



CACTUS CHRONICLE

Mission Statement:

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

CSSA Affiliate

Next Meeting
Thursday

April 7, 2016

16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91346

Doors Open
at 6:15 pm

Meeting begins
at 7:00pm

Refreshments for
January

"E-H"

New Members

Molly Dahn
Phil Fox
Madelyn Gordon
Kal Kaminer
Marcia MacKay
Jan Parsonault
Christina Patrick
Joseph and Jacob
Sharifi
Ruth Tapuchi

Editor

Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@
yahoo.com

Email:
Lacactus.com

April Program: All You Want to Know about Geraniums and Pelargoniums

Matt's talk will include a photo and video presentation of the Scented Leaf Geranium Garden at the LA County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Matt supplied all the plants for the garden and helped to layout and install the planting. He will also bring examples of different Geraniums and Pelargoniums to show and sell.



Matt-Dell Tufenkian is a second generation nurseryman. He grew up in East Los Angeles in a house that had a double lot backyard filled with plants. Matt's parents ran the International Geranium Society for many years, and are responsible for increasing the popularity of geraniums and pelargoniums among LA area gardeners. As a child, Matt enthusiastically followed his parent's lead, cultivating geraniums of his own and even won a "Best In Show" ribbon for his plant entry when he was eight years old. Later, when an insensitive adult dubbed him "Geranium Boy," Matt made up his mind then and there to learn everything he could about every kind of plant.

Over the years, Matt has worked at many local nurseries, and now (with his wife, Rebecca) owns one of his own: Dominus Plantarum - A (backyard based) Nursery and Plant Brokering Service. They keep many collectable plants on hand. Additionally, they sell plants wholesale to designers and resellers, and retail to the general public.

Matt holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Cal Poly Pomona. His garden designs have been featured in the Pasadena Showcase House of Design, in the L.A. Garden Show at the Los Angeles County Arboretum, and on HGTV. He is a past President of the Southern California Hemerocallis and Amaryllis Society (A.K.A. The Bulb Club), a current Board Member of Altadena Heritage, the Altadena Chamber of Commerce, Geranium Society, the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society, and Southern California Horticulture Society.

Currently, Matt and his wife, Rebecca, are hosting a Thursday morning garden discussion series, "What's Happening in Gardening," at the LA County Arboretum & Botanic Garden.

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Joyce Schumann
1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias
2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera
3rd VP, Special Events

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Cheryl White
LACSS.contact@gmail.com

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Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairperson

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Awards

Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

April, 2016

One of the FAQs is "How do I repot my cactus?" Succulents are relatively safe to handle with a few exceptions –for example, Euphorbias with their irritating sap and Agaves with their famous end points and hooks.

Cacti are a challenge that many choose to shy away from. The Mentoring/workshop/repotting session held Sunday, March 20 answered the above question. We were presented with the challenge to repot as many viable cacti from Victor Turecek's collection as we could. Following Artie's excellent demonstration, everyone had a chance to practice and hone their skills on a few smaller plants and then accept the challenge of the bigger, more difficult to handle plants. I am pleased to report that no one ended up in emergency and more than 40 plants were prepared for our Festival Club Sale table. Many thanks to Ilona for her hospitality, generosity, and fabulous lunch. And a huge THANK YOU to Artie. It goes without saying; this event would not have been a success without Artie's willingness to share his time and knowledge. But the real heroes of this session are the 20 or so who came, who learned and who potted as they never thought they could!

On Saturday, March 19 the club held its 3rd Saturday of the Month Program. It was very special because Paul Klaassen chose us, and only us, as his only stop in Southern California, before his return to England. His program featured the Atacama Desert, aka the driest place on earth. Just before his trip there, it had rained 3 millimeters of rain. Check your rulers- that's about an eighth of an inch! The most rain that area had received in **80** years!! His photos showed hills of flowers similar to the ones we expect around Gorman. Very unexpectedly glorious! Then he shared photos of Copiapos that were 3-5 feet tall. The ones I have seen in cultivation are rarely more than a few inches tall. One Copiapo was estimated to be about 1000 years old. The rest were younger- at around 200-300 years old.

Recently, LACSS was cited for copyright infringement of one photo in an old issue of the Chronicle. We could not prove that it was our photo and were required to pay the company compensation for the use of their photo. We also had to remove that issue of the Chronicle from our website. And now, a special request: In the future, all photos for the Chronicle must include photo credit. It doesn't need to be a tedious chore. You could give photo credit in the article if they are all yours. Or place a credit near the photo, if not yours. And more importantly, if the photo comes from the internet, don't use it. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

And on that note, see you soon.
Joyce

What Did I Miss?” OR “I Didn’t Hear That!”

