



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

## CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**November 3, 2016**

**16633 Magnolia Blvd.**  
**Encino, CA 91346**

**Doors Open**  
**at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins**  
**at 7:00pm**

**Refreshments for:**  
**November**

**Last names starting**  
**with I – M**

**New Members in**  
**October**

Sheila Rode  
 Jeff Willmot  
 Carol Gaspar  
 Fern Burg

**WEBSITE:**  
 Visit us at:  
[Lacactus.com](http://Lacactus.com)

**EMAIL:**  
[lacss.contact@gmail.com](mailto:lacss.contact@gmail.com)

**Editor**  
**Jose J Villarreal**  
[jo.villa818@gmail.com](mailto:jo.villa818@gmail.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.

## November Program:

### Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera; Argentina and Chile

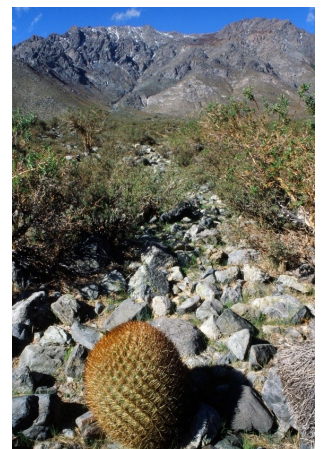
by **Rob Skillin**

This month's program will feature the cacti from the region of the Andes Mountains of Argentina, Chile and Bolivia – spanning both sides of the Andes – from the Atacama Desert on the west, to the foothills above the Argentinian pampas on the east.



I've made several trips through South America, from which I have put together this program of habitat shots of cacti ranging from the smallest of the small (*Blossfeldia liliputana* and *Copiapoa laui*) to the truly large (*Trichocereus* and *Eulychnia*) – with a few succulents thrown in for good measure. I have been growing cacti and succulents for nearly 40 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time, starting with the San Diego C&SS in the 1970's, then to the Santa Barbara and Bakersfield clubs. I currently belong to the Central Coast C&SS of which I was a founding member, first President and first Show and Sale Chairman. I have been involved with the CSSA as a member of its Board of Directors, and a CSSA certified Judge.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I enjoy photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during my botanical explorations of the western US, Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. I have several programs based on these trips, and I speak regularly to clubs in northern and southern California. Many of my photographs have been published as illustrations for articles and covers of the *Journal: Haseltonia*, as well as, *The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World*.



## 2016 Officers

### **President**

Joyce Schumann  
**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs**

Marquita Elias  
**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month**

Manny Rivera  
**3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events**

Diane Miller

### **Secretary**

Cheryl White  
[LACSS.contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.contact@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Gretchen Davis  
**Director 1 Odd Years**

### **Membership**

Danielle Duboff  
**Director 2, Even Years**

Ron Behar

### **Past President**

Roxie Esterle

### **LACSS Show Chair**

Jim Esterle  
**Show Committee**

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

### **Webmaster**

Kim Thorpe

### **Librarian**

Susan Phillips

### **Historian**

Nils Schirmmacher

### **Cactus Chronicle Editor**

Jose J Villarroel

### **Inter-City Show Liaison**

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze

### **CSSA Representative**

John Matthews

### **Education Chair**

Kyle Williams

### **Drawing & Plant Procurement**

Richard Roosman

### **Mentor Program Chair**

John Suci

### **Member at Large**

Kathleen Misko

### **Cactus Garden Chair**

Chris Rogers

### **Cactus Chronicle Distribution**

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

### **Holiday Party Chairpersons**

Kandi and Don Soderstrom

### **Holiday Party Awards**

### **Procurement**

Gerald Reichert

### **Cactus Garden**

Chris Rogers

### **Meeting Refreshments**

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

### **Publicity**

Kim Thorpe

### **Monthly Drawing**

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

## President's Message

## November, 2016

If it seems like there is always a call for volunteers for this or that, I will admit it might be just a tad accurate. So, I will take this opportunity to remind everyone of the benefits that the club offers.

