

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

July 2010

Guest Speaker's
Bio is on
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Next Meeting: July 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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OUR GUEST SPEAKER FROM JUNE—NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Hello All,

I accidentally left two of my books at the June meeting. They were left either on the podium or perhaps on the corner of the "free table". These two were the field guides to Namaqualand and Stellenbosch to Hermanus. They have "Ernesto" written on one or more sides of the stacked pages. If you know the whereabouts of my books, I would greatly appreciate any assistance you could provide to get them back to me! Most of my immediate family lives in the San Fernando Valley so I can arrange for a pickup by one of them. Thanks very much and sorry for any inconvenience. Ernesto

A message from the LACSS Show Chairs: Joyce Shumann and Sandy Chase

With Artie as the driving force the impossible was accomplished. Just an idea at the beginning of the year turned into an outstanding event. We want to thank each and every person who worked so hard to pull this off. The publicity was good and we had a record number of people come and see the demonstration gardens and buy plants. We got 7 new members and 1 renewal. The Hospitality table was busy both days. Kim did an outstanding job in the kitchen and we ate like kings. The BBQ dinner was great as always and we had 48 in attendance. The auction was terrific and we cleared \$138.00 for our share of the 80/20 split. All in all it was a wonderful weekend and we thank everyone who helped out during those 4 days. Looking forward to a bigger and better show next year.

New Members—Month of June
Cindy & Don Diener
Richard Brodey, Jorden & Shae
Phyllis Nicholson
Carlos Flores
David & Margaret Levine
Jose Lopez

What follows is a humorous version of my bio

As written by TIM HARVEY-our guest speaker

The presentation will be a photo-montage of the pre-Succulenta 2003 trip through the western Cape and Namibia. The biennial Succulenta Congress is the South African Society's version of the CSSA convention. It was an inspirational trip that got me hooked on visiting plants in their natural habitat.

I relinquished my claim to the title of King of Abbots Bromley, and being the first of my family to leave the shire (Staffordshire) in a thousand years, entered University. This was done with the lowest possible grades on the back of a scholarship resulting from being a coalminer's grandson. 10 years later I got a Fellowship from NATO to move to Canada in an attempt to reverse the 'Brain Drain'.

The offer of a Christmas interview on the beach in Santa Barbara persuaded me to move to California in late 1994. This was convenient since my work visa was about to expire, and I just about understood American English. The Northridge earthquake marked the date of my job acceptance and the signing over of my soul to the Biotechnology Industry. Never quite doing what I was hired to do, I escaped from the pharmaceutical grindstone with my morals intact. I have increasingly bothered the Desert Collections staff of the Huntington, to the point they try to keep me out of the growing areas by sending me to the TC lab.



Southern California 2010 Calendar of Events

July 23-25

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society

July 23, 24 and 25 (10 am—4 pm) each day.

Show Saturday & Sunday (10 am—4 pm)

Fullerton Arboretum, 1990 Associated Road

Fullerton, CA CONTACT: Vince Basta 714-267-4329

August 21 & 22

25th Annual Intercity Show and Sale

LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue

For information call: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or

John Matthews 661-297-5364

From the Stacks of the Library - July 2010

By Joyce Schumann LACSS Librarian

Usually I prepare the book selections based on the Plant of the Month for the following month (March books will be selections for the April POM). Since the POM for August will be YOUR FAVORITE, I will follow that category and present some of my favorite books!

So stop by the Library table and *CHECK OUT* some of my favorites.

Let me give you a sampling of some of my favorites:

The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents by Terry Hewitt - a must read for all beginners
This is an excellent book for beginners! It is divided into four sections – Anatomy and Discovery, Style Guide, Plant Catalogue, and Care and Cultivation.

The featured plants are the fairly common ones that a beginner would probably have success with. The author includes a growth profile to assist us in estimating how big a plant will get under certain conditions

Australian Succulent Plants by Attila Kapitany

This book is not a travelogue but a description of Australian native succulent plants grouped by size (Ground plants, Rock and tree dwellers, Shrubs, and Trees.) Each plant featured includes a description and habitat along with several in-habitat photos. Who has seen a *Maireana amoena*? Who can describe it? Who knows its habitat? Check out this book and then you will know!

Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Culture by Graham Charles
Because I like Gymnos!

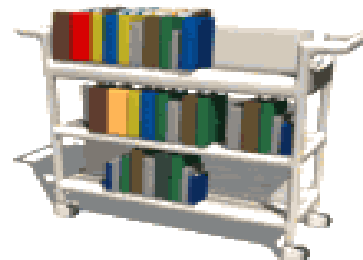
Cool Plants for Hot Gardens by Greg Starr

An excellent book for all of us who wish to incorporate water-wise plants into our landscape design. The plants are arranged by size to make it easier to find the perfect shrub for the front porch vs. the tree you need for the back yard.

The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar by G. W. Reynolds

A tome of fantastic historical value! Not an easy read but filled with detailed descriptions, footnotes, etc. You must see this to appreciate classical style of scientific descriptions.

This is just a few of the 20+ favorite books I will be featuring. What is **your** favorite Cacti and Succulent book? If we don't have it in our Library, let us know.



Intercity Show by John Matthews

Now that our own LACSS festival is over and most the work for the CSSA show is done, it is time to start to work on the Intercity Show and Sale which will be held on August 14-15, 2010 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This is the 25th annual show so expect something special. One Special Event will be a display of plants that were entered in the first several Intercity Shows. If you can bring some of these plants to the Show, please call me at 661-297-5364. They don't have to be show quality anymore, we just want people to realize our plants can live a long time and have a history of ownership. Also special is the Ariocarpus retusus on the show T-shirt which Richard Roosman will have for sale at our upcoming meetings(count the leaf tips on this Tom Glavich designed beauty). Get your shirt early, as I know they will sellout quickly. The show T-shirt acts like a walking advertisement for the hobby so wear yours often.

The Intercity show is billed as the greatest cactus and succulent show in the country. Visitors from all over the world attend this show and sale. The Walks and Talks will have a new judge's tour. The novices who entered plants will be able to ask questions of the judges as to why their plant was judged the way it was. And don't forget the dinner and auction Saturday night at Coco's. Signup early for this opportunity to shmooze with fellow collectors and bid on some really fantastic plants. Contact Evelyn Stevens at 626-442-1391 for the dinner as it will sellout.

Since the LACSS is one of the three clubs sponsoring this show, your show plants are very much needed to maintain the caliber of the show. You should start selecting and grooming your plants now. The show is easy to enter with novice, advanced, and open sections. The Golden Sweeps are back. If you win 1st, 2nd and 3rd in a single class you win a special pot. These are easiest to win in the novice category. Show schedules will be available at our meetings and online at www.sgvcss.com.

Your volunteer help is also very much needed to setup, takedown, and keep the show and sale humming along. Signup sheets will be at our July and August meetings. Help is especially needed Saturday morning when the sales are busiest and more volunteer assistance on Wednesday morning for setup. I have kept the time commitments during the show at one hour so you won't get stuck anywhere too long.

There will be handouts with all show details at our July and August meetings. They may also be available at the CSSA show.

I will be unreachable during July so please call Barbara Hall(818-368-6914 if you have Intercity questions during that time. Otherwise call me at 661-297-5364.

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, Lobivia, & 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 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 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%		

Run out of Room for your collection??? John Matthews, John Martinez and Tim Harvey can be of great assistance. They have space for rent located in SOMIS, an exceptional growing environment. There is a shade cloth structure, hoop house and space for raised beds. Affordable rent and the water is less expensive. Please contact John Matthews (661) 297-5364.

Plant of the Month - June Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Frank White	Euphorbia squarrosa
Second	Gerald Richert	Euphorbia sakarensis
Third	Gerald Richert	Euphorbia cylindrifolia
Third	Gerald Richert	Euphorbia hedyotoides

Cactus - Thelocactus

First	Cheryl White	Thelocactus hexaedrophorus
Second	Gerald Richert	Thelocactus rinconensis
Third	None	

Advanced Division

Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Nolan	Euphorbia Francoisii
Second	Barbara Nolan	Euphorbia capsaintemariensis
Third	Barbara Nolan	Euphorbia cylindrifolia v tuberosa

