



June 2013

Plant of the Month

Favorite Favorite

Refreshments

Letters

N-R

May New Members

**Carolyn Zekich
Erin Gerhardt**

Editor
Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

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

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.

Our next general meeting is June 6, 2013

Program Title: Discovering Aeoniums

Presented by Jim Gardner and Laurel Woodley

Program description:

This talk combines habitat photos taken by Jim during his visit to the Canary Islands, home to most species of the genus Aeonium and photos taken by Laurel of plants in cultivation in Southern California collections. The presentation includes the species coming from specific islands, hybrids and selections created in cultivation and the use of Aeoniums in the landscape.

Speaker's Bios on Page 3

June Festival is Here!

June 8th and 9th, 2013 at the Sepulveda Garden Center

You won't want to miss this special weekend!

Lots of vendors, great speakers, fantastic dinner,
displays, auctions, and family fun!

See pages 4 to 8 for more info

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Cactus Garden

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Steve Rudolf

Meeting Refreshments

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

Monthly Drawing

President's Message—June 2013

Hello, Everyone,

Our Lotusland trip on May 4th was a spectacular event. Over 40 people attended and enjoyed small group guided tours through the garden. We lunched on the bus and moved south to the private green house of Gregg De Chiricco and to Island View Nursery. For everyone, it was a terrific day. Thank you, Ilona Buratti, for coordinating the transportation, and Councilman Mitchell Englander, for providing us with a comfortable bus. And again, my heartfelt appreciation to John Martinez for planning a smooth, well-paced adventure for everyone. One of the best parts of serving as president is the opportunity to work with many generous, helpful, and interesting individuals.

Although I was out of town, hats off to the dedicated members who planted spectacular new plants, raked, trimmed, and pulled weeds at the May 18 Weed-a-Thon at Sepulveda Garden: Chris Rogers, Cheryl White, Sylvia Strehlo, Richard Just, Susan Phillips, Nancy Neymark, and Kathryn Boorar. I am eager to see the results of your efforts. Alone, it's a task, but together, it's an event. Adopting this space was a milestone for our club.

This is my last chance to plug our upcoming show, so here goes. I firmly believe that the more you put in, the more you get out. Many members have told me that as they increased their participation – bringing in plants, taking new cuttings, selling, volunteering at shows, attending field trips and weed-a-thons, getting to know other members who share their passion – the more they have enjoyed being a part of LACSS. I'm going to briefly re-list the participation opportunities to lure you in.

1. Work at least a 2-hour shift or more (see Joyce's form)
2. Publicize the show to your friends and colleagues
3. Distribute show flyers at nurseries and stores that you frequent
4. Join us for the dinner and auction on Saturday night
5. Bring a "plant favorite" to the June meeting for display on the Member Favorites table during the show
6. Create and exhibit a small collection of related plants
7. Create and exhibit an educational display
8. Donate plants to sell at the LACSS registration table
9. Donate a special plant for the silent auction or live auction
10. Come to the show with your friends and family, purchase new plants, celebrate with our members.

Roxie Esterle
President



Laurel Woodley

Laurel Woodley is a retired Professor of Biology from Los Angeles Harbor College who has been involved in the succulent hobby since the mid 1960's. She is a long-standing member of the Sunset Succulent Society and a member of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. Laurel is both a volunteer and a member of the Foundation Board at the South Coast Botanic Garden where she has been involved in signage of the garden plants on the 87 acre site. She is a Past-President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA).



Bob Gardner

I'm a retired Kaiser Permanente physician, having practiced at the Harbor City facility for thirty years. In 1972 one of my physician colleagues got me hooked on succulents, and I haven't stopped playing with them since. Since retirement I have been relentlessly propagating succulents for sale at the South Coast Botanic Garden in Palos Verdes. I like them all...anything that will grow for me. In the last three to four years I've fallen in love with Aeoniums. I enjoy their surprising variety of form and color, and usually their ease of cultivation. In February, 2012 my wife and I spent a week driving around on Tenerife and La Gomera in the Canary Islands looking at the amazing variety of succulents (Aeoniums, Euphorbias, Senecios, Ceropegias and others) and birding as well. I took a few pictures of Aeoniums, some of which are included in today's talk.

Attention all Festival Volunteers

To answer the most FAQ of volunteers, the following is offered. This list is for reference only. Other needs will be identified as the event evolves.....