**One** – Our Library. We have one of the largest selection of books available by any club. Only a book dealer has more to offer. The oldest volume we have is a reprint of an 18th century monograph of “The Cactus and Other Tropical Succulents” and the newest is “Aloes and Agaves” printed in 2016. (See our Librarian’s review in a separate column.) In addition, we have a complete collection of CSSA Journals beginning in the 1970s. You may check out two books for a whole month of fascinating literature.

**Two** –Our vendors. As a member, you are welcome to bring two flats of plants or plant related items and join the other members who share their wares and wisdom with everyone. You may choose to do this only once or every month, your choice. On the other side of the vendors table are the rest of us. We benefit by having easy access to a varied assortment of plants, etc , that are accompanied with the back story of each plant and/or pot. Try getting THAT kind of attention from the big box stores!

**Three** – Raffle. Here is another chance to add to your collection at a reasonable cost. Our “Plant Procurement” person either purchases plants or encourages others to donate plants to the raffle. All items are of high quality, some are close to being rare. If you have a plant that you no longer want, and is too good for the “Freebie” table but maybe not competition quality, feel free to add it to the raffle line-up. Be sure to let Richard know that you are donating it.

**Four** – Plant of the Month. This is the educational component of our meeting. In each Chronicle, Kyle Williams (Education) provides an entertaining and detailed description of the POMs. Manny Rivera, (VP-POM), always gives a very thorough explanation of the ranking of the winners. Each participant receives points for participation and/or winning, and will be recognized at the Holiday Awards Dinner.

Well, I could go on and on. This Chronicle, the Mentoring Program, the Special Events, the Festival, and the Holiday Dinner, all deserve mention and that will happen in another Chronicle at another time.

The 3rd Saturday of the Month activity focused on the clean-up of the Sepulveda Garden Cactus Garden. The Stalwart Six raked, weeded, trimmed, and cleaned up quite a bit of accumulated growth. This is an on-going project and easier to tackle in smaller increments. We are thinking of scheduling a clean-up day during the week. If that interests you, let me know.

See you soon.

Joyce



## It's November-I,J,K,L & M

Reminder, it's your turn to bring goodies to sustain us during our meeting on Thursday, November 3rd.

If your last name begins with any of these letters listed at the top, this means you. Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, Chips & Dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches, burritos, pizza... you name it, we will heat & serve it. Yes we have an oven, and microwave. Its nice to have real food at the start of the meeting as well as the break, drinks are also welcome.

Thanks.  
LACSS



# Holiday Awards Dinner - 2016

## Updates on a few activities

### Auction

Tim Harvey and John Martinez have agreed to be the auctioneers extraordinaire!

Auction plants are from our members and will be donated as 100% donation to the club or as a 70/30 split with the member receiving 70% of the sale price and LACSS receiving 30%. Someone will be at the auction table to receive your donation. Make sure you fill out the information paper.

### The Gift Exchange

This continues to be a popular item. At the last meeting, by consensus, we agreed that the gift exchange item should not exceed \$15 in value. Plants do not need to be wrapped. Non-plant items should be wrapped.

### Deposit

The \$5 deposit/person will be returned to you at the Dinner. If you sign up and do not attend, the deposit is non-refundable.

The sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting.

This is the fun time event of the year for everyone to enjoy.

All participants in the Plant of the Month competition will be recognized.

## “What Did I Miss?” or “I didn’t hear that!!” November meeting, 2016

The meeting was called to order by recognizing one new member and two visitors. This was followed with an explanation and apology for the late distribution of the Chronicle. Contributors were reminded of the importance of the submission deadline.

