

CACTUS CHRONICLE

CSSA Affiliate

Next Meeting Thursday July 6, 2017

16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA 91346

Doors Open at 6:15 pm

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Refreshments for:

July
Last names
starting with
S, T

We welcome all our New Members that joined LACSS during our Festival!!

WEBSITE:

Visit us at: Lacactus.com

EMAIL:

lacss.contact@gmail.com

Editor Jose J Villarroel jo.villa818@gmail.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.

July Program: Q and A Session Presented by: Sandy Chase, Artie Chavez, Tim Harvey and John Martinez

You may have heard.. Rather than our usual Individual Speaker presentation, we will be presenting a Q & A session for our members on July 6, 2017. We haven't done this in a few years, but being that we had such a wonderful turnout at our Festival...signing up thirty NEW individual members and twenty NEW family memberships, our first Monthly meeting following our Festival, it seemed like an appropriate time for this. At our Welcome/Hold Area tent, we received many questions regarding our Festival, our Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society club, upcoming events, and more. The idea came about as a suggestion by member Sandy Chase. Therefore, I chose four of our member-experts, feeling that they represent a great cross-section of all things drought resistant plant-related. I am confident that a number of our other member-experts will happily join the various Q & A conversations, as the topics fly! All in all, I believe this will stimulate a multitude of interesting topics, and discussions satisfying our members concerns... especially for the benefit of our newest members.

Ron Behar V.P. Programs

Sandy Chase



Sandy entered into the Cactus and Succulent world in 1984 when she purchased 20 plants, each in 2 1/2 in. pots, for 50 cents each. She still has one of those plants to this day. Sandy has amassed quite a collection of cactus and succulents over the years. Through the years she has held every office in the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society, and she calls herself a "life member." Sandy was privileged to be a co-chair for the 2001 convention hosted by the Los Angles Cactus and Succulent Society, held in Woodland Hills, California. It was also her good fortune to be part of a 3+ week trip to Africa, with eight friends from the club, where they saw many plants in habitat in 2010. Sandy has put together many educational displays for the LACSS, the CSSA, and Inter-city shows. Sandy looks forward to serving many more years in any capacity that will help our society grow.

Artie Chavez



Artie has been a collector and grower of rare and unusual succulents since the age of 14. He has held numerous board positions for the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society for over 30 years, he is a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, and numerous other local clubs. With extensive travels to Mexico, Africa, and throughout the United States, his knowledge of plants and habitat make him an excellent grower. His staging of Cactus and Succulents have been featured in the Daily News and his style has influenced the art of staging in the Cactus and Succulent Shows throughout California. He is a co-owner of a Cactus and Succulent nursery, Desert Creations in Northridge, CA. Artie is the creator of one of the most unique cactus and succulent show sponsored by the LACSS each June at the Sepulveda Garden Center in Encino.

Tim Harvey



If you haven't heard Tim speak, you might not know that he is originally from England. He moved across the pond in 1992, falling a little short, working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto for a couple of years. He completed the trip to California when he went to work in the Biotechnology industry. He was also able to relocate his cactus collection, started 20 years earlier. to a more favorable climate Escaping with his morals intact in 2006, he enrolled as a full-time propagator and pollinator of his favorite plants, as well as becoming Editor of the Cactus and Succulent Journal in 2011. He makes frequent trips to his adopted country Namibia. as well as appearances at clubs in Southern California, either as a Speaker, or as a Vendor. Never able to walk past a plant in flower without trying to pollinate it, he is also a keen hybridizer, with the pachycauls, Aloe and bulbs in his collection being defenseless subjects for experimentation.

John Martinez



John currently lives in Moorpark with his wife Linda and is a retired Los Angeles Fire Department Battalion Chief. He is a member of several local garden clubs, and a past volunteer at the Huntington Botanical Garden. John has a deep fondness of nature and has been growing xeric plants most of his adult life. Over the past six years he has shared a co-operative succulent growing compound in Somis with three likeminded growers of cactus, succulents, and other exotics. Aside from maintaining his plant collection, John's time is divided between gardening, golf, photography, occasional fly fishing, and grandchildren. As a native of Southern California, John attended California State University of Northridge where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Art.

