



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

November  
2012

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

For more information

Contact:

LACSS.contact@gmail.com



Next Meeting: November 1, 2012

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*The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.*

## PANAYOTI KELAIDIS Stoned Succulents (NO, not Lithops)

Panayoti Kelaidis represents the Denver Botanical Gardens in educational, professional and promotional endeavors as an expert in horticulture, science and art. He also acts as a liaison to botanical societies, professional horticulture organizations and green industry members, all while serving as a resource to staff, volunteers and members. Panayoti has worked at the Gardens for 30 years in many capacities. Most recently, as the Curator of Plant Collections, where he supervised the curatorial staff and directed inventory, maintenance, interpretation and integrity for over 15,000 kinds of living plants. His far-reaching knowledge of horticulture in the mountainous and dry climate of Colorado has aided Plant Select®, a plant introduction program where Panayoti has helped discover and name numerous plants, as well as disseminate nearly 10 million plants. He designed the plantings for the world-renowned Rock Alpine Garden and helped implement Wildflower Treasures, South African Plaza and the Romantic Gardens among many other gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens. He is best known for having introduced several dozen kinds of *Delosperma* to cultivation, and providing the specimen that became the type of *Delosperma sphalmanthoides*.

### Stoned Succulents (no! Not Lithops)

We Cactus and Succulent lovers usually grow our plants in pots, or on xeriscapes that often feature a boulder or two. But Rock Gardeners have long known that more carefully crafted, rock gardens can often provide niches that allow us to cultivate more challenging plants with ease.

As a card carrying rock gardener for almost half a century (and a succulent lover for just as long) I have incorporated over a thousand kinds of succulents into the various gardens I have built and worked in: I have found that cacti and succulents seem to perform best on rocky habitats, and especially in the recently developed technique called crevice gardening.

I will share some of my 33 years of experience at Denver Botanic Gardens where I have helped develop the cactus and succulent collections (both indoors and out).

Through careful garden design, we have cultivated nearly 200 species of mesembs successfully outdoors, as well as *Othonna*, *Anacampseros*, South African *Euphorbia* and several hundred kinds of cacti from both North and South America.



**Aronia melanocarpa among golden rabbit brush**



**Rock Garden**



**A Candy Store of Perfection**

**NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Hold on to your seats. There's quite a bit of new information here!

**Sepulveda Garden Update**

While the Sepulveda Garden will be an ongoing project for many years to come, we have completed our formal planting for this year. We added nearly 100 new plants, including mammillarias, ferocactus, sansevierias, gasterias, and aloes. We have an "aloe hill" and a shade area, planted under the direction of Artie Chavez and Chris Rogers. We had so much fun working together.

Thank you to the following members for making this possible through your enthusiasm, sweat, and blood (literally): Cheryl White, Steve Frieze, Steve Rudolf, Diane Miller, Kathleen Misko, Jim Esterle, Sylvia Strehlo, Joyce Shumann, Rose Polito, Kim Thorpe, Mary Carroll, Barbara Hall, Gerald Richert, Juana Williams, and John Martinez.

**Nominations for 2013-2014 Officers**

We are happy to announce nominations for the new slate of officers for positions open for 2013 - 2014. Please see the announcement in this Chronicle issue. We will vote on these officers at the November 1 meeting. Thank you Sylvia Strehlo, for chairing the nominating committee.

**Holiday Party – Saturday, December 1 at 5:30 PM**

If you haven't yet attended an LACSS Holiday Potluck Party, you have really missed out on something special. This year's party, coordinated by Barbara Hall ([lbcjhall@aol.com](mailto:lbcjhall@aol.com), 818-368-6914) and Kim Thorpe ([kimokakes1@yahoo.com](mailto:kimokakes1@yahoo.com), 818-679-6548), will add a few new twists. Nils Schirmmacher has designed an original game to start off the evening. The gift exchange will use a new format: the more "desirable" your plant, pot, or other gift, the greater your chance to get a fabulous gift in return. The auction will feature member donations, with all proceeds going directly to our club, so please bring something special. Bring your potluck dish to share at 5:00. Any questions? Just call or email me or Barbara Hall.