- ❖ Linda Holub, President of the new Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society, thanked LACSS for our contribution to help them get started. See attached photo of the presentation check. They had at least 75 attendees at their first meeting (in a room rated for 50!) Linda also presented the LACSS President with a very heartfelt thank you note.
- ❖ John Suciu gave an update of the nominations for the November election. A few slots remain open. In addition to the elected position, several appointed positions were vacated and filled. The final announcement will be published in the November Chronicle.
- ❖ Kandie Soderstrom gave an update on the Holiday Dinner. It will be much like last year’s event. She donated some flower pots for members to take home and plant to be used as our table center pieces.
- ❖ Although Manny Rivera could not attend the meeting, he made available the flyer for the November San Gabriel Winter Show and Sale.
- ❖ Since the LACSS refreshment committee are also now Founding Members of the CCSS, they felt they needed to focus on their new duties. We are looking for two members to fill this important position. *{Consider this to be a Want Ad.}*
- ❖ The third Saturday of October was dedicated to the clean-up of the Sepulveda Garden Cactus Garden. Please join us.
- ❖ Nancy Neymark presented a map to show the distribution of Festival visitors and members. This will aid us in determining the effectiveness of our publicity efforts. It is a work in progress.
- ❖ Storage cabinets have been reorganized. Please replace items in their assigned place.
- ❖ Tim Harvey served double duty as our judge for POM and as our featured speaker. POM not only had a possible future winner in the “Tim Harvey Plastic Pot” winner but included several VERY rare and difficult-to-grow plants. Congrats to all participants.
- ❖ Tim’s slide show subject was not a *plant* but a unique method of photographing the plants.

The evening was concluded with the eagerly anticipated raffle. Richard continues to obtain quality and unusual plants and other items for this purpose.

Joyce

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Joyce



## Plant of the Month: Variegates



Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many *Agave*) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words the plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.



Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll (achlorophyllus), such as the brightly colored grafted *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are technically not variegated, but are considered so for the purposes of cacti and succulent shows. Keep in mind, a plant is *not* variegated just because the leaves have colored areas. It must be partially lacking chlorophyll as well.

Variegated plants normally have white or yellow patches and streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom, but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegata appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!

Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Intercity Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "*Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category except for variegation in Agave, Gasteria, Sansevieria.*"

Continued on next page..



## Plant of the month: Variegates

In general, variegated plants grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll "soaks up" the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegated plant of any species is truly an achievement.

### Examples of Variegated Succulents and Cacti



**Agave** – (on left) Variegates of a number of *Agave* species exist. One of the most fascinating is *Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor' This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe. The fourth color in 'Quadricolor' is seen in the reddish teeth.

**Aeonium** – *Aeonium* 'Sunburst' and *A.* 'Kiwi' (on right) are by far the most commonly seen *Aeonium* variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as *A. castello-paivae*, *A. balsamiferum*, and even *A. tabuliforme*. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as *A.* 'Atropurpureum' and *A.* 'Zwartkop' are not considered variegates.



**Cacti** - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, especially the grafted *G. mihanovichii* cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately they are somewhat tricky to grow and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows. These less commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable



**Haworthia** – Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in *Haworthia*. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on *Haworthia* (and the closely related *Gasteria*). A Google search for "Japanese *Haworthia*" will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of *H. truncata* can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!



## Mentoring Session

### Aeoniums

A mentoring session on Aeoniums will be held Sunday November 20 at 2 PM. The session will be held at Marquita Ellias's home at 1961 Via Montecito in Camarillo. if you plan to attend, please contact Marquita at:

**(805) 496-9344 or email: [kitakactus@hotmail.com](mailto:kitakactus@hotmail.com)**

Marquita has been a member of LACSS for many years and has served on the board as 1<sup>st</sup> VP Programs for the last 4 years; she is also very active in the new Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society. Several years ago she traveled to the Canary Islands to study Aeoniums in their native habitat.

If you have any questions or suggestions about the Mentoring Program please contact me.

John Suciu

**805-374-7306**

[Johns.three@gmail.com](mailto:Johns.three@gmail.com)

## Library Blurbs

We have a beautiful new book in our LACSS Library entitled "Aloes & Agaves in cultivation" by Jeff Moore. Aloes are from Africa. Agaves are from North America. Aloes bloom yearly. Agaves bloom once and die. I knew this, but had never seen it put so succinctly and this was just on the inside cover! This book is filled with beautiful photos from nurseries, botanic and private gardens (and in habitat, because he just couldn't help himself) showing the wide ranging shapes and colors of leaves and flowers. They come in multiple forms, such as trees, clumping, hedge, spotted, variegated, needle-leaved and climbing. He gives you suggestions when planting with shapes, sizes, and weather considerations. Propagation tips are also included. Even though the title mentions only aloes and agaves, he includes information about some of their "cousins" like gasterias, haworthias, yuccas, hesperaloes, mangaves, dracaenas and more.. something for everyone. This book is a pleasure and I hope you can all get a chance to enjoy it. Check out the Agave pelona on Page 291. My shopping list over-floweth!!