2017 Officers

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1st VP, Programs
Ron Behar
2nd VP, Plant of the Month
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3rd VP, Special Events
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LACSS.contact@gmail.com
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Treasurer
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Holiday Party Chairpersons Kandie and Don Soderstrom Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

OPEN

Monthly Drawing Leah Imamura Juana Williams

President's Message

July, 2017

Well, it's over. Our Drought Tolerant Plant Festival of 2017 was an incredible success. Who do we have to thank for that? We will start with Jim Esterle, who chaired this event. Roxie Esterle, who managed the Club Sales booth. Cheryl White, who organized all the outside activities including vendors and the Speaker Program. Kal Kaminer who recruited members for the Inside Competition and Educational Displays. Kathleen Misko, who herded her volunteers and small fry through the maze of the Kid's Day activities. Most important people of all – all of you who volunteered!!! Each of us has a lot to say about the success of the Festival and have lots of photos so we decided to publish a Festival Special Issue Newsletter to come out mid-July. Thanks, Artie, for that great suggestion!!

Ron Behar, VP-Programs, was under pressure to find a replacement program (scheduled speaker had a scheduling conflict.) The replacement program will be a lot of fun with many of our FAQs being answered. I forget what number we are on but will probably end with at least #1000. See more details in the Program descriptions.

In answer to the FAQ "Is there life after the Festival?" here are a few items we have to look forward to: Field trip to Steve Bresnick's garden, CSSA Show and Sale at the Huntington and the Intercity Show and Sale at the Arboretum. You will find more information about each in this Chronicle.

For the new members: your first visit to our monthly meeting may appear to be organized chaos. Or maybe not so organized.. We will be setting up a special table for the new members to sign in. All "old" members will go to the regular table staffed by Mary Chan.

New members, once you have signed in and ordered your name badge, you probably will wander around wondering what is going on. Feel free to ask any one of our members, we are there to make your first visit special. Refreshments are free but feel free to leave a donation. Several members will be selling plants and will be happy to discuss the name, growing needs, etc. with you to help you make a selection. In the front of the room you will find the Plant of the Month (POM) competition plants. Some of us just like to have plants to grow and appreciate. Another way to appreciate the specialness of cacti and succulents is to place them in competition. I will make an effort to explain the process and requirements to enter your plants in the competition.

Last but not least is the "end of meeting" raffle. See Leah, Juana or Richard to purphase raffle tickets. This is a good change to add something to your

Last but not least is the "end of meeting" raffle. See Leah, Juana or Richard to purchase raffle tickets. This is a good chance to add something to your collection for a small cost.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Joyce





If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means YOU.

It's your turn to bring the goodies that will sustain us during our meeting
on Thursday, July 6th. We may have a larger than normal turnout with new members that
joined LACSS during our festival, so please bring enough for everyone!

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, Chips & Dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches,
burritos, pizza...you name it, we will heat & serve it. Yes, we have a microwave.

It's nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as during the break,
drinks are also welcome.

Until we get a Hostess Chair, Please pitch in setting up the refreshment table, and help with the cleanup.

Thanks, LACSS

& LACSS Garden Tour &

Saturday, July 22, 2017

Please join us Saturday, July 22, 2017 for our next LACSS Garden Tour.

Place: Home of Steve & Tiffani Bresnick

Time: 10:00 -12:00

Address: (in Sherman Oaks)- to be provided after you RSVP

Steve's garden is a lushly planted, 3-acres hillside. In addition to cactus and succulents, this garden features rare cycads, palms, and other tropical plants. The property is studded with oak trees and the planting follows the occurring sun and shade. The cactus garden consists of about 100 cactus specimens and was inspired by the Huntington. There are 70 cycad species represented throughout the garden including African encephalartos, dioon, cycads, and macrozamia. Most are in pots as they do not do well in the ground in this

location. Five cycad species displayed are extinct in the wild. Succulents can be

seen throughout the garden and in succulent-featured areas. A large koi pond and waterfall grace landscape and will add to the joy of this morning tour.

<u>Safety notes:</u> Please wear sturdy shoes as you would for a hike. This garden is on a hillside and there are about 100

steps from the top of the property to the cactus garden at the bottom. There is a long staircase at the top and a short one at the bottom as well as dirt and decomposed granite pathways.

Please feel free to bring a walking stick, if you'd like.