March, 2016

A special item of interest was presented at the March meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee recommended some changes in our by-laws to reduce the size of our Board of Directors. Members approved those changes. This means that every time we need a Board meeting, we need to coordinate only 12 calendars rather than 23.

Jim Esterle gave an update on the status of the Festival. He brought a box of Festival flyers and posters. Everyone was encouraged to take some of each to help distributed in their communities.

Diane Miller gave an update of the April Special tours of Cima Dome and also the house tour of Marquita Elias and Cheryl White. Please inform Diane if you plan on attending either or both of those tours.

Our speaker, Woody Minnich, gave a very entertaining program on South Africa-Land of the Halfmen.

There was good participation in the POM competition. We still encourage everyone to participate. If you are tired of the same people winning, bring in your plants. As we have said before, you can’t win if you don’t compete.

Our speaker, Woody Minnich, provided a nice selection of plants for our raffle. He always offers an interesting background story for each plant that makes each plant more special. As usual, the meeting was adjourned immediately after the raffle.

Free Free Free Free Free

The Club has three black-out cloths approximately nine feet long and 20 inches wide plus two of the same material but 6 feet long and 20 inches wide. These would make excellent black background cloths for photography. If anyone is interested, they will be at the front of the room near the podium.

Free Free Free Free Free

❧ LACSS Garden Tour ❧

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Please join us on Saturday, April 16, 2016 for our next LACSS Garden Tour. This tour takes us to the Camarillo/Newbury Park area where we will see two beautiful gardens at different stages of maturity.

Time: 10:00- 12:00

Place: Home of Marquita Ellias (address to follow via email)

Time: 12:30-2:30

Place: Home of Cheryl White (address to follow via email)

Light refreshments will be available. Please wear your LACSS badge.

Home of Marquita and John Ellias

Inspired by the incredible succulents of The Canary Islands, Marquita and John have transformed their yard into a blended oasis of exotic plants, aloes and aeoniums. Southwestern native plants from California and Arizona are also featured in this beautiful garden. Come see how their young garden is thriving!



Before



After

Home of Cheryl White

Frank and Cheryl began designing their yard around cacti and succulents in 2000, inspired by the cactus garden at the Huntington. They have a 'formal' garden in the back that consists mostly of cacti and agaves. The front and side yards are less scripted, but all plants are succulents or other drought tolerant plants. Every day, something is blooming! This spectacular, mature garden is featured in the LACSS Calendar for May 2016. Cheryl is looking forward to sharing their garden with all of you!

Please RSVP to Diane Miller at 818-882-1856 or by email to dianemiller@socal.rr.com. Please include "LACSS" in the subject line.

❧ LACSS/SGVCSS Cima Dome Field Trip ❧

April 9-10, 2016



The overnight trip to Cima Dome led by Gunnar Eisel has been confirmed! Please RSVP to dianemiller@socal.rr.com if you are planning to attend so that we have an accurate head count. A full itinerary will be emailed to you after you RSVP. The following is a summary of the trip. All participants are responsible for the cost of their own accommodations, food, and gas. I hope you can join us!

- **Saturday, April 9th:**

8:00am Meet in Baker at The Thermometer

10:00am - Arrive at Cima Dome - 2 hour hike

1:00pm - Arrive at 2nd hike site - 2 hour hike

3:00pm - Depart for the Fiesta Hotel, Henderson, NV

- **Sunday, April 10:**

9:00am - Meet at Ethel M's Botanic Garden and Shop in Henderson

11:00am - Visit Moon-Sun Cactus & Koi Gardens

1:30pm - Cactus Joe's Blue Diamond Nursery

3:00pm - Depart for home.

Suggestions for What to Bring: Water, water, water! Snacks for yourself, lunch, sunscreen, hat, and camera. Wear shoes appropriate for hiking.



If you have any questions, you may contact Diane Miller at dianemiller@socal.rr.com or you may contact Gunnar Eisel directly at gunner.eisel@gmail.com.

2016 15th Biennial Mid States Cactus and Succulent Conference

Hosted by the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society

Information for general distribution

Scheduled dates of Conference: **June 9, 10 and 11 2016 and June 12th optional.**

Conference registration before May 1st \$85.00, after May 1st \$100.00

Venue for Conference: **Double Tree by Hilton, 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014**

Mention "Colorado Cactus" when booking at the Double Tree. A listing of other adjacent hotels and restaurants is available in the Colorado CSS web site. (coloradocactus.org).

