



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.



IT'S PARTY TIME!

- WHEN:** Saturday, December 7, 2019
6:00PM - 11:00PM PARTY TIME
NEW EXTENDED TIME!!!
- WHERE:** Monterey Concessions Banquet Room
Balboa Golf Course
16821 Burbank Blvd, Encino CA 91436
Stairway off parking lot is party entrance.
- DINNER:** Catered appetizers and dinner
Happy hour: 6-7, dinner to follow
Desserts: from potluck sign up
Water, tea and coffee provided
CASH BAR: Sodas and alcoholic beverages

**ENJOY THE PHOTO BOOTH,
SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS & MUCH MORE**

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING PLANTS FOR THE SILENT OR LIVE AUCTION.
AUCTION DETAILS TO FOLLOW IN A SEPARATE BLAST**

HANDICAPPED PARTY ENTRANCE

**IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO CLIMB A FLIGHT OF STAIRS, STREET LEVEL ENTRY IS AVAILABLE
ON OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE BUILDING FROM THE STAIRS. WHEN YOU ENTER PARKING LOT, TURN
LEFT AND GO UP HILL TO OTHER SIDE OF BUILDING.**

A Word From Our President



My last President's message,

I want to apologize for the newsletter being delayed because I had not turned in my last President's message. I had started writing it weeks ago, but then there were some issues with my mom. I have spent the last few weeks watching someone I love slip away and she passed away on Thanksgiving. Family dynamics at these stressful times are pretty crazy and it really makes you think.

This club is really amazing and I am blessed to be a part of such a dynamic group. What I really noticed over the past few weeks is in our family the same people were doing all of the work and the same people were complaining about the work we were doing. Does this sound familiar? There is so much talent out there, but it is still the same people that are heading the committees, making the decisions, doing all the planning. Everyone that holds a position in this club is a volunteer. They donate their time unselfishly. I encourage all of you, old and young, new members and long standing -VOLUNTEER. Be apart of positive change. Don't just sit around and complain, make a difference. To our newer members, some of us older members may seem to be set in our ways, but we are approachable, we love positive change, and you have a voice. I encourage you to use it.

I would like to thank our current board. Thank you Gretchen, Diane, and Artie for your service. You are all amazing people. I am excited to welcome Joyce back as President, super excited about Karen joining the group officially, Jim special events and Kathy as treasurer.

I am excited to free up some time to enjoy our new little granddaughter Charley Faye. Hope to see you all at Desert Creations sometime soon.

Signing out

Kim Chavez

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
Matt Gatskill
LACSS.contact@gmail.com

TREASURER
Gretchen Davis

FALL SALE CHAIR
Kal Kaminer

DIRECTOR 1 (2017-2018) ODD YRS.
Ilona 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
Nancy Neymark

INTER-CITY SHOW CHAIR
John Martinez

CSSA LIAISON
M.A Bjarkman

DRAWING & PLANT PROCUREMENT
Collin O'Callaghan

PUBLICITY
Roxie Esterle

CACTUS GARDEN CHAIR
Chris Rogers

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

PLANT ^{OF} THE MONTH

PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2020

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 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 Open 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.

Plant voted "BEST OF SHOW" receives 4 extra points.

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

Open

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

1. All plants must be in exhibitor's possession for a minimum of 6 months. This does not apply to Rookies.
2. All plants must be free of pests.
3. 3" Miniature refers to inside diameter of the pot.
4. Size on odd shaped pots is determined by adding length plus width and dividing by two.
5. With the exception of Gasterias and Sansevierias; all variegates, crests, and monstrose must appear only in those categories.
6. Plants stands or risers may only be used if the plant cascades below the level of the pot, e.g. Rhipsalis, Hoya, etc.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER RESULTS

SUCCULENT - VARIEGATED

ROOKIE

FIRST	AGAVE LOPHANTHA	ANGELA CLUBB
SECOND	LEDEBOURIA SOCIALIS VARIEGATED	JOSH CERVANTES
THIRD	EUPHORBIA MALLARILEVIA VARIEGATED	FREDDIE ANDERSON

NOVICE

FIRST	EUPHORBIA ASCOT MARTINII	AL MINDEL
SECOND	HAWORTHIA MATICA VARIEGATED	FELIPE DELGADO
THIRD	ADROMISCHUS MARIANIAE HERREI	AL MINDEL

ADVANCED

FIRST	HAWORTHIA LIMNIFOLIA VARIEGATED	SANDY CHASE
SECOND	HAWORTHIA LIMNIFOLIA VARIEGATED	RON BEHAR
THIRD	HAWORTHIA LIMNIFOLIA VARIEGATED	RON BEHAR

OPEN

FIRST	NEOPHYTUM 'GALACTIC WARRIOR'	BRYAN CHAN
SECOND	HAWORTHIA CYMBIFORMIS	BRYAN CHAN
THIRD	LEDEBOURIA SOCIALIS VARIEGATED	JOHN MATTHEWS
THIRD	LEDEBOURIA SOCIALIS VARIEGATED	JOHN MATTHEWS



PLANT OF THE MONTH 2020

JANUARY

Turbincarpus & Gymnocactus
Tylecodon

FEBRUARY

Buiningia & Uebelmannia
Aloe species

MARCH

Eriosyce
Haworthia

APRIL

Obregonia, Strombocactus,
Ortegocactus
Agave

MAY

Small cacti & succulent staged as
miniature

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Aztekium & Geohintonia
Pachypodium from Madagascar
& Plumeria

