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.

October Program: "The High Drakensbergs"
Presented by: Tom Glavich

Tom Glavich is a member of many of the local Cactus and Succulent Societies and on the Board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is the author of the Beginner's Guide series of articles published in the CSSA Journal and To The Point. Tom is also one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held every August at the LA Arboretum, he is also a frequent speaker at many plant societies.

The Drakensberg Mountains are the home of Lesotho, a Mountain Kingdom entirely surrounded by South Africa. It is a place of incredible beauty, rarely visited, with a unique flora including many succulent and geophytic plants. This month's presentation will show some of the scenery and some of the spectacular flora of Lesotho and nearby Western South Africa.
President's Message

October, 2017

Hi to all,

It seems as though the end of the year is rapidly approaching and things should be winding down. But no, there still remains many things to tend to and next year to plan.

One thing to consider—One of the most difficult things I had to learn when I was part of the working world (retired now), was “Change is inevitable and space is temporary.” Accepting this philosophy was a long term process for me but I have found it to be true throughout the world. Accepting it as my own has made life easier. For our Club, changes are inevitable and may be subtle and some you will notice right away. For example, some changes have been made in our membership data gathering/processing. These changes will make it easier to prepare the yearly roster and our email “blast” roster. As 2018 arrives, we will elect new officers who will guide us through the next few years with their expertise and vision of the Club. Change is good.

Another thing #1—We have scheduled Marquita Ellias to present her program at the Third Saturday of the Month get together. This is an additional program for October, informal, no business announcements, no plant sales, no POM competition, just a good chance to visit with each other and enjoy Marquita’s presentation. More information to follow.

Another thing #2 – The Awards Dinner. This is our time to recognize the POM winners and the contributions of our members. As with all other things we do, we need everyone to volunteer something. I have said it before, “Our members are not good at signing up but they always show up,” and put their heart into any task they take on and this occasion will be no different so Please, Please sign up! It makes planning so much easier!!! More on the dinner elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another thing #3 - Some of you are on the cusp of points for Plant of the Month competition. That means you only need a few more points to advance to the next level of competition. Therefore, you should plan on entering more plants in October and November to enhance your opportunity to advance to the next level. Our newer members have proven themselves to be very astute collectors!! The competition always gives us a thrill and a chance to strut our stuff (or plants, as the case may be.)

Over the past few years, I have heard rumors about restructuring the Genus Haworthia. The latest issue of “Aloe,” the journal of The Succulent Society of South Africa (Vol. 53, No. 1, 2017), gives an update to this topic. There are now three Genera: Haworthia, Tulista, and Haworthiopsis with the bulk of the issue devoted to the new genus Haworthiopsis. If you have any interest in Haworthias, you must see this journal to keep up with the latest developments in taxonomy. See our Librarian to check out our copy of this journal.

All for now. … See you at the meeting!!

Joyce
“What Did I Miss?” or “I Didn’t Hear That!!”

Summary of the September, 2017 meeting

What a busy, entertaining, informative and exciting meeting this was! A poll was taken to see if anyone had or had not received their Chronicle and the Festival Special Issue. Most of the members answered in the affirmative. It was stressed that contributors must get their articles to our Editor by the 15th of the month or they won’t be included. There were quite a few announcements. We even voted for our choice of CSSA Director. Thanks to M.A., who is the LACSS representative to CSSA, for keeping us in the loop of CSSA activities.

Other announcements were:

- Fall Sale update by Kal Kaminer.
- John Martinez asked if any volunteers were not included on the Intercity “Thank You” list. Let him know if your name was not included.
- Awards dinner update by Kandie Soderstrom. Handout and sign-up sheet.
- Reminder of the Life Member presentation at the November meeting.
- Roxie Esterle announced the beginning of the Nomination process.
- Linda Holub announced that the Conejo Club will be holding their First Sale on October 7, 2017.
- There will be a sale of Bill Baker plants this Saturday, September 9, 2017.

Everyone was quite excited that Peter Walkowiak shared his recipe for potting soil and then watched and learned as he masterfully repotted several plants. His running commentary explaining the how and why of his choice in matching of plant, decorative pots and rocks held everyone’s attention. Even though the program ran a bit long, it was well worth it. Other activities included announcing the POM winners and the end of program raffle. Clean up followed and the meeting was adjourned.

That’s how I saw it and I’m sticking with it!

