

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

A P R I L 2 0 2 2
VOL. 90 ISSUE 04

AN UNEXPECTED SUCCULENT PARADISE

THAILAND

WITH DR. KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credit: Dr. Kyle Williams

LACSS ZOOM MEETING, EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:30PM

APRIL 7TH, 2022

PLANT

LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY'S 2022 JUNE SALE

Cacti +
Succulents
Hand Made
Ceramics
Collector
Plants

FRIDAY
\$5 admission
Live Auction 8PM
Early Bird
Rare Plant Finds

SATURDAY
FREE admission
All Day Silent Auction

**ENCINO
FARMERS'
MARKET**

17400 VICTORY BLVD
VAN NUYS CA.

SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 10

6PM – 830 PM

JUNE 11

9AM – 230 PM

SALE



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.

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Vacant

CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

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CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

FALL SALE

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LIBRARIAN

Susan Phillips

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

ZOOM MANAGEMENT

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

SOCIAL MEDIA

Kathleen Misko - Facebook
Nicole Alter - Instagram

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring & Daylight Savings Time to Everyone

I went to the annual Tomatomania Sale in Encino on the first day of the sale (Friday) thinking I would be ahead of the crowd. Everyone was jockeying for the best parking spot, pushing each other out of the way, searching for the most recent hybrid, and striking up conversations with strangers regarding each other's selections. Sound familiar??? Just like the cactus sales! I felt right at home...

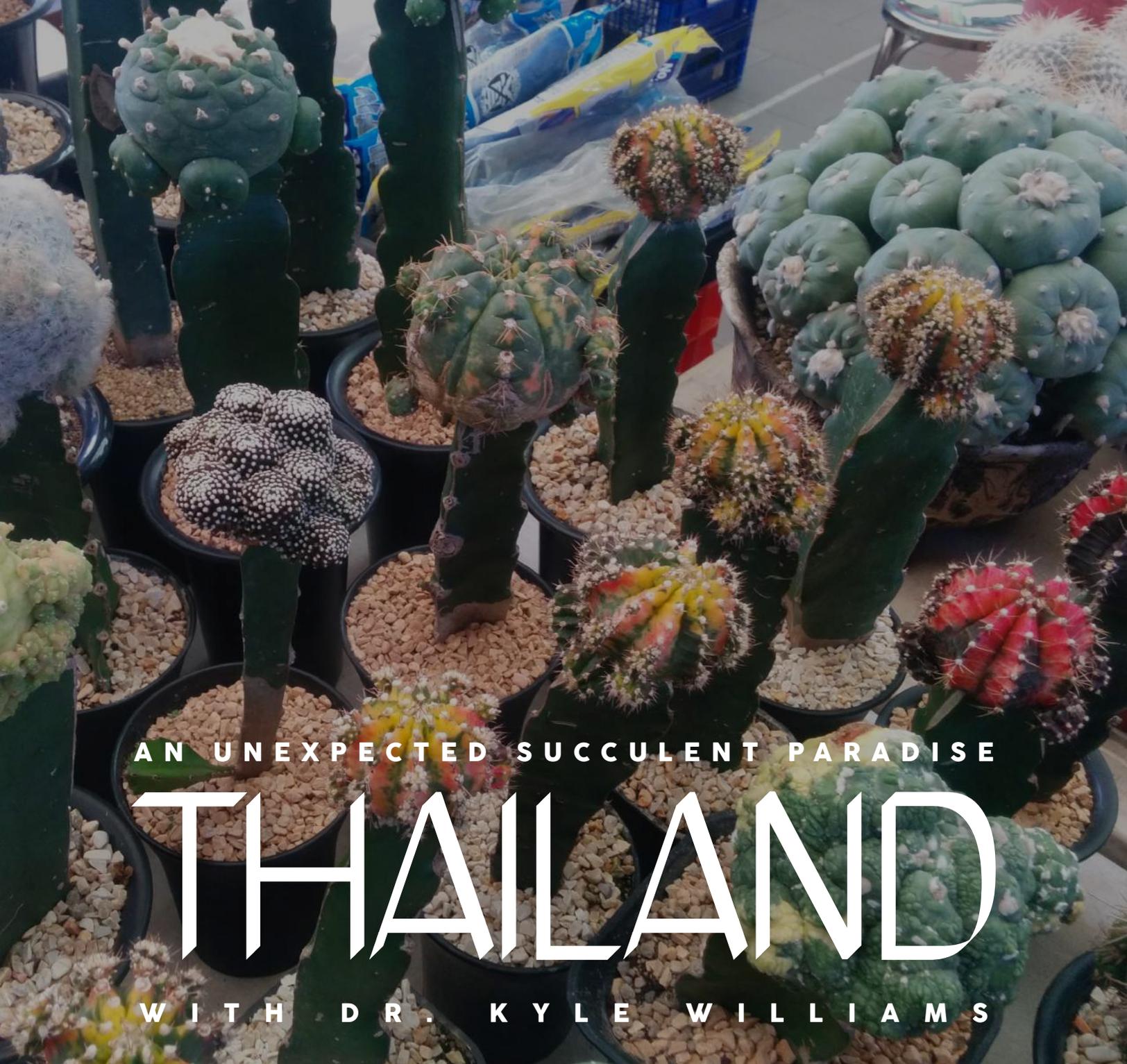
Which reminds us that this is the time for all the Cactus and Succulent clubs to hold their sales. I hope you had a chance to attend the SGVCSS Winter Show and Sale. Again, I went on Friday to avoid the crowd and was pleased to see so many visitors so early in the morning. Lots of vendors and soooo many plants to choose from. As usual, the best part is seeing many friends in person. A lot of people like to do their shopping (for everything!!!) on line but there is nothing quite as exciting as seeing the very plant you are looking for right in front of you as if it were waiting for you! Does it sound like I'm encouraging you to go to all the C&S sales? Yes, I am! (But only if you are comfortable being out and about.)

