



# CACTUS CHRONICLE



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

# OUR NEXT MEETING

JUNE 4TH, 6:15PM

## LACSS FIRST VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETING VIA ZOOM

Hi members! The LACSS Board Members have made a decision to have our first monthly meeting via ZOOM. In this edition (page 4), you will find tips on using Zoom. It is very easy and also fun for everyone.

This meeting we have a panel of speakers: Karen Ostler, John Martinez & Sandy Chase, hosted by John Giesing & Emily Akers!

## WE ARE ASKING OUR MEMBERSHIP TO SEND US QUESTIONS YOU'D LIKE TO ASK OUR PANEL.

HIT REPLY ON THIS EMAIL, OR EMAIL [NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM](mailto:NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM)

Also during this meeting, we will be having Manny present POM, so for those who sent us photos, you are automatically participating in POM! This month we will be featuring miniatures, and next month will be favorites!

## PLEASE SEND ME PHOTOS OF YOUR FAVORITE CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

PLEASE READ ALL EMAIL UPDATES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, A ZOOM LINK ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN AN EMAIL BLAST EARLY IN THE WEEK, THIS WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY! FEEL FREE TO ASK ME ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS! CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL!!!

*-Kimberly*



## 2020 OFFICERS

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Joyce Schumann

## PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Thorpe Chavez

## 1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

## 2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

## 3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Esterle

## SECRETARY

Ron Cooper

## TREASURER

Kathy Gogol

## DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP

Rosemary Polito

## DIRECTOR 2 EDUCATION

Karen Ostler

## COMMUNICATION COORDINATOR

## CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong  
newsletter@lacactus.com

## MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Karen Holley

## WEBMISTRESS

Nancy Neymark

## CACTUS GARDEN CHAIR

Chris Rogers

## CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

## FALL SALE

## FESTIVAL CHAIR

Artie Chavez

## INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVE

Karen Ostler

## MONTHLY DRAWING

Al Mindel

## PLANT PROCUREMENT

Collin O'Callaghan

## HISTORIAN

Nils Schirrmacher

## HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIR

Debi Heaps

## LIBRARIAN

Susan Phillips

## MEETING REFRESHMENTS

## POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams



# A Word From Our President

Greetings to all! Now that my files are all cleaned out and organized, I still can't find some of my documents. See, the real world still exists!

The C & S world is not taking a nap during this pandemic. CSSA has offered several programs from past conventions – they also held a webinar on Saturday, May 23. Did you have a chance to join in? LACSS has joined in the social media realm with two ZOOM Board meetings and we may attempt to hold a monthly meeting via ZOOM. We are waiting for another club to try this so we will know what we need to do to improve our meeting.

Have you enjoyed the Cactus Chronicle Supplement? Kudos to our editor, Kimberly, who has made the extra effort to help all our members stay in touch with Club activities and each other. If you have any suggestions, articles and/or photos, please be sure to send them to her.

I am saddened to report that Kathleen Misko has chosen to resign her position as Membership Chair. She cited health issues and we wish her the best and thank her for keeping things in good order during her tenure. I have appointed Rosemary Polito as the interim Membership Chair. She is currently going through the files to organize her thoughts on how to go forward with the various aspects of this position. This is a more complicated office than it seems on the surface.

Looking forward to next year (yes, it will be here someday), our Treasurer has indicated that she will be moving away at the end of the year. Rats!!! That will leave big hole in our Elected Officials roster. **WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT SOON SO THERE CAN BE AN EASY TRANSITION. IF YOU HAVE ANY BACKGROUND IN BOOK KEEPING, ACCOUNTING OR ARE A CPA, WE NEED YOU.**

Please consider this as a fantastic opportunity to serve your club and its members. It is almost impossible to have a conversation today without mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic and how it has changed our lives. As much as we would like to reach out to each of you individually to make sure you are staying safe and receiving the Cactus Chronicle and the new Supplement, it has slipped to the side of our agenda. We would love to hear from you. Every day I look at our member roster for some reason and see a name and wonder how they are doing. Please email me and keep me in your loop. We will keep you informed regarding upcoming events, news flashes, etc. as they happen.

In the meantime, stay safe, healthy and positive.

