



**October 2, 2014**  
**Meeting Time**  
**7:00 pm**

16633 Magnolia Blvd.  
 Encino, CA 91356

**Plant of the Month**  
 Ariocarpus  
 Euphorbia (Madagascar)

**Refreshments**  
**E-H**

**August New Members**  
 Glen & Julie Grisham  
 Mark Robinson  
 Dr. Joseph Rosa III &  
 Lisa Rosa  
 Donna Rosenstein  
 Valerie Wong

**September New Members**  
 Judy Mason-Benedict  
 Helen Berger  
 Myanna & David Dellinger  
 Dana Groina  
 Jack Schooley  
 Gail Shaevel  
 Steve Sobel

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

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

**Program: SEED PROPAGATION WORKSHOP OR**  
**“DON'T LOOK NOW THEY'RE PROPAGATING!”**

Be ready to get your hands dirty, this is member participation. John and Marquita will be demonstrating different methods of seed propagation and then it's your turn. It's a great way to build your collection in a short amount of time and have fun doing it. During this time of year many of your plants may have flowered and some may have produced seeds. Feel free to bring those seeds to the workshop. We will also be providing a wide variety of seeds for you to try. This is member participation so please bring your questions, tips, suggestions and most important your sense of humor.



**Marquita:** Marquita is a member of CSSA and a member of LACSS for three years and has been scheduling programs for two of those years. As a California native, born in Anaheim, she received her degree in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and also attended Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She worked as a Registered Civil Engineer for over 20 years with a portion of that time spent underwater as a hardhat diver. She spends her time helping with their family construction business, hiking, mountain biking and tending her collection of aeoniums and adeniums. She loves to work with seeds and has been doing so since she can remember; remembering the thrill of receiving the Burpee Catalog each spring.

**John:** John lives in Moorpark with his wife Linda and has recently retired from the Los Angeles Fire Department after thirty five years of service. He is a member of the Los Angeles CSS, San Gabriel Valley CSSA, San Fernando Bromeliad Society and volunteers at the Huntington Botanical Garden. He has a deep fondness of nature and has been growing cactus and succulents most of his adult life. Over the past three years he has been very fortunate to share growing grounds with three very experienced growers of cactus, succulents and other exotics. Aside from maintaining his plant collection, his time is divided between gardening, golf, photography, occasional fly fishing, and grandchildren. As a native of Southern California, he attended California State University Northridge where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Art.



## 2014 Officers

### **President**

Joyce Schumann

### **1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs**

Marquita Elias

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

Manny Rivera

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

John Martinez

### **Secretary**

Cheryl White

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

### **Treasurer**

Kathryn Boorer

### **Director 1 Odd Years**

#### **Membership**

Danielle Duboff

### **Director 2, Even Years**

David Le

### **Past President**

Roxie Esterle

### **LACSS Show Chair**

Artie Chavez

### **Show Committee**

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

### **Webmaster**

Kim Thorpe

### **Librarian**

Sandy Chase

### **Historian**

Nils Schirrmacher

### **Cactus Chronicle Editor**

Phyllis Frieze

### **Inter-City Show Liaison**

### **CSSA Representative**

John Matthews

### **Education Chair**

Kyle Williams

### **Drawing & Plant Procurement**

Richard Roosman

### **Mentor Program Chair**

John Suci

### **Member at Large**

Kathleen Misko

### **CGCI Liaison**

Natalie Welsh

### **Cactus Garden Chair**

Chris Rogers

### **Cactus Chronicle Distribution**

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

### **Holiday Party Chairperson**

Barbara Hall

### **Holiday Party Awards Procurement**

Gerald Reichert

### **Cactus Garden**

Chris Rogers

### **Meeting Refreshments**

John Noster

Steve Rudolf

### **Publicity**

Kim Thorpe

### **Monthly Drawing**

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

## *President's Message*

*October, 2014*

Hey, everyone – what's happening in the POM entries? We started the year by breaking a record for number of entries and then breaking that record with even more entries the next month. And now, I can see bare counter top between the plants. A call to all ROOKIES – check the future POM listings so you can acquire an upcoming POM to enter. Our vendors are happy to help you select a suitable plant from their offerings. NOTE to vendors – I am not telling you what to bring but it would be a help to some newbies if you could include some future POMs in your offerings. (A special thanks for this.)

