

CACTUS CHRONICLE

LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - CSSA AFFILIATE

March Newsletter 2018

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.

March 2018 Guest Speaker: Wendell S.(Woody) Minnich Topic: "The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and other Succulents"



Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, 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, Madagascar, 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. Woody's show quality plants were 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 has published numerous articles in various journals and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of this last November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. 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 the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of ten C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

Read about this month's topic on Page 7.



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*All pictures courtesy of "Woody".

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Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Sylvia Strehlo

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

A word from our President

by Kim Thorpe Chavez

It was exciting to see such a large and enthusiastic turn out for the February meeting. I really enjoyed Stephen McCabe's presentation on Dudleyas and I am proud that LACSS is supporting his efforts to restore the Dudleya population in habitat.

Another beloved plant faces extinction, it is *Brighamia rockii* (Pua ala), with beautiful white fragrant flowers, that grows only on the sheer cliffs in Molokai, Hawaii. These plants are on the verge of extinction because their pollinators are gone. Every year, two amazingly committed scientists hang by ropes over the cliffs to hand pollinate the few remaining plants, trying to restore their numbers in habitat. *Brighamia insignis* (Alula), a sister plant that grows on Kauai, is similarly in an endangered situation, especially following the last two hurricanes. It is already extinct on Niihau, and without the work of these scientists, the plants would already be completely gone from habitat. A group of nursery men in Hawaii are propagating these and other local species to help mother nature. Commercial sales revenue is helping fund the restoration projects.

The new approach to monthly refreshments has been very well received. Thank you, Kathleen, for those wonderful grilled cheese sandwiches. I really liked the donation of sodas last month and water the month before. REMEMBER: if you happen to miss your month, please feel free to bring in something to share the next month.

The Festival Show and Sale Committee has met and a report will follow soon. The Show committee has some new and exciting suggestions in store for our annual June event, one of which is described later in this *Cactus Chronicle* issue. The success of the show requires member participation, so stay tuned for more updates. Help our Volunteer Cactus Thermometer flower by April! When you come to the meeting, please sign up for your spot during the Social Hour. In fact, I think the monthly code word should be Volunteer! Come share the code word with me for a free raffle ticket.

Ilona has been working very hard to update membership files. We have had a couple of computer glitches and bugs which we are working hard to fix. I am sure it is frustrating to you, but imagine how frustrating it is for Ilona when many hours inputting disappears in the cloud, never to be found again. Please be patient and give us a chance to get these issues resolved. Some members' writing is hard to read, so she has to check and recheck. The roster will now be pushed to April (hopefully).

REMEMBER: the LACSS belongs to you, so help us make the club more educational, inviting, and most of all, FUN! If you have any suggestions, please find a board member and bend his/her ear.

See you in March,

Kim

**Raffle plants this month
Supplied by
Wendell S. "Woody" Mennich**

**Raffle tickets are \$1 each,
or 6 for \$5.**

We cordially welcome all our new members to LACSS!

**January: Amanda Erlanson, Angela Clubb, Linda DAlessandro
February: Hannes Stoeffler, Traci Siejak, Joseph Sharifi, Stan Kaplan,
Darren Kaplan, Nicole Bova, Ara Shirinayn, Evan Walsh**

“What did I miss” or “I didn’t hear that”

by Joyce Schumann

February, 2018 Meeting

Second meeting of the New Year and we have almost standing room only again. It is great to see the new members and visitors mixing in with the senior members, asking questions, exchanging ideas and having a good time. Several informal announcements were made during the social hour time. One was a version of “Can you hear me now?” The response is an abbreviated version of the UCLA 8-clap which we will call the LACSS 3-clap. Fun and functional.

Other announcements:

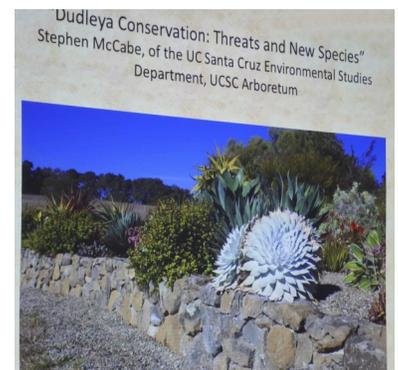
1. Reminded us of the secret code word in the Chronicle.
2. Save the date of our Festival – June 9 & 10 and the reason for volunteering
3. The Grand Re-Opening of Desert Creations on March 2, 3, and 4.

