

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J U N E 2 0 2 1

VOL. 89 ISSUE 6

FASCINATING ASCLEPIADS

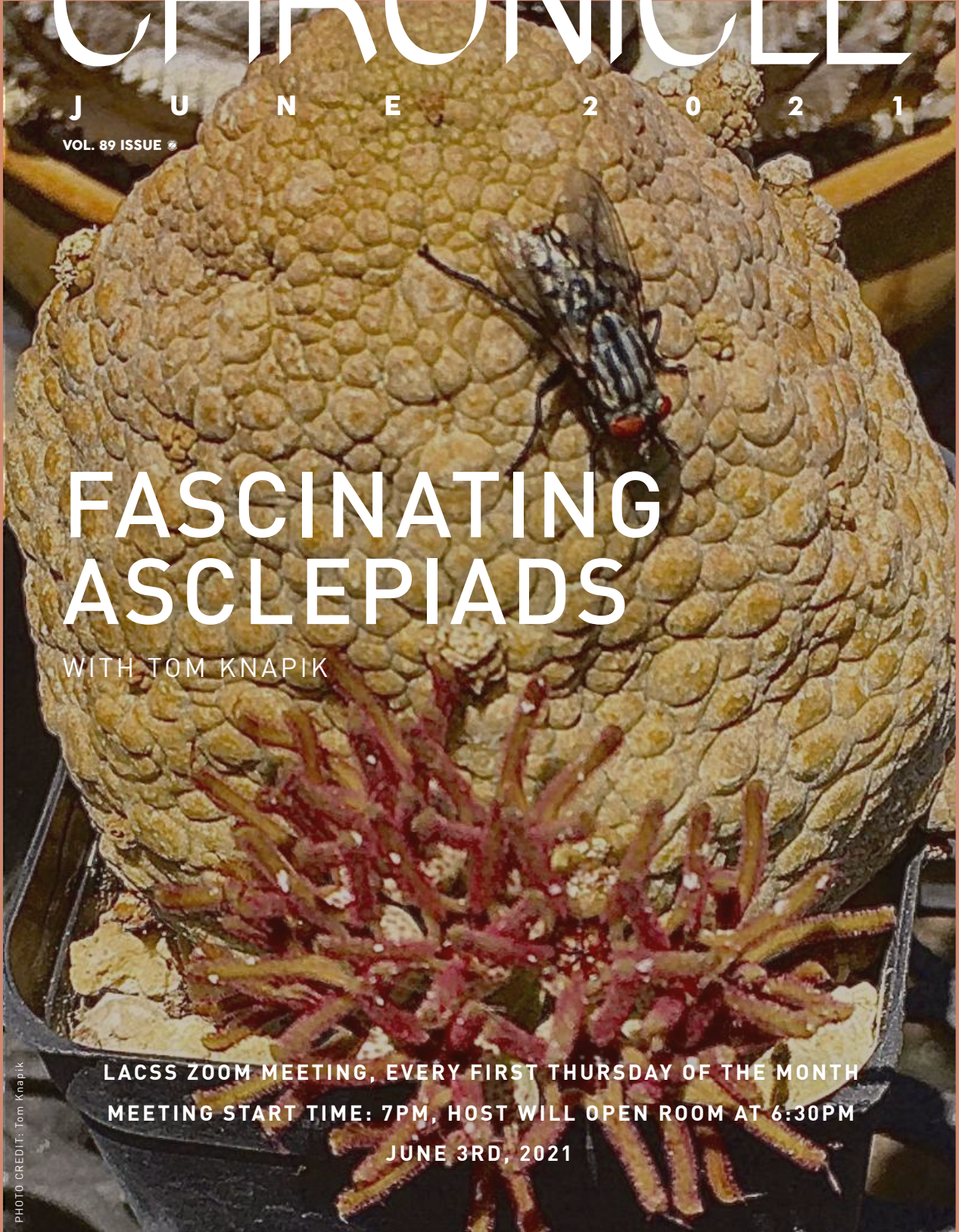
WITH TOM KNAPIK

LACSS ZOOM MEETING, EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, HOST WILL OPEN ROOM AT 6:30PM

JUNE 3RD, 2021

PHOTO CREDIT: Tom Knapik



B O A R D OF DIRECTORS

2 0 2 1

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.

