



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

## 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.

## CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting**  
**October 1, 2015**

**Thursday**  
**16633 Magnolia Blvd.**  
**Encino, CA 91356**

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

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

**Refreshments**  
**N-R**

## New Members

Sharon Aisenman  
Patricia Carapellucci  
Richard Dier  
Edwin Garcia  
Georgia Roiz  
Trudi Roth  
David Safrany  
Pat Bault-Villegas  
Jan Wittenberg

Phyllis Frieze, Editor  
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Email:  
Lacactus.com

## Program: Botanical Names Decoded

Presented By Marquita Ellias and Joyce Schumann

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 evening 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.

Joyce and Marquita are the President and Vice-President of LACSS, respectively. We've wanted to give this program for over a year now and with each other's encouragement we finally have a finished product.

We hope that you enjoy the presentation as much as we enjoyed putting it together.



Marquita Ellias



Joyce Schumann

## 2015 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**

John Martinez

### **Secretary**

Cheryl White

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

### **Treasurer**

Kathryn Boorer

### **Director 1 Odd Years**

#### **Membership**

Danielle Duboff

### **Director 2, Even Years**

David Le

### **Past President**

Roxie Esterle

### **LACSS Show Chair**

Artie Chavez

### **Show Committee**

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

### **Webmaster**

Kim Thorpe

### **Librarian**

Susan Phillips

### **Historian**

Nils Schirmacher

### **Cactus Chronicle Editor**

Phyllis Frieze

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

### **CSSA Representative**

John Matthews

### **Education Chair**

Kyle Williams

### **Drawing & Plant Procurement**

Richard Roosman

### **Mentor Program Chair**

John Suciu

### **Member at Large**

Kathleen Misko

### **CGCI Liasion**

Natalie Welsh

### **Cactus Garden Chair**

Chris Rogers

### **Cactus Chronicle Distribution**

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

### **Holiday Party Chairperson**

Barbara Hall

### **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*

*October, 2015*

We have good news! After much effort, writes, and rewrites, LACSS has finally submitted an application to the Encino Neighborhood Council for the purpose of securing a grant to fund the Kid's day activities of our Festival. The ENC Parks committee approved the application and has forwarded it to the entire Board for consideration. So we wait with crossed fingers. Kudos to Roxie for her never wavering resolve to complete this tedious and challenging documentation! Thank you so much!!

The Member Surveys that were submitted last month have been tallied and the results/comments passed on to the Strategic Planning Committee for consideration. We thank all of you who took the time to share your thoughts and suggestions.

To keep the new members in the loop of our monthly meeting activities, I will attempt to give an overview of some of our main activities. I will start with Plant of the Month.

This is one of the educational aspects of our club. Each month, one cactus and one succulent "group" will be featured. Every effort is made to not feature the same plants again and again to challenge our members to expand their collections and interests. You may have noticed the POM Interns accompanying Manny Rivera as he judges the plants. They are randomly selected – sometimes it is someone standing close to the front of the room, sometimes it is someone who looks like they want something to do. Or maybe they just walked through the door. This is our way of giving you a chance to be up close and personal to the judging process and is a valuable experience if you are showing plants in the various club competitions. During the judging session, they discuss the merits of each plant, the staging, and the nomenclature using the same criteria against the other plants in the same category. If you would like to be a POM intern, feel free to let Manny Rivera or me know. This experience will enhance your knowledge, and help you prepare your plants for future competitions. The "Plant of the Month Policies" is found on the back of our member roster and details the criteria for entering a plant, judging a plant, and the points awarded. If you have any questions regarding the POM process or criteria, feel free to ask. We all learn from these questions. Don't be shy! Manny's discussion of the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place plants is always full of information regarding light requirements, water and feeding recommendations and other tidbits of geographical or historical interest.

The introduction of the preview plants is to help everyone identify the plants for the next month. How many times have you said "Oh, I have one of those! I could have entered it." We might have entered our Eriosyce if we knew what it looked like. If you aren't sure of the name of your plant, bring it in and place it near the red sign that says "Plant Identification." Maybe you will have a winner next month.....

