

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

April 2011

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Next Meeting: April 7, 2011



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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

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"Staging and Growing - Improve Your Collection Workshop"

Our April meeting will be a member-centered workshop, where members will get practical information on growing plants as well as answers to any and all questions regarding the plants. Please bring your specimens to get them identified, trimmed, staged, and get advice for any problem plants.

Our own experts, Artie Chavez, Steve Frieze, Sandy Chase and Manny Rivera - will each lead a station so you can get hands-on advice and assistance with your plants.

Information on growing techniques, soil and potting mixes, fertilizing, pesticides, staging and propagation will be available. This is the ideal time of the year for you to prepare for the June Show (June 11 & 12) and the Intercity Show (August 13 & 14)!

The success of this program depends on us, the members. Let's scour our collections and bring the following:

PLANTS THAT NEED STAGING: For each plant, bring a choice of pots, hopefully two or three. Our experts will trim and stage! The club will provide potting soil and John Matthews will have a selection of his unusual top dressing for sale.

PLANTS THAT NEED NAMING: Our experts will find the right names.

SICK PLANTS: Our experts will advise how to improve them.

Any additional plants and questions you may have to the meeting on April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

We all enjoy hands-on workshops, and this is the night to prepare for the coming shows as well as improve our collections and knowledge. It is also a great opportunity to learn more about other members of the club and what plants they collect.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of March came in like a lion bringing lots of cold weather. Hopefully, everyone's plants made it through unharmed. By the time we had the meeting the weather improved and temperatures started to come around to a more spring like feeling.

Woody Minnich, once again, was able to transport us to the fabulous land of Yemen through his pictures and stories. Woody gave a wonderful overview of the architecture, culture, people, terrain, and plants of Yemen.

The Monthly Drawing was a great success and we would like to thank John Trager and the Huntington Botanical Gardens for supplying a wonderful selection of plants. The Board and I would like to express our appreciation for the participation in the Monthly Drawing; as the donations will help us with future projects.

I want to stress the importance for members to use The Plant of the Month (POM) program, as a tool to learn more about the plants we grow. It's another way to find out more about the culture and care, the correct names, and staging of our plants. By sharing our plants in the Plant of the Month (POM) program, it exposes the wide variety of Cacti and Succulents to the other members of the club.

By the time you receive this newsletter the first club event of the year will have happened. I hope everyone took advantage of the hard work that Roxie Esterle has put in to organizing the Garden Tour and has enjoyed a relaxing and fun day looking at some great plants and landscaping from some our members. These members were kind enough to open their homes and yards for all of us to share the beauty of their gardens.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for June 10th, 11th and 12th. This is the LACSS Show and Sale. We need everyone's participation to make this a great success. The Show and Sales Committee is hard at work putting together speakers, exhibits, and tying the loose ends.

Under the heading of "we must be doing something right" I am very pleased and would like to welcome all the new members and guests who have attended the previous meetings of 2011. I want to encourage all the guests to come back and become members. The Board and I have worked very hard to improve and make the Club more appealing for the membership, whether you are novice or a more experienced grower, and we will continue to work hard to improve the Club.

See you in April
Artie



THANK YOU

The following people deserve to be brought to the attention of the membership for their contributions and devotion to the club. By no means is this a complete list, just a few special "Thank You's"

Walt and Maxine Wegner: They have been members for over 40 years and have held a number of positions in the club from President to Secretary and Newsletter Editors and have opened their home, to yet, another home tour. Walt and Maxine have donated door prizes and plants for new members and guests for as long as I can remember. It's a pleasure to see their smiling and encouraging faces at each meeting

John Noster Sr.: he is the man behind the scenes when it comes to refreshments. John makes a mean cup of coffee.

Al Denny: he always has a joke and has been very generous with plant donations and sharing many cuttings from his yard.

