

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

D E C E M B E R 2 0 2 2

VOL. 90 ISSUE 12

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING THIS MONTH,
INSTEAD WE WILL HAVE OUR ANNUAL

DECEMBER AWARDS DINNER

DETAILS INSIDE!





December Awards Dinner

12 | 10 | 2022

**Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino, CA 91436**

Doors open 4PM, Dinner will be served at 5PM

We have many POM award winners to recognize plus a fantastic selection of plants for a live auction. The club will supply all the dinner supplies.

This is an event that you should not miss!!!

**Please confirm that you will be attending
email me at ropojo@pacbell.net
OR call 818-705-3224**

If you have already responded, thank you so much for your support and participation.

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Happy Holidays to everyone,

In spite of the lingering pandemic, 2022 has been a very busy year and LACSS has gotten back to our version of normal. (Remember the freeways with very few cars? Do we really want to return to the original normal???) Our in-person meetings saw increased attendance with each meeting. Even the ZOOM meetings continue with a loyal following. We had field trips, educational workshops, community projects and fantastic speakers. And it should not come as a surprise, we have plans in place for 2023!

By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will be a fond memory. That leaves us with one last get-together before next year hits us. It is with great excitement that we will hold our annual Awards Dinner on Saturday, December 10 at the Sepulveda Garden Center. The refreshments will be provided by the Club. Plant of the Month participants will be acknowledged and a good time will be had by all. If you haven't signed up yet, you still have two days to do so. If you haven't renewed your membership, look for the Membership table. You will be able to renew at the Dinner.

An organization is only as good as its members. I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support during 2022. It would be impossible to tackle and complete all the projects without your involvement. LACSS members are the best!!! Our regular volunteer members have increased in numbers and we hope to continue enlarging this group.

LACSS also has one of the finest and largest libraries of all the cactus clubs. Well over 200 titles! One of the advantages of holding our educational/workshop sessions at the Sepulveda Garden Center is the opportunity to peruse our "Reference" books. Most of them are the older, classic, original cactus and succulent books that have been replaced by new versions of the topic. But the old ones have the history that creates the basis for all that we know. Speaking of new versions – we have several new books that will be featured in January. They will be described in the January newsletter.

So, for those who have signed up for the Awards Dinner – I look forward to seeing you soon. For those who cannot attend, see you next year!

In the meantime, stay safe, healthy and strong!!!

Joyce

DOING WHAT WE LOVE TO DO

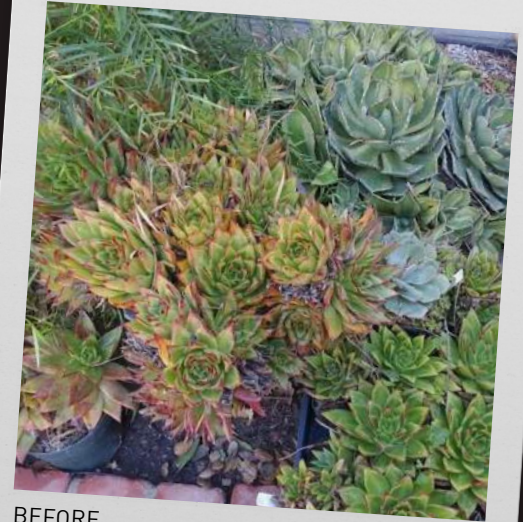
Roxie Esterle

ONEgeneration, the senior community center where we hold our meetings, is currently constructing a “Community Room” at their Van Nuys Farmers Market facility. They asked if LACSS would be willing to help them landscape around the building.

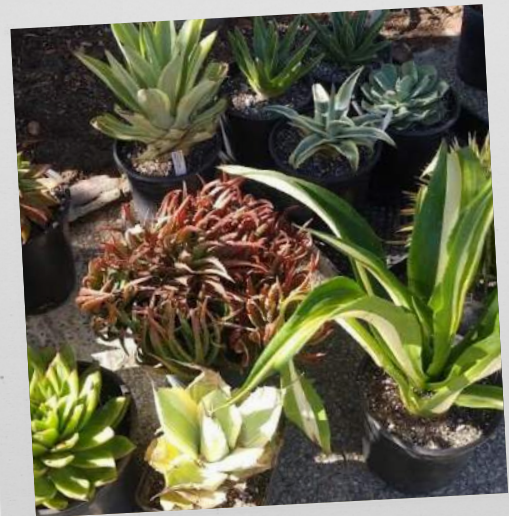
John Matthews, Karen Ostler, and Bonnie Ikemura donated plants for the project. Tim Harvey will also provide an assortment of aloes. The building and succulent beds should be ready for planting in early spring.

