

CACTUS CHRONICLE

February 2012

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

For more information

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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.

Andy Siekkinen

Speaking on Hechtias

Andy Siekkinen is a nanotechnology chemist with a plant problem. Growing up in northeastern Ohio was good, a brief stop in Seattle for a couple of years was better, but then he found San Diego. After discovering the bromeliad family he hasn't looked back. Currently the President of the San Diego Bromeliad Society and the Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park his collection focuses on Tillandsias and the terrestrial genera, especially the genus *Hechtia*. Over the past several years he has been exploring Mexico looking for the new, the interesting, and even the old and has covered over 14,000 miles driven throughout the country. He has recently started a tour company to explore the cultural and botanical diversity of Mexico and is just returning from a week exploring the deserts and mountains of Oaxaca.

The Genus Hechtia for Cactus and Succulent Enthusiasts in Southern California

Hechtias are rare succulent plants that are not often appreciated. If people know of and collect any succulent bromeliads it is often the Dyckias and Deuterocohnias. Fortunately for us in Southern California, we have some of the best collections of Hechtias in the United States (all 5 collectors!). Hechtias are distributed primarily in Mexico and our climate is a great match. Andy's presentation will briefly describe some of the xerophillic bromeliads and particularly the Hechtias. You will see plants in habitat as well as in cultivation and learn both, how to grow and display them best.



Hechtia stoloniferous



Hechtia texensis



Hechtia zamudioi



Hechtia lynn



Hechtia dorothy



Hechtia argentea—Tropiflora

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February, 2012

The year got off to a great start at the January 5th meeting. The turnout was enormous, the treats were fantastic (thank you, T through Z!), and we had many visitors and new members who read an announcement about our group in the LA Times. The Plant of the Month table was overflowing with an impressive array of Mammillarias, Othonnas, and Senecios. Buck Hemenway's informative and entertaining presentation of his trip to Namibia had us all ready to book our flights. Thank you, Buck. We hope to see you at your April 1 Garden Tour.

As the *Chronicle* goes to press, our board will meet on January 22 with a big agenda of initiatives. John Matthews' committee is presenting a proposal for hosting plant trading among our members, Tim Harvey is keeping us involved in CSSA activities, and board members are already planning for our June show. We'll be working on the details of a logo contest challenging members to create a new look for our stationery and website. Nils Schirrmacher, a long-standing LACSS member, has volunteered to serve as club historian. You can look forward to his articles in upcoming newsletters. Supporting our efforts to get the *Cactus Chronicle* out in a timely manner, Phyllis Shapiro is asking that all articles and photographs be submitted to her by the 3rd Monday of each month.

Please dance for a little rain in the upcoming weeks. Even our drought tolerant gardens need a little drink. And if your last name begins with letters A, B, C, or D, our members will appreciate your remembering to nourish us at the next meeting on February 2.

Roxie Esterle
President
LACSS.contact@gmail.com



CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012 UPDATED 12/14/2011

FEB 11	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-WINTER SHOW & SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. www.sdcss.net
MAR 23 & 24	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SPRING SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
APR 7 & 8	SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW &SALE SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDENS - 26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO. 310-832-2262
APR 14 & 15	GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM 1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
May 5 & 6	SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM 4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
MAY 6	SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE9am to 4pm SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS - INFO. CALL-310-833-6823
MAY 13	HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
MAY 18-19	GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 31 ST SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 951-360-8802
MAY 26-27	CENTRAL COAST CASTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
JUNE 2 & 3	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND SALE BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO. 858-382-1797
JUNE 9-10	LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE 11 th 9-5, 12 th 9-3:30 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO, CA INFO. E-MAIL LACSS.Contact@gmail.com
JUNE 29-JULY 1	CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE -HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA 626-405-2160 or 2277 - Show 6-30/7-1
JULY 27-28	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE. FRIDAY JULY 27 TH Noon until 7pm, SATURDAY JULY 28 TH 9am to 5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
AUG. 11-12	27 th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT 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
SEPT. 1	HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM - ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
SEPT. 23	LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION 18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA12 PM
NOV. 3-4	SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALELA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
NOV. 9-10	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329

February 2012 Event

February 11 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society

Winter Show and Sale Balboa Park, Room 101

San Diego, CA

For more information: contact www.sdcss.net

IMPORTANT

Dues Reminder to LACSS Members

LACSS Membership dues for the 2012 calendar year are due at this time. Please pay your dues at the February meeting. Only those members who have paid their 2012 dues will continue to receive the *Cactus Chronicles* after March, 2012.

