

Volume 84, Issue 1 January, 2018

## The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

#### **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.

## January 2018 Guest Speaker: Duke Benadom Topic: Botany in the lawless region of Karamoja, North-East Uganda

Locals of L.Karamoja



Duke Benadom has been involved with several cactus & succulent clubs and is a life member of three (including LACSS). 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 is a recipient of CSSA awards, Superior Service, Special Service, and Fellow. He was the author of the long-running CSJ column, Superb Succu-



three individuals from the LK tribe.

Duke's digital presentation will be on a trip to Uganda where

Region of north-east Uganda. Much of it was accompanied by

he and Tom Cole botanized mostly in the lawless Karamoja

lents, since its inception. He enjoys flora and fauna, seed growing, traveling, photography, and sharing these experiences with others of similar interests. He even served as LACSS President oh so long ago.



Improved Highways

Our January speaker, Duke Benadom, will be bringing the plants for the raffle. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, or 6 for \$5.

Nile River

Inside this issue:A word from our President22018 Meeting Structure3What did I miss, I didn't hear4POM 2017 results5Plant of the Month6 -7Announcements8-11Calendar of Events12-13

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#### 2018 Officers

#### President

Kim Thorpe Chavez 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs Ron Behar 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month Manny Rivera 3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events Diane Miller Secretary Matt Gatskill LACSS.contact@gmail.com Treasurer **Gretchen Davis** Membership llona Buratti Director 1 (2017-18)Odd Yrs. Kal Kaminer Director 2 (2016-17) Even Yrs. Artie Chavez Past President Joyce Schumann LACSS Show Chair Jim Esterle and Artie Chavez Fall Show Chair Kal Kaminer Webmaster Kim Thorpe Librarian Joyce Schumann Historian Nils Schirrmacher Cactus Chronicle Editor Jose J Villarroel Inter-City Show Liaison John Martinez **CSSA** Liaison M.A. Bjarkman **Education Chair Kyle Williams Drawing & Plant Procurement Richard Roosman** Member at Larae Nancy Neymark and Kal Kaminer Cactus Garden Chair Chris Rogers **Cactus Chronicle Distribution Richard Roosman** John Matthews Holiday Party Chairpersons Kandie and Don Soderstrom **Cactus Garden** Chris Rogers Meeting Refreshments Sylvia Strehlo Monthly Drawing Leah Imamura Juana Williams

## A word from our President

by Kim Thorpe Chavez

Welcome to 2018! I hope everyone had a wonderful year of 2017. We had one of the best Awards Banquets ever in December, the incredible selection of food was fantastic. All the thanks goes to Kandie and Don, both of you did a great job putting this event together. A huge Thank you to everyone who attended and brought those great dishes.

Our weather has been mild so far this winter. Winter growers should be pretty happy. Artie will talk more on this subject at our first general meeting of 2018, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

For the next couple of months we are going to try a new time format for our meetings. Many members won't even notice the change, but for others, we hope this will make it easier for you to attend. Please read the 2018 Meeting Structure article for the timetable I plan to follow, I think all of you will find it very informative and helpful.

I am very excited about the Club. We have such an incredible group of members and we have been fortunate to have really great Presidents preceding me. Roxie Esterle really put in shape our volunteer program, recruiting wonderful people and then Joyce Schumann added her touches recruiting even more remarkable people. Now, it's my turn. I encourage all of you to attend a board meeting, join a committee, or volunteer for an event. We have a few key positions to fill and committees we need to create. Our next board meeting will be February 18th at 9AM. For more information, talk to one of our board members or read the announcement in our Newsletter. There are lots of places you can serve in this club, so come early to the board meeting and we will find you a spot. Every month, Jose, our Chronicle Editor, works very hard to put together our Cactus Chronicle. I'm going to count on it more than ever to get important information to all of you so we can cut down on time for announcements during our meetings.

PLEASE READ YOUR *CHRONICLE*! This is where you will find out about what Diane Miller has planned for field trips and garden tours throughout the year, Ron Behar works hard to present previews of our speakers and programs, Kyle Williams contributes great articles for Plant of the Month, and the Calendar of Events describes events you won't want to miss. I am really hoping you won't let all their hard work go to waste. While I might touch lightly on some of this at the meeting, my goal is to shorten the business side of the meeting and not overwhelm you with announcements.