Norma Lewis: she is always willing to share, whether it be plants, knowledge, or her home for beginners to learn her growing tips.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Refreshments: for the April meeting, if your last name begins with the letters N-R, Nicholson, Nolan, Noster, Nudell, Oster, Palmer, Peacock, Pinto, Polakow, Radamaker, Rameriz, Richert, Rivera, Rogers, Roosman, Rowan, Rudolph, Russell

In our Library: The Plant of the Month selections for May are: In the cactus category are Epiphytes: which are covered in most general Cactus books. The Succulent selection is Echeveria, we have Echeverias, "A Guide to Cultivation and Identification of the Popular American Succulents", "The Genus Echeveria", "Echeverias", "Echeveria Cultivars"

Chronicle and Name Badges: Richard Roosman will now be sending out the Newsletter and will be in charge of the engraved name badges the price is \$6.50

New Programs: Starting in May the Club will embark on some new educational programs, the Cactus Garden (weather permitting), Mentor Program, and New Member Workshop so stay tuned for these exciting programs

We Want Your Stories

The Board of Directors has had several discussions on the content of the Chronicle and think it would be stimulating to have some fresh ideas about the world of cactus and succulents. We want volunteer "guest columnists" to write an article or submit interesting information concerning the plant world. We know so many of you could easily write 500 words on your favorite topic, such as - how I got interested in cactus and/or succulents, my favorite potting soil, my favorite plant (or least favorite), and why. We would like people to an article or a tidbit of information to be published in the Chronicle.

Please email your submission to me by April 20, 2011 for the **May 2011** issue. It would be helpful if you could let me know the subject you will write on and what month it can be sent to me for inclusion.

You can email me at Phyllis.98@hotmail.com or by phone at 818-892-1669.

PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET EXPENDITURES

Expenditures Category	Amount
Rent on Meeting Room	\$900.00
Guest Speakers	\$1,650.00
Chronicle Distribution	\$300.00
Plant Raffle	\$495.00
Roster Printing	\$300.00
Office Supplies & Business Cards	\$100.00
Monthly Meeting Refreshments	\$250.00
Library Books	\$300.00
Annual Post Office Box	\$72.00
CSSA Affiliate Dues	\$50.00
Special Awards	\$50.00
Insurance	\$520.00
Bank Charges	\$36.00
Christmas Party	\$900.00
Donations (Gunner-Huntington)	\$100.00
June Show	\$4,000.00
BBQ for June Show	\$1,000.00
Garden Restorations	\$400.00
Member Tours	\$300.00
Miscellaneous	\$500.00
Proposed Expenditures	\$12,223.00

Submitted by Sandy Chase, Treasurer

Southern California 2011 Calendar of Events

- April 9 & 10** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
South Coast Botanic Gardens
26300 Crenshaw Bl., Palos Verdes, Ca Info. 310-832-2262
- APR 16 & 17** Green Scene Plant Sale
The Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, Ca 92831
- APR 24-29TH** CSSA Convention, San Diego, Ca----- Marriott Hotel-Mission Valley
Watch For Future Updates www.Cssainc.Org

Plant-of-the-Month 2011

January	Gymnocactus and Ortegocactus	Aloe hybrids
February	Mammillaria (single head)	Dudleya
March	Echinocereus	Asclepiads -caudiciform and tuberous forms
April	Gymnocalycium (multiple heads)	Sansevieria
May	Epiphytes	Echeveria
June	Turbinicarpus and Frailea	Mesembs(other than Lithops and Conophytum) e.g. Pleiospilios, Lapidaria
July	Tephrocactus	Adenia
August	Brazilian cacti	Pachypodium (African species)
September	Ferocactus	Euphorbia (stem forms)
October	Ariocarpus	Terrestrial Bromeliads
November	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
December	<i>Holiday Party</i>	

Entry Classes: All new members, new to the hobby, should enter plants in the Novice class. Novices must move to the Advanced class after they have won a total of 40 first place awards in the Plant of the Month competition or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

Prizes: All prizes are awarded at the Holiday Celebration in December. Trophies are awarded by entry class for those members who scored the most points in either the cacti or combined succulent categories. In the Novice and Advanced classes the top two scorers in each of the plant categories will also receive a prize (typically a plant). These prizes are awarded based on the total number of points scored during the year. Finally, a trophy is awarded to members, regardless of class, who have earned the most points in the cactus and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 plants. In the Advanced and Open Classes, members must have been in possession of their plants for at least one year. Those members showing in the Novice class may immediately enter a recently obtained plant. You can only enter plants that conform to the Plant of the Month schedule described above.