Our own June Sale is not that far in the future. Plans are already taking shape. Future blasts and announcements will offer more information so stay tuned. Of course, each of these will include a call for volunteers. Volunteers make each event a success, so step right up and be a part of this very special event. I will be sending out the first request toward the end of April. So, clear your calendar and join the fun!

As for future in-person meetings – not in the near future. ONEGeneration has begun to clear out the remaining supplies from the large room but will not have a place to store all the gear until a new, off-site building is completed. You will get a glimpse of this building at our June sale. They have promised that we will be the first to know when the space is available.

Update for our Educational sessions – April is a very busy month and all weekends are booked with other cactus and succulent sales, etc. So, we look forward to our next scheduled program on May 14. Cande will place a flyer in the May Chronicle with details about where and time, etc. I hope your plants are enjoying our spring weather. If you have any questions about watering, fertilizing, bugs and other unusual plant conditions, feel free to ask during the social "hour" at our next zoom meeting. Everyone learns something during these informal exchanges of experiences. In the meantime, stay safe and healthy and enjoy the spring growth of your plants.

See you soon!
Joyce



AN UNEXPECTED SUCCULENT PARADISE

THAILAND

WITH DR. KYLE WILLIAMS

Most people know Thailand as an Asian country with nice beaches and lots of Buddhist temples. What most people do not realize is that there is a very large community of cactus & succulent enthusiasts that grow rare desert plants in a tropical rainforest climate. Even more surprising is that Thailand has its own native succulents and caudiciforms such as Euphorbia and Adenia. Kyle will give a photographic tour of Thailand focused on the cactus & succulent community there.



Photo by Kyle Williams



Kyle became fascinated with plants as a teenager, growing roses, carnivorous plants, tropicals, and of course cacti & succulents. He attended college at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo where he gained a Bachelor's degree in Ornamental Horticulture. That in turn sparked an interest in botany that saw him earn a PhD from Duke University in Plant Taxonomy and do postdoctoral at Harvard University. Eventually he decided to leave the academic world behind and moved back home to California. Soon after he started building up his plant collection which included a large number of cacti and succulents. In 2012 this interest in cacti and succulents let him to join the LA Cactus and Succulent Society. In less than a year the "secret" was out that he was a trained botanist and he was asked to write the Plant of the Month articles for the LACSS newsletter. These articles focus on specific types of cacti and succulents and go into detail about their taxonomy, culture, and any other interesting facts people might find interesting. He has produced these articles monthly since 2013 for the LACSS and since 2016 for the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society. In 2013 started selling cacti and succulents on Ebay under the name Kyle's Plants and by 2018 this nursery became his full-time job. Today his plants are sold on Ebay, Etsy, and his own website as well as at numerous cactus and succulent shows in Southern California.



Dr. Kyle Williams

POM 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 1ST 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.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTIVITY!

