



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

July 2013

## 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.

## Plant of the Month

**Escobaria, Coryphantha**

**Cucurbitaceae**

## Refreshments

Letters

S-T

## June New Members

Orreill Barasch  
 Bettie Ross Blumer  
 Dorian Clark  
 Scott Dearborn  
 Yongyus Dejsatha  
 Ali Golbad  
 Pablo Gonzalez  
 Kimi Hahn  
 Dean Hart  
 Debbie Hild  
 Sue Michiels  
 Mark Muredian  
 Rodolfo R. Nades  
 Monalisa Palmer  
 Pam Sobo  
 Sony Trieu  
 Steve Veenstra  
 Mitzi Zack Walters

Phyllis Frieze  
 Editor

frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

Visit Us on the web  
<http://www.lacss.com>

## Our next general meeting is July 2, 2013

### Program Title:

## Plant Hormones and Why They Look the Way They Do

Ernesto Sandoval is the Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He has worked at the Conservatory for over 21 years, starting as a waterer to Director. He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible.



## Program Description

Have you ever wondered why your plant has a sudden burst of growth after transplanting? Or how the plant "knows" to grow new parts when pruned or how a cutting knows to make roots? Find answers to these questions and others about why your plants grow the way they do during this informative but not so technical presentation.

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants look the way that they do for a long time. When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's gotten answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany.

He's left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture by growing several thousand types of plants at the Conservatory, many of them succulents. He loves the technical language but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand plant hormones, he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do.

## 2013 Officers

**Roxie Esterle**

*President*

**Marquita Elias**

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

**Manny Rivera**

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

**John Martinez**

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

**Cheryl White**

*Secretary*

**Ronit Weiss**

*Treasurer, Contact Liaison*

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

**Danielle Duboff**

*Director 1 Odd Years, Membership*

**Sylvia Strehlo**

*Director 2, Even Years*

**Artie Chavez**

*Past President*

**Kim Thorpe**

*Webmaster*

**Joyce Schumann**

*Librarian*

**Nils Schirmmacher**

*Historian*

**Phyllis Frieze**

*Cactus Chronicle Editor*

**John Matthews**

*Chronicle Distribution*

*Inter-City Show Liaison*

*CSSA Representative*

**Kyle William**

*Education Chair*

**Richard Roosman**

*Raffle & Plant Procurement*

*Chronicle Distribution*

**John Suci**

*Mentor Program Chair*

**Kathleen Misko**

**Richard Just**

*Members at Large*

**Artie Chavez**

*Show Chairperson*

**John Martinez**

*Inside Show Co-Chair*

**Joyce Schumann**

*Coordinator, Show Volunteers*

**Kim Thorpe**

*Publicity & Coordination*

**Barbara Hall**

*Holiday Party Chairperson*

**Gerald Reichert**

*Holiday Party Awards Procurement*

**Chris Rogers**

*Cactus Garden*

**John Noster**

**Steve Rudolf**

*Meeting Refreshments*

**Leah Imamura**

**Juana Williams**

*Monthly Drawing*

## President's Message—July 2013

What a fabulous event we hosted on June 8 and 9, 2013! Each year, our show gets bigger and better, and this year's show was truly a festival. We exceeded expectations in terms of attendance, member displays and donations, volunteer involvement, vendor diversity and participation, sales, and dinner attendance. The Woodland Hills Rock Chippers added a fun, new dimension to the show, and the wonderful tortoises roaming around were a family-friendly addition from the California Turtle and Tortoise Club. Our ongoing partnerships with the Southern California Bonsai Club, the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society, and the Theodore Payne Foundation also enrich our show tremendously with more and more member "crossovers."

Perhaps most important, there were over 25 new members who signed up during the show. This speaks volumes about what we're doing right. We had a highly visible, friendly presence during the show, with many volunteers at the membership tables at all times. I must thank Show Chair Artie Chavez and Kim Thorpe, Publicity Chair, for the constant flow of new ideas and food, boundless enthusiasm, and willingness to work hard for LACSS. I also want to thank Interior Chairs John Martinez and Joyce Schumann for their calm, meticulous work in planning and organizing the interior show.