Another resource available to you is our website, LACACTUS.com. It's full of valuable information, but we need to improve and update it. We need some assistance here from our members, so if you know anything about websites, please talk to Kal, (Fall Show Chairman), Matthew (Secretary), or myself, as I remain the webmaster until we find a replacement.

To be honest, I am terrible with names and would like to remind everyone to wear your name badge. If you don't have one yet, stop by membership and ask Ilona, Erika, or Mary for a paper one. The name badges are really worthwhile as they assist you in meeting other club members and gaining admission into some of the Cactus and Succulent events during the year.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the January meeting. Let me know how I can be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Kim Chavez President Los Angeles Cactus Society

#### JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2018

## 2018 Meeting Structure

by Kim Thorpe Chavez

#### Please Read so you don't miss out

As I said in my President's message for the next couple of months we are going to try a new time format for our monthly meetings. Many of you won't even notice the change, but for others, we hope this will make it easier for all of you to attend.

#### This is the timetable I suggest we follow:

- Doors will open at 6:00 PM. (Vendors should set up between 6 and 6:15 PM.)
- Members may start arriving at 6:15 PM.
- If this is your month to provide snacks, please arrive by 6:30 so Sylvia can put your snacks out for everyone to enjoy them during Social Hour. Thank you, Sylvia, for continuing as our Refreshment Chair.
- The "Meet and Greet" socializing time will run from 6:15 until 7:15 pm. You will be able to purchase plants and pots, preview raffle plants, snack, visit our library and ask questions. All your Plant of the Month (POM) entries should be submitted. I am so grateful that Joyce will be returning as our librarian. She loves books and it shows.
- Committee Chairs will also be recruiting volunteers for upcoming events during this time.
- From 7 to 7:15 PM at the front of the room there will be an "Ask an Expert" station coordinated by Artie, our Director of Education. Bring in your sick plant or a picture of it, a plant to identify, or get some growing tips.
- At 7:15 PM, we'll break up the lively conversations so we can get the meeting started.
- At 7:20 PM, I will begin with a hopefully short business agenda followed by POM with Manny. Following a quick 5 minute break, we will go right into our evening program.

We will end our meeting with Richard's famous raffle. We need people to help break down and clean up. As a test to see how many people read this, I am giving one raffle ticket per family at the meeting when you come and give me the word "conophytum."

See you all on January 4, 2018.

Kim Chavez

## "What did I miss" or "I didn't hear that"

by Joyce Schumann

## December, 2017 meeting

We almost had standing room only at our 2017 Awards Dinner! As is our usual custom, we substituted an Awards Dinner for our standard meeting/ program. This evening was full of friendly conversation & lots of laughs.

The highlights of the evening included:

- Two staged, winter growing plants for the club drawing. A small, bonus "second chance" was also offered.
- A very fun gift exchange.
- A drawing to reward three members for renewing their membership early.
- The reason for the event presenting awards to the 55 POM participants.
- Thank you gifts from the out-going President to Board Members and appointed officers.
- A gift to the out-going President presented by the new President.
- And the reason we are all there the food! Thanks to everyone for providing such delicious and varied repast.
- Last but not least, the famous auction. Twenty one plants were offered. The bidding was lively and entertaining.
- Many thanks to Kandie and the crew for organizing, decorating, directing and making possible one of the most enjoyable end of year events.







Nancy Neymark ----

#### Plant of the Month 2018

January Blossfeldia, Frailea Othonna & Senecio

> February Coryphantha Pelargonium

March Discocactus Fouquieria

April Lobivia Gasteria

May Small cactus staged as miniature Small Succulent staged as miniature

June Favorite for both

July Matucana, Oroya Echeveria

August Thelocactus, Hamatocactus Adenia

September Mammillaria Black Spines Bursera

October Espostoa, Oreocereus Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus

> November Crest, Monstrose Crest, Monstrose

December Holiday Party!

