



# CACTUS CHRONICLE

February 2013

**Announcements:**

February Plant of the Month

Oroya Matucana  
Borzicactus  
Conophytum

• Refreshments

Letter

“T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z”

Editor contact:

frieze.phyllis@yahoo.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.

## Our next general meeting is February 7, 2013

**February Program and Speaker is Woody Minnich**

Woody has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

He has owned and operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975 and his show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. As an educator, he has become an important part of our hobby and is an honorary life member of nine C&S societies. With 42 years in the hobby and 44 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



## Miniature Jewels of Mexico

Many of the miniature jewels will be plants that most of us have had or have admired for all the years we have enjoyed this special hobby. Plants from Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, San Lois Potosi, Sonora, Sinaloa, Queretaro, Oaxaca, Puebla, Mexico will be seen. Their geometric patterns and sculptural shapes, often adorned by intense colors, make most of them collector's items. You will see the uniqueness of each species and their historical background from their original discovery to their relationships with field workers from the past to the present.



**Mammillaria *hernandezii***



**Ariocarpus *kotschoubeyanus***

Visit Us on the web <http://www.lacss.com>

## **President's Message**

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*President*

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*2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month*

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*3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events*

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[LACSS.contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.contact@gmail.com)

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*Holiday Party Awards Procurement*

**Chris Rogers**

*Cactus Garden*

**John Noster**

**Steve Rudolf**

*Meeting Refreshments*

**Leah Imamura**

**Juana Williams**

*Monthly Drawing*

**February, 2013**

On January 13, we had the first LACSS board meeting of the new year. We welcomed several new members and geared up for this year's activities with a lively meeting. Everyone working on the board is a volunteer, giving generously of their time and talent. Have you ever wondered what the board actually does?

The board's job is to fulfill the educational, service, and social mission of the organization. We meet 4 to 6 times a year to plan how to go about this. At board meetings, we discuss programs and speakers, special events, monthly raffles, plant-of-the-month guidelines, and other policies. Committees focus on technology, strategic planning, and the June show. The board looks at membership data and how we can strategically publicize our activities. We plan a budget that weighs our costs (speakers, facility rental, library purchases, raffle prizes, events, publicity) against our revenues (membership dues, raffle ticket sales, auctions, and Inter-City and June shows). Overall, we try to assess the satisfaction of our members and improve the ways we do business.

Since its origin over 75 years ago, LACSS has hosted an annual show and sale. The Drought Tolerant plant Festival gives us an opportunity to promote the hobby within the greater community. As the show continues to grow, we need more and more volunteers to help with set up, host the membership table, publicize, and make individual exhibits that inspire the next generation of succulent enthusiasts. Creating an exhibit is one of the most personally satisfying activities of succulent hobbyists and will be addressed at an upcoming meeting.

This is YOUR club, and the more you put in, the more you get out. The success and legacy of the club is based on member participation and feedback.

**Roxie Esterle**  
**President**

February 2013

*FROM THE STACKS OF THE LIBRARY*

Our new book for this month is actually an old book. Most of us are familiar with Copiapoas, so I couldn't pass on "The Cactus File Handbook #4" titled "Copiapoa" by Graham Charles. Originally published in 1998, this slim volume packs a lot of information on this hardy plant found only in a limited area of Chile. The author has included a brief history, environmental conditions of habitat, and field numbers of various collectors. All the photos are in habitat! The habitat distribution maps make us realize how limited the area is that will support Copiapoas. This is an excellent book for hobbyists who wish to get started with this unique plant.

As a supplement to our new-"old book" will be an "old-newer book" on the same Genus. Amazingly enough, it, too, is titled "Copiapoa – 2006" by Rudolf Schulz. The author grouped the plants by habitat location for easier identification. An interesting chapter contains photos from ten years ago with current photos to show changes in the plants in specific areas. The pairing of these two books will pique your interest, answer questions, and cause you to start collecting Copiapoas!

