

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

February 2010

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Next Meeting: February 4, 2010



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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.

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The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society is please to announce our speaker
"Oh Oaxaca"
Presented by
John Trager

The program will cover John's expedition to Oaxaca, Mexico in April of 2009 where he was accompanied by other noted subject matter experts Myron Kimmach, John Pilbeam, Derek Bowdry, and David Neville. The focus of this program will be what can be seen in this part of Mexico during the dry season.

John Trager is Curator of the Desert Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, California where he has worked since 1983. Prior to that he had the privilege of working with master propagator Frank Horwood at Abbey Garden Nursery when it was located in Carpinteria. Trager's horticultural writings have appeared in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, the *Euphorbia Journal*, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *Garden Record*, *Garden* (the journal of the Royal Horticultural Society) and the *Rock Garden Quarterly* and *Flora*, the two-volume encyclopedia published in 2003. He is perhaps better known for his photography -- over 2000 of his images have been published in numerous textbooks and horticultural journals including *Aloe*, *American Horticulture* and *Fine Gardening*. Book projects include co-authorship and photography for *Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents* produced by the Huntington. John was principal photographer for the *Conograph* (a revision of the genus *Conophytum*) and a contributor to other works by Stephen Hammer (*Lithops*, *Treasures of the Veld and Dumpling and His Wife* [a revision of the *Conograph*], and *Mesembs of the World* [Hammer et al.]). He has also contributed photographs to works by Gordon Rowley (*The Succulent Compositae*, *Avonia and Anacampseros*, *Crassula*, *A Grower's Guide*, as well the multi-authored six-volume reference *The Illustrated Handbook of Succulents (2001-2003)*. John has traveled widely in search of plants (and insects) including China, Costa Rica, Israel, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand and Venezuela. He holds a bachelor's degree in Horticulture from Cal Poly Pomona and earlier studied Botany at UCSB and Santa Barbara City College. He lives in Sierra Madre with his wife and has their three children.

Drought Resistant Plant Festival

Water Wise - Money Wise
Sponsored by the
Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

DATES Saturday, March 27 - 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
Sunday, March 28 - 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

PLACE Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino

THEME— *Landscaping with cacti and succulents* - To improve ways to fulfill the Club's mission statement of "education, conservation and the study of cacti and succulents". In the past our show and sale has concentrated on the educational aspect with our extremely successful informational exhibits. The current approach will be to educate and demonstrate how cacti and succulents have had all of these qualities long before it was necessary and how these plants fit into landscape design with other plants.

SHOW AND SALE FORMAT—The show will consist of landscaping exhibits constructed by the club and vendors. The exhibit themes are *Cacti & Succulents, Succulents and Native Plants, Pet & Child Friendly Plants and Color Coordinated*. The festival committee is asking members to **loan** plants to populate the Club exhibits. We need 6" to 5 gallon landscape quality potted plants (these specimen do **NOT** have to be show quality). For those who submit plants, PLEASE use a separate tag to identify the genus, name of the plant and your name. There will be an attendant at each landscape plot to answer questions along with signage to explain the exhibit.

Presentation, demonstrations, and guest speakers will be in the Garden Center and will include the following:

*Container gardening—Propagation—Pest control and fertilization
Pet and child friendly plants—Color coordinated gardens—Native plants*

The show chairs Sandy Chase (818- 367-0864) or Joyce Schumann (818-705-3224) need to know by **Thursday, February 4** the number of plants, genus and category you are willing to loan for the construction of the exhibits.

Vendors will be selling landscaping plants in addition to their usual merchandise.

The Bromeliad Society will participate in this Festival as they have in the past.

Of Special Importance: Publicity is critical to the success of this Festival. Flyers, post cards, and email announcements will be distributed. Retail nurseries and other garden centers will also be contacted. *Involvement of all LACSS members is critical to the success of the Festival.*

PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2010
LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY (LACSS)

Month	Cacti	Succulent
January	Hooked Spine Mammillaria	Senecio and Othonna
February	Monotypic Cacti	Adromischus, Anacampseros & Avonia
March	Copiapoa	Aeonium, Sempervivum & Sedum
April	Astrophytums	Cucurbitaceae
May	Echinopsis, Libovia, & Trichocereus	Agavaceae
June	Thelocactus	Caudiciform Euphorbia
July	Melocactus	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Variegates	Variegates
November	Echinocactus	Haworthia Retuse Type
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. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Although it is not advised, LACSS members are free to enter a plant in the Open class at any time.