Susan Phillips - Librarian

## LACSS Membership 2017

Can you believe another year has gone by because I cannot!

2016 just flew by with so much LACSS excitement and activity. Our membership is the best ever with so many new and enthusiastic members! A big round of applause to our Leadership Team and to all of YOU!

November and December are membership renewal months with a big raffle at our December Holiday Party. With that said, I will be accepting 2017 membership renewals at the November Monthly Meeting so bring your check book and get ready for another fantastic year full of fun and excitement! Membership will stay the same, \$20 for individual and \$25 for a family. Contact me if you have any questions at: [danielle.duboff@yahoo.com](mailto:danielle.duboff@yahoo.com)

### Some pictures to share from the Membership Team



**Plant of the Month  
2016**

**November**  
Variegated

**December**  
Holiday Party

**Plant of the Month  
2017**

**January**  
Copiapoa  
Tylecodon

**February**  
Escobaria  
Acharragma  
Aloe Clusters  
(no larger than 6" pot)

**March**  
Echinopsis  
Euphorbia Caudiciform

**April**  
Mammillaria  
w/out hooks  
Bromeliad

**May**  
Small cactus  
staged as miniature  
Small Succulent  
staged as miniature

**June**  
Favorite

**July**  
Stenocactus  
Echinofossulocactus  
Pachypodium/Africa

**August**  
Melocactus  
Euphorbia Caudiciform

**September**  
Opuntia N. America  
Sanseveiria

**October**  
Grafted Cactus  
Grafted Succulent

**November**  
Ariocarpus  
Agave

**Plant of the Month - October Results**

**Cactus -- Mammillaria with hooks**

**Rookie**

First	Sonia Villarroel	Mammillaria bocasana
Second	Matthew Gaskill	Mammillaria perezdelarosae
Second	Gretchen Davis	Mammillaria perezdelarosae
Third	Gretchen Davis	Mammillaria guelzowiana
Third	Betty Chevillat	Mammillaria rettigiana

**Novice**

First	Efren Flores	Mammillaria dioica
Second	Efren Flores	Mammillaria dioica
Third	Linda Holub	Mammillaria bocasana pioseiflora

**Advanced**

First	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria bombycina
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**Open**

First	Karen Ostler	Mammillaria wrightii
Second	Karen Ostler	Mammillaria zephyranthoides
Third	Karen Ostler	Mammillaria tetrancistra

**Succulents -- Asclepiad**

**Rookie**

First	Sonia Villarroel	Huernia humpatana
First	Sonia Villarroel	Huernia crestata
Second	Nicki Larsen	Stapelia gigantea
Third	Betty Chevillat	?

**Novice**

First	Kim Jacobi	Raphionacme flanaganii
Second	Roxie Esterle	Raphionacme flanaganii
Third	Roxie Esterle	Fockea comaru
Third	Kim Jacobi	Matalea cyclophylla

**Advanced**

First	Kathryn Boorer	Whitesloanea crassa
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Ceropegia simnoae
Second	John Suci	Fockea edulis
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Pseudolithos caput-viperae



## **Cactus & Succulent - Calendar of Upcoming Events For 2016**

- November 5-6** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society presents:  
The 23rd Annual Winter Show & Sale  
9 AM - 4PM Both Days at: LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave.,  
Arcadia  
**INFO: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052**
- December 10** HOLIDAY DINNER ( details will be given at the November meeting)



Mailing Address  
LACSS  
PO BOX 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

Website: [www.LAcactus.com](http://www.LAcactus.com)

Email: [lacss.contact@gmail.com](mailto:lacss.contact@gmail.com)

## **November Program:**

**“Cacti of the Central Andean Cordillera; Argentina and Chile”**

**By: Rob Skillin**

## **November Events**

### **November 5-6**

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