The Plant of the Month presented some very interesting plants. Coryphantha had a good representation and the Pelargoniums were showing off their winter-growing capabilities.

The Program had special meaning as the speaker, Stephen McCabe, was one of the LACSS grant recipients in 2017. The grant supported his efforts in documenting the survival of and the attempt at restoration of Dudleyas in Southern California wild fire areas. Stephen also provided plants for the raffle.

The evening ended with Richard’s famous raffle. Items included wooden plaques with cactus motifs, pots, plants, etc.

A good time was had by all and then we went home.



**Plant of the Month
2018****March**Discocactus
Fouquieria**April**Lobivia
Gasteria**May**Small cactus
staged as miniature
Small Succulent
staged as miniature**June**

Favorite for both

JulyMatucana, Oroya
Echeveria**August**Thelocactus, Hamatocactus
Adenia**September**Mammillaria "Black Spines"
Bursera**October**Espostoa,
Oreocereus
Jatropha, Monadenium,
Pedilanthus**November**Crest, Monstrose
Crest, Monstrose**December**

Holiday Party!

**Plant of the Month
2019****January**

To be Announced

February

To be Announced

March

To be Announced

April

To be Announced

Plant of the Month – February 2018**Cactus – Coryphantha****Rookie**

First	Amanda Erlanson	Coryphantha macromeris
Second	Nick Steinhardt	Coryphantha vivipara
Third	Ron Cooper	Coryphantha andreae

Novice

First	Gretchen Davis	Coryphantha calipensis
Second	Ron Behar	Coryphantha andreae
Third	Al Mindel	Coryphantha elephantidens

Advanced

First	?	? (entry paper missing)
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Coryphantha pallida
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Coryphantha echinus

Open

First	Kim & Artie Chavez	Coryphantha delaetiana
Second	John Matthews	Coryphantha echinus
Third	John Matthews	Coryphantha pallida

Succulent – Pelargonium**Rookie**

First	Debi Heaps	Pelargonium xerophyllum
Second	Debi Heaps	Pelargonium carnosum
Third	Debi Heaps	Sarcocaulon herrei
Third	Debi Heaps	Pelargonium carnosum

Novice

First	Ron Behar	Pelargonium alternans
Second	Ron Behar	Pelargonium laxum
Third	Al Mindel	Pelargonium triste

Advanced

First	Kathryn Boorer	Pelargonium cotyledonis
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Pelargonium carnosum
Third	Barbara Hall	Pelargonium triste

Open

First	Kim and Artie Chavez	Pelargonium xerophyllum
Second	Manny Rivera	Pelargonium carnosum
Third	Manny Rivera	Pelargonium carnosum

Note: Total of 41 entries across all categories.

Plant of the Month : Discocactus

by Kyle Williams

To allay any confusion I want to make clear that this month's cactus discussion will have no mention of bell bottoms, mirror balls, or the Bee Gees! Though, if you want to watch Saturday Night Fever with your cactus sitting next to you that is your business.

Discocactus are heavily ribbed South American cacti, primarily from Brazil. The genus is quite old, first described in 1837. The name comes from the shape of the body, which tends to be much flatter than tall, at least compared to the other ball like genera (*Parodias* etc.) that share its habitat. *Discocactus* can be found inland in the state of Minas Gerais, and further South in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso, and crossing into Paraguay, and even into the Southeastern most state of Bolivia, Santa Cruz.

Although popular in cultivation, many of the species are endangered in the wild.



Discocactus araneispinus



Discocactus buenekerii

The beautiful spination, the flat bodies, and the pleasantly fragranced flowers have made this a popular genus, and there are far more names in cultivation than there are true species. The number of species has varied from more than 60 down to 24 in recent publications (1990s), to the currently recognized 7. This is unlikely to be the last word on this attractive genus, so keep your old labels, they may soon be good again. In our shows, most of the generic names are accepted.

The distinguishing characteristics of *Discocactus* are globular to flattened globular shape, a cephalium, and fragrant night blooming flowers. The cephalia stay relatively small, are almost always white, and have long soft wool. *Discocactus* have ring-meristems (a ring of growth

cells) that surround the cephalium, and allow the body to continue to grow after the cephalium forms. This growth ring distinguishes *Discocactus* from the very similar and related *Melocactus*.

