

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.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

SULCOREBUTIA

BY JACKSON BURKHOLDER

A Virtual Tour Though Bolivia



Jackson Burkholder has been growing cacti & succulents for over 20 years. He grew up attending Colorado CSS events and, even though he has been a member since he was born, has been actively involved with the society for the past 12 years. Since then, Jackson has held a number of leadership positions including Vice President of Programs and Show Chair. He has also been as a show judge for the last 5 years.

Jackson has been a member of the CSSA since 2009 and is currently serving on its board of directors. He is also a member of the Austin CSS the International Haworthia Society, and Arbeitsgruppe Echinocereus.

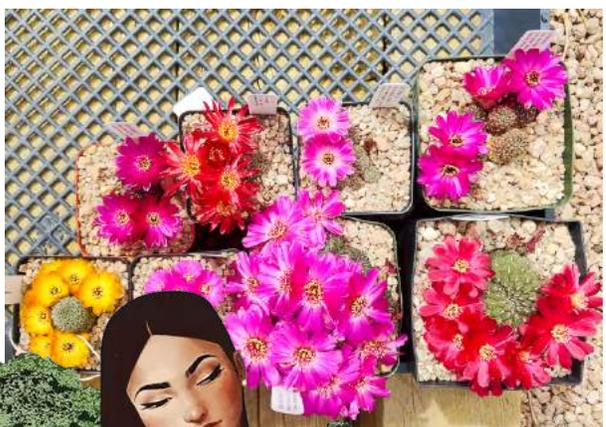
Jackson recently graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and minors in Botany & Japanese. He is currently in graduate school at Texas State University, working on a Master's Degree in Botany. At TXST he is teaching botany lab classes and doing research on the anatomy of extrafloral nectaries in the cactus family.

Between semesters, Jackson spends time in his gardens and greenhouse in Colorado where he is starting Precision Cactus Growers, a nursery that will specialize in producing cactus seeds and plants with collection and location data. His plants are distributed between a small greenhouse and several cold frames, and outdoor gardens. Most summer mornings are spent here with a brush and a camera in hand to pollinate and photograph blooming plants. The facilities are set up for both producing plants and seeds, and experimenting with different ways to grow plants. His current focuses are trying different, primarily South American, cacti in unheated cold frames to see how they overwinter. He is currently working on a book about growing cacti directed towards a hobbyist audience.

In addition to growing cacti, Jackson is also interested in optics, utilizing film and digital cameras and well as microscopes to document and study plants and other living things like insects and ciliates. He especially likes using and restoring vintage equipment and experimenting with traditional scientific techniques.

Jackson can still remember his first encounter with the genus *Sulcorebutia*, when he saw a few *Sulcorebutia rauschii* at a cactus and succulent sale as a young child. The miniature clumping stems and unique spine arrangements that made this plant one of the first to spark his interest in cacti still fascinate him today, and the genus *Sulcorebutia* remains a focus of both Jackson's collection and nursery. Because they are native to high elevations in the Andes Mountains where they get cool nights and intense sunlight, they also happen to do well in the Rockies of Colorado provided they are protected from hard freezes.

In his talk, Jackson will start by introducing some of the taxonomy and biology of the genus *Sulcorebutia*, a group of plants that has more recently been included in *Rebutia* and *Weingartia*. Next he will talk about some of the special care that these plants require in order to do well and put on large flowering displays. Finally his talk will conclude with a "virtual tour of Bolivia": a slide show of plants from Jackson's collection grouped by locality to reflect which species can be seen in vicinity of one another in nature.



**PLEASE SEND ME PHOTOS OF FEBRUARY'S POM,
STRAIGHT SPINE MAMMILLARIA AND
PELARGONIUM FROM YOUR COLLECTION!**

(EMAIL NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM)

Kimberly

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Emily Akers + John Giesing

A MESSAGE FROM THE LACSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021. While there are lots of unknowns in the upcoming months, we want to assure you that LACSS will continue to present outstanding monthly programs and much more. Please continue reading for the latest updates.