It would be impossible for me to list all of the members who contributed to this show's success, but you were everywhere, seeking more and more ways to help. There was an overall atmosphere of sociability, treasure-hunting, people learning together, and excitement. Thank you, everyone. John and Joyce are writing their own article highlighting the extensive help of volunteers for the August *Cactus Chronicle*.

One special quality of LACSS is the diversity among our members, especially when it comes to age range and experience with the hobby. And those with knowledge are extremely willing to share and mentor new members and young people (please see John Suci's article in this issue). Our meetings are increasingly animated and more difficult to start on time. What a wonderful problem to have.

Again, thank you everyone for your support of this show and of LACSS.

Roxie Esterle  
President

## Life Membership Awards to Erika and Al Van Auker

It is with great appreciation that the LACSS Board has awarded Life Memberships to Erika and Al Van Auker. The Van Aukers have had an enormous impact on the staging of cacti and succulents, and we are honored to boast them as members since the early 1980's.

As a sculptor and jewelry maker, Erika's unique contribution to the succulent world began many decades ago when renowned plant collector Manny Singer convinced her to design pots specifically for displaying cacti and succulents. Her husband Al joined her in the endeavor. Her pots, created with natural colors and organic designs, became the standard of excellence in the succulent world. The Van Aukers have participated in all major shows for the past 20 years and have contributed generously to drawings and auctions to benefit our club. When LACSS began the concept of Kids' Day, the Van Aukers delighted children by teaching them to make their own pots during the event. They brought the pots home for firing, and then phoned the families to pick up their creations. This activity is a centerpiece of Kids' Day and a real highlight for many of the children. During our June Show this month, Erika and Al were awarded with the Lifetime Membership plaque as our way of acknowledging their tremendous support of our hobby, and for their inspiration they have given to the next generation of cactus and succulent enthusiasts.

Congratulations and thank you, Erika and Al.



## Inter City Show and Sale August 17-18, 2013

Now that our own very successful LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival is over and the work for the CSSA show is done, it is time to start planning for the Inter-City Show and Sale. It will be held on August 17-18 2013 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This is the 28th annual show and the theme is 'Dryland Visions'. There is a link to the show newsletter on the SGVCSS website ([www.sgvcss.com](http://www.sgvcss.com)). Check out the Ficus petiolaris by Tom Glavich on the show T-shirt. They will be for sale at our upcoming meetings. And we've got women's shirts this year! Get your shirt early, I know they will sell out quickly (especially the women's sizes). The T-shirt acts like a walking advertisement for the show so wear yours often.

The Inter-City show is billed as the greatest cactus and succulent show in the country. Visitors from all over the world attend this show and sale. The Walks and Talks programs will feature several speakers from LACSS. And don't forget the dinner (\$30) - Carved Beef and Chicken with salad, drinks and dessert. The dinner and auction on Saturday night is at Coco's. Sign up early for this opportunity to shmooze with fellow collectors and bid on some really fantastic plants. Contact Evelyn Stevens at (626) 303-1239 for the dinner - it is always a sellout.

Since the LACSS is one of the three clubs sponsoring this show, your show plants are very much needed to maintain the show's caliber. You should be selecting and grooming your plants now. Those plants you entered in the CSSA show and the LACSS show are a good start. The number of show entries has been dropping in recent years so please enter your favorite plants. The show is easy to enter with novice, advanced, and open sections. Don't forget the Golden Sweeps. If you win 1st, 2nd and 3rd in a single class you win a special pot. These are easiest to win in the novice category. Show schedules and entry tags will be available at our meetings and online at [www.sgvcss.com](http://www.sgvcss.com).

Your volunteer help is also very much needed to setup, takedown, and keep the show and sale humming along. Signup sheets will be at our July and August meetings along with all show details. Help is especially needed Saturday morning when the sales are busiest and more volunteer assistance on Wednesday morning for setup. I have kept the time commitments during the show to approximately one hour so you won't get stuck anywhere too long. If you can't commit to a specific time, at least signup and we'll find an opportunity for you when you attend the show. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people from the other clubs and presents unique learning opportunities. Our club profits greatly from this show, so your participation is essential.