#### Plant of the Month 2019

January To be Announced

February To be Announced

March To be Announced

## LACSS 2017 Plant of the Month results

#### These points have been Those graduating to a higher level for 2018 earned over more than

e	6 6	one year.
Linda Holub	Novice to advanced 116 novice points	
Roxie Esterle	Novice to advanced 144 novice points	
Ron Behar	rookie to novice 85 rookie points	
Jose Villarroel	rookie to novice 52 rookie points	
Gretchen Davis	rookie to novice 73 rookie points	
A 1 A 41 1 1		

rookie to novice 28 rookie points

Al Mindel ----rookie to novice 32 rookie points

Top finishers all divisions 2017		CactusTotal	Succulent Total	Grand Total
Rookie	Behar, Ron	24	43	67
	Villarroel, José	29	23	52
	Davis, Gretchen	18	33	51
	Cooper, Ron	15	8	23
	Mindel, Al	10	9	19
	Gasbayan, Harry	9	4	13
	Holub, Linda	39	28	67
	Villaroel, Sonia	32	26	58
Novice	Esterle, Roxie	20	36	56
	Jacobi, Kim	16	20	36
	Kaminer, Kal	21	12	33
Advanced	(Thorpe) Chavez, Kim	81	57	138
	Boorer, Kathryn	43	67	110
	Suciu, John	37	39	76
	Hall, Barbara	21	9	30
	Matthews, John	49	56	105
Masters / Open	Rivera, Manny	37	29	66
	Ostler, Karen	33	29	62
	Chavez, Artie	0	22	22
	Chan, Brian	6	13	19

Note: Top finishers for each division listed in descending order of total points for 2017.

## Plant of the Month : Frailea & Blossfeldia

by Kyle Williams



Frailea asterioides

This month we are going small, very small, for our cacti. We are focusing on two genera, one of which is literally the smallest cactus species of all and the other likely has the smallest average plant size for a cactus genus with numerous species. This should be a heads up for those of you that think you are out of space for more plants. Not with these guys! Most of the species we are looking at this month could live permanently in a 3" pot or less.

*Frailea* is a genus of approximately 20 species from South America, with most species in Brazil. In general they are quite small, with individual

heads roughly the same diameter as a quarter. They clump, have small to no spines, and usually have a depressed or sunken center. In times of drought the plants will contract and sink below the soil level. This can help the plant retain water by getting it out of the hot sun.

Individual plants often make two different types of flowers. The prettiest ones are big and open, generally bright yellow. These flowers are how the plant cross pollinates with other plants (i.e. the normal way flowers work). That allows for genes of different plants to combine allowing for more diversity within the species. The other, more unusual, flowers are referred to as cleistogamous, or hidden flowers. They don't seem hidden at first. In fact you'll see a big flower bud developing like normal, but it never opens. Eventually it falls off and the fruit develops and produces seeds. What happened was the flower intentionally remained closed and self-pollinated. This ensures seed production and therefore a higher chance of producing baby plants than with an open flower that may or may not get pollinated. The down side is the plants are very inbred, so any bad traits of the parent could be as bad or worse in the progeny. Of course, good traits can get passed along too!



Frailea magnifica



Blossfeldia lilputana

*Blossfeldia* is genus containing the single species *Blossfeldia liliputiana* from northern Argentina and southern Bolivia. It clumps readily with individual heads being smaller than a dime! This makes it the smallest cactus in the world. The flowers are similarly tiny. *Blossfeldia* is rarely seen in cultivation because it is hard to get the dust-like seeds to germinate and when they do, the plants are nearly microscopic. When they are seen for sale it is usually in grafted form. It is easy to grow that way though it will grow bigger this way than on its own roots. Previously, botanists thought *Blossfeldia* was related to *Parodia* or *Frailea* but modern DNA research has found it to be a very distinct lineage of cacti all its own.

## Plant of the Month : Senecio & Othonna

The two genera we are focusing on this month might not seem to have a lot in common, with one being a winter grower and the other a summer grower. The common thread is they are both members of the Daisy family, Asteraceae. The Asteraceae is the largest family of flowering plants with over 30,000 species. Only the Orchid family rivals it in size. As you'd expect in a family this large, species of Asteraceae can be found in every habitat all over the world. There are relatively few succulents for the size of the family, and the majority of these can be found in *Senecio* and *Othonna*.



