



March 2014

**Meeting Time
6:30 pm**

Plant of the Month

**Opuntia
(South America)
Agave**

**Refreshments
A-D
February**

New Members

**Mark Dubrow
Kim Jacobi
Theresa Merrin
William Miller
Nora Tahmassian**

**Editor
Phyllis Frieze
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Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.com>
OR contact us at
lacss.contact@gmail.com

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.

General Meeting

March 6

Program: Madagascar: The Plants, People and Places

Madagascar is a special place, an island in many respects, where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. This presentation will feature most of the succulent plants that we find so special. It will also address its most fascinating people, the Malagasy, with their intriguing heritage from the Malaysian Arabican and African regions. The plants from Madagascar are considered to be most spectacular, especially the succulents, palms, orchids and carnivorous genera. The succulent plants are notably diverse and range from giants to geophytes, which include such spectacular genera as: Adansonia, Adenia, Alluaudia, Aloe, Commiphora, Cyphostemma, Didierea, Euphorbia, Kalanchoe, Moringa, Pachypodium, Senecio and Uncarina. The orchid species total more than 1,000 and many are considered some of the most unusual in the world. The carnivorous plants range from the fascinating Pitcher plants (*Nepenthaceae*) to the amazing Venus fly traps.



Woody has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. His show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus and Pachycauls in general.

He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of our hobby and thus is an honorary life member of nine C&S societies. With 42 years in the hobby and 44 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

2014 Officers

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Marquita Elias

1st VP, Programs

Manny Rivera

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

John Martinez

3rd VP, Special Events

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John Suci

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Kathleen Misko

Member at Large

Natalie Welsh

CGCI Liaison

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—March 2014

Still, we are faced with the dilemma of is it winter? Is it Spring? Were you able to collect rain water or put your plants out to get rained on? A rain water rinse helps flush out the mineral accumulation of tap water. We still need to watch the nighttime temperature. It may be 75° during the day but the nighttime temperature may be close to freezing. Plants will need some protection at those times. There are many ways to accomplish that, so if you have concerns about the safety of your plants, ask around- everyone will have a different suggestion. At least one of those will work for you.

John Martinez provided us with a spectacular, fun field trip to Petra Crist's Nursery, Rare Succulents in Rainbow, followed by a stop at Tropic World Garden. We chartered a bus to drive us there and that in itself was a treat! Petra is known for her exotic plants but this is the first time for most of us to actually see her nursery. There is a more detailed article in the Chronicle. Petra was quite generous in donating six winter growing plants from her collection for our raffle. It's not very often we have the opportunity to obtain a "Petra" plant for the price of a raffle ticket!

To fulfill our membership responsibilities in the CGCI, LACSS hosted the District Quarterly Meeting by decorating with a red, white and blue color scheme to honor President's Day. We received many compliments on our luncheon menu and the ice cream sundae bar for dessert. All thanks go to the "committee" who made it happen: Ilona Buratti, Roxie Esterle, Rosemary Ecker, Natalie Welsh, and Phyllis Frieze. Now we must design two gift baskets for the Garden Club Convention in June.

Many brave souls toughed it out to attend John Suci's February Mentoring Session about, of course, "Winter Growers."

The Board of Directors will meet on Sunday, March 23. If you have an issue that you would like on the agenda, please let me know.

Our Plant of the Month entries were exceptional again. As a reminder, each member may enter up to three (but not more) plants in each category of "cactus" and "succulent." It's not about winning or losing, it's about participating.

See you soon and stay healthy!
Joyce

Mentoring Program: Winter Growers Workshop

by Diane Miller

Thank you to Manny Rivera for his workshop presentation on Winter Growers, which took place on February 1st at the Sepulveda Garden Center. The presentation featured pelargoniums and included



tylecodons and cotyledons. Manny shared his expertise by beginning with a brief history of how pelargoniums were discovered in Africa and brought back to Europe. His beautiful specimens were an inspiration to all who attended. The collection illustrated differences in leaf, stem, and root patterns within the genus, and we were able to observe different growth behaviors in response to sun and shade. The presentation

also included a discussion of flower and seed formation with examples for us to observe. Manny even included an interesting first aid technique for damaged plants. Thank you, John Suci, for coordinating this valuable mentoring event. Thank you, Manny, for enhancing our appreciation of these diverse winter growers. I think I need a bigger back yard!



Stacks from the Library

March 2014

I attended the San Diego Winter Show and Sale on the 8th of February and purchased books on Aizoaceae A-E and F-Z, a new family name for Mesembryanthemaceae. The books are a bit technical for some but have great pictures for identification and the latest nomenclature.

Librarian

Sandy Chase

WEAR YOUR LACSS NAME BADGE

In March 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 March 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



Mentoring Program Update

We have several new programs scheduled over the next few months which are still in the planning stage. We will provide times, locations and other details as they become available.

Please let me know if you have any topics that you would like to see covered in future classes.

March

A class in **Staging** is tentatively scheduled for March; Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze will conduct the 2 hour session at Steve's home located at 15914 Rayen St. North Hills.

Details and times for the class have not been finalized. We are planning to have this worked out before the March meeting.

Plants will be available for sale

April

A class on **Asclepiadacea** is tentatively scheduled for April. Sandy Chase will conduct the class at her home. The **Asclepiadacea** family includes Focea, Raphionacme, Stapelia and Hoodiae.

Details and times for the class have not been finalized.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact me.

