



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

## Mission Statement:

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study and enjoyment of cacti and succulent plants through educational programs and activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts and among the greater public.

## CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**January 7, 2016**

**16633 Magnolia Blvd.**  
**Encino, CA 91356**

**Doors Open**  
**at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins**  
**at 7:00pm**

## Refreshments for January

“S”

## New Members

Will appear in February

Phyllis Frieze, Editor  
 Frieze.phyllis@  
 Yahoo.com

Email:  
 Lacactus.com

## January Program: Namibia: Desert Antiquities Presented by Eunice Thompson

I have been fortunate to visit a number of native plant habitats around the world. Focusing mostly on Mexico and its islands, but one of my dreams has been to journey to the oldest desert in the world, Namibia. I look forward to sharing the thrill of exploring this old world desert filled with life and seeing the plants that we've come to know thriving in their native habitat.

I became passionate about Cactus & Succulents 10 years ago. Seeking knowledge of this subject I joined as many of the local clubs in Southern California as possible. I started by volunteering for many of the clubs and eventually serving as a President of the Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Society. I was delighted that I could combine my passion for travel and photography with cacti and succulents.

My first opportunity presented itself when I joined an expedition to Baja California in 2008. Since then my travels have taken me to many plant habitats across the globe and has also given me an opportunity to observe the hobby first hand in the United Kingdom and mainland Europe.

Currently, I am working on filming a travel documentary featuring cactus and succulents and their impact on society. I'm involved in organizing small tours to, not only Baja California, but other plant habitats around the world. I am also a co-author of "Tea at Gordon's," a photobook including captions illustrating impressions of a visit to the late Gordon Rowley's Cactusville.



## 2016 Officers

### **President**

Joyce Schumann

### **1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs**

Marquita Elias

### **2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month**

Manny Rivera

### **3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events**

Diane Miller

### **Secretary**

Cheryl White

[LACSS.contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.contact@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Gretchen Davis

### **Director 1 Odd Years**

### **Membership**

Danielle Duboff

### **Director 2, Even Years**

Ron Behar

### **Past President**

Roxie Esterle

### **LACSS Show Chair**

Jim Esterle

### **Show Committee**

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

### **Webmaster**

Kim Thorpe

### **Librarian**

Susan Phillips

### **Historian**

Nils Schirmmacher

### **Cactus Chronicle Editor**

Phyllis Frieze

### **Inter-City Show Liaison**

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze

### **CSSA Representative**

John Matthews

### **Education Chair**

Kyle Williams

### **Drawing & Plant Procurement**

Richard Roosman

### **Mentor Program Chair**

John Suci

### **Member at Large**

Kathleen Misko

### **Cactus Garden Chair**

Chris Rogers

### **Cactus Chronicle Distribution**

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

### **Holiday Party Chairperson**

Barbara Hall

### **Holiday Party Awards**

### **Procurement**

Gerald Reichert

### **Cactus Garden**

Chris Rogers

### **Meeting Refreshments**

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

### **Publicity**

Kim Thorpe

### **Monthly Drawing**

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

## President's Message

January, 2016

T'was the night before Christmas  
And all through the house  
Furniture sparkled and food was prepared  
In hopes that guests would soon be here.

While visions of egg nog danced in my head...  
I sat down for a moment.  
What's that I hear?  
The tinkling of bells?  
Alas, NO. Just the cell,  
Announcing an email.  
OH WELL

It's from Phyllis, our editor.

***"You're late! You're late! For a very important date!" Says she.***

***"The Chronicle is done except for your message!"***

OMG My message?? Is it due already??

On computer! On brain cells! On creative abilities!

So here it is – My message:

**"Happy New Year to all and to all a good year!!!"**



<http://dennismike.net>



# THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

## DESERT FORUM *Saturday, 16 January 2016*

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 10:00      **Registration – in front of new visitor entry area**  
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00      **Desert Garden**  
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory  
Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00      **Plant Sales**  
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales  
**- please, no early bird shopping**  
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30      **Free Time**  
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30

#### **Lunch:**

The Café in the new visitor center features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items