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 2")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Discocactus
Dyckia

AUGUST

Thelocactus-Hamatocactus
Bursera

SEPTEMBER

Gymnocalycium
Euphorbia Millii type

OCTOBER

Astrophytum
Sanseveria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

ESCOBARIA & ACHARAGMA

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

Escobaria is a moderate sized genera of approximately 23 species of small North American cacti similar in appearance to Mammillaria and were originally included in that genus. They share in common a small, mostly globular, stature and an incredible level of cold tolerance, at least in some species. Escobaria vivipara and E. missouriensis are particularly widespread species covering most of western and midwestern North America. In fact, the native range of E. vivipara extends all the way into Canada, a feat matched only by a few species of Opuntia. This cold tolerance allows people in even the coldest climates to grow these species outdoors.

Acharagma is a tiny genus of just two species of small cacti from northern Mexico. We are including them along with Escobaria this month because they started out being described as members of that genus. Over time they were separated out in large part due to grooves on the tubercules that the rest of Escobaria lack. This separation has since been vindicated by DNA study. It turns out Acharagma is not closely related to Escobaria at all, and is instead a close relative of Lophophora (Peyote) and Obregonia!

While all plants in this group are relatively small, many can form good sized clumps in time (much like Mammillaria). Some of the variation between species include having globular plants and more cylindrical, upright plants. Flowers vary from yellow to pink. Some species are covered in dense white spines while others are more sparsely covered, allowing the green body of the plant to shine through. A large number of species produce tap roots. Cultivation is similar to Mammillaria and other small cacti. While some members of these genera are renowned for their cold tolerance, keep in mind many species come from warm climates. Of course that isn't much of an issue for us in California, but anyone growing them in cold climates needs to make sure they pick the cold tolerant species. Most species take general cactus care and do well in smaller pots, and so make nice additions to any collection.

Escobaria is more closely related to Coryphantha and Mammillaria than to Acharagma. In fact many botanists feel that Escobaria should not be recognized as a distinct genus, instead lumping all the species in Coryphantha itself. This is what the authors of "The Flora of North America", the field guide to all the plants of the USA and Canada, chose to do. To make it even more complicated, there is evidence to suggest that Coryphantha

shouldn't be a genus either and should all be considered species of Mammillaria! Coryphantha and Escobaria differ from Mammillaria largely in flowering on new growth while Mammillaria blooms primarily on previous year's growth. Coryphantha and Escobaria differ from each other only by details of the seeds. Confused yet? Don't worry, the important thing is to learn about these plants and just call them a name you are comfortable with until the botanists sort out the relationship issues. Don't be shocked, however, if one day we call all Escobaria species Mammillaria once again.



Escobaria minima



Escobaria hesteri



Acharagma roseana

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

AIZOACEAE

(M E S E M B R Y A N T H E M A C E A E)

W I T H T H I C K E N E D R O O T S
B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

Mesembryanthemaceae is one of the longest and ugliest plant family names. Thankfully, botanists don't call it that anymore. Now we refer to the family as the Aizoaceae. You can informally call them Mesembs as well. The change in name is due in part to the uniting of plants formally in different families. The Aizoaceae contains over 130 genera and nearly 2000 species, making it as big or bigger than the Cactaceae. Most Aizoaceae are fleshy and succulent plants. While most species that we grow are very highly succulent, such as Lithops, Faucaria, or Ice Plant (Carpobrotus), some genera are just slightly succulent and more resemble a typical herb.

Aizoaceae have a worldwide distribution in arid regions, including two species native to California. Despite the family technically being worldwide, the overwhelming number of genera and species (96%) come from southern Africa. It is interesting to compare the Cactaceae with the Aizoaceae in that both families have developed extreme succulence in order to survive their arid habitats, however how they went about it shows that evolution can converge on a basic idea in two different ways. Cacti have evolved thick fleshy stems that store water during lean times while also getting rid big green leaves (except in Pereskia and a few other species) that lose a lot of water on hot days. The leaves of a cactus have been turned into the spines that protect the plant from predators. The Aizoaceae took a different path. The stems have been nearly lost in many species (e.g. Lithops), or tend to be fairly thin and not much for

water storage. The leaves have become extremely fleshy to the point where they are practically balloons filled with water. Whereas Cacti "fight" their predators by forming big sharp spines, the small stemless Aizoaceae hide from them by blending into their surroundings. They in essence become indistinguishable from rocks and are therefore ignored by thirsty predators. Another strategy employed by many Aizoaceae is to grow in the cracks of rocks. That gets them away from bigger, faster growing shrubs and grasses that would shade them out, but also helps them survive against predators. If a thirsty animal were to find one of these in the ground they could eat the whole thing killing it. If they find one wedged in a rock they might be able to eat the exposed leaves but the base of the plant would be protected, allowing the plant to regrow.