About Cycads

From: http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/PlantNet/cycad/

"The cycads are a small group of plants with many unique features, an ancient origin, and a very long history. Cycads are known to have lived in the Permian era, over 200 million years ago - even before the dinosaurs roamed the earth. Although once abundant across the globe, the cycads are now greatly reduced in both numbers and distribution...The

Although once abundant across the globe, the cycads are now greatly reduced in both numbers and distribution...The

Jurassic period is often referred to as the 'Age of Cycads'. During this time, cycad-like plants, along with the conifers and Ginkgoales, dominated the vegetation of the world."

Light refreshments will be available. Please wear your LACSS badge.

Please RSVP for this event to Diane Miller at 818-882-1856 or by email at dianemiller@socal.rr.com. Please include "LACSS Garden Tour" in the subject line.



April LACSS Garden Tour and Plant Exchange

By Eric Miller

The garden tour at Jim and Roxie's house was an experience I am glad I did not miss. The amount of care and effort put into the plants was evident when we first arrived and saw Roxie with a handful of weeds. The house was built in the 1920s with a Spanish style and has terracotta roof tiles which are used in many places with a Mediterranean climate. There are only a few plants left from the previous owners, and everything else was grown by the Esterles. The garden is split into roughly three main areas; the bromeliad and pool area, the workshop, and the side, and many smaller areas where they grew plants complementary to the surrounding

structures. Near the patio, there is a Beaumontia grandiflora which they trained to grow alongside the house. All along the house, there are multiple echeverias, agaves, and aloes planted in the ground. In the workshop, they had a small table with plants and pots for sale so the guests could leave with souvenirs. There is also a large oak tree that had small potted plants surrounding it. In the bromeliad area, they had planted a variety of bromeliads under the shade of



another oak tree. They were well watered, and there was even some recently poured water inside



the center of the plants. Nearby, there is a swimming pool which looks like an oasis in the desert. There were many agaves in this area which added to the feeling of an oasis. On the side, there are many colorful plants planted in the ground. This section had many interesting things in it.



One was a huge platycerium (staghorn fern) that is suspended by a



chain attached to a Chinese Elm. Originally, they tried to put it on a clay pipe, but that did not work well. The other was a tree growing out through a hole in the wall. This branch had actually sunken down during the 1994 earthquake and the wall was

rebuilt around it. The gardens come together to form a beautiful environment, and a remarkable place for a

garden tour. The plant exchange, at the end, was nice and I left with a tylecodon that is a new species to my collection.

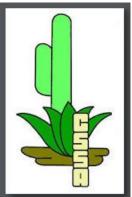




Cactus and Succulent Society of America 37th Biennial Convention July 26-30, 2017

Celebrating the Beauty of the Desert

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel Tempe, Arizona



Join Us in Tempe for a Wonderful Convention Adventure!

The Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society invite you to the CSSA's 37th Biennial Convention in beautiful downtown Tempe., Arizona. Tempe is part of the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan area and home to Arizona State University and the Mill Street Entertainment District with just a short light rail ride to many other interesting venues in Phoenix. The convention is from July 26 to July 30, with tours beginning on the 27th, which you won't want to miss! There will have great speakers, plant and pottery vendors, auction and silent auction, local sales area, and great food at the opening reception, the banquet and breakfast each morning of the convention, as well as the tours.

Our convention hotel, <u>The Tempe Mission Palms</u>, is located in the heart of Tempe within walking distance of many restaurants, bars, clubs and theaters. It is a luxury hotel with pool, exercise room, airport shuttle, valet parking and many other amenities. Our special convention rate is only \$85.00 per night plus taxes. The light rail stop to other adventures is just out the back door of the hotel.

The Phoenix area is a vacation wonderland, so you may want to extend your visit as the hotel rates are extended and there are so many interesting things to do and see in the Phoenix area.

THINGS TO DO IN THE GREATER PHOENIX AREA

Mill Street District Tempe

Adjacent to the Tempe Mission Palms, Mill Avenue is lined with restaurants, shops, bars, and entertainment. If you're looking for a fun place to have lunch, dinner, or check out some of the local nightlife, this is it.