Discocactus has similar cultivation requirements to other tropical terrestrial cacti such as *Melocactus* and *Uebelmannia*. They thrive in warm humid climates where even the nights stay quite warm. However, they are fine in our Mediterranean climate with cool summer nights so long as we give them some extra warmth in the winter months. They shouldn't be kept in a location where the temperature drops below about 50. They like more moisture than similar looking non-tropical cacti, but don't keep them wet, especially in the winter.



Variegated *Discocactus*

Plant of the Month : Fouquieria

by Kyle Williams



Fouquieria columnaris

Fouquieria is one of the most distinctive and famous genera of (non-cacti) succulents from Mexico, with one species widespread in the southwestern US and one species reaching into Guatemala. It consists of 11 species and is the only genus in its family, the Fouquieriaceae. All species are woody and covered in spines, with most being pachycaulous shrubs, though some species appear as typical xeric shrubs and at least one species is a tree. Flowers are tubular and orange, red, or white in color. Unlike cacti the spines of *Fouquieria* do not form immediately on new growth. Instead they form the petiole, or stalk, of the leaf. Once the green part of the leaf falls off the petiole hardens into a sharp spine. These leaves form readily after rains and drop off just as readily when the soil dries out. This allows the plant to maximize photosynthesis during good conditions, but conserve water once drought threatens.

The only American species is the Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, a large shrub with long, straight, very upright branches. This is a very widespread species native from California to Texas and through much of northern Mexico. While not really a pachycaul, its distinctive open, upright shape and cold tolerance (down to the single digits!) makes it popular to grow in arid regions. The orange-red flowers are magnets for hummingbirds.

Easily the most unusual species in the genus, if not all woody succulents, is *F. columnaris*, the Boojum Tree. This is one of the most characteristic plants of central Baja California (it also grows in a small area of Sonora), and anyone traveling through the region it grows can't miss these bizarre "Dr. Seuss" plants. They grow to 50 feet or more in height and have few large branches, but the ones it does have often bend and twist into bizarre shapes that look like they come from an alien world! The plant is so distinctive that it was once placed in its own genus, *Idria*, though that designation is considered incorrect by botanists as it clearly belongs with other *Fouquieria*. Plants are very fond of water during the growing season and can be fast growing, though some people have problems with them in an especially wet winter when it doesn't want much moisture. Other species such as *Fouquieria purpusii* and *F. macdougallii* can

be grown as pachycauls in a pot, forming beautiful specimens in time.



Fouquieria splendens

The Fouquieriaceae is unusual for a succulent/pachycaul family in being quite distantly related to any other succulent families. Its closest relatives (Polemoniaceae) are small herbs that frequently grow in xeric regions, but aren't succulent, while most of the other families it is related to are commonly found in the tropics. It does share many similarities with the totally unrelated Didiereaceae, a small Madagascan family also popular with succulent enthusiasts (e.g. Alluaudia and Didierea). These families are completely unrelated, yet both have evolved into similar looking spiny shrubs with ephemeral leaves that grow in very similar desert and dry scrubland habitats. This is a case of convergent evolution, which is the evolution of organisms that look very similar not because of relationship, but because they were subjected to similar climates and other conditions. The same phenomenon can be seen between cacti and succulent *Euphorbia*.



Fouquieria diguetii flowers

Topic this Month: “The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and other Succulents”

by Wendell S. (“Woody”) Minnich

How do you find out what the secrets are? They are important strategies about how to grow plants well and they can be accomplished by doing five easy things: visiting habitats, traveling from garden to garden the world over, participating in shows, accessing numerous cactus and succulents books, and most importantly, talking with the growers of these wonderful plants. It is your awesome opportunity to learn from these various experiences!

With these experiences, it doesn't take long to learn the many different approaches on how to grow quality cacti and succulents. Like most things, years of experience help, but seeing cacti and succulents in the field (their natural habitat) gives one incredibly valuable insight. Also, visiting numerous collections and gardens around the world helps add an even greater dimension to the understanding of cultivation in various environments. Participating in cactus and succulent shows is another great way to give one a full perspective on how to present and grow quality plants. Last, but not least, read the books! Don't hesitate to use all of these available means to add to your information bank, and mostly, **don't be afraid to ask questions. “Why” is the biggest word in the world!** Many of the factors for growing quality plants aren't really secrets, but often, only the stories not shared or observed!

