



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.

September 4, 2014
Meeting Time
7:00 pm

16633 Magnolia Blvd.
 Encino, CA 91356

Plant of the Month

Thelocactus
 Fouquieria

Refreshments
E-H

August
New Members

Will be listed in
October

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Visit Us on the web
<http://www.lacss.com>.
 OR contact us at
lacss.contact@gmail.com

Program: Mystery, Intrigue, & Culture: Succulent Plants of Yemen and Socotra

My first venture into ceramics was in the 4th grade when I went into the Kings River, while it was low, to scoop up some clay. I rolled it into a ball, pressed a round rock into it and used glaze that I had gotten from my 4th grade class. I remember that I placed this little pot in a homemade kiln and covered it with scrap wood. My father let me burn this crude kiln, but it fired the clay and melted the red glaze.

Many years later, perhaps in the early '90s, I went to the Inter City Show, bought a pot from Erika, and, being a fabricator, told myself, "I can do this!" With a rolling pin and some clay, I started to make some crude pots that caught the attention of my local Fresno cactus club members. One said "Make me one." That turned into "Sell me one." and the rest is history. After I had been selling pottery for a while, my mother brought out that little red pot that I had made so many years ago, she had saved it, and said "Do you remember this?" I had forgotten about that little pot!! She gave it to me, and now it is in my display case.



I farm pluots, peaches, nectarines, grapes, and recently, walnuts and almonds. With my brother on land that has been in the family for 3 generations.

This program is from my first trip outside of the U.S. in January of 2001. My father thought I was nuts to go to Yemen. When I got there, I looked around, and said to myself. "We're not in Kansas anymore!!" Quite a culture shock for my first trip abroad!!

But the island of Socotra is a magical place, probably still a safe place to go, but one has to go to Yemen first, not recommended at this time!!

Mark Muradian is a peach. Well he's a peach and grape grower from the Kingsburg area of California's Central Valley. He is also a potter and an avid collector of just about everything. You will see endemic plants from the mysterious island of Socotra and the country of Yemen, both located on the Arabian Sea south of Saudi Arabia. Take this adventure to see some of the most remarkable succulents in the world. He will also have his fantastic pots for sale.

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Leah Imamura

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President's Message

September, 2014

On the



Road Again

Inter-City Show and Sale Summary

Well, the 29th annual Inter-City Show and Sale has concluded very successfully. There were many amazing plants in the show - I hope you got to see them. There was a new trophy this year - Best Lithops, in honor of Larry Grammer. Lithops were one of his favorites, as well as many other genera.

The number of plant entries was close to last year (1120 vs 1145) which is encouraging since we lost some entrants who brought lots of plants. With displays and collections there were about 1200 plants entered. There were 72 exhibitors (compared to 92 last year). We had quite a few novice entrants (32) and always look to increase that number; as novices move into the advanced category. Our own LACSS exhibitors certainly had a field day. LACSS Trophy winners were -

Kim Thorpe - Best Variegated Cactus, Best Astrophytum, Best Euphorbia, Best Haworthia, Best Collection (some fantastic Ariocarpus), Best succulent (advanced), as well as most points advanced succulents, most points advanced cactus, most points advanced total, and most total points overall (3 years in a row!).

Karen & Martin Ostler - Best Argentine cactus, Best Exhibit (Mammillarias)

Kathryn Boorer - Best Novice Cactus as well as most point novice cactus, most points novice succulents, and most points novice total

Tim Harvey - Best Aloe, Best Aloe hybrid mini, Best Crested Succulent

Kyle Robinson - Best Miniature, Best Madagascar plant other than Euphorbia

John Matthews - Best Lithops, Best Gymnocalycium

Other LACSS members who entered plants included Mary Carroll, Phyllis Frieze, David Le, John Martinez, Gerald Richert, Rio Cernik, Nils Schirmacher, Erika Van Auker, Natalie Welsh, Cheryl & Frank White, Steve Ball, Gunnar Eisel, Barbara Hall, Chris Rogers, Duke Benadom, Mike Buckner, Jim Hanna, and Peter Walkowiak (most points open succulent).

Rio Cernik, Kim Thorpe, Peter Walkowiak, and John Matthews won Golden Sweeps awards.

Our contingent of clerks helped the judges - Steve Ball, Natalie Welsh, Phyllis Frieze, Kathryn Boorer, Jim & Roxie Esterle, Kim Thorpe, Cheryl White, and Nils Schirmacher. The judges included Artie Chavez, Woody Minnich, Michael Buckner, and Manny Rivera from LACSS.

Our LACSS members who donated their time and talents to the Walks & Talks program were Steve Frieze, Peter Walkowiak, Manny Rivera, Woody Minnich, Michael Buckner, and Sandy Chase.

LACSS vendors included Artie Chavez/Steve Frieze, Duke and Kaz Benadom, Erika Van Auker, Gerald Richert, John Matthews, Tim Harvey, Peter Walkowiak, Woody Minnich, Jim Hanna, and Michael Buckner.

It is the volunteers, after all, that keep the show/sale moving along smoothly. Among LACSS members due extra-special recognition is Barbara Hall who ran the kitchen and kept everyone well-fed and hydrated. Also special thanks to Kim Thorpe for the huge donation of food and drinks. Other LACSS volunteers (clerks listed above) I noticed at various stations over several days were Manny Rivera, Gunner Eisel, Richard Roosman, Kathleen Misko, Nils Schirmacher, Juana Williams, Sonia Villaroel, John Martinez, and Jim and Roberta Hanna.

I want to thank everyone who participated in any way in this show. I apologize as I'm sure I've overlooked a few names above. I certainly hope everyone who participated or just attended the show/sale had a good time. I am optimistic that those who simply attended the Show or couldn't make it this year will consider entering some plants and volunteering in some capacity next year. It is a fun way to make new friends and learn more about our hobby. Also, if you have never entered before, it is a great way to invigorate your interest in this hobby.

John Matthews, Inter-City co-chair

**Plant of the Month
2014**

October

Ariocarpus
Euphorbia
(Madagascar)

November

Miniatures

December

Holiday Party

2015

January

Discocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia,
Ceraria

February

Mammillaria Clusters
Sarcocaulon

March

Pediocactus,
Sclerocactus
Sedum

April

Variegates

May

Aztekium
Geohintonia

June

Favorite

July

Echinocactus,
Ferrocactus
Pachypodium-
Madagascar

August

Eriosyce, Neochilinea,
Neoporteria
Lithops

September

Ceriodes (N. America)
Didiereaceae

October

Miniatures

Plant of the Month -- August

Succulent -- Fockea, Raphionacme, Brachystelma

Rookie

First	David Le	Fockea edulis
Second	David Le	Fockea edulis
Third	Kathleen Misko	Fockea edulis

Novice

First	Robert Feldman	Fockea edulis
Second	Robert Feldman	Fockea edulis
Second	Robert Feldman	Fockea edulis
Third	Robert Feldman	Fockea multiflora

Cactus -- Obregonia, Strombocactus, Echinomastus

Advanced

First	Rio Cernik	Echinomastus mariposensis
Second	Rio Cernik	Echinomastus erectocentrus
Third	Rio Cernik	Echinomastus johnsonii

Open

First	John Matthews	Strombocactus disciformis
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Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2014

October 25-26 Palomar Show & Sale, Info: hciservices@gmail.com, 858-382-1797
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas

November 1-2 San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Plant of the month: *Fouquieria*



Fouquieria diguetii

Fouquieria is one of the most distinctive and famous genera of (non-cacti) succulents from Mexico, with one species widespread in the southwestern U.S. and one species reaching into Guatemala. It consists of 11 species and is the only genus in its family, the Fouquieriaceae. All species are woody and covered in spines, with most being pachycaulous shrubs, though some species appear as typical xeric shrubs and at least one species is a tree. Flowers are tubular and orange, red, or white in color. Unlike cacti the spines of *Fouquieria* do not form immediately on new growth. Instead they form the petiole or stalk of the leaf. Once the green part of the leaf falls off the petiole hardens into a sharp spine. These leaves form readily after rains and drop off just as readily when the soil dries out. This allows the plant to maximize photosynthesis during good conditions, but conserve water once drought threatens.