We are sorry to report that our President Joyce Schumann is currently taking a minimum 4 month hiatus while she takes care of Rose Polito, her dear partner who is still hospitalized with Covid 19. We wish Rose a full and speedy recovery, and extend our warm wishes to Joyce as she assumes the responsibilities of care-taker.

NEW OFFICERS

Because of the interruptions in the 2020 year, most members of the LACSS board have agreed to continue in their current positions for an additional year. There are, however, some changes and introductions you should know about:

Kate Eplboim, Secretary, will replace Ron Cooper

Nick Steinhardt, Treasurer will replace Kathy Gogol

Sandy Chase will chair the Saturday Education Programs, replacing Karen Ostler

Kim Chavez will serve as Membership Director, replacing Rose Polito

Ron Behar, First Vice President, will serve as Acting President, chairing meetings

Emily Akers will continue to manage our online meetings

We greatly appreciate the committed service of the outgoing board members. We especially want to thank Karen Ostler for her leadership, presentations, management of the Saturday programs, and the countless Cactus Chronicle articles she has written.

ONLINE MEETINGS

At present, we are anticipating that LACSS will be meeting online until June, 2021. We've had about 50 people attend each meeting, and we have strived to get speakers from around the country. Plant-of-the-Month submissions, including outdoor photos, have continued to enrich the meetings. A few new policies will be introduced to return to our competitive format and are described in a separate article in this issue.

In addition, we will retain the excellent "Ask an Expert" feature, so please send in photos of problem plants, plants needing IDs, or "special" plants that happen to be in bloom.

CACTUS CHRONICLE

As long as you are home, this is a great time to write an article for the Cactus Chronicle. We would like to see some brief articles with photos describing what's going on in your own garden or greenhouse, how you are caring for winter growers, how your hobby helped you during the quarantines, and more.

SHOW AND SALE

While we can't project the future of the Sepulveda Garden Center June Show and Sale, we are planning to repeat our successful sale format from last November with a repeat performance in early April. This falls right after the beginning of Daylight Savings Time, hopefully without the rain. The ONEgeneration venue worked out well for this sale.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay involved!



PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH ONLINE POLICIES

AS LACSS CONTINUES ITS ONLINE MEETING FORMAT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS IN THE PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH (POM) COMPETITION HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BEGINNING FEBRUARY, 2021. WE HOPE THESE CHANGES WILL MOTIVATE MORE MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THIS LONG-STANDING EDUCATIONAL TRADITION. BESIDES, IT'S REALLY FUN TO GET YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UPS.

- SUBMISSIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 2 CACTUS AND 2 SUCCULENT SUBMISSIONS PER PERSON.
- WINNING POINTS WILL BE RECORDED AND ACCUMULATED FOR PRIZES AWARDED AT OUR YEAR-END HOLIDAY PARTY IN 2021.
- COMPETITION DIVISIONS (ROOKIE, NOVICE, ADVANCED, AND OPEN) WILL BE JUDGED TOGETHER, AS THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLANTS FOR A COMPETITION IN EACH DIVISION.
- ONE POINT WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH ENTRY, AND WINNERS IN THE CACTUS AND THE SUCCULENT AREAS WILL BE AWARDED 3 POINTS FOR 3 RD PLACE, 4 POINTS FOR 2ND PLACE, AND 5 POINTS FOR 1 ST PLACE.
- PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO OUR CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR : NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE COMPETITION IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING.
- MANNY RIVERA WILL SELECT THE WINNING CACTUS AND SUCCULENT BASED ON THE PHOTOS, TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE MEETING.
- POM CATEGORIES FOR THE YEAR 2021 ARE LISTED ON THE RIGHT

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTIVITY!