Joyce
**Plant of the Month – September 2017**

**Cactus – Opuntia from North America**

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<td>Rookie</td>
<td>Debi Heaps</td>
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<td>Opuntia microdasys var. pallida f. cristata</td>
<td>Opuntia honey mike</td>
<td>Opuntia hybrid crest – roller coaster</td>
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**Novice**

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<td>Opuntia sunburst</td>
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**Advanced**

- none -

**Open**

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**Succulent – Sansevieria**

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<td>Sansevieria “Mikado”</td>
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<td>Sansevieria francisii</td>
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<td>Sansevieria cylindrica “vincent price”</td>
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**Advanced**

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<td>Sansevieria bally</td>
<td>Sansevieria canaliculata</td>
<td>Sansevieria aethiopica</td>
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**Open**

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<td>Sansevieria suffruticosa</td>
<td>Sansevieria cylindrica</td>
<td>Sansevieria “Mikado”</td>
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**Note:** 21 rookie entries, 18 novice entries, 3 advanced entries, 3 open entries = 45 totals
Cacti & Succulents of the Month: Grafted Plants

We are doing another combined plant of the month article this month because the subject isn’t a particular kind plant, it is a cultivation technique used throughout the cultivated plant world, Grafting. Of course we are only interested in cacti and succulents for the plant of the month.

Grafting is the process of taking two or more varieties of related plants and physically combining them into a single functioning plant. Usually, the idea is to put a slow growing or difficult to grow plant on top of an easy, fast growing plant. Why would anyone besides Dr. Frankenstein want to do this? Because grafted plants are almost always easier and faster growing than the desirable plant would be on its own roots. In fact, in certain cases it is literally impossible to grow some plants without grafting. Specifically, mutant plants lacking chlorophyll, such as “Moon Cacti” cannot manufacture their own food and require a rootstock to supply it.

So you have a rare plant that is notorious for dying if you look at it the wrong way and you want to graft it to increase your odds of success. What do you need to do? First, determine if it is a type of plant that can be grafted. For all intents and purposes you cannot graft Monocots. Succulent Monocots include Aloe, Haworthia, Gasteria, Agave, flowering bulbs, and others. Everything else is a Dicot and can be grafted, at least in theory. Cacti, Euphorbia, Adenium, Pachypodium & Stapeliads are the most commonly grafted succulents. If you are unsure, just Google the name of your plant.

Step two is finding an appropriate rootstock. You want an easy to grow, fast growing, hardy plant with an upright stem that is reasonably thick (to accommodate the desired plant or “scion”). It is absolutely critical that the rootstock be closely related to the desired plant. Generally this means the same plant family (in the botanical sense, again Google if you are unsure). So cacti must be grafted on other cacti, Euphorbias on Euphorbias, etc. There is no single rootstock that is ideal for every plant (even within a family), but there are several popular choices for each group each with their own plusses and minuses.

Step three is to physically graft the plants. Do this during the spring and summer as dormant or semi-dormant plants will not work. Detailed instructions of how to do the graft are beyond the scope of this article. But in short, you need to cut the top off the rootstock, cut the base off the scion then stick the two cut surfaces together. Pressure needs to be applied for a few days to a week, after which if the graft was successful the vascular systems of the plants have fused together and the top will start growing. If it fails you’ll know pretty quickly because the scion will shrivel and fall off. It takes practice and even experts don’t get 100% success.

-Kyle Williams

Turbinicarpus pseudopunctatus
Crest

Moon Cactus

Euphorbia lactea Crest

-Turbinicarpus pseudopunctatus Crest

-Moon Cactus

Crest

Euphorbia lactea Crest
A Reminder, It’s October – E thru H

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means YOU. It’s your turn to bring the goodies that will sustain us during our meeting on Thursday, October 5th. We may have a larger than normal turnout with new members that joined LACSS in the last couple of months so please bring enough for everyone!

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, Chips & Dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches, burritos, pizza...you name it, we will heat & serve it.

Yes, we have a microwave.

It’s nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as during the break, drinks are also welcome.

We are pleased to report that Sylvia Strehlo has volunteered to be our Refreshment Chair. Sylvia has been with LACSS for several years now and is happy to provide us with our coffee fixes at the meetings.

