

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J U L Y 2 0 2 2

VOL. 90 ISSUE 07

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

AND DUDLEYAS PACHYCAULS OF BAJA

WITH DEAN KARRAS

Photo credit: Dean Karras

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

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Hi to Everyone,

I think I will begin this message by expressing our gratitude to all the recent donations LACSS has received. It started with a donation from a "Charity Driven®" automobile company who, in the name of their client, makes a donation to the non-profit of the client's choosing. Awesome! Just recently, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society donated a book to our library. It is published by them (Field Guide to Cacti and Other succulents of Arizona) and authored by Breslin, Romero, Starr and Watkins. This book will be added to our library in August. Then one of the local garden clubs gave us many plastic badge holders with lanyards. Yes, we do have a use for them... In addition, we received a very heartfelt thank you letter from the Louis Armstrong Middle School for our donation of time and plants (which were donated to us for this purpose) to create their cactus and succulent garden of the world. What goes around, comes around!!

This year, we added two different auctions to our June Sale event. Both created a lot of excitement and participation. Thanks to Roxie and her crew for keeping track of all the plants, tags, time frames and a cool head in all the heat.

Our next upcoming event will be the Inter-City Show and Sale. For years, I have been stating that this was the biggest cactus and succulent sale in the world. Then, Kyle Williams shared his adventures in Thailand and wow was I wrong! However, the Intercity Show and Sale is still the biggest in this continent and not to be missed by anyone who loves their drought tolerant plants. Everyone can participate either as a volunteer or a visitor. Check the flyer for admission requirements. See Roxie Esterle and/or Sandy Chase if you wish to volunteer.

Regarding our in-person meetings – They have been well attended, POM entries are fabulous, and Zoom attendance is still going strong. We will continue using the simulcasts for our monthly meetings for the remainder of the year. Refreshments will continue to minimal for the next few months. And the Library is available to check out books. If you still have a book(s) checked out from 2020, please return it soon so someone else may enjoy it. Please wear your name badge to the meeting. Our raffle will continue to offer very unique plants. If you have any plant(s) that you would like to donate to the raffle, feel free to bring it. Make sure you give your name to Collin so we can recognize your generosity.

I spent Friday at the first day of the CSSA Show and Sale. All the visitors seemed to arrive at the same time and were ready to check out at the same time. The checkout line was at least a block long! Kudos to the cashiers for their patience and coolness and sense of humor. It was very invigorating to see so many people who are interested in the same plants as we are.

See you soon.

Joyce

C H A N G E I N L A C S S B Y L A W S

LAST REVIEWED 11-7-19

At the July 25, 2021 Board meeting, it was proposed and approved to retitle two board positions.

PROPOSAL: The ranking of the current Third Vice President (Special Events) and the Director 2 (Education) should be transposed. If approved by the membership, the ranking will read:

Third Vice President (Education)

Director 2 (Special Events)

EXPLANATION – Education is part of our Mission Statement and should have a higher ranking than Director.

STATUS – The Board of Directors approved this change.

According to our by laws (Article XII, section 4) the members will vote on this proposal at the meeting following publication in the Cactus Chronicle.

Therefore, the members will vote on this issue at the July meeting.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Joyce, President

DEAN KARRAS

Dean Karras began collecting and growing cacti from seed as a hobby in 2008. He has been a member of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society since 2017, and a member of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society since 2019, where he now serves as Board Member and Show Chair. Some of his favorite succulent genera are: Aloe, Agave, Dudleya, Trichocereus, Echinocereus, Astrophytum, and Ferocactus. Dean is also partial to mesembs, caudiciforms, and xeric bromeliads, although his passion for plants extends far beyond succulents to include organic gardening & permaculture practices, natives, edibles, and ethnobotanically significant plants. He realized his long-standing dream of owning his own nursery to serve the local community when he opened Gnosis Nursery in July of 2020, which he now runs full-time. When not busy propagating and selling plants, Dean can be found exploring and photographing the Desert Southwest and Baja.



GNOSIS
NURSERY

663 CA-78,
Ramona, CA 92065
(480) 363-4460





**THIS MONTH'S
PROGRAM**

DUDLEYAS, AND PACHYCAULS OF BAJA

A botanical travelogue of Dean's two expeditions to Baja, Mexico. The emphasis of the presentation will be on field observations of succulent plants we know and love, especially pachycauls and the genus dudleya. However, Dean will also discuss how the greater climate, geology, and ecology of the Baja ecoregion collectively shape the unique landscape and the plants that inhabit it.



