

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

M A R C H 2 0 2 2

VOL. 90 ISSUE 03

THE NEW, RARE AND SELDOM SEEN CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OF

MEXICO

WITH WOODY MINNICH

Photo credit: Woody Minnich

LACSS ZOOM MEETING, EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:30PM

MARCH 3RD, 2022

B O A R D OF DIRECTORS

2 0 2 2

LACSS 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.

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FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Hi and Happy Spring to everyone,

Every major sport in Los Angeles has a team who has won the national championship. (Not sure where the Raiders fit into that statement.) How and why does that happen? Because each team wants to win to show their fans that they are worthy of their support.

This is, also, true of the cactus and succulent world. Each C&S club is successful because of member support at all times and especially through the past two years. As reported before, LACSS has gained new members each month since the beginning of 2020. At last count we have over 150 members for 2022. This makes us work even harder to keep you up to date with evolving issues, great programs, future events and challenging Plant of the Month subjects. When the POM topic is "Monotypic," this is our chance to learn (and to educate) what that term means and what plants are representative of this classification. And you learned well last month! Congratulations to all participants.

One of the more exciting aspects of an in-person get-together is having access to our impressive library. During our hiatus, several new books have been added along with several issues of the CSSA Journal. As soon as practical, newer books will be added throughout the year. If you have seen or heard about any books that should be added to our library, let me know. I'm always pleased when one of our speakers refers to their book and I can nod my head and think "Yes, I know, we have it in our Library!"

At our Board meeting, it was decided that June 10 & 11 would be a good time for a spring sale. And you know what that means....volunteers will be needed. And a good time will be had by all. In addition, Nicole Alter (our Instagram guru) is organizing a "Learn About Succulents" project at her middle school which will be Saturday, March 19. And don't forget about the panel discussion scheduled for Saturday, March 12. Get your problem plants ready for viewing and solutions. To top it off – our Director 1, Special Events, Jim Esterle, has scheduled a house tour on Saturday, April 9 from 1:30–3:30 pm. Look for more details regarding these events in this Chronicle and upcoming blasts. Almost like the good ole days!!!! YEAH!!

A very big project has been completed! Have you ever thought you would like to run for an LACSS office but didn't know what the responsibilities are for that office? Thanks to the writing and editing skills of Roxie Esterle, we now have complete descriptions of every elected and appointed LACSS office. These will be available on the "Member Only" section of our website.

Well, that's it for now. See you soon on ZOOM!

Joyce

THE NEW, RARE AND SELDOM SEEN
CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OF

MEXICO

W O O D Y M I N N I C H



Gymnocactus sp.nova We discovered this new species in 2019. It has not yet been described.



Ariocarpus fissuratus in the Chihuahuan desert.

Mexico is considered by many to be one of the richest regions in the world for cacti. From the United States to the north, to its southern border of Guatemala, there are an amazing number of genera and species to be found. These range from the tiny *Turbinicarpus* to the giant *Pachycereus*. Within the reaches of Mexico, there are many diverse geologic environments. These habitats vary from the coastal and inland low lands to its many high mountain niches. For almost 50 years, I have been lucky enough to have traveled most all of Mexico. Thus, my favorite regions for exploring include the most popular Baja California, to the mysterious Sierra Madre Occidental, and the succulent rich Sierra Madre Oriental. It is from these famous territories that the majority of the highly desired collector's taxa are to be found.

One might think that Mexico, being so close to the United States, would have been totally explored and there would be nothing new to find. Nothing could be further from truth! We are now finding new species of cacti and other succulents at an astonishing rate. These new finds have become a

reality mainly because of the construction of many new roads leading us into what was previously unexplored territory. Coahuila, Durango and Zacatecas embody many of these remote regions where few explorers have had the opportunity to botanize. And now, these areas are rapidly opening up!

The ever-popular genera of: *Agave*, *Dasylerion*, *Fouquieria*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Aztekium*, *Echeveria*, *Gymnocactus*, *Mammillaria*, *Pelecephora* and *Turbinicarpus*, are just a few of the genera where the addition of new species has become common. Due to all of the excitement and interest in these new plants, there have been numerous negative side effects



Escobaria abdita

that have evolved. This increased interest in these new plants, combined with the commercial powers of the internet/google, has created new distribution avenues for the marketing of the rare and or endangered species. Plants I have seen for many, many years are now facing new threats from commercial collecting. CITIES and the enforcement of local and international laws, regarding illegally collected plants, has had very little impact on curtailing the destruction of specific plant populations. This is especially true when plants are new or highly desired because of their scarcity in the collector's circuit.

