

CACTUS CHRONICLE

April 2014

**Meeting Time
7:00 pm**

Plant of the Month

**Gymnocalycium
(singles)
Yucca, Nolina,
Calibanus,
Beaucarnea**

**Refreshments
E-H**

**March
New Members**

**Diane and Jennifer
Steve Bresnick
Joe Wujcik**

Editor

**Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@
yahoo.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.

General Meeting

April 3

Program: Preparing for the June Show

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze are both Lifetime Members of the LACSS and have filled several board positions including, President over the years. They are Managing Partners of Desert Creations – a cactus and succulent plant store and have traveled to many exotic locations in the world in search of unusual succulent specimen.



Agave utahensis



Agave victoriae-regina



Calabaris hookerii

The June Festival show is right around the corner. One of the most impressive parts of this annual event is the marvelous educational displays that club members assemble to exhibit, the wonders of their cacti and succulent collections. This month Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze will lead a workshop on how to design and prepare your display for the show. Discussions will initially focus on what type or grouping of plants would make for an interesting display (caudiciforms, Baja succulents, Mammillarias, families of plants). They will follow this with a conversation on what information is important to include in your exhibition (original location of the plant, color of the flower, etc.). Also included in this presentation will be some helpful hints on how to display your plants (similar looking pots) and some suggestions on how to arrange your display. Finally the two will stage a couple of plants so as to motivate club members to enhance the look of their collection. This will be an interactive workshop with questions encouraged. At the conclusion of the workshop, it is hoped that many participants will now feel they can successfully assemble a display for the June Show.

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

2014 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 1st VP, Programs

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

Sandy Chase

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 Succi

Member at Large

Kathleen Misko

CGCI Liaison

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

John Noster

Steve Rudolf

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message—April 2014

Spring has sprung - March does not know if it is coming or going as a lion or a lamb. So, keep a watch on your plants, as usual. I think I lost a Pele during the recent hot spell. Should've known better but experience is the best teacher.

And that is a good segue into our last Board of Director's meeting. The main topic of discussion was our June Festival. At previous meetings, job descriptions were created, refined, and assigned. Artie created a Festival Organization Chart and recruited club members to assume the responsibilities for the major areas of activity. This chart will be posted on the white board at the April meeting so everyone can see the divisions of responsibility. Now the Chairs of those activities have started the process of making it all happen. Our past experiences will guide them and they will add their own vision and direction to those experiences to create another fantastic Festival.

The California Garden Club, Inc. and the LACSS are starting to blend nicely with each other. We will be seeing announcements in the Chronicle regarding their upcoming events and they will be posting ours as well. We are in the San Fernando Valley District of the CGCI and I have provided the Club names, meeting dates and websites for your reference.

The Plant of the Month is continuing to provide exciting plants and many members participating. This is an excellent way to learn more about our plants especially with the POM plant descriptions provided by Kyle Williams. At the end of the year, those go into my special file for future reference. Thanks to Manny and Kyle this feature of our meeting always creates a lot of anticipation and excitement.

If you have looked around our Festival as it is in set-up or tear-down mode, one might wonder where all those signs, posters, tents, etc. come from. And where do they go when not in use? As our Festival grows, we add more elements that need storage somewhere during the off season. Up to now the solution has been to rely on "temporary" storage in many garages, or bedrooms and sometimes someone's living room. Looking for a permanent solution for a single place to store our stuff, I visited 2 local storage businesses. The biggest deterrent to single place storage is cost. Average cost is \$180/month without the recommended insurance. That stretches our finances a bit so we still are looking for a place for our stuff. If you have space in your garage, etc. and would be willing to store our Festival supplies and equipment, please let us know.

See you soon.

Joyce

WEAR YOUR LACSS NAME BADGE

In April and throughout the year, I encourage you to wear your LACSS Name Badge. Don't have one? See me and order one! Be a winner at the April Meeting in the first of many "Wear Your Name Badge Raffle." Win a prize plant and be proud you are a member of our fantastic club! See me at the Membership Table and contact me if you have any questions.