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LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

JUNE SALE

2 0 2 1

**CACTI & SUCCULENTS
COLLECTOR PLANTS
HAND MADE CERAMICS**

**ENCINO FARMERS' MARKET
17400 VICTORY BLVD, VAN NUYS**

Enter the east parking lot through the east gate

JUNE 11th	FRIDAY TWILIGHT SALE	5:00pm-7:30pm
JUNE 12th	\$10 ENTRANCE FEE	9:00am-2:00pm
	FREE ADMISSION	

NO MASK, NO ENTRY.

LACSS JUNE SALE 2021 will be following all CDC & local health guidelines.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

FRIDAY, JUNE 11 + SATURDAY, JUNE 12, 2021

Our **JUNE SALE** is rapidly approaching. You do not want to miss out on the excitement and positive vibe that this event generates. We need members to fill every volunteer position including the highly sought after position of “box maker.”

Friday evening shift will begin at 4:30 PM till 7:30 PM. We need a few volunteers who are willing to come in at 3 PM to help with set up and parking control. For Saturday, shifts will begin at 8:30 AM with our last shift starting at 1 PM. Each shift will be for 2 hours. Of course, if you are having such a fun time, you may extend your shift longer.

FIRST TIME VOLUNTEERS WILL RECEIVE THE FAMOUS LACSS VOLUNTEER T-SHIRT.

EVERY VOLUNTEER WILL RECEIVE A \$15 VOUCHER TO BE REDEEMED AT ANY VENDOR AT OUR JUNE SALE.

Email me as soon as possible {ropojo@pacbell.net} to secure your place in the LACSS June Sale.

Thanks in advance for your help in making this sale a success.

See you soon...

Joyce

EDITOR'S NOTE

Hi everyone!

The weather is finally warming up, I bet there's a lot happening in your greenhouses and gardens. Don't forget to share your photos with us at:
newsletter@lacactus.com

Next month's Plant of the Month is

DISCOCACTUS + DYCKIA

I hope you are all safe and well.

See you at the June Sale!

- Kimberly

IN THIS ISSUE

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

MONTHLY PROGRAM:
TOM KNAPIK

PLANT OF THE MONTH

LACSS MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

THE GLORIA PROJECT

CSSA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

CLUB MEMBER SEEKING MATE!

ASK AN EXPERT

CSS VENDORS

FROM THE

M E S S A G E PRESIDENT

HI EVERYONE!

April showers brought May flowers and now June brings us the June Sale. Several announcements have gone out requesting volunteers. Remember the incentives that will be missed if you do not sign up. I have heard there will be a few more vendors than were at the Spring Sale and lots of new stuff that we just can't do without. So the excitement is building and I know you want to join in. If you can't volunteer, please stop by and say "Hi" to everyone. All regulations regarding social distancing, etc. will be in effect as usual.

We are still waiting for the various health, county and city agencies to open up group gathering venues so we can return to our in-person meetings. June 15 seems to be a magic number but I am guessing the end of the year will be more realistic for our large group gathering. But our ZOOM meetings will continue in our usual unflappable manner, bringing world famous speakers, topics of interest to everyone and a challenge to everyone to stay safe and in touch with each other. The pandemic isn't over yet.

One of the moments I will miss when we go off Zoom is the unstaged, spontaneous moments when member's pets start hogging the limelight! Too cute

I have always heard (and try to practice) that there are two topics which are not acceptable in polite conversation. That would be politics and religion. Now cactus and succulent enthusiasts add a third topic – conservation. Lately, there have been numerous rumblings about conservation throughout various conversations. The Friday, May 21, 2021, Los Angeles Daily News paper included an article on this issue pointing out the damage that illegal collecting has caused to endangered species of plants and animals. I do not want to start an argument- but a polite conversation. We all need to be aware that regarding our most valued plants, almost all are endangered. As a world we need to be proactive in protecting that which cannot protect itself.

We usually check social media for the latest information regarding LACSS. Don't forget that our website (lacactus.com) is an always available source to current and past information. Want to know what the POM was on July, 2000? Check the website. Do we have any books written by Steven Hammer? Check the website. Books about Agaves? Check the website. I think I've made my point... Also, the home page of our website has been redesigned. I think you will be pleased with the tie-in to our Chronicle!

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay positive and see you soon.
Joyce

B R I E F B I O G R A P H Y O F T O M K N A P I K



I was born and raised in Northern New York. I moved to California in 1976 where I attended U. of San Diego for 2 years. I transferred to Humboldt State University where I graduated in 1981 with a degree in Biology and Zoology. While visiting a college friend in 1982, I saw a small succulent collection that changed the trajectory of my life.

