



CACTUS CHRONICLE

August
2012

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at www.lacss.com

For more information

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Next Meeting: August 2, 2012



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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.

KELLY GRIFFIN DUDLYEAS

My talk will be "*Dudleyas ... more than just brittonii, and much more than you expected.*"

I have been researching and working on a revision of this Genus along with intrepid plantsman Jeremy Spath. The program shows some of the beauty this genus and the habitats in California, Baja and coastal islands.

Kelly is well known for his work as the curator of xeric plants at Rancho Soledad Nurseries (www.ranchosoledad.com), virtual plant Disneyland in Rancho Santa Fe CA. Together with his business partner Allen Repashy, he runs Xericgrowers (Xericgrowers.com), specializing in propagation of unique cultivars and select forms of Succulent plants. Don't forget to check out the Xericworld forum too - Xericworld.com - its about plants!

Kelly's programs are always worth watching. He is an excellent speaker and photographer, and has a keen insight into many diverse plant groups. Arrive early, not just to get in line for the plants he'll be bringing, but also since seating will be at a premium!

D. pachyphytum



D. candida



AUGUST 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LACSS Members,

Just as we enjoy a brief respite from our own show and the CSSA show, it's time to gear up for a few other activities.

CSSA Show

First, thank you to the members who represented us at the CSSA show as exhibitors, volunteers, and vendors: John Suci, John Matthews, Sandy Chase, Doug George, Manny Rivera, Marquita Elias and family, Darlene Weld, Brigitte Williams, Efren Flores, Nils Schirmacher, Steve Frieze, Artie Chavez, Kim Thorpe, Duke Benadom, Tim Harvey, Steve Ball, and Chris Rogers (hope I didn't miss anyone).

Not only was the show chaired by Barbara Hall, but also Barbara and Kim took home two trophies each, while other trophies went to Tim and John Matthews. Congratulations!

Inter City Show

LACSS is a co-sponsor of the Inter-City Show at Los Angeles County Arboretum on August 11 and 12, with set up August 9 and 10. This is our club's biggest fundraising event and our participation is essential. Please refer to John Matthew's article and our website link for details and sign up to volunteer and bring display specimens to this fantastic show.

Field Trip

Vice President of Special Events Bob Morris is planning a field trip to the home of Frank and Cheryl White for the morning of Saturday, August 26. We are presently working on confirming another site for that date. Please mark your calendars and look for flyers and blasts to confirm.

Elections and Participation

I am a strong believer in the adage that "you get out what you put in." As we prepare the slate of nominees for LACSS elections this fall, please consider serving. The positions that are open include Vice President, Programs; Vice President, Plant of the Month; Secretary; and one Director. If you are willing to serve as an officer, on a committee, or on the nominating committee, please communicate this to me at the upcoming August meeting or via email.

There are many other ways to support our club as well. Participating in the "Plant of the Month" competition, working a shift during our Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival or the Inter-City Show, creating a show display, joining the fantastic show dinners and auctions, and helping welcome visitors and new members also strengthen our LACSS community. This August, our Plant of the Month category is FAVORITES! Everyone has a favorite to show off, so please bring a few cacti and succulents for all to see.

And last, if your last name begins with the letters **A, B, C, or D**, please nourish us with something yummy.

Roxie Esterle
LACSS President
Lacss.contact@gmail.com



Our Garden: A Work in Progress Roxie and Jim Esterle

I recently found a receipt from Singer's Growing Things tucked into an old copy of the *Sunset Garden Book*. Among our first succulent purchases were a 4" *Bursera fagaroides*, purchased in 1994 for \$7.50 and a 6" *Cussonia paniculata* for \$18.00, along with a bag of pumice to add to our potting mix. Shortly thereafter came a *Bombax ellipticum*, a *Fockea edulis*, and a 6" *Pachypodium lameri*. The *pachy*, now about 5' tall, flowered for the first time last week emitting a delightful scent. When we purchased these "exotic" investments, little did we know that we were embarking on a hobby that would insinuate itself into our lives, bringing us endless pleasure along with pokes, spines, and frustration. So indulge me as I reminisce about the evolution of our garden.

Years later as our collection grew, and we picked up a flyer about LACSS from the California Cactus Center. When we joined LACSS in 2008, we discovered some like-minded folks who were avid, expert collectors, generous with their time and their knowledge. The learning curve has been nearly vertical.

After years of planting in containers, club members encouraged us to try planting in the ground. We began with one manageable area where the soil had been amended and the sprinklers could simply be capped. We never imagined that the volunteer oak seedling we nurtured in 1988 would erupt into a full-blown tree. Our sunny spot became a bit shady so we moved to another area that we call "the island." We cleared a small, full-sunlight spot in the middle of a lawn and tried to make succulents a focal point. Yet we've been unable to adjust the sprinkler radii to satisfy both the incompatible needs of the lawn and the succulents. So it's time to mound the island with more porous soil, move the *dudleyas*, and find some more tolerant specimens. Survival of the fittest is at work.

