



May 2013

Plant of the Month

Sulcorebutia and Rebutia
Gasteria

Refreshments

Letters

I-M

April New Members

Dayla Frazier
Shirley & Joel Goldman
Miquela Moreno
Dylan Shapiro
Mia Shapiro

Editor

Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.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.

Our next general meeting is May 2, 2013

Dexter Friede with Grow More—Nutrients and Fertilizing

Dexter Friede is a Horticulture Specialist in Plant Nutrients. He has been with Grow More for 18 years and has developed several product lines for retail, nursery, agricultural and hydroponics industry. His passion is working with garden societies in developing new products that help increase their health and beauty.



He will be focusing on the following:

- How to read a fertilizer label.
- Why are nutrients important?
- Why are micronutrients important and what signs show deficiency?
- Why chemical vs. organic fertilizers?
- When planting in the ground, why California soil conditions require special consideration.

Grow More, has been in business since 1976, is family owned and based in Gardena, California. They have over 500 plus products and sells nationwide and to 35 countries worldwide. Personally, Dexter is known for his "yard jungle". Dexter will be giving away samples and some will be included in the raffle.

He hopes that you will bring him a lot of questions.

2013 Officers

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President

Marquita Elias

1st VP, Programs

Manny Rivera

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

John Martinez

3rd VP, Special Events

Cheryl White

Secretary

Ronit Weiss

Treasurer, Contact Liaison

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Danielle Duboff

Director 1 Odd Years, Membership

Sylvia Strehlo

Director 2, Even Years

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Coordinator, Show Volunteers

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Publicity & Coordination

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Chairperson

Gerald Reichert

Holiday Party Awards Procurement

Chris Rogers

Cactus Garden

John Noster**Steve Rudolf**

Meeting Refreshments

Leah Imamura**Juana Williams**

Monthly Drawing

President's Message—May 2013

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Marquita Elias, Vice President of Programs, for bringing her concept of show preparation to our April Meeting. With the help of Cheryl White, Sandy Chase, and Artie Chavez, we hope to have a very participatory June show. In addition to members bringing individual plants, small collections, and educational displays, the winners of small collections (donated by Desert Creations) in the April drawing have committed to repot the related specimens as a collection and bring them to the show. Unfortunately, we did not maintain a list of the lucky winners, so if you are one of them, can you please email me (below) with your name and of the plant grouping? Thank you.

Please be reminded of all the ways we need your participation in the show:

- 🌱 Signing up to work at least a 2-hour shift or more (see Joyce's form for options)
- 🌱 Sending out our flyer to your friends and colleagues
- 🌱 Dropping off show flyers at nurseries and stores that you frequent
- 🌱 Attending the dinner and auction on Saturday night
- 🌱 Bringing in a "plant favorite" to the June meeting to display on the Member Favorites table
- 🌱 Creating and exhibiting a small collection of related plants (see April President's Message)
- 🌱 Creating and exhibiting an educational display
- 🌱 Donating plants to sell at the LACSS registration table
- 🌱 Donating a special plant for the silent auction or live auction
- 🌱 Coming to the show, purchasing new plants, celebrating with our members.

May is going to be a busy month for LACSS members. The May 4th Lotusland Trip has 44 sign-ups and should be a fantastic adventure. Thank you, John Martinez and Ilona Buratti, for setting this up.

On May 11th at 8:00am, we have scheduled a Weed-a-Thon to maintain the Sepulveda Garden Cactus and Succulent Garden (which is looking really terrific). Chris Rogers and Artie will be there to head up the event, so bring your gloves and tools. Last year we had great participation and all work was completed before noon. Nourishment will be provided.

Right now, I hope that you are enjoying seeing your dormant plants waking up from a chilly winter (unless, of course, they have enjoyed a greenhouse).

Roxie Esterle
President
roxie.esterle@gmail.com

2013 Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival By Kim Thorpe

Time is moving quickly and before you know it the LACSS Festival will be here. Mark your calendars! The event is June 8th and 9th and we will begin setting up after our June meeting on the 6th. That is when you can start to bring in your Interior Displays. Friday we will be setting up outside displays so please feel free to come down and help out.