Best,

Joyce, LACSS President

# SPEAKER PANEL

## SPEAKER DETAILS FOR JUNE 4TH PANEL



### SANDY CHASE

Sandy entered into the Cactus & Succulent world in 1984 when she purchased 20 plants, each in 2 1/2" pots, for \$0.50 each. To this day, she still owns one of those plants. Sandy has amassed quite a collection of Cactus & Succulents over the years. She has held a position in every office in the LACSS, & she calls herself a "life member." Sandy was privileged to co-chair the 2001 convention hosted by the LACSS, held in Woodland Hills, California. It was also her good fortune to be part of a 3+ week trip to Africa, with 8 friends from the club, where they saw many plants in habitat in 2010. Sandy has put together many educational displays for the LACSS, the CSSA, & Inter-city shows. Sandy looks forward to serving many more years in any capacity that will help our society grow.



### JOHN MARTINEZ

John currently lives in Moorpark with his wife, Linda & is a retired Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief. He is a member of several local garden clubs & a past volunteer at the Huntington Botanical Garden. John has a deep fondness of nature & has been growing xeric plants most of his adult life. Over the past six years he has shared a co-operative succulent growing compound in Somis with 3 like-minded growers of cactus, succulents, and other exotics. Aside from maintaining his plant collection, John's time is divided between gardening, golf, photography, occasional fly fishing, & grandchildren. As a native of Southern California, John attended California State University of Northridge where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Art.



### KAREN OSTLER

Karen's interest in cactus started in 1979, when she acquired 7 cactus plants, 3 of which she still has, all Mammillarias. She became involved in the cactus societies in the mid-80s & is currently a member of 6 local societies as well as the CSSA. After living in the San Fernando Valley for many years, Karen & her husband, Martin moved to the high desert mountains with an elevation of 4,100 ft & had to learn how to grow plants all over again. She loves every challenging moment of it.



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# TIPS FOR ZOOM

## WHAT IS ZOOM?

Zoom is a popular cloud-based video conferencing application, used primarily by businesses to host meetings remotely or internationally.



## SIGNING ON

- You do NOT need to have a Zoom account. Just click on the link that is emailed to you and your screen will open in Zoom.
- Some meetings may require passwords, sent with the email invitation.  
**THE LACSS MEETING WILL NOT REQUIRE A PASSWORD.**
- If your internet connection is weak and sounds are choppy, you can use your cell phone to dial the number shown on the Zoom invitation.
- If you sign in early, you'll see a message that says "Host will join soon."

## NAVIGATING ON SCREEN

- VIEW: Toggle between Speaker View or Gallery View, click on screen to enlarge it or find the "full screen" icon. Lpads may not be able to show all participants simultaneously, so you may have to scroll to the left or right. The speaker will automatically show in any case.
- MUTE – keep your screen on mute unless you are speaking. People using PCs can hold down the space bar to unmute temporarily. Host has the ability to "mute" all.
- STOP VIDEO – to temporarily turn it off and not appear on the screen
- PARTICIPANTS – gives a list of names of all participants
- CHAT – Talk to one person or everyone. Remember to turn in back to "everyone" in order to be included on future messages. Message is sent when you push the "enter" or "return" key.
- RECORD – requires permission from all participants, can be done only by the host. Recording can be given to anyone who misses the meeting.
- REACTIONS – show you agree with thumbs up; hand can be used to say something or to applaud a comment. Goes off automatically after a few seconds.
- SHARE SCREEN – documents MUST be open on computer to share them.