Senecio is an enormous genus of over 1,250 species, making it the largest genus in the Asteraceae and among the top ten largest genera of all plants. While the genus is huge, only a fraction of them are true succulents. In fact, many Senecio are normal leafy herbs you'd see in a weedy field. However, it is the succulent ones that interest us. Among succulent Senecio there are two main "looks" or growth forms. The



Senecio rowleyanus

first are upright stem succulents with deciduous leaves (i.e. leaves that fall off after a short time). They often have bluish-green stems with interesting striped markings and generally (but not always) stay 1-2' tall or less. You may see these plants listed under the old name "*Kleinia*" by some sellers, especially the species with bright red flowers. Some, like *S. anteuphorbium* get taller and make an interesting succulent shrub. The other type are trailing plants with thin stems and succulent leaves that make great hanging basket plants for shadier spots. These plants usually have small white flowers.

Senecio stapeliiformis

*Othonna*, with over 100 species, would be considered a large genus in most circumstances but seems tiny compared to *Senecio*! They are winter growing plants from the winter rainfall areas of Namibia and western South Africa. They are variable in form, with the most popular kinds having attractive caudiciform bases. Other types have fat elongated stems while others are geophytes which make annual stems that come up in the winter and die to the ground in the summer. Most make nice yellow daisy-like flowers. Cultivation of the woody species is very similar to *Tylecodon* or other woody winter growers, while the geophytic species can be treated similar to winter growing bulbs such as *Albuca*.



Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Kim Thorpe

## From the stacks of the Library - Round 2

by Joyce Schumann

## January, 2018

#### I'mmm Baaacckkk......

While I had a fantastic time being the LACSS President, Sandy Chase and Susan Phillips assumed the running of the Library. Each enjoyed their tenue but each decided they wanted to spend time on other projects. Thanks to both for continuing the tradition of offering the newest books, journals, and other informational items for the members.

So, here I am, back to the Library, thanks to Kim, who knew I really liked being the Librarian.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the Library inventory, etc., feel free to let me know.

FAQs will be a continuing, occasional feature in the librarian's message along with other tidbits of entertaining nonsense.

Make sure you stop by the library table and Check Something Out!

See you soon.

#### Joyce

## **Member News**



A member explores the *Freebee Table*, be sure to bring your flat box, and check the table often. Goodies are brought in throughout the evening. Maybe she will enter her treasure in **Plant of the Month** when we study what she selects.

New member...**Nick Steinhardt** selects his **free gift plant**, and picks up his Roster and Name Badge. We took a quick tour around the meeting room, Freebee Table, Plant of the Month, Raffle, venders and refreshment area...it was late, so the tour outside to the Cactus Garden will need to wait.



### **Membership** News by Illona Buratti

## "Early Dues Paid" Contest Winners

Three excellent prizes consisting of Cactus & Succulent grooming tools were selected from Desert Creations, by Kim Chavez.

The Winners, Jamie & Debi Heaps were at the party and because "Winner" need not be present" was the procedure, our other two winners are: Edward Frey and Lurinda Chin. Both winners can claim their prize at the January meeting, if unclaimed, a drawing for *paid members* attending the meeting will be held for the unclaimed prizes.



My thanks to the 121 members who got their dues in early, this really helps with the workload, and to Mary Chan who kept me on track and recorded your dues payments accurately, and in triplicate...a special Thank You!



We are collecting the 2018 LACSS Dues this month, they are now due, and our club year ends December 31<sup>st</sup>. Yes, you can pay them at the meeting, but it helps a lot to get them in the mail.

The February newsletter will only be sent to Paid Members.

LACSS 2018 Dues Are due by 12/31

#### Sunday's Open House...

at the Oster's, what a wonderful experience. Nothing but 100% participation could have made



Beautiful one of a kind pots were for sale.

this day better. It was perfect!

Over 65 members strolled thru the gardens and plant displays. We saw plants, some of them enormous, that many of us recognized from specimens brought in for Plant of the Month judging.

They are so different when grown in the ground. Also interesting were the display of the thousands of potted specimens. Around the edges of the yard I noticed over 6 mini gardens. Lots of cute and meaningful pottery, statues and rocks. My gosh thousands of rocks creating paths and were even used as containers.





Rows and rows of plants and the covering, shade and other material that created the environment. You could tell the plants were happy.

