



CACTUS CHRONICLE

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.

CSSA Affiliate

Next Meeting
Thursday

February 4, 2016

16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356

Doors Open
at 6:15 pm

Meeting begins
at 7:00pm

Refreshments for
February
"T-Z"

New Members

Chris Lopez
Silvana Soderstrom
Miza Moura
Don Soderstrom
Kandie Soderstrom
Miyoko Stevens
Gwynne Thomas

Phyllis Frieze, Editor
Frieze.phyllis@
Yahoo.com

Email:
Lacactus.com

February Program: Succulent Propagation By Ernesto Sandoval

For a long time Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way they do. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the state and elsewhere, since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do. This evening he will enlighten us on "Succulent Propagation."

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been finding the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 23 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication!



By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

2016 Officers

President

Joyce Schumann

1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

Diane Miller

Secretary

Cheryl White

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gretchen Davis

Director 1 Odd Years

Membership

Danielle Duboff

Director 2, Even Years

Ron Behar

Past President

Roxie Esterle

LACSS Show Chair

Jim Esterle

Show Committee

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

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Susan Phillips

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Cactus Chronicle Editor

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Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze

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Drawing & Plant Procurement

Richard Roosman

Mentor Program Chair

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Cactus Garden Chair

Chris Rogers

Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairperson

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Awards

Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

February, 2016

There are several Frequently Asked Questions that collectively relate to the summer/winter growing cycle of our plants. One of the assumptions of this discussion is that we are discussing **succulents**. Our highly qualified expert on this matter confirms this to be true. To his knowledge there are NO winter growing cacti. Some cacti can survive the snow and freezing weather as documented in a series of articles in the last several CSSA Journals but they definitely are not **growing** in the cold, cold weather. Or warm, cold weather such as we have here. That confirms the question then – which **succulents** are winter growers and which are summer growers? By way of a handout from the San Gabriel C&SS we have a list of winter/summer growers. It will be available as a handout at the meeting. This list will help to determine the timing of the cultivation needs of your plants.

To protect some of my more tropical plants, I installed a string of LED Xmas lights. I guess everyone knows that they do not produce much heat. Now I know, so I replaced them with the standard big bulbs. I wouldn't call the space toasty, but there is a difference. At least the plants are not frost bitten.

If anyone has any other tips regarding protecting your plants from our coldest of weather, feel free to share them at the meeting.

A new member has found an app to help him identify his plants. It is free and is called "*likethatgarden*". Download the app, take a photo of a plant and the app will search for a match. Give it a try and let us know your results.

Several months ago we handed out a "LACSS Meeting Location Survey." If you have had a chance to visit a possible location, please return the survey to us so we can start inputting the data. The data will give us a head start in case we need to move to a larger meeting area.

Calling all Rookies and Novices. At the end of 2015 several regular POM participants graduated to the next level in the Plant of the Month competition. Now is the time for those of you who have not entered a plant to start. They don't need to be elaborately staged. Just clean them up a bit so the plant displays well. If you don't enter, you can't win. If you attended the Holiday Dinner, you saw the nice rewards for everyone who participated.

The club has several upcoming extra events scheduled. In addition to the Field Trip in February and an extra Speaker in March, we are planning a special "Social Hour" for the third Saturday of February. This will provide a chance to informally share our ideas and questions regarding our plants. Details to follow.

See you soon.
Joyce



❧ LACSS Garden Tour ❧
February 13, 2016

Please join us on Saturday, February 13, 2016 for the first LACSS Garden Tour set of the year. This tour takes us to the Culver City area where we will experience two distinct and exquisite gardens.

Both properties were dramatically transformed using cactus and succulents.
There is something for everyone to enjoy!

Date: Saturday, February 13, 2016

Name: Bonnie Ikemura's Home

Time: 10:00- 12:00

Address: to be provided to club members via email

Name: M.A. Bjarkman's Home

Time: 12:30-2:30

Address: to be provided to club members via email

Light refreshments will be available.