Tempe Town Lake and Tempe Town Beach

Located just a short walk from the hotel is Tempe Town Lake. This two mile long lake features something for everyone, including five miles of bike/walking paths, boat rentals and fishing. The lake also hosts dozens of special events annually including Ironman Arizona, the Fantasy of Lights Boat Parade, and Arizona's largest independence celebration.

Desert Botanical Garden

The Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) is home to one of the world's most spectacular living collections of the world's desert plants. Unusual plants including giant cacti, century plants and others in a natural setting create a striking visual treat. The DBG provides a world-class experience for every visitor. Through permanent trailside exhibits, temporary art exhibitions and seasonal experiences the visitor experience is transformed into one of discovery and meaning about the desert and desert plants.

Much more to see in Tempe Arizona! Please visit www.cssaconvention.com for further details.



Pachypodium of continental Africa

When most people think of Pachypodium they think of Madagascar for a good reason. The vast majority of species (all but a handful of the 25-30 species) occur only on that island. However, several species occur on the African continent. That means this month we are specifically talking about only the following species: Pachypodium namaguanum, P. succulentum (including P. griquense), P. bispinosum, P. saundersii & P. lealii. In other words, only the above five species of Pachypodium are eligible for this month's show.

Pachypodium belongs to the Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. It is closely related to Adenium, Stapeliads, Fockea, Oleanders, Milkweeds, Plumeria, and many other non-xeric plants. While most similar to Adenium, Pachypodium can be distinguished from it by having spines, and usually by flower color. While pinks and reds are extremely common in *Adenium*, only a few *Pachypodium* have red or pink in their flowers. Pachypodium also stands out from most of the family, including Adenium, in having alternate leaves (one leaf at each node) while the rest of the family (usually) has opposite leaves (paired leaves).



Pachypodium namaquanum

Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why

Africa? It must be because Pachypodium evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree like, species to form (e.g. P. lamerei & P. geayi) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while Madagascar might have had fewer plants at the time, making it easier for Pachypodium to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships

some places have more species than others? The distribution of

Pachypodium may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental



Pachypodium succulentum

successfully.

of Pachypodium suggest this may well be what happened! Cultivation of *Pachypodium* is generally easy, and the African species are easier than most of the Madagascar ones. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter keep dry. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate more cold including light frosts, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. That means these African species are the best adapted to our climate and can even be grown in the ground



Pachypodium bispinosum

-Kyle Williams

Stenocactus (aka Echinofossulocactus)

Stenocactus (aka Echinofossulocactus)

rence, but the description was invalid.



hundred years. The name *Stenocactus* seems to have finally triumphed.

Echino traces to Echinus, which is Latin for Hedgehog, a spiny porcupine-like rodent from Europe, and also, equally likely, and much closer in appearance, a spiny, edible sea urchin from the Mediterranean. Stenos is Greek for narrow, an

obvious referral to the many narrow ribs on almost all of the species.

Stenocactus and Echinofossulocactus are the same genus. The name of this easy to grow and uniquely ribbed genus has been a subject of contention since the 19th century. The genus was originally described in 1841 by George Law-

Schumann. Various attempts to straighten out the names went on for the next

Stenocactus vaupelianus

They are all spiny plants, collected much more for the appearance of the spines and the wonderful curved ribs than their flowers, although the flowers can be quite showy. Many species are noteworthy as being among the very first cactus of the year to bloom. It happens as early as January in our climate. All of the species (there are ten) are very variable, and as a result, there are numerous varieties and forms that can enhance any collection. Most of the species are reasonably small, flowering at two years, when only an inch or so in diameter. A good representative collection can be kept on a table.

Stenocactus are native to Central to Northern Mexican. The genus is closely related to *Ferocactus*, differing by the lack of nectar glands, the lack of a ring of hairs above the stamens, and size.



It was re-described in 1898 by Karl

Stenocactus zacatecasensis



Stenocactus sp. 'Palmillas'

Stenocactus grow in grass lands, and need some protection from full sun. They are easy to grow, putting on most of their body weight each year in the early spring to summer. Plants growing outdoors will grow slowly during the winter using just the water from winter rains. It is important not to fertilize during the darker days of December, January or February, or etoliation or stretching of the body will occur. The narrow ribs, the wooly areoles, and the dense spines are an ideal habitat for mealy bugs. Frequent inspection of the plants will prevent them from spreading. Older plants sometimes get corky near the base. Keeping the plant in continuous growth delays this, but in some species the cork is inevitable.