On Saturday, November 12, thirteen LACSS members convened for a workday at the home of Jim and Roxie Esterle to separate, transplant, and remove weeds from any overgrown plants. Within a few hours, the project was complete, and the hungry workers enjoyed a lunch of foods from India prepared by new member Manju Talreja and old member Roxie Esterle.

The morning was productive, educational, and enjoyed by all.



BEFORE



AFTER



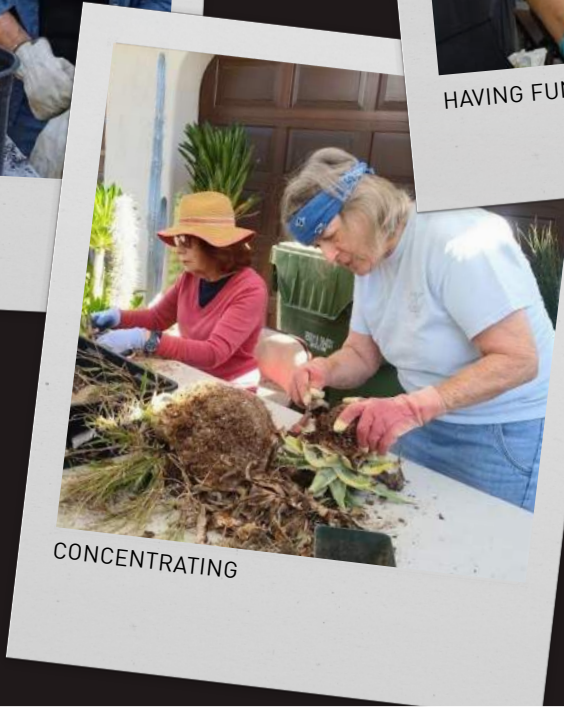
MENTORING



GETTING DIRTY



HAVING FUN



CONCENTRATING



FEASTING



Participants included Kelsey Osterman, Jan Wittenberg, Leslie Raymond, Manju Talreja, Carol Gaspar, Nancy Neymark, Joyce Schumann, Sandy Chase, Bonnie Ikemura, Barbara Hall, and Jim and Roxie Esterle. Ron Cooper assisted in the set up. Rose Polito provided quality control.

Thoughts from outgoing Membership Director

ROSEMARY POLITO

As you may know I have been the Membership Director during the 3 Covid Pandemic years thanks to the delegation of your president, Joyce. You may also know that I am the spouse of a family membership and not the primary member. As the outgoing Membership Director, I want to thank all my fellow board members for their wonderful support. I could not have asked for better partners to work with and to share responsibilities. The Club is very fortunate to have such dedicated and competent board members.

I want to give special thanks to Kimberly Gomez-Tong. I knew] nothing of the workings of the Club. She has always had my back since I accepted this responsibility and helped ensure our members were getting our monthly emails. I also want to thank our members. I have sent many emails to each of you and you have been gracious in responding back. Our membership size has continued to grow even with the 3-year gap without in person meetings.

Your new Director Kelsey Osterman next year and I, will be bugging you to renew for 2023. Our meeting attendance in-person and on zoom remains steady. As each of us gets more comfortable with feeling safe in groups, I foresee our in-person attendance getting back to the 100-120 people. But for that to happen, we need you to renew by 12/31/22 to ensure that there is no lapse in your

membership and in receiving our monthly newsletter and Zoom link.

I have received 61 Renewals for 2023 out of this year's 260 members. So, if you don't want to lose the newsletter and Zoom Link, please renew. Just visit our Website for instructions:

<http://www.lacactus.com>

Next, I would like to talk about Volunteerism. Our survival, and every educational and social organization, is dependent on its members. We are coming out of our sequestered world and getting back to normal. That means that we need help in running our meetings. So, I am asking for each of you to look inside yourself and find one of these areas that you can share your talents and help make our meetings successful. Just let Joyce know where you want to help.

We need a small team of people at each station to ensure consistency in the event of a key member being absent.

We need help in setting up the electronics for the speaker and the zoom attendees. If you are a computer savvy please let Joyce know that you want to help set up and then take down the electronics.

We need help at the Library. We have 2 young people but they need help. We need people for the refreshment table. We have been quite lax in that area.

We need people to come in early to help set up the tables with signs and table coverings for the Plant of the Month, Membership and Sign in, the Vendor, and the Freebee tables. Also, we then need help to take down and store these presentation items.

