



LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

January 2011

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Next Meeting: January 6, 2011



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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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Coming January 2011

A Look Back at Northern Mexico

Club members can sit back and enjoy a look at Mexico and not have to worry about Montezuma's revenge. The program will cover two trips, the first in October of 1999 with Woody Minnich, Rene and Patty Caro. The second in March of 2000 with Dave Deluca, Kelly Griffin and Woody Minnich. Vince will bring in live specimens and the programs will include the following plants Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Aztekium, Ferocactus Geohintonia, Leuchtenbergia, Lophophora, Obregonia, Thelocactus, Agave, Bombax, Bursera, Calibanus, Dion, Echeveria, Senecio, Yucca, and a few other.

Vince Basta started growing cactus at around age seven because his great grandmother worked for a cactus nursery and she would give him plants. He would usually kill them! He started getting serious in the hobby around 18 years ago when he visited the Huntington Botanical Gardens and later went to the Intercity Show. There he found information about the San Gabriel Club and has been a member ever since. He is a past President, Vice President, Winter Show Chair and newsletter editor of the San Gabriel Club. He will finish up his term as President for the Orange County Cactus Club this year and continue as show entry chair next year.

He works in the family business as a dealer for a wide range of truck related equipment such as lift gates, truck mounted cranes, emergency lighting, etc. They manufacture flatbeds and utility bodies and uplift trucks for municipalities and other construction related professions. Vince has an incredibly diverse collection with many prize-winning plants.

Important Notice

Effective November 2010, meetings of the LACSS will start at **7:00 PM**. The Sepulveda Garden Center will open for set-up at **6:45** and not before. Please adjust your schedules accordingly.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections on 2010

Our ground breaking Drought Resistant Plant Festival received rave reviews from vendors, members and most importantly from the public in attendance. It is very easy to have a concept, but it takes a team of hard workers to lift the concept from paper to reality, and this team did it. The Show and Sale were a huge success. Joyce and Sandy did a great job getting the speakers, volunteers, and gardens together. Doug George's expertise in dealing with vendors, creating banners. Doug and his wife, Lindsay, designed post cards and fliers for mailings and announcements to the members and public. Kim Thorpe did a great job on advertising and keeping the troops fed with a variety of delicious foods for breakfast and lunch.

Moving to the Board of Directors, Vice President, John Martinez created a speaker roster that was as good as we have ever enjoyed. It's tough to fill these program slots with new and exciting presenters but John, somehow was able to bring in new speakers and workshops. Manny Rivera has revitalized the Plant of the Month (POM) participation. POM is very important to the meetings for several different reasons not the least of which are education, learning how to exhibit, and obtaining constructive feedback on the culture of your plants. I encourage more participation in our monthly mini-show in the coming year. Helen Frank has been and is our rock on the Board; very quiet but always there performing her duties. Sandy Chase has been the watchful eye for not letting us get carried away spending our money. Efren Flores and Richard Roosman have done a wonderful job with the monthly drawings. Ron Main and John Noster do an excellent job with the monthly refreshments and coffee. Roxie Esterle has proven to be a new and viable leader for the club for 2011. John Matthews is our untiring representative at the Intercity Show and makes sure the newsletter gets to our snail mail members. Joyce Schumann, our librarian, is consistently meeting and greeting members and introducing them to books that are helpful in learning more about the plants we love.

The Cactus Chronicle is our life line to the membership. It keeps us informed of the monthly meetings, the up-coming events in the cactus world and offers educational articles. It is one of the finest newsletters in the hobby and would like to thank Phyllis Frieze for doing a great job.

The Holiday party was another great club success. Barbara Hall and Kim Thorpe executed a team effort to be sure there was enough food to feed the hungry crowd and decorations that contributed to the holiday atmosphere. Efren Flores and Tim Harvey amassed a varied selection of plants for the Auction, as well as the quality donations from the members. Our Holiday parties get better every year and I would like to thank everyone involved.

A BIG thank you to everyone who has helped the club grow and expand this last year. I am looking forward to the New Year as it promises to be an even more successful one. The Board and I will be working hard it create a botanical community through offering new programs and bringing back some old ones that get members together on a social level.

Artie Chavez

Notes for 2011 from the President

I would like to introduce our new Board for 2011 and explain our new procedures and programs. The upcoming year will be full of exciting and new events.

Tim Harvey - First Vice President - Programs

Tim will be a great addition to our Board; he will surely bring us only the best in programs and work-shops.

Manny Rivera Second Vice President - Plant of the Month

Manny has put a fresh breath in the monthly competition with his smooth and easy going, but informative approach to sharing his knowledge.