PLANT^{of the} MONTH 2021

JANUARY
Columnar cactus
Sedum & Sempervivum

FEBRUARY
Mammillaria straight spines
Pelargonium

MARCH
Copiapoa
Bulb

APRIL
Echinocereus
Conophytum

MAY
Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 2")

JUNE
Favorites

JULY
Echinofossulocactus
(aka Stenocactus)
Adenium

AUGUST
Echinopsis
Euphorbia with caudex

SEPTEMBER
Ariocarpus
Cyphostemma & Cissus

OCTOBER
Grafted
Grafted

NOVEMBER
Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER
Holiday Awards Party

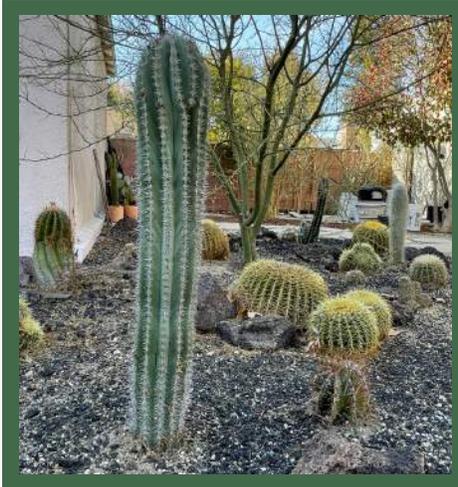


PLANT^{of the} MONTH SUBMISSIONS

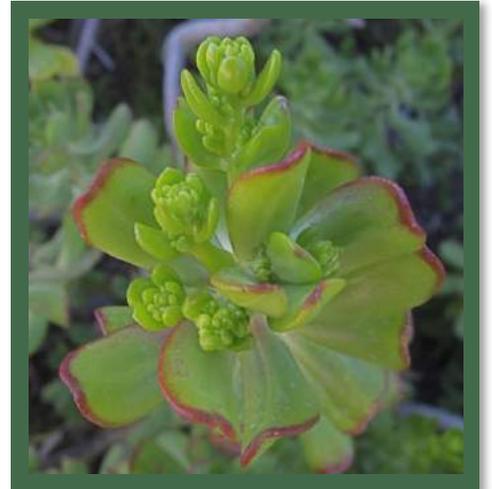
THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS ZOOM MEETING ON JANUARY 7TH TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



SEMPERVIVUM
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



PACHYCEREUS PRINGLEI
NICK STEINHARDT



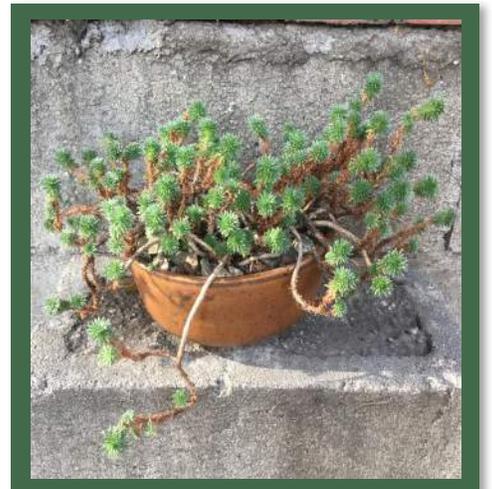
SEDUM PRAEALTUM
GRETCHEN DAVIS



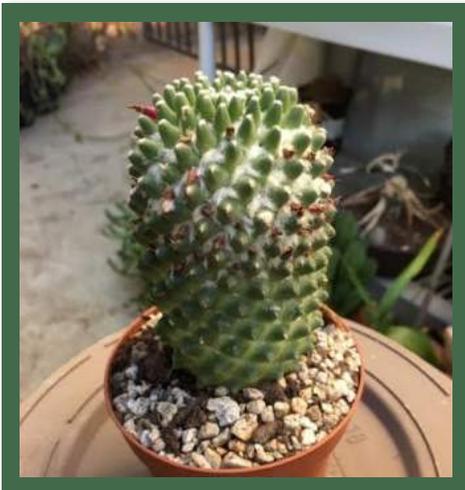
SEMPERVIVUM
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