Aloinopsis schooneesii



Delosperma napiforme



Trichodiadema bulbosum

Rather than have a free for all of species we are going to narrow it down this month to plants with an aspect usually not thought about when discussing mesembs, caudiciform and tuberous rooted species. Yes, the family as a whole specializes in leaf succulence. But that doesn't mean some haven't made use of their other parts to store water as well. In doing so you end up, in some cases, with a plant so different from something like Lithops that many wouldn't know they are in the same family. Many species of the closely related genera Aloinopsis and Titanopsis make thickened roots as the plants mature that can be raised to give the plant a bonsai like appearance. Others like Mestoklema, Trichodiadema and some Delosperma are more shrubby plants with even bigger, woodier roots as well as branched stems.

L A C S S S A T U R D A Y PROGRAM

VISIT ROB ROY'S GREENHOUSE

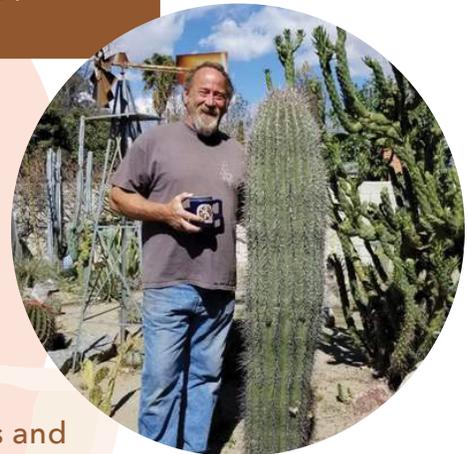
**SATURDAY, MAY 14TH 2022
MORE INFO SOON!**

AN EMAIL BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT

The LACSS has a special opportunity to visit Rob McGregor's amazing yard and greenhouse in Riverside. Rob rarely opens his property and collection of cacti to the clubs in the area and here is your chance to visit!

Learn about how to grow cactus in various kinds of pots or in the ground, types of soil, water, fertilizing, and sun needs. Bring pictures of your troubled plants and Rob will try and help you come up with a solution!

Make a day of it and visit the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center and Granite Hill Gardens! VISIT: <https://jmhc.org>



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING,
PLEASE EMAIL LEEARC@AOL.COM**



U P C O M I N G CSSA WEBINAR



GROWING CACTI AND SUCCULENTS FROM SEED

STEVEN BRACK

Join us Saturday, April 2nd at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Click here to register!

Did you know that a few mesembs can flower just 3 months after germination, and some cacti like *Mammillaria* and *Turbinicarpus* can flower within about a year? Steven Brack will show you how easy and rewarding it is to grow cacti and succulents from seed. Seed growing is a great way to propagate the plants that we love. It displays the variation and different characteristics found among seedlings. Rare species are sometimes only available through seeds. Another aspect of the seed growing is learning about seed production using your own plants.

Steven will demonstrate various methods of sowing seeds and how to produce your own soil medium. He will discuss the challenges in raising from seed, such as the conditions found in habitat and cultivation of the seedlings. He will show examples of many types of habitats that plants have adapted to survive in.

Biography: Growing up in Wisconsin I became interested in horticulture at a young age, grew plants as a kid to enter in the local county fair. While in college studying physics after seeing some cacti and succulents at a friend's house on the windowsill, I went to the library to find some books on these strange plants. I started reading these books and found the plants just fascinating. I used interlibrary loan to borrow hard to get books and a big world opened. In some of these books various clubs and societies were mentioned, so I wrote away to join a few and then found seed lists from the groups. I started to grow from seed and acquired a few plants back in 1970. Soon I was on the hunt for seed lists, and what amazed me was to get seeds with a Latin name and the geographic source. Then I read a series of articles in a British journal about the travel adventures of an English tourist that visited New Mexico.

At this point I was interested in seed growing and the idea of moving to New Mexico to start a nursery really took hold. I wanted a life working with seeds. My wife accepted this weird idea instead of becoming a physics teacher, and we moved to NM in the spring of 1973. After 3 years of working on the project we started Mesa Garden in 1976. Since 1973 we have taken many trips to collect seeds to grow stock plants for the nursery; it has been a great life of desert camping, hiking and seeing plants in nature. After 41 years of running the nursery we sold it to a couple that were employees and we are busier than ever in retirement.



LACSS GARDEN TOUR

sign up now!