Roxie Esterle -Third Vice President - Special Events

Roxie will revitalize our Field trips and other events that will pull our membership together into a community that will share more experiences than just the monthly meetings.

Helen Frank - Secretary

Helen will continue on as our club Secretary and continue her fine work.

Sandy Chase - Treasurer

Sandy will continue on as our club Treasurer and continue her fine work at watching our checkbook grow.

Richard Roosman - Director 2011

Richard will assume responsibility for Membership in 2011.

Ralph Massey - Director 2011

Ralph has agreed to fill in where needed.

EXCITING THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2011

In 2010, the main focus of club activities for the better part of the year was the summer's Drought Tolerant Plant Festival. The festival, although a large success, consumed an immense amount of time. This new concept, which has not been done by a cactus and succulent society before, took a lot of planning and work. It was well worth it because of the success and increased public attendance. With the amount of effort it took to create the festival a few of our other programs suffered. So in the upcoming year the Board will work hard to bring back many of the programs that were set aside and bring to the members a new and exciting year of sharing, learning, and most of all FUN!!!! This is your club and we all encourage your comments, suggestions and ideas.

New Equipment

We have purchased a new digital projector which will allow us to more easily show the digital photography now most commonly used by those on field trips. I would also like to thank Tom and Jeannette Glavich for donating a large screen to the club.

Refreshments

We are going to try a new twist for the refreshment snacks. We will be asking that the membership bring in the goodies to share. We will have a refreshment sign-up sheet as well as going in alphabetical order each month. For example January will be the last names that start with A-D, February will be E-H, March I-L, and April M-P etc.

Name Tags

We are encouraging everyone to wear their name tag, whether they are the engraved, paper or temporary ones. This practice will help with acquainting one another by name.

Door Prizes

The Door Prize program will be expanded. Door prizes will be given away according to the monthly Sign-In sheet, but only to the members that sign-in wearing their name tags.

Plant-of-the-Month

Beginning in February, an expanded list of genera and species will be published with the hope of helping the membership recognize and have a better understanding of the monthly selections. Also our Librarian will provide the Chronicle readers with a list of books that relate to POM list. The *monthly preview plants* program will be reinstated as a regular feature of our monthly meetings. This program gives the membership live examples of the next month's POM selections.

Field Trips

We are working hard to create an exciting schedule of field trips to bring the membership together outside of the monthly meetings.



Member Email Addresses

This message is important if:

- ◆ You have received the newsletter via USPS and now want to take delivery via the internet
- ◆ You are having a problem receiving the newsletter via the internet
- ◆ Your email address has recently changed

If you fall into any of the above categories, run - do not walk - to your computer or note pad and send a note to Phyllis Frieze at Phyllis.98@hotmail.com indicating the correct email address. Thanks in advance for your help!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Plant-of-the-Month 2011

January	Gymnocactus and Ortegocactus	Aloe hybrids
February	Mammillaria (single head)	Dudleya Asclepiads -caudiciform and tuberous forms
March	Echinocereus	
April	Gymnocalycium (multiple heads)	Sansevieria
May	Epiphytes	Echeveria Mesembs(other than Lithops and Conophytum) e.g. Pleiospilios, Lapidaria
June	Turbinicarpus and Frailea	
July	Tephrocactus	Adenia
August	Brazilian cacti	Pachypodium (African species)
September	Ferocactus	Euphorbia (stem forms)
October	Ariocarpus	Terrestrial Bromeliads
November	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
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 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.

Judging Scale*		Points Awarded	
Condition	50%	First	5
Size and Maturity	25%	Second	3
Staging	20%	Third	1
Nomenclature	5%	Entry Award**	1

* Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners.

** Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

Plant of the Month - November Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - *Haworthia Retusa*

Award	Name	Plant
First	Rio Cernak	<i>Haworthia cymbiformis</i>
Second	John Martinez	<i>Haworthia venosa</i> ssp. <i>tessellata</i>
Third	Scott Schaffer	<i>Haworthia</i> 'Darki'

Cactus - *Echinocactus*

First	Rio Cernak	<i>Echinocactus polycephalus</i>
Second	Rio Cernak	<i>Echinocactus</i> sp.
Third	Rio Cernak	<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i>

Advanced Division

Succulent - *Haworthia Retusa*

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Nolan	<i>Haworthia</i> sp.
Second	Mick Gottschalk	<i>Haworthia venosa</i> 'Fang'
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	<i>Haworthia</i> sp.
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	<i>Haworthia</i> sp.