Thank you for your willingness to be involved with the **ONLY Cactus and Succulent Event in San Fernando Valley.**

<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Areas needing assistance</u>
Fri., 6/7	Set up vendor area outside (move tables into place, help set up tarps, assemble outdoor displays, hang banners, etc.)
Fri., 6/7	Set up inside tables, kids exhibits, (move tables, place table cloths, set up books, set up kid's area, place signage, etc.)
ALL DAY	Kitchen (monitor users of refreshments, trash removal, help Kim set up Sat.,6/8, Sun., 6/9 and tear down) Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, distribute handouts, membership information, general information, sell member plants and t-shirts, etc.) West Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, direct them to the vendors, indoor displays, speakers, etc.) Garden's Cactus Garden tours Plant holding (inside- check in visitor's purchases while they tour the inside displays) Kid's exhibits (sign-in, answer questions re exhibits, etc.) Assist visitors with purchases to their vehicles, when needed. Floaters – roam the venue and assist others where needed. (Answer questions, give directions, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 4 PM	Dinner setup (arrange tables and chairs, place tablecloths, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 8am-3pm	Help set up the silent auction (bid sheets, questions/answers, log in plants announce winners, contact winners, etc.)
Sun., 10am – 2pm	Kid's day (assist with crafts, photos, exhibits, games, etc.)

Sun. 4pm-????? Breakdown and Cleaning

Thanks again – Joyce Schumann, Volunteer Coordinator

Announcement regarding the Indoor Member and Club Displays For our 2013 Show and Sale

Hi to all

I have returned from my lengthy road trip and am eager to continue the planning for our upcoming Show and Sale.

As has been announced before, there will be an indoor table for our members to display their favorite plant(s). Conveniently, the Plant of the Month is also "Your Favorite." After the meeting on Thursday, please leave your favorite plants so that we may display them over the weekend.

Additionally, the LACSS will design a Club Display of Cacti and Succulents with a specific Family to be represented.

For the **Cacti** the Family is obviously Cactaceae. Because that is a VERY large Family, we will narrow it down to **Small, Globular Cacti of South America**. This would include Gymocalycium, Echinopsis, Copiapoa, Discocactus, Ubelmannia, Eriosyce, Lobivia, Matucana, Neoporteria, Notoctactus, Oroya, Parodia, Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, but not limited to those.

For the **Succulent** portion of our Club display, the Family will be Mesembryanthemaceae (hereinafter referred to as Mesembs), also a very large Family. There are more than 100 Genera with the more familiar being Conophytum, Delosperma, Faucaria, Lithops, Mesembs, Titanopsis, and Trichodiadema.

If you do not have a favorite plant but wish to participate in the Club display, please bring those plants to the Thursday meeting. There will be a short form available to fill out to describe your plant and to provide any other interesting information about the plant (age, cultivation needs, grown from seed, etc).



13th Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival “How To Become Involved”

The Festival is truly a unique and one of a kind event in the succulent world. We are the only Society to welcome and embrace the community with educational displays, both interior and exterior. Our interior educational displays help explain the passion we have for the interesting world of succulents. We also have exterior displays that mock up possible uses for cacti and succulents in a garden or landscape situation. Our devotion to our young sets our Festival apart from any other plant society's event. Educational displays, arts, crafts, and games bring the entire family out to enjoy a Sunday afternoon, can only be found at our Festival. So, with all of this going on throughout the weekend, along with the set-up on Thursday evening and all day Friday, it can only happen with help from our dedicated members.

There are many ways you can participate in this year's Festival. The first is to enter an educational display or bring in an individual entry (1 plant) for the club displays. If you aren't sure about entering plants you can still be involved and part of the Festival. Here are some of the ways you can volunteer at one of the Club's 2 sales tables. Plants offered for sale are a 100% donation to the Club. They can include cuttings, propagation and the return of the cigar boxes and any other planters; as well as non-plant materials. This year's drawing will be administered by Steve List the Agriculture teacher from Sylmar High School. Steve does a wonderful job of getting our young involved with all types of plants. The proceeds from the drawing will be donated back to Steve and Sylmar High to help with his program. I encourage donations to the raffle. We need volunteers throughout the weekend in many areas, at the Club's information table, membership, inside the show room, floaters, hospitality, June 7th and 8th.and KIDS' DAY is June 9th. 2013 marks the Los Angeles 13th Annual Show and Sale for the 4th consecutive year. The LACSS will present “The Drought Tolerant Plant Festival” The Festival's show, sale, and publicity committees are working overtime to surpass their performance of last year's overwhelming success. The Festival has become more than just a plant show, it has matured into an event that families can come and enjoy a weekend together. The following is a run-down of what happens throughout the weekend. Remember, it's not too late to volunteer in any of the areas described below. If interested in volunteering please contact Joyce at the next meeting or give her a call.