❧ Come. Be inspired! ❧

For more information, please contact Diane Miller at 818-882-1856 or by email at dianemiller@socal.rr.com. Please include "LACSS" in the subject line.

This garden tour would not have been possible without the assistance of Gretchen Davis.
Thank you, Gretchen!

A very special thank you to Bonnie and M.A. for sharing their beautiful creations with us!

❧ LACSS Garden Tour ❧

February 13, 2016



M.A. Bjarkman's garden transformation was featured in the *CSSA Journal* this past August. You will be delighted to see this lush, succulent garden in person! And don't overlook the numerous container gardens!

Bonnie Ikemura's majestic front garden features cactus and aloes. This garden was designed and planted by Bonnie 7 years ago. Come see how it's grown!



Bonnie's back garden features a variety of cacti and succulents, a creative walkway...and a special friend.



**Plant of the Month
2016**

February

Gymnocalycium
Clusters
Aeonium

March

Echinocereus
Conophytum

April

Parodia, Notocactus
Haworthia

May

Small cactus staged as
a miniature
Small succulent staged
as a miniature

June

Favorite

July

Rebutia, Sulcorebutia
Weingartia
Euphorbia
Non-endemic to
Madagascar

August

Astrophytum
Adenium

September

Turbinicarpus
Gymnocactus
Cyphostema
Cissus

October

Mammillaria with hooks
Asclepiad

November

Variiegated

December

Holiday Party

**Plant of the Month
2017**

January

Copiapoa
Tylecodon

February

Escobaria
Acharragma
Aloe Clusters

January Plant of the Month

Cactus -- Blossfeldia, Frailea

Rookie

First	Kim Greenblatt	Frailea pygmaea
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Advanced

First	Barbara Hall	Frailea gracillima ssp. horstii
Second	Barbara Hall	Frailea schilinzkyana
Third	Barbara Hall	Frailea cataphracta

Open

First	John Matthews	Blossfeldia liliputana
Second	John Matthews	Frailea schilinzkyana

Succulent -- Yavia, Bulbs

Rookie

First	Lisa Gailey	Ledebouria socialis
Second	Lisa Gailey	Ledebouria cooperi
Third	Kim Greenblatt	Albuca osmynella

Advanced

First	Sylvia Strehlo	Ledebouria socialis
First	Kathryn Boorer	Ledebouria concolor
Second	Sylvia Strehlo	Ledebouria coriacea
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Urginea delagoensis
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Ledebouria socialis

Open

First	John Matthews	Albuca bruce-bayeri
Second	Manny Rivera	Lachenalia comptonii
Third	Manny Rivera	Lachenalia violacea v. glauca

Cactus of the Month: *Gymnocalycium* clusters



Gymnocalycium horstii

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. Probably every cactus collector in the world has at least one in their collection. With over 70 species and hundreds of varieties, cultivars, and hybrids there is something for everyone!

There are several reasons for the popularity of the genus. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year. Among novice growers, the most popular *Gymnocalycium* is undoubtedly the grafted cultivars of *G. mihanovichii* that lack chlorophyll (the green pigment in plants that lets them photosynthesize). These cultivars come in bright yellows, reds, oranges, and even pink. These plants certainly are stunning, but you almost never see a mature plant because they are quite difficult to grow and, quite frankly, many serious collectors see it as something of a freak of nature and not a desirable addition to a collection.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. It is so named for the spineless flower buds in all species (*Gymnocalycium* translates to "Naked calyx"). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles. All *Gymnocalycium* are from South America, with the center of distribution in Argentina. The genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina.

As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.



Gymnocalycium bruchii

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months. *Gymnocalycium* are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.



Gymnocalycium friedrichii

This month's show plants are clustered *Gymnocalycium*, meaning single plants with multiple heads. There is no real biological difference between these and the single. It is simply an aesthetic choice on how you grow your plant. That being said, some *Gymnocalycium* species can go years without producing offsets while others form pups at the drop of a hat.

