



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
September 3, 2015**

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

**Doors Open
at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins
at 7:00pm**

**Refreshments
A-D**

New Members

Rae Barreca
Ira Chroma
Gisela Miller
Al & Lori Mindel
Raquel Smith
Miyoko Stevens

Phyllis Frieze, Editor
Frieze.phyllis@
Yahoo.com

Email:
Lacactus.com

Program: Botanical Gardens of Australia Tour presented by Attila Kapitany

Attila is immediate past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia with 10 years in this position, and is also currently editor of its journal. He has thirty years of experience growing and marketing cacti and succulents. Attila is also a prominent member of the Horticultural Media in Australia, writing regularly in magazines, journals and newspapers and promoting succulent plants.

He was co-founder and developer of the well-known Collectors Corner and Paradisia nurseries, where his interests focused on the breeding, cultivating and marketing of rare and unusual plants. He has travelled extensively to plant habitats around the world and has amassed possibly one of the largest collections of (mostly seed-raised) plants in Australia. Also, Attila has co-written seven books with Rudolf Schulz about succulents, with an eighth book, a solo effort, on Australian native species. His newest publications are a series of seven booklets on xerophytic Australia plants.

Since 2007 Attila has dedicated much of his time and resources to promoting our lesser known Australian succulent plants, touring the Australian speaking circuit regularly and featuring on television and radio.

Every Australian state has botanical gardens, with often very different plants in very different settings. Stunning images of interesting and even bizarre plants are highlights of this talk. Starting with a brief look at our Melbourne Botanic Gardens then onto Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane (Mt. Coot-tha), Darwin..... Also some excellent regional botanic gardens that would be a worthy addition to any traveller's itinerary.

Australia's eight capital cities and 150 regional botanic gardens attract 13 million visitors a year with 41% of Australian adults going every year. Botanic gardens are the second most visited places in the country after cinemas. Let Attila show you why, with his most unique and entertaining style also reflecting his strong interest in rare and unusual tropical plants, aside from his professional work with cacti and succulents.



Attila is a succulent expert and author of many popular books on the subject will be along with pictures to show, and knowledge to share. Get an autographed copy of some of his publications.

2015 Officers

President

Joyce Schumann

1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

John Martinez

Secretary

Cheryl White

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathryn Boorer

Director 1 Odd Years

Membership

Danielle Duboff

Director 2, Even Years

David Le

Past President

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LACSS Show Chair

Artie Chavez

Show Committee

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

Webmaster

Kim Thorpe

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Susan Phillips

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Cactus Chronicle Editor

Phyllis Frieze

Inter-City Show Liaison

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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

September, 2015

Summer has been a very busy season for everyone. It all started in May with our Festival, followed closely by the CSSA Convention & the CSSA/ Huntington Show and Sale in June. Hot on the heels of our August meeting was the Inter-City Show and Sale celebrating its 30th Anniversary. I must say this was the best Inter-City Sale & Show I've seen in several years. According to my count, at least 29 LACSS members entered at least 337 plants, winning a total of 91 first place, 66 second place and 66 third place ribbons. **Way to Go!! Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Show!**

John Matthews has provided us with a great summary of the Show & Sale acknowledging LACSS member participation. Thank you, John. And speaking of John Matthews – John has been the LACSS Representative on the Inter-City Committee. He announced at the last Board Meeting that he is resigning from that position. "He has a nursery to run" he said. So, now we need a volunteer. (Does that sound familiar?) John has provided a "job description" as a guide to our representative's responsibilities. This would include attending several meetings during the year and providing updates to the members and the Board. Past participation in the Intercity Show & Sale would be helpful. So, step right up and expand your knowledge of the administration of a big show.

By the time you see this Chronicle; you will have received a new "Member Survey." Every now and then, we need to evaluate our programs and activities. Because the Club is here for you, your input is invaluable. Your responses will give direction to the Strategic Planning committee, which will meet late September. If you have completed the survey digitally, a big thank you! You may also print out the survey and bring it to the meeting or mail it to our mail P.O. Box 280318, Northridge, CA 91328.

In spite of the heat, we are planning our December 5th Holiday Dinner. The core members who historically have provided most of the labor for cooking, decorations, set up, clean up, etc have indicated that they would like to sit down and enjoy the evening. The Holiday Committee is currently exploring various options and will keep you up to date with these options.

If you are a reader of the Daily News, you probably noticed the full page article in the Saturday August 15, 2015 Home and Garden section featuring our own Desert Creation members – Steve, Artie, Kim and Phyllis. Gerald Richert was unavailable that day. For bragging rights, it will be posted on the white board. Congrats to Desert Creations for the much deserved recognition and for bringing attention to our beloved world of cacti and succulents. Joyce



Plant of the Month 2015

September

Ceriodes (N. America)
Didiereaceae

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

Turbincarpus,
Gymnocactus
Cyphostema,
Cissus

August Plant of the Month

Succulent -- Lithops

Rookie

First	Jennifer Bensi	Lithops schwantesii
Second	DiAne Carbanne	Lithops karasmontana
Third	Linda Holub	Lithops mixed
Third	DiAne Carbanne	Lithops lesliei forma minor

Novice

First	Roxie Esterle	Lithops sp.
Second	Roxie Esterle	Lithops sp.

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Lithops bromfieldii v. insularis cv. sulphurea
Second	Kim Thorpe	Lithops schwantesii
Third	Kim Thorpe	Lithops sp.
Third	Rio Cernik	Lithops sp.

Open

First	John Matthews	Lithops bromfieldii v. glaudine
Second	John Matthews	Lithops hookeri
Third	John Matthews	Lithops lesliei

Cactus -- Eriosyce, Neochilenia, Neoporteria

Rookie

First	Linda Holub	Eriosyce paucicostata
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Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Eriosyce ceratistes
Second	Kim Thorpe	Eriosyce taltalensis
Third	Kim Thorpe	Neoporteria nidus senilis
Third	Rio Cernik	Eriosyce

Plant of the Month: Ceroids of North America



Saguaro

Ceroids are the group of cacti that used to pretty much all be lumped into *Cereus* by early taxonomists. Allowing for a few exceptions, this group encompasses all the columnar cacti. This is NOT a natural or "monophyletic" group of genera despite once being thought to be so. DNA research has shown that, for example, *Cereus* is more closely related to *Gymnocalycium* than it is to *Pachycereus*! It would be silly to say *Gymnocalycium* is a Cereoid, or that *Cereus* itself is not, so for the sake of discussion consider any genus with "-cereus" in the name (e.g. *Pachycereus*, *Selenocereus*, *Acanthocereus*, etc.) to be a Cereoid cactus. Also add in most any cactus that has columnar growth similar to these species, such as *Carnegiea*, *Espostoa*, or *Harrisia*. Keep in mind that a cactus does not have to be upright to be columnar in the sense we are using here. For example, some *Echinopsis* have a long trailing habit. Just to be clear, columnar growth means the stems normally are round in cross section and grow long and unjointed (i.e. not *Opuntia*), nor is the shrubby *Pereskia* part of this group.

While most any cactus can be grown in a pot, most Cereoids are at their best as landscape specimens allowed to reach their full potential. *Echinopsis panchoi* (San Pedro) may be one of the most commonly grown cacti in our region, but it is hard not to be impressed whenever you see a well grown tree like specimen 20' or taller with dozens upon dozens of stems! A bright blue *Pilocereus* is a focal point in any succulent landscape. And let's not forget the majesty of a mature Saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*), despite it doing poorly in our region. *Stenocereus eruca* is an interesting Cereoid from Arizona that is, by any definition, a large columnar cactus with stems 10' or longer, but you'll never see it looking across the horizon as it grows flat on the ground (prostrate). It takes a lot of space in a landscape because of this habit, but if you have the room and don't mind all the spines it really is a conversation piece! There are also plenty of smaller species that can make excellent potted specimens such as small *Echinopsis*, *Pygmaeocereus*, or smaller species of *Espostoa*.



Stenocereus eruca



Pachycereus weberi

Cereoids make up a huge group of cacti, representing well over half the family. To narrow things down a bit we will only consider the North American species for our monthly show. That includes genera such as *Pachycereus*, *Peniocereus*, *Echinocereus*, and *Stenocereus*. Therefore, do not assume that just because I mentioned a genus above that it is appropriate for this month's POM. There isn't a readily available comprehensive list of genera. The best thing to do is do a Google search for your plant and see where it is native to. If it is the US, Mexico, Central America, or the Caribbean then it is appropriate for the POM (assuming it is a Cereoid). Sorry! But this is what happens when artificial categories are created instead of ones for related plants.

-Kyle Williams

Plant of the Month: Didiereaceae

This month we are focusing on a small but distinctive family of succulent shrubs to small trees. The Didiereaceae (pronounced Dee-dee-air-ee-ace-ee-ee) was long thought to be an exclusively Madagascan family consisting of four genera and about 11 species, all thorny scrub shrubs and trees with drought deciduous leaves. All are pretty easy to recognize as related to each other, and with all of them being on Madagascar it made for a tidy story about evolution on the island. Then came those darn taxonomists using DNA to look at the actual relationships of Didiereaceae and its close relatives, the Cactaceae and Portulacaceae (plus some other families you probably don't know).



Didierea madagascariensis

While the DNA phylogeny did confirm what we already knew, that the four genera of Didiereaceae (*Alluaudia*, *Alluaudiopsis*, *Didierea*, and *Decarya*) are very closely related, it also surprised us by showing the South African genera *Portulacaria* and *Ceraria* are also closely related and belong in the family. In addition there is an enigmatic East African genus, *Calyptrorhiza* which contains one or two species. For the sake of the monthly show note that I have listed every genus in the family above.

Let's start with the traditional, Madagascar group. All the species are found in the dry scrub forests of Madagascar where thorny shrubs and trees which drop their leaves in the dry season dominate. They fit right in as all of them are thorny shrubs and trees that drop their succulent leaves during times of drought. *Alluaudia* is the largest genus with six species and has some of the most unusual species. *Alluaudia procera* forms huge (20 feet and taller) individual, usually unbranched stems) arising from ground level up to a few feet off the ground. *Decarya*, with one species, is a many branched shrub distinctive for its zig-zag branches.



Zig zag stems of Decarya

The continental African branch of the family was a surprise to many at first as *Ceraria* and *Portulacaria* are thornless and more succulent. But what I see are shrubs (except the tiny *C. pygmaea*) that are semi-woody and in the case of *Ceraria* drop their leaves readily in drought only to regrow them as soon as the rains come, just like the Madagascar plants. *Portulacaria* may retain its leaves but has a similar growth habit. Finally, there is *Calyptrorhiza*. There is virtually no information about this genus that I can find on the internet, except that it is a 10-15 foot shrub with stems up to a foot thick. It sounds like a pachyform but the only image on the internet is of small tip branches with flowers but no leaves. It would be interesting to see this genus brought into cultivation!

Portulacaria is far and away the most widely planted species in our region. It is so easy that it is used commonly in drought tolerant landscapes for people who know nothing about plants. A distant second is *A. procera* which can often be seen for sale at regular nurseries. All the other species are usually seen only in specialist collections. The biggest problem in growing them is sensitivity to frost (particularly for the Madagascar plants) though many in our region grow these species successfully.



Ceraria namaquensis

-Kyle Williams

Overview of the 30th Annual Inter-City Show and Sale

Well, the 30th annual Inter-City Show and Sale has concluded with great success and attendance. There were many amazing plants in the show and I hope you got to see them all. The number of plant entries was down a bit compared to last year but the room seemed fuller due to larger plants. There were 147 exhibitors (compared to 72 last year.) We had more than twice as many novice entrants as last year (73 vs 32) which is a great indicator of the increasing interest in our sale and show. Our own LACSS exhibitors certainly had a field day. LACSS Trophy winners were:-

Barbara Hall -	Best Haworthia
Cheryl White -	Best crested succulent
Karen & Martin Ostler -	Best Argentine cactus, Best Exhibit (Turbinicarpus and associated genera
Rio -	most points for novice cactus
Kathryn Boorer -	most points for novice succulents, most total points for novice, and most points overall (by a wide margin, first time won by a novice in 10 years!)
Sandy Chase -	most points advanced succulents
John Sudio -	Best crested cactus
John Matthews -	Best Gasteria
Peter Walkowiak -	Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia, Best Caudiciform, most points open succulent
Jim Hanna -	Best miniature
Mary Carroll	Best Novice Succulent

Other LACSS members who entered plants included MA Bjarkman, Mary Carroll, Robert Feldman, Efren Flores, Pablo Gonzalez, Nicki & Peter Larsen, Lisa Kornblath, David Le, Nancy Neymark, Roxie Esterle, Natalie Welsh, Cheryl White

Steve Ball, Sandy Chase, Barbara Hall and Jim Hanna won Golden Sweeps awards.

Our contingent of clerks helped the judges - Natalie Welsh, Jim & Roxie Esterle, Kim Jacobi, MA Bjarkman, Joyce Schuman, Kathleen Misko, Martin Ostler, Sonia Villarroel, Linda Holub, Juana Williams, and Lisa Gailey. The judges included Woody Minnich, Karen Ostler, and Manny Rivera from LACSS.

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

LACSS vendors included Desert Creations (Artie Chavez/Steve Frieze/Kim Thorpe/Phyllis Frieze), Duke and Kaz Benadom, Erika Van Auker, Gerald Richert, John Matthews, Tim Harvey, Peter Walkowiak, Woody Minnich, and Jim Hanna.

It is the volunteers, after all, who keep the show/sale moving along smoothly. LACSS members due extra "special" recognition is Barbara Hall who ran the kitchen and kept everyone well-fed and hydrated. Also extra 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, Richard Roosman, Ralph Massey, Roberta & Ben Morowitz, Steve Ball, Danielle Duboff, Chris Rogers, Steve Chahine, Tom McKenna, and Jim & Roberta Hanna.

I want to thank everyone who participated in this successful Show and Sale. I apologize as I'm sure I've overlooked a few names above. I certainly hope everyone who participated or attended the Show and Sale had a memorable time. I also hope those of you who just attended or couldn't make it this
(continued on the next page)

year will consider entering 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 our hobby.

I am looking forward to seeing ALL LACSS members at next year's Show and Sale!

John Matthews, Inter-City co-chair

For all those who submitted, thank you. As you can see, space is limited.



Fockea Edulis—Best Novice—
Mary Carroll



Raphianacme



Haworthia retusa-photo by Kim Greenblatt



Pachycormis discolor-Petra Crist



Trophy Table-Gasteraloe "Shining Star"
John Matthews

Mentoring Workshop: Bonsai Succulents

Nils Schirmacher will present an introduction to Bonsai Succulents. This will provide members an opportunity to view Nils's collection and gain valuable information from his experience in this area. The presentation will take place on Saturday September 19, 10 AM – Noon at his home at 5055 Dockweiler Street, Los Angeles 90019.

Nils has been a member of LACSS since 2006, and the CSSA since 1998. In addition to his knowledge of succulents, he has expertise in suiseki, an art form related to bonsai that uses found stones to evoke landscapes. Nils currently serves as club Historian.



Since space is somewhat limited please contact Nils directly if you are interested in attending; he can be reached at 323-770-6246 or nschirmacher@gmail.com

LACSS Garden Tour Series

Santa Barbara Area Succulent Gardens

Save the Date
Saturday, October 24, 2015

On Saturday, October 24, 2015, four of the senior members of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society will make their gardens available for us to tour. This is going to be a great opportunity to visit some amazingly well established gardens.

I would like to thank Art Posch (SBCSS President) for coordinating this event. Please be prepared to join us.

The specifics of this tour will be discussed at the LACSS meeting on September 3, 2015.

Succulents for the Mind

We have a new two-volume book that some of you were able to peruse at last month's meeting. ***Taxonomy of the Cactaceae: The new classification of Cacti mainly based on molecular data and explained.*** by Joel Lode. Volume I contains Acanthocalycium - Lymanbenso-
nia and Volume II runs from Maihuenia - Yungasocereus. Just pronouncing those kept me busy for quite a while. There are some fantastic and entertaining photos showing pol-
linators and dispersers in Volume I. The beautiful color photographs of cacti with their flowers
and seeds should help some of us find names for our mystery plants, especially if they are in
bloom. Photos of the people cacti are named after are also in them. Lots of great information.



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General Meeting
Thursday, September 3rd, 2015

***Program: Botanical Gardens of Australia Tour
presented by Attila Kapitany***

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

- September 5** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 6** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5 Rancho Los Alamitos,
6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **Info:** (310) 922-6090
- 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 (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