



CACTUS CHRONICLE



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.

Monthly Meeting Program : February

PELARGONIUMS

with Manny Rivera

Manny has a very pleasant, warm, and occasionally humorous approach to presenting his views. He possesses a wealth of information with regard to cacti and succulents, and if you are fortunate, he will get side tracked as he tends to, and get into somewhat other bits of wonderfully curious topics... often times, with a touch of humor. If you have observed how Manny conducts our **PLANT OF THE MONTH** segments of our club meetings, you are likely to know what I am describing.

This month he is giving us a presentation, with live plants, of his favorite succulent PELARGONIUM, why it is misnamed Geranium, some history of the genus, are they winter growers, where are they endemic to, the division of the genus, their habitat growth, the variety of forms and shapes and scents, etc.

Ron Behar
V.P. Programs



Please see page 4
for directions and info
about our new meeting location!

REFRESHMENTS FOR FEBRUARY!

LAST NAMES STARTING WITH:

S - T

MANNY RIVERA



MANNY RIVERA went to a plant show for the first time at The CSSA Cactus and Succulent Show at The Huntington Library in 1998, thanks to a flyer that Molly, from California Cactus Center in Pasadena, gave him. He was so impressed, and falling in love with the plants, and The Botanical Gardens, he came back the following year to participate and show some of his plants. He is CSSA Show Head Clerk.

The same year 1998, a month later after The CSSA Show, he joined The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society where he has become one of the pillars.

Manny has served as a board member, he is one of the three directors of the Workshop, and in charge of **PLANT^{OF}THE MONTH**.

He is Chairman of The SGVCSS Winter Show since 2007 being this 25th Annual Winter Show is his 12 consecutive year.

In May 2010 Manny Rivera received The SGVCSS Lifetime Membership Plaque Award together with Larry Grammer and Myron Kimnach.

He has participated as a Judge at Gates CSS, Sunset CSS, CSSA, Inter-city, SGVCSS Winter Show and our own LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival.

Manny joined our LACS Society in 2009, it didn't take very long until he was invited to be in charge of **PLANT^{OF}THE MONTH** for the last quarter of the same year. In 2010 he was officially named 2nd Vice President and until today he is starting his 11th straight year as our 2nd VP.

Manny also served as President of Los Angeles Geranium Society for 4 1/2 - 5 years (2008-2012).



A Word From Our President



It is an exciting time for the club as we start with the February 7, General meeting with our new location. Change is always a little tough, but I think when you guys see the new location, you will all be impressed. A couple of advantages with the new place is the vendors that sell at the meetings will no longer be limited to 2 flats. They will be allowed a half a table. Please email me if you are planning to sell so I can make sure we have enough tables set up. kimokakes1@yahoo.com
We will be meeting at One Generation 18255 Victory Blvd. Reseda CA 91335. The new location is just a little north west from the Sepulveda Garden Center (our old location). See next page for flyer.

The San Gabriel Winter Show and Sale was a huge success even with the new show month. Our members did fantastic, many reaching the Trophy Table. Congrats to all that showed. Kathryn Boorer was High Points Intermediate Cactus. Amanda Erlanson was Best Echinocereus. Manny was Best Geraniaceae. Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong were Best Novice Cactus and Best Staged Plant. Barbara Hall was Best Mesemb.

We all know that our plants love rainwater. How much is too much? We have been lucky so far that it hasn't been a super cold rain, but it has been a lot of water. I really must watch some of my show cactus that are outside as I don't want them to split. I keep most of my special show plants in a greenhouse so I can control how much water they are getting. Most of us aren't too concerned with the plants in the ground but it is a good idea to walk around and make sure there isn't a lot of puddling around them.

We are very lucky to have Manny as our speaker this month and I am looking forward to his talk on Pelargoniums.

See you all February 7, 2019 at our **NEW LOCATION** One Generation 18255 Victory Blvd. Reseda CA 91335

Sincerely,

Kim Chavez

ALSO BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

"Awesome Asclepiads"

PHOTOS, LIVE NOW ON:
'MEMBERS INFO'
ON WWW.LCACTUS.COM
PASSWORD: LACSS2019

2019 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Kim Chavez

1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS

Diane Miller

SECRETARY

Ron Cooper

TREASURER

Gretchen Davis

FALL SALE CHAIR

Kal Kaminer

DIRECTOR 1 (2017-2018) ODD YRS.

Iлона Buratti

DIRECTOR 2 (2018-2019) EVEN YRS.