I moved back to San Diego in 1984 where I started my teaching career and worked part time at

David Grigsby's cactus nursery. I became a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society and eventually became more involved as program chair, board member, president, and newsletter editor. I was the annual show chair for 12 years.

My interest in succulent plants has taken me to countries all around the world. I've photographed succulent collections in England, Italy, Czech Republic, Austria, Thailand, Philippines, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. I've have photographed succulents in habitats from Mexico, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Venezuela, and the U.S. I also met my wife Carol through the hobby, showing how much these plants have shaped and added to my life.

The title of my presentation is, Fascinating Asclepiads. It will cover three topics which include a review of the genus Pseudolithos, Asclepiads flower anatomy and the evolution of pentamery, and finally Monarch butterflies relationship with Asclepiads.



PLANT ^{Of the} MONTH

2 0 2 1

JANUARY

Columnar cactus
Sedum & Sempervivum

FEBRUARY

Mammillaria straight spines
Pelargonium

MARCH

Copiapoa
Bulb

APRIL

Echinocereus
Conophytum

MAY

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

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Echinofossulocactus
(aka Stenocactus)
Adenium

AUGUST

Echinopsis
Euphorbia with caudex

SEPTEMBER

Ariocarpus
Cyphostemma & Cissus

OCTOBER

Grafted
Grafted

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

POM Online Policies

AS LACSS CONTINUES ITS ONLINE MEETING FORMAT FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, SOME SLIGHT MODIFICATIONS IN THE PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH (POM) COMPETITION HAVE BEEN ADOPTED BEGINNING FEBRUARY, 2021. WE HOPE THESE CHANGES WILL MOTIVATE MORE MEMBERS TO COMPETE IN THIS LONG-STANDING EDUCATIONAL TRADITION. BESIDES, IT'S REALLY FUN TO GET YOUR PLANTS READY FOR THEIR CLOSE-UPS.

- SUBMISSIONS WILL BE LIMITED TO A MAXIMUM OF 2 CACTUS AND 2 SUCCULENT SUBMISSIONS PER PERSON.
- WINNING POINTS WILL BE RECORDED AND ACCUMULATED FOR PRIZES AWARDED AT OUR YEAR-END HOLIDAY PARTY IN 2021.
- COMPETITION DIVISIONS (ROOKIE, NOVICE, ADVANCED, AND OPEN) WILL BE JUDGED TOGETHER, AS THERE AREN'T ENOUGH PLANTS FOR A COMPETITION IN EACH DIVISION.
- ONE POINT WILL BE AWARDED FOR EACH ENTRY, AND WINNERS IN THE CACTUS AND THE SUCCULENT AREAS WILL BE AWARDED 3 POINTS FOR 3 RD PLACE, 4 POINTS FOR 2ND PLACE, AND 5 POINTS FOR 1ST PLACE.
- PHOTOS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO OUR CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR : NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM BY THE 20TH OF THE MONTH PRECEDING THE COMPETITION IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE JUDGING.
- MANNY RIVERA WILL SELECT THE WINNING CACTUS AND SUCCULENT BASED ON THE PHOTOS, TO BE ANNOUNCED DURING THE MEETING.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS ACTIVITY!

M A Y PLANT Of the MONTH

W I N N E R S

C A C T U S



FIRST
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN

ASTROPHYTUM MYRIOSTIGMA



SECOND
RON COOPER

MAMILLARIA SP.



SECOND
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING

PUNA CLAVARIOIDES



SECOND
JIM + ROXIE ESTERLE

CINTIA KINZEI



THIRD
DAVID VALERA

AZTEKIUM RITTERI



THIRD
JOHN VAN UNEN

COPIAPOA DEALBATA



FIRST
JIM + ROXIE ESTERLE

CRASSULA PICTURATA



SECOND
JOHN VAN UNEN

CARALUMA SOCOTRANA

S U C C U L E N T



SECOND
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING

DORSTENIA HYBRID



THIRD
GRETCHEN DAVIS

CRASSULA MESEMBRYANTHEMOPSIS



THIRD
KENT + BARBARA BUTTERWORTH

SEDEVERIA HYBRID

PLANT Of the MONTH

J U N E



ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE

COPIAPOA HUMILIS TENUISSIMA

**EMILY AKERS +
JOHN GIESING**

ASTROPHYTUM ASTERIAS (STAR FORM)



