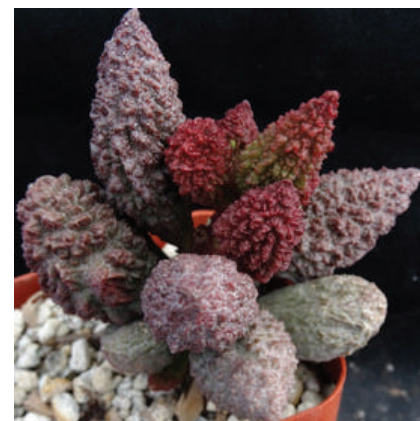
ADROMISCHUS BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

The Crassulaceae is one of the largest and best known plant families to cactus and succulent enthusiasts. It includes such well known genera such as Crassula, Echeveria, Dudleya, Sedum, Kalanchoe, Aeonium and others. They are usually known as forming rosettes of fleshy leaves or stems with neatly arranged leaves. They are native to every continent except Antarctica, with areas of high diversity in Mexico, the Mediterranean, Southeast Asia and especially Southern Africa. South Africa & Namibia are where our genus of the month, Adromischus, can be found.

Adromischus contains approximately 30 species of creeping or short upright perennial herbs. Unlike most of the Crassulaceae family these plants do not form rosettes and only a few are readily recognizable as belonging to the family at all unless you are familiar with technical floral characters. Though some species could be mistaken for a Kalanchoe. The upright plants rarely get more than a foot tall and the creeping varieties stay small as well. What makes them popular to grow and collect are the unusual and colorful leaves. The most common leaf shape is wide fat leaf with a crescent to nearly circular shape. Other leaf shapes include cylindrical, triangular, egg shaped, crinkled edges, and even ones that look like rocks! These leaves are quite colorful too. While some are plain green, most have reddish highlights or mottling. Some leaves are gray with brown or red spots, some are bluish green, others are covered in hairs. With all the combinations of leaf shapes and colors it is no wonder that these plants have started to peak the interest of hybridizers!

It is important to understand that these plants are partial winter growers like Gasteria and Haworthia. By that I mean that they put on most of their growth from fall to spring, but don't go into a hard dormancy like certain winter growers such as Albuca, or Conophytum. So you can water in the summer, but less often during that time. In fact, when we get to the real heat of summer, usually late July through early September, I stop watering entirely. It literally took me years to do this as I was just sure they wanted some water during a heat wave. Every time I'd do that, I'd start losing quite a few plants to rot. Finally, when I stopped watering during that time the survival rate went way up. Aside from this issue care is fairly straightforward. During the growing season water when nearly dry (they even appreciate the occasional rain storm) and give them bright light but not too much full sun. They like it on the shadier side, but not too dark as you do want to maintain the color.



Adromischus herrei



Adromischus trigynus "Coral Hearts"



Adromischus geyeri

Propagation is simple as they readily root from leaf cuttings. Remove a leaf and put it base down in a cactus mix. A little moisture is fine but don't water too much until the leaf develops roots. After the roots form it won't be long until a small shoot with new leaves start growing. As the new stem grows the original leaf will shrivel away on its own. The ease and simplicity of propagation is a great feature of the plant as if you overwater your plant and it rots you can save it by harvesting the leaves and potting them up.

OCTOBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

OPUNTIA FROM SOUTH AMERICA BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams



Tephrocactus articulatus



Austrocyllindropuntia pachypus

Opuntia is one of the largest genera of the Cactaceae (cactus family) and is the most common type of cactus in North America. Plants in this genus form jointed stems that to many look like leaves (but aren't). The most distinctive (and reviled) feature of Opuntia are "glochids", tiny hair like spines that stick in your skin even if you just brush against the plant lightly. Always have tweezers ready when Opuntia are near! Jointed stems and glochids are found in most of the Opuntioideae, which consists of Opuntia and several closely related genera (see below).

For the sake of the "Plant of the Month" we will include South American Opuntia plus all the South American "Opuntioideae" genera. This includes Austrocyllindropuntia, Cumulopuntia, Pereskioopsis, Quiabentia, Brasilopuntia, Miqueliopuntia, Tacinga, Tunilla, Pterocactus, Puna, Maihuniopsis, and Tephrocactus. Note that the Chollas, Cyllindropuntia, are NOT South American cacti.

Opuntia (in the broad sense) covers the largest geographical range of any cactus, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and a noxious weed in many places, and is displacing native vegetation in parts of Africa, Asia, Madagascar and Australia.