We will refer to both cacti and succulents as “succulents” because all cacti are succulent. Succulent plants are what they are for a reason! The storage of water is what gives them their succulent character and this storage is what gives them the ability to survive in often harsh habitats. The great majority of our succulent plants come from deserts or relatively arid regions. These environments are often very dry, and usually lack moisture for extended periods of time. These same habitats are usually very sunny and often reach high summer temperatures when moisture can so quickly be lost. Thus, our plants are succulent, because they must have water storage to get them through the often extended hot and or dry times.

Due to the variable environments that our succulent plants come from, there are many considerations that one must keep in mind. These factors include:

- * At what time of the year does water generally become available and how?
- * What are the high and low temperatures and air movement from the dry to wet times?
- * What is the substrate, soils or rocks or bark, the growing medium?
- * Does the substrate contain minerals, acids, alkalinity and or nutrients?
- * What is the plant's method of water storage, leaves, stems or roots – tubers?
- * What is the plant's method of acquiring water - roots or foliar?
- * What is the plant's orientation to the sun, amount of exposure, nurse plants etc.?
- * What is the plant's ability to take or need cold temperatures?
- * What are the plant's root-system needs, confinement or open, drainage, temperatures?
- * When does the plant grow or when is it dormant?
- * What is the elevation at which the plant naturally grows?
- * When does the plant normally flower and fruit?
- * Does the plant have any symbiotic relationships?
- * What are the plant's enemies: insects, bacteria, fungi, animals etc.

In a general way, we will cover all of these aspects and how they relate to you and your overall growing environment. Each one of us live in a slightly, to extremely different micro niche. It is from all of the above mentioned factors and how we apply them that will determine how successfully we grow our plants. Don't forget, much like life itself, it is often from our mistakes that we gain our greatest learning experiences.

From the stacks of the Library - March 2018

by Joyce Schumann

Remember the good old days? Life was young.. Every day was a new adventure.. Everything around you was unexplored and in some cases, dangerous. Dinosaurs frequently trampled on your tent and other large critters were to be avoided. Oh, I'm speaking of the days of about 200,000,000 years ago. Fast forward to today – no dinosaurs, no large critters and only one plant looks familiar. (Work with me here – this borders on fiction!) That plant would be a Cycad, which segues into the introduction of the two newest acquisitions to our library.

"The Cycads - Volume 1 (Asia & Australia)" and "The Cycads – Volume 2 (Africa & The Americas)" authored by our own Duke Benadom and Loran M. Whitelock. Vol. 1 contains all the basic and background information that is a **must read** even if you don't have cycads in your collection. A very brief summary of the chapters:

Preface – Cycads in habitat are listed as endangered. That status created a new interest in collecting.

Chapter 1 – "Cycad Distribution Past and Present" Two theories of distribution. Mostly sub-tropical.

Chapter 2 – "Classification of the Cycads" Originally one Family, then three separate Families, and with DNA analysis, more separation. *Names* and *Taxonomy* also discussed.

Chapter 3 – "Morphology and Reproduction of Cycads" A detailed presentation of plant parts, including seeds, plus a description of Mutation (Variegation, Monstrous, and Cristate.)

Chapter 4 – "Cultivation of Cycads" A detailed chapter on cultivation factors such as Temperature, Soil, Water, Light, Fertilizer, Nutrient Deficiencies, Pests, Transplanting.

Chapter 5 – "Propagation of Cycads" Three basic ways to propagate: seed, stems, or tissue culture.

Chapter 6 – "Conservation of Cycads" You MUST read this one!

Chapter 7 – "Cycads in Human Activities" Same as above!

Chapter 8 – The start of the individual plant descriptions, mostly alphabetical through Vol. 1 and 2 with excellent full page, half page and quarter page photos on almost every page.

At approximately 500 pages in each volume, this is not considered "light" reading. Fascinating, insightful, informative and the best work on this topic you will ever see. We are pleased to be able to make this incredible work available to our members. But don't take my word for it. Step up to the library table and

Check it out!!!