We all know about our annual Drought Resistant Plant Show in June. I will be on vacation from late March through early May and will not be able to accommodate special requests for books at the April and May meetings. If you need specific books to help plan your indoor displays for the Show, please let me know before the middle of March. I will be able to accommodate special requests at this meeting and the March meeting. During my absence, books will be available as usual, courtesy of our "stand-in" Librarian. The 2013 LACSS Library Book List is available. Be sure to stop by the Library table to pick one up or, as I like to say CHECK IT OUT!!!

See you soon...

Joyce the Librarian

**CSSA News-February 2013**



Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an *Echeveria* and a *Sedum*) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently-published *Haseltonia 18*. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent *Euphorbia* species, described here and accompanied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus *Eriospermum* from near the Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the finer points of this plant. *Euphorbia schoenlandii* and a Kelly Griffin hybrid *Aloe* 'Red Ridge' feature in Duke Benadom's Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the cycad genus *Dioon* as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts' article on the genus *Micropuntia* is sure to be the first

encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.

# LACSS Winter Garden Tour

## Saturday, February 23, 2013

Please join us for the first LACSS Garden Tour of 2013  
All are welcome



### **First Stop 10:00 to 11:30**

#### **The home of Gene and Laura Oster**

Gene and Laura have had a keen interest in cactus, succulents, bromeliads, and other exotic plants for over 15 years. During that time Gene held the position of LACSS President and together they have created an impressive desert and sculpture garden. They have also amassed quiet a collection of container plants, many of which are artfully displayed in ceramic pots created by Gene and Laura.

For those interested, both plants and pottery will be available for sale.

Refreshments will be provided.



### **Second Stop 12:30 to 2:00**

#### **Fernwood Plants**

Fernwood Plants has been in existence for over 45 years. Nestled in Topanga Canyon, wandering around the nursery grounds is an amazing experience. The hill sides are covered in large sculptures and countless specimen plants that include not only cactus and succulents but also bromeliads, ferns and other exotics.

The Welds have graciously agreed to provide lunch.

Sale plants will be made available.

Due to the limited available parking car pooling is suggested.

# Plant of the Month

**2013**

## NEW PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2013

### February

Oroya Matucana  
Borzicactus  
Conophytum

### March

Copiapoa Haworthia

### April

Echinocereus Aloe

### May

Rebutia Sulcorebutia  
Gasteria

### June

Favorite Favorite

### July

Opuntia  
(North American  
Euphorbia

### August

Stenocactus Bursera,  
Commiphora

### September

Astrophytum Dorstenia-  
Ficus

### October

Cacti from Coahuila  
Crassula

### November

Crest-Montrose Crest-  
Montrose

### December

Holiday Party

### 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.

## Plant of the Month - January Winners

### Rookie Division

#### Succulent

First	Kimo Thorpe	Aloe nobilis
Second	Kimo Thorpe	Agave patonii
Third	Danielle Duboff	Haworthia

#### Cactus

First	Kimo Thorpe	Astrophytum asteris
Second	Kimo Thorpe	Astrophytum myriostigma

### Novice Division

#### Succulent

First	John Suci	Aeonium "Sunburst"
Second	Jim Esterle	Lactea Crest
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Agave "Cream Spike"
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Haworthia sp

#### Cactus

First	Darlene Weld	Astrophytum ornatum
Second	Sylvia Strehlo	Gymnocalycium fredirici

### Advanced Division

#### Succulent

First	Kim Thorpe	Fokea edulis
Second	Kim Thorpe	Haworthia mirabilis var beukmanii
Second	John Martinez	Aloe "Pink Blush"
Third	Cheryl White	Agave "Blue Glow-Snow Blow"
Third	Cheryl White	Agave Brevifolia

#### Cactus

First	Kim Thorpe	Astrophytum myriostigma
Second	Kim Thorpe	Obregonia denegirii

### Open Division

#### Succulent

First	Artie Chavez	Agave victoria regina
Second	John Matthews	Haworthia cooperi
Third	John Matthews	Haworthia attenuata
Third	John Matthews	Haworthia limifolia

