



CACTUS CHRONICLE



MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

Monthly Meeting Program : January

THE INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY OF THE FLORA & FAUNA OF BRAZIL

Steven Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. Steven was one of the original partners of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent nursery and is now a co-partner of Floratopia, an exotic plant nursery specializing in Tillandsias. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to other exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Mexico, and Costa Rica.

Prior to his retirement, he was an administrator for the California State University system serving as the Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member. He also functions as the Director of the Positive Psychology Lab at the same institution where students get the opportunity to design and execute psychological research studies.

Steve has conducted workshops and participated in Q&A panels for our LACSS club.

Ron Behar
V.P. Programs



**REFRESHMENTS FOR
JANUARY!**

**LAST NAMES STARTING
WITH: **N-R****

**SEE YOU AT THE JANUARY MEETING
AT THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER**

2019 OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Kim Chavez

1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS

Diane Miller

SECRETARY

Ron Cooper

TREASURER

Gretchen Davis

FALL SALE CHAIR

Kal Kaminer

DIRECTOR 1 (2017-2018) ODD YRS.

Ilona Buratti

DIRECTOR 2 (2018-2019) EVEN YRS.

Artie Chavez

PAST PRESIDENT

Joyce Schumann

HISTORIAN

Nils Schirmacher

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INTER-CITY SHOW CHAIR

John Martinez

CSSA LIAISON

M.A Bjarkman

DRAWING & PLANT PROCUREMENT

Richard Roosman

PUBLICITY

Roxie Esterle

CACTUS GARDEN CHAIR

Chris Rogers

CACTUS CHRONICLE DISTRIBUTION

Richard Roosman & John Matthews

HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIRPERSONS

Debi Heaps

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Sylvia Strehlo

MONTHLY DRAWING

Leah Imamura & Juana Williams

KIDS OUTREACH

Nicolene Bova

MEMBER AT LARGE

Kal Kaminer

A Word From Our President



Welcome 2019, Very excited for the new year.

Wrap up of 2018. The Holiday Awards Banquet was a huge hit! Thank you to Debi and her elves for the beautiful decorations. The expert games were hysterical. Thanks Steve Frieze, Tim Harvey, and Karen Ostler. You were all great sports. The pot luck was fantastic, so many great choices. Loved the photobooth! I think everyone got to take something home. Thank you to all that donated to the silent and live action.

2018 has been a great year for the club. Our June Drought Tolerant Plant Festival was the best ever. The Fall Sale was a huge success again this year. We had the best Inter-City Show making our profit \$5000. A lot of our members made the trophy table. Our club continues to grow not only financially but also member size. We have gained so many new members with so many great talents. We have over 274 members!

The Board are already working on ideas for 2019. We would love for our members to give input on what they would like in this year. Diane is planning great field trips. Artie and Jim are working on the Festival. I think Debi is already getting ideas for the next Awards Banquet. Karen has already started planning the interior show for the festival and Ron is contacting speakers. The buzz is fantastic. We will be implementing the Grant Program again this year, so start thinking of ideas. Welcome to our new board member, Ron Cooper. We look forward to your input.

Dues are due so let's get them paid asap. Ilona is working on the roster already. We would love to have it out by the March Meeting.

This is your club. What would you like to get out of being a member? Share your ideas, volunteer, participate, and have fun.

Hope everyone had a super Holiday Season! See you at the January meeting.

Remember, we will be meeting at the Sepulveda Garden Center, January 3, 2019. Doors open 6pm.

Kim Chavez

PLANT^{OF}_{THE} MONTH

NEW PLANT^{OF}_{THE} MONTH POLICIES for 2019

The **PLANT^{OF}_{THE} MONTH** competition is an important educational component of our monthly meetings. By showing your specimens, you learn tips about their care and staging, and gain recognition for a job well done. The 2018 year brought a record number of entries into the monthly POM contests, as total entries for the year exceeded 700!

In order to elevate the levels of competition in the more experienced divisions, the LACSS Board has initiated some new policies that will move people into higher levels of competition and increase the number of entries in the Advanced and Masters divisions. In addition, point counts will begin at 0 in each category, with 6 points for a first place, 4 points for a second place, 2 points for a third place, and 1 point for each plant entered.

New Competition Divisions:



Rookie

0 - 50 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "rookie" award points

Novice

0 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "novice" award points

Advanced

0 to 200 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "advanced" points

Master/Open

Experienced growers who have earned 200 "advanced" points along with vendors who sell at shows outside of LACSS.

Submissions:

Members may submit up to three plants in each designated monthly cactus and succulent category. In the Advanced and Master/Open divisions, members must have cared for their plants for at least 1 year. In the Novice division, the ownership requirement is 6 months. Rookies may show newly purchased plants. Entries should be labeled and placed on the display table by 7:00 pm.

Judging Criteria:

Plants are evaluated according to the following guidelines:

Condition (health, form, damage-free) 50%

Maturity and size 25%

Staging (complementary container, top dressing, composition) 20%

Nomenclature (identification and label) 5%

Other factors include rarity, growing difficulty, and whether or not the plant is in flower.

