



CACTUS CHRONICLE

March 2013

March Plant of the Month

Copiapoa

Haworthia

Refreshments

Letters

A-D

February New Members

Rosanna Barela
Oscar Flores
Mike Gallagher
Aaron Jacobs
Susan C. Phillips

Editor

Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

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

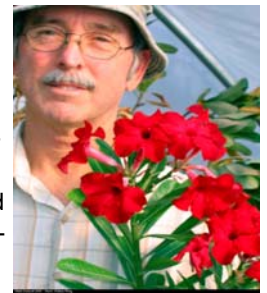
Mission Statement:

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 March 7, 2013

March Speaker is Mark A. Dimmitt

Mark A. Dimmitt has a Ph.D. in biology (herpetology) and worked at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum from 1979 to 2011. His areas of research include botany and vertebrate biology, and is the author of more than 50 scientific and popular publications about ecology and horticulture. He is a Fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.



Mark's other career is as a plant breeder. He spent a couple of decades each hybridizing first *Trichocereus* (Echinopsis, cacti), then *Tillandsia* (bromeliads); he has introduced about 50 cultivars. Since the late 1970s his main focus has been on breeding adeniums; 'Crimson Star', 'Evelyn Marie', and 'Bouquet' are among his creations. He is coauthor of the book *Adenium: Sculptural Elegance, Floral Extravagance*.

Adenium: The newest ornamental plant

Many of our flowering plants; such as roses and chrysanthemums were domesticated (improved and adapted for garden culture) many centuries ago. At the other extreme, adeniums (relatives of plumeria, oleander, and Madagascar periwinkle) have come to the attention of serious breeders, barely more than 20 years ago. Mark Dimmitt has been growing and hybridizing adeniums for almost 40 years. He will tell the story of this beautiful plant's development and explosive worldwide rise in popularity. He will also have plants to sell.



Adenium arabicum



Adenium white jade peony



Adenium neptune

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Marquita Elias

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Manny Rivera

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LACSS.contact@gmail.com

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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—March 2013

The February meeting was highlighted by Woody Minnich's beautiful presentation of miniature gems of Mexico. What a treat to be armchair travelers into obscure regions where these unique specimens can be detected.

Have you discovered weatherunderground.com? This website can be used to find a weather station near your exact location and elevation, and then to monitor the hourly forecast and temperatures throughout the night. So far, many of the cold fronts that were forecast never materialized, or only reached freezing temperatures for a few hours just before dawn.

And the rainfall volume this year has certainly been disappointing. Rainwater is beneficial for all plants, under almost all circumstances. Theoretically, rainwater is pH neutral, neither acid nor base. Even in our polluted basin, rainwater contains few of the salts that leave a white residue on leaves. Rainwater forces existing salts through the soil. It also carries oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen in forms that can be absorbed by the roots. The force of falling drops washes particulate matter off the leaves, making them better able to photosynthesize. And it's free!

But here are a few caveats:

What appears to be a "downpour" is often only a small fraction of an inch of rain, penetrating only the top inch or so of soil. Most cacti and succulents from areas that experience winter rain thrive with intermittent rainfall (Agave, Fockea, Bursera). Our club experts tell us that they keep plants moist throughout the year. Many non winter-growing plants on a truly dry regimen throughout the winter (such as African and Madagascar succulents) have sloughed their root tips and are dormant. An influx of water can easily rot the roots, especially if temperatures drop below freezing. Cacti and succulents, especially Echeverias and Dudleyas, don't like to accumulate water in the rosettes. Best to pour it off rather than let it sit there.

In the end, trial and error is the best teacher. Keeping a record of what you lose, why, and when, can help you from making the same mistake twice.

It's been a tough winter, so relish your successes.

Roxie Esterle
LACSS President

March 2013

From the Stacks of the Library

It seems time is moving very fast. Here it is – time to start preparing for our June Show and Sale. Therefore, time to begin your research for your plant display. If not the June Show and Sale, then at least some research for the upcoming Plant of the Month. I always try to supply books for the next month's POM but if you need a special book, please let me know soon as I will be on vacation from the middle of March till the middle of May. Rosemary Ecker and Richard have volunteered to stand in for me and will provide you with the standard assortment of titles. The Euphoria Journals, CSSA Journals, and the Aloe Journals will also be available. We have several Cactus & Co. Journals that you might want to look at.