Freebies are a wonderful way to share our surplus plants. But, please make sure the counter top is covered to prevent damaging it. And at the end of the meeting, please, someone, help clear the counter of the remains.

Since June, LACSS has enrolled over 30 new members. What an incredible growth spurt! The first person to greet new visitors usually sets the tone for their impression of us. As luck would have it, our Membership Chair is the very personable Danielle. Once Danielle has signed up someone new, then what happens? Our hectic social hour (LOL) prior to the meeting does not allow much time for in-depth discussion with anyone. But, it is incumbent on all the *senior members\** to make the effort to introduce yourself to someone who is looking lost & confused and ask if you can be of any assistance. Looking from the outside, our meetings sometimes look like organized chaos, so new people probably would appreciate a bit of help figuring out what "Plant of the Month" means, what is a "freebie", or "are the books for sale?" Even if we are occupied with something else, we must make the effort to make all members feel like they are the most important member in our Club. Each year, we reaffirm our commitment to our Festival's goal of attracting new members. We have been very successful in achieving that goal. Our job is not finished then – it is just beginning. If you are the confused, lost newbie, feel free to introduce yourself to anyone and ask for help. It is our goal to share our expertise and by doing so, make our club stronger.

The Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Cheryl White, met this month. She put together an ambitious agenda which required us to put our heads together to determine our financial trends, income vs expenses and establish budgets for various activities such as standard annual expenses and discretionary items such as field trips, mentoring, books, etc. The Board of Directors will be meeting in November. If anyone has an issue they want addressed, feel free to email me.

\*Definition of *senior member* – anyone who has been a member longer than the person who just joined.

See you soon.  
Joyce



*Saturday, November 8, 2014*

Saturday, November 8, 2014, is the LACSS Garden Tour to the Living Desert in Palm Desert. The cost will be \$ 20.00 per person and will include a 2 hour tram tour of the Zoo and Gardens beginning at 10:00 AM. The tour will also include a propagation talk, 20% off at the Palo Verde Nursery and 10% off at other gift shops. !!

The Living Desert is located at 47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert, CA. 92260. For additional information contact John Martinez or visit the Living Desert web site at [www.livingdesert.org](http://www.livingdesert.org). !

Please RSVP for this event by contacting John Martinez no later than the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. To assist the facility to better meet our needs, it is important to get an accurate count of participants prior to the date of the event. The LACSS has prepaid for admission, so please be prepared to pay the balance of \$20.00 for the event at the October meeting. Participants will be responsible for their own transportation. Carpooling is encouraged!

We will meet at the in the parking lot of the site in the Half Circle, by the flag prior to 10:00 AM. Trams will be boarded in this area, **please be on time!** Participants can explore the park prior to and after the tour at their leisure. The RSVP roster will be used for entry into the park (no tickets).

For those interested, there are two other facilities in the area that may be of interest.  
Moorten Botanical Garden, 1701 S. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs, Ca. 92264 (760) 327-6555.  
Cactus Mart, 49889 29 Palms Hwy, (Highway 62), Morongo Valley, 92256

John Martinez!  
VP Special Events!  
[johnwm6425@gmail.com](mailto:johnwm6425@gmail.com)!  
805-390-2139