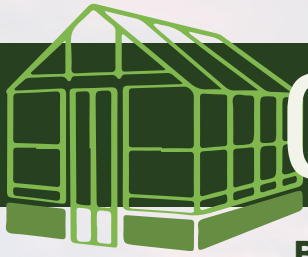
The taxonomy of Opuntia is quite complex and is bound to keep plant taxonomists busy for years to come! Some of the genera I mentioned above are widely accepted while others are accepted by some and others consider them part of a larger Opuntia. Most of the recent changes in the Opuntia group is due to recent DNA phylogeny studies of the species.

Propagation of all Opuntias is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months or years.

Handling of Opuntias is somewhat of a problem due to their glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.



Puna clavarioides



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

October is the beginning of autumn here in the mountains. My first frost date is the 15th; in the San Fernando Valley the first frost date is November 15th. And truth be told, for the Valley frost is a short lived phenomena. Low temperatures might happen for an hour in the time before dawn, but here in the mountains, a hard frost can last hours; burning plants to the roots overnight. By mid September I am beginning to move plants from their summer growing positions in the yard into either the greenhouse or the house. I take our frost date seriously. We are already experiencing cooler nights and cooler days and have already had monsoons that delivered a half an inch of rain. In the Valley, summer's heat is still holding on; but make no mistake; with the odd weather we are currently experiencing anything is possible.

There are things that have to be done before plants can be moved into their winter living quarters. Each plant must be inspected for pests; imagine moving a *Pseudobombax ellipticum* into the your sunroom for the winter, only to discover it harbored a wealth of pill bugs, or a slug, or more a particular fear; a Huntsman spider. Nasty enough critters outside, but in the warmth and safety of your covered porch, your greenhouse or home, they can multiply and cause immense damage.

I begin by checking all pot openings for bugs; if it is a succulent; each leaf is thoroughly inspected for scale, or mealy bugs, or that real bane; spider mites. The outside of the pot is washed, sometimes I change the top dressing to prevent introducing fungus gnats; the plant is very well watered and then moved into its winter home.

I make certain that if it is going into the greenhouse that it is introduced to the very high light slowly, moving from the *Gasteria/Sansevieria* greenhouse; a semi-shaded position; then moving into the either the bright *Mammillaria* greenhouse or the very, very, bright light of the *Opuntia/Ariocarpus* greenhouse.

I do have plants that move from the greenhouse into the yard for the winter; *Sempervivums*, *Rosularias*, some *Aizoaceae*; and the technique is much the same. Check for scorpions, or spiders or the very worst; some sort of rodent, although that is a very rare occurrence, that thankfully has only happened once.

Watering takes on a different cadence as well; I stop fertilizing at the end of September, and the frequency of watering in the greenhouse goes from once a week in the heat, to every couple of weeks depending on the temperature.

Our plants can take a lot of abuse, remember the watch words; benign neglect; to grow them to their absolute best takes a lot work, but the rewards are fabulous.

Happy growing!

Karen Ostler

LACSS 3RD ANNUAL FALL SALE

Thanks to the 2019 Fall Sale Volunteers

Many of you had the opportunity to attend our September Fall Sale. Many of you also contributed your time and expertise to insure the success of the sale. Did you see the line waiting for 9:00AM to arrive!!? A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT TO BEHOLD!!! The weather was kind to us which brought a steady trickle of visitors to our sale all day long.

This club is so very lucky to have members who say they have only two hours to spend with us and then spend the entire day making sure our visitors have an enjoyable visit.

In no particular order I am giving a REALLY BIG THANK YOU to all who volunteered for this event. Each of you set the high standard for unselfish giving:

Jan Wittenberg, Richard Broome, Felipe Delgado, Steffanie Delgado, Philip Delgado, Miguel Delgado, Charlotte Yerke, Freddie Anderson, Merkie Rowan, Stan Kaplan, Jennifer Edwards, Mary Chan, Sandy Chase, Shelly Chase, Dina Rosenberg, Kathy Gogol, Carrie Campbell, Josh Cerrantes, Juanna Williams, James Ramos, Jennai Amas, Evelyn Cook, Bonnie Ikemura, Kaz Benadom, Rosemary Ecker, Angela Clubb, Emily Akers, John Giesing, Ralph Masey, Gail Bixby, Tom McKenna, Martin Ostler, Harry Gasabyan.

I would also like to thank all the elected and appointed officers who contribute hours and hours of their time, energy, and creative energy prior to and during each and every event LACSS produces. Without their leadership, the Club would be without a rudder.

As an additional show of appreciation, we will hold another random drawing of all the volunteers. Names drawn will be awarded a pot, provided by various generous vendors. You must be present to win.

My sincerest apologies if I have failed to include your name in the above list or misspelled your name.