To help me clear my records, please return all checked out books at the March meeting.

See you soon. Be sure to stop by the Library table and

CHECK IT OUT!!!

Joyce the Librarian

Garden Tours By Kathleen Misko

I just love garden tours. It is one of the reasons our club is so special. John Martinez arranged for us to visit Gene and Laura Oster's garden. As we walked down the driveway, enjoying the bonsai and the wall of bamboo and aloes, it was hard to imagine what we were going to see. There were tables set up with pottery for sale manned by Charlie and Debbie Ball, including their pottery as well. The next tables filled with the displays of show winning plants in pots that look as if they were made for each plant. Because they were. Years of collecting led the Oster's to realize the best way to fulfill their vision is to create their own pottery. So on site, kiln and wheel, work benches, stamps and glazes. Lucky for us, we can buy their wares at the meetings.



Gene & Laura Oster



Gene & Laura Oster



Rogers & Darlene Weld

The garden is arranged in sections. Off the back of the house is the Bromeliad, Tillandsia, Sansevieria section where it is protected from the north valley wind. Then the benches continue in what would be the back yard. There they sit in show display. Hundreds of specimens. What don't they have??. It would be easier to say. Beyond that is a sculpture garden, trees and plantings. The paths take you to every corner. I feel honored to be in someone's garden with them sharing their triumphs and tribulations.

As if that wasn't enough, John had arranged for us to go to Rogers and Darlene Weld's garden created about 40+ years ago. Up to the top of Topanga to a driveway marked with a wood sign. Rogers Landscaping. When I got out of the car, I felt enveloped by the garden. The plants were so huge, the metal sculptures, living together yet standing out. There was a bromeliad the size of a hot tub. This is my third garden tour and I will video the next one. It's more than I can take in and I always want to go back. This garden is whimsical. Under the growing tables are solid Tillandsias. ground cover. Ha. I asked how long they had been growing and the best answer I got was, " a long time."

It is wild with beauty. Stone stairs up and down to the greenhouses. Rogers had plants for us to buy. Like at the Oster's. Again, the honor of being in someone's garden and sharing their cuttings and plants that have lived with them. Seeing the seedlings and cuttings growing in flats. We all left with treasures far beyond the price tags. It was so cool.

But wait, there's more. Stepping into their brilliantly decorated home and being offered turkey chili, cornbread and salad. Two bowls for me please. It was great. Darlene shared stories with us about their life together. I don't think Rogers ever stopped. We all had so many questions and kept him moving up and down his wonderful garden.

And Kim had brought such delicious desserts.

Maybe we could show some of the photos at one of the meetings for those of you who weren't able to join the fun.



Rogers & Darlene Weld

Green Thumb Event in Canoga Park

Several of our members attended the event. They met people from other clubs, It also gave us an opportunity to share information about our Club with others who enjoy the hobby.

LACSS Garden Tour - Saturday, May 4, 2013

Lotusland

Only 45 spots available

7:30 First pick-up location - Balboa Park (adjacent to Tennis Courts) 17015 Burbank Blvd. Encino 91316

8:15 Second pick-up location - Thousand Oaks Park & Ride Lot 1, Rancho Road at Route 23 and the 101 Freeway

- The bus will leave the pick-up and departure locations at the times listed. It is important that you arrive at these locations prior to the bus departure times.

9:30 Arrive at Lotusland, 695 Ashley Road, Montecito

- For those interested, the schedule will allow time at the Lotusland Gift shop.

12:30 Depart Lotusland

Lunch (bring your own)

- In an effort to spend more time at both facilities we will take our lunch break on the bus.
- No alcoholic beverages and/or consumption on bus.