Whoever said that a succulent garden was maintenance free? While challenged by varying growth rates and watering needs, there are many tempting tasks that beckon us into the garden each day: transplanting, making cuttings, moving winter-growers, pruning, and now even staging. Finding an unkempt, weak plant and transforming it into a mature specimen is very rewarding; uncovering a gnarled caudex is a treasure hunt.

Nothing relieves stress and offers excitement like a few hours in the garden.

And those old *Sunset* books have been replaced by over a dozen books such as Fred Dortort's *Timber Press Guide to Succulents of the World*, Philippe de Vosjoli's *Guide to Growing Pachycaul and Caudiciform Plants*, Gordon Rauh's *Succulent and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar*, and Terry Hewitt's *Complete Book of Cacti and Succulents*. I first saw many of these books in the excellent LACSS library.

Don't you have botanical adventures to share with LACSS members?

Our Work In Progress
Roxie and Jim



Getting Some Sprinklers Right



The "island" with sprinkler problems



Cussonia paniculata with raised caudex



Pachypodium lamerei in first bloom

DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL by **Joyce Schumann** **Volunteer Coordinator**

Whew!! What a weekend!! A big flurry of activity resulting in the best show EVER! From the very beginning of set-up to the final minutes of tear-down, the success of our show depends on the participation of everyone in our Club. In the past few years, we have added and expanded activities that have proven to be quite successful. That success is due to the dedication of our volunteers. Most of the activities are listed below:

Being a Vendor, setting up tables , posting signs and hanging banners, creating an indoor display, staffing the public contact areas such as T-shirt sales, drawing [originally scheduled for one day but expanded to two because of its success], wreath sales, club plant sales, information booth, visitor sign in, plant holding, refreshments, silent auction [also originally scheduled for one day but expanded to two days], dinner auction, Kid's Day activities, floaters, ASK ME, and Sunday evening tear- down which took only 2 ½ hours – a record time thanks to all the volunteers.

A BIG “THANK YOU” to Stacey Phelps, Pedro Colin, Stephen Brown, Clay Ontiveros, Mike McMurray, Rochelle Pinto, Richard Just, Steven Rudolph, Chuck McMurray, Nils Schirmacher, Rita Aken, Roger Cohen, Bob Thille, Carol Thille, Phyllis Polakow, Mari Beth Baloga, Danielle Duboff, Norma Lewis, Len Stern, Rivka Ben Daniel, Jim Esterle, Gene Oster, Laura Oster, Katie Kessler, Jay Kapak, Rosemary Polito, Tim Harvey, Richard Roosman, Sylvia Strehlo, and Merkie Rowan.

A DOUBLE BIG “THANK YOU” to those who served double roles as a vendor plus prepared a display or participated in other public contact functions: Darlene Weld, John Matthews, Steve Ball, Peter Walkowiak, Matt Maggio [his workshop drew more than 50 attendees!], Cheryl White, Steve Frieze, Marquita Elias, Mary Chan, Mary Carroll, Gerald Richert, Erica VanAuker, Ronit Weiss, and John Martinez.

A TRIPLE BIG “THANK YOU” to those who not only were vendors and prepared an indoor display but also found time to assist in the other public contact activities: Sandy Chase, Barbara Hall, Kathleen Misko , and Kim Thorpe.

If we have failed to note your contributions, we apologize. We cannot say “Thank you” enough to fully express our acknowledgement and appreciation for the dedication and hard work (also known as a labor of love) to all of our Club members who helped make this year's Show and Sale a success. This year we had more volunteers than ever before. Not only does this make for a smoother running event but confirms your commitment to the success of the Club and its activities.

Once again **WE THANK YOU!!**

Sincerely,
Joyce Schumann,
Volunteer Coordinator-2012 LACSS Show and Sale

Inter-City Show and Sale

Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12

By now you should have identified all your show plants and repotted as needed. Don't wait until the day before you bring your plants to the show to water them. Wet plants leave stains on the tablecloths that don't seem to come out. Remember to bring a little extra of each top dressing you use to handle those travel mishaps. Don't forget the Golden Sweeps so you may want to bring 3 or 4 plants in a category. Plant entry times are Wed 8/8 1:00 to 7:00, Thurs 8/9 9:00 to 9:00, and on Fri 8/10 9:00 to 5:00.

Dinner always sells out so contact Evelyn Stevens at 626-442-1391 ASAP for the dinner. If you can't make the dinner you can always just attend the auction. There has been an overwhelming number of auction plants so there is a limit of 2 items per person and you need to notify one of the show chairpersons in advance and you need to attend the auction.

As one of the three sponsoring clubs, LACSS stands to financially benefit greatly from this show.