Hi all, I am attaching the book list of books donated to LACSS by Darlene Weld per Kim's request. Please see the next page for the list in alphabetical order.

AUTHOR - LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	TITLE
Agricultural Research Service USDA		The Agave Family in Sonora
Backeberg	Curt	Cactus Lexicon 1977
Baldwin	Debra Lee	Designing with Succulents
Bayer	M. B.	Haworthia Handbook
Belzer	Thomas J.	Roadside Plants of Southern California
Bisacre, Robertson		The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Plants and Animals
Bornman	Chris H.	Welwitschia
Bramwell	David and Zoe	Wildflowers of the Canary Islands
Breitung	August J.	The Agaves Yearbook
Britton & Rose		The Cactaceae Vol. 1 & 2 + Vol. 3 & 4
Chahinian	B. Juan	The Splendid Sanservieria
Connelly	Kevin	Gardener's Guide to California Wild Flowers
Country Homes		Book of Herbs
Coyle & Roberts	Jeanette & Norman	A Field Guide to the Common and Interesting Plants of Baja CA.
Crouzet,	Yves	Bamboos
Dale	Nancy	Flowering Plants...of Southern California
Dawson & Foster	Yale & Michael	Seashore Plants of California
deVosjoli	Philippe	Pachyforms-A Guide to Growing Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants
Emboden	William A.	Bizarre Plants
Franks	Wendy	Platynerium - Fern Facts
Free	Montague	All About African Violets
Fross, Wilken		Ceanothus
Graf	Alfred Byrd	Exotica Series 3
Grounds	Roger	Ornamental Grasses
Herre	H.	The Genus of the Mesembryanthemaceae
Hunt, Taylor, Graham		The New Cactus Lexicon 2006
Huntington	Botanical	Dry Climate Gardening with Succulents
Innes, Glass		Cacti - over 1000....
Jacobsen	Hermann	Lexicon of Succulent Plants 1970
Jacobson	Herman	A Handbook of Succulent Plants Vol. 1, 2, 3
Kiesling, Ferrari		100 Cactus Argentinos
Kloppenber	Dale	Hoyas of Northeastern New Guinea
Marshall, Woods		Glossary of Succulent Plant Terms
Medic	Kris (Rodale)	Successful Organic Gardening Pruning
Menninger	Edwin A.	Seaside Plants of the Worlds
Moorten and Nevins	Patricia & Re?	Desert Plants for Desert Gardens
Novack	F. A.	The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers
Oliva-Esteve	Francisco	Bromeliaceae III
Payne	Helen E.	Plant Jewels of the High Country
Perl	Philip	Cacti and Succulents
Pilbeam, Rogerson, Tribble		Cactus File Handbook #3 Adromischus
Preston-Mafham	Ken	Cacti and Succulents in Habitat
Rainman	Marlene	A Introduction to the Stapeliads
Rauh	Werner	Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar Vol. 1
Rauh	Werner	Bromelien 1 (in German)
Reynolds	Gilbert	The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar
Reynolds	Gilbert	The Aloes of South Africa
Rowley	Gordon D.	Succulent Compositae
Schultz	Rudolf	Aeonium in Habitat and Cultivation
Schuster	Danny	An Introduction to Cacti
Silcock	Lisa (Editor)	The Rainforests - A Celebration
Thollander	Earl (Sunset)	Backroads of California
Thomson	Paul H.	Dudleya and Hassanthus Handbook
UK		Cerepegia Flowers
vanderWalt	J.J.A.	Pelargoniums of Southern Africa 1977
vanJaarsveld	E.J.	Gasterias of South Africa
VanPelt Wilson	Helen	1001 African Violet Questions
various		Euphorbia Volumes 1 - 6
Walther	Eric	Echeveria
Western Society of Weed Science		Weeds of the West
White & Sloan		The Stapeliaea Vol. 1, 2, 3 1937
White, Dyer, Sloane		The Succulent Euphorbiacea (Southern Africa) Vol. 1

Membership Report

by Illona Buratti



I am sorry to say that due to some awful computer issues there will be a delay in the Roster. As much as you hate to wait for promised Roster, I am in having to recreate the entire list. There were multiple system failures. Adding to the delay, beyond the data entry was needing to wait 'till the problems were solved.

