

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

January
2012

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at w.lacss.com

For more information

Contact:

www.LACSS@gmail.com



Next Meeting: January 5, 2012



Editor: Phyllis Frieze

Contact:

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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

Buck Hemenway Trip to Namibia

Buck Hemenway and his wife Yvonne, are enthusiastic growers of succulent plants. Their one time hobby has turned into the Prickly Palace nursery, which supplies cacti and succulents to the retail nursery trade. He is President of the San Gabriel C&SS and serves on the Boards of Directors of the Gates Cactus & Succulent Society, CSSA, Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center and is Show Chair for the CSSA Show at the Huntington Library.

Buck and Yvonne have traveled to Southern Africa on three separate occasions, most recently visiting southwest Namibia as well as the Karoos.

Join them for a look at "Places You've Never Heard of, Plants You've Never Seen and Other Information of Interest."



Special Huntington Event on January 14th
Desert Forum – Special Tours of the Gardens
Opportunity to purchase plants at the Desert Nursery
Free to CSSA & Affiliate Club Members
BRING YOUR CLUB BADGE or HAVE PROOF OF MEMBERSHIP
See Page 4 for More Details

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

January, 2012

I am honored to have been elected your new president and look forward to serving. I, like many of you, joined LACSS to learn more about cacti and succulents, and have been enriched by outstanding presentations and workshops. What I cannot provide in technical expertise, I will make up for in enthusiasm.

Artie Chavez, outgoing president, offered members essential plant information each month: tips about watering, pests, and other garden tasks. Thank you, Artie, for your promise to continue to provide this much appreciated information.

On December 2, we enjoyed a fantastic holiday party. Mark your calendar now for next year's party, scheduled for Saturday, December 1, 2012. The delicious potluck dinner was made in the kitchens of our members, supplemented by turkey, ham, and tri-tip (and warm bread pudding). The auction of plants donated by members raised nearly \$1000 with some intense bidding. Proceeds go to our treasury to offset programming and rental expenses. An enormous thank you to Barbara Hall and Kim Thorpe who coordinated the event, as well as to all of the other volunteers. I am continually overwhelmed by the loyalty and generosity of our members.

Our 2012 board had a planning meeting on December 18 to jump start the new year. Many of you stepped up to fill needed positions, and others have offered their help as well. The new board will be introduced at the January meeting. To reach any of us, please use the LACSS.contact@gmail.com email, which is monitored regularly and forwarded to specific board members as needed. Board meetings are open to members and I welcome your participation, ideas, and support. We will meet from 4:00 to 6:00 pm on January 22, and on the 3rd Sunday of March, May, July, September, and November. If you are interested in attending, please talk to me or another board member

I look forward to seeing you on January 6. If your last name begins with T, U, V, W, X, Y, or Z, please remember to bring those tasty refreshments.

Roxie Esterle
President

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012
UPDATED 12/14/2011**

- FEB 11** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY-WINTER SHOW & SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. www.sdcss.net
- MAR 23 & 24** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SPRING SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
- APR 7 & 8** SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDENS - 26300 CRENSHAW BL., PALOS VERDES, CA INFO. 310-832-2262
- APR 14 & 15** GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- 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 BOTANICAL GARDENS - INFO. CALL-310-833-6823
- MAY 13** HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL
GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 18-19** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
31ST SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 951-360-8802
- 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, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- JUNE 2 & 3** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND 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 11th 9-5, 12th 9-3:30
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.
ENCINO, CA INFO. E-MAIL LACSS.Contact@gmail.com
- JUNE 29-JULY 1** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE –HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. - 626-405-2160 or 2277 - Show 6-30/7-1
- JULY 27-28** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND
SALE. FRIDAY JULY 27TH Noon until 7pm, SATURDAY JULY 28TH 9am to 5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
- AUG. 11-12** 27th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA
INFO. TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-297-5364
- SEPT. 1** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM - ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 23** LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA----12 PM
- NOV. 3-4** SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- NOV. 9-10** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
INFO. VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329



THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108

DESERT FORUM *Saturday, 14 January 2012*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:30 – 10:00 A.M. **Registration**
Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag)
- 9:30 – 12:00 Noon **Desert Garden**
Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout
the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
Aloes will be flowering
- 12:00 – 1:00 P.M. **Welcome Comments & Lunch** – Friends' Hall
Pick up sack lunch (if you dropped it off at registration)
Light snacks and beverages will be served
Welcome comments – Jim Folsom
CSSA remarks – Laurel Woodley
Note: Visitors have two other lunch options:
- Huntington Café
- Tea Room (reservations suggested: (626-683-8131))
- 1:00 – 3:00 P.M. **Plant Sales**
Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 P.M. **Free Time**
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries