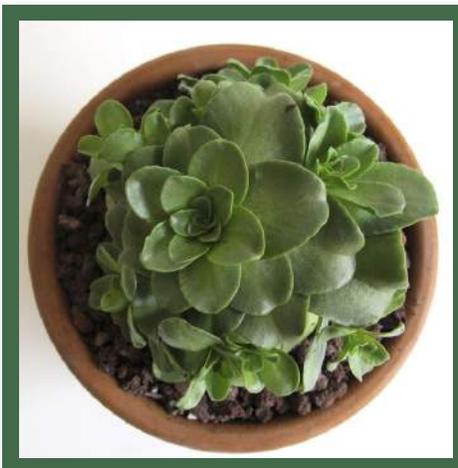
LOPHOCEREUS SCHOTTII
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING



SEDUM MULTICEPS
EVAN WALSH



MAMMILLARIA POLYTHELE INERMIS
RON BEHAR



SEDUM OBTUSIFOLIUM LISTONIAE
GRETCHEN DAVIS



PACHYCEREUS PRINGLEI
RICHARD FONG

JANUARY PLANT^{of the} MONTH

COLUMNAR CACTI BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

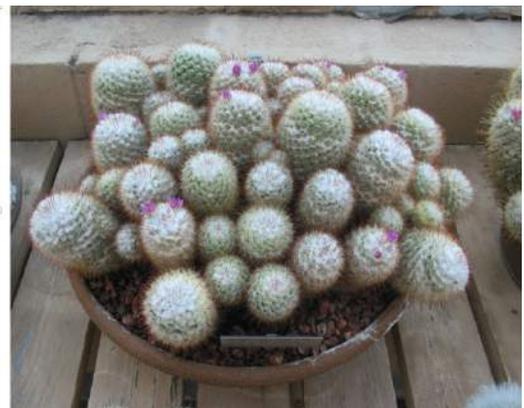
Columnar cacti are a highly heterogeneous group defined by growth form rather than any natural grouping or relationship. As such, there is very little that unifies the group outside of growth form, which can roughly be defined as an upright, mostly self supporting, cactus that is at least twice as tall as wide. Implied in this definition is that the "column" is largely unjointed, thereby excluding cacti such as *Opuntia* and *Schlumbergera*. Even so, we are left with a vast array of cacti that are anywhere from a few inches to over 50 feet tall, ranging from the United States all the way down to southern South America, with cold tolerance ranging from highly frost sensitive to those that can be frozen solid for the winter without harm. To add confusion to the mix, some species start out as globular but after many years become columnar. For example, *Astrophytum* species are usually seen in shows as globular, or short columnar plants at most. However, at the Huntington Garden you can see examples *Astrophytums* in the ground that are several feet tall! For purposes of the Plant of the Month only columnar individuals are eligible.



Carnegiea gigantea (Saguaro)



Stenocereus eruca



Mammillaria bombicyna

So what can we say about them? As a rule, they tend to grow faster than globular cacti. They also are more tolerant of full sun, as the nature of their growth means they don't stay shaded by shrubs and grasses unlike their more diminutive counterparts. Larger species will eventually need to be put in the ground. Smaller types (like many *Mammillaria*) make wonderful specimen plants in pots for years on end. Some of the taller types may require some staking in windy climates to avoid the risk of snapping in a windstorm. When choosing a place to plant them it is important to know if the cactus stays fairly upright and unbranched or if it sends out multiple stems and branches turning into a giant shrub of sorts. Knowledge of growth rate is also key, as many species can reach 15 feet in a few years, while a Saguaro may take your entire lifetime to reach that height! With such variation between species it is paramount that you look up the specific requirements of the plants you choose.



Eupostoa melanostele



Astrophytum ornatum (globular)



Astrophytum ornatum (columnar)

JANUARY PLANT^{of the} MONTH

SEDUM & SEMPERVIVUM, BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Pablo Salguero & Stephen Boisvert

The two genera we are looking at this month, Sedum & Sempervivum, are unusual in having many species that are fully cold hardy. That isn't an issue for most of us in the LA area but is a great feature for our friends in cold winter regions. Some species are tolerant to at least zone 4, meaning winter temperatures down to -30F. That covers virtually the entirety of the continental US.