AUGUST

Sulcorebutia & Weingartia
Fockea

SEPTEMBER

Ferocactus & Leuchtenbergia
Dorstenia & Ficus

OCTOBER

Parodia & Notocactus
Euphorbia Stem Type

NOVEMBER

Crest & Monstrose
Crest & Monstrose

CACTUS - VARIEGATED

ROOKIE

FIRST	ASTROPHYTUM ASTERIAS VARIEGATED	JOHN VAN UNEN
SECOND	GYMNOCALYCIUM MIHANOVICHII VARIEGATED	INGRID HUFFMAN
THIRD	TEPHROCACTUS GEOMETRICUS	FREDDIE ANDERSON

NOVICE

FIRST	FERROCACTUS PENINSULARIS	COLLIN O. & KIMBERLY TONG
SECOND	GYMNOCALYCIUM SP.	COLLIN O. & KIMBERLY TONG
THIRD	OPUNTIA CEPHENILLIFERA	AL MINDEL

ADVANCED

FIRST	ASTROPHYTUM HYBRID VARIEGATED	KATHRYN BOORER
SECOND	ASTROPHYTUM HYBRID VARIEGATED	KATHRYN BOORER
THIRD	GYMNOCALYCIUM MIHANOVICHII VARIEGATED	KATHRYN BOORER

OPEN

FIRST	ECHINOPSIS SP.	KAREN OSTLER
SECOND	ARIOCARPUS FISSURATOS 'SUNRISE'	KAREN OSTLER
THIRD	TRICHOCEREUS BRIDGESII MONSTROSE VARIEGATED	JOHN MATTHEWS



NOVEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH PHOTOS

Photo credit: Collin O'Callaghan & Kimberly Tong



AGAVE LOPHANTHA
ANGELA CLUBB



EUPHORBIA ASCOT MARTINII
AL MINDEL



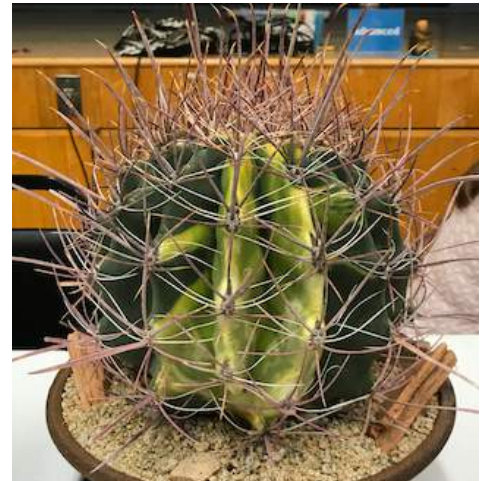
AGAVE LOPHANTHA
ANGELA CLUBB



NEOPHYTUM 'GALACTIC WARRIOR'
BRYAN CHAN



ASTROPHYTUM ASTERIAS VARIEGATED
JOHN VAN UNEN



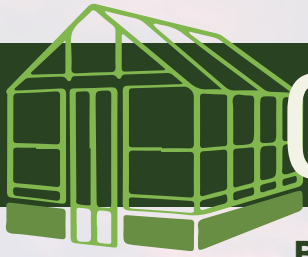
FERROCACTUS PENINSULARIS
COLLIN O. & KIMBERLY TONG



AGAVE LOPHANTHA
KATHRYN BOORERzzzzzzz



ECHINOPSIS SP.
KAREN OSTLER



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

Typically December is cool in the San Fernando Valley and frequently outright cold here in the mountains. But this year is different. As I write this column, in mid November; it is actually warm. And I am at a loss; should I keep the cooler going in the greenhouse, or turn it off? I checked the thermometer this morning at 8AM and it was in the eighties without the cooler going and I expect it to top out in the high nineties. And the weather reports say we can expect a continuation of this warm spell.

So I'm watering...carefully.

Plants that are normally dormant are still actively growing. Some are even in flower. So every morning I check the weather reports; I take a look at NOAA's site that shows long range radar; cross my fingers, hope that they are right and water.

I can only recommend that you do the same. If the weather reports show several days of warm weather, you should water. I know most of our plants; being succulent; won't die if they aren't religiously watered, so don't flood them. Just enough water to keep feeder roots hydrated.

Of course winter growers can and should be watered, they are actively growing. I am even watering Agaves and native Yuccas planted out in the yard because I don't want them to dry out so much that they don't benefit if it rains someday.

Meanwhile I'm bringing in flowering *Faucarias* to enjoy their beautiful bright blooms on the dining room table. I'm monitoring all of my *Gasterias* so that I catch them in flower for hybridizing. I'm waiting for my *Pelargoniums* to fill in and *Othonnas* to look like something other than a dead stick. And the *Bowieas* I split last month are all throwing up new vines.

There is always something growing.

So as you are celebrating the season, if visiting family wonders why you would grow succulents "such spiky plants," walk them around and show off your beauties.

I guarantee they will be surprised and maybe, just maybe, they'll ask for a cutting.

Happy growing!

Karen Ostler

LACSS

2018 HOLIDAY AWARDS DINNER

*Here's a RECAP from our 2018
Holiday Awards Party*

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 Steinhardt, 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



SEE YOU DECEMBER 7TH!



THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-3504

BOTANICAL GARDENS

DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 18 January 2020

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Registration**
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. In order to receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.
- 9:00 – 10:00 Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the lower section of the Desert Garden
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**
- Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden
 - Aloes will be flowering
 - The Desert Conservatory will be closed, but participants will have the opportunity to peek at changes to the top of the garden
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales – (exclusively for CSSA and club members)**
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00.*
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 5:00 **Free Time**
Participants are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries from 10:00 to 5:00

Lunch:

- Café 1919 in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items
- The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a nice option for Asian food
- Red Car (coffee shop), located near the Store, offers a small selection of pre-made options