This party is fun and free because of the hard work of our members. Please refer to the announcement in this issue so you know how you can help and what you need to bring.

**Membership Renewal**

It's that time of year again. Please bring your checkbook to the November meeting and pay your dues for next year. Dues are still \$20.00 for individuals and \$25.00 for families. If you get mail delivered through the US Postal Service, there is an extra charge of \$5.00 per year for black and white copies. If you pay your dues by December 1, 2012, you will be eligible for a special raffle at the Holiday Party! Please remember: there is no regular meeting in December, as the December Holiday Party replaces it.

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



We are beginning the regular dissemination of information from the CSSA to our Affiliated Clubs once again. 2013 will be a big year for CSSA.

1. Our **Journal Editor**, Tim Harvey is now well indoctrinated into the details of producing the fine Journal that represents our hobby so well. He has promised a regular contribution to your efforts as local Editors and will provide a preview re-cap of each new Journal as it goes to press. Please feel free to use any or all of the material that follows in your local publication. This issue of the Journal will be mailed to members and member clubs in early October, 2012.

2. We are well into the preparation of our **35<sup>th</sup> biennial Convention** to be held in Austin Texas from June 15 to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. There will be much more in the months to come, but your members will appreciate a chance to plan their holiday time with a reminder now of the dates. The web address for the convention is <http://cssa2013.com/>.

**From Tim Harvey:**

*Pediocactus peeblesianus* ssp. *fickeiseniae* is featured on the cover of the Sept-Oct 2012 issue of the *Journal*. It is one of four uncommon, miniature cacti from Northern Arizona which are the focus of an article by Peter Breslin. The sometimes competing areas of ethics, scientific research and conservation are highlighted in a thought-provoking paper from Maurizio Dioli. Irwin Lightstone will open your eyes to the photographic possibilities without color – “The New Black & White” – with valuable tips on getting the most from this technique. Do you know the connection between *Euphorbia antiquorum* and James Bond? Root Gorelick will pass on the secret. Eric Ribbens and Henry Fieldspeth provide a comprehensive and well-illustrated survey of *Opuntia fragilis* in Minnesota. Finally, a century-old conundrum surrounding an *Echinocereus* from Baja has been solved by Michael Lange and Wolfgang Blum, thanks primarily to the internet.



## **THAT WAS FUN....by Kathleen Misko**

I arrived at the garden center at 8:10 on October 6. Thinking I was early by the amount of cars in the parking lot, I casually unloaded my shovel and sauntered over to the garden. What a beehive of activity. All the cars were on the road that parallels the garden, every one digging, planting, and off-loading soil from the truck. I jumped in and was shown where Artie had placed the plants in the spots in the garden where they were to be planted. So, shovel up. HAHA. It went in about half an inch. Fortunately for me, Artie arrived with a pick and in three whacks the hole was dug.

### **NOTE TO SELF...Buy a Pick**

I got the plant out of the container and I do know how to scare the roots. So I hit them with the shovel. Minutes later, Artie appears and stomps on the root ball with his boot. At the same time saying, "they'll be happy later".

### **NOTE TO SELF... Stomp It**

Added some wonderful soil and bounced my shovel around the perimeter and welcomed it to its new home. That was fun. What's next?

Ah. Jim has gone into the mamillaria garden. I'll help him. Well, that section was basic cement. It turned out that the pick that Joyce and Rose brought was the tool of the hour. And the only tool! So it was wait your turn. We shoveled while waiting. And shoveled and shoveled. I'm sure all of you reading know what's next. Wrap it up and stick it in before it sticks you. Good job all.

It seemed like we needed water. Artie tells me that Kim is in the kitchen. She hooks me up with a cooler of water and ice that I roll back to the garden.

There's a spot by the yucca that has been sawed down with some euphorbias, my next focus. What's happened is a system is in place. You wait for the pick, dig your holes then pass the pick on and plant quietly. It was so interesting to see the different techniques of the masters. What an opportunity.

