

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 2 3

VOL. 91 ISSUE 09

MONTHLY PROGRAM

ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Understanding Plant Hormones
for Propagation and Growth of
Succulents



ARID PLANTS A-Z

ELI COHEN

Remember to bring in
your problem plants, plant ID
+ special interest plants



**REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING WITH
'S' AND 'T'**

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM

ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

Refreshments!

A warm "HELLO" to LACSS members! We have seen an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings after bringing back refreshments. Since most of our members (excluding retirees) come straight from work, it is nice to have a snack while enjoying the LACSS meeting.

It is a collective effort and responsibility each month to supply our members with sustenance, **THIS BRINGS US TO THE MONTH OF MAY AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTER "M"**

If your last name begins with that letter, please bring something to share, enough for approximately 10 people. If you'd like to bring more that is okay too.

To facilitate set-up and clean-up, we ask that your contribution be in individual portions and/or a disposable container. At the end of the meeting, all leftovers, including containers, will be discarded. If you are available to help set up or tear down the refreshment center, please see me at the meeting at the Refreshment Table.

If you are unable to contribute, the club will also have a jar/bowl at the refreshment table if you would like to donate money so that the club can continue to supplement refreshments brought by the attendees.

Sept - Members whose last name begins with "S, T"

Oct - Members whose last name begins with "N, W, Z"

Nov - Members whose last name begins with "B, V"

Jan - Members whose last name begins with "O, R"



Propagation photos from Ernesto Sandoval

T H I S M O N T H ' S S P E A K E R

ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them



succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Hi all,

I had the President's message almost complete and ready to send to our Editor. And then I couldn't find it anywhere in my files. Most people would claim it was operator error but I am blaming the computer. No worries - it will take revenge again some other day, in some other way.

Talking about the weather is tricky at this time of year. I cite the hurricane that passed through our area. Lots of rain, little wind. My plants loved it although some became quite soggy. They didn't complain and dried out rather quickly. I collected a bit more rain water which should last the rest of the year.

Since summer should be coming to an end, Eli will offer a lot of advice on how to bring our winter growers out of dormancy and how to ease the summer growers into winter. Feel free to ask questions!! As noted in the Chronicle announcement, Ron Cooper is hosting a giveaway to club members. In addition, he offered a lot of plants to the club for raffles, silent auctions, etc. and we thank him for his generosity.

Even though it is still hot and summery, the Board of Directors are making plans for the Holiday Awards Dinner. We will have details by next month and, of course, we will be asking for some help for setting up and cleaning up.

Another year-end item is election of officers. The Nominating Committee has been appointed and they will present the slate of officers at the October meeting. Voting will take place at the November meeting so your presence is important at both of these meetings. According to our bylaws, the positions beginning on even-numbered years {2024-2025} are President, VP-Education, Treasurer and Director 2 (Special Events) are the ones for consideration at this time.

Happy growing !! See you soon.

Joyce

OF BOARD DIRECTORS

2 0 2 3

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.

CO PRESIDENTS

Artie Chavez + Joyce Schumann

PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Thorpe Chavez

1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, EDUCATION

Cande Friedman

SECRETARY

Kate Eplboim

TREASURER

Nick Steinhardt

DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP

Kelsey Osterman

DIRECTOR 2 SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Esterle

CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Angela Clubb + Nikki Bova

CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

SALE + FESTIVAL CHAIR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Manny Rivera
with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

Al Mindel

PLANT PROCUREMENT

Collin O'Callaghan

HISTORIAN

Sandy Chase

AWARDS DINNER CHAIR

Vacant

LIBRARIAN

Joyce Schumann

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Kim Thorpe Chavez
Kate Eplboim
Kimberly Gomez-Tong



Tis' the season. Artwork by: Kimberly Gomez-Tong

2023

JANUARY

Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya
Aeonium

FEBRUARY

Coryphantha, Neolloydia, Neobesseya
Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Echinocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamia

APRIL

Aztekium, Epithelantha
Aloinopsis, Antimima, Aptenia,
and Argroderma

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Melocactus
Euphorbia Medusoid

AUGUST

Mammillaria (Dichotomous & 2 Heads)
Gasteria, Astroloba

SEPTEMBER

Cacti from Coahuila
Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea

OCTOBER

Espostoa
Fouquieria

NOVEMBER

Crest and Monstrose

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

2024

JANUARY

Blossfeldia, Yavia
Dudleya, Cotyledon

FEBRUARY

Mammillaria Hook Spine
Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

MARCH

Copiapoa
Tulista, Astroloba, Trachyandra

APRIL

Cacti of Baja California
Succulents of Baja California Mex

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Opuntia North America
Jatropha, Pedilanthus

AUGUST

Neochilenia, Neoporteria
Commiphora, Boswellia

SEPTEMBER

Ariocarpus
Fockea, Ipomoea

OCTOBER

Trichocereus
Hoya, Ceropegia, Dischidia

NOVEMBER

Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

PLANT OF THE MONTH

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

CACTI FROM COAHUILA

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S
A N D M A N N Y R I V E R A

Located in the central part of northern Mexico, the state of Coahuila shares its borders with the once Mexican land of Texas in the U.S. along the Rio Bravo or Rio Grande to the north, and with the states of Nuevo Leon to the east, Zacatecas to the south, Durango to the southwest, and Chihuahua to the west.

Its vast area of 151,563 sq. kilometers makes it the third largest Mexican state in terms of territory, only behind Chihuahua and Sonora. Coahuila is located within the Chihuahuan Desert. Also standing out as part of the state's physical features are the Mapimi Desert, and the fertile lands of the so-called Lagunera region shared with the neighboring state of Durango.

The hydrological zone of the Rio Bravo- Rio Conchos lies within the state's limits. The Rio Bravo is the northern frontier and flows into the Gulf of Mexico, as well as the basin of the Nazas River-Aguanaval River, another major hydrological system within the region.

Some other rivers are born in the local mountain chains, including the Alamos, Nadadores, Monclova, San Diego, and Sabinas Rivers.

Local climate usually includes dry or semi-dry conditions, along with disturbingly high temperatures across the lowlands [some areas of Coahuila can reach high temperatures of 120°-125°F] while the pine and oak forests produce fresher and more moderate conditions along the eastern Sierra Madre. The rest of the territory is home to typical desert scrubland, containing Brickellia, wild-lettuce, cassava, and thistle bushes.

About 12,000 years ago, Nomadic hunters entered this region, which once included South Texas. Archeological evidence suggests that early hunter-gatherer cultures evolved into fixed societies that engaged in agriculture and fishing and used area caves as shelter. Later, Coahuila became home to several Indian tribes, including the Huauchichiles, Coahuiltecos, Tobosos, Irritilas and Rayados. When the Spaniards arrived, they found the natives to be peaceful and prosperous. Sadly, nearly 90 percent of the indigenous population was killed by European diseases.

The Spanish colonized the state between 1550 and 1580, naming it New Extremadura after a region in Spain. They later changed the name to Coahuila. Colonization of the state was impeded by the vast desert, extreme weather, and shortage of water. After much of the indigenous population was wiped out, leaving the northern part of Mexico largely unpopulated, the Spaniards brought Tlaxtec Indians from south-central Mexico to settle the area and work the land. The state of Texas was part of the Mexican State, Coahuila y Tejas before declaring independence in 1835.



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus



Astrophytum coahuilense



Stenocactus multicostatus

PARTIAL LIST OF CACTUS SPECIES NATIVE TO COAHUILA:

ARIOCARPUS FISSURATUS, A. KOTSCHOUBEYANUS, ASTROPHYTUM CAPRICORNE, A. COHUILENSE A. MYRIOSTIGMA, CORYPHANTHA BORWIGII, C. GLADISPINA, C. PALMERI, C. POSELGERIANA, C. WERDERMANNII, ECHINOCEREUS CONGLOMERATUS, E. DELAETII, E. ENNEACANTHUS, E. KNIPPELIANUS, E. MERKERI, E. NIVOSUS, E. PECTINATUS, ECHINOMASTUS MARIPOSENSIS, EPITHELANTHA MICROMERIS, E. PACHYRHIZA, ESCOBARIA AGUIRREANA, E. ASPERISPINA, E. DASYACANTHA, E. LAREDOI, E. ROSEANA, E. ZILZIANA, GYMNOCACTUS BEGUINI, LOPHOPHORA WILLIAMSII, MAMMILLARIA ALBIARMATA, M. CHIONOCEPHALA, M. GRUSONNI, M. LENTA, M. PENNIESPINOSA, M. PLUMOSA, M. POTSII, M. ROSEALBA, OPUNTIA BRADTIANA, O. IMBRICATA, O. KLEINIAE, O. LEPTOCAULIS, O. MOELLERI, O. PHAECANTHA, O. RUFIDA, O. SCHOTTI, STENOCACTUS MULTICOSTATUS, THELOCACTUS BICOLOR, TURBINICARPUS VALDEZIANUS

PLANT OF THE MONTH NOLINA, CALIBANUS, BEAUCARNEA

BY KYLE WILLIAMS



This month the succulents of the month are several of the close relatives of Yucca from the Americas. This group used to be called the plant family Agavaceae, but today are considered part of the Asparagus family Asparagaceae. As most of you are not interested in advanced taxonomy, let's just say these four genera are closely related to each other and share the characteristics of being woody and having grass-like to sword-like leaves. Cultivation of most species is easy. Nearly all can grow in the ground, and most but the largest species can live happily in pots. They are mainly warm season growers so provide some water during the spring through fall to get them to look their best.