JOHN VAN UNEN

EPITHELANTHA MICROMERIS



**BRYAN + MARY
CHAN**

COPIAPOA GRISEOVIOLACE



PLANT Of the MONTH

J U N E



J O H N V A N U N E N

SARCOCAULON VANDERIETIAE

**B R Y A N + M A R Y
C H A N**

HECTIA LANATA



**E M I L Y A K E R S +
J O H N G I E S I N G**

EUPHORBIA PISCIDERMIS



G R E T C H E N D A V I S

DYCKIA MARNIER LAPESTOLLE





PLANT of the MONTH

2 0 2 2

JANUARY

Frailea
Adromischus

FEBRUARY

Monotypic
Senecio, Othonna

MARCH

Mammillaria Clusters
Aloe Clusters

APRIL

Ecobaria, Acharagma
Aizoaceae Thickened Roots

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 2")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Discocactus
Dyckia

AUGUST

Thelocactus-Hamatocactus
Bursera

SEPTEMBER

Gymnocalycium
Euphorbia Millii type

OCTOBER

Astrophytum
Sanseveria

NOVEMBER

Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



M.A. BJARKMAN

I N M Y Y A R D

M.A. grew up on the east coast and attended Mary Washington College at the University of Virginia, majoring in Spanish. She spent her 3rd year in Madrid, Spain, and after that one year each in Ecuador and Columbia as a bilingual English teacher.

She became an event planner in 1990 and met her future husband, Murry, at one of her functions. He was 23 years older and they were married for 8 wonderful years before his passing at 95 years of age.

Her husband's friends introduced her to succulents and around that time she went to the L.A. Arboretum where they had a succulent garden that looked like an underwater scene and she fell in love with them. In 2020 she filled in a 30 year old empty pool that was in her side yard and put in her own succulent garden.

After joining the Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society, she went on to join four other clubs in the area. She is currently the Vice President of South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and is serving a 2nd term on the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Board of Directors.



She grows more succulents than cacti, without a greenhouse or shade area, as she resides in the Marina del Rey area and it rarely reaches over 90* there.





Half of what she grows is in pots and the other half is in the ground. She waters about once a week, depending on the temperature and fogs.

What she loves most about the club is the people and learning new things about growing her plants. She can't wait to get back to in-person meetings.

M.A.'s favorite plants are Echeverias and Aeoniums and she thinks members, from all of the clubs, feel like her family.

