Program: Canary Islands: They are Out of This World

Marquita is a member of CSSA and a member of LACSS for three years and has been scheduling programs for two of those years. As a California native, born in Anaheim, she received her degree in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and also attended Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She worked as a Registered Civil Engineer for over 20 years with a portion of that time spent underwater as a hardhat diver. She spends her time helping with their family construction business, hiking, mountain biking and tending her collection of aeoniums and adeniums.

Marquita Elias will take the audience to space and then return them to the Canary Islands to witness adaptive radiation first hand. The program will include indigenous plants including Aeoniums, Euphorbia, Ceropegia, Caralluma and other Canarian natives. The presentation will include six of the seven major islands in this archipelago and will demonstrate the climatic diversity of these islands. Included in this presentation are pirates, Christopher Columbus and mealy bugs.
President’s Message  January, 2015

Here we are – starting a brand new year, full of hope and wishing we hadn’t made those New Year’s resolutions. No chocolate??! What was I thinking??!!

As a Club, we are starting this year on the shoulders of a very successful 2014. As noted in the December Chronicle, the goals of 2014 were met. Now we must reassess our goals-looking for new things to do, successes to refine and new adventures to explore. Your ideas are always welcome so feel free to email any Board member or me to get the ball rolling.

Marquita Elias, VP- Programs, already has a full schedule for 2015. We even will have a special speaker program on Saturday, Feb. 21 so stay tuned for the details on that.

Manny Rivera has set the Plant of the Month list for a year in advance so we have plenty of time to prepare our plants for mini - competition.

The Festival Committee held a pre-pre-planning meeting and is thinking of new, improved ways of presenting the Festival. Again, new ideas are welcome, as are volunteers. {You didn’t really think a month would go by without me asking for volunteers, did you??!}

Looking at the list of the Board of Directors, one might wonder what all these people do. Throughout this year, each Board member will write a summary of their areas of responsibility. We start this month with John Matthews’ summary of his activities as the LACSS liaison to the Intercity Show. See his summary on another page. Feel free to ask him for more details of his activities.

We have quite a collection of plants for our January raffle. Buck Hemenway, Norma Lewis, and Rogers & Darlene Weld have been quite generous with more than 20 plants, all high quality and looking for a good home. So be sure to get your raffle ticket(s).

I am pleased to announce that Susan Phillips has volunteered to be our new Librarian. Please stop by the library table to meet Susan and welcome her to this new position. Our library is in great shape and will continue to grow as it has in the past. We always have the latest CSSA Journal plus the Aloe Journal from South Africa. The updated book list will be available in February.

See you soon, Joyce
Happy Holiday Award Dinner 2014

As with all big events, our Holiday Award Dinner is composed of many aspects. Barbara Hall has, once again, put it all together for an enjoyable, entertaining, and delicious event to end our year. Let’s start with the display of surviving Pleiospilos bolusii. Apparently, not too many survivors. Everyone had a good laugh about the non-survivor (named RIP) offered by Ilona. Mine survived but in the rush to pack everything into the truck, it got left behind. It is still surviving but a bit miffed at being left behind.

Our next activity was the imaginative games that Nils put together for us. The “How Long Is the Root” game challenged our knowledge of growth rates of Euphorbia stellate. There were many guesses but only one was correct. The crossword puzzle again challenged many but one member was faster with the solution than the rest of us. Unfortunately, winners were not recorded so cannot be identified. But, you know who you are, so please speak up at the January meeting for recognition. Regardless, each winner was awarded a designer pot.

A big part of the Holiday dinner is to recognize the winners of the Plant of the Month mini-competition. There were over 40 participants during the year and each received a hand crafted pot designed by our own Gerald Richert. We thank Gerald for being willing to throw so many pots for us. See the POM page for winners.

The evening culminates with the auction of plants and plant related items donated by our members. There were forty plants plus a few knick-knacks which prompted lots of interest. Bidding was spirited and competitive.

A heartfelt THANKS to everyone who set-up, tore-down, donated food and plants, etc. who made this one on the best Holiday Awards Dinner EVER!

A good time was had by all!

Mentoring Program Summary 2014

Planning for the 2014 Mentoring Program began at the LACSS Board Meeting in December 2013. The focus of that discussion was to identify potential topics for 2014. During 2014 there were four Mentoring Workshops; these are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Winter Growers</td>
<td>Manny Rivera</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staging</td>
<td>Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative Propagation</td>
<td>John Matthews and John Martinez</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family of Asclepeidiceae</td>
<td>Sandy Chase</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each of these workshops was attended by 12-15 members; at each workshop a volunteer offered to write a summary for the Cactus Chronicle.