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 TH , 2022

**LIMITED
SPACES
LEFT!**



You won't want to miss this opportunity to see the magnificent garden of Steve and Tiffani, located on 4 glorious acres at the top of Coldwater Canyon. We last visited this garden in 2017, focusing on mature cycads, aloes, and other succulents. Since that time, Steve has installed a lower rock garden featuring large columnar cacti, agaves, and many other unusual specimens. This is an opportunity not to be missed, and will be our first LACSS in-person outing in 2 years.

Because of limited parking, we will visit in two groups, staggering arrival times. Please try to carpool. The trip is open only to LACSS members and 1 guest each, with a total of 25 guests for each group.

Group One: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Group Two: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

An email sign-up blast will be sent out in mid-March. Please direct any questions to Jim Esterle, Special Events Director esterle@sbcglobal.net or 310-864-3224

UNTEERS! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED

+ VOLUNTEERS + PLANT DONATIONS NEEDED

HELLO AND HAPPY SPRING LACSS MEMBERS!
WE ARE IN NEED OF 4-6 VOLUNTEERS ON MAY 14TH TO HELP
PLANT SUCCULENTS AT LOUIS ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL
(MILLIKAN MIDDLE SCHOOL) IN SHERMAN OAKS.



**WE ALSO NEED DONATIONS OF PLANTS!
THERE ARE A TOTAL OF 4 - 4' X 8' PLANTER
BOXES THAT WILL EACH REPRESENT A
DIFFERENT HABITAT. SOME EXAMPLES ARE:**

- AFRICA - ALOES, KALANCHOE,**
- MEXICO OR NORTH AMERICA -**
- AGAVES, FOUQUIERIA, ECHEVERIA**
- MEDITERRANEAN - AEONIUM, SEDUM**
- MADAGASCAR - ALOES, EUPHORBIAS,**
- PACHYPODIUM, ALLUADIA**

WHILE WE ALREADY HAVE COMMITMENTS FOR A NUMBER OF DONATIONS, WE CAN STILL USE
INTERESTING SPECIMENS NATIVE TO THESE AREAS IN A MINIMUM 1 GALLON POT.

WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY OPUNTIAS, VERY SPINY CACTI,
OR EUPHORBIA TIRUCALLI (PENCIL PLANTS).

DONATED PLANTS CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE MAY 5 IN PERSON LACSS MEETING.

PLEASE EMAIL NICOLE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING
AND/OR DONATING PLANTS NICOLE.KARIN.ALTER@GMAIL.COM

THANK YOU AND HAPPY PLANTING!

UNTEERS! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! WE NEED

H E L P W A N T E D

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR A

COMMUNICATIONS + PUBLICITY CHAIR

THIS POSITION REQUIRES A WORKING KNOWLEDGE OF DIGITAL FORMATS, EMAIL CLIENTS, SOCIAL MEDIA AND HAVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ABILITIES TO COORDINATE OUR VARIOUS MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICITY CHAIR SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

HEADS A COORDINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF:

- EDITOR, CACTUS CHRONICLE
- WEBMASTER, LACSS WEBSITE
- SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER
- LACSS MAILING LIST MANAGER
- NEXT DOOR ANNOUNCEMENT MANAGER
- ONLINE HOST

ENSURES THAT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MEETINGS, PROGRAMS, AND EVENTS ARE CONSISTENT AND TIMELY

WRITES AND DISTRIBUTES PRESS RELEASES AS NEEDED

ASSISTS IN CREATING AND REVIEW OF PRINT MATERIAL FOR CONTENT, CONSISTENCY, AND ACCURACY

CONTRIBUTES CONTENT FOR INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK, WEBSITE, AND CACTUS CHRONICLE

MAINTAINS COMPARATIVE DATA REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA HITS, WEBSITE VISITS, AND SURVEYS OF SHOW ATTENDEES TO ASCERTAIN BEST COMMUNICATION METHODS

IF YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR LOVE OF CACTI AND SUCCULENTS WITH THE WORLD, THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU!

PLEASE CONTACT KIMBERLY AT NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM

CSSA PHOTO CONTEST



All photos © Irwin Lightstone

Most of us enjoy photographing our plants. We have some fantastic photographers among us. Here is a good opportunity to show us your best work and have a bit of fun.

Who May Enter:

This contest is open to all current CSSA members and members' children under the age of 16. There is no entry fee. Entry categories are based on age. Entrants who are 16 years of age or older as of the closing date of this contest must enter in the adult category. Entrants who have not reached their 16th birthday before the closing date of this contest will enter as youths. CSSA Board members, contest judges, and CSSA employees are not eligible.