1:00 Arrive at Gregg DeChirico's Nursery located within the Island View Nursery, 3376 Foothill Road, Carpinteria

3:00 Depart from Island View Nursery

**Admission fee to Lotusland is \$ 30.00 per member
Bus transportation provided by the LACSS**

- Due to the parking restrictions of Lotusland, personal vehicles will not be permitted.
- This trip is limited to 45 people on a first come first serve basis.
- A sign-up sheet will be available at the February, March, and April LACSS meetings or you can contact the event coordinator at the e-mail address listed below.
- Admission fee must be received in total by the April 4th LACSS meeting.
- Checks payable to LACSS

For further information please contact the event coordinator, John Martinez
at

jwm5555@sbcglobal.net or 805-390-2139

or

Visit the Lotusland web site at www.lotusland.org

Plant of the Month

2013

March

Copiapoa Haworthia

April

Echinocereus Aloe

May

Rebutia Sulcorebutia
Gasteria

June

Favorite Favorite

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

Plant of the Month - February Winners

Succulent – Conophytum

Rookie Division

First	Danielle Duboff	Conophytum
Second	Danielle Duboff	Conophytum

Novice Division

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Conophytum uviforme
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Advanced Division

First	Kim Thorpe	Conophytum minimum
Second	Kim Thorpe	Conophytum ectypum
Second	Sandy Chase	Conophytum minutum
Third	Sandy Chase	Conophytum fraternum
Third	Sandy Chase	Conophytum minutum

Cactus - Matucana, Oroya, Borzicactus

First	Kim Thorpe	Matucana madisoniorum
Second	Kim Thorpe	Oroya peruviana
Third	Rio Cernik	Oroya borchersii

Open Division

First	Artie Chavez	Conophytum egyptum ssp brownii
Second	John Matthews	Conophytum minimum "wittebergensis"
Third	John Matthews	Conophytum obcordellum "lambertense"

Participant - Non-Awards

Chris Rogers	s	1	open
Artie Chavez	s	1	open
Rio Cernik	c	2	adv

Cactus / Succulents points division

**KNOWING NORMA:
ESTEEMED LACSS MEMBER
SHOWS WHAT SHE GROWS**

Nils Schirmmacher

Lifetime club member Norma Lewis tends a large collection at her San Fernando Valley home, where she also sells plants by appointment. As a master grower, Norma dabbles in many genera, but exhibits expertise with *Sansevieria*, *Crassula*, *Haworthia*/*Gasteria*, and the *Echinopsis* hybrids produced by her friend Bob Schick.



Sansevieria fill a greenhouse built especially for her collection. With pride, Norma complains that on summer evenings, the smell of their blossoms is so intense she can't set foot inside the structure. To those new to the genus, Mrs. Lewis extends a warning about the effect of *Sansevieria*'s robust rhizomes on plastic containers: "They'll turn round pots square, and square pots round!"

As a knowledgeable enthusiast of the *Crassulaceae*, Norma lives up to her online handle "Crasulady." Many of her plants were photographed for Gordon Rowley's monograph of the genus, her name appearing high on the list of the book's contributors.

Mrs. Lewis' sizeable assortment of *Haworthia*/*Gasteria* is fodder for the imagination, containing a dynamic range of shapes, textures, and markings. Calling on her experience as a teacher, Norma provides commentary for this succulent kaleidoscope, freely reciting each plant's culture and provenance.

While volunteering as propagator at the Huntington—a post she held for twenty years—Norma brought Schick hybrids to the attention of Desert Garden Director, John Trager, insisting that he include the plants in the annual ISI catalog. Mr. Trager acted on Norma's suggestion, and the varied blossoms of new cultivars continue to be offered each year. Norma's name may soon be seen among the offerings, Bob Schick has christened a recent variety "For Norma."

If you share an interest in Norma's specialties, turn your questions and enthusiasm toward this experienced LACSS member. And if your collecting runs counter to hers, ask her why she loves her plants so: you'll soon find your interests broadened.



Sansevieria "fernwood"

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL

Save the Dates. June 8th and 9th 2013

You won't want to miss this year's festival. The show committee is hard at work to create a Festival that we all can be proud of. The committee representative will keep you informed of the progress for the Festival.

We have received confirmations from San Sui Kai Bonsai and the Turtle and Tortoise societies to be part of the educational component for the Festival and also working to confirm the participation of a local rock club. There will be several speakers and vendors who have given their commitments. It is very exciting to have such participation.