#### Cactus

First	John Matthews	Eriosyce
Second	John Matthews	Parodia

### Matucana, Oroya & Borzicactus

*Matucana*, *Oroya* and *Borzicactus* are Peruvian Cacti, found in the Western foothills and lower mountain slopes and valleys of the Andes. These plants are not as well known as many other South American cacti, even though they have wonderful body colors, spines and flowers. *Matucana* and *Borzicactus* grow fairly rapidly, and *Oroya* quite a bit slower. They are not difficult plants. The general culture is similar to most other South American cacti. They need water when growing in the summer, but need to be kept dry when cold. They do fine, unprotected in Southern California winters.



*Matucana haynei* ssp. *herzogiana*

*Matucana* has posed taxonomic problems since its discovery. The genus *Matucana* was originally described by Britton and Rose in their book, *The Cactaceae*, published in 1922. The type species is *Matucana haynei*, a plant known since the 1840s, under several different names. The genus is named after Matucana, the town near which the plant was originally found. In their original publication, Britton and Rose commented on the close resemblance of the flowers to *Borzicactus*, the size, shape, and color being the same. In 1960 Myron Kimmach moved the entire genus to *Borzicactus*. Frederick Ritter re-segregated it in 1966, with the addition of some new species, which is the way it can be found in most recently printed references, picture collections and catalogs. There may be as many as 15 or 16 species, depending on the reference. Many of the species have a number of varieties, forms and cultivars, many of which are indistinguishable. Most of the species are very variable, and there are more names than there should be.

*Oroya* was also described by Britton and Rose, on the same page as *Matucana*. This genus, of only two or three species, has escaped most of the taxonomic chaos of *Matucana*. The type is *Oroya peruviana*, the genus again named after a nearby town. The type was known by a different name since 1903.

In habitat *Oroya* is a flattened globe, with only the upper surface usually visible. In cultivation the plant shows off a beautiful spiral pattern of spines, with geometric precision equal to any *Mammillaria*.



*Oroya laxiareolata*



*Borzicactus samaipatanus*

*Borzicactus* forms a small group of about a half dozen species of small columnar cacti. While we are recognizing the genus for plant of the month, many cactus specialists now include the species in *Cleistocactus*. This isn't especially surprising as *Borzicactus* shares notable features with *Cleistocactus* such as columnar habit and red, tubular flowers. To make things ever more confusing, as mentioned above, *Borzicactus* have also been included in *Matucana*! I recommend enjoying these plants for their beauty and not worry about the taxonomy.

Kyle Williams  
Photos Tim Nomer  
Special thanks to Tom Glavich

## Conophytum

*Conophytum* is a fascinating genus that should be represented in everyone's succulent collection. Their reputation for being touchy and difficult to grow is undeserved. While they are usually grown in pots on benches, they can be a part of rock garden landscapes, as seen at the Sherman Library & Gardens in Corona del Mar.

Many people seeing *Conophytum* for the first time assume they must be some type of *Lithops*, so great is the similarity. Both genera do have the "living stones" look to them, belong to the same family, the Aizoaceae (often informally called Mesembs), and are native to South Africa and Namibia. However, a closer look will allow you to tell them apart quite easily. The best way to identify a



*Conophytum* 'Shokkoden' at Sherman Gardens



*Conophytum obcordellum* at Sherman Gardens

*Conophytum* is to look at the leaves. In *Lithops* you have two distinct leaves, while in *Conophytum* the leaves are fused together with just a small pore or slit in the center from which the flowers emerge. *Conophytum* forms a dry papery sheath around itself when dormant while *Lithops* never does. Another clue is that *Conophytum* are winter growers while *Lithops* are most active in summer and fall. This feature is an adaptation to the areas they grow in the wild; *Lithops* in summer rainfall regions and *Conophytum* in winter rainfall zones. Additionally, *Conophytum* flowers have petals united into a tube at the base and "bracts" (small scale or leaf like growths) on the tube. *Lithops* has no tube or bracts.