Cactus - *Echinocactus*

First	Barbara Hall	<i>Sulcorebutia polymorph</i>
Second	Barbara Hall	<i>Myrtillocalcium</i> 'Polyp'
Third	None	

Open Division

Succulent - *Haworthia Retusa*

Award	Name	Plant
First	John Matthews	<i>Haworthia mirabilis</i> v. <i>beukmannii</i>
Second	John Matthews	<i>Haworthia emelyae</i> hybrid
Third	John Matthews	<i>Haworthia</i> 'Bev's Wonder'

Cactus - *Echinocactus*

First	John Matthews	<i>Echinocactus horizanthalanus</i>
Second	None	
Third	None	

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cacti of the Month - January 2011 - *Gymnocactus/Ortegocactus*

Monotypic cacti are distinguished from other genera by the fact they have only one species per genus. This is not the case with most cacti and succulents where most genera have several species and/or subspecies associated with the genus

Monotypic cacti are endemic to their environments and are geographically more likely to be found in areas of Mexico, southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and southwestern Texas.

Ortegocactus macdougalli is endemic to Oaxaca Mexico and grows on limestone rock cropping at heights up to 6,000 feet.



Ortegocactus macdougalli

Closely related to the genus *Mammillaria*, this plant is often grafted to avoid growing difficulties associated with its own root system. Another potential problem with *Ortegocactus* is the orange discolorations that frequently appear at the base of stems.

Gymnocactus, on the other hand, is a genus that possesses many species.

Recently merged with the genus *Turbinicarpus*, this plant can be found in central Mexico. It typically contains a thick tap root that can, if watered excessively, generate root rot. Soil drainage is therefore a major consideration in the cultivation of *Gymnocactus*. Also a concern associated with overwatering is the potential for plant cracking. *Gymnocactus viereckii* is a species found in many collections. It is a solitary or clustering species with dense spines covering almost all of the plant. The apex of this globose species is typically covered with white wool giving the plant an exotic and special appearance. In habitat, *Gymnocactus viereckii* grows in higher altitudes on the sides of cliffs in rock cracks. It receives very little nutrients other than from leaves that are caught on a plant's spines. *Gymnocactus viereckii* produces a magenta flower that is stunning in contrast with the white wool and spines covering this plant.

Gymnocactus mandragora is a solitary plant that may branch if the growing tip of the plant is damaged or intentionally disfigured. Found in Mexico, this plant has hard dense white spines (brown tips) that are spirally arranged around a flattened tubercle. *Gymnocactus mandragora* produces a white bloom with a pink midstripe.



Gymnocactus mandragora

Gymnocactus horripilus is a species originating in Mexico that ultimately clusters but at a very slow pace. The central spines of this plant are relatively long and brown which contrasts with the radials that are straight but are white changing to brown/black as they reach the tip. The deep purple flower blooms in the spring and summer.



Gymnocactus horripilus

References

D. Hunt, **The New Cactus Lexicon**
C. Innes and C. Glass, **Cacti**

Steve Frieze, January 2011

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Succulent of the Month - January 2011 - *Aloe Hybrids*

Aloe hybrids have been generated from two sources; those of “garden origin” produced by natural cross pollination and those instituted by horticulturalists with a small brush and a short memory. Many of these hybrids are of species that are geographically distinct, and grow together only in the gardens of *Aloe* collectors. Aloes tend to hybridize naturally; seed are sown by the wind and nurtured without human intervention until they are big enough to be noticed. The culprits of this natural hybridization process are birds and bees who spread the pollen around in a random fashion. The casual method of hybridization has produced some strikingly beautiful plants, many of which are now cultivated on their own merits.

Aloes are incredibly easy to grow in Southern California. Almost all of the South African Species are easily grown, with the larger species making stunning landscape plants. They can take light frosts with no damage. The smaller species, both hybrids and species are also easy. The Madagascan species are frost tender, but will do well with even light protection. They make great pot plants, and are easily made into wonderful show plants.

Aloes are easily propagated. Cuttings are left to dry for a week or so and placed into a pot or directly into the ground. Seeds of rare species are available through several seed houses and the CSSA.

One of the largest hybrids found in this area is Aloe Hercules whose parents are Aloe bainsii and dichotoma



Aloe Hercules (Huntington Gardens)

Huntington Gardens is the home for many hybrids including the two very attractive crosses found below. Aloe 'Sophie' blooms throughout the year while Aloe 'Blue Elf' is a major seller in Southern California.



Aloe 'Sophie'



Aloe 'Blue Elf'

Aloe 'Sparkling Burgundy' is a gorgeous plant with striking features whose parentage is unknown.



