

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

August
2011

President: *Artie Chavez*
(818) 201-7323
cactus7@socal.rr.com



Next Meeting: August 4, 2011



Editor: *Phyllis Frieze*
(818) 892-1669
Phyllis.98@hotmail.com

The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at www.lacss.com

Todd Masilko Succulents of Southern California and Surrounding Ecosystems

Todd Masilko has a background in Industrial Design and has been an enthusiastic grower of Cacti and Succulents for nearly 10 years. He is currently an Instructor at the Pasadena Art Center College of Design and runs a Pasadena-based product design consultancy. In addition to growing plants, he is a photography enthusiast.

Over the last several years, he has traveled to observe and photograph plants in habitats in the Canary Islands, Yemen and Socotra, Baja California and mainland Mexico, Namibia, as well as California and the Southwestern United States.

Todd will give an overview of the diversity of succulent plants found near our own back yards. It will include habitat and cultivation notes on cacti and succulents native to coastal Southern California and adjacent islands, winter rainfall influenced regions of Baja California, and adjacent areas of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The heat has really turned up in the last few weeks and summer has arrived. July was our first meeting after our very successful June show. It was exciting to see such a great turn out of our membership and the new faces that came to join us for that evening. We had six guests and three new members. Duke Benadom treated us to an informative presentation of his trip to the Ngorngoro Crater. His pictures of the native plants and animals were wonderful and brought back some great memories to those of us who were on that trip. It was also nice to see such a large participation in the Plant of the Month competition. Participation in our monthly mini-show is a great way to share both your plants and knowledge with the group.

The summer months is a busy time with the Show schedule becoming much more hectic than in the spring or the last part of summer. In June we had our show. Many of our members participated and came home with Trophies from the CSSA Show and Sale which took place in the first week of July. This month (August 13-14) brings us the Inter City Show and Sale. LACSS is one of the three sponsoring clubs that organizes and operates this show. I want to encourage our membership to participate in this very important and prestigious event. Volunteering is one of the many ways to help. If you would like to volunteer please find John Matthews at the August meeting or call him at (661) 714-1052.

As we enter the second half of the year, we have important club business to address. The most important point of business is to elect our 2012 Officers and Board. The Board positions that will need to be filled are as follows: President, Vice-President of Special Events, Treasurer, and one Director position. If you are interested in serving in any of these offices, please let me know.

In the June Chronicle's President's message, I do not think I did an adequate job of thanking everyone who helped and/or participated in the Drought Tolerant Plant Festival. It was your collective effort that made it such a magnificent success. It certainly was not my intention to ignore the contribution of any individual who assisted at this event or to offend or slight anyone who did assist the club during the event. It takes the entire club to pull off such an innovative project, and what a job we did! Therefore, my gratitude and thanks to everyone whose efforts, talent and hard work made the Festival so successful and enjoyable. I wish I could thank everyone by name, but unfortunately, I do not have a complete list of volunteers or exhibitors, and I am afraid I would fail miserably if I tried. There will be two other articles in this Chronicle that will properly identify and acknowledge all the specific volunteers and exhibitors.

Again thank you very much for all of your hard work.

Artie



The LACSS 11th Annual Exhibit and Sale Indoor Displays

The LACSS 11th Annual Exhibit and Sale has come and gone and it appears that all who attended would concur that this was our best event in recent memory. We added many new activities this year and it was the diversity of activities that made our visitors feel welcome and added to the friendly, festive atmosphere.



Our hats go off to our current Club President, Artie Chavez, whose vision, dedication, and long hours were the driving force towards our success.

Special recognition also goes out to Joyce Schumann (our club librarian). Joyce was the primary coordinator of the indoor display and it was her gentle arm twisting

that convinced enough of our club members to set up the educational presentations that filled the indoor display area.