MADISON ZAVOKA
GYMNOCALYCIUM SCHICKENDANTZII V PUNGENS



N / A
NEOCHILENIA HUASCENSIS

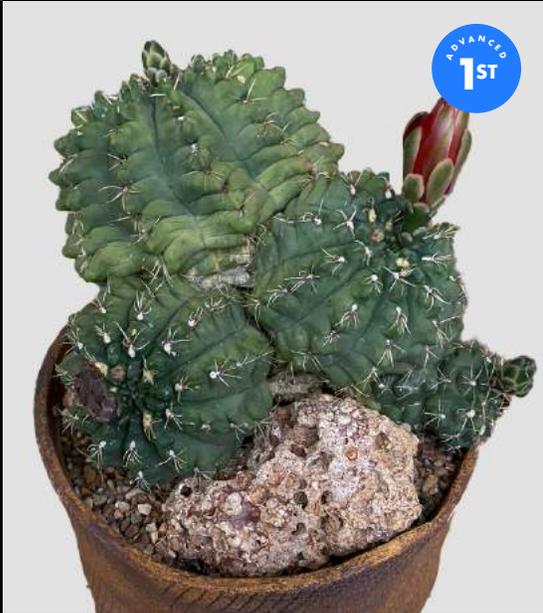


JOHN VAN UNEN
MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA 'FRED'



JOHN MATTHEWS
MAMMILLARIA HAHNIANA

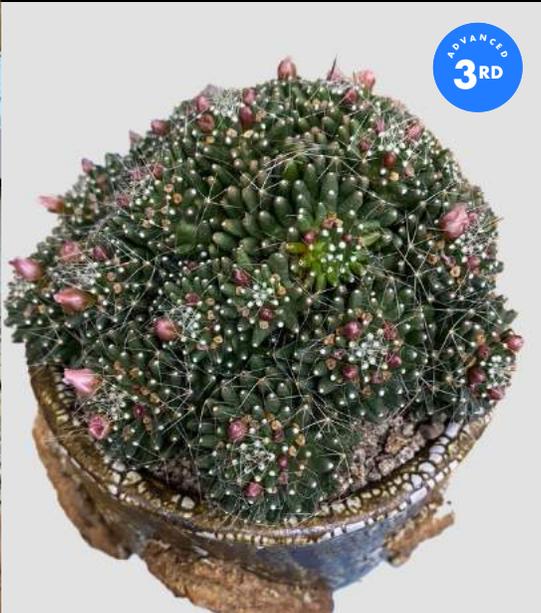
JUNE
PLANT OF THE MONTH
FAVOURITES
WINNERS



ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE
GYMNOCALYCIUM BALDIANUM



BONNIE IKEMURA
DECARYI MADAGASCARIENSIS



BARBARA HALL
MAMMILLARIA PAINTERI MONSTROSE



NILS SCHIRRMACHER
EUPHORBIA STELLATA



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
Sanseveria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

Manny Rivera's winning plant at the 55th Annual CSSA Show and Sale at Huntington Library

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

DISCOCACTUS

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

To allay any confusion, I want to make clear that this month's cactus discussion will have no mention of bell bottoms, mirror balls, or the Bee Gees! Though, if you want to watch Saturday Night Fever with your cactus sitting next to you that is your business.

Discocactus are heavily ribbed South American cacti, primarily from Brazil. The genus is quite old, first described in 1837. The name comes from the shape of the body, which tends to be much flatter than tall, at least compared to the other ball like genera (Parodias etc.) that share its habitat. Discocactus can be found inland in the state of Minas Gerais, and further South in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso, and crossing into Paraguay, and even into the Southeastern most state of Bolivia, Santa Cruz. Although popular in cultivation, many of the species are endangered in the wild.



Discocactus araneispinus



Discocactus bueneckeri

The beautiful spination, the flat bodies, and the pleasantly fragranced flowers have made this a popular genus, and there are far more names in cultivation than there are true species. The number of species has varied from more than 60 down to 24 in recent publications (1990s), to the currently recognized 7. This is unlikely to be the last word on this attractive genus, so keep your old labels, they may soon be good again. In our shows, most of the generic names are accepted.

The distinguishing characteristics of Discocactus are globular to flattened globular shape, a cephalium, and fragrant night blooming flowers. The cephalia stay relatively small, are almost always white, and have long soft wool. Discocactus have ring-meristems (a ring of growth cells) that surround the cephalium, and allow the body to continue to grow after the cephalium forms. This growth ring distinguishes Discocactus from the very similar and related Melocactus.