Until then,  
Joyce

## Plant of the Month 2015

**October**  
Miniatures

**November**  
Crests and Monstrose

**December**  
Holiday Party

## Plant of the Month 2016

**January**  
Blossfeldia, Frailea ,  
Yavia  
Bulbs

**February**  
Gymnocalycium  
Clusters  
Aeonium

**March**  
Echinocereus  
Conophytum

**April**  
Parodia, Notocactus  
Haworthia

**May**  
Small cactus staged as  
a miniature  
Small succulent staged  
as a miniature

**June**  
Favorite

**July**  
Rebutia, Sulcorebutia  
Weingartia

**August**  
Astrophytum  
Adenium

**September**  
Turbinicarpus  
Gymnocactus  
Cyphostema  
Cissus

**October**  
Mammillaria with hooks  
Asclepiad

## Plant of the Month

### Succulent -- Didiereaceae

#### Rookie

First	Kim Jacobi	Alluadia procera
Second	Jennifer Bensi	Alluadia procera
Third	Richard Roosman	Didieria trollii

#### Novice

First	David Le	Cerraria pygmaea
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Didieria madagascariensis
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Alluadiopsis fiherenensis

#### Advanced

First	Barbara Hall	Didierea madagascariensis
Second	Barbara Hall	Ceraria pygmaea

#### Open

First	Manny Rivera	Ceraria namaquensis
Second	Manny Rivera	Ceraria pygmaea
Third	Manny Rivera	Ceraria fruticulosa

### Cactus -- Cериodes

#### Rookie

First	Linda Holub	?
Second	DiAne Cabanne	Echinocereus rigidissimus v. rubispinus
Third	DiAne Cabanne	Echinocereus reichenbachii
Third	Linda Holub	Stetsonia coryne

#### Novice

First	Kathryn Boorer	Echinocereus pentalophus 'lumpy'
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Echinocereus rigidissimus crest
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Echinocereus purpureus crest
Third	David Le	Cerraria namaquensis

## Nominations for LACSS Board

Each year several LACSS Board positions become available and a Nominating Chairman is appointed by the Board to fill those positions. The Nominating Chairman in turn selects two additional members from the over-all membership to form the Nominating Committee. This year the Board selected John Suciu to chair the Nominating Committee; he in turn selected Diane Miller and Nancy Neymark to complete the committee.

This year 4 Board Positions are open and need to be filled; they are:

President  
Treasurer  
Vice President, Special Events  
Director

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for any of these positions please contact Diane Miller, Nancy Neymark or John Suciu. Candidates for each of these positions will be posted in the next newsletter and the vote will be held at the November Meeting.

## Refreshments

### Coffee

### Veggies

### Snacks

Refreshments are an important part of our social “hour” at our meetings. LACSS provides coffee and paper goods. But, where do all the goodies come from? Do they just appear? Is it planned?

Here’s how it works: Look at the side bar column of the Chronicle’s front page. You will notice a listing similar to “**Refreshments U thru Z.**” The membership is divided up alphabetically trying to keep each group with about the same number of members. If your last name starts with one of those letters, it’s your turn to bring some munchies. There is no expectation that you bring enough to feed everyone in attendance. The rule of thumb is something that would feed 8-10 people. Sometimes, we are not able to attend the meeting when it is our turn. What to do? What to do? Hmmmm Let’s see.....How about bringing something the month before or the month after???? That would work. Actually, you may bring a munchie anytime you feel like it. It is always appreciated.

One caveat – if you bring a personal serving dish or utensil, make sure you retrieve it before we clean up at the end of the meeting. Putting your name on it helps to identify owners, if left behind.



When in doubt, please feel free to contact our Refreshment Committee, Lisa Gailey or Linda Holub. Our thanks to Linda and Lisa for always setting a beautiful table! And, a big **Thank You** to all of our members who are so generous with the great repast.