Don't miss:

- “Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World” in Dibner Hall (Library building)
Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)
“The House that Sam Built” (Maloof) in Boone Gallery
“Ancient Chinese Bronze Mirrors” in the Scott Gallery
“Blue Sky Metropolis” in the Library, West Hall

LACSS Officers and Responsibilities 2012-2013

Contact Board Members at lacss.contact@gmail.com

| Office | Name |
|--|---------------------------------|
| President | Roxie Esterle |
| 1 st VP, Programs | Tim Harvey |
| 2 nd VP, Plant of the Month | Manny Rivera |
| 3 rd VP, Special Events | Bob Morris |
| Secretary | Cheryl White |
| Treasurer Website contact | Ronit Weiss |
| Director 1 odd years Membership | Richard Roosman |
| Director 2 even years | Sylvia Strehlo |
| Past President LACSS Sales - Events Chair | Artie Chavez |
| Cactus Chronicle Editor | Phyllis Shapiro |
| Publication Chair Intercity Show Chair CSSA Representative | John Matthews |
| Librarian LACSS Inside Show LACSS Show Publicity | Joyce Schumann |
| Holiday Party Hospitality (new member packets) | Barbara Hall |
| LACSS Inside Show | John Martinez and Joyce Shumann |
| LACSS Show Publicity | Kim Thorp and Joyce Shumann |
| LACSS Sales | Doug George |
| Plant Procurement | Gerald Richert |
| Education | Steve Frieze |
| Hospitality (new members orientation) | Danielle Duboff |
| Mentor Program | Efren Flores ?? |
| LACSS Webmaster | Gunnar Eisel |
| Monthly Drawing | Leah Imamura and Juana Williams |
| Member at large | Norma Lewis |

Plant-of-the-Month 2012

| | <i>Cacti</i> | <i>Succulent</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January | Mammillaria | Othonna & Senecio |
| February | Monstrose and Crest | Monstrose and Crest |
| March | Variegates | Variegates |
| April | Echinocereus | Haworthia |
| May | Echiopsis | Gasteria |
| June | Cephalium with a cephalium | Adenium |
| July | Eripsyce | Cyphostemma |
| August | Favorite | Favorite |
| September | Gymnocalycium | Euphorbia - Caudiciform Type |
| October | Parodia (includes Notocactus) | Stemless Mesembs - no Lithops |
| November | Frailea & Blossfeldia | Tylecodon |
| December | <i>Holiday Party</i> | <i>Holiday Party</i> |

Entry Classes: All new members, new to the hobby, should enter plants in the Novice class. Novices must move to the Advanced class after they have won a total of 40 first place awards in the Plant of the Month competition or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

Prizes: All prizes are awarded at the Holiday Celebration in December. Trophies are awarded by entry class for those members who scored the most points in either the cacti or combined succulent categories. In the Novice and Advanced classes the top two scorers in each of the plant categories will also receive a prize (typically a plant). These prizes are awarded based on the total number of points scored during the year. Finally, a trophy is awarded to members, regardless of class, who have earned the most points in the cactus and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 plants. In the Advanced and Open Classes, members must have been in possession of their plants for at least one year. Those members showing in the Novice class may immediately enter a recently obtained plant. You can only enter plants that conform to the Plant of the Month schedule described above.

| Judging Scale* | | Points Awarded | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------|---|
| Condition | 50% | First | 5 |
| Size and Maturity | 25% | Second | 3 |
| Staging | 20% | Third | 1 |
| Nomenclature | 5% | Entry Award** | 1 |

* Plants that are in flower and the rarity of the entry are two additional criteria judges employ in determining monthly winners.

** Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

Plant of the Month - November 2011 Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Monstrose and Crest

| Award | Name | Plant |
|--------|------------|-----------------------|
| First | Rio Cernak | Euphorbia kibwezensis |
| Second | Rio Cernak | Pachypodium lamerei |
| Second | Kim Thorpe | Euphorbia mauritanica |
| Third | John Suci | Euphorbia neriifolia |

Cactus - Monstrose and Crest

| | | |
|--------|------------|-----------------------|
| First | Rio Cernak | Mammillaria compressa |
| First | Kim Thorpe | Mammillaria matudae |
| Second | Rio Cernak | Echinocereus bayleyi |
| Second | Kim Thorpe | Wilcoxia schomullii |
| Third | John Suci | Monvillea spegazzinii |
| Third | Kim Thorpe | Ferocactus sp. |

Advanced Division

Succulent - Monstrose and Crest

| Award | Name | Plant |
|--------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| First | Cheryl White | Pachypodium rosulatum gracilior |
| Second | Frank White | Senecil vitalis |
| Third | None | Haworthia sp. |

Cactus - Monstrose and Crest

| | | |
|--------|--------------|------------------------|
| First | Frank White | Cleitocactus straussii |
| Second | Barbara Hall | Echinocactus grusonii |
| Third | None | |

Open Division

Succulent - Monstrose and Crest

| Award | Name | Plant |
|--------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| First | Artie Chavez | Pedilanthus macrocarpa |
| Second | John Matthews | Echeveria derenbergii x puldonis |
| Third | John Matthews | Echeveria 'Topsy Turvy' cristata |

Cactus - Monstrose and Crest

| | | |
|--------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| First | John Matthews | Mammillaria 'Fred' |
| Second | John Matthews | Mammillaria vetula ssp gracilis |
| Third | John Matthews | Echinocactus grusonii |

LACSS Membership Form (Please print the following information)

Name _____ Phone _____

Name of Additional Members: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Send me the newsletter by E-Mail Send me the newsletter by U.S. Mail(\$5 extra fee)

Send me a plastic name badge (\$6.50 each)

Type of Membership: New Member Renewal

- Single Membership \$20 annually \$10 1/2 year (July or after)
- Family Membership \$25 annually \$12.50 1/2 year (July or after)
- Newsletter by U.S. Mail \$5 fee in addition to the membership charge
- Cash Check: number _____

Special Interests _____

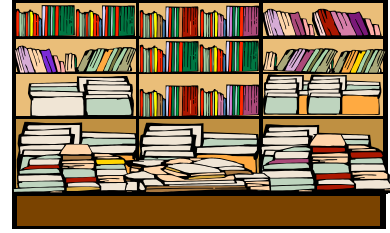
Monthly Meeting Refreshments

Each month different members whose last name begins in a particular letter are requested to furnish refreshments for the club. Below is the list, by month, for 2012.

| | | | |
|----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| January | T U V W X Y Z | July | T U V W X Y Z |
| February | A B C D | August | A B C D |
| March | E F G H | September | E F G H |
| April | I J K L M | October | I J K L M |
| May | N O P R | November | N O P R |
| June | S | December | HOLIDAY PARTY |

Members were selected by the approximate number of members attending each meeting.

Refreshments for the month of January are members whose names begin in T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z



From the Stacks of the Library

Happy New Year to all!! Out with the old and in with the new. We ended last year with an assortment of our older books and therefore it is only right that we start our new year with a new book.

The first new book of the New Year is a biggie – not only in size (coffee-table size) but in content. **“The Bushman Candles”** by Charles Craib and John Lavranos is a comprehensive work of the Genus we used to call *Sarcocaulon* but is now named *Monsonia*. The change of designation includes other plants but this book focuses on the fifteen species that have been called “the bushman candles” because of their ability to burn as a torch. The book is divided into three sections – Bushman Candle Species, Bushman Candle Art, Bushman Candle Culture and a fourth section that should always be required reading, the Sponsor’s note, Forward, Acknowledgments & Preface.

The first section is devoted to each species and includes topics such as synonym, description, diagnostic features, geographical distribution, history, life history and a topic called autecology. Check the glossary in the back of the book for the meaning of this word.

The second section has explanations regarding the illustrations and photography by the contributors. Read the first paragraph on page 127. The photos depict, not only the plants but, the harsh conditions under which they survive.

The third section is a presentation of the plants in habitat and cultivation. **A MUST- READ!!**

There have been inquiries regarding the Club’s policy on book loans. So, printed on the following page is our policy. If you have any comments, or questions, feel free to contact me.

The Librarian’s Report for 2011 is available. If you would like a copy, let me know. We currently have 178 titles in our collection plus the new book described above and five others waiting their turn.

Be sure to stop by the table and **CHECK IT OUT!!**

Sincerely,

Joyce the Librarian



LACSS
GENERAL BOOK LOAN POLICY

- You must be a member of LACSS for 3 months and attend at least 3 meetings before you may check out books.
- ◆ Book loans are for 1 month – borrow it this month, return it next month.
- ◆ Check out card must include date (month and year), your name, and your phone number.
- ◆ Only 2 general books may be checked out at a time.
- ◆ Books must be returned before you can check out more books.
- ◆ Borrower will be assessed a fee of \$5.00/month for each overdue book.
- ◆ If a book is not returned within 120 days, borrower will be billed for the total replacement cost of the book.
- ◆ If restitution is not made for late, lost, or unreturned books, borrower will lose their library privileges.