Artie Chavez

PAST PRESIDENT

Joyce Schumann

HISTORIAN

Nils Schirmacher

CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

WEBMISTRESS

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INTER-CITY SHOW CHAIR

John Martinez

CSSA LIAISON

M.A Bjarkman

DRAWING & PLANT PROCUREMENT

Richard Roosman

PUBLICITY

Roxie Esterle

CACTUS GARDEN CHAIR

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CACTUS CHRONICLE DISTRIBUTION

Richard Roosman & John Matthews

HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIRPERSONS

Debi Heaps

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Sylvia Strehlo

MONTHLY DRAWING

Leah Imamura & Juana Williams

KIDS OUTREACH

Nicolene Bova

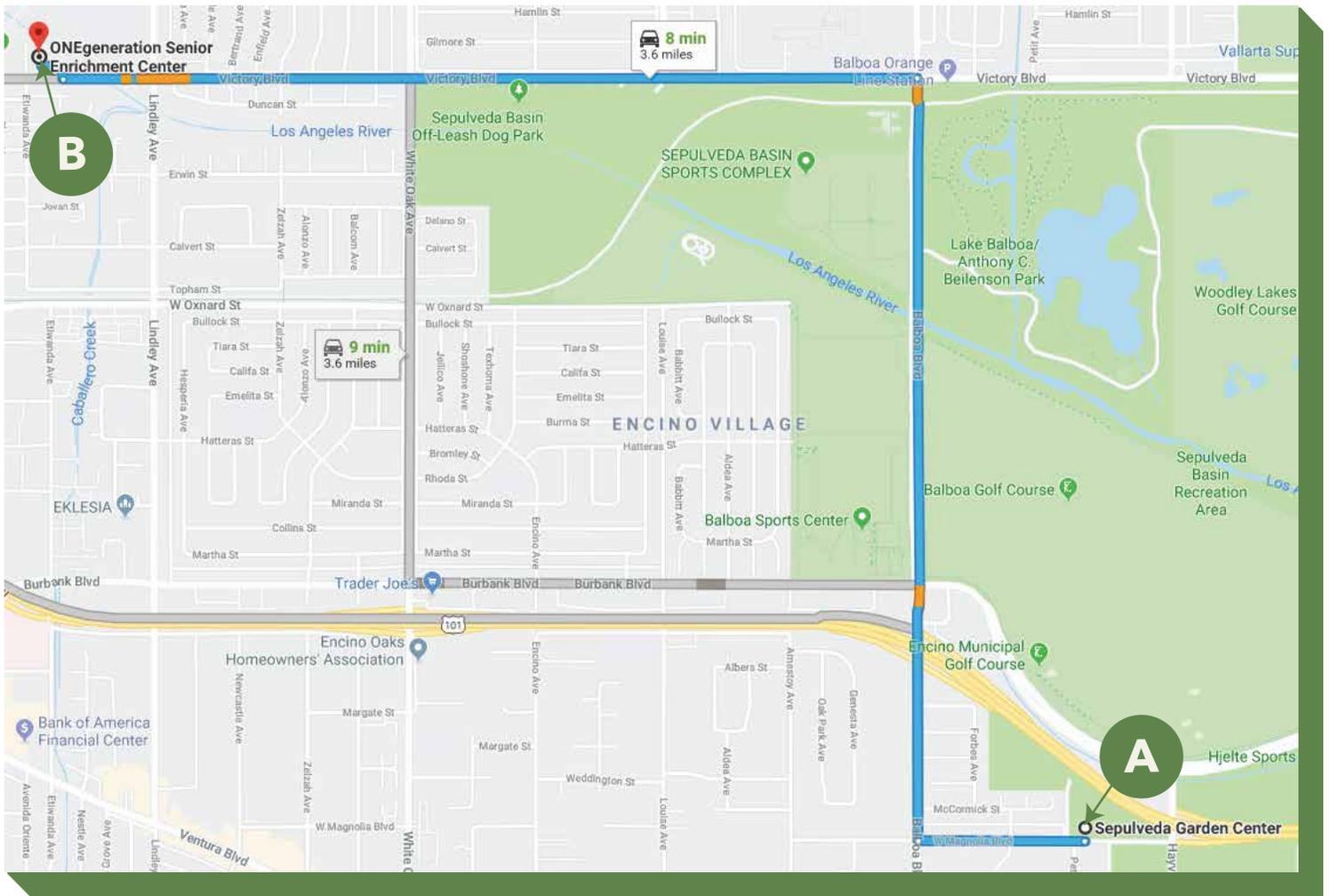
MEMBER AT LARGE

Kal Kaminer

General Meeting **NEW LOCATION**

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

**ONE GENERATION SENIOR CENTER
18255 VICTORY BLVD RESEDA CA 91335**



SGVCSS WINTER SHOW & SALE

Photo credit: Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



BEST ECHINOCEREUS

In honor of Peter Sharp

Echinocereus reichenbachii ssp. *baileyi*
Amanda Erlanson



BEST GERANIACEAE

Echinocereus reichenbachii ssp. *baileyi*
Manny Rivera



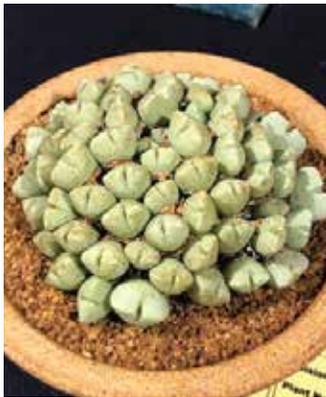
BEST NOVICE CACTUS

Oreocereus trollii
Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



HIGH POINTS INTERMEDIATE CACTUS

Kathryn Boorer



BEST MESEMB

Conophytum quaesitum subsp. *quaesitum*
Barbara Hall



BEST STAGED PLANT

Larry Grammar Trophy

Fockea edulis
Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



BEST CACTUS IN SHOW

Discocactus araneispinus
Kim & Artie Chavez



OUTSTANDING ALOE

Aloe erinacea
Keith Taylor



Various Pelargoniums

PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH

NEW PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH POLICIES for 2019



The **PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH** competition is an important educational component of our monthly meetings. By showing your specimens, you learn tips about their care and staging, and gain recognition for a job well done. The 2018 year brought a record number of entries into the monthly POM contests, as total entries for the year exceeded 700!