Sylvia and I got into a conversation about how we will be able to visit the garden and watch and admire the planting at we have done. When we walked over to Barbara's area we gasped because of what she had done. She created a river of agaves. We were loving it and told her how creative she was. She replied "well they all broke off so I had to do something with them".

### **NOTE TO SELF... Be Humble**

In the craziest way, time seemed to have stopped. We looked around for more to do and all of the plants were in and it was only 9:30. One and a half hours later we were zapped. Artie's ridge was already in when I got there at 8:10 and I'm not sure what time the big boys started. But we finished at 9:30. **WOWZA!**

Our new member Diane Miller took many photos so we will have a before and every year we should do a photo visit.

### **NOTE TO SELF...Group Shot Next Time**

Guess what we got to do? Eat. Kim and Mary had prepared such an amazing breakfast. Then we attended Bromeliad Society meeting. Then eat again. What a day.

What an opportunity to learn firsthand how to create a garden!

### **NOTE TO SELF...Don't Eat So Much At Breakfast**



Chris Rogers



Steve Rudolph



Kathleen Misko



Steve Frieze & Refugio



Gerald Reichert & Jim Esterle



Artie Chavez, Chris Rogers, Steve Rudolph

**LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**  
**DO NOT MISS THE FUN**

**COME to our SPECTACULAR  
HOLIDAY PARTY**

**December 1, 2012, 5:30 PM**  
**At the Sepulveda Garden Center**  
**16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino**

**Potluck Dinner – Plant Auction – Plant Exchange Activity –  
Plant of the Month Total Point Awards!**

**Each attendee is requested to bring one side dish, salad, or dessert.**  
**Be sure to have all food and gifts at the center between 5-5:30 pm**  
**We need volunteers to help set-up and clean up. Please call**  
**Barbara Hall at (818) 368-6914**

**Come celebrate and have a great time- be prepared to:**

- **Great dinner that includes roast turkey and ham provided by the club (PS: we need 3 cooks to prepare them.... any volunteers?)**
- **Recognition and prizes for Plant-of-the-Month award winners**
- **Optional new plant exchange activity- see details in The President's Message**
- **Party favor plants for all participants**
- **Prize for the best-grown *Tillandsia calcarata* –bring last year's holiday plant to compete in this category**
- **Fabulous auction with all proceeds going to our club. Please bring a plant, pot, book, top dressing, seeds, garden tool or accessory to place in the auction**
- **Free raffle ticket to win a plant to folks who renew their membership by December 1**

**All members are invited and may bring one guest.**  
**Be sure to sign up at the November meeting.**

NOVEMBER 2012

## FROM THE STACKS OF THE LIBRARY

Here we are – almost at the end of the year, again. Since we will be having our Holiday Party in December instead of our regular monthly meeting, this will be the last time for you to check out any reading material till next year. AND, you get to keep it till next year. Just think – an extra month of reading at no extra charge...

And the other side of that coin is – if you have books checked out now, please return them so I can clear my records for this year.

For November, the last 10 years or so of the CSSA Journals will be spread out for your perusal. This will include the CSSA Special issues that are dedicated to a special topic.

The massive number of topics covered in the journals can be a bit daunting if you want to find a specific topic. So, I am going to attempt to give some help to make the search easier. Try this:

Go to CSSA website [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org)

- ❖ In the left hand corner of the home page is a link “Publications.” Click this.
- ❖ Click on “Cactus and Succulent Journal” or the title “Cactus and Succulent Journal”
- ❖ Again in the upper left corner is a “search this site” box.
- ❖ Enter the topic you are interested in (genus, author, travelogue, etc.) [i.e. agave, Steve Hammer, Namibia] and click on GO.
- ❖ A listing of journals and other CSSA publications with that search category will be displayed.
- ❖ Click on the listing that looks promising and look through the index. This should help identify which journals will have the information you are looking for.

So, do your searching on the internet, bring your list to the Library table and CHECK IT OUT!!!

See you in a few days.