Danielle Duboff, Membership Chairman
danielle.duboff@yahoo.com



Mentoring Program Update

April

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze will conduct a class in **Staging** on Saturday, April 12 at the home of Steven & Phyllis, 15914 Rayen Street, North Hills, starting at 11 am.

Desert Creations, located at Steve's home will also have their Spring Sale on April 12th. The sale begins at 9 am. Plants and pots made by Gerald Reichert will be available for sale. You can buy a pot or plant at the sale or bring your own pot and plant to be able to stage your own plant. You may want to bring several pots and plants and Steve and Artie will help you select the best pot for your plant.

May and June

There will be no mentoring classes during May and June due to preparations for the Club's Annual Show in June.

Later this summer

A class on **Asclepiadacea** is tentatively scheduled July; Sandy Chase will conduct the class at her home. The **Asclepiadacea** family includes Fockea, Raphionacme, Stapelia and Hoodia.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions please contact me.

John Suci
805-374-7306
johns.three@gmail.com

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2014

- April 12-13** Green Scene Plant Sale Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
- April 12-13** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **Info: 310-378-1953**
South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes, CA
- April 24-27** **South Coast Plaza** 25th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show
3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 **Info 714-435-2089**
- April 27** Huntington Plant Sale 10-5 Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino (626) 405-2160
- May 4** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens **Info** (310) 833-6823
- May 3-4** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City **Info** (310) 822-1783
- May 16-17** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 33rd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon **Info** (951) 360-8802
- May 17** Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Sale 10am-3pm
Trinity Lutheran Church 909 N. La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara **Info 805-967-7962**
- May 17-18** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5 www.lbcss.org
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach **Info** (310) 922-6090—
- May 24-25** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale 10-4pm Ludwick Center,
864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo **Info** (805) 237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 7-8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **Info** (858) 382-1797
- June 14-15** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Show & Sale 9-3:30** Sepulveda
Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino www.lacss-show.com
- June 27-29** **CSSA Annual Show & Sale** –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road
Info 626) 405-2160 or 2277 Sales Start June 27 Show Opens and Free to the Public on June 28
- July 25-27** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale **Info** (949) 212-8417
Friday July 25 9am-5pm, Saturday July 26 9am-5pm, Sunday 27 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim
- August 9-10** 29th Annual Intercity Show & Sale-LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 or John Matthews (661) 714-1052
- August 30** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 7** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **Info:** (310) 922-6090
- November 4-5** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia



Save The Date

Desert Creations

**Spectacular Beginning
of the Year Sale**

**Date: Saturday, April 12
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**

All cactus and succulent club members are invited to this special opportunity

Save 20 percent on all plants

The above price reduction covers recently arrived plants from Africa – We have made some special purchases and look forward to sharing them with you.

**Special Staging Demonstration from 11:00 to 12:30
You can purchase a plant, pot, top dressing, and have
your plant staged**

**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

California Garden Club, Inc.

Now that LACSS is a member of the CGCI, San Fernando Valley District, we are providing meeting and contact information for other member Clubs. If you wish further information regarding these groups, please contact the club directly.

CGCI San Fernando Valley District Member Club Meeting--Meeting Dates

Burbank Valley Garden Club

1st Thursday 10 AM queenmum@foothill.net

Cherry Blossom Garden Club

1st Wednesday 11 AM KSunness@hotmail.com

Gardening Club of Santa Clarita

2nd Thursday 7 PM hearts2sherri@sbcglobal.net

Lake View Terrace Improvement Association

1st Monday 7 PM jwilliams@phoenixhouse.com

Sherman Oaks Garden Club

4th Wednesday 10 AM patchogue26@att.net

Southern California Garden Club

3rd Tuesday 10AM hovallens@att.net

Sunshine Club

2nd Monday 1 PM jaykapac@gmail.com

Toluca Lake Garden Club

2nd Wednesday 10:30 AM SFDuenckel@aol.com

West Valley Garden Club

2nd Tuesday 10 AM caroline@russom.com

Woodland Hills Floral Designers Club

4th Tuesday 10 AM Bevswitzer@aol.com

June 6-7

2nd Annual Succulent Celebration 9-5 both days
Guest speakers, Free parking and admission
32183 Old Highway 395, Escondido, CA 92026
Info: mikayla@waterwisebotanicals.com