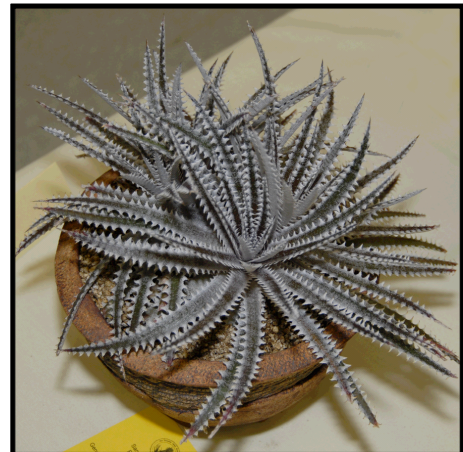
Those members who were willing to share their knowledge, experience and their prized plants and contributed to the indoor display included the following members:

San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society – The San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society has had a long history of partnership and cooperation with the LACSS. This year they provided an impressive display of both epiphytic and terrestrial bromeliad.

The individual show participants included Steve Ball, Sandy Chase, Barbara Hall, John Martinez, Ralph Massey, John Matthews, Manny Rivera, Sylvia Strehlo, Kim Thorpe, Peter Walkowiak, and Ronit Weiss.

*An event like this does not just happen. A big **Thank You** goes out to all of you who took the time to develop the creative displays and assisted in the planning, set-up, security, and break down of this year's indoor display.*

Another big Thank You goes out to the following volunteers: (in no particular order) Barbara Hall, Barbara Nolan, Bill & Phyllis Polakow, Bob Coleman, Clay Ontiveros, Danielle Duboff, David Hibbits, Erika & Al Van Auker, Gerald Richert, Katy Kessler, Kimo Thorpe, Merkie Rowan, Richard Roosman,



Rosemary Polito, Sandy Chase, Steve Ball, Steve Rudolph & Sylvia Strehlo. If we missed your name, we apologize.

It would be difficult to thank all our volunteers for a specific task as they were everywhere, doing everything that needed to be done – all with good humor, energy, and esprit de corps. The Hospitality table, dinner & auction set up and tear down, attention to visitor questions and needs, errand running, kid's activities and posting of informational signs are just a few areas that benefitted by their efforts. Each of you should give yourself a pat on the back for a job well done.

We are already beginning to lean forward towards next year's event. Start thinking of ways to enhance the LACSS 12th annual Exhibit and Sale and please get involved.

Southern California Calendar of Events
August

August 6-7

Culver City Garden Club
4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City
Saturday, 8/6—12-4pm
Sunday, 8/7—10am-5pm

August 13-14

26th Annual Inter City Show and Sale
LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia
Contact: Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430
John Matthews (661) 297-5364

LACSS 2011 Board Members

Artie Chavez, President
Tim Harvey, VP, Programs
Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month
Doug George, VP, Special Events
Ronit Weiss, Treasurer
Helen Frank, Secretary

Note: Plant of the month winners for July will be presented in the September edition of the Chronicle

**Inter-City Show
by John Matthews**



By now your show plants should be identified, repotted and staged. Be sure not to water your plants the day before you bring them to the show since wet plants leave stains on the tablecloths that don't seem to come out. Remember to bring some extra top dressing you use to handle those travel mishaps. Don't forget the Golden Sweeps so bring 3 or 4 plants in a category. Plant entry times are Wednesday, 8/10--1:00 to 7:00, Thursday, 8/11--9:00 to 9:00, and on Friday, 8/12--9:00 to 5:00.

Reservations for dinner are a must since it always sells out. Contact Evelyn Stevens at 626-442-1391 ASAP so you don't miss out. If you can't make the dinner you can attend the auction. There has been an overwhelming number of auction plants in the past so there is a limit of 2 per person and you need to notify one of the show chairpersons in advance if you are bringing some.

As one of the three sponsoring clubs, LACSS stands to financially benefit from this show. Correspondingly, we need to step up and have as many volunteers as we can to make the show and sale a success. I hope to see *very few empty slots on the volunteer signup sheets* at the August meeting. If you can only donate one hour it will help. If you plan to attend the show (and I hope you do) try to volunteer at least one hour during your visit. If you're not sure of what time you can help, sign up anyway. There is always an opportunity to help at the last minute. It's a great way to get more involved with the hobby, show and have the opportunity to meet someone new. Active participation in the show is truly a great learning experience. Everyone should experience clerking, at least once, to get first hand insight into how plants are judged. Remember - no experience necessary! If you volunteer or enter plants, the sales area will be open for early sales at approximately 2:00 on Friday.