Sedum is a gigantic genus of 400-500 species. Native Sedum species can be found from Europe to Asia, Mexico to Madagascar, and America to Africa. Even though Sedum reaches the tropics, it still shows its preference for cooler climates as they tend to occur at higher elevations on mountains in those regions. This pattern is not unusual for plants primarily known from temperate climates as many genera of plants, such as Rhododendron, Conifers, and Violets, have a similar distribution.

Sedum belongs to the family Crassulaceae which includes many of our most popular succulents like Crassula, Echeveria, Aeonium, Kalanchoe, and Dudleya. While it is difficult to generalize for hundreds of different species, Sedum tends to form stems like Kalanchoe instead of rosettes like in Echeveria. The stems can be tall and straight, though more commonly the plants grow as a subshrub or groundcover such as *S. dasyphyllum*. One of the most interesting and popular species is *S. morganianum*, the Donkey Tail, known for its long hanging stems densely covered with fat cylindrical leaves.

Sempervivum, native to Europe, western Asia, and North Africa are commonly called "Hens and Chicks". It is closely related to Sedum but differs in generally being stemless and having thinner leaves. They are most likely to be confused with Echeveria but the thinner leaves with hairs or tiny teeth along the margins. Sempervivum flowers have lots of petals while Echeveria have five. They also are monocarpic, meaning that when an individual rosette flowers it dies. But they are such heavy clumpers that you should never have to worry about losing a healthy plant to flowering.

DNA research on the relationships between species and genera of the Crassulaceae has shown Sedum species appearing in and amongst many different genera of the family. This means is that Sedum is what taxono-mists euphemistically call a "garbage can genus". Put simply, when there is a species of Crassulaceae that does not clearly belong to one of the other genera it usually gets called a Sedum by default, especially if it is a stem forming species that isn't a Kalanchoe. That leads to unrelated species being put in the same genus, which isn't acceptable from a scientific standpoint. Expect to see Crassulaceae specialists rearrange things in the future. There are two ways for this to happen. First is to carve up Sedum into many new genera consisting only of closely related plants. The other is to lump genera into Sedum to make a single genus of all species currently called Sedum plus genera such as Aeonium and Sempervivum. For you, the succulent enthusiast, what it means is that you should keep the same labels you have on your plants for now, but in the future you may need to change some of them if calling the plant by its correct name is important to you.



Austrocyllindropuntia subulata crett

Flowers in Sedum can be particularly showy, especially in the species that form large clusters of flowers. Many species are grown for the flowers, with the plant being a secondary consideration. *Hylotelephium* (formerly *Sedum*) *spectabile* is an exceptionally popular species grown in colder climates. It forms big clusters of flowers at the end of long stems and is very tolerant of moist growing conditions, allowing it to be grown in regular flower beds back east where it gets rained on and irrigated regularly. The popularity of this species has led to numerous cultivars being created with flowers colors ranging from red to pink to white, and even purple and salmon orange.

Did you know that California has 15 native species of Sedum? That makes it our third largest genus of succulents (including cacti) in our state. Only *Dudleya* and *Opuntia* have more native species. Some are tiny annuals while others are larger perennials that are quite succulent. Some, like *S. albomarginatum*, look so similar to *Dudleya* that you couldn't tell the difference without looking closely.