If you have any questions regarding the show or sale please call me at (661) 714-1052.

John Matthews, Inter-City Co-chair



## Opuntia from North America



*Opuntia microdasys* 'Albispina'

*Opuntia* is one of the largest genera of the Cactaceae (cactus family) and is the most common type of cactus in North America. Plants in this genus form jointed stems that to many look like leaves (but aren't). The most distinctive (and reviled) feature of *Opuntia* are "glochids", tiny hair like spines that stick in your skin even if you just brush against the plant lightly. Always have tweezers ready when *Opuntia* are near!

For the sake of the "Plant of the Month" we will include *Cylindropuntia*, a genus that used to be part of *Opuntia*. The main difference between the two is that *Opuntia* usually has flattened, paddle-shaped leaves, while *Cylindropuntia* has rounded or cylindrical (hence the name!) stems. The common name for *Opuntia* is "Prickly Pear" while *Cylindropuntia* is known as a "Cholla".

You may have heard of the term "Jumping Cholla" which refers to the propensity of some *Cylindropuntia* species to break off and stick onto passers by. While quite painful to us, it is actually quite an ingenious method of dispersal. A stem sticks onto an animal and eventually falls off, landing on the ground. Before long it sprouts roots and has formed a new plant. While *Opuntia* isn't as prone to latching onto animals, the pads do break off and spread around easily, aiding in dispersal.

*Opuntia* (in the broad sense) covers the largest geographical range of any cactus, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and a noxious weed in many places, and is displacing native vegetation in parts of Africa, Asia, Madagascar and Australia.



*Opuntia* flower

In North America, north of Mexico, we have approximately 56 species, 22 *Cylindropuntia* and 34 *Opuntia*. Most species occur in the Southwest, though at least one native species can be found in nearly every state. A broader definition of North America that would include Mexico and the Caribbean greatly expands how many species would fit in this month's contest. In fact, all *Cylindropuntia* are native to the Northern Hemisphere.

Propagation of all *Opuntias* is most easily accomplished by cuttings. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months or years.



*Cylindropuntia fulgida*

Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem due to their glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is effective and brushing works sometimes. Duct tape is a help, and as a last resort, so is rubber cement.

**Kyle Williams**  
**Special thanks to Tom Glavich**  
**Photo Credits: Chrizz, Tom Glavich and Davepape**

## Non-Madagascan *Euphorbias*

*Euphorbias* are among the most successful plant genera, covering an amazing geographical and environmental range. Containing over 2000 species, it is one of the five largest genera of plants in the world (some rank it as the second largest behind *Astragalus*, a legume). While we know them as succulents, *Euphorbia* includes tiny herbs, leafy shrubs, and even giant rainforest trees. In horticulture, they span the range from English Garden plants to trees, stem succulents, geophytic miniatures, to medusoid globulars to caudiciforms.

Although this month we are interested only in those plants that come from Africa, there are a number of species that originate in



*Euphorbia piscidermis*

Madagascar. Caudiciform plants use a swollen base or root to store water and nutrients

through dry periods that may be from several months to several years long. When the rains finally arrive, the stored water and energy give them a head start over the surrounding vegetation. By contrast, non-caudiciform species store water and nutrients in fleshy stems.

Although many *Euphorbias* are very easy to grow, with the swollen roots and stems making them very tolerant of under watering, some are very difficult, turning immediately to mush when over watered, or watered out of season. Care must be given in watering, keeping them warm and wet while growing, and cooler and dry when dormant. *Euphorbias* from tropical areas (Madagascar, and central Africa) are particularly prone to rot if left

cold and damp while dormant. Protection in a greenhouse, or even a garage for a month or two in the middle of the winter will greatly increase the survival rate.

Most *Euphorbias* are easy to propagate. The green stems can be removed, left to dry for at least week or even a bit more, and then replanted. The newly planted stems take a few weeks to establish, and then start growing.

