



# 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.

**February 2014**

**Meeting Time  
6:30 pm**

**Plant of the Month**

**Columnar Cacti  
Aloe Hybrids**

**Refreshments  
T-Z**

**New Members**

**January**

**Peter & Nicki Larsen**

**Editor**

**Phyllis Frieze**  
frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

## General Meeting February 6

### Program:

## Winter Bulbs with Tom Glavich

**Tom Glavich** is Vice President of CSSA and author of the Beginner's Guide series of articles in CSSA's publication, *To the Point* newsletter. He is one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held each August at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. Tom is active in several Los Angeles area cactus and succulent societies, with his home club being the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society. He has been a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America since the early 1980s and has been growing a wide range of plants including succulents, bulbs and bromeliads for more than 30 years



This beautifully illustrated program features common and unusual bulbs that thrive in our climate and brighten the cool months with gorgeous flowers! Some of these bulbs are common and many are rarely seen. Included in this presentation, Tom will also give us cultivation tips. Expect live plants on display and for sale!

Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.com>.  
OR contact us at  
[lacss.contact@gmail.com](mailto:lacss.contact@gmail.com)

## 2014 Officers

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*President*

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*2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month*

**John Martinez**

*3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events*

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*Secretary*

[LACSS.contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.contact@gmail.com)

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*Director 1 Odd Years*

*Membership*

**David Le**

*Director 2, Even Years*

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*Drawing & Plant Procurement*

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**Chris Rogers**

*Cactus Garden Chair*

**Richard Roosman**

**John Matthews**

*Cactus Chronicle Distribution*

**Barbara Hall**

*Holiday Party Chairperson*

**Gerald Reichert**

*Holiday Party Awards Procurement*

**Chris Rogers**

*Cactus Garden*

**John Noster**

**Steve Rudolf**

*Meeting Refreshments*

**Kim Thorpe**

*Publicity*

**Leah Imamura**

**Juana Williams**

## President's Message—February 2014

What a wonderful way to start our year! We had more entries in our POM than ever before— 49 to be exact. It was very exciting to see the entire counter covered with plants. Congratulations to David Le, Kim Thorpe, and John Matthews for sweeping the Rookie Succulent, Advanced Succulent and Open Cactus categories respectively. Thanks to all of our members who participated.

The quality and quantity of Monthly Drawing plants created a huge rush of ticket buying. We are always appreciative of the generosity of our members who provide the plants and the members who want them.

The Board of Directors held its first meeting of 2014. We had a very lengthy agenda and set the ground work for upcoming events. Our Special Events, Programs, Plant of the Month, Mentoring and Monthly Drawing will continue under the capable hands of last year's members, each with fascinating offerings on schedule for this year.

After a bit of discussion, we decided to change a few things, just to keep from getting too complacent or boring. To encourage everyone to wear their name badges, members who are wearing their name badges and are on the sign-in sheet will have their name placed into a box. Three names will be drawn and will be awarded a free plant. Danielle is working out the details which will be fully explained at the meeting. This is separate from the Monthly Drawing.

Speaking of Monthly Drawings...I know how much we love to search our many tickets to see if our number was called. And to experience the agony of being missed by **one** number! But, to speed up the process, and eliminate the agony, we are asking you to write your name on the ticket. If you wish to use up some of your large supply of free address labels, bring some and put them on your ticket.

Thanks to the Herculean efforts of Cheryl White, our application for membership in the California Garden Clubs Inc. has been completed and accepted. Cheryl has submitted our documents for the 501 c (3) status and should be approved soon. This will improve our fund raising opportunities. Make sure you pick up your current CGCI membership card from the Membership table. Various Garden Centers offer discounts to Garden Club members when you show this card. We are allowed 5 members to represent LACSS at the District meetings. Currently, our representatives are Roxie Esterle, Phyllis Frieze, Natalie Welsh, and the President of LACSS. If anyone is interested in joining this august group, please contact me.

See you soon, Joyce

Larry Grammer passed away on December 11, 2013. His health had been failing for some time. His interest in the hobby started with cacti – including some Ariocarpus specimens, but later his focus shifted towards succulent plants. He was the major influence in the art of plant staging we see in the Southern California shows today. He displayed his plants with rocks he collected, top dressing and certain types of pottery to demonstrate how the plants would appear in habitat. He would travel miles just to find the right top dressing and the rocks for staging. He said “the pot was like a picture frame and the plant and staging material made the picture.”