Succulent of the Month: Aeonium (including Greenovia)

Nearly every cactus & succulent enthusiast in California has an *Aeonium* in their collection, but very few people realize how diverse and interesting the genus really is. The reason for this is that only a few species and handful of cultivars are regularly seen in cultivation. This is particularly unfortunate since most species make great landscape plants and virtually every species can be found for sale with just a little effort.

Aeonium belongs to the family Crassulaceae, one of the largest succulent plant families. All the species (with one exception) have the traditional rosette shape seen in most of the family. It is closely related to *Crassula*, *Kalanchoe*, *Cotyledon*, *Tylecodon*, *Sedum*, *Echeveria*, and *Dudleya*. The main distinguishing feature of *Aeonium* compared to other rosette forming genera is that most *Aeonium* have woody stems. There are Crassulaceae with woody stems that aren't *Aeonium*, and *Aeonium* without woody stems, but generally the character works. Most *Aeonium* species are monocarpic, meaning that when a rosette flowers it dies, much like *Agave* and most Bromeliads. In a multibranching species like *A. arboreum* that's no big deal since only a small number of branches flower in a given year. It is a big deal in the unbranched species like *A. nobile* or *A. tabuliforme* as flowering means the entire plant will soon die. However, thousands of dust-like seeds are usually produced, so you can grow your own replacements.



Aeonium sedifolium



Aeonium tabuliforme

The vast majority of *Aeonium* species come from the Canary Islands, a group of islands off the coast of Morocco that belong to Spain. These islands have a Mediterranean climate very similar to that of coastal Southern California. This means the plants are adapted to a climate with cool wet winters and warm dry summers. This makes *Aeonium* one of the best choices for a succulent landscape as the plants can survive and even thrive purely on natural rainfall alone. Of course some supplementary water in the summer is appreciated by the plants. Frost is extremely rare in the Canary Islands (except on the mountains) so they may take damage if we get a frost in our area, but if the frost is light they should recover.

The most commonly cultivated species is *A. arboreum*, a shrubby species with long stems. The wild form of the species is green, but most people know it from the purple to black cultivars such as 'Zwartkopf' or 'Cyclops'. *Aeonium canariense* is also extremely common. If you see a clumping plant with large rosettes that stays low to the ground then it is very likely this species. The other species very commonly encountered is *A. haworthii* a very densely shrubby species with small rosettes and very thin stems.

The species above are the big three that everyone thinks of when *Aeonium* is mentioned. Nice as they are, my favorite ones are the species you might not realize are in the genus. *Aeonium nobile* is a single rosette, stemless species with rosettes 2-3' across and leaves as thick or thicker than an *Echeveria*!. *Aeonium urbicum* has gray-green leaves and can reach 6' high or more on an unbranched stem. *Aeonium sedifolium* is the smallest species with fat, oval shaped leaves with red stripes. *Aeonium smithii* is an oddball in having leaves and stems covered in wavy hairs. No discussion of *Aeonium* is complete without mentioning the show stopping *A. tabuliforme*. This is a stemless, unbranched species with an almost perfectly flat rosette with hundreds of leaves that can reach 2' in diameter. It has a reputation for being hard to grow, but the only difficulty is that it is somewhat picky about having a summer dormancy period and is prone to rot if you insist on watering it in hot weather.



Greenovia aurea

You may have noticed that I mentioned *Greenovia* in the title. This is a small genus of just 2-4 species, also from the Canary Islands. It is very similar to *Aeonium* and has been considered part of the genus by some, though most botanists consider them distinct. The species look like a stemless *Aeonium* with blue green leaves. The most unusual feature of the genus, one that makes them instantly recognizable during the summer, is that leaves fold together into an egg or tulip shape when dormant. Care is similar to *Aeonium*, but make sure to keep them dry during the summer as they can rot if in their dormant period.