Identifying the species of an *Stenocactus* is as difficult as identifying the genus is easy. For the most part, they tend to look alike, however the size and shape of the spines is quite distinctive for many species.

-Kyle Williams

Plant of the Month 2017

July

Stenocactus (a.k.a Echinofossulocactus) Pachypodium/Africa

August

Melocactus Euphorbia Caudiciform

September

Opuntia N. America Sansevieria

October

Grafted Cactus
Grafted Succulent

November

Ariocarpus Agave

December

Holiday Dinner Party

Plant of the Month 2018

January

Blossfeldia, Frailea Othonna & Senecio

February

Coryphantha Pelargonium

March

Discocactus Fouqueria

April

Lobivia Gasteria

May

Small cactus staged as miniature Small Succulent staged as miniature

June

Favorite

Plant of the Month – June 2017

Cactus – favorites

Rookie

First Ron B Rebutia heliosa

Second Gretchen Davis Notocactus magnificus

Third

Novice

First Kal Kaminer Astrophytum caput-medusae

Second Roxie Esterle Copiapoa tenuissima
Third Kal Kaminer Turbinocarpus alonsoi

Advanced

First Kathryn Boorer Cereus spiralis Second Kathryn Boorer Ferocactus sp.

Third Kathryn Boorer Thelocactus hexaedrophorus

Open

First Manny Rivera Escobaria tuberculosa

Succulent -- favorites

Rookie

First Susan Phillips Euphorbia medusa

Second Ron B Haworthia truncata 'lime green'

Third Gretchen Davis Dyckia 'heavy metal'

Novice

First Roxie & Jim Esterle Euphorbia bupleurfolia

Second Kim Jacobi Ipomoea holubii

Third Kal Kaminer Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

Advanced

First Kathryn Boorer Pedilanthus macrocarpus crest

Second Kathryn Boorer Brachychiton rupestris
Third John Suciu Pachypodium densiflorum

Third Kathryn Boorer Tavaresia barklyi

Open

First Bryan Chan Dyckia 'big brother'
Second Manny Rivera Dorstenia gigas
Third Manny Rivera Bursera sp.

Note: Total of 67 entries across all divisions.

2017 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

UPDATED 1/06/2017 ANY CHANGES please email: aloecats 1@aol.com

JULY 20-22	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE THURS. 20 TH 6-8pm, FRI. JULY 21 ST 9am-7pm, SAT. 22 ND 9-5pm
	1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFORMATION CALL 949-212-8417
JULY 26-30	CSSA CONVENTION, TEMPE, AZ.
AUG. 12-13	32 ND ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THELA COUNTY ARBORETUM
	9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA
	INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ 805-390-2139
SEPT. 2	HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
	ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON 626-405-3504
SEPT. 17	LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
	12-5PM RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615
	INFO. 562-631-5876
Oct. 14-15	BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
	SAT. 10-5SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET
	BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-831-8488
OCT. 28-29	PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE
	SAT 9-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
	230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA
	INFO hciservices@gmail.com. 858-382-1797
NOV. 4 - 5	SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
	9am-4pm BOTH DAYSLA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA
	INFO: MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052

LACSS Cactus Chronicle



Mailing Address LACSS PO BOX 280581 Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346 Website: www.LAcactus.com Email: lacss.contact@gmail.com

July Program: Q and A Session

Presented by: Sandy Chase, Artie Chavez, Tim Harvey and John Martinez

July Events

JULY 20-22 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SUMMER SHOW AND SALE

THURS. 20TH 6-8pm, FRI. JULY 21ST 9am-7pm, SAT. 22ND 9-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church)
Anaheim, CA FOR INFORMATION CALL 949-212-8417

JULY 22 LACSS GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, 22ND 10am - 12pm

Home of Steve and Tiffani Bresnick - (in Sherman Oaks) Address to be

provided after you RSVP. See page 4 for details

FOR INFORMATION CALL: Diane Miller, 818-882-1856

JULY 26-30 CSSA CONVENTION, TEMPE, AZ.

The Tempe Mission Palms - 60 East Fifth Street, Tempe, AZ. 85281

see page 6 for details.

FOR INFORMATION VISIT: http://cssaconvention.com