

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 2

VOL. 90 ISSUE 10

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

COAHUILA TO SAN LUIS POTOSÍ

MEXICO'S DESERT ENCHANTMENTS
WITH HUNTER MARTINEZ

LACSS MONTHLY MEETINGS, WILL BE HELD IN-PERSON
AND ON ZOOM EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:15PM
ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

B O A R D OF DIRECTORS

2 0 2 2

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

Joyce Schumann

PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Thorpe Chavez

1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS

Cande Friedman

SECRETARY

Kate Eplboim

TREASURER

Nick Steinhardt

DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP

Rosemary Polito

DIRECTOR 2 SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Esterle

CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Karen Holley

WEBMISTRESS

Nancy Neymark

CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

SALE CHAIRS

John Van Unen,
Kimberly Gomez-Tong

INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Manny Rivera
with John Van Unen + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

Al Mindel

PLANT PROCUREMENT

Collin O'Callaghan

HISTORIAN

Sandy Chase

AWARDS DINNER CHAIR

Vacant

LIBRARIAN

Susan Phillips

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

ZOOM MANAGEMENT

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

SOCIAL MEDIA

Nicole Alter - Instagram

COVID COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Emily Akers

A S P E C I A L M E S S A G E

FROM

KAREN OSTLER

Hi, everybody!

Joyce asked me to fill in for her as she and Rose are off enjoying a romp around the Great Lakes; it looks as if they are having a great time, and they couldn't have planned it any better, traveling to the northeast and missing the heat.

How many times during the last monster heatwave did you go out to look at your plants? If they were like mine; they were in a state of what I call "active ungrowth." The temperature in the greenhouse was nearly unbearable and they were letting me know. Mammillarias pulled down into their pots, Ariocarpus pulling in their tubercles, Gasterias curling their leaves into a protective curve over the growth point; every plant sullen and unhappy.

The first instinct is to water: I certainly hope you didn't, most of the plants can't take up water in this kind of heat and all that will happen with the water you pour into their pots is rot. Some of my plants I covered with extra screening, you can do the same thing or move them into the shade; every little bit helps.

If you have plants in clay pots, moisten the outside of the pot to cool the plant. If they are in show pots, dribble water down the outsides of the pot. I actually used the mister function on my water wand to mist around my Gasterias and my Haworthias. And I sprayed the flooring so there was moisture evaporating from the air movement of the fans, there wasn't much more that I could do.

Now that the worst of the heat is over; thank you, Hurricane Kay; I will start watering again, and you should too. The Valley has a good two months of real growing season left and your plants should respond, it's only been a week and mine already look happier. And yours will as well. Just remember that the sun angles will change and plants that have been growing happily in a spot can sunburn before you know it. So take a walk around your yard, be proactive and save that show plant before it burns

Undoubtedly, I will lose some plants and you will too; but autumn is in the air and those that didn't cook will get a chance to grow.

Happy growing, Karen



This Photo and Cover Photo by Hunter Martinez



Photo by Hunter Martinez

T H I S M O N T H ' S S P E A K E R

HUNTER MARTINEZ

Hunter is a cactus and succulent collector/grower with his heart set on exploring the habitats and greenhouses that make this entire hobby possible while documenting the entire experience via his YouTube channel CactusQuest. In between raising his three sons and making handmade pottery he explores the deserts photographing these bizarre and peculiar plants in an effort to get a more complete picture of the plants in our greenhouse and the world we are living in. As an amateur nurseryman he grows and sells a variety of cactus and succulent plants made available via his instagram account bearing the same name as his YouTube channel.

2023 LACSS Elections

Per LACSS By Laws, the following offices are ending their term:

First Vice President - Programs

Second Vice President - Plant of the Month Coordinator

Secretary - Kate Eplboim

Director 1 - Membership

The first VP office is currently filled by **Ron Behar**

The Second VP office is currently filled by **Manny Rivera**

The Secretary office is filled by **Kate Eplboim**

The Director 1 office is filled by **Rosemary Polito**

Ron Behar, Manny Rivera and Kate Eplboim have agreed to serve one more term. The nominating committee has identified **Kelsey Osterman** as the nominee for the Director 1 position.

Per our By Laws, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at our October meeting.

The final list of nominees will be posted in the November Cactus Chronicle.

Voting will take place at the November meeting.