Schedule of events:

Thursday June 9th from noon to 10:00pm

Registration, noon till 10:00pm

Social gathering at Double Tree lobby: 5:30pm till late (hors-d'oeuvres, drinks, etc.)

Plant and Pottery pre-sale tickets sold from 5:00pm to 6:30pm

Plant and Pottery pre-sale ticket winners, (10) enter sale at 6:30pm to 7:00pm

Plant and Pottery sale from 7:00pm to 10:00pm open to all MSC registrants

Friday June 10th from 8:00am to 5:00pm

Registration: all morning till noon. (full conference or single day)

Plant and Pottery sales open all day from 8:00am till 5:00pm

8:30am – 9:00am, **Conference Opening and Welcome**

9:00am – 10:00am **Panayoti Kelaidis, "C & S from Botanical Gardens around the World"**

10:15am – 11:00am **Bob Barth, "The Canary Island Succulents"**

11:00am – 1:00pm Lunch on your own

1:00pm – 2:00pm **Woody Minnich, "The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila, Mexico"**

2:15pm – 3:00pm **Dave Ferguson, "The World of Opuntias"**

3:15pm – 5:00pm **Kelly Grummons, Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"**
hands on demo

5:00pm – On your own for Dinner and Social time

Saturday June 11th from 8:00am to 5:00pm and 7:00pm to 10:00pm Banquet

Registration; all morning till noon (single day registration only)

Plant and Pottery sales; 8:00am to 4:00pm, registers close at 5:00pm

9:00am – 9:45am **Marcia Tatroe, "Rocking with Cacti and Succulents"**

10:00am – 11:00am **Steve Lovecky, "The Cacti and Succulents of Texas"**

11:00am – 1:00pm Lunch on your own

1:00pm – 2:00pm **Kelly Griffin, "Rare and Seldom seen Agaves and Aloes"**

2:15pm – 3:00pm **Leo Chance, "Cold Hardies for the Mid States"**

3:15pm – 5:00pm **Peter Walkowiak, "Staging Cacti & Succulents for the Show" demo**

6:30pm – 7:00pm Banquet Social, Banquet Dinner from 7:00pm to 8:30pm

8:30pm – 9:00pm **Woody Minnich, "It's all About the People"**

9:00pm – 10:00pm **Plant, Pottery and Art Auction, All quality items**

Sunday June 12th, Field Trips or on your own all day, or travel day.

8:00am to 5:00pm Field trips to various local gardens & Colorado Springs.

See Colorado CSS web site for more info, (coloradocactus.org).

**Confirmed Speakers and Vendors for the
15th Biennial Mid States Cactus and Succulent Conference
June 9,10, 11th 2016 Aurora, Colorado**

Speakers	<i>General Title, titles subject to be modified</i>	
Bob Barth	The Canary Island Succulents	<i>Texas</i>
Leo Chance	Cold Hardies for the Mid States	<i>Colorado</i>
Dave Ferguson	The World of Opuntias	<i>New Mexico</i>
Kelly Griffin	Rare and Seldom seen Agaves and Aloes	<i>California</i>
Kelly Grummons	Propagation and Cultivation of Cacti and Succulents	<i>CO</i>
Panayoti Kelaidis	<i>Conference Introduction, Cacti and Succulents from Botanical Gardens Around the World</i> <i>Colorado</i>	
Steve Lovecky	The Cacti and Succulents of Texas	<i>Texas</i>
Woody Minnich	<i>Banquet Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila It's All About the People</i> <i>New Mexico</i>	
Marcia Tatroe	Rocking, with Cacti and Succulents	<i>Colorado</i>
Peter Walkowiak	Staging plants for the show	<i>California</i>

Vendors		
Cactus Data Plants	Woody Minnich	<i>Edgewood, New Mexico</i>
Carol Wichern Ceramics	Carol Wichern	<i>Denver, Colorado</i>
Ceramics	Tim Preston	<i>Denver, Colorado</i>
Cold Hardy Cacti	Leo Chance	<i>Colorado Springs, CO</i>
Coldhardycactus.com	Kelly Grummons	<i>Denver, Colorado</i>
Crump's Greenhouse	Mike Crump	<i>Buena Vista, Colorado</i>
J & J Cactus	Joyce Hochtritt	<i>Midwest City, Oklahoma</i>
Paul's Desert Plants	Paul Kiebler	<i>San Antonio, Texas</i>
PW Plants	Peter Walkowiak	<i>Escondido, California</i>

There are two vendors not shown on this list, they are not confirmed as of yet.