PLANT^{OF}_{THE} MONTH 2019

JANUARY

Epiphytic Cacti
Dudleya

FEBRUARY

Echinocactus
Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Epithelantha, Encephalocarpus
Pelecyphora, Aloe Hybrid

APRIL

Gymnocalycium
Haworthia

MAY

Small cacti & succulent staged as
miniature

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Mammillaria with hooked spines
Lithops

AUGUST

Rebutia
Commiphora

SEPTEMBER

Astrophytum
Euphorbia from Madagascar

OCTOBER

Opuntiod from South America
Adromischus

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

2018 PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH RESULTS

ROOKIE *to* NOVICE

(need at least 25 points overall years of membership)

DEBI HEAPS	94 POINTS
RON COOPER	83 POINTS
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN & KIMBERLY TONG	54 POINTS
AMANDA ERLANSON	49 POINTS
FELIPE DELGADO	41 POINTS
SEAN BARTH	39 POINTS
DANIEL PIO	29 POINTS
ILONA BURATTI	28 POINTS

NOVICE *to* ADVANCED

(need at least 100 points overall years of membership)

RON BEHAR	128 POINTS
KIM JACOBI	106 POINTS

TOP POINTS EARNED OVERALL DIVISIONS

RON BEHAR	128 POINTS
KATHRYN BOORER	101 POINTS
AL MINDEL	99 POINTS
DEBI HEAPS	94 POINTS
KAREN OSTLER	66 POINTS
KIM & ARTIE CHAVEZ	64 POINTS
RON COOPER	59 POINTS
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN & KIMBERLY TONG	54 POINTS
ROXIE & JIM ESTERLE	52 POINTS

JANUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH

EPiphytic CACTI BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Kyle Williams, Frank Vincentz, Paul Kaluschke

When you think of a cactus in the wild you probably imagine a big Saguaro, a stunning red Ferocactus, or a cute little Mammillaria growing in a vast sandy desert. Sure, most cacti are ground dwelling arid climate plants but did you realize some cacti grow on tree branches in rainforests? They do and they are the ones we'll be looking at this month. The genera we are covering include Rhipsalis, Schlumbergera, Epiphyllum, Hattoria, Disocactus, Lepismium, Selenicereus, Hylocereus and Weberocereus (and possibly others).

An epiphyte is any non-parasitic plant that grows on trees or other structures without soil. Orchids and Bromeliads are the most famous epiphytes, but ferns, mosses, and yes even cacti can be epiphytes too. The idea of a cactus living on trees in the jungle isn't as big of a stretch from a desert cactus as you may think. A desert cactus has adapted to survive the extreme drought of its native habitat by developing fleshy stems to store water and a root system used to drying out but rapidly up taking water on the rare occasions that rain falls. It may rain a lot in the rainforest, but periods of days or weeks without rain are common. It may be often enough for the soil to stay moist, but a tree branch will dry out within hours. To live on a tree where there is no soil, maybe a bit of leaf debris and moss at most, a plant needs to withstand these dry periods. A plant with the ability to store water in its stems and rapidly uptake water through the roots has a definite advantage in this environment. When looked at from that perspective it starts to become clear that a plant growing in the desert and one growing on a tree have remarkably similar habitats to deal with.



Epiphyllum hybrid



Rhipsalis cerescula



Schlumbergera hybrid

While there are definite similarities between an epiphytic lifestyle and life in the ground in the desert, there are some big differences as well. While a rainforest epiphyte may go days to weeks without water, it rarely has to deal with drought periods as long as a desert cactus does. Reflecting this, most epiphytic cacti stems aren't as thick and fleshy as a typical desert cactus. Additionally, epiphytic cacti are more shade tolerant than desert cacti, and in fact are much more prone to sunburn than a standard cactus. This makes sense when you think about where epiphytic cacti are growing, on a branch on a tree shaded by all the leaves of the tree.

Many epiphytic cacti like Rhipsalis and Schlumbergera grow in a jointed fashion, the latter also having flattened segments giving the appearance of being leaves. These are stems despite the leaf like appearance. Another growth form is seen in Epiphyllum. They also have flattened leaf like stems but grow in long continuous stems instead of numerous short joints. The flowers of epiphytic cacti have a very large variation in size, color and shape. Rhipsalis have some of the smallest flowers among cacti and are usually small and white. At the other end of the spectrum, Epiphyllum and inter-generic hybrids that include Epiphyllum can have flowers 6" across and come in virtually every color except blue. In between are Schlumbergera species and hybrids which have colorful tubular flowers that are 2-3" long. These are better known as the Christmas or Thanksgiving Cactus, quite possibly the most widely grown cactus in the world.

JANUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH

DUDLEYA BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Stan Shebs, "Introvert", & "Geographer"



Dudleya gnoma

If any succulent deserved the title of "The California Succulent" it would be Dudleya. The genus consists of approximately 50 species, all of which are found in California and Baja California. A few species range outside these boundaries, but even they are species native to California as well. Southern California in particular is one of the prime hotspots for Dudleya diversity, with over 20 species and varieties that can be found within a roughly two-hour drive from our club's home at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Dudleya belongs to the Crassulaceae, or Crassula family. This is a large family of approximately 35 genera and 1500 species. Most of us have several types of Crassulaceae in our collections, be it Crassula, Aeonium, Kalanchoe, Echeveria, Sedum, or species of many other genera. Most species are grown for their attractive fleshy leaves that are produced either in a rosette or as paired leaves that alternate at a 90-degree angle on the stem.