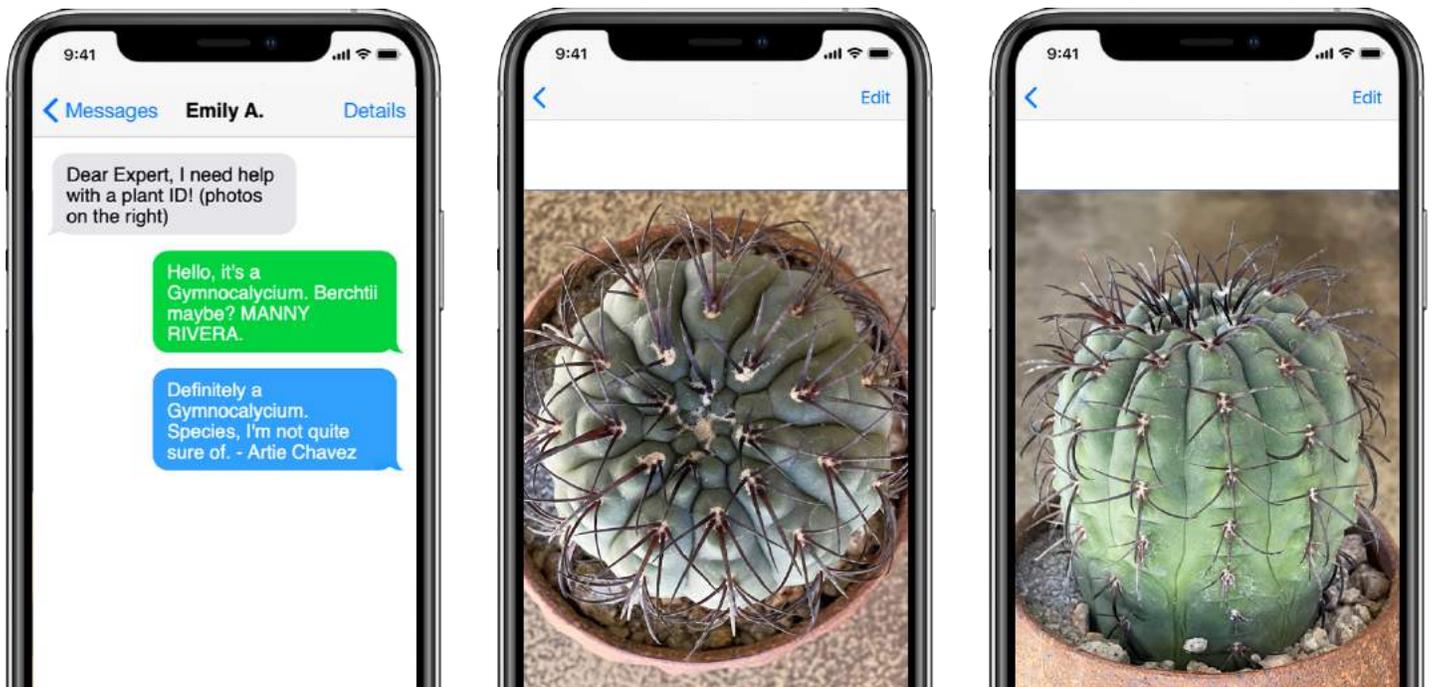
Sedum furfuraceum



Sempervivum pittonii

Dear Expert,

Send in photos to ask an expert about problem plants, plants needing IDs, or "special" plants that happen to be in bloom.
Email : newsletter@lacactus.com



ANNOUNCEMENTS

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE, AND ON BEHALF OF OUR LACSS CLUB AND BOARD, THAT OUR BOARD HAS HONORED JIM AND ROXIE ESTERLE WITH "LIFE MEMBERSHIPS!" THEY ARE WONDERFUL PEOPLE, INDIVIDUALLY, AND AS A COUPLE.

THIS HONOR IS NOT BESTOWED WITHOUT CAREFUL EVALUATION AND BOTH JIM, AND ROXIE, HAVE DONE SO MUCH OVER THE YEARS FOR OUR CLUB AND OUR HOBBY, TO EARN THIS RECOGNITION. THEY, TOGETHER, HAVE CONTRIBUTED AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF THEIR PERSONAL TIME, PASSION, AND EFFORTS TO SO MANY AREAS OUR CLUB AND ITS EVENTS. THIS IS OUR WAY OF THANKING THEM EACH... FOR THEIR DEDICATION, TIME, AND EFFORTS IN MAKING OUR CLUB SO SUCCESSFUL AND HELPING WITH ITS GROWTH.

RON BEHAR
1ST VP / PROGRAM



Save the Date!

SATURDAY PROGRAM with LACSS

EXPERT PANEL

ARTIE CHAVEZ, ROXIE ESTERLE AND JOHN MARTINEZ.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH 2021T
HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM
AT 10:00AM

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!

ALSO, WE WOULD LIKE MEMBERS TO SUBMIT SHORT ARTICLES FOR A NEW NEWSLETTER COLUMN TO BE TITLED, "WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY GARDEN."