The most intense competition has been in the "Rookie" division, with exceptional entries from many new members. In order to elevate the levels of competition in the more experienced divisions, the LACSS Board has initiated some new policies that will move people into higher levels of competition and increase the number of entries in the Advanced and Masters divisions. In addition, point counts will begin at 0 in each category, with 6 points for a first place, 4 points for a second place, 2 points for a third place, and 1 point for each plant entered.

NOW THE AUDIENCE GETS TO VOTE!

We are happy to announce that there will be a new "Best in Show" category at each monthly meeting. This award of 4 additional points will go to the best cactus and best succulent of the evening, as determined by the audience.

New Competition Divisions:

Rookie

0 - 50 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "rookie" award points

Novice

0 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "novice" award points

Advanced

0 to 200 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place "advanced" points

Master/Open

Experienced growers who have earned 200 "advanced" points along with vendors who sell at shows outside of LACSS.

PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH 2019

FEBRUARY

Echinocactus
Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Epithelantha, Encephalocarpus
Pelecypora, Aloe Hybrid

APRIL

Gymnocalycium
Haworthia

MAY

Small cacti & succulent staged as
miniature

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Mammillaria with hooked spines
Lithops

AUGUST

Rebutia
Commiphora

SEPTEMBER

Astrophytum
Euphorbia from Madagascar

OCTOBER

Opuntiod from South America
Adromischus

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY

PLANT^{OF} THE MONTH 2020

JANUARY

Buiningia & Uebelmannia
Aloe species

PLANT OF THE MONTH

JANUARY RESULTS

SUCCULENT - DUDLEYA

ROOKIE

FIRST	DUDLEYA BRITTONII	NIKKI BOVA
SECOND	DUDLEYA DENSIFLORA	NICK STEINHARDT
THIRD	DUDLEYA CAESPITOSA	BARBARA & KENT BUTTERWORTH

NOVICE

FIRST	DUDLEYA EDULIS	DEBI HEAPS
SECOND	DUDLEYA BRITTONII	M.A. BJARKMAN
THIRD	DUDLEYA CAESPITOSA	DEBI HEAPS

ADVANCED

FIRST	DUDLEYA PACHYPHYTUM	ROXIE & JIM ESTERLE
SECOND	DUDLEYA BRITTONII	ROXIE & JIM ESTERLE
SECOND	DUDLEYA PULVERULENTA	NILS SCHIRRMACHER
THIRD	DUDLEYA PACHYPHYTUM	ROXIE & JIM ESTERLE