I thank those Members who paid their dues by the February meeting and filled out their Membership update forms, you were wonderful. With Mary Chan's excellent receipts, & copies of your checks the job is almost done.

Be Advised, *Some changes:*

The Board voted to change the Roster this year to only include *names, phone numbers and Email addresses*. For additional information contact me or another officer.

Currently for tours to members' homes and gardens, the address is not published with the announcement. That information is distributed on a need to know basis, like when you sign up to attend. We feel this is a layer of security for privacy concerns. Eventually we hope to have the Roster available on the secure portion of the website, available with password only.

Please accept my apology for the delay and the extra bother in receiving multiple emails from me as I test the system with Apple Support.

For fun stuff...

We have new Membership Cards, and **Guest Cards**. (front & Back). The procedure, guests fill out a card, our President makes introductions, they return the card to the membership desk for their free plant. New members will be introduced in a similar manner.

January's new members Angela Clubbs, Linda DAlessandro, & in February we welcomed Amanda Erlanson, Stan & Darren Kaplan, Joseph Sharif, Ara Shirinyan, Traci Siejak, Hannes Stoeffler, Evan Walsh and Nicole Young. It is exciting to have the membership grow, please look for their special name tags and welcome them & show them around.



MEETING TIMES
First Thursday of the Month
Doors open 6:15 PM
Meeting starts @ 7:00 PM
Sepulveda Garden Center
 16633 Magnolia Blvd.
 Encino, CA 91436
www.lacactus.com

Guest of: _____



LACSS GUEST

Date: _____

NAME:

EMAIL:

Exchange This Ticket For Your FREE PLANT rev12/17

Kim is encouraging reading the newsletter, so listing members will be on this membership page, not on the sidebar. Communicating thru the newsletter will shorten the business meetings, and allow for more visiting, shopping and eating time.

Not everybody is in agreement, but this is how it stands, for now. Please communicate your preferences, concerns and ideas, that's how we will improve.

CSSA Journal - Board Meeting Highlights

by M.A Bjarkman

Dear CSSA Affiliate President, Editor, and Representatives,

Earlier this year, the CSSA Board suggested that following our quarterly Board meetings, we send a summary of Board actions to each affiliate. We are hoping that this brief article will find its way to your newsletters and be reported by your affiliates during your club meetings. We greatly appreciate the efforts of the clubs that have promoted CSSA by adding a one year CSSA subscription certificate to their raffles!

Cactus and Succulent Society of America

January 14, 2018

CSSA held its first meeting of the year on Sunday, January 14 at the Huntington Gardens. We are eager to let our affiliate members know about our current activities and upcoming plans and encourage you to publish this update in you newsletter.

Following the December election, the Board welcomes William Wilk, Peter Walkowiak, and Vince Basta as new Directors.

CSSA is pleased to announce that the July, 2019 Convention will be held in San Luis Obispo with the enthusiastic support of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. The dates and other details will be announced as soon as contracts are confirmed.

CSSA offers trophies for winners of in the educational display category in affiliate shows. If you would like to offer this trophy, please contact Susan Carpentier at cuervo28@swbell.net and she will provide a trophy to affiliate. CSSA *Journal* Editor Tim Harvey has compiled a compendium of articles on Aloes that will be sold at the CSSA online shop soon. If well-received, this will be followed by compendia of *Journal* articles on other popular succulent families.

The CSSA website www.cssainc.com is currently undergoing considerable revision and simplification. We are converting to a Google calendar, and are happy to announce your events. In addition, we are unifying the platform to make it easier to keep current. Please watch for these changes and contact M.A.Bjarkman, the Affiliate Chairperson with your comments or requests, she can be contacted at mabahp@aol.com.

Greenhouse Notes

by Karen Ostler



I have been asked to contribute an ongoing column to the CHRONICLE; a chatty little discussion of what is going on in and around our greenhouses, yards and hobby as the year progresses.

I am not going to say right off that you should follow without fail my recommendations and suggestions; that would be foolish, but I am willing to offer up what I have done and how I have done it, with the hopes that you don't make many of the same mistakes that I have made over the years.

The very first thing a novice needs to learn: **PLANTS DIE.**

Personally, I am a mass murderer. Over the course of decades of growing plants I have killed far more than have survived. It's the fact of a collector's life. The only thing you can do is try and figure out why, that is what I hope to help you do with this column, so maybe you'll have a better survival rate.