Theme of Contest: "The Artistry of Cacti and Succulents"

Each image must feature one or more cacti or succulents. "Artistry" is that magic amalgam of creativity, composition, and visual impact of a photograph. Enter up to three of your most magic images involving cacti or succulents

Prizes:

The following prizes will be awarded to the winners in both the adult and youth categories.

FIRST PLACE: \$100.00 GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM B&H PHOTO - VIDEO, PUBLICATION OF THE IMAGE IN TO THE POINT, AND AN 8 X 10 INCH (APPROXIMATE) PRINT OF THE IMAGE.

SECOND PLACE: \$25.00 CREDIT TOWARD PURCHASE AT THE CSSA SEED DEPOT, PUBLICATION OF THE IMAGE IN TO THE POINT, AND AN 8 X 10 INCH (APPROXIMATE) PRINT OF THE IMAGE.

THIRD PLACE: PUBLICATION OF THE IMAGE IN TO THE POINT, AND AN 8 X 10 INCH (APPROXIMATE) PRINT OF THE IMAGE.

HONORABLE MENTION: PUBLICATION OF THE IMAGE IN TO THE POINT.

Contest Period: The contest will begin on March 1, 2022 12 AM PDT, and end on at Midnight, May 1, 2022 PM PDT. Photographs submitted after the expiration of the contest period will not be accepted.

[CLICK HERE TO ENTER](#)

2022 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- APR. 23-24 SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-- SHOW & SALE
9-4 PM, PALOS VERDES ART CENTER, 5504 CRESTRIDGE RD.,
PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: [HTTP://WWW.SOUTHCOASTCSS.ORG](http://www.southcoastcss.org) OR PH.310-346-6206
- APR. 24 CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE 9AM TO 4PM
558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320
INFO: [WWW.CONEJOCSS.COM](http://www.conejocss.com) OR [CONEJOCSS@HOTMAIL.COM](mailto:conejocss@hotmail.com)
- APR. 24 HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE--RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 10 TO 5PM INFO: 626-405-3504
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
- APR 30-MAY 1 SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN RM. 10-4 PM
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 6-7 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY- SALE
FRI & SAT 10-5 PM, REDLANDS CHURCH OF NAZARENE--1307 E. CITRUS AVE.,
REDLANDS, CA 92374 INFO: [HTTPS://GATESCACTUSANDSUCCULENTSOCIETY.COM/](https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com/)
- MAY 22 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SALE INFO. 714-553-6914
- MAY 28-29 CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SAT. 28TH 10AM-5PM, SUN 29TH 10AM-4PM, NIPOMO HIGH SCHOOL,
525 N THOMPSON AVE., NIPOMO, CA, INFO. [TERRIELEIVERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:terrieleivers@gmail.com)
- JUNE 4-5 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY--SUMMER SHOW & SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. 858-382-1797
- JUNE 10-11 LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY- SALE, 10TH 6-8:30 PM, 11TH 9-2:30PM
ONE GENERATION, 17400 VICTORY BLVD., VAN NUYS, CA. INFO. [WWW.LACACTUS.COM](http://www.lacactus.com)
- JULY 1-3 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE -- RESEVRATIONS REQUIRED
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
PLANTS SALES START JULY 1ST THRU JULY 3RD 10AM TO 5PM
SHOW OPENS JULY 2ND THUR JULY 3RD 10AM-5PM INFO. 626-405-3504
- JULY 22-23 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE
FRI. NOON TO 6PM, SAT. 9-4PM INFO CALL 949-212-8417
1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL., (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) ANAHEIM, CA
- AUG. 5-7 36TH ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
PLANT SALES 9AM-5PM DAILY. SHOW OPENS 6-7 9-5 INFO. CALL 626-821-3222
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
- SEPT. 3 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM 9-3 PM
RESEVRATIONS REQUIRED ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504
- OCT. 22-23 PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE
TENTATIVELY SAT 9-5PM, SUN 10-3PM, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 QUAIL GARDENS DRIVE, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO EVENTCOORDINATOR@PALOMARCACTUS.ORG
- NOV. 4-6 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE, 10-5PM - RESEVRATIONS REQUIRED
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA INFO 626-405-3504



Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale

Sunday, April 24, 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
advice on growing and cultivation



Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society

Web: ConejoCSS.com Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

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

Dear Friends,

I just realized that my last newsletter was in December 2021! I warned you I am not much of a writer, so you don't have to worry about spam from Plant Expeditions!