Aloe 'Sparkling Burgundy'

Aloe 'Black Beauty' is another plant that has great appeal and is popular with gardeners in Southern California. The parents of this hybrid - Aloe rauhii and parvula - are often used in creating new mixes.



Aloe 'Black Beauty'

Kelly Griffin has produced some outstanding crosses that are simultaneously beautiful and exotic. These are plants that are welcome additions to any hobbyist's collection. Examples of his work can be found below.



Aloe 'Papa Woody'



Aloe 'Sugar'



Aloe 'Blue Boy'

References

Cactus and Succulent Journal

G. W. Reynolds, **The Aloes of South Africa**

G. W. Reynolds, **The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar**

Tom Glavich, February 2004

Edited by Steve Frieze, January 2011

From the Stacks of the Library January, 2011

Happy New Year to everyone!

As we ring in the New Year, we also will ring in several new features for the presentation of our books. In the past, I have concentrated on providing books pertaining to the *next* month's Plant of the Month. More emphasis will be placed on the current Plant of the Month.

In the December Chronicle, I mentioned the generous donations of books to our Library. We can never thank you enough!!!! This generosity has given us a second complete set of Britton and Rose's "*The Cactaceae*" which is **available to be checked out**.

Many of our books are older and have been superseded by newer, glossier, coffee table style books. Another new feature will be "**THEN and NOW**" with the old and new, side by side for comparison. It just doesn't get any better than that!

We start this new feature with the January POM *Gymnocalycium* books. The first duo features E.W. Putman's *Gymnocalyciums* published in 1978 alongside the 2009 edition of *Gymnocalycium in Habitat and Cultivation* by Graham Charles.

The second two books for comparison is the 1982 edition of "*The New Haworthia Handbook*" by M.B. Bayer. This is the book that **preceded** the "Haworthia Revisited" (1999) on which Rudolf Schulz based his 2009 book "*Haworthia for the Collector*."

The third comparison is "*Sansevieria*" by N.E. Brown, published in 1915. The new title is "*The Splendid Sansevieria*" by B. Juan Chahinian, published in 2005. This title is new to our library and is an excellent resource for novice and experts alike.

Being a technophobe, I tend to shy away from computer stuff but will admit that information on CDs makes sense. Again, we benefit from our members generosity and now have two CDs to be checked out. One is titled *Sansevierias* and the second is "*Succulents From Andoran*" by Jocelyn Ainsworth.

Are you overwhelmed by all the new stuff yet? Hang on, there's more...

Two more new titles (from you-know-who): [our generous members]

1. "A Visitor's Guide to 20 Plants on the Desert Discovery Trail" of the Phoenix Desert Botanical Garden. Very nice art work and descriptions of the more interesting plants of this Garden.
2. "The Cactus and Other Tropical Succulents" by Henry Allnut published in 1877. No, that is not a typo. This is a reproduction of a public domain book and is probably the OLDEST NEW book ever in our Library.

Well, there's more but we can't do it all in one month.

All of our books have some tidbit of information that you have wanted to know. That's why it's important for you to **CHECK IT OUT!**

See you in a few days.

A Note From the Librarian A book has been lost

It seems to have been misplaced. It is the book "Pachyforms II, Bonsai Succulents" written by deVosjoli & Lime. If you have seen this book, please return it to me. It is one of our newest and most popular and is missed by many. It has a soft cover, is about 5" X 8" by 1" thick. Thanks for your help in searching (and locating and returning) this lost one.

See you in a few days.



November & December New Members

*Ed Anolin
Mari Beth Baloga
Danielle Duboff
Evie Elliott
Richard Kazlas
Kim Thorpe*



Membership Renewals Are Now Due

Membership dues for **2011** will increase from \$15 to \$20 for a single individual to compensate for increased costs and other expenses that have accrued during the past year. In addition, those receiving the newsletter via the US mail will incur a \$5 charge to offset the costs of mailing which have gone up astronomically. Family memberships will cost \$25 with the same charge for mailed newsletters.



LACSS January 2011 Calendar of Events

January 15 Huntington Botanical Gardens 10 am—4:30 pm—desert forum, CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden, including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Jim Folsom, Director of the Gardens. *WEAR YOUR NAME BADGES.*

January 29 10th Annual Aloe Walk at the Jurupa Mountain Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA 951-685-5818 for directions.

Six-acre succulent gardens at the Center were planted by local succulent enthusiast in the late 1960s & early 1970s. Buck Hemingway will lead the tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes & discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. This event is FREE!

Please plan ahead to attend, good plants, meet new people, learn additional information on the care and propagation of your collection!

General Meeting starts at **7:00 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 6:45 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:
Vince Basta

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: January 6, 2011
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl.
Encino

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