Discocactus has similar cultivation requirements to other tropical terrestrial cacti such as Melocactus and Uebelmannia. They thrive in warm humid climates where even the nights stay quite warm. However, they are fine in our Mediterranean climate with cool summer nights so long as we give them some extra warmth in the winter months. They shouldn't be kept in a location where the temperature drops below about 50. They like more moisture than similar looking non-tropical cacti, but don't keep them wet, especially in the winter.



Variegated Discocactus

DYCKIA

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

*Dyckia hybrid*

Bromeliads is the term used for members of the Bromeliaceae, a family of plants known for their epiphytic habit (i.e. growing on trees). This is a very large family of over 51 genera and 3,500 species. For comparison, the cactus family (Cactaceae) has more genera but only half the number of species as Bromeliads. Obviously, twice as many species as all cacti combined are too many species for a plant of the month! Fortunately, we can focus on a genus that makes sense for a cactus and succulent club. *Dyckia* is a bromeliad genus with terrestrial species adapted to the xeric conditions we normally associate with cacti and succulents.

*Dyckia encholirioides*

Most Bromeliads are tropical rainforest epiphytes with a rosette shape that allows the plant to form a vase or bowl like shape which catches water. Why do rainforest plants need to catch water? Epiphytes live on the branches of trees, which means there is no moist soil for the roots to tap into. Orchids and jungle cacti deal with this through succulence, but Bromeliads deal with it by catching water in cup shaped leaves and absorbing the water directly through those leaves (instead of the roots) using modified hairs called "trichomes". That is an ability very few other plants possess. For those of you who've never had the opportunity to go to the Central or South American tropics, you can see Bromeliads, Orchids, and jungle Cacti all on the same tree branch! No open space in the tropics goes unused, even a branch.

Bromeliads and Cacti share a very interesting feature of their distribution. They are both found native only in North and South America, and nowhere else in the world. They are the two largest plant families to be found exclusively in the Americas. This strongly suggests that both families evolved at a point after the Americas separated from the other continents.

Dyckia are part of an informal group called "terrestrial bromeliads". Unlike most Bromeliads whose roots are used only to attach the plant to a tree, these species live on the ground with roots in the soil. These roots take up water like normal plants. Though it is quite possible that they take in some water through their leaves when opportunities arise. Because of their "normal", non-epiphytic, habit it was assumed terrestrial species were the most primitive member of the family. Modern DNA research has found this not true at all. In fact, the earliest branch of the family (that still exists) is a carnivorous bromeliad that catches insects in its water filled pitchers. Epiphytes, desert plants, and carnivorous plants... that's one unusual plant family!

Dyckia can be distinguished from other bromeliads by their terrestrial habit, long toothed leaves that are curved, and lack of a "tank" or overlapping leaf bases that hold water. The plants are relatively small, usually not much more than a foot in diameter, but they do clump readily making the overall plant larger. They do however look a LOT like the related genus *Hechtia*. The easiest way to tell those two genera apart are with the flowers. *Dyckia* have yellow and orange flowers while *Hechtia* mostly white ones. *Dyckia* are not monocarpic, meaning they do not die after flowering. This separates them from most other bromeliads including *Hechtia*. Finally, *Dyckia* are South American plants while *Hechtia* are from Mexico.

*Dyckia 'Yellow Glow'*



INTERCITYSHOW.COM



@INTERCITYSHOW / @SGVCSSCLUB



**ARBORETUM
MEMBERS
FREE!**



36TH ANNUAL

INTER-CITY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARBORETUM

ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED. AVAILABLE AT ARBORETUM.ORG



9AM-5PM

AUG 5,6,7



**SALE 8/5-7
SHOW 8/6-7**



OVER 1400 PLANTS ON DISPLAY!

RARE AND UNUSUAL PLANTS & POTS FOR SALE

DON'T MISS OUT!

Intercity Show and Sale

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show is a major collaboration of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel Valley, and Long Beach Cactus and Succulent held at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on August 5th, 6th, and 7th.

We need about 30 members to volunteer as clerks, security, holding area, entries, hosts, and more.