She will appreciate any assistance you can provide to carry supplies from the cabinet to the counter and back again at the end of the meeting the supplies in the refreshment cabinet need to be replaced in the same place they were in, otherwise they will not all fit back into the space. Thanks to all that help

See you soon. Best,

Joyce
**Announcements**

**How is Norma Doing?**

Many of you have been asking about Norma Lewis, a life member of LACSS. Last week, I had the opportunity to stop by at her new residence, The Gardens at Park Balboa. Norma was eating breakfast, but eager to take me on a tour. She was energetic and talkative, and certainly misses her many friends from the club. Norma was thrilled to share suggestions about succulents, and had this great advice about *Haworthia truncata*: a little more sun. Norma gets around mostly in a wheel chair and loves going outside into the lovely garden. She also enjoys the companionship of her beloved cat. If you have a moment and are in the Kester/Sherman Way area, I encourage you to stop by and pay a visit. Norma is located at 7046 Kester Avenue, Van Nuys, CA 91405 and can be reached through the reception desk at: 818-787-0462, Ext. 303 and she’d love to see you!

*Roxie Esterle*

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**Last Call for Officer Nominations 2018**

The Nominating Committee announces the following positions open for a two year term beginning in January, 2018:

- President
- Vice President, Special Events
- Treasurer
- Director II, Education

Job descriptions will be available to anyone interested at the October meeting. Candidates must have been members of LACSS for at least one year. We are additionally seeking people who would like to serve on board committees, especially the Festival Committee.

A few officers have expressed a willingness to remain in their positions for another term if needed. This gives us a terrific opportunity for bringing new members into leadership positions in an “intern” capacity. Please let a member of the committee know if this possibility entices you!

If you are interested in serving or would like to recommend another person, please contact or email any Nominating Committee member. The slate of candidates will be announced in the November *Cactus Chronicle* and a vote will take place at the November meeting.

Thank you in advance for your participation.

*Roxie Esterle, Chair*
*Karen Ostler*
*Nils Schirmacher*
32nd Annual Inter-City Show and Sale
Volunteers

I am so thankful for all of the LACSS members that gave their time and energy to make the 32nd Annual Inter-City Show and Sale such a success. As such, I want to be sure that all those that volunteered are acknowledged. I apologize for omitting the following members in last month’s Chronicle.

Woody Minnich - Woody was one of our “Walks and Talks” speakers and gave an excellent presentation on how the entries made it to the Trophy Table. Woody is a Life Member of the LA Club and one of our longest time members.

Fern Wallach - Fern volunteered to be one of our clerks and assisted the judges in tabulating the points for the show entries. This was her first time as an Inter-City Show and Sale volunteer. We certainly hope to see her back again next year.

Thank you again to all those that participated.

John Martinez
LACSS Inter-City Show Liaison

The CSSA Convention in Tempe

It was only my second convention and it just whetted my appetite for more! It was hot outside but those who went on the several pre-convention trips all survived quite well and I heard great reports from the trips I did not go on. I visited the Botanic Garden and was very impressed with the sophistication of the growing there and how they handle the heat for their plants: lots of shade cloth! The hotel was quite comfortable and it cooled off some in the evening for those who chose to go elsewhere to eat.

I believe all the attendees had a great time, meeting up with like-minded plant people and enjoying the wonderful presentations. The days were well organized and started with a continental breakfast every morning. There were lively conversations at meals and I think everyone enjoyed their time together. It was wonderful having the large plant/vender sales room right beside the big lecture hall.

Most convenient Congratulations to Laurel Woodley for receiving the CSSA Service Award! After the banquet dinner there was an entertaining talk on The Sex Lives of Cacti and Succulents and we all laughed a lot. There were also a nice variety of plants offered at the auction and a good bookstore brought by Dav Freeman. The local CSSA club cosponsored this event and they did a superlative job! A fine time was had by all!

The next CSSA convention will be in two years, in 2019, in the San Luis Obispo area. Start saving just a little each month so that it will be easy for you to come to that convention.

Warmly,
M.A Bjarkman
2017 Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society!

October 28th & 29th
Sat. 9am – 5pm    Sun. 10am – 3pm

San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
For Directions: www.sdbgarden.org/directions.htm
~ See spectacular succulent specimens from around the world!

~ Show plant judging is Saturday from 11am – 12:30pm, with winners identified after 1pm. The public may follow the judges.

~ All show plants will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday.
~ There will be experts available to answer your questions.

~ Specimen plants for the novice or collector, and handmade ceramic pots, decorative rocks, top dressing, driftwood planters, soil, etc. will be for sale.