Come join me, as I will show you many of the new cacti and other succulents of Mexico. Also, I hope to share with you what is happening to these wonderful plants, partly as a result of our new electronic world and the power of money!



Woody with a Gila Monster, which is found in the south west corner of New Mexico.

B R I E F B I O G R A P H Y O F WOODY MINNICH



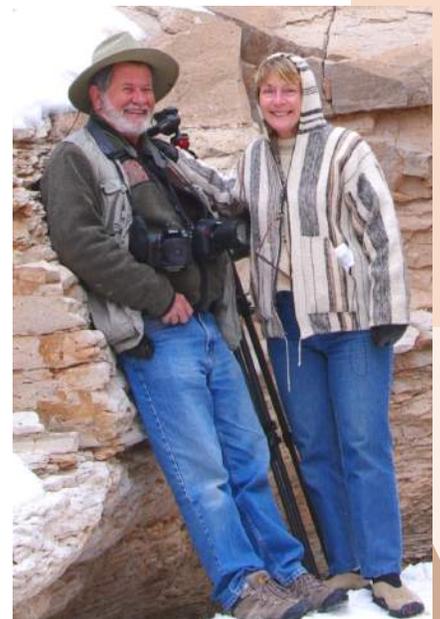
Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants & animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus & succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club & organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer & presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States & Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975.

Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, & Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles & reviews in various journals (CSSA) & his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt & Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" & "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody & his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art & Architecture. In the cactus & succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy & creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby & thus is an honorary life member of 13 C&S societies across the country. He has been president, show & sale chair, newsletter editor, program chair, & plant of the month coordinator. Woody has also served on the CSSA board & numerous societies in many other leadership positions. He is a co-creator, & currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus & Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show.





Mammillaria luethyi

POM Online Policies

AS LACSS CONTINUES ITS ONLINE MEETING FORMAT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS IN THE PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH (POM) COMPETITION HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BEGINNING FEBRUARY, 2021. WE HOPE THESE CHANGES WILL MOTIVATE MORE MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THIS LONG-STANDING EDUCATIONAL TRADITION. BESIDES, IT'S REALLY FUN TO GET YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UPS.

- SUBMISSIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 2 CACTUS AND 2 SUCCULENT SUBMISSIONS PER PERSON.
- WINNING POINTS WILL BE RECORDED AND ACCUMULATED FOR PRIZES AWARDED AT OUR YEAR-END HOLIDAY PARTY IN 2021.
- COMPETITION DIVISIONS (ROOKIE, NOVICE, ADVANCED, AND OPEN) WILL BE JUDGED TOGETHER, AS THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLANTS FOR A COMPETITION IN EACH DIVISION.
- ONE POINT WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH ENTRY, AND WINNERS IN THE CACTUS AND THE SUCCULENT AREAS WILL BE AWARDED 3 POINTS FOR 3 RD PLACE, 4 POINTS FOR 2ND PLACE, AND 5 POINTS FOR 1ST PLACE.
- PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO OUR CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR : NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE COMPETITION IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING.
- MANNY RIVERA WILL SELECT THE WINNING CACTUS AND SUCCULENT BASED ON THE PHOTOS, TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE MEETING.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTIVITY!

PLANT ^{Of} _{the} MONTH

2 0 2 2

JANUARY

Frailea
Adromischus

FEBRUARY

Monotypic
Senecio, Othonna

MARCH

Mammillaria Clusters
Aloe Clusters

APRIL

Escobaria, Acharagma
Aizoaceae Thickened Roots

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 2")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Discocactus
Dyckia

AUGUST

Thelocactus-Hamatocactus
Bursera

SEPTEMBER

Gymnocalycium
Euphorbia Millii type

OCTOBER

Astrophytum
Sanseveria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

P L A N T O F T H E M O N T H

MAMMILLARIA CLUSTERS

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

Mammillaria is quite possibly the most popular genus of cacti, and is usually one of the first succulents a person buys. There are several reasons for this. With nearly 200 species, Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactaceae, which means there is an enormous amount of variety to choose from. Some species are fingernail size, others solitary globular plants, some are straight spined, some form sizeable clumps, while others are heavily spined with hooks. This month we are interested in those species that form nice clumps. The more common species are ubiquitous at any nursery, big box store, or even supermarket that sells plants. Most species are small, easy to grow, and have a "cute" factor that make even non-gardeners want to buy one for their patio or windowsill. The most commonly grown species are also quite tolerant of abuse and neglect.

One of the most distinctive features of Mammillaria are flowers born in the axils of the tubercles that as a group form a ring around the stem. They are usually small, but many can be open at once providing a nice display. Flowers range in color from white and yellow to pink and red. Other species have orange, salmon, or even bicolor flowers.