Cactus - Thelocactus

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Thelocactus hexaedrophorus
Second	None	
Third	None	

Open Division

Succulent - Caudiciform Euphorbia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia trichadenia
Second	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia suzannae marnierae
Third	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia primifolia

Cactus - Thelocactus

First	Barbara Nolan	Sulcorebutia breviflora
Second	None	
Third	None	

LACSS 2010 Board Members

Artie Chavez, President
John Martinez, VP, Programs
Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month
Doug George, VP, Special Events
Sandy Chase, Treasurer
Helen Frank, Secretary
Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

Succulent of the Month July 2010 - *Cissus* and *Cyphostemma*



Cyphostemma seitziana entered in the 2001 Intercity Show by Petra Crist
photo T Nomer

Both *Cissus* and *Cyphostemma* plants are members of the *Vitaceae* or grape family. The members of this genus span the range of extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Most of the species will grow large, given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season.

Most *Cyphostemma* will set fruit. In almost all cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets, although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color (usually red).

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, comes from South Africa. It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character in just a few years.

Cyphostemma seitziana, on the other hand comes from Namibia, and is much less tolerant of unprotected cold and overwatering.

Propagation is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species is sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. Germination is erratic (days to months), and only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration helps. The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep everything uniform. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green appears, the seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic. Softwood cuttings should be taken when active growth is occurring. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones.

The genera *Cissus* is found in a multiplicity of environments from East Africa to Mexico. *Cissus quadrangularis* is a well-known species that originates from southern and eastern Africa. This plant has a four sided stem and a three lobed leaf. It will tolerate significant amounts of sunshine or reasonable amounts of shade.



Cissus quadrangularis

Cissus tuberosa originates from Mexico and is characterized by deciduous tendrils (that disappear during periods of drought) and a caudex-like tuber that has markings that are both interesting and ascetic. A mature specimen of this plant will enhance any collection.



Cissus tuberosa

References:

Philippe de Vosjoli **Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants**
Gordon Rowley **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**

Tom Glavich July 2004
Edited by Steve Frieze, July 2010

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus of the Month - July 2010 Melocactus

A *Melocactus* was very likely the first cactus seen by a European explorer, and certainly one of the first to be brought back and successfully grown. They were known in English collections by the late 16th century, less than 60 years after Columbus' first voyage.



Melocactus azureus entered by Rosemarie Sauer in the 2003 CSSA Show

Melocactus are immediately recognizable by the large cephalium that develops on mature plants. *Melocactus* grow as normal appearing, but flowerless, globular cacti until they reach maturity. This can take from 6 to 15 years in cultivation, with a greater range in habitat. Once they reach maturity, the body stops growing vigorously (it still grows slowly). Most of the plant energy goes into producing a cylindrical flowering and fruiting structure known as a cephalium. This is usually white, with short hairs of yellow,

orange or red. As the years go by, the cephalium becomes more cylindrical, with the base becoming more colorful. The flowers are usually a red-purple, and the fruits are almost always a bright red, to attract birds. With age, the cephalium can grow to 18 inches or more in height, occasionally bifurcating or trifurcating.

Melocactus are native to a large region, Brazil to Southern Mexico, including a good part of the Caribbean. As might be expected, cacti from the tropical regions, particularly coastal regions are sensitive to cold and wet. Cold and wet conditions can cause scarring of the body, which usually appears as brown or tan lesions on the skin. A few of these are unavoidable, but a badly scarred plant quickly becomes unsightly. At the same time, almost all of the *Melocactus* expect high humidity and a higher moisture level than might be expected. Many grow within sight of the ocean, or in some of the more tropical and humid regions of Brazil. They like water, but demand good drainage.

Melocactus are generally solitary, so the only means of propagation is through seeds. Fortunately they produce plenty of seed, and these germinate readily, particularly when the weather is warm. Keep the seedlings protected from direct sun, and moist until fairly large. Although it is several years from seed to a flowering plant, most of the *Melocactus* have magnificent spination and vividly colored bodies, which make keeping them a pleasant task.

Reference:

The Cactus Family Edward Anderson

Tom Glavich April 2004
Photo by T. Nomer

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:

July Guest Speaker
Tim Harvey

First Class Mail

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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