Planning for 2015 began at the November Board meeting. The first program will be on Landscaping with Cactus and Succulents and will be conducted by Bryan Chan in February. One of the recommendations, which received a lot of support, was to establish one on one mentoring sessions for less experienced members. This will be developed over the next several months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Mentors who have participated in the program. Your expertise and willingness to provide assistance is very much appreciated by the membership. If you have any suggestions or comments about the program, please contact me.

John Suciu
805-374-7306
Johns.three@gmail.com
PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2015

Competition Divisions:
Rookie: 0 to 25 combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “rookie” awards
Novice: 1 to 100 combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Advanced: 100 or more combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “advanced” award points
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but entry is required for individuals who sell at shows outside of LACSS.

Plant Entries
Members may enter up to three plants in each designated monthly cactus and succulent category. In the Advanced and Master/Open divisions, members must have cared for their plants for at least 1 year. In the Novice division, the ownership requirement is 6 months. Rookies may show newly purchased plants. Entries should be labeled and placed on the display table by 7:00 pm.

Judging Criteria
Plants are evaluated according to the following guidelines:
Condition (health, form, damage-free) 50%
Maturity and size 25%
Staging (complementary container, top dressing, composition) 20%
Nomenclature (identification and label) 5%
Other factors include rarity, growing difficulty, and whether or not the plant is in flower.

Awards
First place 6 points
Second place 3 points
Third place 2 points
Other entries 1 point per plant to acknowledge entry

Entry slips are collected by the 2nd Vice President in charge of Plant of the Month who coordinates tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the Cactus Chronicle.

Annual cumulative prizes are awarded at the Holiday Party in December to the top three scorers in each division for cacti and for succulents. Additional prizes are awarded for overall total scores from highest to lowest across all divisions. Every individual who has brought plants during the year is acknowledged with a prize. Individuals who "graduate" from one division to the next for the following year will also be recognized.
Plant of the Month
2015

January
Discocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria

February
Mammillaria Clusters
Sarcocaulon

March
Pediocactus, Sclerocactus
Echinomastus
Sedum

April
Variegates

May
Aztekium
Geohintonia
Sansevieria

June
Favorite

July
Echinocactus, Ferrocactus
Pachypodium-Madagascar

August
Eriosyce, Neochilenia, Neoperotera
Lithops

September
Ceriodes (N. America)
Didiereaceae

October
Miniatures

November
Crests and Monstrose

December
Holiday Party

Plant of the Month
2016

January
Blossfeldia, Frailea, Yavia
Bulbs

Graduate Rookie to Novice > 25 points
Kathryn Boorer 144
Carolyn and Robert Feldman 50
David Le 47
Kyle Williams 39
Natalie Welsh 31

Graduate Novice to Advanced > 100 points
Sylvia Strehlo 124
John Suciu 103

Total Points
Thorpe, Kim 158
Kathryn Boorer 129
John Matthews 91
Artie Chavez 62
Sylvia Strehlo 47

Total Points Cactus
Kim Thorpe 88
Kathryn Boorer 68
John Matthews 66
Sylvia Strehlo 38
John Suciu 24

Total Points Succulent
Kim Thorpe 70
Artie Chavez 62
Kathryn Boorer 61
Carol and Robert Feldman 38
Jim Esterle / Sandy Chase (Tie) 34

Rookie Cactus
Kathryn Boorer 68
Kyle Williams 23
Natalie Welsh 11

Novice Cactus
Sylvia Strehlo 38
John Suciu 24
Phyllis Frieze 7

Advanced Cactus
Kim Thorpe 88
Rio Cernik 23
John Martinez 15

Open Cactus
John Matthews 66
Manny Rivera 8

Rookie Succulent
Kathryn Boorer 61
David Le 29
Kathleen Misko / Kyle Williams (Tie) 12

Novice Succulent
Carol and Robert Feldman 38
Jim Esterle 34
John Suciu 20

Advanced Succulent
Kim Thorpe 70
Sandy Chase 34
John Martinez 25

Open Succulent
Artie Chavez 62
Manny Rivera 26
John Matthews 25
Brief Inter-City Meeting Report from John Matthews

I attended the pre-show meeting in April where it was decided to honor Larry Grammer with a new trophy for best Lithops. Also at the meeting Tom Glavich requested 3 new Inter-City volunteers to take over publicity, write the newsletter, and do videography of the sale/show. A description of the duties for the publicity chair and the videographer may be found below.

