



CACTUS CHRONICLE

January 2014

Plant of the Month

Mammillaria w/o
hooked spines
Pelargonium

Refreshments
S

New Members

November

Lisa Gailey
Randy Hill
Theresa Merrin

December

Ryan Baddin

Editor

Phyllis Frieze

frieze.phyllis@yahoo.com

Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.com>.
OR contact us at
lacss.contact@gmail.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.

**General Meeting
January 2**

Program : The Serengeti by Duke Benadom

Duke has been involved with several cactus and succulent clubs and is a life member of three. He became a Director for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) in 1990, served as the CSSA's Show Chairman for more than a decade, and as Convention Chairman for six conventions. He served as Vice President and then President for a total of almost ten years, and as Editor of the Cactus & Succulent Journal for just over a year. He has been the author of the long-running CSJ (Cactus and Succulent Journal) column, Superb Succulents, since its inception. That column remains popular today. Duke's first book on *Superb Succulents*, was published on September 25, 2013. Three more books are in process. He enjoys flora and fauna, traveling, photography, and sharing these experiences with others of similar interests.



Nine members of the LACSS went on a peregrination into eastern Africa in mid 2010. The Serengeti was one of the highlights of the trip. It covers a vast area of Tanzania where the nomadic Massai roam and live. They saw segments of the great migration, came within a few feet of large herbivores and carnivores, and saw a nimity of flora and fauna. This was one of the places he dreamed of visiting while still a young child; he was a much older child when it finally came to fruition. *To see examples of the photos you will see in his presentation go to page three of the newsletter.*

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Marquita Elias

First VP, Programs

Manny Rivera

Second VP, Plant of the Month

John Martinez

Third VP, Special Events

Cheryl White

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Member at Large

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Member at Large

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Inside Show Co-Chair

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Kim Thorpe

Publicity & Coordination

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Chairperson

Gerald Reichert

Holiday Party Awards Procurement

Chris Rogers

Chair, Cactus Garden

President's Message—January 2014

So a new year is beginning...

First, I must thank all of you for your support and trust in electing me as President of LACSS. My game plan is to move ahead as we always do – making changes where needed, identifying and strengthening any weak areas, and continuing to support our programs.

Continuing my thank you's – To Roxie for her excellent leadership, to all the appointed positions for continuing to serve, and to all the volunteers who made the Holiday Dinner a smashing success. We think we exceeded last year's participation!

And WELCOME to our new Board members – Kathryn Boorer (Treasurer), Sandy Chase (Librarian) and David Le (Director). I look forward to working with all of you.

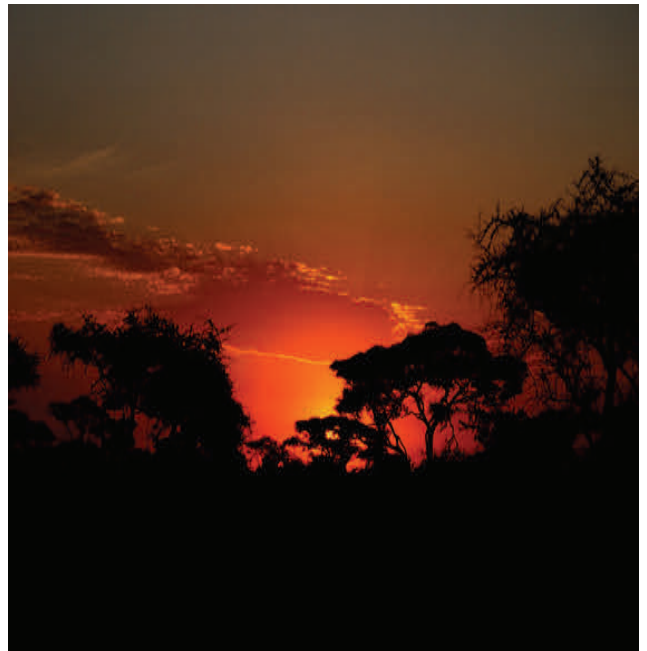
Every past president has built upon the accomplishments of the previous one that has brought the LACSS to its present vitality and importance to the community and professional society. With your support and involvement, I know that we can build upon the high standard of achievements accomplished in past years.

Our Mentoring Program is continuing to grow under the leadership of John Suci. We are already starting discussions for our June Show & Sale and the next steps for the Cactus Garden. Our hope is that everyone will step up and volunteer to do some task, on some project, on some day. Your valuable participation strengthens all of us.