Thanks

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2014

- 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) 587-3357
- April 12-13** Green Scene Plant Sale Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **Info: 310-378-1953**
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes, CA
- 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 3-4** 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 33rd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon **Info** (951) 360-8802
- May 17** Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Sale 10am-3pm
Trinity Lutheran Church 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara **Info 805-967-7962**
- May 17-18** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5 www.lbccs.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
- 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
- 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

A Trip to Rare Succulents By Kathleen Misko

What was I thinking? Seven a.m. On a Sunday!! It didn't seem that early when I signed up. I wonder now, if that kept others away. Too bad for them.

It was 6:55am and I went flying into the parking lot by the bus. And what a beautiful bus! I met Curtis, our bus driver, and was greeted by the lovely faces of fellow club members. I hauled my gear to the rear, settled into the back seat which was waiting for me to set up camp. I drive every day of the week, so for me this is a real treat. I get to see where I'm going as compared to getting places. Planting myself by the bathroom door, I get to see everyone on the bus.

Two hours flew by and we arrived at our host's magnificent home. We were greeted by Rusty, the Rhodesian Ridgeback in residence quickly followed by Petra, Paul and their staff. Luckily Petra's bark isn't as bold as Rusty's. We were given the ground rules and had their accomplished, wonderful staff with us to answer questions.

Ya' all know that I love learning and just can't get enough of everyone's way of growing. When I am given a chance to see the tiny seed-beginnings at the tables of 2" potted plants that we can't even talk about they are so rare, I just about hyperventilate. I kept going back into the green houses. Sandy Chase was there and we peeked into the frames. It was so cool.

Even though I'm old, I came to this growing life late. I was busy working. So I am in such awe of my fellow club members and their generosity in sharing what they know.

And where do you get to do that? BUS TRIP. I know I saw plants that I wouldn't ever get to see. Thank you John for organizing this event and thank you to the club for providing the bus.

It took a while to decide what I could get on my budget and eventually I did and get in line to pay. Thank you Paul and Petra for the donuts and drinks. Even though Kim wasn't on the bus, she still got giant cookies for our bus trip back.

I decided to load my purchase in the bus and there is Gerald parked in back of the vehicle with pots covering the top of his car. I think he is so talented and how wonderful to be able to suddenly feel like we were in Guatemala. Thank you Gerald.

We then made a secondary planned stop at Tropic World Nursery. This is a fine place, just nothing that I didn't already have. And that's because I am in this club. I have become a collector of plants and pots and tiny stuff and broken things and friends.

Which brings me to the very best part of this adventure; the trip home on the bus. It was so wonderful to be able to talk, listen and learn. We had an old fashioned gab fest.

Loved it. Love this club.

Petra's Place



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

Competition Divisions:

- Rookie: 0 – 25 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “rookie” award points
Novice: 1 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Advanced: Over 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd 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 2nd 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**

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

February

Mammillaria Clusters
Sarcocaulon

March

Pediocactus,
Sclerocactus
Sedum

February Plant of the Month

Succulent -- Aloe Hybrids

Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Aloe-Hawarthia hybrid
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Aloe 'Twilight Zone'
Third	Linda Holub	Aloe hybrid

Novice

First	Marquita Ellias	Aloe hybrid
Second	Marquita Ellias	Aloe 'Pink Blush'
Third	Marquita Ellias	Aloe 'Black Beauty'
Third	Marquita Ellias	Aloe 'Delta Lights'

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Aloe 'Jaws'
Second	Kim Thorpe	Aloe hybrid
Third	John Martinez	Aloe hybrid

Cactus -- Columnar Cactus

Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Stenocereus eruca
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Cereus peruviana monstrose
Third	Joyce Schumann	Espostoa nana
Third		

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Oreocereus trolli
Second	Cheryl White	Espostoa lanata
Second	Kim Thorpe	Borzicactus sp.
Third	John Martinez	Astrophytum myriostigma
Third	Barbara Hall	Oreocereus celianus

Plant of the Month: Agave

Agaves are one of, if not THE, most popularly grown succulents in California and the Southwest. It is hard to go down any street in our region without seeing at least one *Agave americana*, *A. attenuata*, *A. potatorum*, or a host of other species. They are easy to grow, come in a great variety of sizes and shapes, and most thrive on neglect. No wonder they are so popular!

Agaves, like the *Cacti*, are entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world. Agaves are native to Southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern South America and the Caribbean. A few species are native to the deserts of Southern California. There are roughly 200 species of *Agave* and countless varieties



Agave albipilosa (Rare)

and cultivars, with new species being discovered regularly. Some species are so common in cultivation that you practically can't give them away while others (such as *A. albopilosa*) command \$100 or more for a small plant.

Many people shy away from Agaves because they think the plants are all spiny giants that take over half of your yard. While species like *A. americana* and *A. mapisaga* certainly fit that description, there are lots of well behaved small to mid-sized species such as *A. victoriae-reginae*, *A. potatorum*, *A. isthmensis* which can even be grown in a pot (hopefully so or we won't have any entries for our contest!). If stiff leaves and sharp spines are the problem then

A. attenuata is perfect for you. Its leaves are so soft and lush that it would look right at home in a tropical planting instead of a xeric one.

Agaves are easily grown from seed. Although many of members of this genus grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for many years in pots. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer. Their appearance is best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many offset freely, and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small plants. Many growers keep the offsets, and dispose of the mother plant, keeping size, health and condition under control. Agave flowers are spectacular with spikes that sometimes reach as high as 20 feet. After flowering, the agave mother plant dies back.



Agave funkiana



Agave applanata
'Crème Spike

-Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich

Opuntia from South America

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

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



Tephrocactus geometricus

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

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

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

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



Opuntia echios



Puna clavarioides

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich



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General Meeting

March 6

Speaker: Woody Minnich

**Special Presentation on Madagascar:
The Plants, People and Places**

March Event

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