The planning committee is really excited this year. We have a lot of new things for my favorite part of the festival "Kids' Day." Don't let the name fool you, it is a fun day for the entire family. Last year, our volunteers did a great job and we hope they will all sign up again this year along with new members. This year will be even bigger and better, with the addition of the Turtle and Tortoise Club and the Rock Chippers.

One of the things that makes our Festival so unique and one of a kind is our Kids' Day. It is so exciting to see the kids along with family and friends become interested in the plants, displays and activities while having a good time and learning. We observe them picking up the magnifying glasses and begin checking out the plants and displays. It is truly a wonderful day for all. This program is important for our community and our club, it's success is attributed to the involvement of our members. We want to thank everyone again from last year and welcome our new members to volunteer and join in this year's excitement. There are so many places we need your help; taking the kids around, manning a game booth, painting and/or potting, working with clay working, describing the exhibits, and just being there to answer questions. We also need several volunteers in the kitchen to assist with the lunch set up.

Please sign up to help out June 9th for the Kids' Day. We promise it will be a rewarding experience.

Thank you in advance.



Attention all Festival Volunteers

To answer the most FAQ of volunteers, the following is offered. This list is for reference only. Other needs will be identified as the event evolves.....

Thank you for your willingness to be involved with the ONLY Cactus and Succulent Event in San Fernando Valley.

<u>Day/Time</u>	<u>Areas needing assistance</u>
Fri., 6/7	Set up vendor area outside (move tables into place, help set up tarps, assemble outdoor displays, hang banners, etc.)
Fri., 6/7	Set up inside tables, kids exhibits, (move tables, place table cloths, set up books, set up kid's area, place signage, etc.)
ALL DAY Sat., 6/8, Sun., 6/9	Kitchen (monitor users of refreshments, trash removal, help Kim set up and tear down) Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, distribute handouts, membership information, general information, sell member plants and t-shirts, etc.) West Hospitality table (Sign in visitors, direct them to the vendors, indoor displays, speakers, etc.) Garden's Cactus Garden tours Plant holding (inside- check in visitor's purchases while they tour the inside displays) Kid's exhibits (sign-in, answer questions re exhibits, etc.) Assist visitors with purchases to their vehicles, when needed. Floaters – roam the venue and assist others where needed. (Answer questions, give directions, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 4 PM	Dinner setup (arrange tables and chairs, place tablecloths, etc.)
Sat., 6/8 8am-3pm	Help set up the silent auction (bid sheets, questions/answers, log in plants announce winners, contact winners, etc.)
Sun., 10am – 2pm	Kid's day (assist with crafts, photos, exhibits, games, etc.)

Thanks again – Joyce Schumann, Volunteer Coordinator

Plant of the Month

2013

May

Rebutia Sulcorebutia
Gasteria

June

Favorite Favorite

July

Opuntia
(North American
Euphorbia

August

Stenocactus Bursera,
Commiphora

September

Astrophytum Dorstenia-
Ficus

October

Cacti from Coahuila
Crassula

November

Crest-Montrose Crest-
Montrose

December

Holiday Party

2014

January

Mammillaria without
hooked spines
Pelargonium

February

Columnar Cacti
Aloe Hybrids

March

Opuntias (So. America)
Agave

April

Gymnocalycium singles
Yucca, Nolina,
Calibanus, Beaucarnea

May

Buiningia, Uebelmania
Mesembryanthemaceae
(other than Lithops &
Conophytum)

Plant of the Month - April Winners

Succulent – Aloe

Rookie

First	Marquita Ellias	Aloe 'Rico'
Second	Dylan Shapiro	Aloe sp.
Third	Daniel Duboff	Aloe sp.
Third	Daniel Duboff	Aloe sp.