Judging Scale*		Points Awarded	
Condition	50%	First	5
Size and Maturity	25%	Second	3
Staging	20%	Third	1
Nomenclature	5%	Entry Award**	1

* Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners.

** Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

Plant of the Month - March Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Asclepiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Kim Thorpe	Stathmostelma praetermissum
Second	Ronit Weiss	Fockea edulis
Third	Kim Thorpe	Fockea edulis

None

Cactus - Echinocereus

First	Kim Thorpe	Echinocereus sp.
Second	Ronit Weiss	Echinocereus pectinatus
Third	Ronit Weiss	Echinocereus pectinatus v. rigidissimus

Advanced Division

Succulent - Asclepiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Hall	Fockea tugelensis
Second	Norma Lewis	Fockea edulis
Third	Barbara Nolan	Fockea edulis

Cactus - Echinocereus

First	Barbara Hall	Echinocereus schmollii
First	Barbara Nolan	Echinocereus sp.
Second	Barbara Nolan	Echinocereus sp.

Open Division

Succulent - Asclepiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Artie Chavez	Petopenia natalensis
Second	Artie Chavez	Fockea edulis
Third	Manny Rivera	Fockea comaru

Cactus - Echinocereus

None

LACSS 2011 Board Members

Artie Chavez, President
Tim Harvey, VP, Programs
Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month
Doug George, VP, Special Events
Sandy Chase, Treasurer
Helen Frank, Secretary
Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus of the Month April 2011 – *Gymnocalycium*



Gymnocalycium pflanzii

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost covering of the bud and lower flower). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus *Gymnocalycium* is Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months.

Gymnocalycium are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

All the species and all the varieties and forms of *Gymnocalycium* are worth growing.

Other interesting species include *Gymnocalycium baldianum* (red flower), *bayrianum*, *bruchii* (pink flower), *horstii* (pink flower), *mesopotamicum*, *mihanovichii*, *pungen*, *ragonesei*, *saglioni*, *schroederianum*, *spgazzinii*, and *strigianum*.



Gymnocalycium bruchii



Gymnocalycium spegazzinii



Gymnocalycium baldianum



Gymnocalycium mihanovichii

Reference:

Pilbeam, J., *Gymnocalycium, A Collector's Guide*

Tom Glavich September 2004
Edited, Steve Frieze April 2011

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Succulent of the Month - April 2011 *Sansevieria*



Sansevieria patens by Karen Ostler
photo T. Nomer

There are about 60 species of *Sansevieria*, but since many of the species are variable and have widespread habitats, there are more names than this. There are also dozens of cultivars, particularly of variegated *Sansevieria*. They are currently in the *Dracenaceae* family, but have moved through the 'dumping ground' families. In older references, they will be found in the *Lilaceae*, *Aloinaceae*, *Agavaceae*, and other families. Most *Sansevieria* are native to Africa, although some come from India, Asia and the South Sea Islands.

They are among the easiest of all succulent plants to grow, requiring only a pot or a spot in the ground. They are tolerant of incredible neglect and abuse, but most grow rapidly and well if watered and fertilized regularly. They do well in Southern California outdoors or in, and suffer damage only if they are

cold and wet. They are free from most pests,

suffering only rarely from scale. They are prone to fungal rusts, particularly in damp weather. The only cure for rust is to cut off the infected leaves, sterilizing the cutting tool after each cut (an alcohol wipe will do) and then spray the entire plant with a fungicide such as Funginex. Prevention is much easier. Bright light and moving air prevent most rusts.

Sansevieria propagation is remarkably easy. Cut a piece off, let it dry for a few days, and stick it in some potting soil. They propagate readily from leaves (tips are best), rhizomes, roots, etc.