In caudiciform species some cuttings will not form caudexes unless double cut. Once growth is strong, the top of the green shoot needs to be cut off again to force the plant to start a caudex. Some species form a perfectly

symmetrical caudex when grown from seed, but form distorted (but often more interesting) caudexes when grown from cuttings.



*Euphorbia caputmedusae*

In collections or when entered into shows, caudiciform species have the caudex of raised above the soil line to expose the intricate and exotic root system that are typically submerged in habitat. Stem succulent species won't form thickened roots and should therefore be grown at the normal soil level.



*Euphorbia knuthii*



*Euphorbia obesa ssp symmetrica*

Kyle Williams  
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich and Steven Frieze  
Photo credits: Frank Vincentz and Nano Sanchez

# Plant of the Month

## 2013

### July

Opuntia  
(North American  
Euphorbia

### August

Stenocactus Bursera,  
Commiphora

### September

Astrophytum Dorstenia-  
Ficus

### October

Cacti from Coahuila  
Crassula

### November

Crest-Montrose Crest-  
Montrose

### December

Holiday Party

## 2014

### January

Mammillaria without  
hooked spines  
Pelargonium

### February

Columnar Cacti  
Aloe Hybrids

### March

Opuntias (So. America)  
Agave

### April

Gymnocalycium singles  
Yucca, Nolina,  
Calibanus, Beaucarnea

### May

Buiningia, Uebelmania  
Mesembryanthemaceae  
(other than Lithops &  
Conophytum)

### June

Favorite Favorite

### July

Escorbaria,  
Coryphantha

Cucurbitacea

## Plant of the Month - June Winners

### Succulent -- Favorites

#### Rookie

First	Mia Shapiro	Echevaria sp.
Second	Marquita Elias	Adenium Obesum seed grown F2 hybrid
Second	Natalie Welsh	Aloe cv 'Viper' KG hybrid
Third	Mia Shapiro	Echevaria sp.
Third	Joyce Schumann	Avonia buderiana

#### Novice

First	Eric Winegar	Operculicarya decaryi
Second	Kyle Robinson	Pachypodium brevicaulis
Second	Phyllis Frieze	Pachypodium bispinosum
Third	Eric Winegar	Euphorbia waringiae
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Haworthia truncata

#### Advanced

First	Sandy Chase	Euphorbia stellata
Second	Barbara Hall	Sedum frutescens
Second	Kim Thorpe	Ceraria namaquensis
Third	Kim Thorpe	Haworthia truncata

### Cactus -- Favorites

#### Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Stenocactus eruca
Second	Dylan Shapiro	Sulcorebutia candida
Second	Nancy Neymark	Cephalocereus senilis
Third	Mia Shapiro	Discocactus albispinis
Third	Dylan Shapiro	Melocactus matanzanus violae

#### Novice

First	Phyllis Frieze	Obergonia denegii
Second	Phyllis Frieze	Copiapoa tenuissima

#### Advanced

First	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria plumosa
Second	Kim Thorpe	Opuntia violacea
Third	Kim Thorpe	Ferobergia

## 2013 Sales and Events

- July 26-28**      **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale**  
Friday, July 26 9am-5pm, Saturday, July 27 9am-5pm, Sunday July 28 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
**INFO: 949-212-8417**
- August 17 & 18**      **28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale**  
The LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.  
**INFO:-TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052**
- August 31**      **Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON**
- September 29**      **Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA **INFO: 310-922-6090**
- November 2 & 3**      **San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9am-5pm**  
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

### Plant Collection for Sale

Sharon Thoerner, a long time member of the San Gabriel Club and the Long Beach Club is selling her collection. There are prized plants that she and her husband of collected over many years.

For those interested, please call Sharon at 562-866-1555. She is available to answer your questions and make appointments for you to come to her home.



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### **General Meeting July 2, 2013**

**Ernesto Sandoval**

Plant Hormones and Why They Look the Way They Do

### **July Sales and Events**

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