Don't forget your LACSS badge. The Arboretum security will be in force.

From the Stacks of the Library



Hi everyone. This is a very exciting month for the LACSS Library! We have three new books to feature! A while ago I asked what is the difference between *adenia* and *adenium*. Apparently, everyone but me knew the difference. But as it sometimes happens, no one sought out or told me the answer. So, I'll try again - What is the difference between *adenia* and *adenium*? And just for kicks, since we're asking that question, how about the difference between *monadeniums* and *adeniums*. We just happen to have two new books that will provide some information on the subject.

“**MONADENIUM**” by Albert Pritchard [2010], the first of our books, will also be a part of our occasional feature NOW and THEN. The introduction gives a concise explanation of the relationship of *Euphorbia*/*Monadenium* and then continues with descriptions of over 90 species. The excellent photos will assist you in identifying your specimens. The original book on *Monadeniums* by Peter Balley was published in 1961 and has been considered the standard until now. Compare these two books to follow the path of the *Monadenium* classification.

Adenium, as you know or will discover, is a whole ‘nuther’ thing. The second book is “**Adenium: Sculpural Elegance, Floral Extravagance**” by Mark Dimmit [2009]. The author provides an excellent introduction covering taxonomy and distribution, followed by descriptions of species, hybrids and cultivars. Cultivation and propagation explanations plus excellent photos complete this "must-read book."

The 3rd book is the talk of the town. Its reputation has preceded it. There is not much I can say that hasn't been said. “**Aloes – The Definitive Guide**” by Carter, Lavranos, Newton, Walker. This is such a definitive work that you must see it to believe it! It even includes a ribbon page marker!

Well, that is all the excitement I can handle for this time. I hope this piques your interest, so stop by the library table and

CHECK IT OUT!

[Another burning question inquiring minds want to know is, what is the difference between a monocot and a dicot? But, that will be covered some other time...]

See you soon, Joyce the Librarian

Plant-of-the-Month 2011

January	Gymnocactus and Ortegocactus	Aloe hybrids
February	Mammillaria (single head)	Dudleya
March	Echinocereus	Asclepiads -caudiciform and tuberous forms
April	Gymnocalycium (multiple heads)	Sansevieria
May	Epiphytes	Echeveria
June	Turbinicarpus and Frailea	Mesembs(other than Lithops and Conophytum) e.g. Pleiospilos, Lapidaria
July	Tephrocactus	Adenia
August	Brazilian cacti	Pachypodium (African species)
September	Ferocactus	Euphorbia (stem forms)
October	Ariocarpus	Terrestrial Bromeliads
November	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
December	<i>Holiday Party</i>	

Entry Classes: All new members, new to the hobby, should enter plants in the Novice class. Novices must move to the Advanced class after they have won a total of 40 first place awards in the Plant of the Month competition or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

Prizes: All prizes are awarded at the Holiday Celebration in December. Trophies are awarded by entry class for those members who scored the most points in either the cacti or combined succulent categories. In the Novice and Advanced classes the top two scorers in each of the plant categories will also receive a prize (typically a plant). These prizes are awarded based on the total number of points scored during the year. Finally, a trophy is awarded to members, regardless of class, who have earned the most points in the cactus and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 plants. In the Advanced and Open Classes, members must have been in possession of their plants for at least one year. Those members showing in the Novice class may immediately enter a recently obtained plant. You can only enter plants that

Judging Scale*		Points Awarded	
Condition	50%	First	5
Size and Maturity	25%	Second	3
Staging	20%	Third	1
Nomenclature	5%	Entry Award**	1

* Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners.

** Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Succulent of the Month August 2011 - *African Pachypodiums*



Pachypodium namaquanum

Pachypodium are members of the *Apocynaceae* or *Periwinkle* family, and are most closely related to *Adenium*, and more distantly to *Oleander* and *Plumeria*. *Pachypodium* are native to only Southern Africa and Madagascar. The distinguishing factor between *Adenium* and *Pachypodium* are the stipules that form at the base of leaves which in *Pachypodium* develop into rigid spines.