The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

**Plant of the Month  
2016**

**January**

Blossfeldia, Frailea ,  
Yavia  
Bulbs

**February**

Gymnocalycium  
Clusters  
Aeonium

**March**

Echinocereus  
Conophytum

**April**

Parodia, Notocactus  
Haworthia

**May**

Small cactus staged as  
a miniature  
Small succulent staged  
as a miniature

**June**

Favorite

**July**

Rebutia, Sulcorebutia  
Weingartia

**August**

Astrophytum  
Adenium

**September**

Turbincarpus  
Gymnocactus  
Cyphostema  
Cissus

**October**

Mammillaria with hooks  
Asclepiad

**November**

Variegated

**December**

Holiday Party

**Plant of the Month  
2017**

**January**

Copiapoa  
Tylecodon

Plant of the Month Graduates

Rookie to Novice 25 points

Kim Jacobi	68 points
Linda Holub	66 points
Kathleen Misko	35 points
Joyce Schumann	30 points
DiAne Cabanne	30 points
Jennifer Bensi	28 points

Novice to Advanced 100 points

Kathryn Boorer	104 points
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## Cacti of the Month: *Frailea* and *Blossfeldia*

The genus *Frailea* is endemic to South America and can be found in Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. They are typically attractive small globose plants that don't exceed two inches in diameter. This genus can be a solitary grower or form cluster depending on the species. *Frailea* were named from a Spaniard, Manuel Fraile, who spent numerous years maintaining the U.S. Department of Agriculture cactus collection. The spines on *Frailea* are short and feeble compared to other members of the Cactucea family. *Frailea* often produce a yellow flower which can be larger than the body of the plant itself. They bloom during the heat of the day for just a few hours before they retreat. *Frailea* are known as cleistogamous plants meaning that the flower often times will not emerge from the plant body and will actually self-pollinate inside the specimen.



*Frailea castanea*



*Frailea phaeodisca* from south of Pedras Altas country side



*Frailea mammifera*



*Blossfeldia liliputana*

*Blossfeldia* is a monotypic genus with the lone species, *Blossfeldia liliputana*, found in northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia in mountainous areas often close to waterfalls. This plant is known as the smallest cacti in existence. The species name, *lilipuntana*, was taken from the fictional society found in Gulliver's Travels. Inside the specimen *Blossfeldia liliputana* produces diurnal flowers that are typically pink or white. The *Blossfeldia* body has no ribs, tubercles, or spines but does possess clumps of white wooly-like hair. This plant was named after Harry Blossfeld, a noted German born horticulturist who died in Brazil in 1986.

### References:

David Hunt, **The New Cactus Lexicon**

Tom Glavich July 2005

Edited by Steve Frieze, August 2009

## Succulent of the Month:

## Bulbs



*Habranthus acutifolia*

Bulbs are an extreme form of geophytic succulent. They produce leaves, sometimes not, when there is available moisture, and they dry back to the surface or below when the moisture is gone.

Bulbs are native to both hemispheres, and all the continents except Antarctica. Australia, a continent with few succulents in the conventional sense has a wealth of bulbs. The Mediterranean region and the inner parts of Asia, have an extraordinary range of bulbs. There are an incredible number of families and species to choose from. Attention needs to be paid to the growing conditions the bulbs come from (mostly winter or summer growing, and the tolerance to water out of season.) Some bulbs grow in spring

and summer, flowering in late fall, some in the fall, flowering at any season, sometimes even when there are no leaves.

The principal families of bulbs grown by succulent collectors are the Amaryllid Family, represented here by the New World species *Habranthus acutifolia*, and the South African *Haemanthus deformis*, most barely known in cultivation.



*Haemanthus deformis*

Amaryllids tend to be large. The other extreme is represented by the Hyacinth family, with many wonderful small bulbs. Just one is represented here, *Ornithogalum juncifolium*, with bulbs only ½ inch in diameter, exposed, as they would be in habitat.



*Ornithogalum juncifolium*

Tom Glavich October 2005

Hello Joyce!

I just wanted to say thank you for coming out to Baldwin Hills yesterday and being a part of our planting project. It was such a pleasure having you there – and was a huge help too! Hope you enjoyed yourself as much as I did.

I've attached a few photos for you to view. Here's to future successes and partnerships!

Best,

**Jenny Gillett**

Assistant Educator  
School Programs  
Skirball Cultural Center  
jgillett@skirball.org

**LACSS and Baldwin Hills Elementary School**

**November 2015**

For the last two years, LACSS members have generously donated many succulent cuttings to the Skirball Planting project. This project is intended to introduce young kids to the concept of recycle, reduce and repurpose.

The Director of this project, Jenny, invited me to join her on her most recent venture. I had been out of town and couldn't get the word out to our members in a timely manner, so Jenny scrambled around, trimmed a few of her plants and procured some from her office staff. This, in addition to visiting various thrift stores, garage sales, etc. to find items that would serve as planters for the succulents. (This is the *repurpose* portion of their program.) Not all plants need to be in a pot. Cups and bowls work well, also, even though they do not have drainage holes.