InterCity Show and Sale, The Arboretum.
Photo credit: Kimberly Gomez-Tong

PLANT Of the MONTH

2 0 2 2

JANUARY

Frailea
Adromischus

FEBRUARY

Monotypic
Senecio, Othonna

MARCH

Mammillaria Clusters
Aloe Clusters

APRIL

Escobaria, Acharagma
Aizoaceae Thickened Roots

MAY

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

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Discocactus
Dyckia

AUGUST

Thelocactus-Hamatocactus
Bursera

SEPTEMBER

Gymnocalycium
Euphorbia Millii type

OCTOBER

Astrophytum
Sansevieria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

PLANT Of the MONTH

2 0 2 3

JANUARY

Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya
Aeonium

FEBRUARY

Coryphantha, Neolloydia, Neobesseyia
Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Echinocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamiahgggh

APRIL

Aztekium, Epithelantha
Aloinopsis, Antimima, Aptenia, Argyroderma

MAY

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

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Melocactus
Euphorbia Medusoid

AUGUST

Mammillaria (Dichotomous & 2 Heads)
Gasteria, Astroloba

SEPTEMBER

Cacti from Coahuila
Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea

OCTOBER

Espostoa
Fouquieria

NOVEMBER

Crest and Monstrose

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

ASTROPHYTUM

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

Astrophytum are often one of the first cacti that a novice cactus grower buys, yet a well grown, mature specimen will impress even the most experienced collector. There are a small number of species in the genus, but numerous cultivars of those species give the serious collector new plants to add to their wish list all the time.

Astrophytum contains 5-6 species that are native to Northern to Central Mexico, with one species (*A. asterias*) extending into the Big Bend region of Southern Texas. Four species, *A. asterias*, *A. capricorne*, *A. myriostigma*, and *A. ornatum* are very common in cultivation and can often be seen for sale at local nurseries and big box stores. Another species, *A. coahuilense*, is not recognized as a species by everyone because the plant looks nearly identical to *A. myriostigma*. However, the flowers are different (*A. coahuilense* has a red throat while *A. myriostigma* does not) and crosses between the two are extremely difficult to make due to a high degree of sterility. Plants of the same species should cross easily which these do not.

The most unusual species of *Astrophytum* by far is *A. caput-medusae*. Described only a decade ago (2001) this species has numerous long, thin, tubercles that look

like arms emanating from a central point. Another interpretation of its appearance is that it looks like a bunch of snakes. In fact, the Latin name "*caput-medusae*" means "Medusa head" which is a very apt description! This is so completely unlike the rest of the genus that the first taxonomist to name it called it *Digitostigma caput-medusae*, believing it to be a brand-new genus. However, once you get past the bizarre shape of the plant you start to notice the arms are covered in soft white scales or hairs just like the rest of *Astrophytum*. When the plant blooms the flower is indistinguishable from other *Astrophytum*, and the seeds are identical to those of that genus.

Astrophytum grows in very arid regions, with porous mineral soils. Their adaptation to this environment can lead to cultivation difficulties as they have a tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil [that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice [and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants. The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks. Despite this, most species will grow well under normal cactus culture. One notable exception is *A. asterias*. This species is extremely rot prone when overwatered or watered at the wrong time. It comes from a region with essentially no winter rainfall. Rain is concentrated in the summer months (just the opposite of us in California).

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids, particularly with *A. asterias* and *A. myriostigma*. The most popular cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *A. 'Super Kabuto'* and *A. 'Miracle Kabuto'*. Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for hundreds of dollars when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to levels that most can afford.



Astrophytum ornatum



Astrophytum myriostigma 'Onzuka'



Astrophytum asterias

SANSEVIERIA

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



Sansevieria pinguicula



Sansevieria kirkii 'Coppertone'

To many cactus and succulent growers, Sansevieria is something of an oddball group that gets thought of more as a houseplant than a real succulent. While it makes a great houseplant, it is an unfortunate way to look at this interesting genus of plants. I like to think of them as one of the very few groups of succulents that can tolerate, and even thrive in low light situations such as life inside a home. While most species can do well indoors, that is by no means the required or preferred way to grow them. In our mild climate they can grow outdoors year-round and make a great addition to the shadier spots of your landscape. They are among the easiest to grow and most tolerant of abuse of all succulents.

Sansevieria is a genus of approximately 70 species in the Asparagus family (Asparagaceae). Most species occur in Africa though some species have found their way to India and even Myanmar (Burma). The most notable differences between species are the length and shape of the leaves, as well as the coloration and patterning of the leaves. The common names "Snake Plant" & "Mother in law's Tongue" come from the long, stiff, pointed, and mottled leaf appearance of the most commonly grown species. However, some species produce much more interesting and unique leaf shapes. In particular, species such as *S. cylindrica* have leaves that are nearly circular in cross section. It is important to note that many taxonomists now consider Sansevieria to be part of *Dracena*, a genus well known for tropical houseplants and for the Dragon Tree, *Dracena draco*. For simplicities sake we will consider Sansevieria to be a separate genus for purposes of plant of the month.