There are more Madagascan than there are African species, due to the geography of the island of Madagascar, with isolated regions that encourage the development of populations of plants, animals and insects unique and isolated from others of the same genus. New species are still being discovered as

botanists explore the more remote and isolated regions of Madagascar.

African species are generally easier to grow, and are more tolerant of extreme cold and wet climates. They can grow into trees up to 15 feet in height or form shrubs in habitat. The flowers formed from *Pachypodium* are pink, purple, white, and yellow

Pachypodium namaquanum grows into 15 foot trees in habitat. This plant produces flowers that are red on the inside and yellow-green on the outside.

Pachypodium biospinosum and *succulentum* are found throughout South Africa. These two species can withstand extreme temperatures in their natural habitat and survive long periods of drought because of their thick tuberous root systems. They are also almost indistinguishable when not in flower. The caudex or tuberous roots are exposed when these plants are shown in show competitions.



Pachypodium succulentum



Pachypodium saundersii

Pachypodium saundersii, named after a botanist who discovered it, is endemic to South Africa. This plant forms a large caudex (which makes it an excellent subject for bonsai) and produces stems that can reach three feet in height. As can be observed above, *Pachypodium saundersii* generates white flowers.

The standard method of propagation of both the Madagascan and African species is from seed. Seeds are simply placed on good wet potting soil, and germination generally occurs within a week. Seeds should be sown in the spring to mid summer, however the seeds are generally not long lived, (germination drops off in the second or third year) and good results can be obtained nearly any time of year except mid winter. Protection from direct sun is necessary until the first few leaf pairs have formed, and then gradual movement into strong light, with an increase in feeding and water will bring quick and strong growth. Pinching of growing tips in young seedlings encourages the formation of side branches, a more interesting trunk and quicker growth.

All *Pachypodiums* are worth growing, and since there are not really that many species, and seedling plants are relatively cheap, a complete collection is within the resources of most.

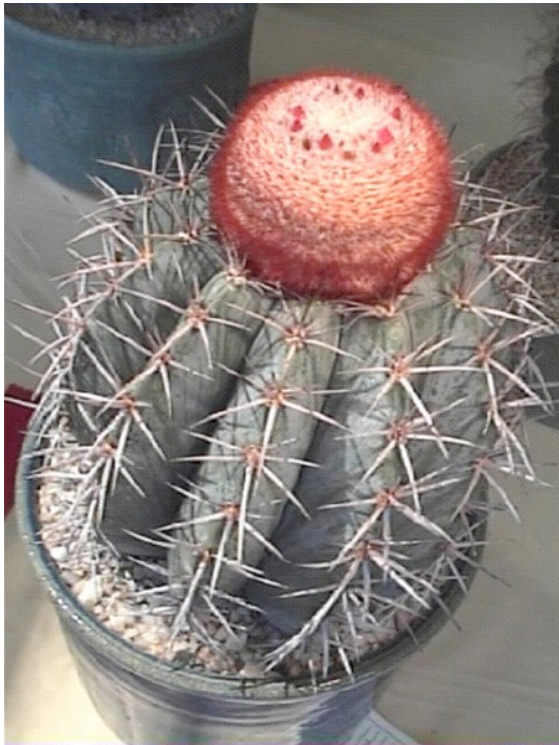
Reference

G. Rowley, **Pachypodium and Adenium**

Tom Glavich, September 2005
Steve Frieze, August 2011

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus of the Month - July 2011 Brazilian Cacti