# **Spectacular End of the Year Sale** **Desert Creations Nursery**

**Saturday, October 10**  
**Sunday, October 11**  
**9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

The following discounts will apply to plant purchases made on these days:

Ceramic pots, staged plants, gift items and tools will receive a 10 % reduction if they exceed \$100 for a single purchase or in combination with other items

*Purchases over \$100 receive a 10 % reduction*  
*Purchases over \$200 receive a 20 % reduction*  
*Purchases over \$300 receive a 30 % reduction*

Also available will be plants from  
the Charles Spotts Collection.  
There is a large selection of Specimen plants.  
No discount will be applied to these plants.

Located in the San Fernando Valley  
18161 Parthenia St., Northridge, California 91325

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information or visit us at  
<https://m.facebook.com/DesertCreationsNursery> and  
[www.desertcreations.net](http://www.desertcreations.net)

**DON'T MISS THE FUN!!**

**LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
HOLIDAY PARTY**

Saturday, December 12, 2015, 5:00 PM  
The Kiwanis Club of Northridge  
Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind  
7901 Lindley Blvd., Reseda

**Potluck Dinner - Raffle - Plant Auction  
Gift Exchange Activity  
Plant-of-the Month Total Points Awards!**

Each attendee is requested to bring one side dish, salad, or dessert. Please have all food and gifts at the center between 4:30-5:00PM. Contact Barbara Hall @ 368-6914 or email: [lbcjhall@aol.com](mailto:lbcjhall@aol.com). There will be a \$5.00 deposit/per person when you sign up; deposit returned at the party. Please signup if you are attending by December 1.

The club will provide the catered portion of the dinner: Succulent roast turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, ham, traditional stuffing and servers to set up & clean up.

- Recognition & prizes for Plant-of-the-Month award winners
- Plant/Gift Exchange (optional)
- Fabulous auction will allow members to contribute items with a 70/30 split (30% to the club). Donated items are appreciated.
- Two raffle opportunities this year! One raffle for early Membership Renewal (by Dec.1) & one raffle for a chance to win a beautifully staged cactus or succulent by Artie Chavez (2 winners)

**All members are invited and may bring one guest. More details to follow.**

# Succulent Bonsai Workshop

## An Introduction for LACSS

On Saturday, September 19, LACSS members were treated to an excellent mentoring workshop by Nils Schirmacher. Before we could begin, LACSS members had to check out his plants, a study of gardening in small spaces. As would be expected of Nils, his perfectly-organized summer and winter growers situated in different areas, each specimen with meticulously sifted top dressing. We were impressed by how rapidly his plants had grown and Nils' use of large pots to promote growth in *Bursera* and *Commiphora* species.

Nils began with an informative slide show on the history of the art of bonsai, selecting the exact points where the principles of bonsai intersected with staging succulents, quoting Kyuzo Murata:

*The art of bonsai has as its prime object the reproduction of the dignified beauty of an aged tree that has survived centuries of exposure to the rigors and relentless forces of nature and its environs.*

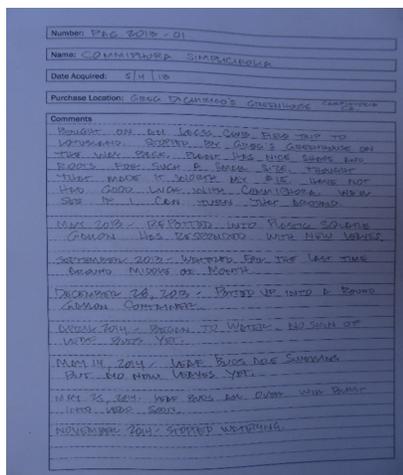
We each received a handout packet of information and references, and surely Amazon has been buzzing with orders from those of us purchasing used books.

Then we went outside for a demonstration on selecting, transplanting, and pruning/pinching succulents, following specific principles. Nils used *Bursera* and *Commiphora* plants obtained from Desert Creations, and we enjoyed the moment of unearthing the specimens to discover how the roots had grown, suggesting future structure and position.