Volunteers needed for LACSS Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival June 9 and 10, 2012

We need many volunteers to help coordinate, publicize, and host activities during our Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival. If you are eager to serve on the planning committee and be an active part of this exciting event, please join us on Saturday, February 4 at the Sepulveda Garden Center at noon.

LACSS Membership Form (Please print the following information)				
NamePhone				
Name of Additional Members:				
Address				
City, State, Zip Code				
E-Mail Address				
Send me the newsletter by E-Mail \square Send me the newsletter by U.S. Mail(\$5 extra fee) \square				
Send me a plastic name badge (\$6.50 each) □				
Type of Membership: New Member □ Renewal □				
□ Single Membership \$20 annually \$10 1/2 year (July or after)				
□ Family Membership \$25 annually \$12.50 1/2 year (July or after)				
\square Newsletter by U.S. Mail \$5 fee in addition to the membership charge				
□ Cash □ Check: number				
Special Interests				

Monthly Meeting Refreshments

Each month different members whose last name begins in a particular letter are requested to furnish refreshments for the club. Below is the list, by month, for 2012.

January	TUVWXYZ	July	TUVWXYZ
February	ABCD	August	ABCD
March	EFGH	September	EFGH
April	IJKLM	October	IJKLM
May	NOPR	November	NOPR
June	S	December	HOLIDAY PARTY

Members were selected by the approximate number of members attending each meeting.

Refreshments for the month of February are members whose last names begin in A, B, C, D



OH VERDANT AUTUMN: SEASONAL SUCCULENTS HIGHLIGHT SGVCSS'S WINTER SHOW

Nils Schirrmacher

Braving a stormy Sunday morning, I traveled east towards the L.A. Arboretum to make the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society's Winter Show. This is the *other* show: an autumnal echo of August's gigantic Inter-City Show, that is hosted by the *other* club: LACSS's sibling organization whose membership boasts several energetic individuals that grace both the Los Angeles and San Gabriel clubs with their knowledge and enthusiasm. As a collector of winter-growers, I was excited to see which rainloving species would be offered for sale at the show, and to take in its timely display of succulents that are orthodox in their adherence to annual cycles.

By the time I reached the Arboretum, the rain had stopped, but clouds still lingered around the base of the San Gabriel Mountains, creating a moody backdrop for the garden. Inside the show, I hit the sales area first, knowing full well that Sunday shopping was not going to offer optimal selection. While tables remained well stocked with Woody Minnich's rarities, Petra Crist's pricey specimens, and garden-tolerant offerings from the Cactus Center, there was a noticeable lack of the mesembs, Tylecodons, and Dudleya that brighten a cloudy day. Making up for the absence of these particular genera were

the geophytic and succulent Pelargoniums sold by Barbara Hall, Tom Glavich's selection of bulbs, and Desert Creations' affordably priced assortment of Sarcocaulon seedlings.

The display area provided a refreshing contrast to the high summer bounty of the Inter-City exhibition, as several groups of plants demonstrated the effects of shorter days and cooler nights. Most conspicuous in this regard were the Bursera, whose carefully pruned branches were sparsely leaved with yellowing foliage. These parsed pachycauls proved that fall color does make an appearance in Southwest deserts.



Plenty of foliage could be found on the table devoted to members of the family Geraniaceae, with each entry fresh out of dormancy. Almost all of the knobby-stemmed Pelargoniums were represented, including the species carnosum, klinghardtense, cotyledonis, and paniculatum. The genus Tylecodon had a good showing as well, with massive specimens of T. reticulatus and cacalioides on display. Few Dudleya were shown; a vacancy that mirrored their lackluster presence in the sales area. This under-representation of our native succulent presents an opportunity for novice growers wishing to accrue show ribbons. Future prizewinners need only to seek out attractive members of the genus and learn to grow them well.