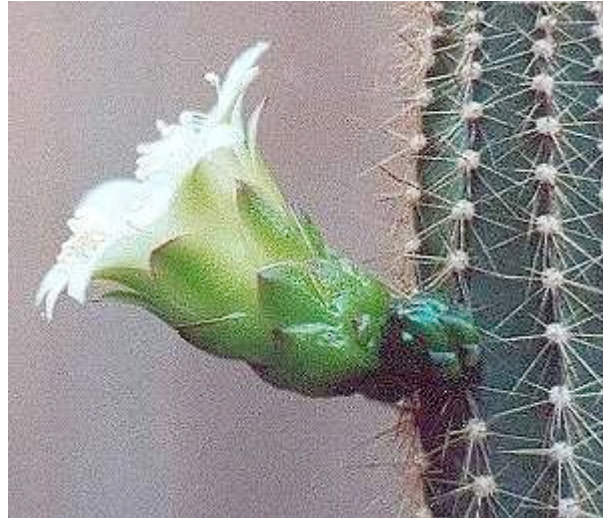
A *Melocactus* was very likely the first cactus seen by a European explorer, and certainly one of the first to be brought back and successfully grown. They were known in English collections by the late 16th century, less than 60 years after Columbus' first voyage.



Melocactus azureus entered by Rosemarie Sauer in the 2003 CSSA Show

Melocactus are one of the many genera of cacti found in Brazil an enormous country with many eco-systems and climates. Many of the genera are typically associated with this country (including Melocactus mentioned above) such as Buiningia, Discocactus, Frailia, Rhipsalis, Ubelmannia, and Zygocactus. Other genera are less often associated with the Brazilian ecology but thrive in habitats throughout this country include Echinopsis, Monvillea, Opuntia, Parodia, and Wigginsia. In fact Brazil is how to over 60 genera of cacti that cover almost the entire geographic

area of this country. Not mentioned yet but noteworthy are the plethora of Epiphyllum species found in the tropical areas of Brazil and the Brazilocereus native this country only.



Brazilicereus phaeacanthus

Melocactus are immediately recognizable by the large cephalium that develops on mature plants. *Melocactus* grow as normal appearing, but flowerless, globular cacti until they reach maturity. This can take from 6 to 15 years in cultivation, with a greater range in habitat. Once they reach maturity, the body stops growing vigorously (it still grows slowly). Most of the plant energy goes into producing a cylindrical flowering and fruiting structure known as a cephalium. This is usually white, with short hairs of yellow, orange or red. As the years go by, the cephalium becomes more cylindrical, with the base becoming more colorful. The flowers are usually a red-purple, and the fruits are almost always a bright red, to attract birds. With age, the cephalium can grow to 18 inches or more in height, occasionally bifurcating or trifurcating.

Melocactus are native to a large region, Brazil to Southern Mexico, including a good part of the Caribbean. As might be expected, cacti

from the tropical regions, particularly coastal regions are sensitive to cold and wet. Cold and wet conditions can cause scarring of the body, which usually appears as brown or tan lesions on the skin. A few of these are unavoidable, but a badly scarred plant quickly becomes unsightly. At the same time, almost all of the *Melocactus* expect high humidity and a higher moisture level than might be expected. Many grow within sight of the ocean, or in some of the more tropical and humid regions of Brazil. They like water, but demand good drainage.

Melocactus are generally solitary, so the only means of propagation is through seeds. Fortunately they produce plenty of seed, and these germinate readily, particularly when the weather is warm. Keep the seedlings protected from direct sun, and moist until fairly large. Although it is several years from seed to a flowering plant, most of the *Melocactus* have magnificent spination and vividly colored bodies, which make keeping them a pleasant task.

Frailea are "smallish" many stemmed cacti that many experts now view as short-lived. Some now speculate that Frailea may function as an annual in habitat sowing seeds from the base of a mother plant. In habitat, Frailea are found in ecological niches where there are large rock formations and just a couple of inches of soil.



Frailea species



Discocactus psuedoinsignis in a sandy habitat

Endemic to Southern Brazil, *Discocactus* are prized by the collector if for no other reason than the elegant wooly cephalium the plants develop in maturity. Similar to the *Melocactus*, flowers originate from the cephalium which can reach two or more inches in height.

Reference:

**The New Cactus Lexicon, David Hunt
The Brazilian Cactus Project (web),
Marlon Machado**

Tom Glavich April 2004
Photo by T. Nomer
Steve Frieze, August 2001

General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society *ONLINE* at www.lacss.com

Upcoming Program for August:

Todd Masilko

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: August 4, 2011
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
July 2011
CACTUS CHRONICLE