-Kyle Williams

The Loss of Lifetime Member Victor Turecek

by Nils Schirmacher

Schoolteacher and Argentine immigrant, Victor Turecek passed away in January. Mr. Turecek joined the LACSS in April 1967, serving as Program Chair, then Club President from 1973-75, and CSSA Board Member for 1974-85.

Victor traveled extensively, botanizing for much of his time abroad. In addition to annual returns to Argentina, he traveled to Mexico, Ceylon, Turkey, and the Aegean Islands. Past Chronicles make frequent mention of postcards received from he and his wife, Ellen. At the meeting of August 1970, the couple awarded Victor's mother a medal for taking care of their plants while they were away. Mr. Turecek's trips were often shared with the club as slide programs.

A significant result of his time in the field was the discovery of an Argentine cactus named in his honor: *Parodia turecekiana*. Like fellow plant-hunters Ed and Betty Gay, Victor represented a generation of LACSS members whose foreign pursuits made an impact on science, and inspired the explorations of younger members.

"What Did I Miss?" OR "I Didn't Hear That!" January, 2016

The first meeting of the year was well attended in spite of possible rain.

The good news is, the few food containers that were left behind at the Holiday Dinner were returned to their grateful owners.

Plant of the Month was very informative as most of us do not collect these plants and this was our first exposure to some very intriguing ones.

Announcements included the upcoming meetings of the Festival committee and the Board of Directors.

Our first "Frequently Asked Question" focused on what plants to use and how to design our drought tolerant yards. This led right into the announcement of the first Mentoring Session of 2016. Bryan Chan has offered to share his insights and expertise in redesigning his front yard using his own plants.

LACSS Membership Update

Renewals, Renewals..read all about it!

Thank you all for renewing your 2016 LACSS Membership. We have had such a big response, I cannot thank you enough!

I am working on entering all this information and realize it could be done much easier if I had some assistance. Is there anyone who would like to help me put together and finish this task? In order for the roster to be ready for our March meeting it has to be printed by the end of February. I am looking for someone with good data entry skills and an eye for accuracy and detail. We will proof our work and organize the 2016 Roster.

Contact me if you are interested at: danielle.duboff@yahoo.com

See you all soon, Danielle Duboff, 2016 LACSS Membership Chair

MENTORING SESSION: Bryan and Mary Chan's Home

By: Ron Behar



Club members enjoying the first mentoring session in 2016

On Saturday, January 23, 2016, our membership was invited to tour the home of Bryan and Mary Chan in Granada Hills. The turnout was impressive. I estimate that about 40+ members attended.

Our hosts, opened their home to our members and we were able to view both their front, and back yards. In addition to the tour, Bryan and Mary provided a wonderful hospitality table including assorted pastries and coffee.



Bryan explaining his creative garden



Joyce in a forest of bromeliads

It is fairly well known that Bryan is very knowledgeable with regard to cacti and succulents. Upon viewing his and Mary's efforts, with their property, it became abundantly clear, Bryan, has spent many years working on his landscaping and demonstrated a wealth of creativity and staging applications in how he has laid out their front yard. The way the cacti and succulents are positioned, in coordination with a multitude of different types, colors, shapes of rocks struck me as a form of "living art." Bryan, also pointed out how he had attempted to include specific types of pattern designs in the gravel-mix walkways.

In addition, Mary created a bear sculpture of chicken wire and plants.

Their back yard, is a giant work shop, in progress. The variety, and magnitude, is striking the moment you pass through their gate. Even more impressive is how neatly organized each species of plant is arranged. I am too much of a "newbie" to be able to name the different cacti and succulents, but here is a sampling, and with any luck... I am close to correct: Bromeliads, aloes, hybrid aloes, air plants, bottle palm, lithops, assorted cacti, echeveria. Bryan and Mary also grow many of their own vegetables.