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 three 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 or two succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to two plants per entry category per month – a total of four 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 conform to the Plant of the Month schedule described above.

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

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

New Members—Month of January
Amy Wolkins
Cynthia Hagstrom

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cacti of the Month February 2010 - *Monotypic Cacti*

Monotypic cacti or distinguished from other genera by the fact they have only one species per genus. This is not the case with most cacti and succulents where most genera have several species and/or subspecies associated with the genus

Monotypic cacti are endemic to their environments and are geographically more likely to be found in areas of Mexico, southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and southwestern Texas.

One of the more remarkable instances of endemic monotypic cacti is in the Sonoran desert where *Carnegiea gigantea* forests (Saguaro) are found. Originating in the dry climate condition of the Sonoran Desert, these specimen dominate the landscape.



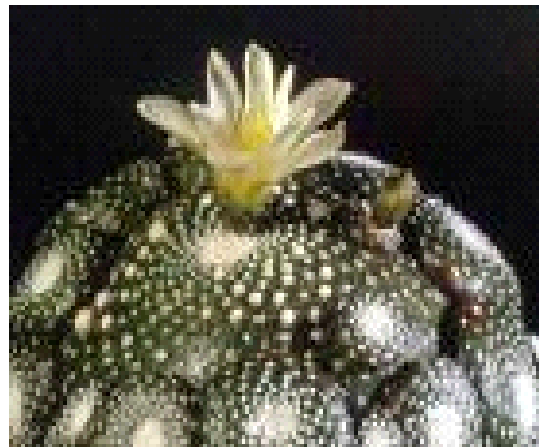
Carnegiea gigantea forest

The following describes other monotypic cacti genera and the plants that comprise a more collective category of plants.

Leuchtenbergia principis is found in Mexico and is a specimen that looks more like an Agave than a cacti. The tubercles are approximately 3 to 4 inches in length and look much like agave

leaves. Flower emerge from the tips of new tubercles in the spring.

Found in Southern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina, at higher elevations is *Blossfeldia liliputana*. This is a solitary or clumping miniature cactus that produces 1/2 inch stems or globular growths. This genus tolerates colder conditions than most cacti and require little or no water during the winter months



Blossfeldia liliputana

Obregonia denegrii is another monotypic cacti that is popularly known as the artichoke cactus. Found in Mexico *Obregonia's* can tolerate extreme cold for short periods of time. This is a solitary and globular plant that produces greyish green to dark green, triangular tubercles. A dome of white wool forms at the apex of the plant.

Ortegocactus macdougalli is endemic to Oaxaca Mexico and grows on limestone rock cropping at heights up to 6,000 feet.



Ortogocactus macdougalli

Closely related to the genus *Mammillaria*, this plant is often grafted to avoid growing difficulties associated with its own root system. Another potential problem with *Ortogocactus* is the Orange discolorations that frequently appear at the base of stems.



Geohintonia mexicana

The last example of monotypical cacti presented in this article is *Geohintonia mexicana*. Originating from the Nuevo León: Sierra Madre areas or Mexico, this plant grows on vertical cliffs filled with

gypsum. *Geohintonia*'s are typically solitary plants with numerous ribs. Juvenile specimens are normally globose becoming more columnar as they mature. Plants are typically dark green covered by a glaucous pruina. *Geohintonia* spines are short, triangular, curved, and as they age brittle. This plant is endangered and is considered a prize specimen in a collection. *Geohintonias* are named for its discoverer George Hinton.