The Conference will be held at the Double Tree by Hilton 13696 Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014. 1-844-596-2350 June 9-12, 2016 A special room rate of \$104.00 has been arranged for Conference attendees

If you have any questions regarding the speakers or vendors, please contact Woody Minnich cactusdata@msn.com 1-661-406-9816 March 15, 2016

Reserve July 26-31 2017

CSSA 2017 Biennial Convention

Hosted by
Central Arizona C&S Society

Field Trips

1. Desert Botanical Garden
2. Boyce Thompson Arboretum,
Wallace Garden
3. Private Gardens
4. Hike in the Four Peaks region
lead by Doug Dawson

World Renown Speakers
Plant Sale and Auction
and more to come...



Convention Hotel

Tempe Mission Palms. It is in downtown Tempe, home to Arizona State University, with many shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. It is a 4-minute walk to a light rail station and 3.5 miles to the airport.

Plant of the Month 2016

April

Parodia, Notocactus
Haworthia

May

Small cactus staged as
a miniature
Small succulent staged
as a miniature

June

Favorite

July

Rebutia, Sulcorebutia
Weingartia
Euphorbia
Non-endemic to
Madagascar

August

Astrophytum
Adenium

September

Turbinicarpus
Gymnocactus
Cyphostema
Cissus

October

Mammillaria with hooks
Asclepiad

November

Variegated

December

Holiday Party

Plant of the Month 2017

January

Copiapoa
Tylecodon

February

Escobaria
Acharragma
Aloe Clusters
(no larger than 6" pot)

March

Echinopsis
Euphorbia Caudiciform

April

Mammillaria
w/out hooks
Bromeliad

Cactus -- Echinocereus

Rookie

First	Sonia Villarroel	Echinocereus pilanus
Second	Al Mindez	Echinocereus v.rubispinus
Third	Regina Fernandez	Echinocereus v. rubispinus

Novice

First	Kyle Williams	Echinocereus rigidissimus v. rubispinus
Second	Linda Holub	Echinocereus fendleri
Third	Nils Schirmacher	Echinocereus dansii

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Echinocereus brandegeei
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Echinocereus leonensis
Third	Barbara Hall	Echinocereus davisii
Third	Kim Thorpe	Echinocereus triglochidiatus

Open

First	John Matthews	Echinocereus brandegeei
Second	Manny Rivera	Echinocereus knippelianus
Third	Manny Rivera	Echinocereus viridiflorus

Succulent -- Conophytum

Rookie

First	Jan Parsoneault	Conophytum wettsteinii
Second	Sharren Greenblatt	Conophytum triebneri
Third	Sharren Greenblatt	Conophytum pearsmitii sonii

Novice

First	Kyle Williams	Conophytum pellucidum
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Advanced

First	Barbara Hall	Conophytum meyeri 'Extractum'
Second	Kim Thorpe	Conophytum sp.
Second	Kim Thorpe	Conophytum sp.
Third	Barbara Hall	Conophytum 'Mabel's Milkman'

Open

First	Artie Chavez	Conophytum ratum
Second	John Matthews	Conophytum lithopsoides
Third	John Matthews	Conophytum pellucidum v. neohallii

Plant of the Month: *Parodia* (including *Notocactus*)

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 short and columnar with short stiff spines and pronounced ribs. Because of their small size they make great potted plants or, for the largest species, moderately sized landscape plants.



Parodia magnifica



Parodia haselbergii

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 in arid deserts. They are used to more rainfall than their cousins living on the other side of the Andes in the Atacama Desert than would be 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 is 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 a hobbyist needs to 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*. Botanists have determined that all these genera contain 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 part.



Parodia leninghausii



Parodia scopa

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?

-Kyle Williams

Haworthia



This variegated *Haworthia* sold on Ebay for over \$1,600

Haworthia are among the most commonly grown succulent plants. There are about 60 species, but the number of varieties, cultivars and hybrids are overwhelming and continually increasing. *Haworthia*, are very closely related to *Aloe* and *Gasteria*. *Haworthia* are endemic (i.e. native exclusively) to South Africa, and most inhabit a Mediterranean environment not too different from Southern California. The plants are primarily winter growers, though growth can occur from early autumn through early summer.