We had a few of Gerald's wonderful pots left over from our Awards presentations so there is another chance for you to obtain one. In January, February and March, there will be 4 of Gerald's pots offered in the raffle along with fantastic plants.

See you soon.
Joyce Schumann

Beauty and Colors of the Serengeti



LACSS Is Once Again a Hit at Vintage Elementary by Eric Miller

A very special "Thank You" goes out to the recent LACSS outreach team of Roxie Esterle, Jim Esterle, Artie Chavez, Steve Frieze and Kathleen Misko for another wonderful presentation at Vintage Magnet Elementary School. Principal John Rome and the students and families were once again delighted by the education displays and specimens of plants presented. Students were amazed by how some of the plants used "webs," "windows" and camouflage to help them survive in their natural habitats. The monstrose/crest/normal display continues to be a favorite. Hopefully, this will help us grow new cactus and succulent fans.



Vintage Magnet principal, John Rome, gives Roxie Patches as a thank you as Steve Frieze looks on.



Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Holiday Party

By Barbara Hall

This year's Annual LACSS Holiday Party was a "Holly, Jolly" success! We had a record attendance of members and guests this year. The Sepulveda Garden Center was festively decorated for our party by the combined efforts of volunteers from the Bromeliad Society and the LACSS. I would like to thank Mary Carroll, Jim & Roxie Esterle, Mike & Ana Wisnev, Joyce Schumann, Ronit Weiss, Kim Thorpe & her niece for coming in the day before to prepare the room for both societies' parties on the following day. We had lots of activities for folks to enjoy. The evening started with delicious appetizers and several guessing games including "Name That Succulent- genus and species" and "Guess the Number Of Cuttings and Genuses in the jar". Nils Schirmmacher was responsible for designing and organizing these fun activities.

The holiday feast was a sight to behold. Thanks to our culinary coordinators extraordinaire, Mary Carroll and Kim Thorpe, the various food stations were beautifully displayed. These two ladies added all the final touches to make our party really special (the Kuerig coffee machine; hotplates, chafing dishes; etc). I want to thank everyone for their potluck contributions to our lovely banquet, especially those who volunteered to make the turkeys, ham, and tri-tip; Sandy Chase, Ilona Burratti, John Sucio, Kim Thorpe, and Doug George.

Following dinner we enjoyed a fun plant/gift exchange and then Manny Rivera and Cheryl White announced the Plant- of-the- Month award winners. Each winner selected a beautiful pot made by our very own, Gerald Richert. Thank you Gerald, for supplying more than 45 pots that were needed for the evening. Gerald has been mentoring with Erika Van Auken, a master potter and member of our club. We were honored to have Erika in attendance that evening. John Sucio won a pot for the Best Grown Holiday Plant from last year's party- *Erioseya heinrichiana*. Every member went away with a Holiday Party favor plant; a beautiful *Pleiospilos bolusii*. Thank you, John Matthews, for securing the plants for the party. Members who renewed their memberships before December 5 were entered in a raffle to win a beautifully staged plant donated by Artie Chavez. This year's winner was Richard Just! It pays to renew early.

The last event of the evening was the Plant Auction with all items being donated by our members. Thank you, Steve Frieze and Tim Harvey who were our auctioneers for the evening. It was a fun and lively way to end the evening. Thank you to everyone who assisted with the clean up after the party (you know who you are). Last but certainly not least, a very special thank you to the Sepulveda Garden staff for setting up the tables and chairs for us.

If anyone has ideas for next year's party or would like to be on the Holiday Party Committee please contact me @ lbcjhall@aol.com.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hall

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2014

- February 8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Spring Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego — [Info](#) (858) 382-1797
- March 28-30** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale
Friday & Saturday March 28-29 9-5 Sun. March 30 12-4
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim [Info](#) (562) 587-3357
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes [Info](#) (310) 378-1953
- April 19-20** Green Scene Plant Sale—at the Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton 92831
- April 27** Huntington Plant Sale 10-5 Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino (626) 405-2160
- May 4** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens [Info](#) (310) 833-6823
- May 4-5** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City [Info](#) (310) 822-1783
- May 16-17** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 33rd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon [Info](#) (951) 360-8802
- May 17-18** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach [Info](#) (310) 922-6090—www.lbcss.org
- May 24-25** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale 10-4pm
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo [Info](#) (805) 237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 7-8** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego [Info](#) (858) 382-1797
- June 14 & 15** Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Show & Sale 9-3:30
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino E-Mail www.lacss-show.com
- June 27-29** CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino,
[Info](#) (626) 405-2160 or 2277 Plant Sales Start June 27 Show Open and Free to the Public on June 28
- July 25-27** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale
Friday July 25 9am-5pm, Saturday July 26 9am-5pm, Sunday 27 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, [Info](#) (949) 212-8417
- August 9-10** 29th Annual Intercity Show & Sale at The La County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
[Info](#) Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or John Matthews (661) 714-1052
- August 30** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 7** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5

Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 [Info](#): (310) 922-6090
- November 4-5** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days
LA County Arboretum 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

Plant of the Month 2014

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)

June

Favorite, Favorite

July

Escobaria, Corypantha
Cucurbitaceae

August

Obregonia, Strombo-
cactus, Echinomastus
Fockea, Raphionacme,
Brachystelma

September

Thelocactus
Fouqueria

October

Ariocarpus
Euphorbia
(Madagascar)

November

Miniatures

December

Holiday Party

Stacks from the Library

January 2014

Well here it is 2014 already and I'm your new librarian. I feel I will have a big job stepping into the shoes of the more than capable past librarian, Joyce Schulman, who had the gift of great newsletter articles along with the wisdom to select excellent books throughout the last few years.

Our newest book was selected by Joyce entitled "Superb Succulents", and the author is our very own Duke Benadom. This book is an alphabetical picture catalogue of over 100 Genera, from Adenia thru Zygosicyos.

Twenty plus years of memories are brought back by all the wonderful pictures taken by Duke and it is well worth reading and viewing the plants of yesteryear.

Almost everyone in the Cactus and Succulent Societies that I know or have known are mentioned in this Superb Book.

Sandy Chase

Save the Date

Sunday, February 23, 2014, will be the first in a series of Garden Tours for 2014. The first stop will be at Petra Crist's Rare Succulents Nursery (www.rare-succulents.com). The second stop will be at the Tropic World Nursery (www.tropicworldnursery.com).

This will be a great opportunity to see and if desired, purchase rare and unusual plants from an incredibly large selection. Both of these nurseries are located in the Escondido area and club members will have to arrange for their own transportation. More specific information including hours, car-pooling, etc. will be discussed at the January club meeting.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity. Those with questions can contact me at johnwm6425@gmail.com.

Thank you

John Martinez

PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2014

Competition Divisions:

- Rookie:** 0 to 25 combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “rookie” awards
Novice: 1 to 100 combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Advanced: 100 or more combined points from 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “advanced” award points
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but entry is required for individuals who sell at shows outside of LACSS.

Plant Entries

Members may enter 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 entries	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.

Succulent of the Month: *Pelargonium*



Flowers of *Pelargonium laxum*

On any street, anywhere in the country, you will find numerous homes growing *Pelargonium* hybrids in their flower beds. In cold weather regions they are annuals but in climates like ours they will live forever with good care. They are popular for their showy flowers that come in a vast array of colors too numerous to list. Most non-experts incorrectly call these plants *Geranium*. They aren't too far off as both belong to the family Geraniaceae, but true *Geranium* species are usually weeds. What few people realize is that there are a large group of true species *Pelargonium* (not hybrids) that are winter-growing succulents well suited for cultivation in California. These are the plants that our succulent of the month is focused upon.

Pelargonium is a genus of approximately 200 species native to the African continent from South Africa to Kenya, even to Yemen. However, almost all the succulent species come from South Africa or Namibia, with the center of diversity being the Cape region. Pelargoniums are mostly winter growing succulents that are well suited for our wet-winter, dry-summer climate in California. During the growing season they have lush green leaves and attractive flowers, while during the summer time some look like dead sticks. The flowers aren't as gaudy as the horticultural hybrids, but any discerning grower will find them quite attractive.

Most species are very easy to grow, if attention is paid to providing an environment very similar to their South African home. Some species, such as *P. echinatum* and *P. triste* are tolerant enough to be naturalized in the ground in Southern California when given good drainage and protected from summer watering. Many species will not go dormant if watered all summer, but the plant health and appearance both suffer. Like most cacti and succulents, when in doubt don't water! The potting mix for Pelargoniums should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter, if any.