ONE STOP SHOPPING! Potting available with purchased items!
Cost: Free with garden admission or garden membership
For more info contact: Brita Miller @ eventcoordinator@palomarcactus.org or 858-776-7216
We’re on Facebook! Website – www.PalomarCactus.org
RARE & EXOTIC SUCCULENT PLANT COLLECTION AUCTION

Saturday, September 30, 2017 ~ 11:00am - 3:00pm

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas 92024
In the Paul Ecke Building
For Directions: www.sdbgarden.org/directions.htm

Sixty plants will be auctioned off. Many species of the following genus: Operculicarya, Pachypodium, Euphorbia, Raphionacme and many more.

~ FOOD AND BEVERAGES WILL BE PROVIDED DURING HAPPY HOUR FROM 11:00AM - 1:00PM ~

- The Auction will be broken down into sections of 8 - 10 items.
- The Silent Auction will begin at 11:00am and end when the last section is closed.
- Starting at 1:00pm, as each section is closed, a “live” auction will take place between the top 3 bidders for each item, giving them a final opportunity to bid.

Garden Admission FREE
for event attendees
inform gate attendant
you are there to attend auction

CONTACT INFO:
Peter Walkowiak
Cell: 858-382-1797
Email: hciservices@gmail.com
The Fall Sale on September 16th was a fantastic success! This was our club's first Fall Sale, and I was pretty sure the only people who might show up would be my Facebook friends and Joyce & Rose's dogs. Instead, we had crowds waiting to come in, and even larger crowds waiting to pay!

The true reasons for the day's success were the Fall Sale committee members who worked tirelessly to help bring the event to fruition, and the club volunteers who really stepped up on Saturday once the hordes of shoppers began to appear.

I'll put together a more detailed article for next month's newsletter, and properly thank all the volunteers and participants, but for now I just wanted to thank everyone who helped, showed up, and shopped!

Thanks,

Kal Kaminer

We welcome all our new members who joined LACSS during our Fall Sale!

Aija Kinstler
Summer Rogers
Johanna Lee
Cindy Stuckey
Brian Fingeret
Valeska Pasqualato
Peter Zeiler
Ramona Bradbury
Elsbeth Kirkpatrick
Kristy Darnell
Susan Kushner
Brigette Reidel
Jance Enslin
Ana Chua
Luz Martinez
Sandy Masuo
Nicole Flaco
Angela Gaudino
Gina Spencer
Brent Spenkie
Rosanna Barela
Pablo Gonzalez
Rafael Serafin
Davidson Family
Emma Lopez
Barry Ramey

More pictures on the Following article for the LACSS Fall Sale.
LACSS Members Perform Succulent Magic for El Nido Family Centers

When we got a call from El Nido Family Centers a few months ago to ask if LACSS could provide 35 succulent centerpieces for their annual gala, the answer was “Of course!” El Nido is a 92 year old community institution, offering services to over 10,000 individuals in child abuse prevention/treatment, youth development, teen parenting, and parent education.

All it took was a call to Kim Chavez and an announcement at our LACSS meeting to get the ball rolling. Many members of our group immediately offered to bring cuttings and come to an assembly party on September 9, 2017. Kim tracked down lovely containers and offered Desert Creations for staging.

Kim Chavez and Kathleen Misko started before 7:00am, and by the time the group arrived, it was set up and ready to go. There were flats of crassulas, cotyledons, senecios, echeverias, portulacarias, and much more to select from. The containers were ready with potting mix, filled by Kim’s mom Tani Bova. Kathleen described the array as a “buffet filled with all good choices.” Mary Chan, Fern Wallach, Gretchen Davis, Roxie Esterle, and her sister Carola Anderson were on hand to assemble the centerpieces. Additional plants were provided by Carol Gaspar, Cheryl White, and several other members who didn’t give us their names. Kathleen and Ilona Buratti made sure the group was well fed.

Please know how much our efforts were appreciated by El Nido, which graciously acknowledged the help of LACSS and Desert Creations in their program.
Third Saturday of the Month Program

When  Saturday, October 21, 2017
Where  Sepulveda Garden Center
Who  Marquita Ellias with her popular program “What’s In A Name?”
Time  Doors open  9:00 am
      Program starts  10:00

If you enjoyed our August program, Gary Duke – “What Kind of Cactus is it?” you will be delighted with Marquita’s presentation of another way to evoke information from a plant name.