Haworthia are easy to grow in our climate and in general are tolerant of varying potting mixes so long as they are well draining. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. *Haworthia* can be naturalized as a ground cover, placed under shrub cover in shadier parts of California gardens.

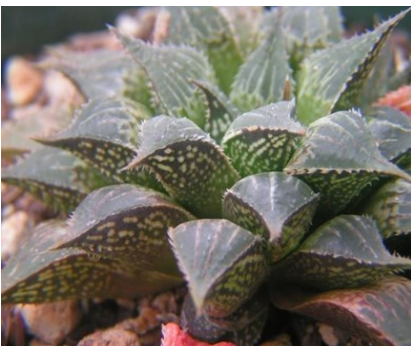
Haworthia like bright light and morning sun, which brings out the color of their leaves. If the light is too dim, the leaves will be a pale green and the leaves will stretch. On the other hand, too much sun in the summer can burn the leaves. Well grown plants form a firm, tightly packed rosette, showing the best color possible. Many species will exhibit reds, greens, whites and browns when grown properly. *Haworthia* are fairly free from most insect infestations, although scale and mealybugs can sometimes attack a plant. Slugs and snails are fond of them as well.



Haworthia limifolia var. *striata*

Plants are most easily propagated from offsets. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in October through January. The trick with *Haworthia* seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most seedling losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering. Fresh seed is needed as most *Haworthia* seed lose their viability after a year or so.

Numerous hybrids and cultivars of *Haworthia* exist, and nowhere have the breeding efforts been more intensive than in Japan. The shapes, colors, and markings are amazing. Also amazing is their price. Renny Hosogai of Simi Valley is the main seller of these cultivars in the United States. Her plants regularly sell for hundreds of dollars on Ebay, with some plants commonly exceeding \$1000. Few plants outside of orchids and bonsai can match the value of a rare *Haworthia* cultivar.



Haworthia mirabilis var. *paradoxa*

While delving into the minutiae of plant, taxonomy is not the top concern of most growers, club members should be aware that DNA based research on *Haworthia* is revealing that the genus may need to be partially split up. Fortunately the "fleshy leaved" species, which make up the bulk of the genus, will remain *Haworthia*. However, the species such as *H. reinwardtii*, *H. attenuata*, and *H. limifolia* which have less fleshy leaves and a more "Aloe-like" appearance are more closely related to *Gasteria* and some *Aloe* than to the rest

of *Haworthia*. No official changes have yet been made, but don't be surprised if some of your *Haworthia* become *Gasteria* (or another genus) in the future.

-Kyle Williams

Interior Show – 2016 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

It is an honor and a privilege to co-chair the interior show for the third straight year! Look below for the many exciting activities that are scheduled during the Festival. Participation is critical to the success of the show so LACSS members are highly encouraged to be active. Creating an educational display, entering plants into the show or volunteering to help are just a few ways you can be involved in our spectacular Festival!

Educational Theme Displays

Our Festival offers a unique opportunity to educate the general public on the conservation and study of cacti and succulents. Educational theme displays give members the freedom to express their love and passion of the hobby by creating themed exhibits using a variety of mediums that includes live plants, poster boards, pictures, maps, drawings etc. Topics can range from repotting techniques, medicinal uses of certain plants, landscaping techniques, staging plants or the habitat and care of a specific genus. If you are interested in creating an educational theme display then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Public voting will be implemented once again this year. Members of the public will be given three voting tickets and will be encouraged to vote for their favorite educational displays. The tickets will be collected and totaled for both days. The winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the following July general club meeting.



Winners from the 2015 Festival include:

- 1st - Kim Thorpe - Echeverias
- 2nd - Karen and Martin Ostler – Mammallarias
- 3rd - Sandy Chase – A Study in Caudiciforms

Submit an educational display and show your creativity to the public!

Plant Show

Members may submit up to three plants in each cactus and succulent category (12 total plants). The show is open to all divisions (rookie, novice and advanced) and will be judged on the same criteria as the Plant of the Month. Here are the four plant categories for the show:

Cacti: *Crest/Monstrose* & *Variegated*
Succulents: *Crest/Monstrose* & *Variegated*

Members are also highly encouraged to submit the “non-crest/non-monstrose” or “non-variegated” plants. This will help to demonstrate the differences in normal and abnormal plant growth.