References

D. Hunt, **The New Cactus Lexicon**
C. Innes and C. Glass, **Cacti**

Steve Frieze, February 2010

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Succulent of the Month February 2010 - Adromischus, Anacampseros & Avonia



Adromischus trigynus

Adromischus is closely related to the genus Cotyledon and Tylecodon. There are 29 recognized species of *Adromischus* all found in southern Africa. When grown in cultivation they require at least partial shade, especially in hotter climate. This plant forms clumping succulent rosettes and expands horizontally. Propagation occurs from stem or leaf cutting as well as from seed. Distinctive markings and colored leaves are characteristic of this genus.

The genus *Avonia* originates in South African in Great Namaqualand and Bushmanland. *Avonia* form a woody caudex, approximately one inch high, which expands as the plant matures. Leaves emerge from the top of the caudex. This plant typically requires partial shade in cultivation and can be sensitive to frost or colder conditions. Although listed as a deciduous plant, many specimen retain their leaves all year long. Flowers are carmine red, white, or pink. *Avonia* flowers are self-fertilizing and can generate seed if you have only one plant.



Avonia quinaria ssp. als

Anacampseros is a genus that formerly housed a much larger number of species including the genus *Avonia*. *Anacampseros* are found in South African. They form clumping rosettes of succulent leaves. A small caudex forms as the plant ages. Flowers bloom periodically during the summer on sunny days only.



Anacampseros

Steve Frieze, February 2010

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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We Want Your Stories

The Board of Directors has had several discussions on the content of the Chronicle. They thought it would be good to have some fresh ideas about the world of cactus and succulents. One of the suggestions was for volunteer “guest columnists” write an article focusing on their special interests. We are confident that many of you could easily write 500 words on your favorite topic, such as – how I got interested in cactus and/or succulents, my favorite potting soil, my favorite plant (or least favorite), and why. If we had a person a month do one article to be published in the Chronicle it would enhance everyone’s knowledge and can be used as a diversified learning tool.

So who will step up and author the first guest column? We want to publish the first article in the **March 2010** Chronicle and hope that all of you will contribute to this new feature.

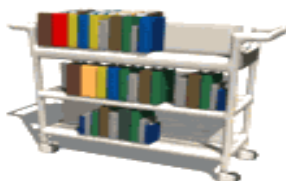
Please email your article to me by January 20, 2010 so it can be included in the **March 2010** issue. It would be helpful if you could let me know the subject you will write on and what month it can be sent to me for inclusion.

Southern California 2010 Calendar of Events

**February 13—San Diego Show and Sale—9am-4pm
101 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park**

From the Stacks of the Library - February 2010
By Joyce Schumann
LACSS Librarian

Please stop by at the next meeting.



As we continue into the new year, I would like to thank all of our members for their continued interest and support of our Library. It is for all of you. Call or email me if you have an interest in a particular book and I will bring it to the next meeting. You may have seen a book somewhere (library, bookstore, other club, etc) that you think should be in our collection. Let me know - we will consider it for purchase. You are the eyes and ears for future book acquisitions! Speaking of new books (nice segue - huh?), we will be featuring two new books this month.

The first book is ***Pachyforms Volume 2 BONSAI SUCCULENTS*** by Philippe de Vosjoli and Rudy Lime. This book contains a "notes and photographs supplement" to Volume 1 plus an excellent discussion on the difference and similarities of bonsai and succulents. All aspects of plant selection through maintenance are covered and will be good reading by those who are interested in pachyforms, staging, and bonsai.

The second book is titled ***LITHOPS Flowering Stones*** by Desmond T. Cole. Up to now our only book dedicated to lithops has been the small book by Fearn. Now we have 100 pages of discussion on morphology, nomenclature, habitat and cultivation. That's followed by 150 pages of superb photos and descriptions. This is a fantastic reference for all those plants that are too cute for their own good!

For the future, the Board is considering regular acquisitions of the British and South African periodicals in addition to the CSSA Journal. Watch this space for further news...

Last but not least, the Library List (by author and by subject) has been updated and is available. Stop by the library and pick them up and while you're there check out a book.

See ya at the meeting.
Joyce the Librarian

General Meeting starts at 7:30 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 Programs:

Next Meeting: February 4, 2010
First Class Mail

PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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