

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

April 2010

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Next Meeting: April 1, 2010



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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

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The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society is pleased to announce our speaker for

April 1, 2010

TOM GLAVICH

Tom Glavich will be providing a presentation on the miniature succulent plants of South Africa.

South Africa is home to an amazing variety of this type of plant, most of which will live happily for many years in small pots. They are ideal for the gardener with limited space and allow a large collection to be maintained in a small area. This talk will be a survey of some of the more interesting and colorful species from several families. A few methods of staging, cultivation and propagation will also be shown.

Tom is vice president of the CSSA, and author of the Beginner's Guide series of articles in "To The Point". He is one of the co-chairs of the InterCity Cactus and Succulent Show, a frequent exhibitor and vendor at many of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Shows.

2010 Board Members

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Doug George, VP, Special Events
Sandy Chase, Treasurer
Helen Frank, Secretary
Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor

PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2010
LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY (LACSS)

Month	Cacti	Succulent
January	Hooked Spine Mammillaria	Senecio and Othonna
February	Monotypic Cacti	Adromischus, Anacampseros & Avonia
March	Copiapoa	Aeonium, Sempervivum & Sedum
April	Astrophytums	Cucurbitaceae
May	Echinopsis, Libovia, & Trichocereus	Agavaceae
June	Thelocactus	Caudiciform Euphorbia
July	Melocactus	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Variegates	Variegates
November	Echinocactus	Haworthia Retuse Type
December	<i>Holiday Party</i>	

Entry Classes: All new members, new to the hobby, should enter plants in the Novice class. Novices must move to the Advanced class after they have won a total of 40 first place awards in the Plant of the Month competition. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Although it is not advised, LACSS members are free to enter a plant in the Open class at any time.

Prizes: All prizes are awarded at the Holiday Celebration in December. Trophies are awarded by entry class for those members who scored the most points in either the cacti or combined succulent categories. In the Novice and Advanced classes the top three scorers in each of the plant categories will also receive a prize (typically a plant). These prizes are awarded based on the total number of points scored during the year. Finally, a trophy is awarded to members, regardless of class, who have earned the most points in the cactus or two succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to two plants per entry category per month – a total of four plants. In the Advanced and Open Classes, members must have been in possession of their plants for at least one year. Those members showing in the Novice class may immediately enter a recently obtained plant. You can only enter plants that conform to the Plant of the Month schedule described above.

Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners

Judging Scale		Points Awarded	
Condition	50%	First	5
Size and Maturity	25%	Second	3
Staging	20%	Third	1
Nomenclature	5%		

New Members—Month of March
Bob Coleman
Deborah Russell

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Cactus of the Month April 2010 - *Astrophytum*

Astrophytum are often one of the first cacti a collector starts with. They are available for pennies (or now quarters) in discount stores, groceries, and home centers. How can anyone resist the \$1.29 special speckled Bishop's Cap? More than a few show plants started out this way. At the same time, growing a perfect, 10 or 20 year old specimen plant is a challenge few growers can master. Fortunately, the genus offers rewards and surprises at every level between, making it one of the most popular of cacti at all levels.



Astrophytum capricorne exhibited by Laura Oster in the 2001 Inter-city Show

Astrophytum are native to Southern Texas and Northern Central Mexico. They grow in a very arid region, with a porous mineral soil. One of the cultivation difficulties with *Astrophytum* is their tendency to split open

from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants.



Astrophytum asterias exhibited by Carol and Paul Maker in the 2001 Inter-city Show

Astrophytum asterias is the smallest of the species. It is the hardest to grow well, prone to splitting if over watered.

Astrophytum capricorne is generally the longest spined species.

Astrophytum myriostigma is the well known 'Bishops Cap.'

Astrophytum ornatum from Hidalgo can grow to 12 inches in diameter and three feet in height.

References:

Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**
Cullman, Gotz and Groner, **The Encyclopedia of Cacti**

Tom Glavich June 2005

Photos T. Nomer

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Caudiciform Succulent of the Month April 2010 - *Cucurbitaceae*

Cucurbitaceae are a large family of plants consisting of nearly 120 genera and over 800 species. In its non-succulent form this family produces many important food crops including melons, cucumbers, pumpkins, and squash. This plant family has genera that have been grown for over 10,000 years. It should be no surprise then that the succulent form of this family generates a vine that emerges from a caudex root system that ultimately forms unisexual flower.