So I will begin with a few background notes for those of you that don't know me. I live in the high desert on the north facing slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains; at 4,100 feet elevation. We get a little snow most years, some years more than others. Sometimes we get rain, the last few years not so much. We get cold in the winter; some years, 19 degrees as a high temperature for a week or more; mostly we're in the low 30's. We get hot in the summer; not as hot as the San Fernando Valley; our highs top out at 100 degrees, rarely over. We however, have other challenges; we have ten different kinds of rodents; each and every one of the more than willing to eat my plants. Along with rodents we have snakes; most of them I don't mind; but the rattlesnakes are a problem.

To combat both of these problems, I grow 98% of my plants in a greenhouse, in a fenced yard; the other 2% live either in the house or in a protected courtyard. Neither is ideal, both are perfect. But that's another column.

Plus we have limited water as we are on a well, with extremely alkaline water, so alkaline in fact, that water faucets grow rock.

If I can grow plants in this environment, I believe I can help you with yours, and on that note, coming up on March 22, 23, & 24 is the Orange County Spring Show and Sale. There is no better way to become acquainted with our plants than to attend a Show and Sale. Look around, ask questions, talk to the vendors; you might even find out the name of that plant languishing on your patio and how to take care of it.

Announcements

by Roxie Esterle and Debi Heaps

LACSS MEMBERS' HOME-GROWN SALE TABLE AT THE 2018 PLANT FESTIVAL

Based on the incredible popularity of member participation in the Fall Sale, we are suggesting a new format for the Member Plant Sales Table for the June 9-10 festival.

Over the past several years, we have maintained a successful member plant sale where we sold plants generously donated by members and vendors. This sale benefited greatly from individuals who were moving, downsizing, or otherwise significantly reducing the sizes of their collections.

This year, we are going to try something new. Many members want to sell good plants, but don't have enough inventory for them to rent a table at the show. This was demonstrated during the Fall sale, when several members sold plants at a shared table, greatly adding to the diversity of the offerings. Members enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing their plants admired by others, and then could rationalize spending their earnings on new plants!

Here's how it works: Every plant is "double tagged" with one tag for the buyer and one for the cashier to keep track of the vendors. Minimum plant value must be \$5.00 per plant. After the sale, the club retains 30% of the proceeds and 70% goes to the grower. We will continue to submit the most desirable plants into silent auctions, where the seller determines the minimum bid.

Because we do not know how many members will want to take advantage of this opportunity, we will initially limit the sale to two flats of plants (regardless of sizes) per member. If we don't attract enough sellers, we will consider raising the number of flats. We will begin by surveying our members about their intentions to sell at the next meeting. Of course, plant donations for the sale are also encouraged.

So start getting your plants ready! We are looking forward to another great year. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to speak to us during the Social Hour or contact us by phone or email.

CULTIVATING A GREAT CLUB

A great club doesn't just happen. It requires the enthusiasm, cooperation, and participation of its membership, along with respect for the club's objectives and for those who work to make it happen. When you like what you are getting as a member, it means extending a word of encouragement or appreciation to a deserving committee, chairperson, or officer. When you have a constructive suggestion, it means getting the word to the responsible party, as we are all striving for improvement.

In order to attract our exceptional speakers and programs, we need to demonstrate committed attendance and polite attention. Bringing refreshments on our assigned days creates the homey environment we all enjoy. Members can also help by putting away their chairs, dismantling tables, and straightening up the kitchen.

Our Drought Tolerant Plant Festival is one of the biggest, best, and most unique shows in the country. Its success relies on hundreds of hours of volunteer time. If every member puts in a minimum two hour shift, no one will feel put upon or overextended. There will be a sign-up sheet posted on the whiteboard at each meeting until the sale, and a "Cactus Thermometer" to track our progress in sign-ups. Please use the Social Hour to add your name to the list, as well as to ask questions of Festival committee members.

Wearing your name badge helps us get to know each other. We are ALL volunteers, and working together binds us together. Don't be surprised if you find that the more effort you put into the club, the more you get out of it.