Larry was also one of the driving forces in establishing the Inter-City Show as we know it today. 2013 was the show’s 28<sup>th</sup> year. Some of us said he displayed every year, he lived for that Show. Larry would spend many hours at the Show and always encouraged everyone to participate. The plants he would show were always top quality and he took great pride in his participation. They were always staged to look their best, and they did! Larry also assembled beautiful displays over the years for California Cactus Nursery.

He volunteered at Huntington Gardens and worked at California Cactus Nursery in Pasadena until he became ill in 2011.

He will be missed by many of us who knew him as a friend, teacher and active participant in our hobby.

## WEAR YOUR LACSS NAME BADGE

In February and throughout the year, I encourage you to wear your LACSS Name Badge. Don't have one? See me and order one! Be a winner at the February Meeting in the first of many "Wear Your Name Badge Raffle." Win a prize plant and be proud you are a member of our fantastic club! See me at the Membership Table and contact me if you have any questions. Danielle Duboff, Membership Chairman at [danielle.duboff@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle.duboff@yahoo.com)



### Mentoring Program Update Winter Growers

A class in "Winter Growers" is scheduled for Saturday February 1 at 10 AM-Noon; Manny Rivera will conduct the class at The Sepulveda Garden Center. The class will be held in the semi-covered area outside our normal meeting room—near the Rest Rooms. Parking will be limited to the lot off Magnolia.

**In the event of rain the class will be held at Barbara Hall's home located at:**

**16340 Armstead St.  
Granada Hills 91344**

**If there is a change in location we will send a blast announcing the change.**

Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Thanks,  
John Suci  
805-374-7306  
[Johns.three@gmail.com](mailto:Johns.three@gmail.com)

### Stacks from the Library

February 2014

Just a note to say that Joyce and I have met at the Sepulveda Garden Center a few times over the last several weeks. We reorganized the books into smaller totes and put them in a different format. They are now arranged by subject matter.

Sandy Chase

## Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2014

- February 8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Spring Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego — **Info** (858) 382-1797
- March 28-30** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale  
Friday & Saturday March 28-29 9-5 Sun. March 30 12-4  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) **Info** (562) 587-357  
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes **Info** (310) 378-1953
- April 19-20** Green Scene Plant Sale Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
- April 24-27** **South Coast Plaza** 25th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show  
3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 **Info** 714-435-2089
- April 27** Huntington Plant Sale 10-5 Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino (626) 405-2160
- May 4** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm  
South Coast Botanical Gardens **Info** (310) 833-6823
- May 4-5** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room  
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City **Info** (310) 822-1783
- May 16-17** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 33<sup>rd</sup> Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon **Info** (951) 360-8802
- May 17-18** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5 [www.lbcss.org](http://www.lbcss.org)  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach **Info** (310) 922-6090—
- May 24-25** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale 10-4pm Ludwick Center,  
864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo **Info** (805) 237-2054, [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)
- June 7-8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **Info** (858) 382-1797
- June 14-15** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Show & Sale 9-3:30**  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino [www.lacss-show.com](http://www.lacss-show.com)
- June 27-29** **CSSA Annual Show & Sale** –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road  
**Info** 626) 405-2160 or 2277 Sales Start June 27 Show Opens and Free to the Public on June 28
- July 25-27** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale **Info** (949) 212-8417  
Friday July 25 9am-5pm, Saturday July 26 9am-5pm, Sunday 27 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim
- August 9-10** 29th Annual Intercity Show & Sale-LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily  
301 No. Baldwin Ave **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 or John Matthews (661) 714-1052
- August 30** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 7** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **Info:** (310) 922-6090
- November 4-5** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days  
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