Important Dates

Set Up: Friday, June 10th
Festival: Saturday & Sunday, June 11th - 12th



Additional Interior Displays

- **San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society:** Beautiful bromeliads will be on display from our active affiliate club.
- **Book Sale:** The fabulous Rose Polito and her team will be selling a wide variety of plant and garden books. Come say hello and buy a book or two or five.
- **Dinner Auction Plants:** See the amazing specimen plants that are available at the Saturday night dinner auction.



Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers are needed during both days of the Festival. Interior show duties include handing out voting tickets, answering questions from the public and monitoring doors. It would be greatly appreciated if members can donate some of their time to the club.

Please contact me if you would like to submit an Educational Theme Display; enter show plants; volunteer to help during the Festival or if you have any questions.

David Le
626-676-0301
davidlle@gmail.com

When Rescue is Worth the Effort A Mentoring Workshop on Cactus Salvage Ilona Buratti's Home - March 20, 2016

Whether you are new to the cactus field or a battered and scarred old timer, the most recent LACSS workshop gave members at all levels a great opportunity to hone our skills, as well as to benefit our club.

Given the opportunity to revitalize an extensive but neglected cactus collection donated by the estate of long-time member Victor Turacek, about 20 club members, many of them new to the hobby, participated in this valuable and productive event.

First, Artie Chavez presented tips and options on salvaging at-risk cacti, many with woody stems and only a touch of green at the tip. Some received major surgery, beheading the tops to promote new growth. Then he gave a very comprehensive talk on fertilizer for both at-risk and healthy plants. He also addressed the challenges of watering, an inaccurate science with multiple variables including soil, drainage, temperature, day length, and more. Then the work began.



Armed with leather gloves, kitchen tongs, newspapers, and forceps of all sizes, LACSS members were ready to attack a few hundred opuntias, gymnocalyciums, notocactus, and more. Prepared for pain, the trick was to keep a grip on the plant while minimizing damage to the cactus or its holder.

Following Artie's demonstration, we each practiced repotting a few smaller cacti and then we were entrusted to repot over 40 plants to be sold at the Drought Festival Membership Sale Table. The plants should be well-rooted and thriving by then. We were very busy and the time passed quickly. At the end of the potting session, a few remaining plants went home with each of us to continue our rescue efforts. A report on the progress of these plants will be invited next year, hopefully with before and after pictures.

The Mentoring Workshop was followed with a sumptuous lunch provided by Ilona Buratti, who has graciously allowed us to store the cacti and other show supplies at her and her wonderful spouse Richard's home. We also thank Ilona for her hospitality, generosity, and humorous remarks that kept us entertained while we worked.

Photo credit: Ilona Buratti



Cactus & Succulent - Calendar of Upcoming Events For 2016

- April 9-10** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society—Show and Sale
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard I
NFO 310-578-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- April 24** Huntington Plant Sale 10am-4:30pm INFO 626-405-3504
Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
- April 30-May 1** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale INFO 310-822-1783
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City
- May 1** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens INFO 310-833-6823
- May 13-14** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 34th Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon INFO 951-360-8802
- May 21-22** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10am-5 pm www.lbccs.org
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach INFO 310-922-6090
- May 28-29** Central South Coast Cactus & Succulent Sale & Show 10am-4pm
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo
INFO 805-237-2054 www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 4-5** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego INFO 858-382-1797
- June 4-5** Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society- Summer Show Sale
- June 11-12** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale**
Saturday, 11th 9am-5pm, Sunday, 12th 9am-3:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino INFO www.lacss-show.org
- July 1-3** CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road
Sales Start July 1-July 3 Show Opens on July 2nd INFO 626-405-2160
- July 22-23** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale INFO 949-212-8417
Thursday, July 21 6pm-8pm, Friday, July 22 9am-7pm, Saturday July 23 9am-5pm,
- 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim
- August 13-14** 31st Annual Intercity Show & Sale LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave INFO Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795
- September 3** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
INFO 626-405-3504
- September 10** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12pm-5pm
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 INFO 310 922-6090
- October 8-9** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale INFO 661-831-8488
Mall View Road, Bakersfield, Saturday 10/8 10am-5pm, Sunday 10/9 11am-4pm
- October 22-23** Palomar Show & Sale at San Diego Botanic Gardens INFO hciservices@gmail.com

Huntington Fall Sale
- November 5-6** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia INFO Manny Rivera or John Matthews
661-714-1052



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346
E-mail: LAcactus.com
lacss.contact@gmail.com

April Program: All You Want to Know about Geraniums and Pelargoniums

Presented by Matt-Dell Tufenkian

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