Members are encouraged to become involved with this wonderful event. Your participation helps the Festival to get better every year. Your suggestions and participation are welcome. One way to become involved is through the educational displays, both interior and exterior. Joyce Shcumann, our librarian, will explain how easy it is to display plants in an educational format. Artie Chavez is in charge of the exterior displays and will require assistance with supplying plants, help with the construction, different themes or 'adopting a garden.'

As we get closer, there will be signup sheets for places volunteers can help. So start thinking what you might want to sign up for. There are so many ways to give your support, even baking cookies for the volunteers or working potting plants on Kids' Day.

We pride ourselves on having something for everyone.

This is our Club's biggest fundraiser of the year and it takes lots of planning, preparation, and member participation. An early start on the Festival preparation and planning adds to the success of the event.

Volunteers Wanted for Our Drought Tolerant Festival

We are starting early to encourage members to sign up to volunteer for our June Festival. It will be here before we know it and we must start planning now.

Assistance at various time periods at various "work stations" is needed. The **first of several** signup sheets will be circulated at the April meeting. A brief, flexible "job description" will be available at the meeting to assist you in making your commitment to a volunteer time slot.

If you have any questions regarding displays, refreshments, etc, feel free to contact me.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Joyce the Librarian
Co-Chair, Show and Sale Festival

Haworthia



Haworthia mirabilis var. paradoxa

Haworthia are among the most commonly grown succulent plants. There are about 60 species, but the number of varieties, cultivars and hybrids are overwhelming and continually increasing. *Haworthia*, are very closely related to *Aloe* and *Gasteria*. *Haworthia* are endemic (i.e. native exclusively) to South Africa, and most inhabit a Mediterranean environment not too different from Southern California. The plants are primarily winter growers, though growth can occur from early autumn through early summer.

Haworthia are easy to grow in our climate and in general are tolerant of varying potting mixes so long as they are well draining. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. *Haworthia* can be naturalized as a ground cover, placed under shrub cover in shadier parts of California gardens.

Haworthia like bright light and morning sun, which brings out the color of their leaves. If the light is too dim, the leaves will be a pale green and will stretch. On the other hand, too much sun in the summer can burn the leaves. Well grown plants form a firm, tightly packed rosette, showing the best color possible. Many species will exhibit reds, greens, whites and browns when grown properly. *Haworthia* are fairly free from most insect infestations, although scale and mealybugs can sometimes attack a plant. Slugs and snails are fond of them as well.



Haworthia limifolia var. striata

Plants are most easily propagated from offsets. Seed is sometimes available, and easily germinates in cool weather, with best results coming in October through January. The trick with *Haworthia* seed is to get enough growth on the seedlings to allow them to survive their first summer dormancy. Most seedling losses are due to heat and dry weather rather than over watering. Fresh seed is needed as most *Haworthia* seed lose their viability after a year or so.



This variegated *Haworthia* recently sold on Ebay for over \$1,600!

Numerous hybrids and cultivars of *Haworthia* exist, and nowhere have the breeding efforts been more intensive than in Japan. The shapes, colors, and markings are amazing. Also amazing is their price. Renny Hosogai is the main seller of these cultivars in the United States. Her plants regularly sell for hundreds of dollars on Ebay, with some plants commonly exceeding \$1000. Few plants outside of orchids and bonsai can match the value of a rare *Haworthia* cultivar.

While delving into the minutiae of plant taxonomy is not the top concern of most growers, club members should be aware that DNA based research on *Haworthia* is revealing that the genus may need to be partially split up.

Fortunately the "fleshy leaved" species, which make up the bulk of the genus, will remain *Haworthia*. However, the species such as *H. reinwardtii*, *H. attenuata*, and *H. limifolia* which have less fleshy leaves

and a more "Aloe-like" appearance are more closely related to *Gasteria* and some *Aloe* than to the rest of *Haworthia*. No official changes have yet been made, but don't be surprised if some of your *Haworthia* become *Gasteria* (or another genus) in the future.

