

# C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J U L Y 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 7

## MONTHLY PROGRAM

Robert H. Webb



**The Genus Sansevieria:**  
Some Old and New Species

## ARID PLANTS A-Z ELI COHEN



Remember to bring in  
problem plants, plant ID  
+ special interest plants

**REFRESHMENTS  
THIS MONTH:**  
LAST NAMES  
BEGINNING  
WITH 'J, K, & L'

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST THURSDAY  
MEETING START TIME: 7PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM  
ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

# Plant Swap!

JULY'S  
MEETING  
WILL BE ON  
JULY 1ST

*July 1st, 2024 @ 7pm*

Have plants you're looking to trade? LACSS is hosting a swap night! Come and bring any cacti and succulents plus other plant-related items you're interested in trading with others.

*Trading will  
officially begin  
at 7:15pm after  
announcements  
and end at 8pm*

*Things you can trade:*

Cacti  
Succulents  
Pottery  
Rocks  
Seeds  
Top Dressing

*18255  
Victory  
Blvd,  
Reseda,  
CA 91335*



# Meeting Timeline

Doors Open  
6:15pm

Announcements  
7pm

Trading Begins  
7:15

Trading Ends  
8pm

POM  
8:15pm

Speaker  
Presentation  
8:30pm

Meeting Concludes  
9:30pm

# Swap Guidelines

No trading before 7:15pm! We want to keep this as fair as possible

Only bring what you are willing to trade

Rejection happens. Please be respectful if you are declining a trade

The show must go on even if trading stops, so stop your trades at 8pm. If you would like to keep trading, please do so *after* the meeting has concluded

No plants to swap? No problem. Plants will be available for sale at the back tables

**BONUS: Bring a plant to trade and you will receive one free raffle ticket for our next club meeting!**

Dr. Robert H. Webb has worked on long-term changes in natural ecosystems of the Southwest since 1976. He has degrees in engineering (B.S., University of Redlands, 1978), Environmental earth Sciences (M.S., Stanford University, 1980), and geosciences (Ph.D, University of Arizona, 1985). Since 1985, he was a research hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson (retired in 2013) and an adjunct faculty member of the School of Natural Resources and the Department of Hydrology and Water Resources at the University of Arizona. Webb does interdisciplinary work to attempt to understand long-term change in the desert regions of the United States and Mexico and. Webb as authored or edited 15 books and about 250 publications and given around 400 presentations in his 45-year career.

Webb has been growing succulent plants and cacti for nearly 40 years and has been the owner of Arid Lands Greenhouses in Tucson, Arizona, since 2006. For last 20 years, he and his wife Toni have travelled extensively in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula looking for succulent plants. Webb is the former chairman of the International Sansevieria Society. He has described and named 15 species or subspecies of plants, including 2 Agave species from Baja California, Mexico, and 13 Sansevieria species, subspecies, or varieties from East Africa and Somalia.



# The Genus Sansevieria:

## Some Old and New Species

### THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Despite recent suggestions that all Sansevierias should be Dracaenas, I keep the genus Sansevieria alive with my work. More than 100 taxa are now recognized with many new species and subspecies being described at present. In this program, I review some basics of the genus, including the subgenera and some groups, and provide discussion of three groups: the Sansevieria of Southeast Asia, the Sansevieria suffruticosa group, and the Sansevieria elliptica group.





Sansevieria alvitrii Photo credit: Robert Webb

# Refreshments!

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It is a collective effort and responsibility each month to supply our members with sustenance, **THIS BRINGS US TO THE MONTH OF JULY AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTERS "J, K AND L"**

If your last name begins with that letter, please bring something to share, enough for approximately 10 people. If you'd like to bring more that is okay too.

To facilitate set-up and clean-up, we ask that your contribution be in individual portions and/or a disposable container. At the end of the meeting, all leftovers, including containers, will be discarded. If you are available to help set up or tear down the refreshment center, please see me at the meeting at the Refreshment Table.

If you are unable to contribute, the club will also have a jar/bowl at the refreshment table if you would like to donate money so that the club can continue to supplement refreshments brought by the attendees.



July - Members whose last name begins with "J, K, L"

Aug - Members whose last name begins with "M"

Sept - Members whose last name begins with "O, P, R"

Oct - Members whose last name begins with "S, T, U, V"

Nov - Members whose last name begins with "W, N, Q, Y, Z"

# FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Thanks to the ample rains we experienced earlier this year and the summer heat, many of our cacti are now in full bloom. The combination of these elements has created an ideal environment for our plants to showcase their vibrant flowers. Here are a few ways to make the most of this blooming season:

Take the time to appreciate the beauty and diversity of the cactus flowers. Their colors and forms can be truly spectacular. Capture the beauty of your blooming cacti. If you're like me, you are busy taking lots of pictures of your plants. Share your photos with our club members! If you have different cacti blooming simultaneously, you might want to try hand pollinating to produce seeds and propagate new plants.