And most importantly we need people who want to become future Board Members... President, Vice President, Treasurer, Special Events Coordinators, etc.

If you are interested in learning about our Board, please let Joyce know. We need to mentor people to replace our Board Members.

A smooth transition of Board Members can only strengthen our club.

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society is a well respected educational and social club. So, let your special skills and abilities help us continue to grow and stay a vital member of our community.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you and the Club.

Rosemary (Rose) Polito

2023 MEMBER?

YOUR 2023 MEMBERSHIP TO THE LACSS IS
YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOURSELF AND FAMILY.

RENEW NOW BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2022
TO ENSURE YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE YOUR MONTHLY
CHRONICLE WITH ZOOM LINK WITHOUT INTERRUPTION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$20 ANNUALLY
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$25 ANNUALLY

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO RENEW:

ONLINE VIA PAYPAL

[CLICK HERE TO PAY VIA PAYPAL](#)

CHECK VIA MAIL

[CLICK HERE TO PRINT AN APPLICATION](#)

OR IN-PERSON AT THE NEXT MEETING!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN 2023
AT OUR MEETINGS OR ON ZOOM

P L A N T
EXPEDITION
T O U R U P D A T E S

It is the time of the year when we must make final decisions about our tours for 2023. I would like to be able to confirm (or not) by December, what is going to happen in 2023 regarding our botanical expeditions.

Just back from MADAGASCAR, after having completed in 2022 SOCOTRA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, NAMIBIA, BRAZIL, and SOUTH AFRICA. Wow, what a year!

Our next tour will be ARGENTINA-CHILE. I know it is very short notice, but if you can join I can provide a substantial discount, as I had 4 cancellations on this tour, and now it is confirmed with only 6 participants. Get in touch with me ASAP if interested.

For 2023, the calendar is again looking very busy. As you can see from the table below, we are dealing with an almost impossible schedule. These are of course "proposed tours". It is for this reason that we would appreciate if you could provide any feedback regarding your possible participation on any of this tour. The "area of conflict" will be among the following tours: Brazil, Ecuador, South Africa, and Peru. By having your opinion or knowing your level of interest for these tours, I will be able to "drop" one out, and schedule the ones with better chances of reaching a minimum of 8 participants. PLEASE REVIEW CHART, and message me for any interest, questions, etc. Well, I guess that is all for now. Please see below for a synopsis of what is scheduled for 2022-2023.

Keep safe, and it is so good to be back traveling!

All the best,
Guillermo Rivera
Plant Expeditions

P L A N T

EXPEDITION

2 0 2 3 S C H E D U L E

2023 SCHEDULED TOURS

| | | | |
|----------|---|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| B | SOCOTRA | Jan 10 – 24, 2023 | FULLY BOOKED |
| C | PATAGONIA (SOUTHERN CHILE-ARGENTINA) | Feb 2023 | NOW FEB 2024 |
| D | BAJA CALIFORNIA | April 9–23, 2023 | 2 places available |
| E | NAMIBIA | May 2023 | Taking reservations* ¹ |
| F | BRAZIL | June 2023 | Taking reservations* ² |
| G | ECUADOR | July 2023 | 2 places available* ³ |
| H | SOUTH AFRICA | Aug 2023 | NOW AUG 2024 |
| I | PERU | Sep 2023 | 2 places available |
| J | MADAGASCAR (NORTH OR SOUTH) | Oct 2023 | NOW SEP 2024 |
| K | ARGENTINA - CHILE | Nov 2023 | tentative |
| I | THAILAND - SINGAPORE | Dec 2023 | tentative |

***1 NAMIBIA 2023: TRIP CAN BE CONFIRMED WITH 6-7 PAX (OUR LOCAL GUIDE WILL BE THE ONLY GUIDE/DRIVER -4X4 LAND ROVER WITH POP UP ROOF FOR GAME WATCHING). IF 8-12 PAX I WILL BE ALSO GOING, AND WE WILL HAVE 2 VEHICLES.**

***2 BRAZIL 2023: A MINIMUM OF 10 PASSENGERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THIS TOUR.**

***3 ECUADOR 2023: IF BRAZIL DOES NOT GET CONFIRMED, ECUADOR MIGHT BE “MOVED” TO JUNE 2023**

P L A N T
EXPEDITION

2 0 2 3 S C H E D U L E

SOCOTRA: MARCH 2022 Finally, we can visit the island!