In cultivation, many interesting hybrids and cultivars have been produced. *Sansevieria hallii* has several cultivars which carry variations on the name "Baseball Bat". The name really is fitting as the leaves are very thick and tough. One of the most attractive species is *S. kirkii*. It has wavy leaves that are produced horizontally or at least low to the ground. The species has a brown to bronze cast which has been the basis for hybridization and cultivar selection. Cultivars such as "Coppertone", with its rich bronze and pinkish brown coloration, really show how beautiful the coloring of a Sansevieria can be.

Among the most popular types of Sansevieria are variegates. Most everyone has seen *S. trifasciata 'Laurentii'* even if you don't know it by name. It has long upright leaves with a yellow margin. It is not only one of the most popular Sansevieria, it is among the most popular of all houseplants. However, that is the tip of the iceberg. Variegates of *S. pinguicula*, *S. robusta*, *S. kirkii* and others can sell for \$100 or more! For those looking beyond the typical yellow variegation, "Silver Streak" and "Siam Silver" are great plants with silvery-white variegation.

In recent years "miniature" Sansevieria have become popular. They tend to have rounder leaves which only get a few inches long and look great in small pots. Unfortunately, most of these "minatures" are actually the juvenile forms of full-sized species. Not only is the adult bigger, but it looks like a completely different plant. *Sansevieria pinguicula* and *S. eilensis* are examples of this. One of the only "miniature" species I'm aware of that stays small and retains much of its juvenile look into adulthood is *S. rorida*.

Cultivation of most species is quite easy. They thrive in most any well drained potting mix. Outdoors they can grow in similar light conditions as *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* (bright shade, maybe some morning sun) or even shadier spots. They do well in ground, though they don't like being in a cold and wet for excessive periods. Propagation is simple. Either divide a large plant or grow new plants from leaf cuttings. Do note that leaf cuttings of variegated plants virtually always produce regular, non-variegated plants.



Sansevieria masoniana variegated



InterCity Show Trophy Winners, The Arboretum.
Photo credit: Mike Hackett - @insane_succulents



FEW SPOTS LEFT!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022

**LACSS FIELD TRIP TO
THE TAFT GARDEN AND NATURE PRESERVE,
OJAI, CALIFORNIA**



THE TAFT GARDEN IS A PRIVATE NATURE PRESERVE AT THE END OF A PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL ROAD. LACSS HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT, MEET JOHN TAFT, THE FOUNDER, AND ROAM THE GARDEN AT LEISURE. PARTICIPANTS SHOULD BRING PICNIC LUNCHESES; LACSS WILL PROVIDE WATER AND SNACKS.

EACH LACSS MEMBER CAN BRING ONE GUEST. MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION, CARPOOLING IS RECOMMENDED.

TAFT GARDEN IS APPROXIMATELY A 1 HR DRIVE FROM THE VALLEY, AND VISITORS SHOULD PLAN TO ARRIVE BY 9:30 AM. IN PLACE OF THE \$20 VISITOR FEE, LACSS MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO EACH BRING A FAVORITE, ROOTED SUCCULENT IN A 1 GALLON POT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GARDEN.



TO ADVANCE SIGN UP FOR THE TRIP, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL WITH YOUR NAME AND NUMBER OF GUESTS TO [JIMESTERLE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:jimesterle@gmail.com).

ADDITIONAL DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED NEXT MONTH.

MEMBERS!

It will not be long before 2022 comes to an end. Yes, we still have Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas, but 2023 is just 3 months away.

These last few months are so filled with activities, purchases, food, parties and family and friends that we tend to forget about our memberships.

So, this notice is a heads up that you should start looking to get your membership dues in before December 31, 2022.

I hope to see you for 2023. Just go to <http://www.lacactus.com>, click on membership icon, and then Membership Form and either mail in your check, use PayPal or just give me your money at the next meeting.

Thank you
Rose Polito



Stapeliad blooms - with flies!
Photo credit: Kent Butterworth

A REPORT ON LAST MONTH'S SATURDAY PROGRAM WITH

AL KLEIN

by Cande Friedman

This month, Al Klein, from Botanic Wonders Nursery, came to speak to us about "Fat Plants", plants with interesting caudexes. He brought many of his own personal specimens, and spoke to us about preparation of soil, fertilization, light, and conditions for optimizing plant growth. But perhaps what I enjoyed most about his talk, besides how truly, and genuinely excited he was about growing these plants, were his final thoughts:

DON'T BE AFRAID TO TAKE A RISK.

WE ALL KILL PLANTS.