First and once again, I would like to wish that everyone is in good health, and hopefully vaccinated (and boosted)! I am sure this pandemic has touched the lives of everyone in so many ways, and like me, I think many of you have felt at times like it will never end and things may never be normal again. But IT IS ALMOST OVER!!!

Despite many challenges, we are going ahead with our scheduled tours in 2022. We just came back from an incredible trip to SOCOTRA. I have been waiting for 8 years to make it to this island. It was my first tour (and thankful for people who joined this trip in spite of my "no-experience" on the island). We did have a great time, great habitats, great plants (Adenium socotranum in full bloom!), and ready to go back. For the next tour I have redesigned the itinerary to maximize time spent in certain beautiful locations and minimize some of the hiking. There will also be a "plan b" for those who wish to hike less, but still get to see the plants.

Coming up soon, if you are ready to travel, we have BAJA CALIFORNIA from San Diego to Cabo, 15 days, visiting 3 islands, and incredible habitats for Ferocactus, Pachycereus, Dudleyas, and of course tacos and margaritas! Contact me if interested! [April 18-May 2, 2022]

Also traveling shortly, we will go to NAMIBIA, with iconic places like world famous Sossusvlei Dunes, wild Etosha National Park, and of course plenty of interesting plants like Welwitschia mirabilis, Aloes, Lithops, Hoodias, and many other endemics. Contact me if interested! [May 12-26, 2022]

Keep safe, we will be traveling again soon!
All the best,

Guillermo Rivera
Plant Expeditions

continues next page>

2022 SCHEDULED TOURS

A	BAJA, CALIFORNIA	April 18 – May 2, 2022	4 PLACES LEFT
B	NAMIBIA	May 12 – 26, 2022	4 PLACES LEFT
C	BRAZIL	July - August 2022	Taking reservations
D	SOUTH AFRICA	August 19 – Sept 1, 2022	Confirmed, possibly FULLY BOOKED
E	MADAGASCAR (CENTRAL - SOUTH)	October 14 – 30, 2022	2 PLACES LEFT
F	ARGENTINA - CHILE	Nov 16 – Dec 2, 2022	3 PLACES LEFT

2023 SCHEDULED TOURS

G	SOCOTRA	Jan 9 – Jan 23, 2023	Taking reservations
H	PATAGONIA (SOUTHERN CHILE-ARGENTINA)	February 2023	Tentative
I	BAJA, CALIFORNIA	April 2023	Taking reservations
J	ECUADOR	July 2023	Taking reservations
K	PERU	September 2023	Taking reservations
L	MADAGASCAR NORTH	October 2023	Tentative
M	ARGENTINA OR ARGENTINA-CHILE OR BOLIVIA	November 2023	Tentative

CONDITIONS 2022

Our tours are all inclusive tours. Tours include transportation, all accommodations, activities, and meals. They do not include international airfare (people join from all over the world), they also do not include gratuities, or personal items, and souvenirs.

An initial deposit/payment to guarantee your place is required (amount depends upon the tour - we will advise when you contact us to express your interest). In the event of cancellation by you, this deposit is partially refunded, depending on the tour (some tours require many advance payments for hotels, transportation, guides etc.)

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

BAJA CALIFORNIA: "From San Diego to Cabo" APRIL 2022 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 18 – MAY 2, 2022** (exact dates TBA)

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

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

Price: \$4250. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 550)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **4 PLACES LEFT**

NAMIBIA: MAY 2022 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 12-26, 2022**

Duration: 15 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Windhoek

Price: \$4900. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 600)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **4 PLACES LEFT**

BRAZIL: JULY-AUGUST 2022 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: **JULY 21 -AUGUST 6 2022** (exact dates TBA)

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 - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

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

SOUTH AFRICA Namaqualand: AUGUST 2022 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, 2022**

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Cape Town

Duration: 14 days

Price: \$4800 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$580) - **SOLD OUT, taking standby reservations**

MADAGASCAR: OCTOBER 2022 Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

"The island of the big trees". After two 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: **October 14-31, 2022**

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Antananarivo

Participants: Minimum 10-11 participants
- ONLY 2 PLACES LEFT

Duration: 17 days

Price: \$4750 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$580)

ARGENTINA AND CHILE: NOVEMBER 2022

Cactus tour. CROSSING THE ANDES: Argentina and Chile combined in one trip. A great trip combining the best of both countries, plus the unique experience of crossing the Andes on two occasions. <https://www.plantexpeditions.com/argentina-chile>

Dates: **November 16 – December 2, 2022**

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Cordoba, Argentina.