Inter - City Publicist - Job Description:

Send notices of the Inter City Show to:
1. Sunset Magazine
2. AAA Magazine
3. Pacific Horticulture
4. Cactus and Succulent Society of America
5. All local clubs (San Francisco to San Diego Sunset to New Mexico and Nevada)
6. Arcadia Patch
7. Pasadena Patch
8. Yelp
9. Craig’s List
10. Cactus-etc
11. Fat Plants
12. Facebook
13. Any other you can think of.

Place paid ads in (we will show you how to do this and set price limitations)
1. Tribune Group (and write advertorial)
2. LA Times
3. Thai newspaper
4. (If funding allows, Chinese American News)
5. Facebook

Get flyers to
1. California Cactus
2. San Gabriel Nursery
3. Huntington Library
4. LA Arboretum

Keep show chairs and treasurer informed on status and problems at least bi-weekly.

Videographer Job Description

Make a video of the Inter-City Show, emphasizing plants and in particular blue ribbon and trophy table plants. Also pictures of the sales area and show area, but not focusing on anyone without permission. Some simple editing capabilities will be required, along with a steady hand. Add low key legal musical background, and upload to YouTube. Can attend judging, set-up etc as able. Quietest time is Sunday Morning before the show opens. Steadiness is the key and ability to edit out extraneous background noise. No video during auction or dinner.

(There is an older YouTube of the show, but it is so jerky that you can get motion sickness trying to watch it.)
DESSERT FORUM
Saturday, 17 January 2015

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:00 – 10:00
**Registration**
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 Rose Garden Café features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items
The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

**Don’t miss:**
“Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World” in Dibner Hall (Library building)
The newly renovated Japanese Garden
*Liu Fang Yuan*, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)
California Garden Club, Inc
2015 Dates to Remember

Garden Club Calendar for 2015

January 23-25
Flower Show Symposium, Bakersfield

February 2-5
CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Fresno
Host: Sequoia Foothills District

February 11-13
Flower Show School, Course IV
Sponsor: Diablo Foothills District

April 20-22
Pacific Region Convention, Eugene, Oregon

April 23-24
Landscape Design Study School. Series 26, Course II
Sponsor: Luther Burbank District

May 14-17
National Garden Convention. Louisville, Kentucky

June 8-12
CGCI 84th Annual Convention. Reno, Nevada
Host: Golden Foothills District

San Fernando Valley District Calendar for 2015

January 22
Campo de Cahuenga Commemoration

February 23
District meeting

April 13
District Bus Tour

June 22
District meeting

San Fernando Valley District Member Clubs and Meeting Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club Name</th>
<th>email address</th>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burbank-Valley Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:queenmum@foothill.net">queenmum@foothill.net</a></td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Blossom Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ksumness@hotmail.com">ksumness@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening Club of Santa Clarita</td>
<td><a href="mailto:leonbrook@aol.com">leonbrook@aol.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake View Improvement Association</td>
<td><a href="mailto:josieza@gmail.com">josieza@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles Cactus &amp; Succulent Society</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lacobss.contact@gmail.com">lacobss.contact@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherman Oaks Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:patchogue26@att.net">patchogue26@att.net</a></td>
<td>4th Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hovallens@att.net">hovallens@att.net</a></td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunshine Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nosher04@yahoo.com">nosher04@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toluca Lake Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:robynallyn3@gmail.com">robynallyn3@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Valley Garden Club</td>
<td><a href="mailto:iburatti@social.rr.com">iburatti@social.rr.com</a></td>
<td>2nd Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland Hills Floral Designers</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bevswitzer@aol.com">bevswitzer@aol.com</a></td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LACSS and the CGCI

The California Garden Club, Inc. has an incredible Award Program that covers many aspects of Club activities. The list is too long to post here, but four awards seemed to fit some of our best projects. So, the Chair of each of those projects wrote the applications, included photos and I mailed them to the CGCI for award consideration. The four applications were for our Newsletter (Phyllis Frieze), Mentoring Sessions (John Suciu), Monthly Programs (Marquita Ellias) and Special Events (John Martinez). I thank all of you for your thoughtfulness in preparing the applications. I am quite proud of this effort and welcomed the opportunity to utilize the Award Program as a way to evaluate our efforts with another’s viewpoint. The deadline for applications is January 10 so results will not be known for a while. Why not nominate our Festival? Good question! But, before and after photos are needed and we only have “during” photos. But, there’s always next year.....
Plants of the Month: **Anacampseros, Avonia, & Ceraria**

This month we look at three genera of Southern African (primarily South African and Namibia) succulents that are interesting both from a horticultural perspective and a taxonomic one. **Anacampseros** in the strict sense has around 30 species, primarily from South Africa and adjacent countries, with one species native to Australia. For the most part the species tend to have fleshy rhomboid, or diamond shaped, leaves, very soft and fleshy stems, and have white hairs at the base of the leaves. Some species are covered in a netting of thin white hairs that resemble a spider web! The most commonly grown species is probably *A. rufescens*, particularly the bright pink variegated form known as 'Sunrise'. **Anacampseros** stays quite small and most tend to form clumps over time. One of the nicest aspects of this genus are its flowers. In most species they are large (for the size of the plant) bright pink and produced on long stalks.