Off we went to Baldwin Hills Elementary School to meet with 50+ second graders. They all knew about the drought and what "drought" meant. They also knew about succulent plants! My job was to explain how to plant the cuttings and explain the importance of proper watering. What energy! What enthusiasm! And they asked some very good questions!!

Our hope, of course, is that we sparked the interest of at least one child who will pursue a career in botany, environmental sciences, horticulture, or maybe even succulents.

A fun time was had by all and we will do it again someday.....



**Look at My Plant**

# OOOPS!

## *What Did I Miss? OR "I Didn't Hear That!"*

Whew !! What a meeting!! So many things to say and so little time!

We started with election of four officers.

Artie Chavez presented an excellent discussion of how El Niño will affect our plants and what we can do to protect them. He recommended placing a special frost-protection material over the plants. Also, adding some small twinkle lights will provide just enough warmth in some areas. Watering also must be adjusted to avoid root damage.

Our 80th Anniversary celebration was concluded in grand style. See the "Recap" elsewhere in this Chronicle.

Kathleen, standing in for Barbara, gave the latest update of our Holiday Dinner. (There will be more updates and will be sent out as a blast.) She was, also, signing up attendees and collecting deposits. There will be three separate raffles: One for the succulent plant, one for the cactus, and one for early renewals. Sign-ups for the Dinner will close on December 1 as we need to give the caterer an early head count. Early membership renewals will be accepted as late as the Dinner.

Once again our Plant of the Month competition was exceptional. The Rookie category was very well represented. Our apologies for rushing Manny through his explanations but time was becoming tight. Thanks to everyone who participated.

In the meantime, our Program Speaker, Michelle Cloud-Hughes, waited patiently to present her program on the newly described *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*. A lot of measurements of a lot of similar plants, and a lot of documentation - all presented in a very entertaining and understandable style. (And we thought there was nothing new out there.) The exacting documentation required for new plants should give us a better appreciation of field work.

Meeting was adjourned.

### **Mentoring Session: Landscaping with Cactus and Succulents**

A mentoring session on Landscaping with Cactus and Succulents will be held Saturday January 23 at 10 AM. The session will be held at Bryan Chan's home at 10571 Odessa Ave. in Granada Hills. Please contact Bryan at 818-366-1858 or [bcbrome@aol.com](mailto:bcbrome@aol.com) if you plan to attend. This Landscaping session was held last year; with our many new members and continuing drought, we thought it appropriate to revisit Bryan and his landscaping project,

Bryan Chan has been a member of LACSS since the early 1990's and has been growing plants most of his adult life. As a hobbyist collector/grower he has created hybrids in a few different plant groups. His primary focus is Bromeliads, although he has been growing many other types of plants which include Cactus and Succulents.

Starting a landscaping project in his front yard six years ago, he has incorporated his plant interests with natural rock and created a continuing project for years to come.

There is an ongoing learning curve that comes with building a landscape. With so many different directions and ideas to be used. Creation can be as limited or unlimited as desired. Thoughts on design, plant choices, microclimates and hardscape materials are just a few of the pieces of the puzzle.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Mentoring Program please contact me.

John Suci  
805-374-7306  
[Johns.three@gmail.com](mailto:Johns.three@gmail.com)

## LACSS 2015 POST HOLIDAY PARTY REVIEW

Ho, Ho, Ho and a very Merry Happy Holiday greeting to all LACSS club members this holiday season! This year's Holiday party was a huge success! The recent increase in club membership has forced us to look for a larger venue to hold the annual holiday party. Thanks to Joyce Schumann for helping us to look for a larger venue to hold the annual holiday party. Thanks to Joyce Schumann for helping us to look for a larger venue to hold the annual holiday party. Many thanks to the Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind (TLC) event manager, Gail Peters, for allowing us to have this year's party at their facility. And a lovely space it was! We were able to spread out & move around more comfortably making the evenings activities much more enjoyable.

I want to thank Joyce Schumann, Gail Peters and her staff for helping with the table rentals and setup of the room on Friday night. Thanks, also, to those who came early on Saturday to decorate the room: Don and Candie Soderstrom, (who supplied all of the ice), Bob and Carol Thille, Kathleen Misko (who made the beautiful and creative centerpieces), Cindy Stuckey, Elliott David, Rochelle Pinto, Joyce Schumann and Rose Polito. A special thanks to our greeters, Natalie Welsh, Danielle Duboff, and Cheryl White, who signed folks in, renewed memberships and sold raffle tickets to everyone. This year there were 2 raffles: one was a chance to win one of two beautifully staged plants donated by Artie Chavez; the other, a gift basket for early membership renewal. Thanks to John Sucio for helping folks with parking at this new location.