Participants: Minimum 8, maximum 12 participants
- ONLY 3 PLACES LEFT

Duration: 17 days

Price: \$4550 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$550)

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

SOCOTRA: JANUARY 2023 Finally we can visit the island!

As many of you know, I have 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 real possibility: a direct flight from Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) 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*
<http://www.plantexpeditions.com/socotra>

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

Duration: 14 days

Mode: All inclusive, Socotra (accommodations (3 hotel nights, camping (single tents unless a double is requested), visa fees, flights to and from Abu Dhabi).

Price: \$4800. All-inclusive except air fare to Abu Dhabi
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 240)

Expect hikes 4 hrs a day (with some alternatives to opt out) Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

SOUTHERN PATAGONIA: ARGENTINA & CHILE FEBRUARY 2023 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. <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/patagonia>

Dates: **FEBRUARY 2023**
(TBC - TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)

Duration: 15 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Rio Gallegos and ending in Ushuaia (navigation out of San Julian, entrance fee Glaciers National Park (twice), entrance fee Torres del Paine NP, visit private reserve with King penguins, Tour and local guide in Tierra del Fuego NP, visit Estancia Haberton, navigation Beagle Channel).

Price: \$5450. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 750)

Participants: More details if there is enough interest for a minimum of 8 participants

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 2023** (exact dates TBA)

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

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

Price: \$4250. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 550)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

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P L A N T
EXPEDITION

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

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

This trip will combine the best of Southern and Northern Ecuador. A must for anyone into Bromeliads. I have traveled to Ecuador on 8 different occasions. I am planning to add and explore a few new places on this trip (hence more days). <http://www.plantexpeditions.com/ecuador>

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 - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

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>

Dates: **September 2023**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting in Chiclayo, ending in Cuzco (with train ticket in Machu Picchu, park entrance fee, transfers to ruins gate)

Price: \$4650 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$580)

Participants: Minimum 8 participants - **TAKING RESERVATIONS**

MADAGASCAR: OCTOBER 2023 Succulents and wildlife: lemurs, chameleons, and more!

"The island of the big trees". After two 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: **October 2023**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Antananarivo

Price: \$4750 all-inclusive except air fare
(Single occupancy, add \$600)

Participants: Minimum 10, 11 participants - **(TBC - TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)**

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

ARGENTINA: NOVEMBER 2023 The Northwest

This journey will take you to one of the most diverse spots in the world for cactus diversity. Participants are likely to discover over 100 species of Cactaceae, most of them in flower at the time we coordinate this tour. Besides cacti, the area we cover is rich in many other plants, including Tillandsia and other succulents. (<https://www.plantexpeditions.com/argentina>)

M

ARGENTINA AND CHILE: NOVEMBER 2023 Cactus tour **CROSSING THE ANDES: Argentina + Chile combined in one trip.**

A great trip combining the best of both countries, plus the unique experience of crossing the Andes on two occasions. We will see over 60 Argentinean species of cacti many of them blooming and or seeding; from the small Rebutia and Parodia species, to several forests of Trichocereus pasacana. In northern Chile, we see the Atacama Desert. Along the Chilean coast we will see most of Copiapoa species, with spectacular populations of Copiapoa dealbata, Copiapoa columna-alba among others. (<https://www.plantexpeditions.com/argentina-chile>)

M

Dates: **NOVEMBER 2023**

Duration: 17 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in Cordoba, Argentina

Price: \$4550. All-inclusive except air fare to Abu Dhabi
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 550)

Participants: Minimum 8, maximum 12 participants - **TENTATIVE (TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)**

BOLIVIA: NOVEMBER 2023 The Highest Plateau on Earth - the Bolivian Altiplano

A logistically challenging excursion in 4x4s, not offered very often. The trip will focus on cactaceae (Lobivia, Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Trichocereus, etc) but will encounter other interesting flora and fauna. We will spend an entire day visiting the islands within the largest salt flats in the world (visible from the moon): Uyuni Salt Flat. An extension to Carrasco and Amboro National Parks in central Bolivia will be offered to see bromeliads, orchids and rich fauna and birdlife. (<https://www.plantexpeditions.com/bolivia>)

M

Dates: **NOVEMBER 2023**

Duration: 15 days

Mode: All inclusive, starting and ending in La Paz

Price: \$4750. All-inclusive except air fare
(SINGLE OCCUPANCY, ADD \$ 480)

Participants: Minimum 9 participants - **TENTATIVE (TAKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST)**