## LACSS Plant of the Month Winners for 2013

### **Total Points**

Thorpe, Kim	116
Matthews, John	84
Sandy Chase	66
John Suci	60
Danielle Duboff	51

### **Total Points Cactus**

Kim Thorpe	65
John Matthews	39
Sylvia Stehlo	34
John Suci	29
Cheryl White	29

### **Total Points Succulent**

Kim Thorpe	51
Jim Esterle	45
Sandy Chase	45
John Matthews	45
Artie Chavez	36

### **Rookie Cactus**

Danielle Duboff	23
Kathryn Boorer	15
Dylan Shapiro	15

### **Rookie Succulent**

Danielle Duboff	28
Marquita Ellias	18
David Le	18

### **Novice Cactus**

Sylvia Strehlo	34
John Suci	30
Phyllis Frieze	18

### **Novice Succulent**

Jim Esterle	45
John Suci	30
Eric Winegar	24

### **Advanced Cactus**

Kim Thorpe	65
Cheryl White	29
Rio Cernik	24

### **Advanced Succulent**

Kim Thorpe	51
Sandy Chase	45
John Martinez	32

### **Open Cactus**

John Matthews	39
Artie Chavez	9
Manny Rivera	3

### **Open Succulent**

John Matthews	45
Artie Chavez	36
Manny Rivera	13

# LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEW PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2014

## Competition Divisions:

- Rookie: 0 – 25 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “rookie” award points  
Novice: 1 - 100 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “novice” award points  
Advanced: Over 100 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “novice” award points  
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but this is required for individuals who **sell** at shows outside of LACSS.

## Submissions

Members may submit up to three plants in each designated monthly cactus and succulent category. In the Advanced and Master/Open divisions, members must have cared for their plants for at least 1 year. In the Novice division, the ownership requirement is 6 months. Rookies may show newly purchased plants. Entries should be labeled and placed on the display table by 7:00 pm.

## Judging Criteria

Plants are evaluated according to the following guidelines:

Condition (health, form, damage-free)	50%
Maturity and size	25%
Staging (complementary container, top dressing, composition)	20%
Nomenclature (identification and label)	5%

Other factors include rarity, growing difficulty, and whether or not the plant is in flower.

## Awards

First place	6 points
Second place	3 points
Third place	2 points

***Other submissions 1 point per plant to acknowledge entry***

Entry slips are collected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in charge of Plant of the Month who coordinates tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the *Cactus Chronicle*.

Annual cumulative prizes are awarded at the **holiday party in December**. Every individual who has brought plants during the year is acknowledged with a prize in order of total accumulated points from highest to lowest. Individuals who “graduate” from one division to the next for the following year will also be recognized.

## Plant of the Month 2014

**2014**

**February**

Columnar Cacti  
Aloe Hybrids

**March**

Opuntias (So. America)  
Agave

**April**

Gymnocalycium singles  
Yucca, Nolina,  
Calibanus, Beaucarnea

**May**

Buiningia, Uebelmania  
Mesembryanthemaceae  
(other than Lithops &  
Conophytum)

**June**

Favorite, Favorite

**July**

Escobaria, Corypantha  
Cucurbitaceae

**August**

Obregonia, Strombo-  
cactus, Echinomastus  
Fockea, Raphionacme,  
Brachystelma

**September**

Thelocactus  
Fouqueria

**October**

Ariocarpus  
Euphorbia  
(Madagascar)

**November**

Miniatures

**December**

Holiday Party

**2015**

**January**

Discocactus  
Anacampseros, Avonia,  
Ceraria

### January Plant of the Month

#### Succulent -- Pelargonium

**Rookie**

First	David Le	Pelargonium triste
Second	David Le	Pelargonium alternans
Third	David Le	Pelargonium alternans

**Novice**

First	Jim Esterle	Pelargonium cotyledonis
Second	Nils Schirmmacher	Pelargonium crassipes
Third		

**Advanced**

First	Kim Thorpe	Pelargonium xerophyton
Second	Kim Thorpe	Pelargonium carnosum
Third	Kim Thorpe	Pelargonium appendiculatum
Third	Barbara Hall	Pelargonium triste

**Open**

First	Artie Chavez	Pelargonium antidysentericum
Second	John Matthews	Pelargonium cotyledonis
Third	Artie Chavez	Pelargonium triste

#### Cactus - Mammillaria (non-hooked)Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria caralensis
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria spinosissima
Third	Sonia V	Mammillaria sp.
Third	Kyle Williams	Mammillaria gracilis

**Novice**

First	John Suci	Mammillaria geminispina?
Second	Sylvia Strehlo	Mammillaria kiissingiana
Third	Linda Holub	Mammillaria sp.
Third	Linda Holub	Mammillaria sp.
Third	Linda Holub	Mammillaria sp.