**Plant of the Month  
2014**

**October**  
Ariocarpus  
Euphorbia  
(Madagascar)

**November**  
Miniatures

**December**  
Holiday Party

**2015**

**January**  
Discocactus  
Anacampseros, Avonia,  
Ceraria

**February**  
Mammillaria Clusters  
Sarcocaulon

**March**  
Pediocactus,  
Sclerocactus  
Sedum

**April**  
Variegates

**May**  
Aztekium  
Geohintonia

**June**  
Favorite

**July**  
Echinocactus,  
Ferrocactus  
Pachypodium-  
Madagascar

**August**  
Eriosyce, Neochilinea,  
Neoporteria  
Lithops

**September**  
Ceriodes (N. America)  
Didiereaceae

**October**  
Miniatures  
Miniatures

**September Plant of the Month Winners**

**Succulent -- Fouquieria**

**Novice**

First	Robert and Carolyn Feldman	Fouquieria purpusii
Second	Nils Schirmmacher	Fouquieria diguetii
Second	Robert and Carolyn Feldman	Fouquieria fasciculata
Third	Robert and Carolyn Feldman	Fouquieria purpusii

**Advanced**

First	Kim Thorpe	Fouquieria diguetii
Second	Kim Thorpe	Fouquieria purpusii

**Open**

First	Artie Chavez	Fouquieria fasciculata
Second	Artie Chavez	Fouquieria leonilae

**Cactus -- Thelocactus,**

**Rookie**

First	Natalie Welsh	Thelocactus bicolor
Second	Natalie Welsh	Thelocactus hexaedrophorus

**Novice**

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Thelocactus nidulans
-------	----------------	----------------------

**Advanced**

First	Kim Thorpe	Thelocactus lausseri
Second	Kim Thorpe	Thelocactus hexaedrophorus
Third	Kim Thorpe	Thelocactus bicolor

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

**November 1-2** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days  
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

## Upcoming Elections

In the next month, we will be holding our elections for some key positions on the Board. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact the nominating committee ASAP via email to [kimokakes1@yahoo.com](mailto:kimokakes1@yahoo.com) or you may call Kim Thorpe at 818-679-6548.

As of right now, we are excited to announce the nominations for the slate of candidates for 2015-2017 term.

### 2015 Candidates

Marquita Elias  
**1st VP, Programs**

Manny Rivera  
**2nd VP, Plant of Month**

Cheryl White  
**Secretary**

Danielle Duboff  
**Director 1**

We will be voting at our November 6, 2014 meeting.

**T-SHIRTS T-SHIRTS T-SHIRTS**

**Attention all LACSS members who joined LACSS June 1, 2014 or later.**

**Have we got a deal for you!**

**We are offering the latest LACSS T-shirts to you for the special price of \$10.00 each.**

**Now is a good time to get those holiday gifts for people who have everything!**

**See Sylvia or Danielle before the meeting or at intermission.**

## Plant of the Month: *Ariocarpus*

*Ariocarpus* is one of the most prized and distinctive of all cacti genera. Ranging from Central and Northern Mexico to southern Texas, the genus has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but *Ariocarpus*, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this single genus has generated a world wide cult of devotees.

What about *Ariocarpus* has led to such popularity? There are several possible reasons. The form of the plant is nearly unique among cacti. Specifically, the tubercles are flattened and triangular, looking very much like succulent leaves. There is essentially no stem separate from the tubercles. Most of the species



*Ariocarpus retusus*

are quite distinct from each other, and all of them stay small enough to grow in pots. Additionally, they are very slow growing and, until the last 10-15 years, most were rarely seen for sale. Fortunately, a number of growers have been producing *Ariocarpus* in large numbers and supply is keeping up with demand. This allows people to collect them at a fair price and helps reduce the demand for wild dug plants. Today, the high priced *Ariocarpus* are usually unusual hybrids or variegates.