Cultivation of most species of *Conophytum* is fairly straightforward. As the weather cools in the fall start watering your plant. If it is ready to grow it will suck up water and burst forth from the protective sheaths. Water regularly during the growing season as the plants should not dry out during this time, though keeping them too wet risks bloating, splitting and rot. A very fast draining planting medium is recommended. Keep an eye out for signs of the leaves shrinking and collapsing when the days get warmer and longer in the spring. This is perfectly normal and you should stop watering at this time. The plants will shrink down quite a bit as the leaves turn into a dry, papery sheath that will protect the next year's leaves until fall. From this point until the fall the plants are in dormancy. Smaller species may need a bit of water, the bigger ones likely won't need any. Plants like some sun in growing season, but once the plants start entering dormancy move them to a shady location to avoid scorching. Some species can withstand light frost, but it is best to protect your plants if frost threatens. Commonly available species include *C. bilobum*, *C. obcordellum*, and *C. uviforme*.



*Conophytum wettstenii* showing papery sheaths

Kyle Williams

Photos courtesy of Matt Maggio and Stan Shebs



## January 2013 New Members

Kathryn Boorer  
Robert D'Aloisio  
Terry Joao  
Shirley Ogier

## Help Wanted

Someone to lead a tour through one of the cactus/succulent gardens during the Inter-City show Aug. 17-18. Preferably someone with experience leading tours at the LA County Arboretum.  
Please call John Matthews ASAP 661-714-1052

## LACSS Membership Application Form

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 78 Volume 2

- February 9 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society–Winter Show & Sale–Balboa Park, Room 101 San Diego, CA **INFO: 858-382-1797**
- March 22-24 Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale  
Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23 9am-5pm, Sunday, March 24 12-4pm  
Anaheim United Methodist Church 1000 S. State College Bl., Anaheim, CA  
**INFO: 562-587-3357**
- April 13 & 14 South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO: 310-832-2262**  
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes, CA
- April 20 & 21 Green Scene Plant Sale—Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA
- April 27 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale 9am-4pm  
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO: CALL-310-833-6823**
- April 28 Huntington Plant Sale 10am-5pm Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160**
- May 4 & 5 Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO 310-822-1783**  
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
- May 17 & 18 Gates Cactus & Succulent Society  
32nd Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9am-4:30pm  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA  
**INFO: 951-360-8802**
- May 25 & 26 Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale  
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, 10am-4pm, San Luis Obispo, CA  
**INFO: 805-237-2054, [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)**
- June 1 & 2 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society–Summer Show & Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA **INFO: 858-382-1797**
- JUNE 8 & 9 Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale  
Friday, June 8 & Saturday, June 9 9am-5pm, Sunday, June 10 9am-3:30pm  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino, CA [LACSS.Contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.Contact@gmail.com)
- June 15-20 CSSA 35<sup>TH</sup> Biennial Convention, Austin, TX- [www.CSSA2013.com](http://www.CSSA2013.com)
- June 28-30 CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens-FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA **INFO: 626-405-2160 or 2277**  
Plant Sale Starts Friday, June 28 Show opens Saturday, June 29-Sunday, June 30 THE
- July 26-28 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale  
Friday, July 26 9am-5pm, Saturday, July 27 9am-5pm, Sunday July 28 12-4pm  
1000 S. State College Blvd., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA  
**INFO: 949-212-8417**
- August 17 & 18 28th Annual Intercity Show & Sale  
The LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily 301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA.  
**INFO:-TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-297-5364**
- September 7 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- September 22 Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction  
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, CA **INFO: 310-922-6090**
- November 2 & 3 San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9am-5pm  
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA

LACSS Cactus Chronicle



Mailing Address  
LACSS  
PO BOX 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

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**General Meeting February 7, 2013**

**February Speaker: Woody Minnich**

**Miniature Jewels of Mexico  
Presented by Woody Minnich**

**February 9 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society–Winter Show & Sale–Balboa Park,  
Room 101  
San Diego, CA INFO: 858-382-1797**