During the appetizer hour, members had a chance to play a game, organized by Nils Schirrmacher, called "Guess the number of cuttings, genus and species in the jar," with some very nice prizes for the correct answers. Thank you, Nils!

The Holiday feast was sight to behold. This year we catered the main dishes and club members brought assorted side dishes for the potluck. I want to thank everyone for bringing their favorite appetizer, side dish and dessert dishes and Kim Thorpe for securing the caterer and servers who did an excellent job of setting up the buffet tables and cleaning up everything after dinner. Their hard work was much appreciated. Thank you, Kim and Artie for donating the beverages, ham, paper products and serving trays.

Following dinner, Manny Rivera and Cheryl White announced the Plant-of-the-Month awards. Each winner received a beautiful bonsai pot supplied by Artie Chavez. There were 42 winners in all. Congratulations to everyone who participated throughout the year. This was followed by a well-participated optional plant/gift exchange. Thank you, Marquita Elias for helping with that activity. Everyone received an LACSS calendar as a party favor this year.

The last event of the evening was the Rare Plant Auction, skillfully run by Steve Frieze and Manny Rivera. This year we tried something new. The auction items could be either full donation or a 70/30 split. There were many wonderful offerings to choose from. The club made \$1250 net! It was a fun and lively way to end the evening. Kudos to Kathryn Boorer, our outgoing treasurer, for managing the money part of the auction. This was her last act as Treasurer. Thank you Kathryn (enjoy Bora Bora)

I would like to thank everyone who stayed afterwards to help clean up and to George (TLC) for being available to us during the evening. I have received a lot of positive feedback regarding this year's party at the TLC. I welcome and encourage your thoughts and suggestions for next year. This is our Holiday Party for all!!

Happy Holidays,  
Barbara Hall  
Holiday Party Committee Chair



## Cactus & Succulent - Calendar of Upcoming Events For 2016

- February 13** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Spring Show and Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **INFO 858-382-1797**
- March 18-19** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society—Spring Show and Sale **INFO 562-587-3357**  
1000 S. State College Boulevard (Anaheim United Methodist Church)  
Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup>-6-8pm, Friday, 18<sup>th</sup>-9am-7pm, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>, 9am-5pm
- April 9-10** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society—Show and Sale  
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard I  
**NFO 310-578-1953** <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- April 24** Huntington Plant Sale 10am-4:30pm **INFO 626-405-3504**  
Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
- April 30-May 1** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale **INFO 310-822-1783**
- May 1** Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City  
South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm  
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO 310 833-6823**
- May 13-14** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 34th Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon **INFO 951-360-8802**
- May 21-22** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10am-5 pm [www.lbcss.org](http://www.lbcss.org)  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach **INFO 310 922-6090**—
- May 28-29** Central South Coast Cactus & Succulent Sale & Show 10am-4pm  
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo  
**INFO 805-237-2054** [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)
- June 4-5** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **INFO 858 382-1797**
- June 11-12** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale**  
**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> 9am-5pm, Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> 9am-3:30pm**  
**Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino** **INFO** [www.lacss-show.org](http://www.lacss-show.org)
- July 1-3** CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road  
Sales Start July 1-July 3 Show Opens on July 2<sup>nd</sup> **INFO 626 405-2160**
- July 22-23** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale **INFO 949 212-8417**  
Thursday, July 21 6pm-8pm, Friday, July 22 9am-7pm, Saturday July 23 9am-5pm,  
- 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim
- August 13-14** 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Intercity Show & Sale LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily  
301 No. Baldwin Ave **INFO Tom Glavich 626 798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795**
- September 3** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington** **INFO 626-405-3504**
- September 10** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12pm-5pm  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **INFO: 310 922-6090**
- October 8-9** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO 661-831-8488**  
Mall View Road, Bakersfield, Saturday 10/8 10am-5pm, Sunday 10/9 11am-4pm
- October 22-23** Palomar Show & Sale at San Diego Botanic Gardens **INFO** [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com)
- November 5-6** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days  
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **INFO Manny Rivera or John Matthews 661-714-1052**

Updated November 23, 2015



Mailing Address  
LACSS  
PO BOX 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346  
E-mail: LAcactus.com  
lacss.contact@gmail.com

**January Program:** Namibia: Desert Antiquities  
Presented by Eunice Thompson

**January Event**  
*Saturday, 16 January 2016*

**DESERT FORUM**

**T H E H U N T I N G T O N**  
LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100