As many of you know, I've been planning and researching the possibility of conducting a tour to Socotra for a long time. Political circumstances made this journey difficult in the past 6 years. However, recent changes are making this a possibility: a direct flight from Abu Dhabi to the island of Socotra without a layover in Yemen!

Having visited the island in March 2022 has given me the opportunity to re-design and plan a much better itinerary (maximizing time in great habitats, and somehow cutting down on unnecessary hikes (or give options to those who do not wish to hike so much).

Flora: *Adenium socotranum* (in bloom). all species of *Aloe*, *Boswellia*, *Caralluma*, *Ceropegia*, *Cissus*, *Commiphora*, *Crassula*, *Dedrosicyos*, *Dorstenia*, *Dracaena*, *Duvaliandra*, *Echidnopsis*, *Edithcolea*, all *Euphorbia*, *Jatropha*, *Kalanchoe*, *Ledebourria*, *Peperomia*, *Sarcostema*, *Senecio*, *Socotrella*, *Sterculia*

<https://www.plantexpeditions.com/socotra>

Dates: **January 10-24, 2023**

Mode: All inclusive, Socotra (accommodations (3 hotel nights, camping, visa fees, flights from Abu Dhabi,) Expect hikes 4 hours a day (with some alternatives to opt out)

Duration: 14 days on the island of Socotra. Flight from Abu Dhabi to Socotra January 10th, 2023, return flight January 24th, 2023

Price: \$4800

PATAGONIA: Southern Chile & Argentina NOW FEBRUARY 2024 Glaciers, navigations and beautiful scenery and wildlife

One of our best nature tours: Dolphins, Penguins (King, Magallanic, Gentoo) Rheas, Foxes, Glaciers, Fitz Roy mountain, Torres del Paine National Park. Including Torres del Paine. More details if there is enough interest for a minimum of 8 participants <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/patagonia>

Dates: **NOW FEBRUARY 2024**

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Rio Gallegos and ending in Ushuaia

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - TBA

Duration: 15 days

Price: \$5650 Includes: navigation out of San Julian, entrance fee Glaciers National Park x2, entrance fee Torres del Paine N.P., visit private reserve with King penguins, Tour and local guide in Tierra del Fuego National Park, visit Estancia Haberton, navigation Beagle Channel.

BAJA CALIFORNIA: "From San Diego to Cabo" APRIL 2023 Best weather and cactus in flower!

The Baja Peninsula is one of Mexico's best areas for plants. Cactus species are abundant, *Ferocactus*, *Echinocereus*, *Mammillaria*, *Stenocereus*, *Lophocereus* and of course choyas! Because of its isolation, the peninsula includes quite a few endemics, like *Pachycereus pringlei*, *Echinocereus lindseyi*, *Lophocereus schottii*, among others. Many other interesting plants grow in Baja: *Dudleya*, *Agave*, *Fouquieria*, *Euphorbia*, etc. The scenery is spectacular, clear water, beaches, and of course, the visit to a few islands completes this magic trip! <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/baja>

Dates: **APRIL 9-23, 2023**

Mode: All inclusive, starts in San Diego, ends in Cabo

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **2 PLACES LEFT**

Duration: 14 days (I may add a day to include an island)

Price: \$4250 all-inclusive except airfare. **(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 550)**

P L A N T
EXPEDITION
2 0 2 3 S C H E D U L E

NAMIBIA: MAY 2023 Best time for plants and Etosha wildlife safari!

This trip will now include a visit to world famous Sossusvlei dunes. The itinerary will continue to offer visits to several populations of Welwitschia mirabilis and Cyphostemma and all the way north to the border of Angola to Epupa falls to see Adansonia digitata in a spectacular setting. We will spend two full days in Etosha National Park for a GREAT safari experience. Tours will be co-guided by Sean Braine, probably the best natural history guide in Namibia with excellent knowledge on plants, birds, geology, and the country's natural history. We will visit 3 Welwitschia renowned populations, plus we will see Aloe, Cyphostema, Commiphora, Adansonia, Adenium, Hoodia, and of course many Acacias. Promise you will not be disappointed!

As previously we will be doing this tour in 4x4 with a pop up roof ideal for game watching and photography. Accommodations in mostly luxury lodges! <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/namibia>

Dates: **MAY 14-28, 2023**

Duration: 15 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Windhoek

Price: \$4950. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 600)

Participants: Minimum 6 participants - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

BRAZIL: JUNE 2023 Best time for bromeliads and cactus!