Mammillaria species range from Columbia to Canada. Approximately ten species are found in the south western portion of the United States, including California. However, the true heart of Mammillaria diversity is Mexico. Most species occur there and you can see the full range of variation the genus has to offer. While some species are extremely hardy (particularly the North American species), others are more frost sensitive. Almost all Mammillaria will do just fine in SoCal with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix. If you live in areas that get hard frost in the winter (e.g. the Antelope Valley) be sure to check the frost tolerance of your species.



Mammillaria bombycina



Mammillaria vetula



Mammillaria plumosa

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season (typically from March–October), strong light, intense heat if available, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most Mammillaria will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. During the summer heat growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving.

Propagation of Mammillaria is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix (pure pumice is even better). Rooting is rapid, with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. Mammillaria are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp

potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Show quality plants can often be grown in just 4 or 5 years, and entries can be ready for seedling classes in as little as 6 months. Best results are obtained when the seeds are started in late March to late May.

P L A N T O F T H E M O N T H

ALOE CLUSTERS

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

Aloe is one of the most popular genera of succulents, especially in Southern California. In fact, Aloe vera may be the most widely cultivated succulent in the world, owing to its medicinal properties. Most species small herbs to shrubs, though some species (most notably *A. dichotoma* and *A. barberae*) can reach tree size. With over 500 species, and at least as many hybrids and cultivars, there is an Aloe for almost any situation and taste.

Aloe species are native to most of the drier parts of Africa, including Madagascar, with a number reaching the Arabian Peninsula. They are naturalized in every Mediterranean environment in the world, as well as some temperate and tropical regions. All but a few Aloes will grow readily in Southern California, either in the ground, or in pots. When in the ground they require minimal care, existing happily on only natural rainfall in most years. Summer growing species will appreciate some summer water. The sheer number of species and habitats make blanket statements on culture impossible, but most will thrive under the general care you give other succulents, so long as you know if you have a summer or winter grower.

Aloes combine interesting form and foliage with beautiful flowers. Most species have orange, yellow, or red flowers that are attractive to Sunbirds in their native Africa. In the Americas Hummingbirds regularly visit them. These birds are great at pollinating flowers and it isn't unusual to see fruit develop. Those looking for other colors can find species with white or even green



Aloe parvula



Aloe x 'Christmas Carol'



Aloe descoingsii

flowers. Some species, such as *A. tomentosa*, even have hairy flowers!

Aloes are relatively pest free, though they are as susceptible to a mealybug outbreak as other succulents. Two serious pests of Aloe are rust and mites. Aloe rust, which produces red ringed spots black or brown spots on the leaves is a fungal disease, and can be controlled with any fungicide. Aloe galls are produced by the Aloe mite. These nearly invisible insects cause deformed flower stalks or leaves. The plant should be removed from all others, and is best destroyed, although eventual cure is possible with miticides.

This month our particular focus is on Aloe clusters in smaller pots (maximum pot size 6"). A cluster would simply be any Aloe plant with three or more heads on it. Obviously

the pot size limitation means that smaller species would be best. One of the best choices for this category would be the colorful hybrid Aloe cultivars that have become popular in recent years. But of course, any Aloe with multiple heads that can fit in a smaller pot are welcome.



KAREN + MARTIN OSTLER
MAMMILLARIA LLYODII



JOHN VAN UNEN
MAMMILLARIA LEUTHYI



COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN
MAMMILLARIA HAHNIANA SUPEPRBA



DUKE + KAZ BENADOM
MAMMILLARIA SP.

MARCH
PLANT OF THE MONTH
SUBMISSIONS



EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING
ALOE CASTILLONIAE



BRYAN + MARY CHAN
ALOE 'MARSHA LAYHEW'



GRETCHEN DAVIS
ALOE 'LIZARD LIPS'



JIM + ROXIE ESTERLE
ALOE HYBRID

LACSS SATURDAY PROGRAM

GOT A PLANT QUESTION? NEED A PLANT I.D?

**J O I N O U R
E X P E R T P A N E L**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH 2021
HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM AT 10:00AM**

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!



Karen's interest in cactus started in 1979, when she acquired 7 cactus plants, 3 of which she still has, all Mammillarias. She became involved in the cactus societies in the mid-80s & is currently a member of 6 local societies as well as the CSSA. After living in the San Fernando Valley for many years, Karen & her husband, Martin moved to the high desert mountains with an elevation of 4,100 ft & had to learn how to grow plants all over again. She loves every challenging moment of it.