Thursday June 6, 2013 This is when the event will really start to take shape. It starts with the Plant of the Month; the topic will be your favorite plant. We are asking that you enter a cactus and succulent into the competition and then enter them into the educational displays for the weekend. A simple entry card will be available to fill out for your plants for the educational display. At the end of the meeting we will ask for help in setting up tables in the room for the interior displays.

Exterior Display boxes to be set-up
Kitchen set-up
Interior room set-up after meeting

Friday June 7, 2013

This is a full day of set-up. exterior and Interior. We will need help with setting up tables, interior and exterior displays and helping vendors set up.

Exterior Tables will be delivered 8AM
Vendors Load-in time 12:00 PM

Exterior set up
Interior Exhibits set up

Interior

Members, Bromeliad and Bonsai Societies displays
Book Sales
Silent Auction
Kid's Educational displays

Exterior

Vendor load-in with booth numbers
Display gardens installed



Themes

The Touchable Garden
Cacti and Succulents with associated plants

General Cacti and Succulent Garden
The Exotic Garden

The **Information Booth** will handle the following:

Information about the Club Plant Sales
Lecture Notifications Times and Speakers
T-Shirt sales

Cacti and Succulent Information
Beverage sales

Other Societies information tables

Cactus Couch

Banner set-up

Kiosk set-up

Information about the show's up-coming events and participating vendors offering discounts by booth numbers
Club's staging booth

An area where the club will provide the services, of staging or potting a plant or container garden. The customer will provide the plant, pot, top-dressing and any props they desire in their staged plant. The Club will provide the soil. The cost will be, by pot size, \$3.00 - \$25.00

Saturday June 8, 2013

Festival hours are 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Vendor sales; Participating Vendors will give a 10% discount

Raffle at 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm with donations from members and local businesses benefiting The Sylmar High School

Horticulture Program

Silent Auction

To open at 10:00 am and close at 4:00 pm, winners need not be present. All members are invited to contribute plants or plant related items for the silent auction. There will be a 70/30 split, 70% to the member and 30% to the club.

Speakers: Saturday

10:00 -11:00 Matt Maggio "Container gardening with Succulents"

1:00- 2:00 Lili Singer "California Natives in the Garden", sponsored by the Theodore Payne Foundation

Dinner 5:30, social 6:00 pm dinner cost \$25.00 BYOW

The dinner consists of 3 different salads, main course Tri-tip and Chicken with chili beans, garlic bread and dessert

Live Auction

Following the dinner John Martinez is the lead auctioneer. He will be auctioning 25 very special plants or plant related items. Open to all LACSS members and families. Vendors participating in this auction are by invitation only 70/30 split

Sunday June 9, 2013

Festival hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm

Vendor Sales

Raffles: the Bromeliad and possible Bonsai Societies

Lunch is provided to all vendors and volunteers

Richard Roosman



KIDS' Day

Kids' Day begins with an introduction in to the world of Cacti and Succulents. A tour conducted by one of our volunteers will lead the children's group through the education displays and different stations set up indoors.

Station 1: "What is a Cactus?"

Station 2: "What is a Succulent?"

Station 3: "Mimicry Plants"

Station 4: Hybridizing

Station 5: Crests and Monstrose

Station 6: Plants under a magnifying glass

Station 7: Propagation

Station 8: "What Pollinates Me"

After the volunteer leads them through the educational stations, the volunteer will lead them through the craft area under the shady canopy of the trees.

Station 1: Paint a pot

Station 3: Games

Station 2: Coloring

Station 4: Clay



BREAK DOWN BEGINS AT 4:00 PM

Volunteers needed!!

All hands on deck!!!!!! Volunteers needed!!

Thank you



Debbie Ball displaying some of hers and Charlie's unique pots for sale.

The plant is for display purposes only.