Variegation is very common in cultivated *Sansevieria*, and variegated plants form the majority of some collections. A variegated pup will appear on an otherwise normal plant. The variegation can be preserved by removing the pup and a portion of the rhizome, and growing it on. If this is not done, the variegated pup, being weaker than the rest of the plant will not reproduce. Variegated plants are slower growers than normal plants, and are much more sensitive to cold and wet conditions. They need protection, particularly in the winter. They are also sensitive to standing water in their crowns, quickly rotting if water is allowed to remain.

References

- H. Stover **The Sansevieria Book**
- U. Eggli, Editor **Monocotyledons**

2011 DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL
Water Wise - Money Wise
Educational displays and plant sale
Sponsored by: Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

DATE — JUNE 11 (9:00-5:00) and June 12 (9:00-3:30) — **Set Up Friday, June 10th**
PLACE—Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino

THEME— **Drought Resistant Plant Festival** - To improve ways to fulfill the Club's mission statement of "education, conservation and the study of cacti and succulents". In the past our show and sale has concentrated on the educational aspect with our extremely successful informational exhibits. The current approach will be to educate and demonstrate how cacti and succulents have had all of these qualities long before it was necessary and how these plants fit into landscape design with other plants.

SHOW AND SALE FORMAT—The show will be divided into two distinct exhibitions. The show committee will be asking select members and vendors to build a landscaping exhibit. These exhibits will be located on the grass area. **All** members will be asked and encouraged to show their favorite plants in a traditional show located in the Garden Center building. As was the case last year, there will be an attendant at each landscape plot to answer questions along with signage to explain the exhibit.

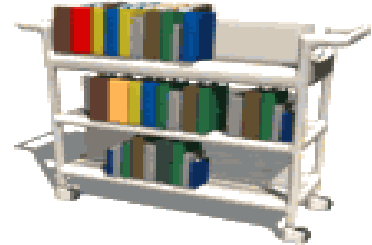
Guest speakers will be invited to give talks on a variety of topics including the following potential topics; *container gardening, pest control and fertilization, native plants, child friendly gardens.*

The show chairs are John Martinez and Joyce Schumann (818-705-3224). They will need to know by **May 15th** the number of plants, genus and category you will exhibit in the show. **Vendors will be selling landscaping plants in addition to their usual merchandise.**

The Bromeliad Society will be an active participant in the Festival as they have been in the past.

Of Special Importance: Publicity is critical to the success of this Festival. Flyers, post cards, and email announcements will be distributed. Retail nurseries and other garden centers will also be contacted. *Involvement of all LACSS members is critical to the success of the Festival.*

From the Stacks of the Library - April 2011
By Joyce Schumann
LACSS Librarian



From the Stacks of the Library

Hi All,

I trust none of you got caught with an old April Fool's joke!

For this month's book selection, we have four new items for your reading pleasure. The first two are actually CDs. "*Sansevieria*" is the topic of one. This should be of interest to the POM (plant of the month) participants. The other one is titled "*Encyclopedia of Landscape Plants for the Southwest*" by Philippe Faucon. The third selection is a booklist published by Silverhill Seeds of Cape Town, South Africa. For those of you who want to expand your personal plant library with books about something other than cacti and succulents, this is an excellent resource. The fourth item is book. by Tony and Suzanne Mace who have authored several books on plants, two of which are in our Library - *Mesemb Study Group* and *Notocactus*. Our new book is titled "*Cactus and Succulents - a care manual.*" In addition to the excellent chapters on cultivation, propagation, equipment, etc, there is an unusual chapter entitled "Myths and Urban Legends".

Two other featured books will be multi-tasking this month as both are about *Gymnocalycium*s - our POM (plant of the month) and, as a continuing entry in our "Then and Now" feature: The "**Then**" book is authored by E.W. Putnam, published in 1978. The "**Now**" book is authored by Graham Charles and published in 2009. What a difference 31 years can make!! The maps are excellent! This is a must see, if for nothing else but the beauty of the photos.

What other books are available? Stop by the Library table and **CHECK IT OUT!!** And while you are there, pick up a current book list.....

See you soon.

Joyce, the Librarian

General Meeting starts at 7:30 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at www.lacss.com

Upcoming Program for April:

Plant Workshops:
Staging, Naming Unidentified Plants
And Much, Much More

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: April 7, 2011
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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