YOU CAN SUBMIT THE ARTICLES TO SANDY CHASE AT
 EXOTICFLORAANDFAUNA@MSN.COM

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL ME AT (818) 367-0864 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.



JOHN MARTINEZ

LIVES IN MOORPARK, CALIFORNIA WITH HIS WIFE LINDA AND IS A RETIRED LAFD BATTALION CHIEF. CURRENTLY HE SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CSSA, IS A MEMBER OF SEVERAL LOCAL GARDEN CLUBS AND IS A CO-FOUNDERS OF THE RECENTLY FORMED CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY IN THOUSAND OAKS, CALIFORNIA.

JOHN IS ALSO A PAST VOLUNTEER AT THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDEN. WITH HIS DEEP FONDNESS OF NATURE HE HAS BEEN GROWING XERIC PLANTS MOST OF HIS ADULT LIFE. FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS HE HAS ALSO SHARED A COOPERATIVE SUCCULENT GROWING COMPOUND IN SOMIS, CALIFORNIA WITH THREE OTHER LIKE MINDED GROWERS.

ASIDE FROM CULTIVATING HIS PLANT COLLECTION, JOHN'S TIME IS DIVIDED BETWEEN GARDENING, GOLF, PHOTOGRAPHY, OCCASIONAL FLY FISHING, AND GRANDCHILDREN. AS A NATIVE OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, HE ATTENDED CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHRIDGE WHERE HE RECEIVED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ART.



ROXIE ESTERLE

ALONG WITH HER HUSBAND JIM, BEGAN COLLECTING SUCCULENTS IN 1992 WITH A BURSERA FAGAROIDES, FROM MANNY SINGER. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THEN THAT COLLECTING SUCCULENTS WOULD BECOME A SHARED, LIFELONG PASSION FOR THEM. THEIR HOBBY HAS BECOME A PERFECT DIVISION OF LABOR: ROXIE LEARNS THE BOTANICAL NAMES AND FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS; JIM DOES THE HEAVY LIFTING AND STAGING.

IN ADDITION TO LEARNING ABOUT THESE FANTASTIC PLANTS, THE ESTERLES HAVE ACCUMULATED OVER 1000 CACTI AND SUCCULENTS WHICH ROXIE TRACKS ON AN 80+ PAGE SPREADSHEET THAT INCLUDES PURCHASE DATES, COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, AND MORE. THEY DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WINTER GROWERS AND LOST THEIR FAIR SHARE PRIOR TO JOINING LACSS IN ABOUT 2007.

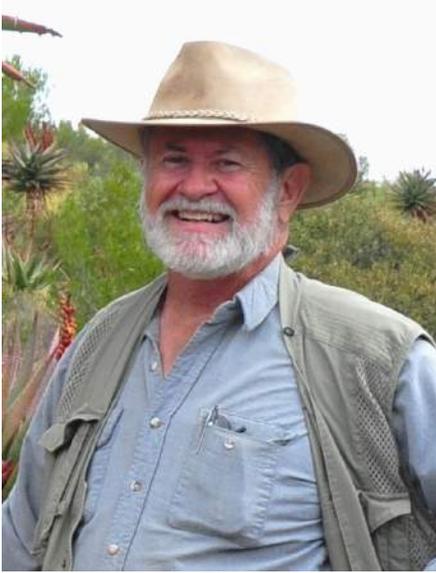
LAST YEAR, ROXIE AND JIM INSTALLED A 9' X 12' GREENHOUSE THAT HAS BEEN IDEAL FOR GROWING UNUSUAL PLANTS. SHADED BY A LARGE DECIDUOUS TREE IN THE SUMMER AND EXPOSED TO BRIGHT SUN DURING THE WINTER, IT HAS ALLOWED THEM TO CONTROL BOTH LIGHT AND WATER, ESPECIALLY ENABLING THEM TO KEEP WINTER DORMANT PLANTS DRY DURING THE RAINY SEASON.