This workshop, organized by John Suci, reminds us of what's so special about LACSS. Nine members, including two new members, were able to attend. The morning was topped off with Nils' wife Melinda graciously serving lemon bars and brownies. My guess is that all of us rushed home to assess our own collections for good bonsai candidates. As Kathleen Misko puts it, "Here's my new obsession."



Nils addressing the LACSS members



Although difficult to see: this is a page from Nils' notepad he keeps on his nightstand



LACSS Club Members

## Cactus & Succulents of the Month: *Miniatures*



*Blossfeldia liliputana*

This month we aren't focusing on a specific genus or family of plants. Instead we will look at a growth form that everyone has space to grow, miniatures! It is important to note that because we are dealing with a descriptive term, not a botanical one, there is no hard and fast rule for what a miniature plant is. For our meeting we'll be a little more relaxed and allow juvenile forms, and pots no larger than a 4" diameter.

A miniature is not necessarily the same thing as a dwarf plant. For example, a number of *Agave* species are considered dwarf sized because they only get a couple feet in diameter. That is very small

compared to a huge *A. americana* that can be 10 feet or more across, but isn't really what we mean by miniature. Another example would be a *Bursera microphylla*, the Elephant Tree, which can form a huge shrub or small tree. It is often grown as a caudiciform bonsai just a couple feet tall. That plant has been dwarfed but it still is not a miniature!



*Neohenricia sibbetti*

So what are some examples of true miniatures? Two great examples for cacti would be *Copiapoa laui* and *Blossfeldia liliputiana*, the two smallest species in the family. They both form small clumps, but individual heads are usually 1/2" or less in diameter. Even slightly bigger species such as *Ortegocactus macdougalii*, *Mammillaria theresae*, or *Puna clavaroides* are ideal miniatures so long as the clump hasn't become too big.



*Conophytum pellucidum*

While there are quite a number of miniature cacti, the number of miniature (non-cactus) succulents is even bigger. One of the best places to look for miniatures is among the mesembs. Some species of *Conophytum* are the very definition of miniature, in that

some species such as *C. pellucidum* are so small that you could have upwards of 100 heads in a three inch pot! Many species of *Lithops* work well too. Also consider some of the mesembs that aren't living stones types such as *Titanopsis* or *Aloinopsis* species. Outside mesembs, consider some of the smallest *Crassula*, *Haworthia*, *Sedum*, or *Avonia*. These are just suggestions, but if you have a plant that looks good and proportional in a three inch or smaller pot then you have a miniature!



*Avonia alstonii*  
*ssp. quinaria*

-Kyle Williams

# SIGN ME UP!!!

## By Kathleen Misko

It's been about 5 years that I have been enjoying my membership in this club and the San Fernando Bromeliad Society. Volunteering as needed and enjoying all the benefits of being a member. Or so I thought. John Matthews asked for volunteers for the Inter City Show in August. Each time I wanted to be a clerk, I couldn't because it would conflict with the current volunteer position. Well, I signed up to be a clerk and volunteer a shift for Inter City and I just want to share with you what it was like. I arrived at the Arboretum, cruised the aisles then reported to Tom Glavich. He is so cool and understated and gave me a job that I almost fainted at. Not wanting to seem panicked, I took a breath and thought OK, I can do this.

A slight back story. At the meetings, Manny always says, "make sure your presentation is exactly how you want it. The judges or anyone else is not allowed to touch it once you place it". That's in my head when Tom says, "you have to arrange the plants in order of class" What?, so he shows me and does not change anything except the table position. Here I go, lock elbows and lift. **Zen** that plant up and over. OMG why isn't it in the right place? Some of these are heavy. Maybe not, I'm weak now. What is going on? OK, made it through the first section. Only a million left. Trust me, I know what I see.