In closing, this home tour was a wonderful way to kick off 2016, and I urge all to make it a point to participate in future home tours. There is a wealth of knowledge and creativity to be viewed.

****I'm a Novice****
By Kathleen Misko



Manny Rivera, Kathleen Misko, Cheryl
White

Yep, finally happened. I qualified for the step up to novice status. When I first joined the club, it was never even a thought to enter the novice category. I watched the plants and looked at mine and thought, I'm learning because I recognize some of the names, but did not feel confident to venture out. Then the class variegated came up. Hey, I have that and it's in a Mark Marudian pot. Woo Hoo. Gonna enter. Shined up everything and brought it to the meeting, put it on the table, filled out my tag. Artie walked up and I said, "look I've finally entered a plant." Well, guess what? My plant was a Variegata, not variegated. That is where I made my mistake. My, my, lessons learned. So I did not enter anything for a while. Then I put on my big girl panties and brought plants in both categories, succulent and cactus. And won. There it is. Like the power ball. Can't win if you don't play.

So, please join in the fun. It really is ok.

Speaking of plants. We had our first Festival meeting and went over all the many areas that make up this successful event. A fundraiser for the Club is the member plant sale table. Those plants fly off the table because of the value for the price. In thinking about how to contribute, I set 10 plants aside that I think would be ready in June. Then I thought, if each member set aside 2 plants, maybe 1 succulent and 1 cactus now and nurture it for the June Festival, we would have a rousing bunch of plants for sale.

Something you would want to buy.

Anyone? Anyone? Show me at the February meeting.

Novice Misko

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar of Upcoming Events For 2016

- February 13** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Spring Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **INFO 858-382-1797**
- March 18-19** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society—Spring Show and Sale **INFO 562-587-3357**
1000 S. State College Boulevard (Anaheim United Methodist Church)
Thursday, 17th-6-8pm, Friday, 18th-9am-7pm, Saturday 19th, 9am-5pm
- April 9-10** South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society—Show and Sale
South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard I
NFO 310-578-1953 <http://www.southcoastcss.org>
- April 24** Huntington Plant Sale 10am-4:30pm **INFO 626-405-3504**
Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
- April 30-May 1** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale **INFO 310-822-1783**
Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Avenue, Culver City
- May 1** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens **INFO 310-833-6823**
- May 13-14** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 34th Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive Glen Avon **INFO 951-360-8802**
- May 21-22** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10am-5 pm www.lbcss.org
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach **INFO 310-922-6090**
- May 28-29** Central South Coast Cactus & Succulent Sale & Show 10am-4pm
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo
INFO 805-237-2054 www.centralcoastcactus.org
- June 4-5** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **INFO 858-382-1797**
- June 4-5** Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society- Summer Show Sale
- June 11-12** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Plant Show & Sale**
Saturday, 11th 9am-5pm, Sunday, 12th 9am-3:30pm
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino **INFO** www.lacss-show.org
- July 1-3** CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens 1151 Oxford Road
Sales Start July 1-July 3 Show Opens on July 2nd **INFO 626-405-2160**
- July 22-23** Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale **INFO 949-212-8417**
Thursday, July 21 6pm-8pm, Friday, July 22 9am-7pm, Saturday July 23 9am-5pm,
- 1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim
- August 13-14** 31st Annual Intercity Show & Sale LA County Arboretum, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave **INFO Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 or Artie Chavez 818-482-8795**
- September 3** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
INFO 626-405-3504
- September 10** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12pm-5pm
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **INFO 310 922-6090**
- October 8-9** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale **INFO 661-831-8488**
Mall View Road, Bakersfield, Saturday 10/8 10am-5pm, Sunday 10/9 11am-4pm
- October 22-23** Palomar Show & Sale at San Diego Botanic Gardens **INFO** hciservices@gmail.com



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February Program: Succulent Propagation
By Ernesto Sandoval

February Event

February 13 San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society – Spring Show and Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **INFO 858-382-1797**