Sandy entered into the Cactus & Succulent world in 1984 having amassed quite a collection of Cactus & Succulents over the years. She has held a position in every office in the LACSS, & she calls herself a "life member." Sandy was privileged to co-chair the 2001 convention hosted by the LACSS. She has put together many educational displays for the LACSS, the CSSA & Inter-city shows. Sandy looks forward to serving many more years in any capacity that will help our society grow.



Jim and Roxie Esterle began collecting succulents in 1992. Little did they know then that collecting succulents would become a shared, lifelong passion for them. Their hobby has become a perfect division of labor: Roxie learns the botanical names and family characteristics; Jim does the heavy lifting and staging. The Esterles have accumulated over 1000 cacti and succulents which Roxie tracks on an 80+ page spreadsheet that includes purchase dates, countries of origin, and more.

U P C O M I N G CSSA WEBINAR

SUCCULENTS OF THE CANARY ISLANDS WOLFGANG BORGMANN



Join us Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Click here to register!

The Canary Islands consist of 8 volcanic islands and some uninhabited rocks, located just over 60 miles off the Western African coast. They are often referred to as the "Galapagos Islands of Botany" because of the large number of endemic plants that have adapted to the surprisingly diverse ecological niches that exist on this limited area. With about 100 species, especially of the Crassulaceae, but also of the Euphorbiaceae, Apocynaceae, and Aizoaceae families, succulent plants make up an important part of this endemism. For this talk, Wolfgang has made a personal selection of the most impressive succulent plants and their habitats, covering all islands and all relevant vegetation zones.

Wolfgang Borgmann – Brief Biography

After completing his degree in biology, Wolfgang focuses his professional life mainly on environmental, energy, health, and safety management systems in an industrial context. In his spare time, he pursues his botanical interests in native plants as well as in cacti and succulents, the latter in a small collection, and generally through photography.

Wolfgang discovered the Canary Islands more than 30 years ago as an ideal destination for himself: In a relatively small area, there are extremely varied landscapes with highly interesting flora, beautiful historical places, simple, but good cuisine. To date, he has been to the Canaries 14 times and has visited all 8 islands of the archipelago.

He is a frequent speaker for German Cactus Society local branches and has written a special publication on Canarian succulents with Thomas Brand and Elisabeth Sarnes. He is the German representative for the European Countries Conference (ELK), the largest sale of cacti and succulents in Europe.



2022 MEMBER?

IF NOT, THE MARCH CHRONICLE
WILL BE YOUR LAST ONE FOR 2022.

DON'T LET YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRE, SO
SEND IN YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUE TODAY

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$20 ANNUALLY
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$25 ANNUALLY

THERE ARE 2 WAYS TO RENEW:

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CHECK VIA MAIL

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LACSS GARDEN TOUR

Save the date

SATURDAY, APRIL 9 TH , 2022



You won't want to miss this opportunity to see the magnificent garden of Steve and Tiffani, located on 4 glorious acres at the top of Coldwater Canyon. We last visited this garden in 2017, focusing on mature cycads, aloes, and other succulents. Since that time, Steve has installed a lower rock garden featuring large columnar cacti, agaves, and many other unusual specimens. This is an opportunity not to be missed, and will be our first LACSS in-person outing in 2 years.

Because of limited parking, we will visit in two groups, staggering arrival times. Please try to carpool. The trip is open only to LACSS members and 1 guest each, with a total of 25 guests for each group.

Group One: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Group Two: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm

An email sign-up blast will be sent out in mid-March. Please direct any questions to Jim Esterle, Special Events Director esterle@sbcglobal.net or 310-864-3224



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELLO LACSS MEMBERS! I WORK AT MILLIKAN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SHERMAN OAKS AND AM LOOKING FOR SOME VOLUNTEERS = FOR MARCH 19TH AND POSSIBLY APRIL 2ND.

I AM LOOKING FOR SOME VOLUNTEERS TO TEACH THE STUDENTS ABOUT SUCCULENTS. WE NEED DONATIONS OF SUCCULENTS (NO CACTUS UNLESS THEY DO NOT HAVE SPINES).

THE SCHOOL HAS A GARDENING AREA WITH PLANTER BOXES THAT NEED TO BE FILLED WITH AMAZING PLANTS.

LET'S TEACH THE NEW GENERATION ABOUT SUCCULENTS AND CACTI SO THEY CAN HOPEFULLY ONE DAY BE AS PASSIONATE ABOUT GARDENING AS WE ARE.

PLEASE EMAIL ME IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER.

THANK YOU,
NICOLE (NICOLE.KARIN.ALTER@GMAIL.COM)

CHARTERED 1967



SAN GABRIEL

— VALLEY —

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

SALE: 3/4-3/6
SHOW: 3/5- 3/6
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