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich
Photo credits: Ken Uy & Renny Hosogai

Copiapoa

Copiapoa is a genus of spectacular cacti from the Atacama Desert along the north coast of Chile. *Copiapoa* were first collected in the 1840s, and described as *Echinocactus*, then the home to any of the more or less globular cacti. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work **The Cactaceae**. The name derives from the Chilean province of Copiapo, home of many of the species. Currently 26 species of *Copiapoa* are generally recognized. Species of this genus are relatively small, though they can form large clumps. The largest species rarely surpass three feet in height, while the smallest species, *C. laui*, rivals *Blossfeldia* for the title of world's smallest cactus.

The habitat of *Copiapoa* is incredibly dry, even by desert standards. They occur in the Atacama, the world's driest desert. The average rainfall in the region is 1mm/year (0.04 inches). Many areas get rainfall only once every four years and some weather stations have never recorded a single drop of rain! Interestingly, *Copiapoa* thrives in these extreme conditions to the extent that the genus peters out at the northern and southern ends of its range because these areas are where rainfall starts to become more regular and predictable.



Copiapoa coquimana in habitat



Copiapoa cinerea

How can any plant, even a cactus, survive in a climate where years can go by without rain? They do it by living off the fog that regularly covers the coastal regions of northern Chile. Anyone living in coastal California in June knows this gloomy fog all too well. Surely we've all noticed our plants, and pretty much any outside surface, covered in moisture condensed from the fog on overcast mornings. Without this fog, even *Copiapoa* could not survive in the Atacama Desert.

Copiapoa live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view. When these areas have been explored new species have been found, and it is likely more will be found in the future.

Given these extremely dry conditions, one would expect cultivation to be difficult in our comparatively wet Southern California winters. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti. When given favorable growing conditions these plants develop many times faster than they would in their native habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground in the Los Angeles area, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to grow slower than some other cacti of similar size.

Copiapoa are easily propagated from cuttings or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed nurseries. These seeds germinate quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting mix, and moved to drier media after germination. They do very well in a mineral potting mix with almost no organic matter.



Copiapoa tenuissima

Photo credits: Pato Novoa, Stan Shebs, & Da

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich



Desert Creations

Spectacular Club Sale

All Cactus and Succulent Club members are invited to
a special private sale at Desert Creations

Dates: Saturday, April 69:00 to 5:00**
Sunday, April 710 to 4**

You save 20 percent on all plants
Your club receives 10 percent of the total purchase not including
taxes

All plants will receive the discount including
collected African plants

The above price reduction covers hundreds of new plants from
Madagascar and Africa ~ Euphorbia, Adenia, Pachypodium, etc.

*Only club Members (any Southern California cactus and succulent society) will be
allowed to make purchase during this weekend - there will be no public sale*

Located in the San Fernando Valley
15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343

Directions: Exit the 405N Freeway at Nordhoff (go west after exiting for
approximately two blocks, turn left on Haskell and then right on Rayen –
(look for the cactus garden on the South side)

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information

2013 Sales and Events

- March 22-24 Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale
Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23 9am-5pm, Sunday, March 24 12-4pm
Anaheim United Methodist Church 1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA
INFO: 562-587-3357
- April 13 & 14 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO: 310-832-2262**
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA
- April 20 & 21 Green Scene Plant Sale—Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA
- April 24-28 24th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show (South Coast Plaza)
3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- April 28 Huntington Plant Sale 10am-5pm Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160**
- May 4 & 5 Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO 310-822-1783**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
- May 5 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale 9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO: CALL-310-833-6823**
- May 17 & 18 Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
32nd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9am-4:30pm
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
INFO: 951-360-8802
- May 25 & 26 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, 10am-4pm, San Luis Obispo, CA
INFO: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- 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 661-297-5364
- 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
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PO BOX 280581
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E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting March 7, 2013

March Speaker: Mark Dimmitt

Adenium: The Newest Ornamental Plant

March 22-24 Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale
Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23 9am-5pm, Sunday, March 24 12-4pm
Anaheim United Methodist Church 1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA
INFO: 562-587-3357

Special Reminder: Limited Seats for Lotus Land May 4
Sign up early and get your payment in at March Meeting.
\$30pp