**Avonia** is a small group of roughly a dozen species that generally have very small, often scale-like leaves that envelop narrow stems. The most popular species is *A. alstonii* due to the beautiful caudex it forms. While the plant is quite small (big ones have a caudex a few inches across), the stout nature of the caudex and the numerous little green stems on top of it make the plant a must have for many succulent collectors. It produces attractive pink or white flowers, depending on the subspecies. While that is the best known species, it differs quite a bit from the other species seen in cultivation. The others, such as *A. buderiana* are tiny clumping oddities that have paper-like leaves. These papery leaves are so numerous it can sometimes make it hard to even tell if your plant is alive or dead! The flowers are much smaller in these species and no caudex is formed.

**Ceraria** is the least commonly grown of the three genera. It has just a few species, primarily in Namibia. The genus is similar to, and related to, **Portulacaria**. They form woody shrubs to small trees with peeling bark. The leaves small and fleshy, and drop off in times of drought. **Ceraria pygmaea** is the smallest species and can make a nice succulent bonsai.

Why did these three different genera get chosen together for plant of the month? Because traditionally they all belonged to the Purslane Family, Portulacaceae. However, modern taxonomic research use DNA has discovered that they don't belong in that family. **Ceraria** has now, along with **Portulacaria**, been placed in the Didieraceae. Prior to this all Didieraceae were thought to be thorny shrubs from Madagascar (e.g. Didierea and Allauaudia). Now this extends the family to the African mainland. Another finding from molecular research is that **Anacampseros** and **Avonia** are really the same genus (to be called **Anacampseros**) and belong in their own separate family, the **Anacampserotaceae**. It would be difficult to call this a completely new finding as taxonomists originally considered them the same genus before splitting them up. The new data just shows us the original guys were right all along!
Plant of the Month: Discocactus

To allay any confusion I want to make clear that this month's cactus discussion will have no mention of bell bottoms, mirror balls, or the Bee Gees! Though, if you want to watch Saturday Night Fever with your cactus sitting next to you that is your business.

Discocactus are heavily ribbed South American cacti, primarily from Brazil. The genus is quite old, first described in 1837. The name comes from the shape of the body, which tends to be much flatter than tall, at least compared to the other ball like genera (Parodias etc.) that share its habitat. Discocactus can be found inland in the state of Minas Gerais, and further South in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso, and crossing into Paraguay, and even into the Southeastern most state of Bolivia, Santa Cruz. Although popular in cultivation, many of the species are endangered in the wild.

The beautiful spination, the flat bodies, and the pleasantly fragranced flowers have made this a popular genus, and there are far more names in cultivation than there are true species. The number of species has varied from more than 60 down to 24 in recent publications (1990s), to the currently recognized 7. This is unlikely to be the last word on this attractive genus, so keep your old labels, they may soon be good again. In our shows, most of the generic names are accepted.

The distinguishing characteristics of Discocactus are globular to flattened globular shape, a cephalium, and fragrant night blooming flowers. The cephalia stay relatively small, are almost always white, and have long soft wool. Discocactus have ring-meristems (a ring of growth cells) that surround the cephalium, and allow the body to continue to grow after the cephalium forms. This growth ring distinguishes Discocactus from the very similar and related Melocactus.

Discocactus has similar cultivation requirements to other tropical terrestrial cacti such as Melocactus and Uebelmannia. They thrive in warm humid climates where even the nights stay quite warm. However, they are fine in our Mediterranean climate with cool summer nights so long as we give them some extra warmth in the winter months. They shouldn’t be kept in a location where the temperature drops below about 50. They like more moisture than similar looking non-tropical cacti, but don’t keep them wet, especially in the winter.

-Kyle Williams
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich
General Meeting
TUESDAY, January 6, 2015
6:30 P.M.

Program: Canary Islands: They are Out of This World
Presented by Marquita Elias

January Events

January 17  Huntington Desert Forum (see page for information)