Joyce the Librarian



REFLECTIONS  
By Walt Wegner

Maxine & I have been blessed with many travels throughout the world. Mexico is certainly one of our favorites, particularly Baja. Way back in 1987, while on a trip to Mazatlan, we bought a 4-week timeshare in Pueblo Bonito. We have now had these weeks for over 25 years and love PB. We have many, many local friends there. We do our best to speak Spanish while there. I am not an advocate of timeshares but this one has been good for us. We were at PB from 15-29 September this year with our 3rd floor room, a very large balcony facing West. Of course we ate too much.

When we bought our timeshare at PB there were a few trees planted & the rest were in cans awaiting to be planted. The coconut palms are now over 50 feet tall, some 50+ of them. There is an assortment of other palms also, such as fishtail palms and my favorite is the two Bottle Palms. Many Sago palms, *Cycas revoluta*, are also there over 25 years old, two of them are double headed. Another favorite of ours is the Travelers tree, *Ravenala madagascariensis*(sp?) with about 10 of them at PB some 15-20 feet tall and all in bloom with their crablike flowers. These can't compare to the ones at Raffles in Singapore. OK, so we are a cactus and succulent society. There are many *Adenium Obesum*, both in the ground and in pots that bloom year round. Many *Sansevierias* and, of course *Crotons*, which I can't seem to grow here. Up the beach aways is a large outcrop, some 30-40 feet high, with several *Ficus Palmeri*'s spreading all over. My favorite *Palmeri*'s are in Cabo. There are several *Stenocactus Gummosa*'s, very ugly growing.

Since our room faces West, we would sit on our balcony, listen to the ocean and watch the stars overhead. The constellation Scorpio was visible in the South with Anteres, the red star, visible. Overhead the triangle Deneb, Vegas & Altair were also visible. The evening of the 27th we watched the full moon set in the West which cast its light on the ocean and lit it up. There is too much light pollution here to see the stars well. Us old Air force Celestial Navigators still remember the names of some 100 stars. This may have been our last trip to PB with time and tide taking its toll.

Next reflections will be on our two driving trips to Cabo. Walt Wegner.



*Cycas revoluta*

Bottle Palm—many trunks





Mrs. Dent Hayes Robert's Garden, Coronado

## POST FROM PETIOLES PAST: A GARDEN TOUR OF CSSA'S INAUGURAL YEAR

Nils Schirmmacher

As the saying goes, fall is for planting. Unfortunately, our early autumn heat wave has kept me from my garden, stalling all planting until temps return to normal. Helping pass the swelter is a bound volume of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* from its inaugural year of 1929-1930. The CSSA's beginnings have proven a rich field of study, and I have Chris Johnson to thank for its insights: he generously donated several early volumes to our archive.

Hoping that you too are approaching fall with gardening in mind, I thought a tour was in order: an imaginary flight, unbound by space and time, to some of the gardens featured in the *Journal's* first year.

We begin with a heart-shaped bed cultivated in 1895 by Ernest Brauton. An employee of Hollywood's Lyon and Cobbe nursery, Mr. Brauton placed his garden outside the nursery office. Various species of *Opuntia*, *Agave*, *Dudleya*, *Ferocactus*, and *Echinocactus* are arranged within

geometric shapes that radiate from a central circle: the whole of it forming a heart. It is ironic that the composition filled Ernest's downtime: in several years, he will be busy filling orders for the Huntington's nascent Desert Garden.



This bed is an example of Victorian garden design, with evenly spaced specimens laid out in a quilt-like pattern. Its devotional shape also expresses the Victorian penchant for sentimentality.

Our next two stops are homes built in the style of the Spanish Revival. The majority of gardens featured in the *Journal's* first volume compliment this type of architecture, their cacti and succulents accomplices in evoking a mythologized Southwest. With the purchase of a Revival home, owners bought into the lore of California's parched landscape, their rustic residences connecting them to Spanish and Native forbearers.