Southern California Garden Club

48th Standard Flower Show

"Mardi Gras"



**Saturday, April 26,
2014**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Plant Market, Bake Sale,
White Elephant Sale

FREE ADMISSION

**Sepulveda Garden Center
16633 Magnolia Boulevard**

REQUEST FROM VENDOR CHAIRMAN FOR CGCI CONVENTION IN JUNE

Vendors are being sought to participate in the **California Garden Clubs Annual Convention**. This is an opportunity to sell product to over 300 enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardeners from throughout California. And, it is an excellent occasion to introduce product to and network with a committed and interested group of gardeners.

Details for the event include:

When: Friday, June 6, 2014 (vendor sales are ONE DAY ONLY)

Hours: Set up by 9:00 a.m. – break-down at 5:00 p.m.

Where: Hilton Hotel / Los Angeles North (Glendale), 100 W. Glenoaks Blvd, Glendale 91202

Vendor Space: 10' x 10' outdoors – backed up to a retaining wall on which stuff can be set

Amenities: 1 six-foot skirted table and 2 chairs

Price: \$25 donation (NON-REFUNDABLE) payable to San Fernando Valley District and then as deep a discount as vendors are willing to offer members

Deadline: May 15, 2014

Security: Vendors' responsibility

Please contact me Maria Orefice, Volunteer Vendor Coordinator at: mariaorefice@hotmail.com or call 818-609-8041 for more information and an application.

**Plant of the Month
2014**

April

Gymnocalycium singles
Yucca, Nolina,
Calibanus, Beaucarnea

May

Buiningia, Uebelmania
Mesembryanthemaceae
(other than Lithops &
Conophytum)

June

Favorite, Favorite

July

Escobaria, Corypantha
Cucurbitaceae

August

Obregonia, Strombo-
cactus, Echinomastus
Fockea, Raphionacme,
Brachystelma

September

Thelocactus
Fouqueria

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

Plant of the Month - March

Succulent -- Agaves

Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Agave schidigera
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Agave "Gum Job"
Third	Nancy Neymark	Agave funkiana

Novice

First	Jim Esterle	Agave chazaroi
Second	Jim Esterle	Agave titanota
Third	Jim Esterle	Agave impressa

Advanced

First	John Martinez	Agave isthmensis
Second	Kim Thorpe	Agave victoria reginae
Third	Cheryl White	Agave pumila
Third	Kim Thorpe	Agave "Snow Glow"

Open

First	Artie Chavez	Agave victoria-reginae
Second	Artie Chavez	Agave utahensis
Third	John Matthews	Agave gypsiphyla variegated

Cactus -- Opuntia

Rookie

First	Kathryn Boorer	Tephrocactus weberi
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Tephrocactus alboareolatus
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Tephrocactus alexanderi

Novice

First	Efren Flores	Tephrocactus articulatas var papyracanthus
Second	John Suci	Tephrocactus geometricus
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Tephrocactus sp.

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Tephrocactus geometricus
Second	Kim Thorpe	Opuntia pachypus
Third	Kim Thorpe	Puna bonnieae

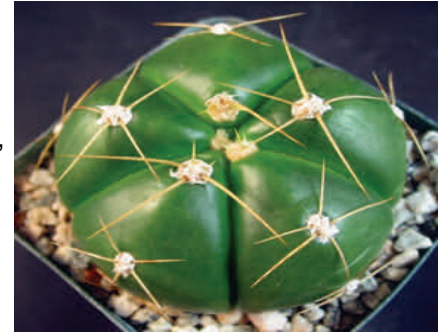
Open

First	John Matthews	Maihueiopsis clavarioides
Second	Gerald Reichert	Tephrocactus mandragora
Third	John Matthews	Tephrocactus alexanderi

Plant of the Month: Single headed *Gymnocalycium*

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. Probably every cactus collector in the world has at least one in their collection. With over 70 species and hundreds of varieties, cultivars, and hybrids there is something for everyone!