Pink, Yellow, Blue. Pink, Yellow, Blue. I'm having a meltdown. Then I see new people bringing in plants. I go over and like a crazed person I started saying Pink, Yellow, Blue, to which one of our members replies, "Oh, there isn't room". 'Really, well who do you think makes room'? In 45 short minutes I have become the section police. Not pretty. I'm feeling myself get into a rhythm. I've done 3 sections without having to hurt anyone. I can do it, I will be victorious. Oh, brain of mine. When will I learn?

Did ya see the size of the pots in the corner? Where's the forklift? Come on. Is this 'What would you do?' Give the first timer the job and videotape it. And, the clock is running out. Luckily, I see Peter Walkowiak and beg for his help. So calmly he says, "Oh, just leave the big ones where they are." OH NO you didn't just say that TO ME. Somehow second grade seems very comfortable to me and I go running to Tom Glavich, 'You know what Peter just said to me?' really, I tattle now. I'm desperate to do a good job, the job Tom has given me and now I tattle?. What The Heck? This is where I find out that Peter is the co-chair and his decision is correct. So, back to Peter. "Great Idea, Peter." If I took medications, this would be the time. Home stretch. Nearing 5p.m. Cut-off time. Ha. Some people were in traffic, so now all of us are helping the members place their newly arrived plants in Pink, Yellow, Blue. Shifting, of course, in locked elbow fashion. We finish, tables are set up and Manny's catering friends put out fantastic food for us. I'm kinda ready to put my feet up, because I don't realize that the next task will become my favorite. CLERKING.

I hear my name, I'm the PUNCH CLERK. I have no idea what that means, but I am excited beyond containment. John Matthews gathers the clerk groups together and begins to describe our future. I stand next to the judges, Tom Vermillion and Craig Fry and listen and when they come to the final decision, I punch the class on the ticket. The discussion as to why first, second, third and why some are disqualified. This is my kind of volunteer. Learn while you earn. Oh, I am delirious with this position.

Two judges and they have to come to an agreement and these guys were so mentor friendly. I wish you all could have been there. So I punch the folded card, tear off the bottom and hand it to Roxie Esterle. She tabulates it and sends it with Jim Esterle who is the "runner". Figuratively. He takes it to a table where the geniuses are doing stuff.

The second tabulator handles the ribbons. She has to place the proper ribbon according to the punched ticket. The beginning process was a bit stoooges and then we fell into a wonderful rhythm. Listen and Learn, Pull out the pink ticket, punch it, tear off the bottom while, Judi Romaine is laying out the ribbons. Lift up the pot and slide the ticket back in, covering the entrants' name. They have to be covered because, best in class has to be judged after we are done.

If I were pinned down as to one thing I like about our club, it would be learning. We are so lucky to have so many of the "big dogs" that love to share with the pups. I remember being at the Huntington with Sandy Chase and realizing I was almost on her scooter with her so I didn't miss a word she said. Clerking was like that for me. The Judges didn't have to wait and yet they paused and let us catch up. I did do a mispunch and had to write a sorry note. Spazzed out and punched second when the plant was a first place. In direct contrast to my placement job where I thought I wouldn't ever finish. When the judges said that they were done, I was looking around hoping to continue this great experience.

So, don't miss out next show. Sign up early. It's learning at its finest.

**"When you speak, you hear what you already know.  
When you listen, you learn".....unknown**



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## General Meeting Thursday, October 1, 2015

**Program:**            **Botanical Names Decoded**  
Presented By Marquita Ellias and Joyce Schumann

### Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

- October 10-11** Desert Creations End of the Year Sale 9am-4pm  
18611 Parthenia, Reseda (across the street from U-Haul, behind the black  
Building on the North side of the street) 818-482-8795
- October 10** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Show Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-4pm  
East Hills Mall, Center Court, 3100 Mall View Road Info: 661-831-8488
- October 24-25** Palomar Show & Sale Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4 at San Diego Botanic Gardens  
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas Info: [hciservices@gmail.com](mailto:hciservices@gmail.com) (858) 382-1797
- November 7 -8** San Gabriel Valley Winter Show & Sale - Ayres Hall  
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia Info: Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or  
John Matthews (661) 714-1052, Manny Rivera (626) 579-7954