July is a prime month for cactus growth. With longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures, many cacti enter an active growth phase. This is the perfect time to fertilize. Use a balanced, diluted cactus fertilizer and be careful not to over-fertilize, as this can harm your plants.

As temperatures rise, it's crucial to protect our cacti from the summer heat. Increase watering frequency slightly, but avoid over-watering. Ensure your cacti are in well-draining soil to prevent root rot. While cacti love sunlight, too much direct exposure can scorch them. Consider providing partial shade during the hottest parts of the day. Warmer weather can bring about pests such as spider mites and mealybugs. Regularly inspect your plants and treat any infestations promptly with remedies as needed.

I wish you all a fruitful July filled with growth, both for your cacti and within our community. Let us continue to support one another, learn from each other, and celebrate the beauty of these extraordinary plants. August 2, 3, and 4th is the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. Don't miss this event! It is one of the largest show and sales that you will ever attend. More information will be sent out soon. We will be looking for volunteers to help, so please check your calendars! Here are a few pictures of my plants in bloom. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do!

**See you all Monday, July 1st!**  
**Cande Friedman**



# OF BOARD DIRECTORS 2 0 2 4

## LACSS 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.

### **PRESIDENT**

Cande Friedman

### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Artie Chavez + Joyce Schumann

### **1ST VP, PROGRAMS**

Ron Behar

### **2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH**

Manny Rivera

### **3RD VP, EDUCATION**

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### **SECRETARY**

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### **TREASURER**

Nick Steinhardt

### **DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP**

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### **DIRECTOR 2 SPECIAL EVENTS**

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### **CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR**

Kimberly Gomez-Tong  
newsletter@lacactus.com

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Angela Clubb + Nikki Bova

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Manny Rivera  
with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

### **MONTHLY DRAWING**

Al Mindel

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Collin O'Callaghan

### **HISTORIAN**

Sandy Chase

### **AWARDS DINNER CHAIR**

Vacant

### **LIBRARIAN**

Joyce Schumann

### **POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS**

Kyle Williams

### **SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE**

Kim Thorpe Chavez  
Kate Eplboim  
Kimberly Gomez-Tong  
Anthony Cantinello



# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## **JANUARY**

Blossfeldia, Yavia  
Dudleya, Cotyledon

## **FEBRUARY**

Mammillaria Hook Spine  
Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

## **MARCH**

Copiapoa  
Tulista, Astroloba

## **APRIL**

Cacti of Baja California  
Succulents of Baja California Mex

## **MAY**

Cacti staged as miniature  
Succulent staged as miniature  
(Diameter of pot  
NO LARGER THAN 3")

## **JUNE**

Favorites

## **JULY**

Opuntia North America  
Jatropha, Pedilanthus

## **AUGUST**

Neochilenia, Neoporteria  
Commiphora, Boswellia

## **SEPTEMBER**

Ariocarpus  
Fockea, Ipomoea

## **OCTOBER**

Trichocereus  
Hoya, Ceropegia, Dischidia

## **NOVEMBER**

Variiegated

## **DECEMBER**

Holiday Awards Party



P L A N T O F T H E M O N T H

# Opuntia North America

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S



*Opuntia 'Sunburst'*

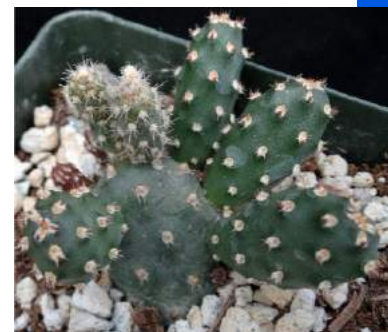
Opuntia is one of the largest genera of the Cactaceae (cactus family) and is the most common type of cactus in North America. Plants in this genus form jointed stems that to many look like leaves (but aren't). The most distinctive (and reviled) feature of Opuntia are "glochids", tiny hair like spines 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 subfamily Opuntioideae, which consists of Opuntia and several closely related genera (see below).

For the sake of the "Plant of the Month" we will include North American Opuntia (including Mexico & the Caribbean) and closely related genera. These additional genera include *Cylindropuntia*, *Consolea*, *Pereskioopsis*, *Corynopuntia*, and *Grusonia*.

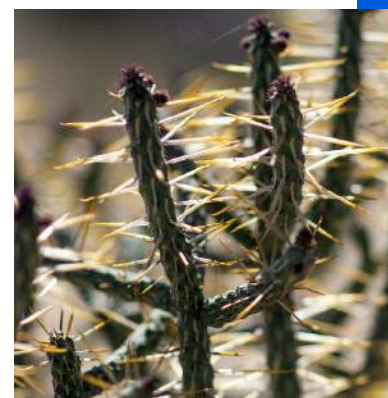
Opuntia (in the broad sense) covers the largest geographical range of any cactus genus, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and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

The vast majority of North American Opuntioideae species belong to just 2 genera: Opuntia and *Cylindropuntia*. Opuntia, commonly called "Prickly Pears" have pads which are actually flattened, jointed stem segments. They are NOT leaves. No other cacti (outside of some very closely related Opuntioideae genera) have this growth form. *Cylindropuntia* was formerly included in Opuntia but is fairly easy to distinguish by its round jointed stems. They are commonly called Chollas and some species are famously called "jumping Chollas" because the spiny stem segments break off ("jump") very easily and stick to animal fur, clothing, or even right in our skin. Aside from the unusual *Pereskioopsis* which has true leaves, the other North American genera closely resemble these two main genera. For the sake of Plant of the Month, *Cylindropuntia* is exclusively North American, but Opuntia is not. So do a quick Google search for the name of your Opuntia to check for sure.

Taxonomy in is very complicated in this group and some botanists consider everything *Pereskioopsis* to all be Opuntia (of these North American genera), though most are also accepting of *Cylindropuntia*. Most of the recent changes in the Opuntia group is due to recent DNA phylogeny studies of the species. Handling of Opuntias is somewhat of a problem due to their glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Leather and cloth gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. However, the modern neoprene gardening gloves work great. Plucking with tweezers is effective especially when used in conjunction with a magnifying glass.



*Opuntia debreczyi*



*Opuntia ramosissima*

P L A N T O F T H E M O N T H

# Jatropha & Monadenium

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

This month's succulents are grouped by being members of the Euphorbia family (Euphorbiaceae) that aren't Euphorbia. There are other genera in the family of course, but these are the ones most commonly encountered by succulent growers outside of Euphorbia itself. It should be noted that some authors consider Monadenium to belong to Euphorbia itself, but we will consider them separate here.

Monadenium consists of approximately 50 species of small fleshy stemmed plants from Africa that produce succulent leaves during the growing season that fall off during winter or times of drought. Some

species have short stems a few inches all while others can reach several feet tall. The stems can be fairly smooth are quite bumpy to nearly thorny depending on species. Flowers are small and white to pink and are produced during the warmer months. Most species are easy to grow and do well in our climate, though some (like *M. ritchei*) are very sensitive to being cold and wet in the winter. For those plants keep them cool and dry, or move them to a greenhouse or windowsill indoors.

Jatropha is a pantropical genus of approximately 170 species of woody to caudiciform plants. Most species (over 100) come from from Mexico and Central America. The rest are found in Africa and parts of tropical Asia. They are all woody plants with large lobed leaves. Jatropha have showy flowers. Normally this isn't noteworthy, but when compared to its relatives like Euphorbia and Monadenium it does stand out. In those other genera the actual flowers are tiny and nondescript and the part we call flowers are actually modified leaves called "bracts". These flowers are generally pink, red or orange and born on long stalks. Most species are large shrubs to small trees, but the species commonly grown by succulent growers are small caudiciforms with a fat round base and interesting leaves. Care is similar to most leafy caudiciforms in that they like a decent amount of water when actively growing and shouldn't dry out fully. In the winter dormant season they can be kept dry if the plant is not growing. Once species of note for economic (non-horticultural) use is *Jatropha curcas*. It is a large shrub that has quite a bit of commercial potential as a source of biofuel due to the oil rich seeds.



*Monadenium ritchei*



*Jatropha cathartica*



*Monadenium coccineum*

South Coast  
Cactus & Succulent Society

# Ernesto Sandoval

**"30+ YEARS OF GROWING  
SUCCULENTS PROFESSIONALLY  
AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS  
AND THE WILD"**

Ernesto will share with us some of the important takeaways he's learned over his many years working at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory as well as observations and tips he's learned from other growers large and small as well as public and private.

**SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2024  
1:00 PM**

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

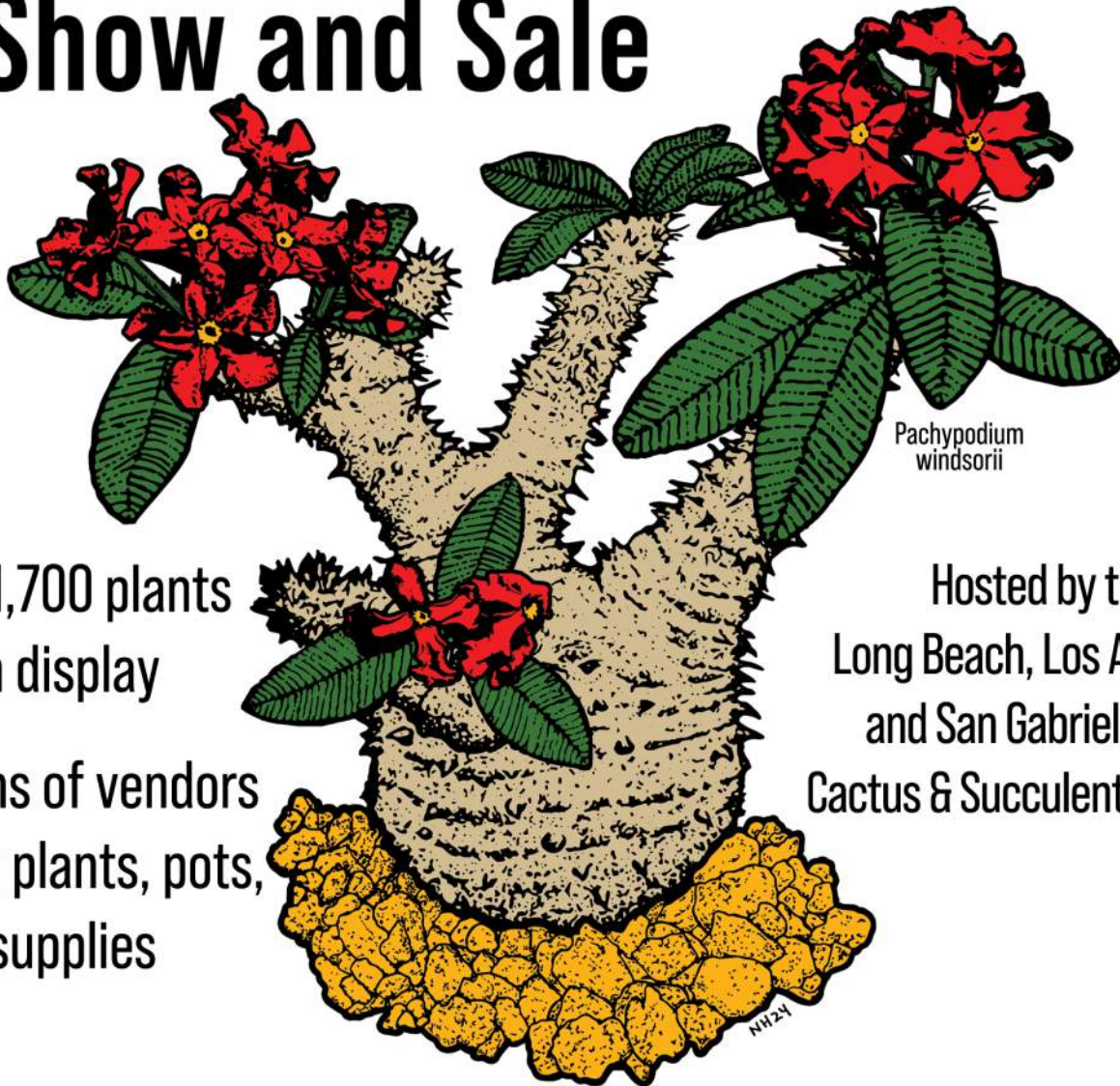
Free admission for SCCSS members and their guests. For more information visit [southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org)



## 2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- JULY 19-20 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE  
FRI. NOON-6PM, SAT. 9AM-4PM INFO. CALL 657-549-0702  
1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL., (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) ANAHEIM, CA
- AUG 2-4 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
INFO. [WWW.INTERCITYSHOW.COM](http://WWW.INTERCITYSHOW.COM) OR CALL 805-264-6262  
FRI AUG. 2 SALE ONLY (NO SHOW) 9AM-6:30 PM  
SAT & SUN AUG. 3-4 SHOW & SALE 9AM-5PM  
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 N. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA
- AUG 30 - SEP 1 MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE AND SHOW  
FRI. 3PM-6PM MEMBERS ONLY, SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 9AM-3PM  
ISTW PORTUGUESE HALL, 124 ATKINSON LANE, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
- AUG 31 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
9AM-3PM RESERVATIONS REQUIRED  
INFO. RESERVATIONS- [WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG](http://WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG), SYMPOSIUM-CALL 626-405-3571  
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA

38<sup>th</sup> Annual *Inter-City*  
**Cactus & Succulent**  
**Show and Sale**



*Pachypodium  
windsorii*

Over 1,700 plants  
on display

Dozens of vendors  
selling plants, pots,  
supplies

Hosted by the  
Long Beach, Los Angeles,  
and San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus & Succulent Societies

**August 2nd, 2024 - Sale 8AM-5PM**

**August 3rd & 4th, 2024 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM**

Los Angeles County Arboretum - [www.intercityshow.com](http://www.intercityshow.com)

Instagram: @intercityshow

Facebook Group: intercityshow

\*We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale\*