Librarian will provide a receipt for returned book (s).

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cacti of the Month January 2012 - *Mammillaria*



Mammillaria perbella

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the *Cactus* family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns or globular for their entire lives while other develop into massive clusters over time. There is incredible variability in the genus with some species maintaining a small footprint - almost fingernail size. Other species grow into globular plants of substantial size. *Mammillarias* generate two types of spine; straight or hooked. It is important to note that all cacti start out as a single head and stay so for varying lengths of time depending on the conditions and growth patterns for a particular species.

A *Mammillaria* is often one of the first cacti that a beginning grower buys. They are available, often for less than a dollar, at discount stores, and for just a bit more at local home centers and discount stores. A credit to the toughness of these plants, is that many survive for years in spite of all sorts of

abuse and neglect. Many inexpensive purchases at local chain stores have been grown on to become show plants, the quality of the plant maturing with the skill and experience of the grower. In part because they are so generous with flowers and seeds, and the seeds germinate so readily, many rare species end up in unlikely places like home centers, supermarkets, and hardware stores. It's worth keeping an eye out for unusual specimens, but beware of names found on discount store plants.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season (typically from March through October), strong light, intense heat if available, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most *Mammillaria* will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. During the summer heat growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving. Almost all *Mammillaria* will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix.

The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria*'s worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an in

insecticide. A less toxic solution is to soak the entire plant in soapy water overnight, followed by a good rinse with water from a hose.

Mammillaria species differ radically. Some species produce hooked spines while others are either straight or feathery. Some species have hair or wool in the axils between the tubercles that provide protection against extreme sunlight.

Most Mammillarias originate in Mexico, although there are 10 species found in the south western portion of the United States. There are even a few species that extend as far north as Canada.

A distinguishing feature of all Mammillarias is that flowers appear at the point of two tubercles and form a ring around that particular stem of the plant. Flowers appear on the previous year's growth. A smooth brilliant red club-shaped berry appears if flowers are fertilized.



Mammillaria crucigera subsp. tlalocii



Mammillaria bocasana



Mammillaria gemnispina

References:

J. Pilbeam, **Mammillaria**

David Hunt, **The New Cactus Lexicon**

Tom Glavich May 2003

Edited by Steven Frieze, January 2012

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Succulents of the Month January 2012 – *Senecio* and *Othonna*



Senecio scaposus
Photo T. Nomer

Senecio and *Othonna* are two plant genera in the *Compositae* family. Both genera are distinguished by the fact that they are winter growers; their growing season is during our winter in Southern California. The two genera share a common ancestry with a distinction that it shares with such common plants as Sunflowers, Asters and dandelions. *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus, with species in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world.

All of the *Compositae* are distinguished by a flower head that appears to be a single large flower, but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters, and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Almost all species are easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing

periods, and tolerant of out of season watering, with-in reason.

Othonnas is a very diverse genus and one of its characteristics that is of greatest appeal to collectors is that it is a winter growing succulent. Species vary considerably with some producing caudexes - elongated but proportionately swollen stems. Other species are dwarf and compact succulents with short branches. Another highly desirable group is comprised of tuberous geophytes with subterranean rootstocks and deciduous stems or leaves. Other species are orthodox shrubs.



Othonna capensis

The potting mix for *Othonna* and *Senecio* should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter. Fertilizer should be applied sparingly, and only during good weather.



Othonna clavifolia



Othonna euphorbioides

Both genera are relatively easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing periods, and tolerant of some out of season watering, with-in reason. All species are winter growers, losing their leaves in the heat of summer, and leafing out again in early fall.

Seed is occasionally available, and germinates readily. It's best planted in mid fall, with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue possible before the first summer.



Othonna littoralis



Othonna herrei

References:

Gordon Rowley, **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**
Hermann Jacobsen, **A Handbook of Succulent Plants**

Tom Glavich January 2004
Edited Steven Frieze, January 2010

General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society *ONLINE* at www.lacss.com

Upcoming Program for

January

Buck Hemenway

Namibia

First Class Mail

Next Meeting:

January 5, 2012

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

CACTUS CHRONICLE
January 2012
Cactus & Succulent Society