**Advanced**

First	Kim Thorpe	Mammillaria spinosissima
Second	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria plumosa
Third	Kim Thorpe	Mammillaria theresae
Third	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria spinosissima

**Open**

First	John Matthews	Mammillaria 'Un Poco'
Second	John Matthews	Mammillaria plumosa
Third	John Matthews	Mammillaria supertexta



## Children and Parent Day at the Huntington By Kathleen Misko

I volunteered and glad I did!!

Kim Thorpe asked if I could help with the Youth Desert Class at the Huntington on Saturday. I was scheduled to work but was able to find a pal to cover for me. So 8:30 on Saturday I was standing in the Children's Garden with the crispness of morning surrounding me. That's a thrill to be by myself in a place that I had been so many times with tiny people screaming and jumping in water. Stillness. Delightful.

Here come Kim and Reyna. We met Artie and load into the teaching greenhouse. All the wonderful plants Artie has grown and groomed specifically for this subject. Gerald and a new darling girl named Nikki.

Diane and Eric Miller pitch in and all of us hustle to get these plants and signs in the proper order for the arrival of 7-12 year olds. On wheels comes Sandy Chase on her scooter carrying her Mary Poppins seed umbrella with fantastic boards of seed pods and age appropriate posters of good and bad bugs and pollinators. Time only to have Artie run through what is to be taught. It was so well done and as each child came in one of us. Yes, US take a child. There I was teaching my little charge, Cassandra, about desert plants. She paraphrased each sentence I spoke, in order to relate it to what she knew. Which was a lot more than I would have thought at her age. Each one of these children brought such amazing energy to this event. One of the little people is having a desert theme birthday party. These children! We kept ahead of them on the questions.

For me, the best part was being in the brainiac company of Gerald, Kim, Sandy and Artie and it is always a thrill to watch our young member Eric Miller share his knowledge. This was a great forum. But wait, there's more...

We walked to the desert garden and plant by plant, species by species, our wonderful leaders take turns sharing their knowledge with the crowd. Which now has grown. Some members of the San Gabriel Club joined us and all of the parents. We were a force moving through the garden. I was so happy. All this information! I got to be there because I volunteered. I love learning. I love this club. Sandy Chase knows so much.

In the greenhouse where we are about eye level for the children. It is always a thrill to see the work that is being done. But wait, there were even more activities.

Kim and Artie have prepared a hands-on experience for the children. They have 6 flats of cuttings laid out in artistic form. Terra cotta bowls for a dish garden, beautiful soil, shiny scoops, top dressing, rocks and tiny ceramic ladybugs. Artie, Gerald and Kim give instructions to these eager hands and suddenly the result is spectacular. They got it! Artie taught them how to water and when they shouldn't. They were amazing. One of the Mom's videotaped Kim and Sandy naming each plant in her daughter's dish garden and the care. That was smart. Kim had prepared a book of information for the children to take home that was included in a bag with stickers and worksheets. I'm saying this volunteer thing turned out great for me. It was the best class I ever attended. And, it was free. Wait, there were donuts. They were free too!



## Plant of the Month: *Aloe* hybrids

An *Aloe* hybrid is simply the result of a cross between two different species of *Aloe*, or between *Aloe* and another genus such as *Haworthia* or *Gasteria*. Hybrids between different species of plants are commonly seen in the wild and have existed long before humans ever thought to create them. All it takes is two related species growing in the same area, plus a single bee, or other pollinator, to go from one plant to the other and a hybrid seed may be created. Sometimes the hybrids are sterile, meaning it may grow just fine but will never be able to form seeds. Other wild hybrids may be fertile and produce "selfed" seeds or even cross back with parent species. This leads to much confusion

among botanists trying to figure out where one species ends and the next begins! It is believed that a number of species of plants originated as an ancient hybrid between two (now extinct) parent species.



*Aloe* x "Delta Lights"



*Aloe* x "Hercules"

While some natural *Aloe* hybrids are grown ornamentally, the real collector interest is in the vast array of man-made hybrids resulting from crossing species that would never have the opportunity to cross in the wild. Modern work on *Aloe* has taken it a step further, crossing hybrids with other hybrids in an increasingly complex mixing of species and traits that are creating an array of truly bizarre, beautiful, and unique cultivars. Some of these hybrids are named and mass produced (e.g. *Aloe* x 'Hercules' or *Aloe* 'Dorian Black'), while others may only be grown by a handful of people and never get a proper name.