OPEN

CACTUS - EPIPHITIC CACTI

ROOKIE

FIRST	RHIPHALIS SP.	NIKKI BOVA
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NOVICE

FIRST	EPIPHYLLUM OXYPETALUM	RON COOPER
SECOND	SCHLUMBERGERA (PHIPSALIDEAE)	AL MINDEL
THIRD	SCHLUMBERGERA SP.	AL MINDEL

ADVANCED

FIRST	STROPHOCACTUS TESTUDO	KATHRYN BOORER
SECOND	RHIPHALIS SP.	KATHRYN BOORER
THIRD	HATORIA SP.	KATHRYN BOORER
THIRD	RHIPHALIS SP.	ROXIE & JIM ESTERLE



OPEN

FEBRUARY PLANT OF THE MONTH

MONSONIA (SARCOCAULON)

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams & Andrew Massy

This month we focus on Monsonia, the Bushman's Candles, a genus of small succulents and caudiciforms native to South Africa. They belong to the Geraniaceae, or Geranium Family, and are closely related to the better known Pelargonium. Monsonia differs from Pelargonium primarily in having "actinomorphic" flowers instead of zygomorphic ones. For the non-botanists out there, that means the flower of Monsonia are more or less circular and you could divide them into two equal halves no matter where you draw the line (like a pie or cake). Zygomorphic flowers are symmetrical in one plane only, just like a person's face. There is only one direction you could divide the flower in two with equal halves.



Comparison of Monsonia and Pelargonium flowers

At this point it is important to have a discussion about the proper name for these plants. Traditionally, Monsonia has referred to the plants in this group that are herbaceous while Sarcocaulon referred to the species with fat, woody stems (Sarcocaulon means "fat stem"). You may notice that the plant of the month list called them Sarcocaulon, and even I was unaware of the real story before researching this article. However, nearly 20 years ago botanists determined they were all members of the same genus, and the

proper name for the genus is Monsonia not Sarcocaulon. More recent studies using the DNA of the plants confirms this finding is correct. While some may think it odd to have the herbaceous and woody species together, it really is no big deal. You only have to look to Pelargonium to see that a diverse array of species, from herbs, to woody shrubs, to geophytes, all happily coexist in one genus without anyone raising an eyebrow.

As for the plant themselves, they make wonderful additions to any caudiciform or winter growing succulent collection. The plants most commonly grown by cactus and succulent collectors are the woody Sarcocaulon group. They produce leaves when conditions are ideal for growth but drop them readily when the soil dries out, much in the same way as the unrelated Foquieria does. The flowers are usually white to pale pink, or even red, and an inch or two across. While called winter growers, it should be noted that some species, most notably Monsonia vanderietiae, are "opportunistic" growers that can grow most any time of year that it receives moisture.



Monsonia herrei



Monsonia crassicaule

FEBRUARY PLANT ^{OF} THE MONTH

ECHINOCACTUS

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits: Pamela Eisenberg, Joseph Yaroch & Heath MacAllister



Echinocactus grusonii



Echinocactus polycephalus

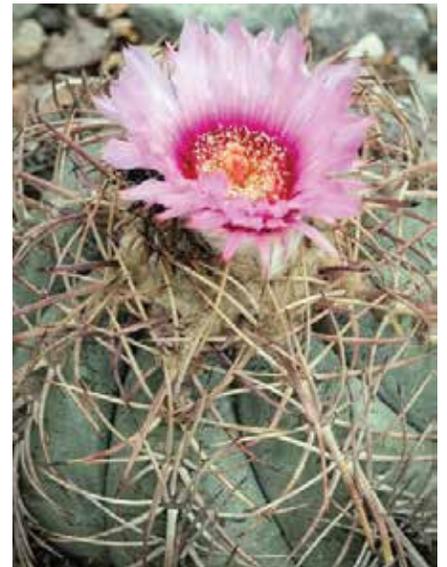
This month we are looking at a genus with a name that says "stay away!", though I suggest just the opposite. This is one of the main genera known as the "Barrel cacti" (the other being Ferocactus). The only significant difference between Echinocactus & Ferocactus is that Echinocactus has wooly fruit while Ferocactus does not.

Echinocactus is Latin for "spiny" cactus or "hedgehog" cactus, both of which refer to the prominent, very sharp spines found in every species. The genus has roughly 6-10 species in a range that covers all of the Southwestern US from Death Valley to Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of Mexico. There are two species native to the US, one covering the western half of the Southwest and the other covering the eastern half. *E. texensis*, commonly called the Horse Crippler, is from Texas, New Mexico, eastern Arizona, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico. *E. polycephalus* is a California native, as well as occurring in Nevada, Arizona, and northern Mexico. It is among the most heavily cloaked in spines of any cactus.