Beaucarnea is a genus of approximately 12 species primarily from Mexico, with a few species extending into Belize, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. *Beaucarnea recurvata*, the Ponytail Palm, is an incredibly popular plant grown by everyone from succulent enthusiasts to complete novices (the latter usually as a neglected houseplant). While it looks nice as a small to medium sized houseplant, mature plants grown in the ground are really where you can see this species shine. Most people don't even realize the other species in the genus exist. The species are fairly similar (to those of us that don't focus on the genus), mainly varying in overall size, degree of branching, size of caudex, etc. Most species are sizable landscape plants, though *B. compacta* stays small enough to be part of a modest sized landscape where space is an issue.



Nolina contains around 28 species and is primarily distributed in Mexico. But unlike *Beaucarnea* has species several native to the United States (including in our area of California). They can be found throughout the Southwest into Texas and even as far east as Florida. They are very closely related to *Beaucarnea* but differ in technical features of the fruit. While all *Beaucarnea* form woody trees, *Nolina* often form big clumps of grassy to sword shaped leaves. Some large, mature *Nolina* can form a big mostly unbranched trunk and

look remarkably similar to the Australian Grass Trees, *Xanthorrhoea*.



The most unusual member of this group is *Calibanus*, a genus of two species from Mexico. If seen in the ground you might think you are looking at a big tuft of blue-green grass, but upon closer inspection you will see the large, fissured, woody caudex that makes this plant so desirable. It makes a nice specimen either in the ground or in a pot. I recommend raising the base to show off the caudex to its greatest extent. *Calibanus hookeri* is by far the most commonly seen species and the easiest to obtain. There is another species *Calibanus glassianus* from Northeastern Mexico for those interested in something rarer. Modern studies suggest the two species of *Calibanus* actually belong in *Beaucarnea* but we are keeping them separate here to more easily highlight these unusual species.



Tis' the season. Artwork by: Kimberly Gomez-Tong

L A C S S A T U R D A Y PROGRAM

PROPAGATION OF SUCCULENTS FROM SEEDS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH 2023
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
10AM

Several years ago Ernesto, gave the club a lecture on propagation of succulents from seeds. For this workshop he'll revisit some of the important detail of seed propagation and then give participants the hands on opportunity to plant seeds of several succulents to practice the important aspects of growing from seed and then tend to those succulent babies! Don't miss this program!



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING,
PLEASE EMAIL LEEARC@AOL.COM



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

I managed to snag a few historic books for our Library from the CSSA Library "Duplicate" collection. Most of them are out of print or very old so they will be relegated to our famous "Reference Collection" currently housed at the Sepulveda Garden Center. They, and all other reference books, will be available for viewing during our Saturday Education Workshop.

NOTE: We are having a workshop this Saturday, September 9th! See next page for details. A few of the new acquisitions will go into our regular collections and will be available in October.

In addition to the purchases, a few books have been donated and will also be available for viewing at the October meeting. In addition to the above mentioned newly acquired treasures, before the year is over, new, NEW books will be purchased and added to our collection. I will keep you posted when they become available.

So, step right up and CHECK IT OUT!!

See you soon.

Joyce

SANDY CHASE SCORES BIG AT THE VENTURA COUNTY FAIR

by Roxie Esterle



Sandy meticulously sets up her plants

In August of 2022, Sandy Chase went to the Ventura County Fair and visited the cactus and succulent exhibits. Immediately, she said to herself, "I can do better than that!" Educational succulent displays were nothing new to Sandy, who had frequently submitted exhibits for the LACSS Festival. She spent over 6 months developing her concept and gathering and repotting specimens. The end result was a magnificent display that garnered TWO blue ribbons and cash prizes acknowledging her hard work. Congrats, Sandy! This is a well-deserved honor.