Anyone can create a hybrid by crossing two *Aloes* but being able to consistently create new and commercially desirable cultivars takes a lot of hard work and specialized knowledge, particularly of plant genetics. A hybridizer will select two species (or two existing cultivars) that each have traits he'd like to see shared in a single plant. For

example, one *Aloe* variety may have smooth orange leaves and another bumpy green leaves. A hybridizer may want to see if he can create bumpy orange leaves by crossing these two plants. If he is lucky he might get one or two plants like that, though the vast majority of seedlings will be unexceptional. However, to get the complex hybrids, such as those produced by Kelly Griffin (or LACSS's own Tim Harvey and John Martinez) requires multiple cycles of crossing two plants, selecting the best seedlings and growing them out, then crossing them and selecting the best of those crosses. On average only one in 10,000 seedlings or less will become a commercially successful hybrid. The rest are generally sent to the compost heap.

Aloes, including the hybrids, are incredibly easy to grow in Southern California. Almost all of the South African species and hybrids are easily cultivated, with the larger types making stunning landscape plants. They can take light frosts with no damage. One of the largest hybrids found in this area is *Aloe* x 'Hercules' whose parents are *Aloe bainesii* and *A. dichotoma*. The smaller hybrids also easy, but it should be noted that most of the highly desirable newer hybrids (such as *Aloe* x 'Christmas Carol') are derived largely from species native to Madagascar. As such they are more frost tender, but will do well with even light protection. They make great pot plants, and are easily made into wonderful show plants. Aloes are easily propagated. Cuttings are left to dry for a week or so and placed into a pot or directly into the ground. Before you give (or sell) rooted cuttings of these plants to other people please note that some hybrids are patented or trademarked, making it illegal to artificially propagate them without permission of the breeder. While this is more commonly done in other plant groups such as roses, there are certain *Aloe* hybrids with patent protection (e.g. *Aloe* x 'Pickled Pink').



*Aloe* x "Christmas Carol"

- Kyle Williams

## Plant of the Month: Columnar Cacti

Columnar cacti are a highly heterogeneous group defined by growth form rather than any natural grouping or relationship. As such, there is very little that unifies the group outside of growth form, which can roughly be defined as an upright, mostly self supporting, cactus that is at least twice as tall as wide. Implied in this definition is that the "column" is largely unjointed, thereby excluding cacti such as *Opuntia* and *Schlumbergera*. Even so, we are left with a vast array of cacti that are anywhere from a few inches to over 50 feet tall, ranging from the United States all the way down to southern South America, with cold tolerance ranging from highly frost sensitive to those that can be frozen solid for the winter without harm. To add confusion to the mix, some species start out as globular but after many years become columnar. For example, *Astrophytum* species are usually seen in shows as globular, or short columnar plants at most. However, at the Huntington Garden you can see examples of *Astrophytums* in the ground that are several feet tall!



*Carnegiea gigantea*



*Stenocereus eruca*



*Mammillaria bombycina*

So what can we say about them? As a rule, they tend to grow faster than globular cacti. They also are more tolerant of full sun, as the nature of their growth means they don't stay shaded by shrubs and grasses unlike their more diminutive counterparts. Larger species will eventually need to be put in the ground. Smaller types (like many *Mammillaria*) make wonderful specimen plants in pots for years on end. Some of the taller types may require some staking in windy climates to avoid the risk of snapping in a wind-storm. When choosing a place to plant them it is important to know if the cactus stays fairly upright and unbranched or if it sends out multiple stems and branches turning into a giant shrub of sorts. Knowledge of growth rate is also key, as many species can reach 15 feet in a few years, while a Saguaro may take your entire lifetime to reach that height! With such variation between species it is paramount that you look up the specific requirements of the plants you choose.



*Euphorbia melanostele*



*Astrophytum ornatum* "globular"



*Astrophytum ornatum* "columnar"

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Ken Lund, Frank Vincentz, Raffi Kojian, & Bernard Gagnon



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## General Meeting

February 6

**Speaker: Tom Glavich**  
**Special Presentation on Bulbs**

**February 8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Spring Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego — **Info** (858) 382-1797

**February 23** Garden Tours:  
Petra Crist—Rare Succulent Nursery      Escondido  
Tropic World Nursery                              Escondido