Correspondingly, we need to step up and volunteer as much as we can to make the show and sale a success. I hope to see very few empty slots on the volunteer signup sheets at the August meeting. Even if you can only donate one hour it will help. If you plan to attend the show (and I hope you do) please try to volunteer at least one hour during your visit. It is a great way to get more involved with the hobby and the show and maybe meet someone new. Active participation in the show is really a great learning experience. Everyone should be a clerk at least one time for a real insight into how plants are judged. If you're not sure of what time you can help, just sign up anyway - there is always an opportunity to help out at the last minute. Remember - no experience necessary! If you volunteer or enter plants, you will have access to the sales area for early sales at approximately 2:00 or so on Friday.

Don't forget your LACSS badge. The Arboretum security will be in force.

And buy the show T-shirt at the next LACSS meeting before the price goes up at the show.

John Matthews, CSSA Chairperson



***BIG
PLANT SALE
And
SHOW***



LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
NEW PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2012

Competition Divisions:

Rookie: 0 – 25 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “rookie” award points
Novice: 1 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Advanced: Over 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but this is required for individuals 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.

Awards:

First place	6 points
Second place	3 points
Third place	2 points
Other submissions	1 point per plant to acknowledge entry

Entry slips are collected by the 2nd Vice President in charge of Plant of the Month who coordinates tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the *Cactus Chronicle*.

Annual cumulative prizes are awarded at the **Holiday Party in December** to the top three scorers in each division for cacti and for succulents. Additional prizes are awarded for overall total scores from highest to lowest across all divisions. Every individual who has brought plants during the year is acknowledged with a prize. Individuals who “graduate” from one division to the next for the following year will also be recognized.

Plant-of-the-Month

	Cacti	Succulent
January	Mammillaria	Othonna & Senecio
February	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
March	Variegates	Variegates
April	Echinocereus	Haworthia
May	Echinopsis	Gasteria
June	Cephalium bearing cacti	Adenium
July	Eriogyne	Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Gymnocalycium	Euphorbia - Caudiciform Type
October	Parodia (includes Notocactus)	Stemless Mesembs - no Lithops
November	Frailea & Blossfeldia	Tylecodon
December	<i>Holiday Party</i>	<i>Holiday Party</i>

AUGUST EVENTS

AUGUST 11-12

27TH Annual Inter City Show and Sale 9am—5pm

**LA County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA**

**Contact: Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 or
John Matthews (661) 297-5364**

LACSS WELCOMES JULY'S NEW MEMBERS

**Frieda Pascual
Rita Woolfolk**

Plant of the Month - July Winners

Rookie Division		
Succulent - Cyphostemma		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Eric Winegar	Cyphostemma cirrhosum
Second	None	
Third	None	
Cactus - Eriosyce		
First	None	
Second	None	
Third	None	
Novice Division		
Succulent - Cyphostemma		
Award	Name	Plant
First	None	
Second	None	
Third	None	
Cactus - Eriosyce		
First	None	
Second	None	
Third	None	
Advanced Division		
Succulent - Cyphostemma		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Kim Thorpe	Cyphostemma humile
Second	Kim Thorpe	Cyphostemma betiformis
Third	None	
Cactus - Eriosyce		
First	Kim Thorpe	Eriosyce senilis
Second	Kim Thorpe	Eriosyce taltalensis
Third	None	
Open Division		
Succulent - Cyphostemma		
Award	Name	Plant
First	Artie Chavez	Cyphostemma elephantopus
Second	Tim Harvey	Cyphostemma uter
Third	Tim Harvey	Cyphostemma betiforme
Cactus - Eriosyce		
First	John Matthews	Eriosyce heinrichiana
Second	John Matthews	Eriosyce heinrichiana
Third	John Matthews	Eriosyce sp. Crest

LACSS Membership Form (Please print the following information)

Name _____ Phone _____

Name of Additional Members: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Send me the newsletter by E-Mail Send me the newsletter by U.S. Mail(\$5 extra fee)

Send me a plastic name badge (\$6.50 each)

Type of Membership: New Member Renewal

- Single Membership \$20 annually \$10 1/2 year (July or after)
- Family Membership \$25 annually \$12.50 1/2 year (July or after)
- Newsletter by U.S. Mail \$5 fee in addition to the membership charge
- Cash Check: number _____

Special Interests _____

Monthly Meeting Refreshments

Each month different members whose last name begins with a particular letter are requested to furnish refreshments for the club. Below is the list, by month, for 2012.

January	T U V W X Y Z	July	T U V W X Y Z
February	A B C D	August	A B C D
March	E F G H	September	E F G H
April	I J K L M	October	I J K L M
May	N O P Q R	November	N O P R
June	S	December	HOLIDAY PARTY

Members were selected by the approximate number of members attending each meeting.

**Refreshments for the month of July are members whose last names begin with
A, B, C, D**

AUGUST 2012

FROM THE STACKS OF THE LIBRARY

**Featured Books will be seen
in the September Chronicle**



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 6:00 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

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Upcoming Program for

August 2012

KELLY GRIFFIN
DUDLEYAS

First Class Mail

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

Next Meeting:
August 2, 2012

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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