Dudleya are mostly smaller herbaceous plants that grow in a rosette. They are often mistaken for Echeveria but differ in technical characters of the flowers, but in

practical terms the most important difference the average grower needs to be concerned about is growing season. Dudleya are winter growers while Echeveria are summer growers. The fact that Dudleya are winter growers should be surprising to no one given that they literally grow wild on the hills around us which are bone dry in the summer and moist and green in the winter. The leaves of the most commonly grown species are covered in a white or bluish glaucous (powdery) coating, but several kinds have simple green or reddish green leaves. They range in size from rosettes upwards of 2' across down to miniatures only an inch or two in size that die back to the roots in summer. Most of the species grown in non-specialist collections are big single rosette forms like *D. britonii* or *D. pulverulenta*, or are clumped forms like *D. caespitosa* that take standard winter growing succulent care.

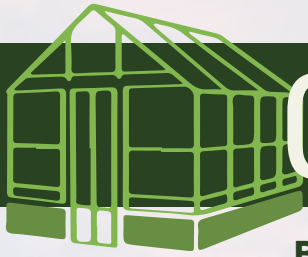
As Dudleya is the succulent most associated with California, it is worth talking about its life in the wild. In general, they can be found in coastal mountains growing on north facing slopes, usually on rocky steep grades and cliffs. Often you can walk right by them and not notice them, especially if you are expecting a big white plant like *D. pulverulenta*, one of our most common species. Most native Dudleya are only a few inches across and can only be found easily in the winter when in active growth. Some of these species are highly localized and extremely rare. In fact, some of the rarest plants on earth are certain of our local Dudleya, and they are under threat from fires, construction, and harvesting for the horticultural trade. If you are able you should get out and enjoy seeing these plants in the wild, especially since some of them may one day only exist in cultivation.



Dudleya cymosa



Dudleya farinosa



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

Rats, mice, opossums, raccoons, squirrels, birds. Animals we reluctantly share our spaces with; some are cute...maybe; but all of them can wreak havoc among our plants. Rats, mice, birds and squirrels find our succulents and cactus, taking bites out of that prized Cuminaria, chewing the tops off of a flat of seedling. The opossums and raccoons are equally destructive as they hunt through potted plants for grubs and snails and worms, knocking that perfect Echeveria off the bench.

All of them are guilty of damaging a plant for nesting material, especially during the winter when it's cold and during the early spring breeding season. I once watched a Scrub Jay pull the strings off of an Agave filifera, nearly denuding the plant.

What can you do to stop it?

Not much.

Mostly it's a game of prevention, make it difficult for the animal to get to the plants; greenhouse, cold frames, screened porches, you get the picture. Keep plant litter cleared around your yard; making certain there is no place for them to hide. When we lived in the Valley, it took me two years to convince a neighbor to rip out a bed of Ivy that I knew was hiding a nest of rats; sure enough, her gardener ended up killing a couple during removal. Green mulch, although very beneficial for our trees and shrubs, gives mice a nice place to raise a litter of pups. Try using gravel or wood chips instead.

I never recommend poison. Rodenticide will kill your pets. Your cat, the neighbor's dog; are fascinated by a rodent in its death throes and will chew on or eat it. I know; it happened to us; it is not a pretty way for an animal you love to die.

Traps work wonderfully, live or kill them dead types. Here in the mountains we live trap; the offending animal; usually a Kangaroo rat, or a Chipmunk; gets an all expenses paid trip a quarter mile away to an old pasture with few places to hide. I'm fairly certain the local Sharp-shinned Hawk; Accipiter striatus; knows the routine and shows up, effectively dealing with the culprit.

I know it is more difficult in the city and suburbs, that's when you dead trap. Awful, yes, but it's the rat or your plant.

Personally, I always go for the plant.

Happy growing!

Karen Ostler

LACSS

2018 HOLIDAY AWARDS DINNER

HOW FUN WAS THE AWARDS DINNER?!
SHARE YOUR PHOTOS WITH US!
SEND THEM TO NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM



MEMBERSHIP

A big thank you to all who have paid their membership dues. If you have not yet done so. Please see Ilona at the next meeting!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't forget!

REFRESHMENTS REMINDER

It's January! - Last names starting with N - R

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means it's your turn to bring the goodies during our meeting on Thursday, November 1st. Please have snacks arrive by 6:30PM for Social Hour.

Your help in setting up & breaking down is greatly appreciated.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY

JANUARY 12 & 13 2019

SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW
9AM-4PM BOTH DAYS
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 9 2019

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA
INFO (619) 990 2051

25TH SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WINTER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW AND SALE

(Admission is free with PAID arboretum admission)



January 12 - 13 2019, 9am - 4pm
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM
301 N Baldwin, Arcadia

Information, please contact

www.sgvcss.com or (626) 821 3222

Sponsored by the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society