Sandy's designated "stall"



The final product



Best Educational Display

Best of Division

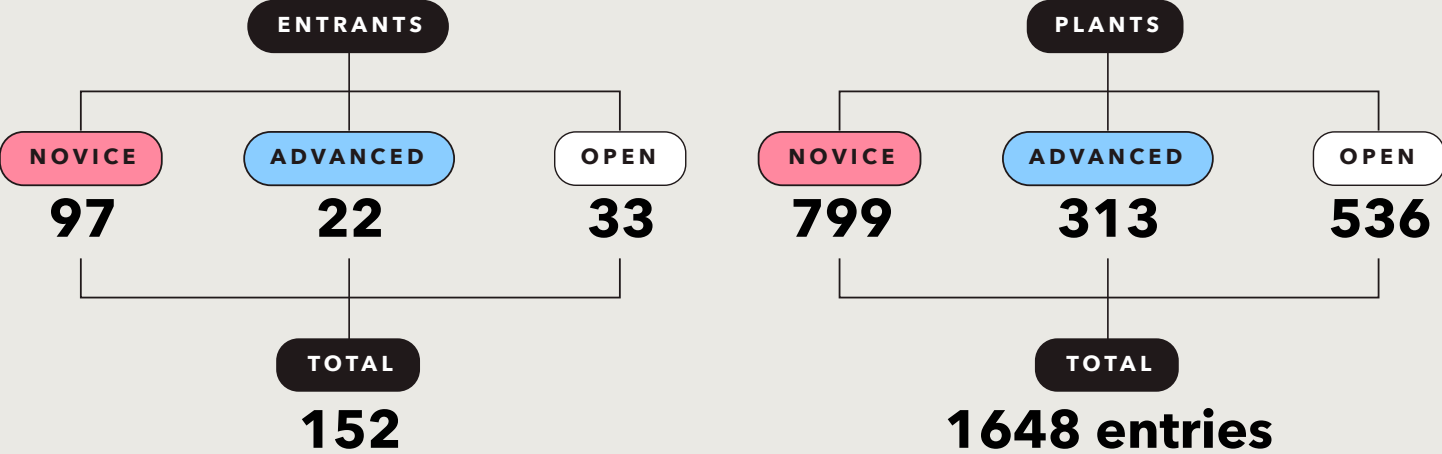


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Intercity Show and Sale

R E C A P

2023 Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show Summary



Grand Sweepstakes

Gary Duke

High Points Cactus
NOVICE

The Cactus Journey

High Points Cactus
ADVANCED

Sharon Sedillo

High Points Cactus
OPEN

Gary Duke

High Points Succulent
NOVICE

Nick Renteria

High Points Succulent
ADVANCED

Richard Salcedo

High Points Succulent
OPEN

Peter Walkowiak

Show Spirit

Felipe Delgado



2023 Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show Trophy Winners



BEST CACTUS (NOVICE) The Cactus Journey	BEST CACTUS (ADVANCED) Johnny Vorburger	BEST CACTUS (OPEN) Peter Walkowiak	BEST NATIVE U.S. CACTUS Woody Minnich
BEST ARGENTINE CACTUS Evan Davenport	BEST CHILEAN CACTUS Karen & Martin Ostler	BEST ARIOCARPUS Bill Munkacsy	BEST ASTROPHYTUM Peter Walkowiak
BEST CEREUS Roger Lane	BEST ECHINOCEREUS Peter Walkowiak	BEST GYMNOCALYCIUM Bill Munkacsy	BEST MAMMILLARIA Evan Davenport
BEST OPUNTIEAE Karen & Martin Ostler	BEST REBUTIA/SULCOREBUTIA Bill Munkacsy	BEST EPIPHYTIC CACTUS Sharon Sedillo	BEST CRESTED CACTUS Kal Kaminer
BEST VARIEGATED CACTUS Derrick Cantu	BEST EXHIBIT Desert Creations	BEST ALLIED INTEREST Susan Weststey	BEST SUCCULENT (NOVICE) Lupe Casas
BEST SUCCULENT (ADVANCED) John Suci	BEST SUCCULENT (OPEN) Mike Hackett	BEST CAUDICIFORM Annie Wolf	BEST MADAGASCAN EXCLUDING EUPHORBIA Nils Schirrmacher
BEST ANACARDIACEAE Mike Hackett	BEST NON MADAGASCAN EUPHORBIA Peter Walkowiak	BEST MADAGASCAN EUPHORBIA Rob Skillin	BEST AGAVE Nick Wilkinson
BEST ALOE Rob Skillin	BEST MINIATURE ALOE HYBRID Shaun Adams	BEST ASCLEPIAD Dean Karras	BEST CRASSULA Mike Hackett
BEST ECHEVERIA Rob Skillin	BEST FOUQUIERIA Nick Wilkinson	BEST GASTERIA Jim Hanna	BEST HAWORTHIA Kathryn Boorer
BEST MESEMB Nick Wilkinson	BEST DYCKIA Tom & Jeanette Glavich	BEST PACHYPODIUM Peter Walkowiak	BEST BONSAI SUCCULENT Rob Skillin
BEST CRESTED SUCCULENT Peter Walkowiak	BEST VARIEGATED SUCCULENT UCDavis Botanical Conservatory	BEST LITHOPS Naomi Bloss	BEST COLLECTION Rob Skillin
BEST STAGED PLANT Peter Walkowiak	BEST ANY OTHER GENUS Peter Walkowiak	BEST MINIATURE Gary Duke	BEST SEED GROWN Rob Skillin