This journey will take you through the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. The habitats of Cerrado, Caatinga, and Atlantic Forest are well represented in these states allowing for a great diversity of many Brazilian genera of cactii: Uebelmania, Micranthocereus, Melocactus, Pilosocereus, among others. A journey of over 4000 km worth the drive! <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/brazil>

Dates: **JUNE 2023**

Duration: 16 or 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Belo Horizonte

Price: \$4450. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 580)

Participants: Minimum 10 participants

ECUADOR: JULY 2023 Over 150 species of Bromeliads in habitat!

This journey will take you through the states of Minas Gerais and Bahia. The habitats of Cerrado, Caatinga, and Atlantic Forest are well represented in these states allowing for a great diversity of many Brazilian genera of cactii: Uebelmania, Micranthocereus, Melocactus, Pilosocereus, among others. A journey of over 4000 km worth the drive! <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/brazil>

Dates: **JULY 2023**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Guayaquil, ending in Quito.

Price: \$4250. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 580)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **2 SPACES LEFT**

SOUTH AFRICA Namaqualand: AUGUST 2024 Flowering desert

We have done the trip five times and are always adding new sightings! We shall see the desert in flower, with warmer temperatures and spring signs in late August. Many Aloes and Mesembs: Crassula, Lithops, Tylecodon, Hoodia, Conophytum, Argyroderma, and others!! <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/southafrica>
Possible extension for Safari in Kruger National Park!

Dates: **August 19- September 1, 2024**

Duration: 14 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Cape Town

Price: \$4800 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$580)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants

*continues next page

P L A N T
EXPEDITION
2 0 2 3 S C H E D U L E

PERU: SEPTEMBER 2023 Cactus, Bromeliads and Cultural sights!

From the dry, deciduous forest in the North around the cities of Chiclayo and Jaen, to the lower slopes of the Andes and into the Amazon region: we will explore the habitats around Huaraz, a beautiful town nestled in the valley between the Cordillera Blanca and Cordillera Negra. We will see amazing Matucanas in flower, high elevation Oroyas, spectacular Neoraimondias and the most incredible bromeliad Puya raimondii growing at 4400 meters, with its inflorescence of over 20 feet! along with beautiful Tillandsias and Vrieseas.

At the end of the tour, we will cross the Andes once again heading towards the Sacred Valley of the Incas to finish our voyage visiting Machu Picchu. <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/peru>
At the end of tour an extension to Manu National Park in the heart of the Amazon will be offered.

Dates: **Early September 2023**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Chiclayo, ending in Cuzco

Price: \$4650 all inclusive –with train ticket in Machu Picchu, park entrance fee, transfers to ruins gate, except airfare.

Participants: Minimum 8 participants

- ONLY 4 PLACES LEFT

(Single occupancy, add \$580)

MADAGASCAR: SEPTEMBER 2024 Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

“The island of the big trees”. After five trips to the island, I am ready to go back! Journey to the western and southern part of the Island of Madagascar. The island is not only rich in plant endemisms (plants that are only found in this place), but also unusual animals: Lemurs and Chameleons are almost exclusively found in Madagascar. Among the plants, the genus Adansonia is perhaps the most common, but plenty of Aloe, Euphorbia, Didierea, Alluaudia, and Pachypodium. <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/madagascar>

Dates: **September 2024**

Duration: 16 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Antananarivo.

Price: \$4850 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$580)

Participants: Minimum 10-11 participants

MADAGASCAR NORTH : OCTOBER 2024 Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

“The island of the big trees”. After five trips to central and southern Madagascar, we are ready to explore the rest of the island: a journey to the north and central north to see more, the other Adansonia (baobabs), but also Aloe, Euphorbia, and Pachypodium. The island is not only rich in plant endemisms (plants that are only found in this place), but also unusual animals: Lemurs and Chameleons are almost exclusively found in Madagascar. <https://www.plantexpeditions.com/copy-of-madagascar-october>

Dates: **September 2024**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Antananarivo.

Price: TBD

Participants: Minimum 10-11 participants

THAILAND - SINGAPORE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2023 (best weather to visit Thailand and Singapore)

Explore best botanical gardens and nurseries in Thailand: Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden (Bangkok) and Rachapa Royal Garden (Chiang Mai). Ten days in Thailand to see other iconic attractions, then fly to Singapore to visit Gardens by the Sea and Singapore Botanical Gardens

Dates: **November-December 2023**

Duration: 14 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting Bangkok, ending in Singapore

Price: \$4850 all-inclusive except airfare to BKK and from SIN. Includes domestic flight and flight from BKK to SIN
(Single occupancy, add \$550)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants