C A C T U S CHRONICLE J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 3

VOL. 91 ISSUE 01

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

DESERT ISLAND RARITIES: ISLAND ENDEMIC CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA

WITH PETER BRESLIN

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 DIRECTORS

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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LIBRARIAN Joyce Schumann

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS Kyle Williams

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MESSAGE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!!!

And so, we begin another year. Some things changed during the past year and some remained the same. One of the things remaining the same will be the Club's commitment to providing the best speaker programs, the best library, the best events and other best activities to the best members in the cactus world! Some things might change in the coming year. I guess we will find out as it happens.

Of course, we will start the new year off with a Board meeting. One of the agenda items will be whether or not to continue offering Zoom access for our monthly meetings. There are pro and cons for each side and we need input from you to guide us to an appropriate decision. There will be a link posted in the January Chronicle so you will be able to access the meeting. We will try to set up the Zoom equipment for the January 5 meeting. However, if we are unable to plug cable "1" into slot "A," etc., I offer my apologies in advance.

Many of you remember our incredible June event, "The Festival." Lots of fun, great sales, many, many visitors, kid's day activities, very successful, great reviews and a lot of work. The pandemic caused many activities to be scaled down or cease to exist. The Festival is one of the casualties. At the last board meeting, we decided to hold a 3-day "Spring Sale" at the Sepulveda Garden Center on April 21, 22, & 23. So, save the date! More information will be announced next month.

To start the year off with a bang, we have six (count them! 6!) new books for you to enjoy. Read more about them in a separate article in this newsletter. OOPS-UPDATE: We do have 6 new books but I only had time to write about four of them. The other 2 will be featured in the next Chronicle and be available at the February meeting.

And, just so as not to be confused – we will meet at the ONEGeneration in Reseda on January 5, 2023.

ONEG took advantage of the upcoming holidays during November and December to renovate the Multipurpose room. I am excited to what changes have been made. I think they replaced the movable walls and maybe refinished the floor.

As the new year begins, so does your point accumulation for the Plant of the Month competition. The 2023 Plant of the Month has been posted in the Chronicle so everyone has had lots of time to pamper all the chosen plants to create a very challenging contest. If you are a new member, do not be intimidated! This is why we have the "Rookie" category. Once you enter one plant, you will be hooked and next month you will want to enter five plants – and so on and so on......Good luck to everyone.

Remember - you can't win if you don't participate!

The raffle table is an excellent place to donate one of your plants that is too good for the "Freebie" table but not good enough for competition. Some lucky member will appreciate your generosity and give it a good home.

See you soon, Joyce





DESERT ISI AND RARITIES: ISI AND ENDEMIC CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

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If you want to see certain unusual, beautiful cacti and succulents growing in the wild, you must travel to the only island or islands on which they are known to grow. This is especially true in Baja, California, where plants have evolved rapidly in response to their island habitats, and many species of cacti and succulents are only found on certain small islands. This talk provides a detailed tour of three of these islands, two in the Pacific Ocean, off the west coast of Baja: Isla Cedros, and Isla Magdalena (with a little bit of Isla Margarita included). There is also an introduction to the wild west side of Isla Angel de la Guarda in the Gulf of California. Featuring stunning photographs of the unique island views and vistas, along with detailed pictures and information on all the island endemic cacti and succulents of these remote islands, the talk provides a tour of two of Earth's unusual ecosystems without the need of a boat or plane.

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER PETER BRESLIN



Peter started studying cacti in habitat more than 30 years ago and decided to get a Ph.D. in cactus evolution and biogeography at age 52, focused on the Mammillaria and Cochemiea of Baja California. He finished his Ph.D. at 58, at Arizona State University. He has published widely on topics in cactus evolution and ecology, including being one of the authors of The Field Guide to Cacti and Succulents of Arizona, published by the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society. He is currently conducting the sixth installment since 1964 of the long-term saguaro survey on Tumamoc Hill in Tucson, Arizona, as a postdoctoral research fellow at The Desert Lab at The University of Arizona. He is also the managing editor for CSSA publications, and edits both the Cactus and Succulent Journal and the annual peer-reviewed yearbook, Haseltonia.





JANUARY

Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya Aeonium

FEBRUARY Coryphantha, Neolloydia, Neobesseya 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

Photo credit: Winter in Joshua Tree by Kimberly Gomez-Tong



MATUCANA, SUBMATUCANA & OROYA Κ

Matucana and Oroya are Peruvian Cacti, found in the Western foothills and lower mountain slopes and valleys of the Andes. These plants are not as well known as many other South American cacti, even though they have wonderful body colors, spines and flowers. Matucana and grow fairly rapidly, and Oroya quite a bit slower. They are not difficult plants. The general culture is similar to most other South American cacti. They need water when growing in the summer but need to be kept dry when cold. They do fine, unprotected in Southern California winters.

collections.





Matucana can be quite variable in appearance, with some species being covered in dense long spines and others spineless or nearly so. Some are globular and others upright. Probably the most popular species is Matucana madisoniorum, a small attractive species with distinctive green skin, few spines, and interesting folds and ridges. One thing that adds to the popularity of this species is its



passing resemblance to Lophophora or Peyote. Owing Lophophora is illegal (especially in California) while Matucana is not, so it can function as something of a substitute in people's

Matucana has posed taxonomic problems since its discovery. The genus Matucana was originally described by Britton and Rose in their book, The Cactaceae, published in 1922. The type species is Matucana haynei, a plant known since the 1840s, under several different names. The genus is named after Matucana, the town near which the plant was originally found. In their original publication, Britton and Rose commented on the close resemblance of the flowers to Borzicactus, the size, shape, and color being the same. In 1960 Myron Kimnach moved the entire genus to Borzicactus. Frederich Ritter re-segregated it in 1966, with the addition of some new species, which is the way it can be found in most recently printed references, picture collections and catalogs. To make things more confusing Backenberg created a segregate genus Submatucana for some species. Botanists today don't recognize Submatucana but it is possible you'll see it in a book or a plant label. If you do just ignore the "sub" and call it Matucana. There may be as many as 15 or 16 species, depending on the reference. Many of the species have a number of varieties, forms and cultivars, many of which are indistinguishable. Most of the species are very variable, and there are more names than there should be.

Oroya was also described by Britton and Rose, on the same page as Matucana. This genus, of only two or three species, has escaped most of the taxonomic chaos of Matucana. The type is Oroya peruviana, the genus again named after a nearby town. The type was known by a different name since 1903.

In habitat Oroya is a flattened globe, with only the upper surface usually visible. In cultivation the plant shows off a beautiful spiral pattern of spines, with geometric precision equal to any Mammillaria.

PLANT OF THE MONTH AEONIUM (INCLUDING GREENOVIA) BY KYLE WILLIAMS



Aeonium tabuliforme

Nearly every cactus & succulent enthusiast in California has an Aeonium in their collection, but very few people realize how diverse and interesting the genus really is. The reason for this is that only a few species and handful of cultivars are regularly seen in cultivation. This is particularly unfortunate since most species make great landscape plants and virtually every species can be found for sale with just a little effort.

Aeonium belongs to the family Crassulaceae, one of the largest succulent plant families. The main distinguishing feature of Aeonium compared to other rosette forming genera is that most Aeonium have woody stems. There are Crassulaceae with woody stems that aren't Aeonium, and Aeonium without woody stems, but generally the character works. Most Aeonium species are monocarpic, meaning that when a rosette flowers it dies, much like Agave and most Bromeliads. In a multibranched species like A. arboreum that's no big deal since only a small number of branches flower in a given year. It is a big deal in the unbranched species like A. nobile or A. tabuliforme as flowering means the entire plant will

soon die. However, thousands of dust-like seeds are usually produced, so you can grow your own replacements.

The vast majority of Aeonium species come from the Canary Islands, a group of islands off the coast of Morocco that belong to Spain. These islands have a Mediterranean climate very similar to that of coastal Southern California. This means the

plants are adapted to a climate with cool wet winters and warm dry summers. This makes Aeonium one of the best choices for a succulent landscape as the plants can survive and even thrive purely on natural rainfall alone. Of course, some supplementary water in the summer is appreciated by the plants.

The most commonly cultivated species is A. arboreum, a shrubby species with long stems. The wild form of the species is green, but most people know it from the purple to black cultivars such as 'Zwartkopf' or 'Cyclops'. Aeonium canariense is also extremely common. If you see a clumping plant with large rosettes that stays low to the ground then it is very likely this species. The other species very commonly encountered is A. haworthii a very densely shrubby species with small rosettes and very thin stems.

The species above are the big 3 that everyone thinks of when Aeonium is mentioned. Nice as they are, my favorite ones are the species you might not realize are in the genus. Aeonium nobile is a single rosette, stemless species with rosettes 2-3' across and leaves as thick or thicker than an Echeveria! Aeonium sedifolium is the smallest species with fat, oval shaped leaves with red stripes. No discussion of Aeonium is complete without mentioning the show stopping A. tabuliforme. This is a stemless, unbranched species with an almost perfectly flat rosette with hundreds of leaves that can reach 2' in diameter. It has a reputation for being hard to grow, but the only difficulty is that it is somewhat picky about having a summer dormancy period and is prone to rot if you insist on watering it in hot weather.

You may have noticed that I mentioned Greenovia in the title. This is a small genus of just 2-4 species, also from the Canary Islands. It is very similar to Aeonium and has been considered part of the genus by some, though most botanists consider them distinct. The species look like a stemless Aeonium with blue green leaves. The most unusual feature of the genus, one that makes them instantly recognizable during the summer, is that leaves fold together into an egg or tulip shape when dormant. Care is similar to Aeonium, but make sure to keep them dry during the summer as they can rot if in their dormant period.



Aeonium sedifolium



Aeonium 'Sunburst' Crest

PLANT OF MONTH

2021 ZOOM PHOTO WINNERS

JIM AND ROXIE ESTERLE RON BFHAR COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN **RON COOPER GRETCHEN DAVIS** FREDDIF + JONICE ANDERSON DAVID VAI FRA BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH **BRYAN CHAN** MANNY RIVERA CANDE ERIEDMAN NICK STEINHARDT BARBARA HALL **BONNIF IKEMURA KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG** AL MINDEL NILS SCHIRRMACHER SANDY MASUO EVAN WALSH **FELIPE DELGADO** JULIAN GALLARDO ANDREW POWERS **KEVIN KREUCHER** NICOLO RUSCONI

2022 IN-PERSON POM WINNERS

MANNY RIVERA JIM AND ROXIE ESTERLE AL MINDEL JOHN VAN UNEN **KAREN OSTI FR** BRYAN CHAN DONNA PACHOREK LINDA HOLUB JOHN MATTHEWS **BONNIE IKEMURA** JULIAN GALLARDO MADISON ZARODA COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN CANDE FRIEDMAN BARBARA HALL **KELSEY** OSTERMAN SYLVIA STREHLO RON COOPER NAMCY NEYMARK DESIREE ALEXANDER JENNIFER BENSI INGRID HOFFMAN NICOLE ALTER SANDY CHASE NILS SCHIRRMACHER **REBECCA HARO KUO** ELSA HARO RAPP

2021 NOVICE TO ADVANCED

EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING FREDDIE ANDERSON BARBARA + KENT BUTTERWORTH NICK STEINHARDT JOHN VAN UNEN

2022 NOVICE TO ADVANCED

COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN KIMBERLY GOMEZ-TONG

2 0 2 2 LACSS Annual Awards Dinner

It is always a joy to end the year on a happy note. The 2022 Annual Awards Dinner provided joy on a symphonic level! This year's Awards Dinner, also, provided a few surprises for everyone who attended.

The first surprise happened as soon as you entered the room. The table decorations were breathtaking!!! Barbara Hall, Sandy Chase and crew created works of art out of pinecones, ribbons, candles, and other decorative stuff including a box of party favor plants created by Nikki Bova for everyone to take home.



Members Bonnie Ikemura, Sandy Chase and Roxie Esterle helping out with the pre-festivities!



The impressive and festive spread of food!

The second surprise was the dinner presentation area. The first thing to catch your eye was the large sleigh and reindeer on the charcuterie display. Hiding on the counter behind the table were the trays of hot meats, pasta, and tamales. Oh, MY!!!

The dessert counter featured a cactus-shaped cupcake display plus many more temptations. Kim Chavez, Nicki, Teri, and crew were a constant flow of motion placing each dish in the proper place and completing the masterpiece on time. Everything was

delicious beyond belief. No one went home hungry. (I fancied the idea of pulling up a chair

and sitting at the serving tables.....)

The crew, staffed by Nicole Alter, Jennifer Bensi, DiAnne Cabanne, Charlotte Yerke, Shelley Chase, Bonnie Ikemura, Nancy Naymark, Manju Talreja, also, never stopped moving.

Once we determined that we could eat no more, we began the festivities with a Silent Auction of 10-15 plants.



Members enjoying each other's company before the feast begins.