*Ariocarpus hybrid*

*Ariocarpus* has an undeserved reputation as being difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than many other central Mexican genera, and is well within the cultivation ability of even beginning growers. They come from a hot desert region that gets most of its rain in the summer, with the winter being quite dry. That is the exact opposite of

our rainfall pattern, which has led some people to have trouble with them. Wet cool winters will make them rot prone, but it is the water that is the problem not the temperature. So during the rainy season just put them under a bench or somewhere dry that still gets bright light and don't water until spring. This "cool and wet is bad" advice goes for a lot of succulents, but most of the time the plants actually want warmer weather and people bring them inside for that reason (e.g. *Euphorbia* and *Adenium*). Don't do that with *Ariocarpus*. They come from a winter region with colder winters than ours, so they like the chilly weather. It truly is just the water that is the problem.

With all of the fuss we make over this genus, it is important to remember that the plants have had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles contain a sticky mucilage, which was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies. Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is considered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, (but lightly throughout the summer growing season) good growth will result. There are six species (or more depending on if you want to divide *A. retusus*), several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.



*Ariocarpus kotschubianus*

-Kyle Williams  
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich

## *Euphorbia* from Madagascar



*Euphorbia kamponii*

*Euphorbias* are among the most successful plant genera, covering an amazing geographical and environmental range. Containing over 2000 species, it is one of the five largest genera of plants in the world (some rank it as the second largest behind *Astragalus*, a legume). While we know them as succulents, *Euphorbia* includes tiny herbs, leafy shrubs, and even giant rainforest trees. In horticulture, they span the range from English Garden plants to trees, stem succulents, geophytic miniatures, to medusoid globulars to caudiciforms.

Our focus this time are on the *Euphorbia* species native to Madagascar. While no single characteristic distinguishes the plants from that island, I've come to notice that in cultivation there are a disproportionate number of leafy stem or caudex forming species as compared to those from the African continent. This includes the very popular *E. millii*, as well as species such

as *E. decaryi*, *E. neohumbertii*, *E. milotii*, *E. francoisii*, and *E. waringiae*. Of course there are wonderful leafless species as well, such as *E. platyclada* and *E. kamponii*.

Many *Euphorbias* from Madagascar are very easy to grow, with the swollen roots and stems making them very tolerant of under watering. However, many leafy species, especially those with thinner leaves such as *E. pachypodioides* and *E. millii* appreciate regular watering in the growing season. Care must be given in watering, keeping them warm and wet while growing, and cooler and dry when dormant. *Euphorbias* from Madagascar are more tropical than species from South Africa (the vast majority of *Euphorbia* in cultivation are from those two countries) and therefore less tolerant of cold conditions. They are particularly prone to rot if left cold and damp while dormant. Protection in a greenhouse, or a bright windowsill in the middle of the winter will greatly increase the survival rate, but most species will get by outdoors in our region if kept dry during this time.



*Euphorbia pachypodioides*



*Euphorbia waringiae*

Most *Euphorbias* are easy to propagate. The green stems can be removed, left to dry for at least week or even a bit more, and then replanted. The newly planted stems take a few weeks to establish, and then start growing. In caudiciform species some cuttings will not form caudexes unless double cut. Once growth is strong, the top of the green shoot needs to be cut off again to force the plant to start a caudex. Some species form a perfectly symmetrical caudex when grown from seed, but form distorted (but often more interesting) caudexes when grown from cuttings.

In collections or when entered into shows, caudiciform species have the caudex of raised above the soil line to expose the intricate and exotic root system that are typically submerged in habitat. Stem succulent species won't form thickened roots and should therefore be grown at the normal soil level.

Kyle Williams  
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich and Steven Frieze

# *Garden Club Events July 2014 – June 30 2015*

## Date

## Event

### **District**

(San Fernando Valley)  
(LACSS)

December 8, 2014

District Meeting (Sepulveda Garden Center)

January 11, 2015

Campo de Cahuenga Commemoration

February 23, 2015

District Meeting (Sepulveda Garden Center)

April 13, 2015

Bus Tour (fund raiser)

June 23, 2015

District Meeting (Sepulveda Garden Center)

### **State (CGCI)**

October 23-24, 2015

“Colors of Fall” cruise (New York to Quebec)

February 2-5, 2015

Winter Board Meeting (Fresno)

June 8-12, 2015

84th Annual Convention (Reno)

### **National (NGC)**

May 14-18, 2015

National Convention (Louisville, KY)

## **LACSS and the CGCI**

On September 15, 2014 LACSS was honored to co-host the San Fernando Valley District meeting along with Cherry Blossom Garden Club. We chose the theme of “Fall Colors” for table decorations. Not only did we utilize fall colors, we incorporated a bit of Halloween and Thanksgiving for good measure. We also provided beverages and dessert to compliment the great lunch offerings of the Cherry Blossom Garden Club. The business meeting of the day included a discussion and a vote regarding a change in the bylaws to change the number of delegates allowed to vote. The proposed amendment was not passed.

The next meeting of the San Fernando Valley District will be on Monday, December 9 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. This will be a Holiday Potluck and all club members are welcome. The Club Presidents will share some of their most successful events.





## Another Successful Mentor Day

By Ilona Buratti and Rosemary Ecker

It was an exceptionally beautiful day, with gorgeous weather as we wound our way on the back roads of Somis. Our drive was pleasant and interesting, and we tagged the "Open" Fruit Stands along the way for future exploration.

Somis Growing Ground was easy to find with a well-placed sign confirming the correctness of our travels, which at first seemed like quite an adventure ending on a dirt road. We had a great turn out and enjoyed the well planned and prepared lessons and tips about propagation. That's why John Martinez and John Matthews were our mentors. They know what they are talking about. The morning was filled with wonderful tips. John Matthews and John Martinez demonstrated separating plants and explained the growing medium and care to develop roots. The demonstrations focused on dividing it up to make more of our favorites. We sat under covered canopies with cold water and snacks available. The seating was theater style, with a good view of the demonstration area for all. Examples of dividing plants with runners, layering and the planting of cuttings were demonstrated. Then two "students" volunteered and were given the opportunity to try their hands at propagating. The two brave ladies took their turn at the table, separating and repotting the "demonstration" selections. Thanks to Rose and Joyce we had the use of their restroom in their RV. Thank you ladies!

There were plants galore to look at and buy, as well as a great opportunity to learn how to separate our treasures and "what the heck do I do with this plant?" We mingled & visited with buddies and learned more about our hobbies. We found it especially nice to be in on a project that our members are doing and felt their enthusiasm for the world of Cacti and Succulents. We are looking forward to more workshops and possibly a BBQ at this lovely site. As mentoring opportunities come up, take the time to join the fun and knowledge. It's what makes our club the greatest!



**End of the Year Sale 10/25/2014 and 10/26/2014**



**DESERT CREATIONS**

Located in the San Fernando Valley  
15914 Rayen Street North Hills  
California 91343

[www.desertcreations.net](http://www.desertcreations.net)

**(818) 482-8795**

'Home of unusual succulents and cactus'

9  
AM  
to  
3  
PM

**10% off purchases up to \$100 20% off purchases between \$101 and \$200  
30% off purchases over \$201**



15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343

Directions: Exit the 405 Freeway at Nordhoff (go west after exiting for approximately two blocks, turn left on Haskell and then right on Rayen – look for the cactus garden on the left)

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information



Mailing Address  
LACSS  
PO BOX 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

## General Meeting

October 2

**Program:** SEED PROPAGATION WORKSHOP OR  
"DON'T LOOK NOW THEY'RE PROPAGATING!"  
Presented by: Marquita Elias & John Martinez

## October Event

**October 25-26** Palomar Show & Sale, **Info:** [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com), 858-382-1797  
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas

**October 25-26** Desert Creations End of the Year Sale 9-3  
15914 Rayen Street  
Call for further information: 818-482-8795