Many of the more collectable cucurbits are tropical caudiciforms, requiring warm weather for growth, and sensitive to cold and wet. Typical growth habits start with a fast growing vine starting in late spring to early summer, ending growth in late September or October.

dex, with blue green felt covered stems growing like very thick grass. Also from Madagascar is *Xerosicyos*. There are four species associated with this genus, the most common of which is *Xerosicyos danguyi*. This species has quarter sized glaucous green leaves widely spaced on sprawling stems. It is relatively easy to grow, as long as it is kept dry in winter and not allowed to get much below 40 degrees.

One of the newest Cucurbits to enter cultivation is *Odosycios bosseri*, a caudiciform species from Madagascar.

Momordica is a medium sized genus from the old world tropics with about 60 species, some of which form caudices. The most popular is *Momordica rostrata* which forms a pleated cone. Climbing vines start from the tip of caudex, grow

When the vines die back, they can be cut off, and the caudex removed to a garage or basement for winter storage. Most succulent cucurbitaceae are very vigorous growers and will grow much faster and better if given free root run. One of the rarest of succulents is *Dendrosicyos socotrana*, a tree cucumber from the Island of Socotra. This island, off the coast of Yemen is known for its endemic species and bizarre plant life. It is an Indian Ocean equivalent to the Galapagos Islands. This monotypic species has a large trunk reaching to 20 feet tall and 3 feet in diameter, and prickly leaves.

Another rare and beautiful cucurbit is *Seyrigia humbertii*, from a genus found only in Madagascar. It has a small cau

through the summer, and die back in the fall. Also from the old world tropics is *Kedrostis*, a genus of about 35 species, the most common of which is *Kedrostis africana*, a caudiciform plant that is found in many collections. Similar to *Kedrostis* is *Gerrardanthus*, differing only in the fruits and details of the climbing tendrils. Both genera have several members that form very large caudices. They are rampant growers, and do well in the ground during the growing season. *Gerrardanthus macrorhizus* is found in South African. The caudex from which the vine grows can, in habitat, grow up to 5 feet in diameter which

the vine reaches 30 feet in length. This plant requires partial shade and fast draining soil.



Female Gerrardanthus macrokizus

The new world equivalent to *Kedrostis* and *Gerrardanthus* is *Ibervillea*, with several species known, and with new species being found in the jungles of Southern Mexico and Central America. *Ibervillea sonora* and *Ibervillea tenuisecta* are both readily available and easily grown. They form light gray elongated caudices. Like the African species, they won't tolerate cold, damp roots for long.



Ibervillea sonora

Other less common members of the family include *Anisosperma* from Brazil, *Cephalopentandra* from Tropical Africa, *Ceratostyles* from the Caribbean and South America, *Coccinia* from Africa and Asia, *Corallocarpus* also from Africa and Asia, *Cyclantheropsis* from Africa and Madagascar, *Eureiandra* from Africa and Socotra, *Neodalsomitra* from India to Australia, *Telfairia* and

Trochomeria from Africa, *Zehneria* from the Old World Tropics, and *Zygosicyos* from Madagascar.

Continuing exploration of the tropical forests of Africa, Asia and the Americas will bring new genus and species to the collector.

References:

G. Rowley, **Name that Succulent**

G. Rowley,
**Caudiciform and Pachycaul
Succulents**

A. Sajeve and M. Costanzo,
Succulents, The Illustrated Dictionary

Tom Glavich March 2002

Edited, Steve Frieze September 2009

We Want Your Stories

The Board of Directors has had several discussions on the content of the Chronicle and think it would be stimulating to have some fresh ideas about the world of cactus and succulents. We want volunteer "guest columnists" to write an article or submit interesting information concerning the plant world. We know so many of you could easily write 500 words on your favorite topic, such as - how I got interested in cactus and/or succulents, my favorite potting soil, my favorite plant (or least favorite), and why. We would like people to an article or a tidbit of information to be published in the Chronicle.

Please email your submission to me by April 20, 2010 for the **May 2010** issue. It would be helpful if you could let me know the subject you will write on and what month it can be sent to me for inclusion.

You can email me at Phyllis.98@hotmail.com or by phone at 818-892-1669.
See you all on April 1.

Thank you Sandy Chase for being the first person to step up to the plate!