Plant of the Month

2013		Plant of the Month - May Winners		
		Succulent -- Gasteria		
June Favorite Favorite		Rookie		
July Opuntia (North American Euphorbia)	First	Dylan Shapiro	Gasteria sp	
	Second	Carolyn Feldman	Gasteria hybrid	
	Second	Robert Feldman	Gasteria hybrid	
August Stenocactus Bursera, Commiphora	Third	Carolyn Feldman	Gasteria hybrid	
	Third	Robert Feldman	Gasteria hybrid	
September Astrophytum Dorstenia- Ficus		Novice		
	First	Scott Schaffer	Gasteria pillansii variegata	
	Second	John Suciu	Gasteria hybrid	
	Third	John Suciu	Gasteria glamerta	
October Cacti from Coahuila Crassula		Advanced		
	First	John Martinez	Gasteria vlokii	
	Second	Kim Thorpe	Gasteria sp.	
	Third	John Martinez	Gasteria 'Hiyashi Gold Mine'	
November Crest-Montrose Crest- Montrose	Third	Ronit Weiss	Gasteria 'Hashiniti'	
December Holiday Party				
2014		Cactus - Rebutia and Sulcorebutia		
January Mammillaria without hooked spines Pelargonium		Rookie		
February Columnar Cacti Aloe Hybrids	First	Natalie Welsh	Rebutia krainziana	
	Second	Dylan Shapiro	Rebutia flavistyla	
March Opuntias (So. America) Agave		Novice		
April Gymnocalycium singles Yucca, Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea	First	John Suciu	Rebutia heliosa	
	Second	Sylvia Strehlo	Sulcorebutia polymorpha	
	Third	John Suciu	Rebutia krainziana	
May Buiningia, Uebelmania Mesembryanthemaceae (other than Lithops & Conophytum)		Advanced		
June Favorite Favorite	First	Kim Thorpe	Sulcorebutia arenacea	
	Second	Kim Thorpe	Sulcorebutia sp.	
	Third	John Martinez	Rebutia heliosa	
		Open		
	First	Barbara Hall	Rebutia albiflora	
	Second	Barbara Hall	Sulcorebutia rauschii pulchra	
	Third	Barbara Hall	Sulcorebutia hertusii	

**Walt and Maxine Wegner:
Lifelong Partners, Lifetime Members, and Cactus Ramblers**
Nils Schirmmacher

PART 1

In December of 1975, the *Cactus Chronicle* welcomed Walt and Maxine Wegner as new members. The couple was part of a membership wave that occurred after the club changed its meeting location from Cal State College in Los Angeles proper, to the Naval Center in Encino. Meeting attendance more than doubled at the new suburban location.

Soon after joining, The Wegners became active Plant of the Month participants. Walt remembers the embarrassment of Ed Gay making one of his early entries, an example of mealy bug infestation. In spite of this beginner's blunder, he and Maxine rose smoothly through the POM ranks, exhibiting in the Master class by 1983.

The couple traded their POM experience for ribbons at the annual club show—then held at the Topanga Plaza and Panorama City Mall—and the Arboretum's Inter-City Show. As Walt and Maxine graduated from being show participants to event judges and organizers, they also took on the responsibility of several LACSS offices. Maxine served as Secretary from 1980-81; and Walt, Treasurer from 1978-80, and President for the years of 1984-86. The highlight of Walt's presidency was the club's 50th Anniversary, celebrated with a banquet at the Braemar Country Club in Tarzana.

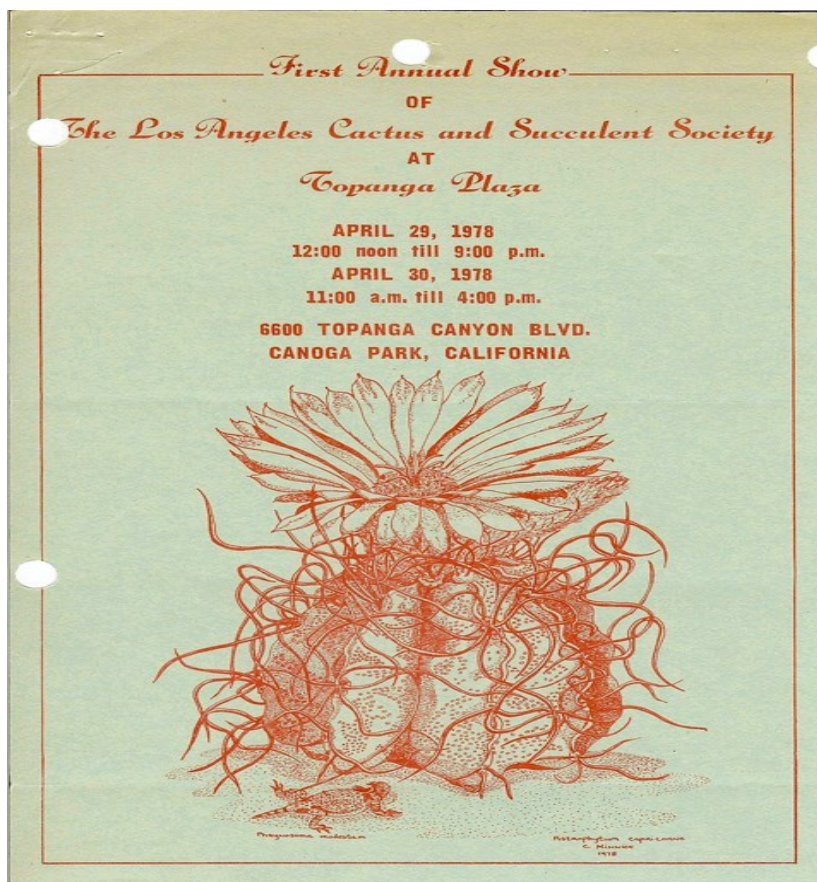
If these contributions weren't enough, Walt proved himself tireless with an eleven-year stint as *Chronicle* editor. From 1984-95 he worked alongside POM scribe Betty Gay to keep members informed and educated. His editorship saw the *Chronicle* weaned off the typewriter and on to the home computer.