First we travel south to San Diego's Coronado Island, paying a visit to Mrs. Dent Hayes Robert. Approaching the Robert's seaside home, we see its surrounding garden as it appeared on the cover of the September 1929 issue: towering inflorescences of *Dasylirion* and *Agave* pierce the SoCal sky, while swaying poppies tickle the feet of robust *Echinocactus*. A marine layer wisps through the scene, merging desert flora with the house's adobe walls.

Heading back to Hollywood, we call on Edward Mendel at his hillside residence. Mr. Mendel's collection is planted into terraced beds flanked by his home of white stucco. Winding up a narrow path, we pass Edward's many tree *Euphorbia*, assorted

Southwest and Mexican cacti, and a gathering of septuagenarians: over fifty specimens of *Cephalocereus senilis*.

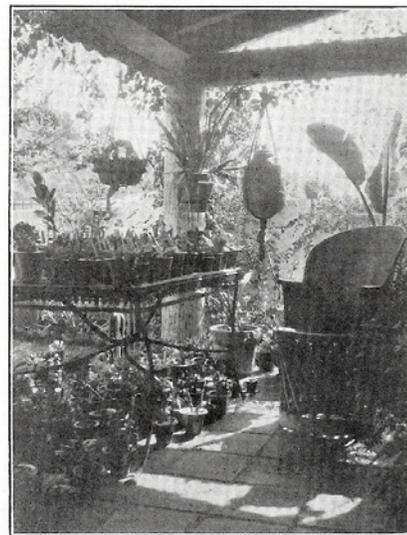


You'll notice that these gardens are reminiscent of the Victorian style, with the same regular spacing between plants, while their overall layout is more relaxed. Still, these plantings look a bit clunky to our contemporary eyes, schooled as we are in the naturalism of the Native Plant Garden, and the Modernist practice of massing succulents to create bold colors and textures.

We move on to humble Edens of idiosyncratic design. Along a twisting drive into Santa Monica Canyon, the bungalow of Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Herbert comes into view. The couple constructed this coastal retreat so they might "drop business and social cares."

Stepping onto a spacious porch, it is apparent the Herbert's preferred mode of escape in tending to their collection. As pictured on the November 1929 *Journal*, the porch contains an ordered assortment of Stepeliads, Mesembs, Echevaria, and Sempervivum. Making use of their canyon locale, the couple focuses on plants that thrive in part-shade, challenging the notion that all xeriphytes relish desert hardpan.

Traveling east of the canyon, we head for the bustle of downtown L.A., where a Mr. Wegner resides at 212 East 24<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Wegner guides the group through his living room, then lands us in a small courtyard whose walls have been trellised with his collection of Epiphyllums. The vertical garden is in full bloom: proof that our boastful host really has mastered the production of Epi blossoms. Surrounding us are the plant's large, silky flowers, forming clouds of scarlet, gold, and shimmering white.



Rushing to catch our train back to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we make an unscheduled stop as green is glimpsed within the hull of a defunct sedan. Approaching the junked car, we are greeted by a boy who proceeds to give us a tour of his cactus collection. His plants occupy shelves constructed within the car's interior, its temperate atmosphere maintained by glass placed across the auto's open top. The ingenuity of this unlikely greenhouse will not be forgotten.

Whether your garden occupies a rambling estate, or lesser properties rented or absconded, realize that your landscaping connects you to gardeners of decades past, sharing a passion with those who are here, gone, and purgatorially preoccupied.

Fall *is* for planting!

## NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the nominations for the new Board positions for 2013.

1st Vice President of Programs  
2nd Vice President of Plant of the Month  
Secretary  
Director 1 (odd years)