Our First Story

Submitted by Sandy Chase

1935: Creation of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society for the purpose of education, conservation and study of cacti and succulents. The original name of the club at the time was "Southwest Cactus Growers." The founding members consisted of Don & Murray Skinner, Joe Grijalva & Hubert Monmonier. Meetings were held every Tuesday at the Manchester School. The Club had their first cactus show at the Manchester School on June 29th and 30th, where over ten -thousand (10,000) people attended. Advertisement for the show consisted of a window display at the Southwest Topics Newspaper, which was a success. Membership started growing largely after giving the show. The club at the time was led by Don & Murray Skinner. Cactus had become so popular that there was a crime wave of thieves stealing from citizens cactus gardens. A reward

Southern California 2010 Calendar of Events

April 10 & 11 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
South Coast Botanic Gardens 310-832-2262
26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes

April 17 & 18 Green Scene Plant Sale
Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL
Water Wise - Money Wise
Educational displays and plant sale
Sponsored by the
Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

DATE — JUNE 12th * 9-5 & 13th ***9-4—Set Up Friday, June 11th**

PLACE—Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino

THEME— Drought Resistant Plant Festival - To improve ways to fulfill the Club's mission statement of "education, conservation and the study of cacti and succulents". In the past our show and sale has concentrated on the educational aspect with our extremely successful informational exhibits. The current approach will be to educate and demonstrate how cacti and succulents have had all of these qualities long before it was necessary and how these plants fit into landscape design with other plants.

SHOW AND SALE FORMAT—The show will consist of landscaping exhibits constructed by the club and vendors. The exhibit themes are *Cacti & Succulents, Succulents and Native Plants, Pet & Child Friendly Plants and Color Coordinated*. The festival committee is asking members to **loan** plants to populate the Club exhibits. We need 6" to 5 gallon landscape quality potted plants (these specimen do **NOT** have to be show quality). For those who submit plants, **PLEASE** use a separate tag to identify the genus, name of the plant and your name. There will be an attendant at each landscape plot to answer questions along with signage to explain the exhibit.

Guest speakers will be inside the Garden Center - topics will include:

*Container gardening—Propagation—Pest control and fertilization
Pet and child friendly plants—Color coordinated gardens—Native plants*

The show chairs Sandy Chase (818-367-0864) or Joyce Schumann (818-705-3224) need to know by **Monday, May 17th** the number of plants, genus and category you are willing to loan for the construction of the exhibits.

Vendors will be selling landscaping plants in addition to their usual merchandise.

The Bromeliad Society will participate in this Festival as they have in the past.

Of Special Importance: Publicity is critical to the success of this Festival. Flyers, post cards, and email announcements will be distributed. Retail nurseries and other garden centers will also be contacted. *Involvement of all LACSS members is critical to the success of the Festival.* **MORE SHOW INFORMATION—PAGE 8**

There will be three 5'x10' and two 3'x5' demonstration gardens.

Please turn in a list to the Show Chairs at the April meeting of 3 - 5 plants (6" pots to 5 gal) that will survive in our climate that you are willing to donate to the club to use for the gardens.

The names of the demonstration gardens are as follows:

Silver/Blue Garden (5'x10')

General Cacti & Succulents (5'x10')

Cacti, Succulents and California Native Plants (5'x10')

Pet and Child Friendly Garden (3'x5')

Pelargoniums, Sarcocaulans and more advanced plants (3'x5')

Please write your name both on the pot and on a tag in the pot. Please bring all your plants to the Sepulveda Garden Center on Friday, June 10, 2011. Please make arrangements to drop them off at Sandy's house before that. All plants will need to be picked up from the Garden Center on Sunday, June 12, 2011, for the show.

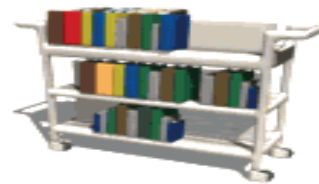
If we all bring a few plants for the gardens I'm sure we will have a great-looking show for the public.

Sandy Chase

Joyce Schulman

Show Co-Chairs

From the Stacks of the Library - April 2010
By Joyce Schumann
LACSS Librarian



Please stop by at the next meeting.

From the Stacks of the Library

April, 2010

Hi All,

Due to scheduling conflicts, I will not be able to attend the April meeting. So for all of you with checked out books, enjoy them for an extra month and return them at the May meeting.

In the meantime, ponder these posers: Is an Adenium the same as an Adenia? If not, why not?

Define: Crest

Montrose

Variegates

Hybrid

Cultivar

Why is it important to know if your plant is a winter grower or summer grower?

Name monotypic cacti.

Why are cacti and succulents drought tolerant?

What part of the plant makes it drought tolerant?

What would be a good reference source for the answers to these and other intriguing questions?



Hmmmmm

maybe the LACSS Library.....

See you in May (maybe there will be a quiz)

Joyce the Librarian

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Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month

Doug George, VP, Special Events

Sandy Chase, Treasurer

Helen Frank, Secretary

Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor

General Meeting starts at 7:30 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society *ONLINE* at www.lacss.com

Upcoming Programs:

April Guest Speaker
Tom Glavich

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: April 1, 2010
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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