Every bidder gathered around the display counter, elbowing and pushing (well, it was polite pushing and shoving) waiting until the last second to post their final bid. The suspense was palpable. The winners were very happy!

It is always a thrill to acknowledge a member's contribution, participation, and support to the club. One way to express our appreciation of their efforts is to award a "Life Member" status. Manny Rivera, Martin Ostler, and Kim Chavez were presented with a plaque acknowledging their Life Member status. Huge smiles were everywhere!

In spite of the pandemic, LACSS continued to hold the Plant of the Month competition (and the meetings) via Zoom. 2020 was a bit of a learning curve. By 2021, we had worked out most the bugs and considered ourselves experts. Many members took the extra step for competition to send in excellent photos of their excellent plants. During 2022, we were readjusting from Zoom back to in-person. The Board agreed to acknowledge the effort each participant. Of the thirty 2021 POM photo participants, 14 were in attendance to receive the first awards. Each received a handmade paper medal honoring them as "Heros" of the photo contest. We will never forget the fun times they provided during that difficult time.



One of our newest Life Members: Manny Rivera!



Nikki and Sophia helping us keep things in order in the kitchen.

Next came the 2022 POM Awards. Of the 28 participants, 17 were in attendance to receive handmade pots by Peety (Pablo) as their award. Needless to say, they were all very happy. In addition, several POM participants received "Graduation Certificates" for accumulating enough points to move them up a level in the competition.

Everyone loves a raffle!!! So, we finished up the festivities with a raffle of 15+ plants. Awesome!!!!!

And, so, concludes our last event for 2022 and we now look forward to all the excitement of a New Year.





NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

As mentioned in the President's message, we have a gold mine of new books to start the year. My comments are not editorial – just my thoughts that I hope will encourage you to take a look at our new books. Maybe even pique your interest in a new aspect of the hobby......

The November monthly meeting was lightly attended and we couldn't get the Zoom set up. Some days are like that. But the meeting was incredible due to the unusual program by Russel Ray. His topic was Fibonacci numbers in nature. If you are into math/geometry, you will be hooked on this book! He not only presented the program, he donated his recently published book titled "Nature's Geometry Succulents" to our Library. There is nothing in this book about growing, fertilizing, hybrids, etc. It is about The Golden Ratio, Golden Angles, and other geometric shapes as they relate to plant structure. You must review this yourself – I cannot explain it in a few words!

We usually think of Sansevieria as a not so interesting plant. However, Juan Chahinian's book (2005) featured quite a few that were not as well known in cultivation as the "Mother-in-Laws Tongue." 2022 saw a new book published on this Genus titled "The Genus Sansevieria: A Pictorial Guide to the Species" authored by Robert H. Webb and Leonard E. Newton. The authors have provided a photo and description of Sansevierias A—Z. I thought the last section, "Questionable Species" to be very interesting, along with "List of sansevierias that are not accepted but cannot be rejected without further research or analysis" and "List of problematic species names and the currently accepted name that they refer to.

Along comes a masterpiece of 200+ pages of photos and descriptions, "Agaves: Species, Cultivars, and Hybrids" authored by Jeremy Spath and Jeff Moore is a must read for anyone who has an interest in Agaves. It also includes a section on Mangaves- a genus usually not given much press. The photos are spectacular, mostly in habitat. A most useful section is the short "Compare and Contrast of Agaves with Aloes, Yuccas/Nolinas, and Furcraea".

Some books make us laugh. Some make us wonder "Whodunnit?" "Secrets of Namaqualand Succulents" by Florent Grenier makes us want to travel to a far away land to explore "...one of the richest semi-arid botanical regions of the world*." The book contains five sections (each described in the Preamble) and are titled "Diversity", "Species", "Habitats", "Survival" and "Reproduction". The Species chapter presents about 100 pages by introducing seventeen families which are then grouped into genera. This helps us see the relationship of the plants to each other. The other four chapters contain unusual topics such as Silence, Mysterious traits and Unsolved mysteries. *Direct quote from the book's preamble. You need to see these for yourself to see how much I have understated the quality of these new books!!

SO, STEP RIGHT UP AND CHECK IT OUT !!!!!

MEMBERS!

Happy New Year, 2023 is here!!

We have started a new year which means membership dues are now overdue. If you have NOT renewed by the end of this January, this will be the last Cactus Chronicle you will receive.

If you wish to continue receiving the LACSS monthly newsletter, please go to our website, click on the button "Membership" and follow the instructions for renewing your membership for 2023 or simply click this button below to be redirected.

CLICK HERE TO RENEW ONLINE

If you have an questions, feel free to contact our new Membership Chair, Kelsey Osterman at kelseyosterman@yahoo.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

Bridgett Scherrer was born in Davos, Switzerland on February 11, 1937. She and Charlie Williams met at Los Angeles Community College in 1970 and were married on November 18, 1972. They remained together for a little over 50 years. They moved into their Shadow Hills home in 1978 and owned a business called Pacific Gardening and construction with 25 employees doing work on city, county, state and federal projects.

It was there in Shadow Hills that Bridgett met the Greenburgs and Joe Ramos (both cactus and succulent nurserymen) and started collecting cactus of all kinds, especially her favorite, Mammillarias. She joined the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) in 1985 and was President from 1991 to 1993, and after her term was up she became the Cactus Chronicle editor until 1997. Around the same time she joined the Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society and was treasurer for many years as well the Plant of the Month Chair.

When the ISI (International Succulent Institute) moved from UC Berkley, spearheaded by Myron Kimnach, Jay Dodson, Lloyd Davis and others, to the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in 1989, Bridgett worked there shipping orders of cactus and succulents all over the world from 1992-1993.

IN MEMORY OF



Bridgett Williams

1937-2022

Bridgett also belonged to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and was in charge of the slide show programs that were loaned out to affiliate clubs when they could not get in-person speakers.

The LACSS made Bridgett a life member in 1999. The CSSA bestowed on Bridgett 'The Superior Service Award' for many years of service to the CSSA board and the society as a Director, Coordinator of the Slide Programs and Hospitality Chair for annual shows and sales on May 25, 2007 at the Seattle CSSA Convention.

Bridgett donated a trophy to the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale for the "Best Novice Cactus." But the most memorable thing Bridgett gave to all the club shows, including CSSA and Inter-City, was finding Dearmore Catering to serve us the Best BBQ in town.

Bridgett passed on November 27, 2022. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Respectfully submitted, Sandy Chase

CSSA WEBINAR

BUCK HEMENWAY SURVIVAL OF THE FATTEST

Join us Saturday, January 7th at 10:00AM PDT for the next speaker in our series of webinars featuring experts from around the world Click here to register!



When supply of water is so unreliable, plants find a number of ways to adapt to these harsh conditions. In this program, Buck Hemenway explores the ways succulents collect, store, and conserve water in South Africa. The presentation features a professionally produced video, "Survival of The Fattest", with lots of commentary and insights.

Biography: Buck and Yvonne Hemenway turned their one-time hobby into the Prickly Palace nursery in Riverside Ca, which supplied cacti and succulents to the retail nursery trade in Southern California for 15 years. Buck is past president and lifetime member of several aC&S Societies and served on the board of the CSSA for 10 years. They have worked together for many years. When they retired, they did something many of us talk about, but few do: They packed their bags and moved to Calitzdorp. South Africa to be closer to their love of succulents.

They saw the need for a Succulent Club in their area, so formed the Calitzdorp Succulent Society which puts on a Succulent Plant Festival each year.

2023 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB. 11	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW AND SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO 858-382-179704
MAR. 3-4	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE FRI. 9AM-6PM,SAT. 9AM-4PM INFO CALL 657-549-0702 1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL.,(ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) ANAHEIM, CA
MAR. 17-18	SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW AND SALE 8AM-5PM INFO MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 / JAMES LEMOS 626-201-5519 ARCADIA MASONIC CENTER, 50 W DUARTE RD., ARCADIA, CA
APR. 2	CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE 9AM-4PM HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320 INFO WWW.CONEJOCSS.COM OR CONEJOCSS@HOTMAIL.COM
APR. 15-16	SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE DAILY 9AM-4PM INFO CALL 310-346-6206 PALOS VERDES ART CENTER, 5504 CRESTRIDGE RD., PALOS VERDES, CA
APR. 21-23	LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE HOURS TBA. INFO WWW.LACACTUS.COM SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER,16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA
APR. 22-23	PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN ADMISSION REQUIRED SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 10AM-3PM INFO RWKOPFSTEIN@GMAIL.COM SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN, CONSERVATORY, 230 QUAIL GARDENS DR., ENCINITAS, CA
APR. 30	HUNTINGTON SPRING PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 10AM-5PM INFO RESERVATIONS- HUNTINGTON.ORG, SALE CALL 626-405-3571 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA