



April 2013

April Plant of the Month

Echinocereus

Aloe

Refreshments

Letters

E-H

March New Members

Alfredo Bergolla
Dora Chambers
Nancy Neymark
Douglas Nicely
Editor

Phyllis Frieze
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Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.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.

Our next general meeting is April 4, 2013

How to Create Educational Plant Displays for the Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

Learn How to Avoid the Pitfalls of Staging Your Plants



Titanopsis calcarea

Plants staged and photographed by John Martinez

Some of our more experienced members will offer great tips on how to prepare your succulents for the upcoming show season. How to construct a simple educational display for the public that can be constructed in a short period of time and how to further your participation in our Drought Tolerant Plant Festival on *Saturday, June 8 and Sunday, June 9.*

The Workshop will also include the common pitfalls of staging, over potting and under potting. You will also have the opportunity to learn how to compliment the pot with succulents and more on the multiple succulent collection.

A special drawing for a multiple succulent collection will be held and will be a highlight of Saturday evening.



Agave utahensis



Agave victoriae reginae



Calabaris hookerii

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Marquita Elias

1st VP, Programs

Manny Rivera

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

John Martinez

3rd VP, Special Events

Cheryl White

Secretary

Ronit Weiss

Treasurer, Contact Liaison

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Danielle Duboff

Director 1 Odd Years, Membership

Sylvia Strehlo

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Holiday Party Chairperson

Gerald Reichert

Holiday Party Awards Procurement

Chris Rogers

Cactus Garden

John Noster

Steve Rudolf

Meeting Refreshments

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

Monthly Drawing

President's Message—April 2013

We're getting into show season! While many shows focus on exquisite specimen plant competitions, the LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival (June 8 and 9) emphasizes education, and this year we are promoting a concept for sharing the pleasures and benefits of our hobby with the public: exhibiting small, focused collections. Of course, we need help from our MEMBERS!

To encourage participation, Artie Chavez, past president and show chair, has come up with an exciting idea for the April plant drawing. Instead of offering individual plants, we will hold a drawing for "mini-collections" of 5 plants in the same genus or family. Winners will be expected to display the plants as a collection in the June show. To motivate new collectors, every "humble" collection is invited to display.

So, what constitutes a "collection?" A collection of plants has *something* in common, be it broadly or narrowly defined. Themes for collections might be geographic (all from a specific location), structural (variegates, monstrose, miniatures, caudiciform), or relational (same family or genus, varieties of the same species, or hybrids). Plants in a collection might be in a similar pot. An explanatory label encourages visitors to take a closer look to understand the basis for the display. We want to dispel the notion that "if you've seen one aloe, you've seen them all." Aren't we all drawn to our plants because of their spectacular uniqueness and diversity? At our April 4 meeting, speakers will be giving tips and ideas for exhibiting your cactus and succulent collections.

We are anticipating a huge show, which means we'll need lots of volunteers. We'll also have LACSS sales tables, so we will welcome your plant donations for the sale or the auction. Please plan to spend some of your weekend volunteering and shopping, and join us for a spectacular BBQ dinner on Saturday night, highlighted by a lively auction!

Don't forget that the Lotusland trip is scheduled for May 4, so please bring your checks to the April meeting. Joyce Schumann has generously contributed one admission ticket valued at \$30.00 for our drawing as well. Thanks, Joyce.

Roxie Esterle
President

2013 Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival By Kim Thorpe

Time is moving quickly and before you know it the LACSS Festival will be here. Mark your calendars! The event is June 8th and 9th and we will begin setting up after our June meeting on the 6th. That is when you can start to bring in your Interior Displays. Friday we will be setting up outside displays so please feel free to come down and help out.

The planning committee is really excited this year. We have a lot of new things for my favorite part of the festival "Kids' Day." Don't let the name fool you, it is a fun day for the entire family. Last year, our volunteers did a great job and we hope they will all sign up again this year along with new members. This year will be even bigger and better, with the addition of the Turtle and Tortoise Club and the Rock Chippers.

One of the things that makes our Festival so unique and one of a kind is our Kids' Day. It is so exciting to see the kids along with family and friends become interested in the plants, displays and activities while having a good time and learning. We observe them picking up the magnifying glasses and begin checking out the plants and displays. It is truly a wonderful day for all. This program is important for our community and our club, it's success is attributed to the involvement of our members. We want to thank everyone again from last year and welcome our new members to volunteer and join in this year's excitement. There are so many places we need your help; taking the kids around, manning a game booth, painting and/or potting, working with clay working, describing the exhibits, and just being there to answer questions. We also need several volunteers in the kitchen to assist with the lunch set up.

Please sign up to help out June 9th for the Kids' Day. We promise it will be a rewarding experience.

Thank you in advance.



Attention all Festival Volunteers

To answer the most FAQ of volunteers, the following is offered. This list is for reference only. Other needs will be identified as the event evolves.....

Thank you for your willingness to be involved with the ONLY Cactus and Succulent Event in San Fernando Valley.

<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Areas needing assistance</u>
Fri., 6/7	Set up vendor area outside (move tables into place, help set up tarps, assemble outdoor displays, hang banners, etc.)
Fri., 6/7	Set up inside tables, kids exhibits, (move tables, place table cloths, set up books, set up kid's area, place signage, etc.)
ALL DAY Sat., 6/8, Sun., 6/9	Kitchen (monitor users of refreshments, trash removal, help Kim set up and tear down) Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, distribute handouts, membership information, general information, sell member plants and t-shirts, etc.) West Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, direct them to the vendors, indoor displays, speakers, etc.) Garden's Cactus Garden tours Plant holding (inside- check in visitor's purchases while they tour the inside displays) Kid's exhibits (sign-in, answer questions re exhibits, etc.) Assist visitors with purchases to their vehicles, when needed. Floaters – roam the venue and assist others where needed. (Answer questions, give directions, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 4 PM	Dinner setup (arrange tables and chairs, place tablecloths, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 8am-3pm	Help set up the silent auction (bid sheets, questions/answers, log in plants announce winners, contact winners, etc.)
Sun., 10am – 2pm	Kid's day (assist with crafts, photos, exhibits, games, etc.)

Thanks again – Joyce Schumann, Volunteer Coordinator

LACSS Garden Tour - Saturday, May 4, 2013

Lotusland

Only 45 spots available

7:30 First pick-up location - Balboa Park (adjacent to Tennis Courts) 17015 Burbank Blvd. Encino 91316

8:15 Second pick-up location - Thousand Oaks Park & Ride Lot 1, Rancho Road at Route 23 and the 101 Freeway

- The bus will leave the pick-up and departure locations at the times listed. It is important that you arrive at these locations prior to the bus departure times.

9:30 Arrive at Lotusland, 695 Ashley Road, Montecito

- For those interested, the schedule will allow time at the Lotusland Gift shop.

12:30 Depart Lotusland

Lunch (bring your own)

- In an effort to spend more time at both facilities we will take our lunch break on the bus.
- No alcoholic beverages and/or consumption on bus.

1:00 Arrive at Gregg DeChirico's Nursery located within the Island View Nursery, 3376 Foothill Road, Carpinteria

3:00 Depart from Island View Nursery

**Admission fee to Lotusland is \$ 30.00 per member
Bus transportation provided by the LACSS**

- Due to the parking restrictions of Lotusland, personal vehicles will not be permitted.
- This trip is limited to 45 people on a first come first serve basis.
- A sign-up sheet will be available at the February, March, and April LACSS meetings or you can contact the event coordinator at the e-mail address listed below.
- Admission fee must be received in total by the April 4th LACSS meeting,
- Checks payable to LACSS

**For further information please contact the event coordinator, John Martinez
at**

jwm5555@sbcglobal.net or 805-390-2139

or

Visit the Lotusland web site at www.lotusland.org

Plant of the Month

2013

April

Echinocereus
Aloe

May

Rebutia Sulcorebutia
Gasteria

June

Favorite Favorite

July

Opuntia
(North American)
Euphorbia

August

Stenocactus Bursera,
Commiphora

September

Astrophytum Dorstenia-
Ficus

October

Cacti from Coahuila
Crassula

November

Crest-Montrose Crest-
Montrose

December

Holiday Party

2014

January

Mammillaria without
hooked spines
Pelargonium

February

Columnar Cacti
Aloe Hybrids

March

Opuntias (So. America)
Agave

April

Gymnocalycium singles
Yucca, Nolina,
Calibanus, Beaucarnea

March Winners

Succulent -- Haworthia

Rookie Division

First	Danielle Duboff	Haworthia maughanii
Second	Danielle Duboff	Haworthia cuspidata
Third	Diane Miller	Haworthia cymbiformis

Novice Division

First	John Suci	Haworthia truncata
Second	Eric Winegar	Haworthia attenuata
Second	Jim Esterle	Haworthia cymbiformis v obtusa
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Haworthia magnifica var. dekenahii

Advanced Division

First	Sandy Chase	Haworthia decipiens var virella
Second	Sandy Chase	Haworthia venusta
Third	John Martinez	Haworthia retusa 'Dark'
Third	Mick Gottschalk	Haworthia 'Little Circles

Open Division

First	John Matthews	Haworthia truncata var maughanii 'Tricolor'
Second	John Matthews	Haworthia semiviva
Second	John Matthews	Haworthia 'Bev's Wonder D'

Cactus - Copiapoa

Rookie Division

First	Danielle Duboff	Copiapoa barquitensis
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Novice Division

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Copiapoa tenuissima
Third	John Suci	Copiapoa tenuissima
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Copiapoa margarita
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Copiapoa dura

Advanced Division

First	Rio Cernik	Copiapoa
Second	John Martinez	Copiapoa cinerea ssp. haseltoniana

Open Division

First	John Matthews	Copiapoa dura
Second	John Matthews	Copiapoa cinerea ssp haseltoniana
Third	John Matthews	Copiapoa tenuissima

Echinocereus



Echinocereus viridiflorus var. *canus*

Echinocereus species can be found throughout the Western United States, and the range of species stretches through the American west and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City. As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as *E. poselgeri*.

In general, *Echinocereus* is an underappreciated genus. Most growers have one or two, but having killed a few in their early collecting days, usually because of over watering, concentrate on other genera. Most of the species are in fact easy to grow. Many of the species are quite variable, and exhibit different spination and flower colors depending on the local environment. As a result, a large number of species were named. These are being reduced to a more conservative 30 to 50 species.

The varieties and local growth forms provide an enormous range of interesting plants to grow. Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin,



Echinocereus baileyi

leaving scars. Offsets also erupt through the skin. Propagation from cuttings is relatively easy, but attention needs to cleanliness is important. Use of Rootone, or another rooting compound containing a fungicide helps ensure success.



Echinocereus rigidissimus var. *rubispinus*

A very popular species of *Echinocereus*, often found in the shows, is *E. rigidissimus* var. *rubispinus*. This plant produces a vibrant rose-colored flower during the spring and its spines retain a reddish tinge throughout the year.

Tom Glavich & Steve Frieze
Photo Credits: Tom Glavich & Kyle Williams

Aloe

Aloe is one of the most popular genera of succulents, especially in Southern California. In fact, *Aloe vera* may be the most widely cultivated succulent in the world, owing to its medicinal properties. Most species small herbs to shrubs, though some species (most notably *A. dichotoma* and *A. barberae*) can reach tree size. With over 500 species, and at least as many hybrids and cultivars, there is an *Aloe* for almost any situation and taste.

Aloe species are native to most of the drier parts of Africa, including Madagascar, with a number reaching the Arabian Peninsula. They are naturalized in every Mediterranean environment in the world, as well as some temperate and tropical regions. All but a few Aloes will grow readily in Southern California, either in the ground, or in pots. When in the ground they require minimal care, existing happily on only natural rainfall in most years. Summer growing species will appreciate some summer water. The sheer number of species and habitats make blanket statements on culture impossible, but most will thrive under the general care you give other succulents, so long as you know if you have a summer or winter grower.



Aloe barberae the largest Aloe



Hairy flowers of *Aloe tomentosa*

Aloes combine interesting form and foliage with beautiful flowers. Most species have orange, yellow, or red flowers that are attractive to Sunbirds in their native Africa. In the Americas Hummingbirds regularly visit them. These birds are great a pollinating flowers and it isn't unusual to see fruit develop. Those looking for other colors can find species with white or even green flowers. Some species, such as *A. tomentosa*, even have hairy flowers!