Marquita Ellias  
Manny Rivera  
Cheryl White  
Danielle Duboff

TO: LACSS & Desert Creations

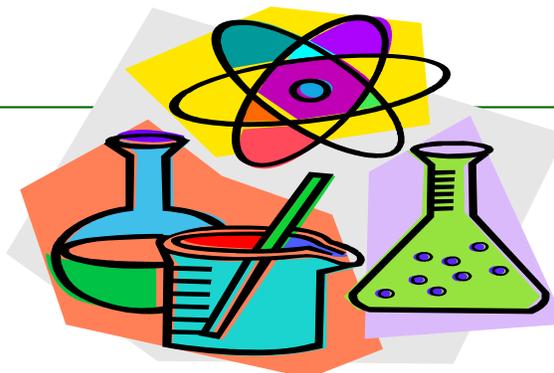
Dear Artie, Kim, Steve & Phyllis,

Thank you so very much for participating in our NASA Night science event at Vintage Magnet Elementary School. I have heard a lot of positive feedback about your exhibit. Our students and their families were excited to see the wonderful and unusual specimens of cactus and succulents that you had on display.

It was a great way for them to see examples of adaptations in living things beyond the snails, crayfish and common houseplants that we usually use.

All the best,

Diane Miller  
Vintage Magnet ES, Science Lab Coordinator



## CSSA NEWS

If you are a member of CSSA and get the Journal you'll notice that it is time to vote for new CSSA officers. The ballot and biographies are in the To The Point insert. Note that ballots must be received by the CSSA Secretary by Dec. 1, 2012.

While you're at it, it is not too early to renew your CSSA membership. Use the application form that can also be found in the To The Point insert. A survey form can also be found on the back of the membership application.

**So, please take a few minutes and complete this survey.** It will allow CSSA leadership a rare opportunity to receive your input and observations regarding the organization. We look forward to receiving this information concerning your experiences and expectations of the society.

John Matthews, CSSA Rep



**LACSS Membership Form (Please print the following information)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Additional Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send me the newsletter by E-Mail  Send me the newsletter by U.S. Mail(\$5 extra fee)

Send me a plastic name badge (\$6.50 each)

Type of Membership: New Member  Renewal

- Single Membership \$20 annually \$10 1/2 year (July or after)
- Family Membership \$25 annually \$12.50 1/2 year (July or after)
- Newsletter by U.S. Mail \$5 fee in addition to the membership charge
- Cash  Check: number \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests \_\_\_\_\_

**PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328**

**Monthly Meeting Refreshments**

Each month different members whose last name begins with a particular letter are requested to furnish refreshments for the club. Below is the list, by month, for 2012.

January	T U V W X Y Z	July	T U V W X Y Z
February	A B C D	August	A B C D
March	E F G H	September	E F G H
April	I J K L M	October	I J K L M
May	N O P Q R	November	N O P R
June	S	December	HOLIDAY PARTY

Members were selected by the approximate number of members attending each meeting.

**Refreshments for the month of November are members whose last names N, O, P, Q, R**

**LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**  
***NEW PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2012***

**Competition Divisions:**

Rookie: 0 – 25 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “rookie” award points  
Novice: 1 - 100 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “novice” award points  
Advanced: Over 100 combined 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place “novice” award points  
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but this is required for individuals who **sell** at shows outside of LACSS.

**Submissions:**

Members may submit 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 submissions	1 point per plant to acknowledge entry

Entry slips are collected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

	<b><i>Cacti</i></b>	<b><i>Succulent</i></b>
January	Mammillaria	Othonna & Senecio
February	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
March	Variegates	Variegates
April	Echinocereus	Haworthia
May	Echinopsis	Gasteria
June	Cephalium bearing cacti	Adenium
July	Eriosyce	Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia - Caudiciform Type
October	Parodia (includes Notoactus)	Stemless Mesembs - no Lithops
November	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon
December	<b><i>Holiday Party</i></b>	<b><i>Holiday Party</i></b>

### NOVEMBER EVENTS

**November 3 & 4 San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society  
Show & Sale  
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue  
Arcadia, CA**