Mr. Wegner's interest in cacti and succulents began as a boy. Upon hearing his father refer to an agave as a Century Plant, Walt's curiosity was piqued. This interest turned to wonder as the senior Wegner described the plant's mythic, 100-year bloom. The boy's regard for horticulture continued to be nurtured during vacations on his grandparent's Oregon farm.

Although his green thumb developed early, an historic event prevented Walt from tending a garden of his own. The onset of World War II found him enlisting in the Air Force, where he served as navigator on B17 and B29 bombers. After the war, Walt continued his military service, dedicating twenty-four years to the USAF.

Equally historic was Walt's marriage to Maxine. In November of 1945, Walt was a seasoned flyer with 51 missions under his belt, but still too young to marry without his parent's consent. Before the couple could tie the knot, he required his mother's signature, a legality that has been the source of much ribbing from Maxine.

Walt's military career kept the newlyweds on the move, occupying 14 houses in five states, and a residence in Spain. It wasn't until Walt's retirement in 1967 that the couple settled into their Woodland Hills home, allowing their enthusiasm for plants thick and thorny to finally take root.



After their home and club affiliations had been established, the couple embarked on excursions through Baja. Walt attributes the success of their trips to the dependability of the AAA Guidebook, his Isuzu pickup, and Mexico's chain of *El Presidente* hotels. With the location of each hotel listed in the guide, the Wegners hopscotched down the peninsula, planning a half-day of sightseeing followed by a half-day of travel to the next *Presidente*. Their trips culminated with the purchase of a time-share at the Finisterra

Included here are images from an excursion made in 1985. These photogenic cacti, palms, and pachycauls are meant to inspire a new generation of Baja ramblers, easing 21st Century cares under the same deep blue sky.

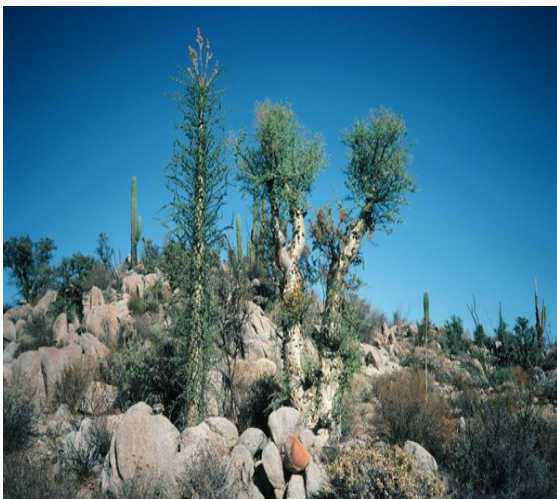
In the second half of this article, we stroll the grounds of "Casa de Wegner."



Baja: Non-monstrose form of *Lophocereus schottii*



Baja: Mexican Blue Fan Palms (*Brahea armata*) tower above the boulders of Catavina



Catavina—Boojum (*Fouquieria columnaris*) and Elephant Tree (*Pachycormus discolor*) grow side by side

2013 Sales and Events

- June 1 & 2 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society–Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA **INFO: 858-382-1797**
- June 8 & 9 Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale
Saturday June 8, 9am-5pm, and Sunday June 9, 9am-3:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA LACSS.com
- June 15-20 CSSA 35TH Biennial Convention, Austin, TX- www.CSSA2013.com
- June 28-30 CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens-FREE TO THE PUBLIC
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160 or 2277**
Plant Sale Starts Friday, June 28 Show opens Saturday, June 29-Sunday, June 30 THE
- 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
- September 7 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- September 22 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



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting June 6, 2013

**Bob Gardner
Laurel Woodley
Will speak on Aeoniums**

June Sales and Events

- June 1 &** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society–Summer Show & Sale
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