Announcements

by SCCSS, Desert Creations



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society
46th Annual Show & Sale
April 7-8, 2018

9 AM to 4 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274



Desert Creations Nursery and Gift Shop
Would like to Invite you to our
Grand Re-Opening

March 2nd – 4th, 2018

Friday and Saturday 9-4 Sunday 11-4
18161 Parthenia Street Northridge CA 91325

***NEW* Original Artwork, *NEW* stock of Rare and Unusual Plants,**
***NEW* Pottery and *NEW* Creative Gift Shop items.**

Many Staged Items ready to show!

Multiple discounts all weekend! You won't want to miss this.



Refreshments reminder

Reminder, It's March – U thru Z

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means YOU. It's your turn to bring the goodies that will sustain us during our meeting on Thursday, March 1st. Please have snacks arrive by 6:30PM for Social Hour.

Your help in setting up and breaking down is greatly appreciated.

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, chips & dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches, burritos, pizza...you name it, we will heat & serve it.

Yes, we have a microwave. It's nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as treats during the break. Drinks are also welcome.

Thanks,

LACSS

2018 Cactus and Succulent Calendar of Upcoming Events

Updated 12/3/17. ANY CHANGES, please email: aloescats1@aol.com

- MAR. 22-24** **ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOW AND SALE**
THURS. 22ND 6-9PM--FRI. MAR. 23TH 9-7PM--SAT. MAR. 24TH 9-5
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
- APR. 7-8** **SOUTH COAST CACTUS AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE**
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES, CA
INFO: Website: <http://www.southcoastcss.org> // EMAIL: heidihusnak@gmail.com
- APR. 29** **HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10AM TO 5:00PM / HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS,**
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504
- MAY 5-6** **SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 6** **SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
9am to 4pm SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS, INFO. 310-833-6823
- MAY 11-12** **GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm, FOR INFORMATION ON LOCATION PLEASE CALL: 909-910-9195
- MAY 19-20** **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE**
10-4 pm RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA
INFO. 562-631-5876
- MAY 26-27** **CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER,
864 SANTA ROSA SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- JUNE 2-3** **SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-- SUMMER SHOW & SALE**
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. 858-382-1797
- JUNE 9-10** **LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE**
JUNE 9th 9AM – 4PM and JUNE 10th 9AM - 3PM
THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA.
INFO. www.lacactus.com

2018 Cactus and Succulent Calendar of Upcoming Events

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|---------------------|---|
| JUN 29-JUL 1 | <p>CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS</p> <p>1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. Info: 626-405-3504</p> <p>PLANTS SALES STARTS JUNE 29TH THRU JULY 1ST FROM 10-5pm.</p> <p>SHOW OPENS JUNE 30TH THUR JULY 1ST FROM 10-5pm.</p> |
| JULY 19-21 | <p>ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE</p> <p>THURS. 19TH 6-9pm, FRI. JULY 20TH 9am-7pm, SAT. 21ST 9-5pm</p> <p>1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA</p> <p>INFORMATION CALL 949-212-8417</p> |
| AUG. 11-12 | <p>33RD ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM</p> <p>9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.</p> <p>INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ 805-390-2139</p> |
| SEPT. 1 | <p>HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM</p> <p>ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON. INFO: 626-405-3504</p> |
| SEPT. 15 | <p>LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION</p> <p>12-5PM RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615</p> <p>INFO. 562-631-5876</p> |
| SEPT. 15 | <p>LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - FALL SALE</p> <p>THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA.</p> <p>INFO. www.lacactus.com</p> |
| Oct. 6-7 | <p>BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE</p> <p>SAT. 10AM - 5PM---SUN. 11AM - 3PM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET</p> <p>BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-831-8488</p> |
| OCT. 27-28 | <p>PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE</p> <p>SAT 10-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS</p> <p>230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA</p> <p>INFO: BritaMiller1@g-mail.com</p> |
| NOV. 10 - 11 | <p>SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE</p> <p>9am-4pm BOTH DAYS---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA</p> <p>INFO: MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052</p> |



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346
Website: www.LAcactus.com
Email: lacss.contact@gmail.com

March 2018 Guest Speaker: Wendell S.(Woody) Minnich
Topic: "The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and other Succulents"

March Events

**MAR. 22-24 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SPRING SHOW AND SALE**
THURS. 22ND 6-9PM---FRI. MAR. 23TH 9-7PM---SAT. MAR. 24TH 9-5
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church)
Anaheim, CA
INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357