Novice

First	John Martinez	Aloe pearsonii
Second	Roxie Esterle	Aloe schweinfurthii
Second	John Martinez	Aloe 'Prime Time'
Third	Bob Morris	Aloe sp.
Third	John Martinez	Aloe somaliensis

Advanced

First	Barbara Hall	Aloe compressa var. rugosquamosa
Second	Cheryl White	Aloe 'Seans Red'
Second	Cheryl White	Aloe 'DZ'
Third	Kim Thorpe	Aloe ibitiensis
Third	Barbara Hall	Aloe castilloniae

Open

First	Artie Chavez	Aloe ramosissima
Second	Artie Chavez	Aloe arenicola
Second	John Matthews	Aloe 'Spikey'

Cactus - Echinocereus

Novice

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Echinocereus species
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Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Echinocereus lindsayi
Second	Kim Thorpe	Echinocereus delatii
Third	Barbara Hall	Echinocereus viridiflorus var. canus
Third	Cheryl White	Echinocereus pectinatus rubispinus

Open

First	John Matthews	Echinocereus rigidissimus v. rubispinus
Second	John Matthews	Echinocereus sp
Third	John Matthews	Echinocereus pulchellus ssp. sharpii

Gasteria



Stomach shaped flowers

Gasteria is a popular and easily grown genus that has been collected since the 17th century. Some species look very similar to *Aloe* while others resemble *Haworthia*. This is not surprising as these three genera are very closely related. So close in fact that recent evolutionary studies are causing some confusion about where one genus ends and the other begins. That being said, *Gasteria* can be differentiated morphologically from *Aloe* and *Haworthia* by examining the flowers. *Gasteria* flowers have a distinctive narrow upper portion that expands out to a fat base that resembles a stomach. Sure enough, *Gasteria* is derived from "gaster" which means "stomach" in Latin. Interestingly the common name for the species is Ox Tongue, another "digestive" reference!

Gasteria come in a much greater diversity of sizes than *Haworthia*, though they are smaller on average than most *Aloe*. *Gasteria* ranges in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous), although most eventually begin to spiral. *Gasteria* are quite variable in appearance. Collectors need to be cautioned that they have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight. Not realizing this runs you the risk of buying the same species twice!

This genus contains approximately 20-25 species, nearly all native to South Africa (one species ranges into Namibia). Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and generally grow under larger shrubs particularly when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy and is nearly identical to that of *Haworthia* and winter growing *Aloe*. They are mostly winter and spring growers, but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They do well in a range of soil mixes and are more tolerant of organic matter than some succulents. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon; however the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sunburn, as possible.



Gasteria bicolor



Gasteria disticha

Gasteria are generally free from most pests. The one difficulty is 'black spot', a fungus that attacks many *Gasteria*. The fungus is rarely fatal, but causes large unsightly black spots on the leaves. Since the spots are actual damage to the leaves, there is no way to remove the spots. The fungus can be minimized by keeping the leaves dry, and particularly keeping dew off the leaves. Fungicides can be used to prevent this disease, but probably aren't worth the hassle unless you have show quality plants you are concerned about.

Gasteria are readily propagated from offsets at the base or on flower stalks, which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily. *Gasteria* flowers are often visited by hummingbirds, and these visits often result in pollination. Seed can be collected as soon as the fruits start to dry. Cross pollination can produce interesting plants and many hybrids are available, as are several variegated cultivars. Intergeneric hybrids with *Aloe* (called X *Gasteraloe*) and *Haworthia* (X *Gasterhaworthia*) are commonly seen.

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich
Photo Credits: Kyle Williams & Stan Shebs

Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* & *Weingartia

Rebutia, *Sulcorebutia*, and *Weingartia* are South American cacti from the highlands of Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are similar in appearance, in habitat and culture. Coming from high altitudes, they are both tolerant of cold, and if dry, can be left out in all weather. The populations of species of these genera overlap, but they do not naturally hybridize.