The most famous and widely grown species, *E. grusonii* (Golden Barrel), is also the rarest and most restricted in the wild. There is a link between the two as large numbers of Golden Barrels were dug out of the wild for the horticultural trade. Large nursery grown specimens are readily available today, reducing the pressure on the remaining plants. Unfortunately, this already

threatened species was dealt a more serious blow in the 1990's when the Zimapan Dam was built in the heart of this species range. Countless plants were destroyed when the lake created by the dam submerged prime *E. grusonii* habitat.

Cultural requirements are similar for most species. While some species are extremely cold tolerant (i.e. the native US species) and others less so, this isn't a concern for us in Southern California. All Echinocactus can handle winter temperatures in the Los Angeles region. They do well in the ground, though good drainage is a must as most species don't like our wet winters. They also do well as large potted specimens, requiring normal cactus care. The Golden Barrel in particular is very well adapted to growing in our landscapes. Thankfully its massive popularity as a garden plant will ensure it won't go extinct despite the huge threats to the wild populations.



Echinocactus polycephalus



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

Rain. January gave us enough to green our gardens and hillsides; but as succulent and cactus growers we know winter rain is a two edged sword. We need it badly, but that wet and cold can be deadly to our treasured plants. And even worse are the variable temperatures. Warm and sunny today; cold and cloudy tomorrow.

I know I harp on this, but more plants die over our winters than any other time; including the high temperatures of summer, mostly because of those sunny skies in winter.

Here in the mountains I mainly concentrate on growing cactus and truth be told; cactus from areas of the New World similar to my conditions. There are exceptions of course; Ariocarpus, Astrophytum and Gymnocalycium; but they are tucked away in a greenhouse. The best advice I can offer is to keep an eye on the weather report and move or cover plants based on it. If you cover do not use plastic, you will only damage your plants. I suggest old sheets, blankets or towels, or a commercial frost blanket.

Or you can use cold hardy plants. In our landscape we concentrate on hardy cactus; Opuntias, Haageocereus, cold hardy Lobivias; many are now classified as Echinopsis; Oreocereus, and the occasional Agave. Surprisingly, there are many genera of Aizoaceae; formerly Mesembryanthemaceae; that not only tolerate the cold but actually seem to enjoy it.

If you are interested in learning more about cold hardy plants I can recommend two books on the subject: "CACTI & SUCCULENTS for cold climates" By Leo J. Chance and "High and Dry gardening with cold-hardy dryland plants" by Robert Nold. There are a couple of hundred cold hardy plants recommended by two growers from Colorado.

On another subject, I will be the director of the 2019 interior Show at our upcoming Drought Tolerant Festival in June. And I want everyone to know that there will be 7 display areas available on the outer walls of the room. If you are interested in mounting a display, please contact me at: innerscapes99@gmail.com.

This year the plants for the interior show will be:

Succulents-Variiegated, Crested and Monstrose plants.

Cactus-Variiegated, Crested and Monstrose plants.

I will be putting together a single page hand-out in a month or so, but I want you to all get ready; I know it may seem as if June is far off, but it will be here before we all know it. Let's make this year's Show fabulous and show the public why we love these curious plants.

Happy growing!

Karen Ostler

LACSS

2018 HOLIDAY AWARDS DINNER

Saturday December 8, 2018 was a night to remember. The Annual Holiday Awards Party brought 130 party loving members together for a crazy fun night!

Guests were greeted by Marquita Elias - the cactus elf, Sandy Chase with cactus place cards and Nikki Bova's sweet little girl Alliyia handing out candy canes. Appetizers were in abundance as the music enticed members over to the photo booth for sassy pictures. There was a competitive silent auction throughout the evening thanks to the fabulous plants that were contributed. Roxie and Jim Esterle organized and controlled the bidding masses with seamless ease.