Sandy Chase
Education Director



THE GLORIA PROJECT

June 19, 2021 8:00 to 1:00
16569 Bosque Drive, Encino



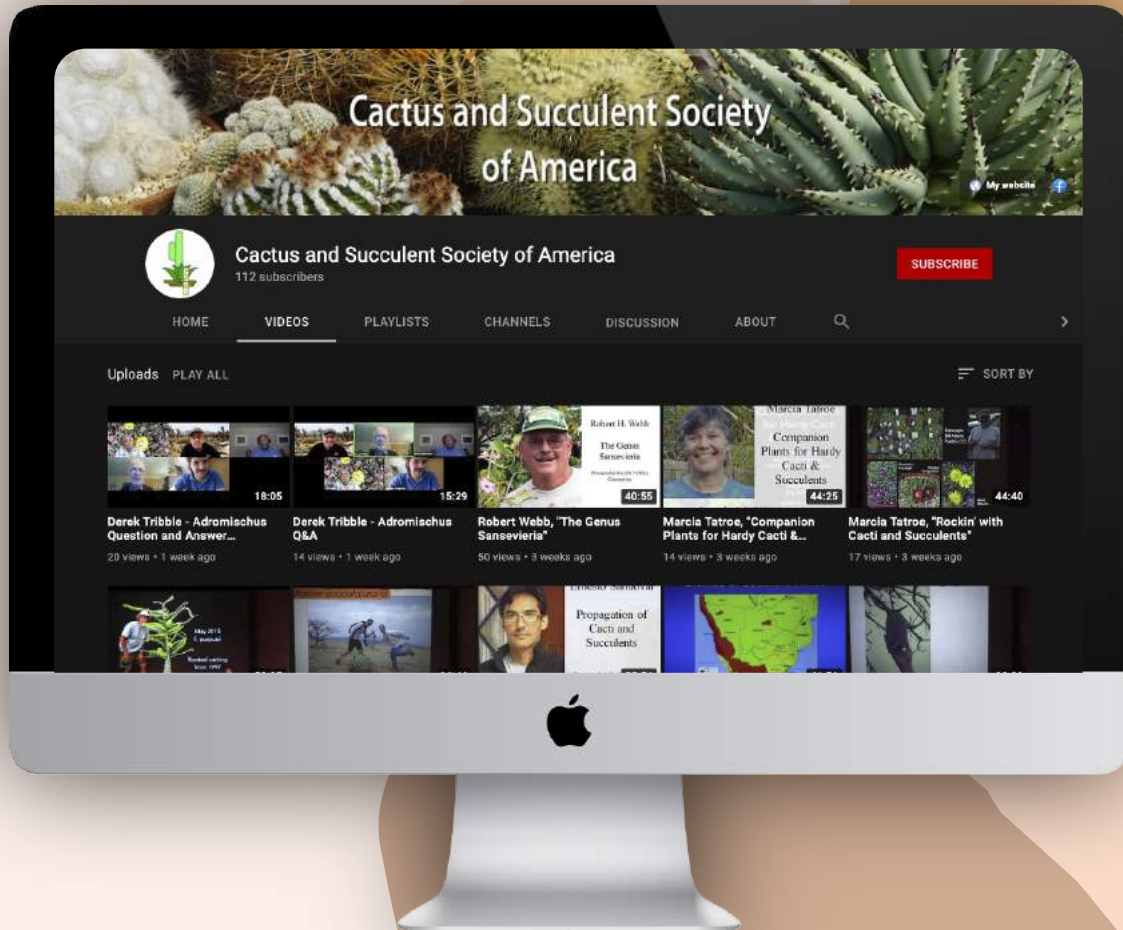
Our LACSS service project is fast approaching. We have a great opportunity to help a senior member of our community and reunite club members in person at the same time. We are looking for 10 to 15 volunteers to groom, remove pups, organize, and give some TLC to the lovely cactus and succulent garden of her late husband. To show her appreciation, Gloria has offered to provide food, beverages, a refreshing dip in her pool, and a donation to our club. This promises to be a fun and rewarding event for LACSS members.

Volunteers need wear gloves and bring:

- + **Clippers**
- + **Loppers**
- + **Weeders**
- + **Trowels**
- + **Your favorite hand tools**

To sign up to join us, please contact Roxie Esterle by phone (818)907-1903 or email: Roxie.esterle@gmail.com. I will be happy to answer any of your questions!

D I D Y O U K N O W A B O U T T H E



Cactus and Succulent Society of America

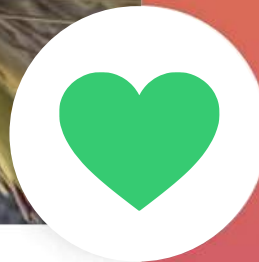
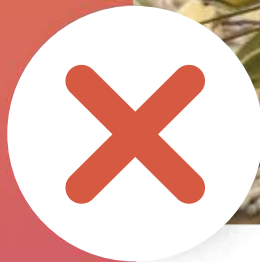
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

visit now >

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwCha5bMRsYjpeF-NljrCqA>

CLUB MEMBER IS SEEKING A MATE

(for his *pachypodium namaquanum*)



Pachypodium namaquanum,

📍 2 miles away

SHARE PACHYPODIUM'S PROFILE

If you have a suitable candidate, please contact Rio and Caroline Cernik at 818-225-9518 at your earliest convenience to make arrangements to introduce the plants.

Long-time LACSS member Rio Cernik is hoping to cross-pollinate his treasured *Pachypodium namaquanum*, which is about to flower this year for the first time. He is looking for a club member who has a budding *P. namaquanum*, anticipating a bloom in the middle of May.

ASK THE EXPERT

P L A N T I D , P R O B L E M P L A N T S



EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING:

I'm looking for ID help with these 2.
It's 2 forms of the same plant.



LACSS MEMBER EXPERT,
MANNY RIVERA:

"Hi Emily,

It's a Mammillaria
longimamma montrosa

MANNY RIVERA."

MEMBER BLURBS

THANK GOD IT'S FRIDAY

I would like to share with my friends and companions in LACSS the fact that on Friday May 14th of this year, having survived "The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" I am becoming 83. I say becoming because it is a process, an unending race, staying one step ahead of the devils of debt, disease, and disaster both natural and unnatural. If asked to sum up what I have learned it must be "Thank god it's Friday"

- Ralph Massey



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