Gene & Laura - Thank You for your hospitality. Thanks to members who added to the snacks brought in by the committee, it was excellent, and the pretty display complimented this fine table. (Another reason for a sign up, to help plan refreshments). Eric, for your help in setting up...everybody did a fine job.

We milled around the yard, had casual visits with our member friends, challenged each other with their names, and "oh my, do you know what this is?"

Diane, thank you for arraigning this opportunity and working with the Oster's



# Refreshments reminder

#### <u> A Reminder, It's January – N thru R</u>

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means YOU. It's your turn to bring the goodies that will sustain us during our meeting on Thursday, January 4th. Please have snacks arrive by 6:30PM for Social Hour, help in setting up is greatly appreciated.

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, Chips & Dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches, burritos, pizza...you name it, we will heat & serve it.

Yes, we have a microwave.

It's nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as during the break, drinks are also welcome.

Thanks,

LACSS

# 2018 Cactus and succulent Calendar of Upcoming Events Updated 12/3/17. ANY CHANGES, please email: aloescats1@aol.com

FEB. 10	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SA Balboa park, room 101, san diego, ca—info 619-990-2051
MAR. 22-24	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SHOWAND SALE THURS. 22 <sup>ND</sup> 6-9PMFRI. MAR. 23 <sup>TH</sup> 9-7PMSAT. MAR. 24 <sup>TH</sup> 9-5 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFORMATION CALL 562-587-3357
APR. 7-8	SOUTH COAST CACTUS AN SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS, 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO: Website: <u>http://www.southcoastcss.org</u> // EMAIL: <u>heidihusnak@gmail.com</u>
APR. 29	HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10AM TO 5:00PM / HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-3504
MAY 5-6	SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE Veterans memorial center, garden room 4117 overland ave., culver city, ca. info. 310-822-1783
MAY 6	SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE 9am to 4pm SOUTH COAST BONTANICAL GARDENS, INFO. 310-833-6823
MAY 11-12	GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm, FOR INFORMATION ON LOCATION PLEASE CALL: 909-910-9195
MAY 19-20	LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB PLANT SHOW AND SALE 10-4 pm Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 bixby Hill Road, Long Beach, Ca INFO. 562-631-5876
MAY 26-27	CENTRAL COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, <u>www.centralcoastcactus.org</u>
JUNE 2-3	SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW & SALE Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, ca info. 858-382-1797
JUNE 9-10	LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE JUNE 9th 9AM – 4PM and JUNE 10th 9AM - 3PM THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA. INFO. <u>www.lacactus.com</u>

## 2018 Cactus and succulent Calendar of Upcoming Events Updated 12/3/17. ANY CHANGES, please email: aloescats1@aol.com

JUN 29-JUL 1	CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
	1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. Info: 626-405-3504
	PLANTS SALES STARTS JUNE 29 <sup>TH</sup> THRU JULY 1 <sup>ST</sup> FROM 10-5pm.
	SHOW OPENS JUNE 30 <sup>TH</sup> THUR JULY 1 <sup>ST</sup> FROM 10-5pm.
JULY 19-21	ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE THURS. 19 <sup>TH</sup> 6-9pm, FRI. JULY 20 <sup>TH</sup> 9am-7pm, SAT. 21 <sup>st</sup> 9-5pm 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA INFORMATION CALL 949-212-8417
AUG. 11-12	33 <sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE L.A. COUNTY ARBORETUM
	9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
	INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ 805-390-2139
SEPT. 1	HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM All day at the huntington. INFO: 626-405-3504
SEPT. 15	LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
	12-5PM RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615 INFO. 562-631-5876
SEPT. 15	LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY - FALL SALE THE SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA.
	INFO. <u>www.lacactus.com</u>
Oct. 6-7	BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
	SAT. 10AM - 5PMSUN. 11AM - 3PM ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING, INFO 661-831-8488
OCT. 27-28	PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE
	SAT 10-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDENS
	230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA INFO: <u>BritaMiller1@g-mail.com</u>
NOV. 10 - 11	SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
	9am-4pm BOTH DAYSLA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA
	INFO: MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052



Mailing Address LACSS PO BOX 280581 Northridge, CA 91328

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> January Program: "Botany in the lawless region of Karamoja" Presented by: Duke Benadom

> > **January Events**

# Happy New

Year!