Propagating *Aloe* is generally easy. Dividing a rosette off a clump of *Aloe* is the easiest method for most species, and the only practical one for hybrids and cultivars. Just be sure to allow the end of the cutting to heal over for a week or so before planting. Seeds are the most economical way to add new species to your collection. They store well and germinate quickly when planted in mid spring (April is best.) Flowering plants can be produced within two years from seed, for the smaller species and three or four for many of the larger.

Aloes grow best with a balanced fertilizer when in active growth. Best growth occurs when given adequate root room, although some smaller species will tolerate considerable crowding. Whether in the ground or in a pot, a well draining soil is essential for keeping your *Aloe* happy.

Aloes are relatively pest free, though they are as susceptible to a mealybug outbreak as other succulents. Two serious pests of *Aloe* are rust and mites. Aloe rust, which produces red ringed spots black or brown spots on the leaves is a fungal disease, and can be controlled with any fungicide. Aloe galls are produced by the Aloe mite. These nearly invisible insects cause deformed flower stalks or leaves. The plant should be removed from all others, and is best destroyed, although eventual cure is possible with miticides.



Aloe heroensis growing wild in Namibia

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich
Photo credits: Andrew Massyn, Karelj, & Harald Supfle



Desert Creations

Spectacular Club Sale

All Cactus and Succulent Club members are invited to
a special private sale at Desert Creations

Dates: Saturday, April 69:00 to 5:00**
Sunday, April 710 to 4**

You save 20 percent on all plants
Your club receives 10 percent of the total purchase not including
taxes

All plants will receive the discount including
collected African plants

The above price reduction covers hundreds of new plants from
Madagascar and Africa ~ Euphorbia, Adenia, Pachypodium, etc.

*Only club Members (any Southern California cactus and succulent society) will be
allowed to make purchase during this weekend - there will be no public sale*

Located in the San Fernando Valley
15914 Rayen Street North Hills California 91343

**Directions: Exit the 405N 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 South side)**

Call (818) 482-8795 for additional information

2013 Sales and Events

- April 13 & 14 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO: 310-832-2262**
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA
- April 20 & 21 Green Scene Plant Sale—Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA
- April 24-28 24th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show (South Coast Plaza)
3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626
- April 28 Huntington Plant Sale 10am-5pm Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160**
- May 4 & 5 Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO 310-822-1783**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
- May 5 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale 9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO: CALL-310-833-6823**
- May 17 & 18 Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
32nd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9am-4:30pm
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
INFO: 951-360-8802
- May 19 Epiphyllum Society of America-Annual Show & Sale—9am-4pm
LA County Arboretum—301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA
Presale, Saturday, May 18 9am-4pm
- May 25 & 26 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, 10am-4pm, San Luis Obispo, CA
INFO: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 1 & 2 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society—Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA **INFO: 858-382-1797**
- June 8 & 9 Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale
Saturday June 8, 9am-5pm, and Sunday June 9, 9am-3:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA LACSS.com
- June 15-20 CSSA 35TH Biennial Convention, Austin, TX- www.CSSA2013.com
- June 28-30 CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens-FREE TO THE PUBLIC
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160 or 2277**
Plant Sale Starts Friday, June 28 Show opens Saturday, June 29-Sunday, June 30 THE
- July 26-28 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale
Friday, July 26 9am-5pm, Saturday, July 27 9am-5pm, Sunday July 28 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO: 949-212-8417
- August 17 & 18 28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale
The LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.
INFO:-TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-297-5364
- September 7 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- September 22 Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA **INFO: 310-922-6090**
- November 2 & 3 San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9am-5pm
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA



Mailing Address
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PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

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E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting April 4, 2013

April Workshop

How to Construct Displays for the

Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

April 13 & 14	South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale South Coast Botanical Gardens 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes INFO: 310-832-2262
April 20 & 21	Green Scene Plant Sale-Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton
April 28	Huntington Plant Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens 10-5 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino INFO: 626-405-2160

CSSA CONVENTION REMINDER:

April 30th is the last day to register for the Convention and save \$100.00