ARTIE CHAVEZ

HAS BEEN A COLLECTOR & GROWER OF RARE UNUSUAL SUCCULENTS SINCE THE YOUNG AGE OF 14. HE HAS HELD NUMEROUS BOARD POSITIONS FOR THE LACSS FOR OVER 30 YEARS, HE IS A MEMBER OF THE CSSA, & NUMEROUS OTHER LOCAL CLUBS. WITH EXTENSIVE TRAVELS TO MEXICO, AFRICA, & THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES, HIS KNOWLEDGE OF PLANTS & HABITAT MAKE HIM AN EXCELLENT GROWER. HIS STAGING OF CACTUS & SUCCULENTS HAVE BEEN FEATURED IN THE DAILY NEWS & HIS STYLE HAS INFLUENCED THE ART OF STAGING IN THE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOWS THROUGHOUT CALIFORNIA. HE IS THE OWNER OF A CACTUS & SUCCULENT NURSERY, DESERT CREATIONS IN NORTHRIDGE, CA. ARTIE IS THE CREATOR OF ONE OF THE MOST UNIQUE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOWS SPONSORED BY THE LACSS EACH JUNE AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER IN ENCINO.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Being responsible for sourcing out our wonderful speakers that provide so many interesting, educational, and entertaining monthly presentations... I would like to give a special acknowledgement to a special member of not only our club, but of all of our clubs... including the CSSA and possibly some I am not familiar with. This person is, Mr. Woody Minnich.

Woody, has been involved with our hobby for more than 51 years. He's a Life Member of 10 local clubs plus The CSSA. He is well known for his photography, articles in the CSSA journals and other publications, and his field work around the world. Woody was also a teacher for more than 32 years.

Woody, is also considered as an historian for our hobby, as a result of all the aforementioned. He has accumulated a vast network of contacts.

Woody has been, and continues to be, instrumental in helping me to identify and acquire commitments from a wide array of experts and enthusiasts within our Cacti and Succulent world.

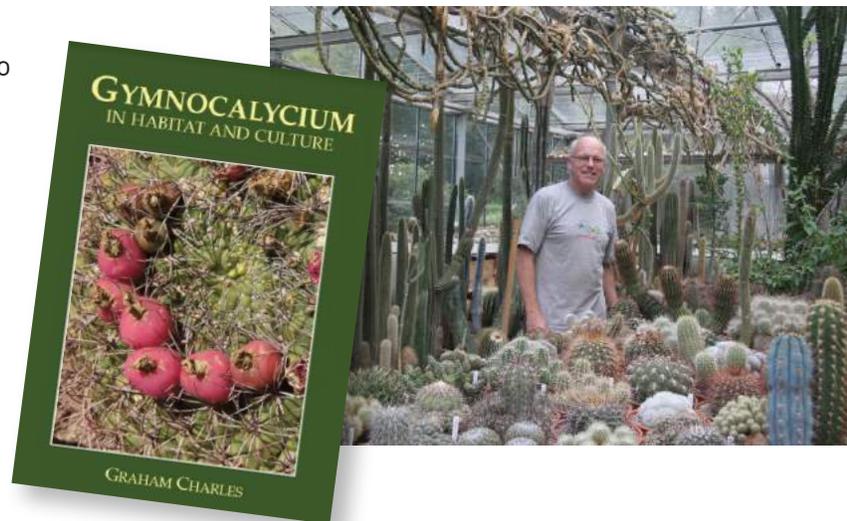
The COVID-19 pandemic put a fairly abrupt stop to our "live" meetings and along with it... and end to our live presentations. At around that time ZOOM meetings began to gain momentum. This tool, along with assistance from Woody, opened up a whole new way to have access to experts and enthusiasts from all over The World!

Most recently, we were afforded the benefit of this when Mr. Graham Charles, of The U.K., graced us with a wonderful presentation on Gymnocalyciums, for a special Saturday presentation.

My sincere thanks, and gratitude, to you Woody. You have played a key role in making my job a bit easier and more successful.

Wishing everyone to please.... Stay safe, stay healthy!

Ron Behar
1st VP / Programs
LACSS



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