There are several reasons for the popularity of the genus. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year. Among novice growers, the most popular *Gymnocalycium* is undoubtedly the grafted cultivars of *G. mihanovichii* that lack chlorophyll (the green pigment in plants that lets them photosynthesize). These cultivars come in bright yellows, reds, oranges, and even pink. These plants certainly are stunning, but you almost never see a mature plant because they are quite difficult to grow and, quite frankly, many serious collectors see it as something of a freak of nature and not a desirable addition to a collection.



Gymnocalycium horstii



Gymnocalycium mihanovichii

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. It is so named for the spineless flower buds in all species (*Gymnocalycium* translates to "Naked calyx"). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles. All *Gymnocalycium* are from South America, with the center of distribution in Argentina. The genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months. *Gymnocalycium* are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.



Gymnocalycim vatterii

This month's show plants are single headed *Gymnocalycium*, meaning plants without pups or offsets. There is no real biological difference between these and the clumping plants. It is simply an aesthetic choice on how you grow your plant. That being said, some *Gymnocalycium* species can go years without producing offsets while others form pups at the drop of a hat.

-Kyle Williams
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich

Plants of the Month: *Calibanus*, *Beaucarnea*, *Nolina*, & *Yucca*

This month the succulents of the month are several of the close relatives of *Agave* from the Americas. This group used to be called, the plant family Agavaceae, but today are considered part of the *Asparagus* family Asparagaceae. As most of you aren't interested in advanced taxonomy, let's just say these four genera are closely related to each other and share the characteristics of being woody and having grass-like to sword-like leaves. Cultivation of most species is easy. Nearly all can grow in the ground, and most, but the largest species, can live happily in pots. They are mainly warm season growers so provide some water during the spring through fall to get them to look their best.



Nolina parryi

Yucca is the largest and best known of these genera. Anyone traveling in the Mojave Desert has certainly seen Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), one of the largest and most distinctive *Yucca* species. As close as the Mojave is, you don't even have to go that far to see a native *Yucca*. In our local hills grows *Hesperoyucca whipplei* (formerly *Yucca whipplei*), commonly called Spanish Bayonet because of the very sharp leaves or "Our Lord's Candle" due to the large (10 feet or more) white inflorescences produced in the spring can be seen from a mile or more away. While most *Yucca* species are better suited to being landscape plants due to their size, some do well as specimen plants in pots. Probably the most prized of these species is *Yucca endlichiana*, a small Mexican species with thick blue-green leaves and brown flowers (unique in the genus).



Beaucarnea recurvata, the Ponytail Palm, is an incredibly popular plant grown by everyone from succulent enthusiasts to people with a black thumb (the latter usually as a neglected houseplant). While it looks nice as a small to medium sized houseplant, mature plants grown in the ground are really where you can see this species shine. What most people don't realize is there are several other species in the genus. The species are fairly similar (to those of us that don't focus on the genus), mainly varying in overall size, degree of branching, size of caudex, etc. Most species are sizable landscape plants, though *B. compacta* stays small enough to be part of a modest sized landscape where space is an issue.

Nolina, like *Yucca*, has species native to the United States (including in our area of California). They are very closely related to *Beaucarnea* but differ in technical features of the fruit. While all *Beaucarnea* form woody trees, *Nolina* often form big clumps of grassy to sword shaped leaves. Some large, mature *Nolina* can form a big mostly unbranched trunk and look remarkably similar to the Australian Grass Trees, *Xanthorrhoea*.

The most unusual member of this group is *Calibanus*. At first glance, you might think you are looking at a big tuft of blue-green grass, but upon closer inspection you will see the large, fissured, woody caudex that makes this plant so desirable. It makes a nice specimen either in the ground or in a pot. I recommend raising the base to show off the caudex to its greatest extent.



Calabanus hookerii



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting

April 3

**Program: Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze
Preparing for the June Show**

- April 12-13** Green Scene Plant Sale Fullerton Arboretum
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA
- April 12-13** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
Info: 310-378-1953
- April 24-27** **South Coast Plaza** 25th Annual Southern California Spring Garden Show
3333 Bear Street, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 Info 714-435-2089
- April 27** Huntington Plant Sale 10-5 Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino (626) 405-2160