Fertilizer should be applied during good winter growing weather (i.e. not in the summer and not during cold, wet periods). A potting mix recommended by Michael Vassar is 50% pumice, 35% washed builders sand and 15% leaf mold based planter mix.

Plants growing under these conditions will stay compact, have thick leaves, and a healthy appearance. A well grown Pelargonium will have leaves that appear to float near thick, rugged stems. If given too much water and fertilizer, they will grow leggy, and the leaves will become soft, large and droop. Plants grown hard will be healthier, and better able to survive hot summers undamaged.



Pelargonium klinghardtense



Pelargonium triste

All Pelargoniums need pruning to maintain size and shape. Pinching new growth will make the plants bushy, and develop good trunk structure. Many are self fertile, and seed is easily collected after flowering. Most are promiscuous, and garden hybrids are easily set if more than one species is in flower at a time. Seed collected in the spring and planted in late September to November germinates quickly, and will have an entire winter to grow before going dormant during the summer.

-Kyle Williams
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich

Cactus of the Month: *Mammillaria* Without Hooked Spines

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. 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.



Mammillaria spinosissima "Un Poco"

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 ranges from Columbia all the way to Canada. Approximately ten species are found in the southwestern 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 Southern California, 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 vetula ssp. gracilis

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season (typically from March through 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.



Mammillaria geminispina

-Kyle Williams

Income and Expense Report Annual Report for 2013

Income Source

<i>Badges</i>	
Badges Income	\$213.00
Expense	(\$239.43)
Total	(\$26.43)
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<i>Donations</i>	\$524.33
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<i>Dues</i>	
Year 2013	\$1,437.00
Year 2014	\$1,232.00
Total	\$2,669.00
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<i>Holiday Party</i>	
Plant Auction	\$1,546.00
Party favors	(\$94.00)
POM & other awards	(\$410.00)
Supplies	(\$264.33)
Total	\$777.67
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<i>Intercity Show</i>	\$3,000.00
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<i>Annual LACSS Show</i>	
Auction	\$596.00
Book Sale	\$259.62
Green Thumb Sales	\$36.13
BBQ	\$137.03
Plant sales etc.	\$439.50
Show Sponsors	\$1,400.00
T-Shirts	\$84.88
Table Rental	\$5,644.72
Silent Auction	\$655.00
Advertisement	(\$850.09)
Food	(\$750.00)
Kids Day	(\$1,100.85)
Labor	(\$250.00)
Misc. Expense	(\$413.74)
Show Security	(\$300.00)
Space Rental	(\$1,300.00)
Speaker	(\$142.00)
Total	\$4,146.20
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<i>Meeting Raffles</i>	
Raffle Income	\$1,158.00
Plants purchases	(\$530.00)
Total	\$628.00
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<i>T-Shirts</i>	\$45.00
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<i>Library sales</i>	\$100.00
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<i>Misc income</i>	\$2.00
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Grand Total Income	\$11,865.77

Expenses

<i>Uncategorized</i>	\$0.00
<i>Advertisement</i>	\$167.10
<i>Bank Fees</i>	\$154.91
<i>Books & Library</i>	\$393.76
<i>Newsletter postage</i>	\$201.64
<i>CSSA, CGCI & Affiliate Dues</i>	\$652.50
<i>Equipment</i>	\$628.00
<i>Lotusland Field Trip</i>	\$32.76
<i>Miscellaeous Field Trips</i>	\$71.60
<i>Insurance</i>	\$500.00
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$38.33
<i>P.O.Box</i>	\$114.00
<i>Sepulveda Gardens Rent</i>	\$1,200.00
<i>Roster</i>	\$369.12
<i>Sepulveda Gardens Cactus Garden</i>	\$161.54
<i>Speakers</i>	\$1,470.00
<i>Miscellaeous Expense</i>	\$364.43
<i>Miscellaeous Fees</i>	\$20.00
<hr/>	
Grand Total Expenses	\$6,539.69
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Grand Total	\$5,326.08



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General Meeting

January 2

**Guest Speaker: Duke Benadom
The Serengeti**

Additional January and February Events

Saturday, January 18, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm — DESERT FORUM S
at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, - plant sales
Forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. ***Wear your name badge!***

Saturday, January 25, 9:30 am - 11:00 am — 12th Annual ALOE WALK
at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA.
Phone 951-685-5818 for directions.

Buck Hemenway will lead the tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate. ***This event is Free!***

February 8 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society, Spring Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego — **Info** (858) 382-1797