To gather ideas for the staging of my own plants, I brought a camera along. Here are some shots of entries whose combination of pot, plant, and top dressing pleased my eye:



This *Euphorbia supressa* offered a study in complimentary textures, with the bark-like surface of the container playing against the plant's finely tuberculate skin. I thought the top dressing could have gone a shade darker, providing contrast for those silver peduncles.



A similarly textured pot was used to stage this diminutive *Agave filifera*. The plant interested me because I have a mini *victoria-reginae* that has foiled all staging efforts. I liked this entrant's solution to the problem: make a crevice, stick the plant in, and wait until the cleft is filled with pups.



Contrast between plant and pot is not always desired, as this delicately spined Strombocactus demonstrates. Here, the hues of the plant's skin are repeated in the buff color of the top dressing and the pot's celadon glaze, accentuating the cactus' color. Use of strong contrast would have risked washing out its subtle shades.

With these staging tips in mind, and purchased floral fodder in hand, I exited onto the garden's rain swept paths. As I admired the freshly washed foliage of the Arboretum's trees and shrubs, I could not help but plan my entries for the 2012 Inter-City show, anticipating summer's boldness while in the sway of autumn's understated allure.

LACSS Officers and Responsibilities 2012-2013 Contact Board Members at lacss.contact@gmail.com

Office	Name	
President	Roxie Esterle	
1 st VP, Programs	Tim Harvey	
2 nd VP,	Manny Rivera	
Plant of the Month		
3 rd VP, Special Events	Bob Morris	
Secretary	Cheryl White	
Treasurer	Ronit Weiss	
Website contact		
Director 1 odd years Membership	Richard Roosman	
Director 2 even years	Sylvia Strehlo	
Past President LACSS Sales - Events Chair	Artie Chavez	
Cactus Chronicle Editor	Phyllis Shapiro	
Publication Chair	John Matthews	
Intercity Show Chair		
CSSA Representative		
Librarian	Joyce Schumann	
LACSS Inside Show		
LACSS Show Publicity		
Holiday Party	Barbara Hall	
Hospitality		
(new member packets)	7.1.37 17 01	
LACSS Inside Show	John Martinez and Joyce Shumann	
LACSS Show Publicity	Kim Thorp and Joyce Shumann	
LACSS Sales	Doug George	
Plant Procurement	Gerald Richert	
Education	Steve Frieze	
Hospitality	Danielle Duboff	
(new members orientation)		
Mentor Program	Efren Flores ??	
LACSS Webmaster	Gunnar Eisel	
Monthly Drawing	Leah Imamura and Juana Williams	
Member at large	Norma Lewis	

Plant-of-the-Month

	Cacti	Succulent
January	Mammillaria	Othonna &Senecio
February	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
March	Variegates	Variegates
April	Echinocereus	Haworthia
May	Echinopsis	Gasteria
June	Cephalium bearing cacti	Adenium
July	Eriosyce	Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia - Caudiciform Type
October	Parodia (includes Notocactus)	Stemless Mesembs - no Lithops
November	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon
December	Holiday Party	Holiday Party

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 or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

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 two 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 and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 2 plants per entry category per month – a total of 4 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.

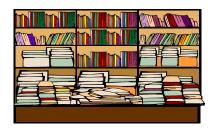
Plant of the Month - January Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Othonna and Senecio

Succulent ~	Othonna and Senecio			
Award	Name	Plant		
First	Efren Flores	Othonna retrofracta		
Second	Kimo Thorpe	Othonna hybrid		
Second	Kimo Thorpe	Othonna euphorbiodes		
Third	Kimo Thorpe	Othonna hybrid		
Third	Ronit Weiss	Senecio sp.		
Cactus - Ma	ammillaría			
First	John Suciu	Mammillaria geminispina		
Second	John Suciu	Mammillaria geminispina		
Second	Phyllis Frieze	Mammillaria plumosa		
Third	Kimo Thorpe	Mammillaria gracilis v. fragilis monstrose		
Third	John Martinez	Mammillaria perezdelarosae		
Advanced	Division			
Succulent - Othonna and Senecio				
Award	Name	Plant		
First	Mick Gottschalk	Othonna retrofracta		
Second	Kim Thorpe	Othonna herrei		
Second	Kim Thorpe	Othonna euphorbiodes		
Third	Mick Gottschalk	Senecio kleinia		
Third	Kim Thorpe	Othonna arbuscula		
Cactus - Ma	ammillaria			
First	Kim Thorpe	Mammillaria hahniana		
Second	Kim Thorpe	Mammillaria sphaerica		
Second	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria plumosa		
Third	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria microthele		
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Mammillaria klissingiana		
Open Dívis	sion			
Succulent -	Othonna and Senecio			
Award	Name	Plant		
First	Manny Rivera	Othonna herrei		
Second	Manny Rivera	Othonna pachypoda		
Third	Manny Rivera	Othonna retorsa		
Cactus - Ma	ammillaría			
First	John Matthews	Mammillaria supertexta		
Second	Steven Frieze	Mammillaria klissingiana		
Second	John Matthews	Mammillaria 'Un Pico'		
Third	Steven Frieze	Mammillaria rhondantha v. pringlei		
Third	John Matthews	Mammillaria carmenae		