To sign up, please see Sandy or Roxie at the July 7 meeting, or contact us:

SANDY CHASE (818) 367-0864 or email at exoticfloraandfauna@msn.com

ROXIE ESTERLE (818) 970-0804t or email at roxie.esterle@gmail.com



LACSS INSPIRES THE NEXT GENERATION AT

LOUIS ARMSTRONG MIDDLE SCHOOL

On May 14, 2022, members of LACSS joined forces with about 10 students, 6 parents, and faculty to install a succulent garden at Louis Armstrong Middle School in Van Nuys. The project was initiated by LACSS member Nicole Alter, who works as a school counselor at the school, and was enthusiastically endorsed by the school principal, Felicia Drew. Nicole noticed the extensive, overgrown horticultural area at the school, and suggested that LACSS sponsor an endeavor to create a succulent garden.

The four garden beds that LACSS “adopted” are the culmination of several months of design, planning, soil amending, drip installation, and site preparation. Each bed represents cacti and succulents from a unique part of the world: Mexico/North America, Madagascar, Africa, and Mediterranean/Canary Islands.

*continues next page

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

**LINDA HOLUB
BONNIE IKEMURA
JOHN MARTINEZ
JOHN MATTHEWS
THE HUNTINGTON**

**PAT BATES
SANDY CHASE
JIM + ROXIE ESTERLE
BARBARA HALL
TIM HARVEY**





BEFORE



AFTER

For this project, LACSS provided a \$1000 grant to the school, which covered the costs of irrigation, amended soil, and decorative boulders. School faculty, led by science teacher Caryn Wander, and Ana Dziengel, who runs the Louis Armstrong Garden club, (both of whom just joined LACSS!). The energetic students and parents prepared the area and rebuilt the planting boxes. Roxie Esterle and Sandy Chase designed the beds, obtained the plants from generous members, selected and purchased the boulders, and directed the planting. Jim Esterle installed the drip system. Joyce Schumann and Nicole Alter joined in along with faculty, parents, and students to install the plants, while Rose Polito offered her wisdom and support. When the planting began, Louis Armstrong team eagerly removed the weeds from the new specimens and planted them in their designated locations.

Within a few hours, the garden was complete and beautiful. Now, these middle-schoolers are eager to show off the garden to other students at the school. Many thanks to the following LACSS members and friends who altogether donated over 80 large and small plants to create a magnificent garden.



On behalf of the entire Louis Armstrong Middle School community, I want to thank the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society for your support and generosity.

The succulent garden is absolutely beautiful. The plants, the watering system. your time, labor and support are truly appreciated. We did not imagine when this school year began that our efforts to revitalize our horticulture area would attract as much interest as it has and we are grateful for the support of our community and organizations like yours. Because of your support, we have made great strides towards fully restoring the garden.

Please share my thanks with Mrs. Alter, Mr. Esterle, Ms. Chase, Ms. Polito, Ms. Schumann and the entire organization for the beautiful plants and the time you gave Armstrong Middle School in April and May.

Sincerely,

Felicia Drew

Felicia Drew

Principle





Karen and Martin Osler's 12 year old
aged grown Oregonia Doregical.
Photo credit: Kimberly Gomes.org

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

Our June Saturday meeting was quite the success! Stefan Burger spoke to both our club, and the Bromeliad Society for a wonderful half day event. We learned about the rest of the Eriosyce species, diversity of the genus, their habitats, root systems, and soils, so that we can better learn how to grow and care for our own Eriosyce plants in cultivation. He spoke to the Bromeliad Society about bromeliads of Mexico and Chile. It was an interesting program for both groups, and nice to have a dialogue with the two clubs.

There will be no program in July, but join us on **AUGUST 13**, at the **SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER**, where **PETER WALKOWIAK** will be speaking to us on soils in person. Hope to see you all there!

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



NEW DATE!!

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.



S A V E T H E D A T E



THE HUNTINGTON

SUCCULENT PLANTS SYMPOSIUM

SATURDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER 2022

9AM — 5PM

ROTHENBERG HALL

\$100

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

JARED MARGULIES

University of Alabama, Birmingham, Alabama.

What drives illicit succulents trades and how should the conservation community respond?

ROOT GORELICK

Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Cacti of Anthony Gap, Texas/New Mexico

DANIEL MAHR

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

Memorable places and the succulents that live there

GUILLERMO RIVERA

Plant Expeditions, Cordoba, Argentina.

Exploring the flora of Socotra

OLWEN GRACE

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London,
Surrey, Great Britain

Water storage and evolution in the succulent plants of the African continent.

Registration details will be available on the Huntington website,
www.huntington.org beginning late July
FOR MORE INFO: 626-405-3504

2022 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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