# TIPS FOR ZOOM

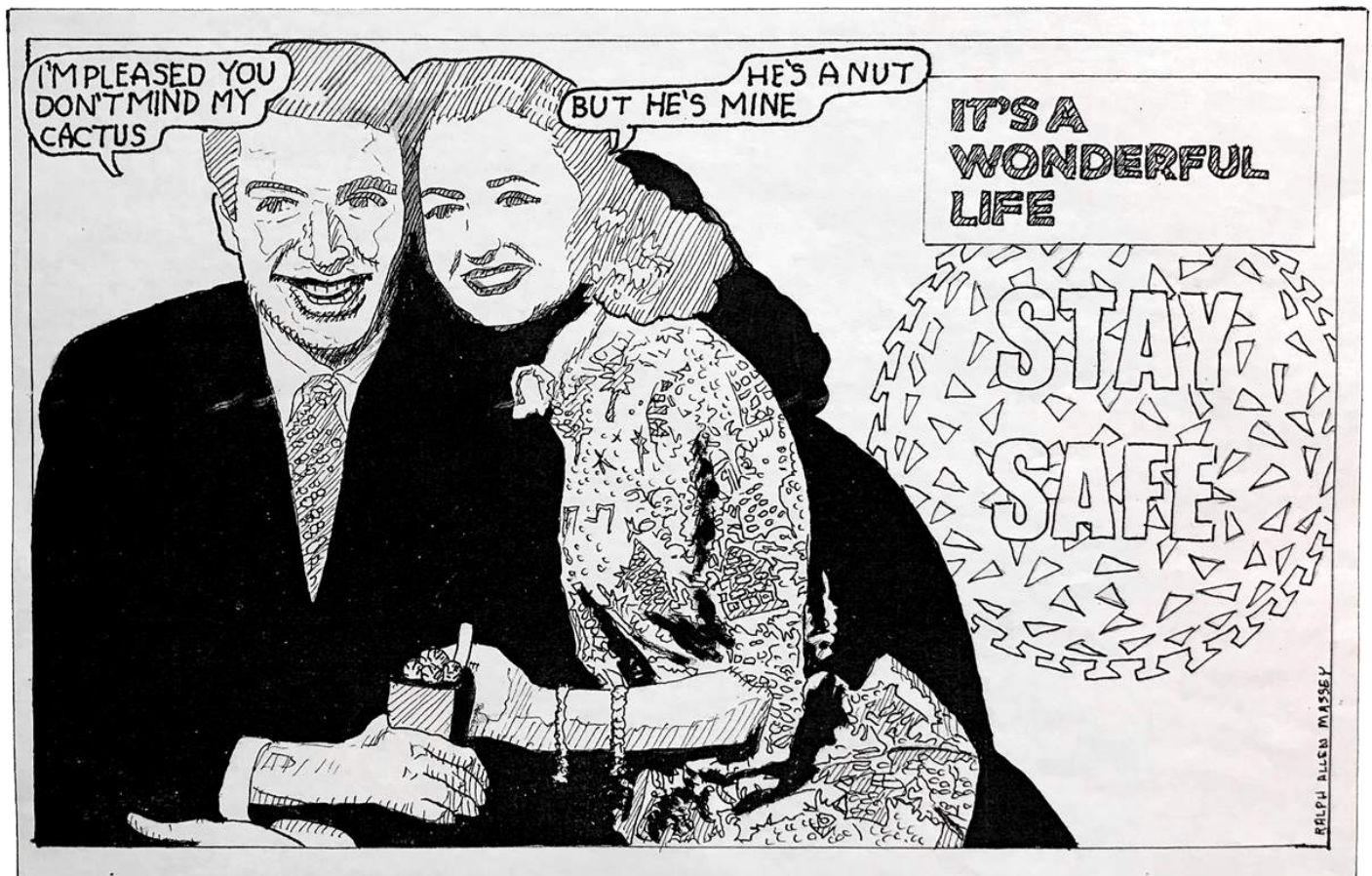
## OTHER TIPS

- Look at the webcam when you are speaking, and try to stay relatively still
- If you want to ask questions during the meeting, please use the “chat” function
- Assign a chat monitor so that questions asked on chat will not be overlooked
- Phones should be on “mute” when the speaker is presenting

## SECURITY

- When you use “share screen”, going into your directory to search for document can be seen by all. Have your document ready and open behind the Zoom screen.
- Chat messages for one person can be seen by the host if the meeting is recorded.
- Recording requires permission of all
- Never post a meeting publicly
- Lock the participants when everyone is on

## SEE YOU VIRTUALLY THURSDAY!

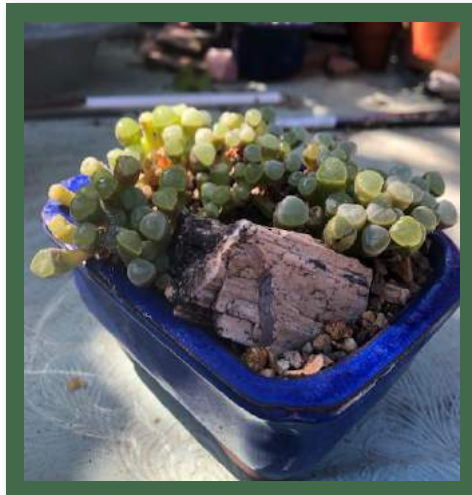


# PLANT<sup>of the</sup> MONTH SUBMISSIONS

THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS FIRST ZOOM MEETING ON JUNE 4TH TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