Best succulent in the mini-show Best cactus in the mini-show



From the Stacks of the Library

Happy Leap Month to everyone

We will leap into this month with our newest book, "Ariocarpus et cetera – The special, smaller genera of Mexican cacti." This slim volume is coauthored by John Pilbeam and Bill Weightman. John Pilbeam has authored many books, most of which are currently in our Library. In spite of the popularity of the subjects, none of them have received comprehensive attention. If you are interested in, e.g., Aztekium, Lophophora, Stenocactus, or Ariocarpus, this is the book you must read. There are 17 Genera descriptions including the history of discovery, references, habitat and cultivation with outstanding photos.

Occasionally, we post a newspaper article or such on the white board located on the south wall of the Center. During the social hour, please take look. There is always something interesting and pertinent! In that vein - I found an article in the UCLA Magazine (July 2011) featuring biologist Dr. Park S. Nobel. Dr. Nobel is "the world's leading expert on the environmental biology of cacti and an evangelist for the environmental benefits of the fleshy, water-wise plants known as succulents." Information about Dr. Nobel and his plants can be found on the Library table along with the 2 books he has authored. (I don't know how to hang a magazine of the white board.)

The Library List for 2012 is now available in 2 formats – one by author and one by subject. Please stop by the Library table and pick up a new list. Also, at the table will be the CSSA Journals and an assortment of other book selections to pique your interest and enhance your knowledge of your favorite plants.

Please wear your name tag.

So, make sure you stop by the table, say HI and CHECK IT OUT!

See you in a few days. Joyce the Librarian



LACSS GENERAL BOOK LOAN POLICY

- You must be a member of LACSS for 3 months and attend at least 3 meetings before you may check out books.
- Book loans are for I month borrow it this month, return it next month.
- Check out card must include date (month and year), your name, and your phone number.
- Only 2 general books may be checked out at a time.
- Books must be returned before you can check out more books.
- Borrower will be assessed a fee of \$5.00/month for each overdue book.
- If a book is not returned within 120 days, borrower will be billed for the total replacement cost of the book.
- If restitution is not made for late, lost, or unreturned books, borrower will lose their library privileges.

Librarian will provide a receipt for returned book (s).

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus and Succulent of the Month February 2012 - Crests and Monstrose



Lophocereus schottii monstrose

The three most common types of mutation are crests, monstrose growth and variegation. All of these are mutations of the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tip is a point, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests the genetic mutation removes dominance, and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. For monstrose growth, the local dominance is lost, and every growth tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point.

Cresting and monstrose growth is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

Culture of crests and Monstrose Plants

Crests and monstrose plants are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Mutant plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. This is one of the many reasons they are often grown as grafts.



Carnegie gigantea



Euphorbia lactea variegata crest

Propagation of Crests and Monstrose Plants

Crests flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering plant. Mutations are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the mother plant, but monstrose and variegated plants are also possible.



Rebutia einsteinii crest

The most common method of propagation of these plants is vegetative. Cuttings of are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms.



Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum' crest



Astrophytum myriostigma monstrose

References:

The New Cactus Lexicon, David Hunt

Tom Glavich March 2004 Edited by Steve Frieze, November 2011

Monstrose and Crested Cacti and Succulents—Pictorial Supplement









Ariocarpus retusus





General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on the <u>first</u> **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 Program for
February
Andy Siekkinen
Hechtias

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: February 2, 2012

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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