These genera are easily grown. They are dormant in winter, and start to grow in late March or April. They flower from April through June, with the peak flowering period varying from year to year depending on the weather. Two flowering cycles are common in cultivation in California. The flowers appear in abundance, and vary in color from purple and red through orange to yellow. They do well in standard cactus mix, and grow best with regular fertilization when in active growth. They are both attractive to spider mites. Damage can be prevented by frequent inspection, and a weekly, forceful wash down with water. I have found mealybug infestations in *S. rauschii* to be particularly difficult to deal with because of the numerous densely packed heads. Multiple applications of imidacloprid (e.g. Bayer Tree and Shrub) over the course of six months were needed to eliminate my plant's infestation.



Rebutia fiebrigii



Sulcorebutia (Weingartia) rauschii

Propagation from offsets is easy. The offsets should be cut off, left to dry for a few days, and then replanted. Very small offsets can be successfully rooted. Seed is easy to germinate, but is short lived.

Those of you who enjoy banging your head against a wall will enjoy learning about *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, and *Weingartia* taxonomy. It is one of the most complex taxonomic problems among cacti and has been argued over for years. Thankfully, DNA sequencing and phylogenetic

systematics research is finally starting to make headway into the issue, though much is left to be done. This subject is far too complicated to get into detail here, but *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia* (as well as the monotypic *Cintia knizei*) should be lumped into a single genus, with *Weingartia* being the oldest name (and therefore the one that should be used).

Rebutia itself is distinct from these genera but has an even bigger problem, it contains two groups of species that are not closely related to each other (in scientific terms *Rebutia* is not monophyletic). One group of *Rebutia* is related to the *Weingartia/Sulcorebutia* group (but not part of it). This group includes *R. padcayaensis* and *R. miniscula*. For nomenclatural reasons this is the group that would remain *Rebutia*. A second group of *Rebutia* including *R. pseudodeminuta*, *R. fiebrigii*, *R. deminuta*, *R. pygmaea*, *R. steinmannii* and *R. einsteinii* is distinct evolutionarily from the first group and will be considered a different genus. This group will require a new name for the genus. It should be noted that there are clear morphological differences that separate these groups, so it isn't just DNA that "says" they are different! Just to summarize: *Rebutia* will become two genera and *Sulcorebutia*, *Weingartia*, and *Cintia* will be lumped into a single genus.



Rebutia miniscula (type of *Rebutia*)

Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich
Photo credits: "Sida", Kyle Williams & Christer Johansson

2013 Sales and Events

- May 4 & 5 **Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale** **INFO 310-822-1783**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
- May 5 **South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale 9am-4pm**
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO: CALL-310-833-6823**
- May 17 & 18 **Gates Cactus & Succulent Society**
32nd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9am-4:30pm
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
INFO: 951-360-8802
- May 19 **Epiphyllum Society of America-Annual Show & Sale—9am-4pm**
LA County Arboretum—301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA
Presale, Saturday, May 18 9am-4pm
- May 25 & 26 **Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale**
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, 10am-4pm, San Luis Obispo, CA
INFO: 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 1 & 2 **San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society—Summer Show & Sale**
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA **INFO: 858-382-1797**
- June 8 & 9 **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale**
Saturday June 8, 9am-5pm, and Sunday June 9, 9am-3:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA **LACSS.com**
- June 15-20 **CSSA 35TH Biennial Convention, Austin, TX- www.CSSA2013.com**
- June 28-30 **CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens-FREE TO THE PUBLIC**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160 or 2277**
Plant Sale Starts Friday, June 28 Show opens Saturday, June 29-Sunday, June 30 THE
- July 26-28 **Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale**
Friday, July 26 9am-5pm, Saturday, July 27 9am-5pm, Sunday July 28 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO: 949-212-8417
- August
17 & 18 **28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale**
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
- September 7 **Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON**
- September 22 **Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction**
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA **INFO: 310-922-6090**
- November 2 & 3 **San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9am-5pm**
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting May 2, 2013

Dexter Friede with Grow More—Nutrients and Fertilizing

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CSSA CONVENTION REMINDER:

April 30th is the last day to register for the Convention and save \$100.00