Botanical Names Decoded
By Marquita Ellias

Are you one of those people that get confounded or even embarrassed about using the botanical name of a plant? Do those botanical names have any meaning? Do you say to yourself “it’s all Greek or Latin to me” and have no idea how to remember them or even pronounce them? Please join us for a delightful morning of decoding botanical names and learning why we have them and what in the heck do they mean. You’ll find that it’s a fascinating journey. I think you’ll cry out that it’s really “elementary” my dear Watson.

Marquita is the vice-president of the newly formed Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society. Marquita is a member of CSSA and a member of LACSS for six years and has been scheduling programs for four 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.

Bagels, coffee, and water will be available.
Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale
Saturday October 7, 2017

9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Elks Lodge
158 N. Conejo School Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91362

Plant Vendors & Potters
will be featured
along with Experts
to give you tips on growing and cultivation of cactus & succulents.

Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your treasures.

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, are celebrating our one year anniversary with a plant sale. We are excited to share our club’s success with the community. Over 130 members have joined since our first meeting in October 2016.
For more information email to: conejocss@hotmail.com

Our Sale is in conjunction with the Elks Lodge weekly BBQ.
LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK

As the sun sets and 2017 ends, we need to gather with family and friends. It's time for the LACSS Dinner! To celebrate everyone who's a winner. The date you need to remember—is Saturday, the Ninth of December. Bring a dish, be it sweet or hearty, for all to enjoy at the year-end party.

WHEN:
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2017

WHERE:
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.
ENCINO, CA 91316

POTLUCK DINNER, RAFFLE, PLANT AUCTION,
OPTIONAL GIFT EXCHANGE ACTIVITY $15 VALUE
PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH TOTAL POINTS AWARDS!

MEMBERS MUST PROVIDE 8 SERVINGS OF FOOD PER ATTENDEE.
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND MAY BRING ONE GUEST.
PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ITEMS AT THE SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER MEETINGS
OR CALL KANDIE @ 818-625-0699

PLEASE BRING GIFTS AND FOOD BY 4:30PM.
SOCIAL HOUR FROM 4:30 TO 5:00 PM.
DINNER AND PROGRAM STARTS AT 5PM.
TIMELY TIDBITS
Nils Schirrmacher

In the October 1965 Chronicle, editor Virginia Martin reported on The Cacti of Peru, a talk given by club President John Akers. Unable to recall the presentation’s details, Virginia admitted it was “too long to stay alert”. Yes, some meetings are just like that. Plant of the Month contained the overarching category “slender, tuberous cacti of Mexico”, a hodgepodge of genera that included Peniocereus, Wilcoxia, and certain species of Echinocereus. If you’re not familiar with these plants, give ‘em a Google. With Halloween approaching, Murray Skinner penned verse that questioned the fate of a missing cat: “Do you believe he left me here bereft, or does some thief keep him?” Reading further, we discover witches practice such thievery on Hallow’s Eve. You’ve been warned!

Jump forward to October 1977, and another talk on Peru, this time by President Woody Minnich. Woody had procured a set of slides shot by eminent cactologist Werner Rauh, and was happy to share “this part of the cactus world seldom seen by hobbyists”. Hailing from Heidelberg, Professor Rauh spent much of the 20th Century traveling through South Africa, Madagascar, Mexico, and South America, discovering new species. Back in L.A., Walt Wegner received second place in the POM contest, his Mammilaria gracilis entered in the BEGINNER class. By October 2003, Walt had moved up to ADVANCED, taking first place with Rebutia krainziana. Good to know those 26 years weren’t wasted! In his column Cactus Ramblings, Walt offered sage advice, suggesting that packing peanuts be used to “fill and provide drainage” when potting.
Oct. 7    CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - CACTUS & SUCCULENT SALE
9-3PM ELKS LODGE - 158 N. CONEJO SCHOOL ROAD, THOUSAN OAKS CA, 91362
INFO: 805-501-0761

Oct. 14-15    BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3   ST. PAUL’S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304   FREE ADMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-831-8488

OCT. 28-29    PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE
SAT 9-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO hciservices@gmail.com, 858-382-1797

NOV. 4 - 5    SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
9am-4pm BOTH DAYS---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA
INFO: MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052
October Program: “Soil and Staging Workshop”
Presented by: Peter Walkowiak

October Events

Oct. 7  CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - CACTUS & SUCCULENT SALE
9-3PM ELKS LODGE - 158 N. CONEJO SCHOOL ROAD, THOUSAN OAKS CA, 91362
INFO: 805 - 501 - 0761

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