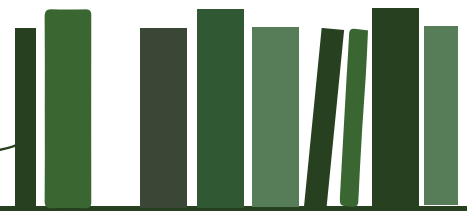
If you didn't have a chance to volunteer or come shopping, there's always next year.....

Thanks again to all of you.

Best,
Joyce Schumann, Volunteer Coordinator



From the Stacks of the Library



BY JOYCE SCHUMANN

Even though the Show and Sale season is almost at an end there is still excitement to be found. Oh yeah... you say...Where? You say? In the LACSS Library, of course!!

Two new books for our collection:

Our September speaker, Stephan Ingram, was generous enough to donate a signed copy of his new book to our library. In 2008, Stephen published "Cacti, Agave and Yuccas of California and Nevada." It was very well received at that time. In 2017, he revised the book and now we have a copy of it. If you have read his first volume, then it will be a good challenge for you to find the revisions. Both books are filled with beautiful photos, most in habitat, maps, appendices, bibliographies and, of course, descriptions of the featured plant - over 150 pages.

Our second book is new to us. Published in 2004, its title is "The Genus Turbinicarpus" by Milan Zachar. Don't let the plant names cause you to not want to see this book. In this book, the Genus Turbinicarpus is divided into two Subgenera - Turbinicarpus and Rapicactus. The Turbinicarpus subgenera is divided into six sections. Included in the book are descriptions, photos, and a list of hybrids. If you feel the need to conduct your own research, there are over 20 pages of a very small font bibliography. If you are a Latin scholar, there is a summary of each plant description in Latin.

The photos in both books also serve as a documentation to the severe areas that these plants live in.

Don't take my word for it!! Stop by the Library table and

CHECK THEM OUT!!

See you soon,

Joyce Schumann

Word of the Month

CALLUS

noun, plural
cal·lus·es.

[kal-uh s] Definition of *callus*

- a. the tissue that forms over the wounds of plants, protecting the inner tissues and causing healing.
- b. a deposit on the perforated area of a sieve tube.
- c. (in grasses) a tough swelling at the base of a lemma or palea.



LACSS

2019 HOLIDAY AWARDS DINNER

CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS ARE SUCH FUN.
 SCRATCHES AND POKES ON EVERYONE!
 AS A YEAR OF FERTILIZING AND REPLANTING ENDS,
 LET US ALL PARTY WITH LACSS FRIENDS!

- WHEN:** Saturday, December 14, 2019
 4:30-9:00- PARTYTIME
- WHERE:** ONEGeneration
 18255 Victory Blvd, Reseda CA 91335
- DINNER:** POTLUCK- sign up at meeting
 No oven to cook food
 Microwave available
 Limited plug in for crock pot etc at food tables
 The club will cater the main meat dish, soft drinks, water, tea and coffee
- ACTIVITIES:** 4:30-5:00 Arrive with your potluck food
 5:00-6:00 Mingle and appetizers
 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 4:30-7:30 Silent Auction
 7:00-9:00 Announce silent auction winners
 Entertainment
 Live auction
- RSVP:** NOW!!! ASAP by December 7
- SIGN UP:** At meeting or Debi Heaps
 (818) 207-0254 - cell
 heapsgasgirl@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS ELECTIONS VOTE

As announced at the last meeting, nominations from the floor will be accepted for the following LACSS offices:

PRESIDENT

THIRD VICE PRESIDENT - SPECIAL EVENTS

TREASURER

DIRECTOR 2 - EDUCATION.

Each of these positions have a term of two years.

Elections will take place at the November meeting. Make sure you attend the meetings so your voice will be heard.

MEMBERSHIPS MEMBERSHIPS MEMBER

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT THE MEETING AND GET A FREE RAFFLE TICKET

You heard right. **FREE.** My favorite word.

We want to get ahead on the paperwork so we can enjoy the holiday party.
So please help the new membership team. You can use your card or check or cash.
See you at the desk. \$20 individual. \$25 family.

MEMBERSHIPS MEMBERSHIPS ME

OCTOBER EVENTS

OCTOBER

OCTOBER 5-6

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE
SATURDAY 9:00AM - 5:00PM, SUNDAY 10:00AM - 3:00PM
SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS RD. ENCINITAS CA
FOR MORE INFO BRITA_MILLER@YAHOO.COM
CALL (858) 382 1797

OCTOBER 12-13

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
SATURDAY 10:00AM - 5:00PM, SUNDAY 11:00AM - 3:00PM
ST PAULS'S CHURCH, 2216 17TH ST, BAKERSFIELD CA 93304
FOR MORE INFO CALL (661) 831 8488