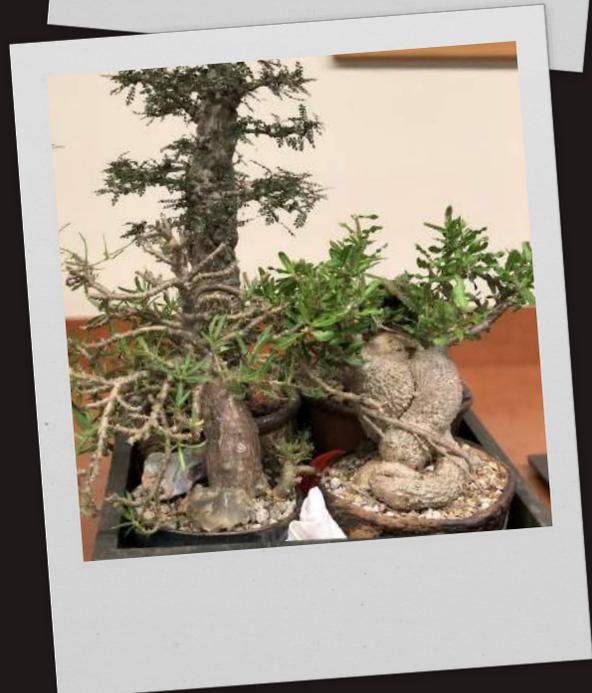
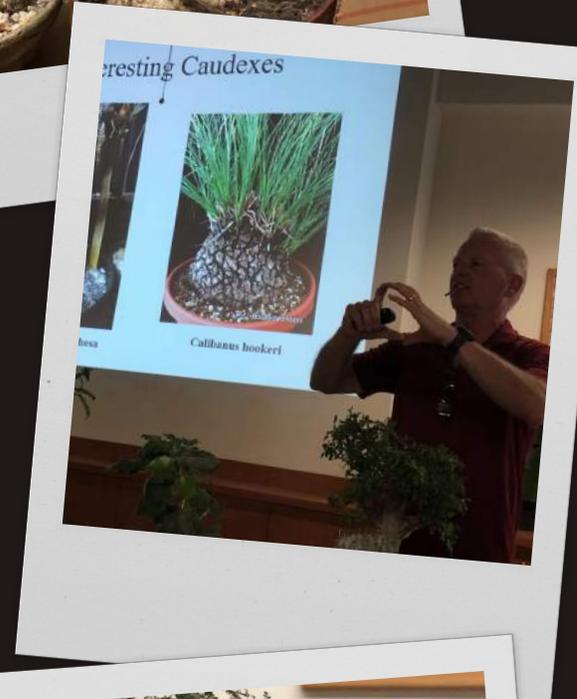
LOVE THE BEAUTY, NATURE'S WORKS OF ART.

LEARN BY MISTAKES. (HATE IT!)

GROW IT BECAUSE YOU LIKE IT, NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S RARE!

LOSE YOURSELF IN THE PROCESS, AND HAVE FUN!

FIND PEACE.



A REPORT ON THE SUCCULENT PLANTS SYMPOSIUM
BY RAFFLE WINNER, AL MINDEL



THE HUNTINGTON

SUCCULENT PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

I always have such a great time at our monthly meetings. But this last meeting I had the special treat of winning a ticket to the 19th Annual Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Gardens!!! So I woke up extra early on Saturday morning and made my way for this very delightful day. Breakfast was served after a fast check in and was I able to schmooze with succulent lovers from near and far.

The program began with an introduction by Nicole Cavender, the charming director of the Huntington Gardens. We had a series of great speakers including the barefooted Root Gorelick from Canada. He really goes on his searches worldwide barefoot to be able to "feel" the smaller succulent treasures under his feet!

Next was Guillermo Rivera, full of knowledge and great information. Our last speaker before lunch was Jared Margulies from Alabama. His info about illicit trade was very eye opening. After lunch, John Trager, curator of the Desert collection at The Huntington. He showed renderings of planned improvements for the area.

Daniel Mahr from Wisconsin took us through a journey of some of his special memories while traveling around the world on the hunt for a variety of succulents nature has to offer. Olivia Grace from the Royal Botanic Gardens had so much to say about the future of succulents on this planet with the possibility of losing many species as environments change due to water shortages and temperatures increasing. Scary news for all of us!!!

There was a silent auction of a variety of interesting plants, books and artwork. And then a special trip to make some purchases at the world renowned Huntington nursery area. Best day ever!



Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale **Sunday, October 23, 2022**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

558 North Ventu Park Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320
SE corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering
Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Plumerias

Along with Pottery
and Jewelry



Experts will be available for
planting and care with purchase of plant
Classes at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society
Web: ConejoCSS.com Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

2022 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT. 22-23
TENTATIVELY

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE
SAT 9-5PM, SUN 10-3PM, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 QUAIL GARDENS DRIVE, ENCINITAS, CA \

OCT. 23

INFO EVENTCOORDINATOR@PALOMARCACTUS.ORG
CONEJO CACTUS SOCIETY SUCCULENT & CACTUS PLANT SALE
9-4PM, 558 N VENTU PARK ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA

NOV. 4-6

HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE, 10-5PM - RESEVRATIONS REQUIRED
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA INFO 626-405-3504