### OCTOBER NEW MEMBERS

**Will be included in December Chronicle**

# October Plant of the Month Winners

Novice Division		
Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Jim Esterle	Euphorbia ornithopsis
Second	Ronit Weiss	Euphorbia suzannae
Third	Jim Esterle	Euphorbia namuskluftiensis
Cactus - Gymnocalycium		
First	Sylvia Strehlo	?
Second	Sylvia Strehlo	?
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	?
Third		
Advanced Division		
Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Eric Winegar	?
Second	Eric Winegar	?
Third	Rio Cernak	Euphorbia persistens
Cactus - Gymnocalycium		
First	Cheryl White	Gymnocalycium denudatum
Second	Cheryl White	Gymnocalycium horsortii
Third	Rio Cernak	Gymnocalycium cardenasianum
Third	Rio Cernak	Gymnocalycium pflanzii
Open Division		
Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Norma Lewis	Euphorbia francoiss
Second	None	
Third	None	
Cactus - Gymnocalycium		
First	John Matthews	Gymnocalycium obductum
Second	None	
Third	None	

# Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month November 2012 - *Frailea* and *Blossfeldia*

The genus *Frailea* is endemic to South America and can be found in Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. They are typically attractive small globose plants that don't exceed two inches in diameter. This genus can be a solitary grower or form cluster depending on the species. *Frailea* were named from a Spaniard, Manuel Fraile, who spent numerous years maintaining the U.S. Department of Agriculture cactus collection. The spines on *Frailea* are short and feeble compared to other members of the cactucea family. *Frailea* often produce a yellow flower which can be larger than the body of the plant itself. They bloom during the heat of the day for just a few hours before they retreat. *Frailea* are known as cleistogamous plants meaning that the flower often times will not emerge from the plant body and will actually self-pollinate inside the specimen.



***Frailea phaeodisca* from south of Pedras Altas country side**



***Frailea castanea***



***Frailea mammifera***

*Blossfeldia* is a monotypic genus with the lone species, *Blossfeldia liliputana*, found in northwestern Argentina and southern Bolivia in mountainous areas often close to waterfalls. This plant is known as the smallest cacti in existence. The species name *liliputana* was taken from the fictional society found in Gulliver's Travels.



**Blossfeldia liliputana**

Blossfeldia liliputana produces diurnal flowers that are typically pink or white. The Blossfeldia body has no ribs, tubercles, or spines but does possess clumps of white wooly-like hair. This plant was named after Harry Blossfeld, a noted German born horticulturist who died in Brazil in 1986.

References:

David Hunt, **The New Cactus Lexicon**

Tom Glavich July 2005  
Edited by Steve Frieze, August 2009

## Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Succulent of the Month November 2012 - Tylecodon

*Tylecodon* is a member of the *Crassulaceae* Family. It is a winter-growing plant which looks at its best from late fall through early spring.



*Tylecodon pearsonii*

*Tylecodon* is a relatively new genus first published in 1978. In books published before this date, most plants that we know today as *Tylecodon* will appear as *Cotyledon*. The name *Tylecodon* is actually an anagram of the plant genera *Cotyledon*. In habitat (this typically occurs in cultivation as well), *Tylecodon* are generally deciduous, losing their leaves in summer.

*Tylecodon* consists of about 46 species among them the relatively ubiquitous species *Tylecodon paniculatus*. They are described as a small shrubby plant and originate from South Africa and Namibia.

The leaf structure is comprised of a coiled grouping of leaves (often vertical and needle-like) which emerge in late summer or early fall. Flowers appear at the end of the growing cycle in late winter or early spring. *Tylecodons* vary in shape and size with some species

being as small as an inch while other can reach 6 feet in height.

Most *Tylecodon* are valued for their caudex-like stem structure and are relatively hardy in Southern California. Excessive watering during their dormant season can cause rot. Cutting can be rooted rather easily and are a good way to propagate this plant



*Tylecodon paniculatus in habitat*

### References

H. Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

M Sajeve and M. Costanzo, **Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Tom Glavich December 2002  
Edited, Steve Frieze November 2009

**General Meeting** starts at 7:00 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.  
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:00 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society *ONLINE* at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

**Upcoming Program for**  
**November 2012**

**Panayoti Kelaidis**  
**Curator of Plant Collections**  
**Denver Botanical Gardens**

**First Class Mail**

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

**November 1, 2012**

**Next Meeting:**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328**

**CACTUS CHRONICLE**  
**November 1, 2012**  
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