EUPHORBIA CAPUT MEDUSAE  
RON COOPER



FENESTRIA (BABY TOES)  
MA BJARKMAN



DUDLEYA GNOMA  
BONNIE IKEMURA



AGAVE SP.  
NANCY NEYMARK



CRASSULA MESEMBRYANTHEMOPSIS  
GRETCHEN DAVIS



?  
AL MINDEL



GYMNOCALYCIUM FRIEDRICHII  
RON COOPER



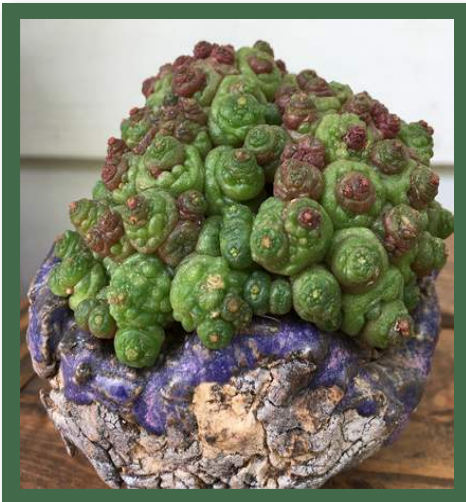
CRASSULA DECEPTOR  
GRETCHEN DAVIS



?  
AL MINDEL

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MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA 'FRED'  
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN + KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG



CONOPHYTUM SP.  
KIM + ARTIE CHAVEZ



MAMMILLARIA BERTHOLDII  
KIM + ARTIE CHAVEZ



AVONIA QUINARIA  
DEBI HEAPS



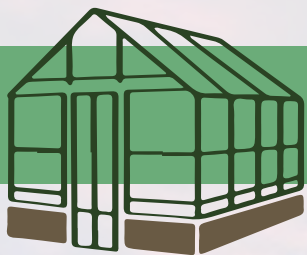
TURBINICARPUS MACROCHELE  
KIM + ARTIE CHAVEZ



FRAILEA CASTANEA  
DEBI HEAPS



COPIAPOA TENUISSIMA MONSTROSE  
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN + KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG



# GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

I love OPUTIAS. Yeah, I know; right now you are saying to yourself; but they're ugly plants! No, they aren't. Some, I agree, are a little homely, but overall, the Opuntia Family is full of beauty.

I love them all, from the stately Braziliensis that can reach thirty feet tall, to the tiny pea sized heads of Cumulopuntia pentlandii. The nasty Opuntia mircodasys full of red, or gold or white glochids to Tephrocactus bruchii ssp. geometricans with its hexagonal markings and blue heads. Each and every Genus and species within the family has something to offer.

This time of year brings out the best of all of them; spring is when these beauties flower and it can be traffic stopping.

This Opuntia sp. started from a single pad; a gift from a neighbor; it lights up my front yard every year, and flowers sporadically for a month or two. The rest of the year it grows,

putting out nice red spines. And I never water it. Ever.

It survives on whatever rain it gets over the winter. It laughs off snow and just keeps growing. And nothing eats it. In the greenhouse, my Tephrocactus are starting to flower; here the small headed form of Tephrocactus (formerly Puna) bonnieae has yellow flowers.

If there is a problem with the Opuntia family it is the fact that they are terribly promiscuous. Platyopuntias will cross with other Platyopuntias, making for some strange hybrids.

This plant with salmon colored flowers appeared in a bed that had no Opuntias at all. It might be *O. phaeacantha*, we have some growing in the back; but the spines are orange and that's not the right flower color, still a nice plant. A cross with one of the other Opuntias we own? Maybe.



So instead of saying Opuntias are ugly; call them temporary beauties, and bring a couple into your life.

Stay safe, stay home and stay healthy.

Happy growing!  
Karen





# HUMMINGBIRDS in the GARDEN

BY JOHN MARTINEZ

We are very fortunate here in Southern California to live in a part of the country that allows us to grow such an interesting variety of plants. As amateur horticulturists, experimenting with different plants to determine what does well and what does not are all part of the enjoyment of the hobby. The result is often very interesting landscapes that are not only pleasant to us but also attracts some of the local fauna to our gardens.



*Feeding one of the chicks*

Over the past two springs I have had nesting hummingbirds in a hanging pot ornament on my backyard patio. The fine hairlike fibers in one of my tree ferns seem to be a favored nesting material. As I am writing this article the second pair of chicks this year are getting ready to fledge. I have provided some photos to share the enjoyment of observing their progress. I believe these to be Allen's Hummingbirds ( *Selasphorus sasin* ). If this is incorrect, please let me know.



*Sitting on eggs*

I view this as an added benefit. The things that seem to attract animals (and birds in particular) to our yards are food, water, and protective cover. Food, (in addition to artificial feeders) include insects and plants that provide flowers, seed, and fruit/berries. Water, in the way of fountains, pools, and birdbaths are probably even more effective than food. I find that the clean running water in my backyard fountain is quite attractive to a variety of birds. And lastly, protective shelter in the way of tree and shrubs.



*Almost ready to leave the nest*