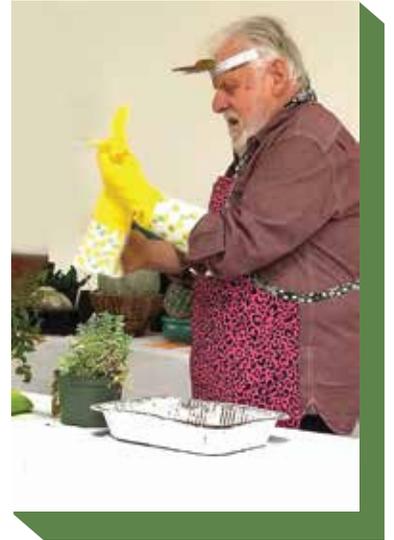
The guest tables were adorned with succulent wreath centerpieces and bonsai soil scoops filled with homemade chocolate caramel covered pretzels. The scrumptious potluck dinner was followed with the **PLANT OF THE MONTH** award presentations by Manny Rivera and Nancy Neymark. Members advancing to a higher level received certificates and point earners received pots. Congrats to Ron Behar for being the top point earner!

The entertainment for the evening was called "Potting with the Experts". Our chosen experts - Tim Harvey, Karen Ostler and Steve Frieze adorned pink leopard aprons that said "Don't be a Prick". This was in addition to pastel colored dish washing gloves and party hats worn while performing a variety of potting gymnastics. These activities were judged by rookies Nick Steinhart, Collin O'Callaghan, Amanda Erlanson, and Phillipe Delgado using Mardi Gras beads! Good times. Some members were laughing so hard that they could hardly breathe! The evening culminated with our live audition expertly orchestrated by Tim Harvey and Karen Ostler. Thanks to the multitude of members, with an extra nod to Kathleen Misko, Kim Chavez and Kimberly Tong, for helping to bring this night to life. It was great to see all the smiles at the end of the night as everyone headed home.

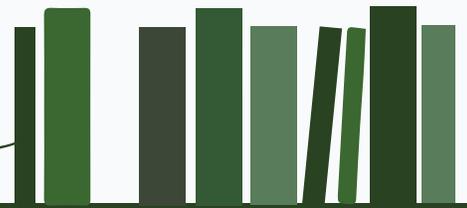
Debi Heaps



Photo credit: Ron Cooper, Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



From the Stacks of the Library



BY JOYCE SCHUMANN

Hi all,

The biggest excitement for February will be exploring our new meeting place and finding out where each activity will be located. At this moment, I have no idea about the floor plan and it may take a few months to sort things out and find the perfect spot for everything. So just look around, the Library will be there someplace!

And to mark the occasion, we have a new book offering to entice you to find us. Title: "The Gardener's Guide to Cactus" by Scott Calhoun. The author is interested in using cacti as a gardening/landscape feature and offers his experience to guide others. The introduction covers the basics of cacti care, tools, staging and in-ground planting. More than 100 plants are grouped by shape (Low & mounding, barrels & globes, paddles & rods, and columnar). Every plant description includes a brief description of native habitat, mature size, hardiness, flowering season, design suggestions, cultivation and, occasionally, culinary value. Each plant is also identified with the Latin name but the common name is in huge font size. Excellent photos accompany each plant featured. This is generally a good book for novices but more experienced hobbyists will also find at least one new tidbit of information in the sidebar boxes.

I will also take this opportunity to remind everyone to return the books you checked out in November, 2018 and before.

Find us and CHECK IT OUT!

See you soon,
Joyce

MEMBERSHIP PAGE

BY ILONA BURATTI

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING DUES!

Due to the move, the roster will be postponed to the March meeting. We had 96 attendees at our January meeting, with 77 members signed in.

NEW MEMBERS BE SURE TO BRING A FLAT BOX FOR YOUR GOODIES, PICK UP YOUR NAME BADGE (IF ORDERED), YOUR ROSTER, MEMBERSHIP CARD & WELCOME PLANT.

Ilona Buratti



WELCOME!

JANUARY'S NEW MEMBERS:

KEVIN ALTAR
MARJORIE LAFLIN
JOHN VAN UNEN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Don't
forget!*

It's February - Last names starting with S - T

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means it's your turn to bring the goodies during our meeting on Thursday, February 7th. Please have snacks arrive by 6:30PM for Social Hour.

Your help in setting up & breaking down is greatly appreciated.

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, chips & dip, cookies, brownies, burritos, pizza ... you name it, we will heat & serve it. We have a microwave available.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 9 2019

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY, WINTER SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA
INFO (619) 990 2051

MARCH

MARCH 21-23 2019

ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SPRING SHOW AND SALE
THURS 21ST 6:00PM - 9:00PM
FRI 22ND 9:00AM - 7:00PM
SAT 23RD 9:00AM - 5:00PM
1000 STATE COLLEGE BLVD. (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)
ANAHEIM, CA.
INFO (562) 587 3357