The only American species is the Ocotillo, *Fouquieria splendens*, a large shrub with long, straight, very upright branches. This is a very widespread species native from California to Texas and through much of northern Mexico. While not really a pachycaul, its distinctive open, upright shape and cold tolerance (down to the single digits!) makes it popular to grow in arid regions. The orange-red flowers are magnets for hummingbirds.



Fouquieria splendens

Easily the most unusual species in the genus, if not all woody succulents, is *F. columnaris*, the Boojum Tree. This is one of the most characteristic plants of central Baja California (it also grows in a small area of Sonora), and anyone traveling through the region it grows can't miss these bizarre "Dr. Seuss" plants. They grow to 50 feet or more in height and have few large branches, but the ones it does have often bend and twist into bizarre shapes that look like they come from an alien world! The plant is so distinctive that it was once placed in its own genus, *Idria*, though that designation is considered incorrect by botanists as it clearly belongs with other *Fouquieria*. Plants are very fond of water during the growing season and can be fast growing, though some people have problems with them in an especially wet winter when it doesn't want much moisture. Other species such as *Fouquieria purpursii* and *F. macdougallii* can be grown as pachycauls in a pot, forming beautiful specimens in time.



Fouquieria fasciculata

The Fouquieriaceae is unusual for a succulent/pachycaul family in being quite distantly related to any other succulent families. Its closest relatives (Polemoniaceae) are small herbs that frequently grow in xeric regions, but aren't succulent, while most of the other families it is related to are commonly found in the tropics. It does share many similarities with the totally unrelated Didiereaceae, a small Madagascan family also popular with succulent enthusiasts (e.g. *Allauaudia* and *Didierea*). These families are completely unrelated, yet both have evolved into similar looking spiny shrubs with ephemeral leaves that grow in very similar desert and dry scrubland habitats. This is a case of convergent evolution, which is the evolution of organisms that look very similar not because of relationship, but because they were subjected to similar climates and other conditions. The same phenomenon can be seen between cacti and succulent *Euphorbia*.

-Kyle Williams

Plant of the month: *Thelocactus*

Thelocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolor spination, well shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered. *Thelocactus* is a small genus in the cactus family, with only 11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there are also half a dozen legitimate varieties, and a large number of less legitimate varieties that can be found in reference books and collections. The larger number of questionable varieties is due to variability of some of the species between populations from isolated locations.



Thelocactus macdowellii



Thelocactus hexaedrophorus

Thelocactus are found from Southern Texas through central Mexico, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert, but extending into brush land and thorn scrub in the western parts of its range, and into the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. *Thelocactus bicolor* has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi.

Thelocactus are easily grown, tolerant of heat and moisture, but not cold and moisture. They benefit from protection from being cold and wet, although plants left unprotected during the last several winters survived in good shape. Some species develop fairly large tap roots, and should be planted in deep enough pots to give them room to grow. They are easily propagated from seed, and this is the best way to develop a good collection from different populations. They can also be propagated from offsets, with a cutting allowed to dry, and then replanted.



Thelocactus setispinus



Thelocactus bicolor

The relationship between species of *Thelocactus* and other genera is somewhat uncertain. There is evidence to suggest the genus may need to be broken up, or at least have some species transferred into it. Originally, the genus was split out of *Echinocactus*, but isn't thought to be especially closely related to it today. Several other genera have been linked to *Thelocactus*, including *Echinomastus*, *Leuchtenbergia*, *Glandulicactus*, and *Ferocactus*. More studies of DNA are needed before this can be sorted out. Until then keep calling them *Thelocactus* and enjoy the plants!

-Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich

End of the Year Sale 10/25/2014 and 10/26/2014



DESERT CREATIONS

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

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information

LACSS Cactus Chronicle



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General Meeting

September 4

**Program: Mystery, Intrigue, & Culture: Succulent Plants of Yemen
and Socotra**

October Event

October 25-26 Palomar Show & Sale, Info: hciservices@gmail.com, 858-382-1797
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