A huge THANK YOU, to every person who volunteered at the 2023 Inter-City Show and Sale.

In no particular order we want to thank the following for helping to make this show the success it was:

Al Mindel, Cesar & Loretta Mendoza, Cande & Lee Friedman, Charlotte Yerke, Chriss Berke, Desiree Alexander, Efrin Flores, Glen Murray, Jan Wittenberg, Jesse Rivas, John Suciu, Larry Hall, Martin Ostler, Nick Renteria, Nils Schirmmacher, Ron Behar, Roxie & Jim Esterle, Phuc Hyunh (from Gates CSS), Ron Cooper, Tom McKenna, and Tyler Morrison .

Our own **Karen Ostler** gave a wonderful talk on Mammillarias, Saturday. I would be remiss not mentioning L.A.'s Kitchen Crew: **Barbara Hall, Bonnie Ikemura, Kim Chavez, Nicki Bova and Phyllis Frieze**. Also, a big Thank You to **Shelley Chase** who sat in heat all day Friday and Saturday at a cash register.

The biggest Thank You goes to our very own **Artie Chavez & his crew, Manny Rivera, Kimberly Gomez-Tong and Collin O'Callaghan** the L.A.C.S.S Inter-City Show and Sale Committee, **Tori Wilson, Tom Glavich and Margie Wilson** from San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society, their members, as well as the Long Beach Cactus & Succulent Society for a job well done and another successful show and sale.

Respectfully,
Sandy Chase
Volunteer Committee



Plant Name *Pediocactus* *peblesianus* *P. p.* *30*
Entry No.

MORE PLANTS AND POTS!

We have another member who is downsizing his collection due to a move.

Ron Cooper is holding an open-yard give-away on
Saturday, September 23 from 9 AM till noon.

He has a lot of plants in pots, pots with no plants,
plants in the ground (bring a shovel) and various other odds
and ends including a wonderful greenhouse.

**Bring your gloves and a
container to carry your
new treasures!**

If you are interested, call Ron at [424-288-4068](tel:424-288-4068)

He will give you directions then.

South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

PETER WALKOWIAK

SOIL AND STAGING WORKSHOP

The second most asked question I get after 'When do I water this plant?' is 'What soil do I use for my succulent plant?' and this was the genesis for this talk on soil.

Consider your soil as your foundation upon which you will sustain and support healthy plant growth for a long period of time. Important things a soil needs to have are good drainage and aeration, water retention, nutrient availability, proper PH and longevity. In this talk each of these topics will be covered in depth so that the unseen complexities of soil can be understood. What materials work, what does not and why they should not be used.

There will be a demonstration on mixing soil that is used in my nursery. I spent many years trying different materials to find the perfect succulent soil mix. There were many failures, most took two to three years to manifest its self and then had to answer the question 'Why did this fail?'. You will be shown the ingredients and how they are blended to get this soil mix.

In the second part of the program we will discuss the process of staging your plants to maximize their beauty. There are many things to consider when putting together your composition. These are form, texture, color and balance and must be thoughtfully considered when putting together your piece of art.

The final part of the program is a Q&A session where I want you to ask me questions you have about growing your succulents like pest control – disease, fungus, insects or cultural like – light, fertilizers, PH, air movement.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023
1:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden,
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
Peninsula 90274.

Free admission for SCCSS members and
their guests. For more information visit
southcoastcss.org



2023 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 1 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION
1PM-3:30PM INFO. CALL 714-553-6914
WOMEN'S CLUB OF BELLFLOWER, 9402 OAK ST., BELLFLOWER, CA
- OCT 8 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION
1PM-3:30PM INFO. CALL 714-553-6914
WOMEN'S CLUB OF BELLFLOWER, 9402 OAK ST., BELLFLOWER, CA
- NOV 3 - 5 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED SAT-SUN
10AM-5PM INFO. RESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA
- DEC 3 LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY POP UP SALE
DETAILS TBD