



CACTUS CHRONICLE

July
2012

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

For more information

Contact:

LACSS.contact@gmail.com



Next Meeting: July 5, 2012



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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.

DUKE BENADOM ECHINOCEREUS

Duke has been a member of the LACSS since Ellen and Bill Low convinced him and Kazuko to attend a meeting in 1979. Since then, he has presided over that club, served as show chairman for other clubs and for the CSSA. Duke has also served as CSSA Convention Chairman for several conventions, and as a Director, Vice President, and President of that society. He has been the editor of the Cactus & Succulent Journal and published over a hundred articles and shown several hundred photos along the way.

The program for July will be on *Echinocereus of Mexico*, a former passion which led to amassing an impressive collection of species within that genus. The predominance of which are now denizens of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Duke has made trips to several African countries, including a recent one (April) to Uganda and neighboring countries. Programs pertaining to those trips are in process.



E rigidissimus rubispinus



E blanckii

July 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear LACSS Members,

Wow! What a whirlwind we have been on since our last issue of *Cactus Chronicle*. So here are a few updates about what's gone on and all we have to look forward to:

LACSS Volunteers Waged War on Weeds:

At daybreak on May 26, over 15 intrepid members of the LACSS launched an offensive on the Sepulveda Basin Cactus Garden. The enemy: weeds, overgrown succulents, and overhanging branches. Armed with heavy duty gloves, hoes, pitchforks, rakes, shovels, loppers and more, club volunteers pulled out truckloads of fallen leaves, and cactus rubble. Few escaped without minor spine and puncture wounds.

The Cactus Garden was initiated in 1993 by park supervisor Chris Rogers with specimens from his own yard, supplemented by plantings from friends and mysterious fellow aficionados. Chris helped coordinate this effort. The revitalized space will allow the public to enjoy the unique structures and adaptations of cacti and succulents. The provides a mature and interesting focal point situated behind the dozens of vegetable plots, roses, and the butterfly garden.

Our next step: the Sepulveda Garden staff will bulldoze the huge *Opuntia* patch and LACSS will embark on planting more varied and interesting species. We will be looking for donations of plants that have overgrown their space in your collection, and will plant this fall; labeling the plants will follow.

Annual Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

By any measure, our June 9-10 Festival was a terrific success not only for vendors, but for LACSS. The best-attended show ever attracted a dozen new members. It was standing-room only at the lectures, the exhibits were popular and appreciated, and Kids' Day was a huge hit. Our club wreath and plant sale table, silent auction, drawing, and dinner generated substantial revenue for LACSS. As a club, we had more volunteer participation than ever before, helping with set-up and break down, hospitality, donations, making displays and wreaths, presenting Kids' Day, and creating an atmosphere of hospitality and excitement. Thank you all for helping LACSS grow!

July meeting

With all the guests and new members we anticipate, we want the July meeting to be fantastic! Let's see lots of participation in the POM activity, which will feature *Melocactus*, *Cissus*, and *Cyphostemma*. Duke will be speaking about *Echinocereus* from Mexico and the southern United States. And if your last name begins with **T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z**, or if you are an **S** who forgot last time, we need lots of nourishment!

See you there!

Roxie Esterle
President
LACSS.contact@gmail.com



2012 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

By Artie Chavez

"WOW", "FANTASTIC WEEKEND", "I LEARNED SO MUCH", "BEST SHOW EVER!!!!!"

What we achieved on the weekend of the Festival was truly remarkable. It was a weekend I was very proud to be part of. Our accomplishments as a group are many; educational displays, silent auctions, hands-on workshops, wreath sales, drawings, book sales, and most important Kid's Day. We came together as an energetic, focused group and succeeded in putting on one of the best events of the year, if not ever. We offer much more than the run of the mill Cactus and Succulent Show. We took our collective knowledge as a group and shared it with the community. What sets our group and our Festival apart from all the others is the community presence and the interaction with them at the festival. At many shows the only contact the members have is asking how they will be paying for their plants.

To put on an event like our Festival takes a lot of work, both during the weekend and the months before the event. It starts with Publicity; Kim Thorpe did a marvelous job getting the word out about the show. This is not an easy task because she has a budget of zero, but gets us a million dollars worth of publicity. The publicity we get is done with tenacity and hard work. Kim is on the computer day and night for months before the show. This year Nikki Caballero stepped up and helped Kim spread the word.

Set-up ran very smoothly this year, again the membership came out and helped set up a record number of exterior and interior tables; as well as banners. It takes a special type of person to deal with all the personalities, when it comes to volunteers. Joyce Schumann is that special person. She has the successful ability to take a list of names and get all the things done during the weekend and at the end everyone is still happy. Joyce also was in charge of the club's Hospitality Booth, which was the hub of the show. The Booth was responsible for T-shirt, wreath, tickets for drawings, water, and plant sales. Another responsibility, a very important one, is being able to answer the many questions about the hobby and club membership. Joyce had a lot of welcomed help that stayed all weekend Danielle Duboff, Cheryl White, and Richard Roosman signing up new members. Sylvia Strehlo did a wonderful job soliciting and collecting items for the drawing.

Our interior educational displays were outstanding. I would like to thank everyone who had a display or entered plants. Joyce Schumann and John Martinez did an incredible job getting members to enter plants as well as coordinating with the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society, and a new participant the Sansui-Kai Bonsai Society.

The weekend was filled with a number of activities that helped make the Festival one of kind. The Saturday night dinner and Auction was active, interesting and fun. John Martinez and Tim Harvey did an outstanding job as auctioneers and the evening's entertainment. One of our community outreach and educational additions to the Festival is the sale of books on varying topics. Rose Polito did a remarkable job coordinating these sales and table coverage. The silent auction was a hit with the public and our members. Roxie Esterle did a great job organizing the silent auction and the Festival drawing. Roxie and Jim Esterle put in many hours getting plant donations to the club ready for sale, as well as picking up all the loose ends.



The speakers Matt Maggio, Andy Siekkinen, Lili Singer, and Mike Buckner shared basic information to the community on different aspects of growing plants. For the first time in the history of the lectures it was standing room only with an average of 40 or more taking in the wealth of information that our speakers were offering.

Food, everyone's favorite vice, has become the unusual pleasure. Kim Thorpe puts in time and effort to feed us all weekend long and so no one goes hungry. We can count on Kim surprising us with something special everyday. Kathleen Misko was a pleasant surprise this year as she helped by making and serving her famous French toast on Sunday and by spearheading the making of the Wreaths the club was able to sell and keep the proceeds.

"Sunday is Kid's Day" is what the banner says in the middle of the grass. It should have read "Sunday is Family Day." This event is very unique and special to our Festival. Sunday is usually a slow and sleepy day at most sales, not ours, Sunday was anything but that. Sunday was special to the Festival, our club and with our relationship with the community. The volunteer Boy Scouts from Troop 431 was a pleasant and extremely helpful addition to the Festival this year. A big thanks to Joe and Jenny Maggio who made this happen. What a wonderful addition to the Festival it has become. Sunday takes on a very special feeling with the presence of families sharing an afternoon together, learning about the plants and the hobby we care very much about. A big thank you to Al and Erika Van Au-ker once again supplied and worked with the kids on their clay creations. To answer a young person's question and introduce them to world of cacti and succulents makes all the hard work worthwhile.

So then comes Sunday afternoon at exactly 4:00 PM when the show comes to an end. As I asked in the June news- letter, "all hands on deck" for the tear down. Boy, were there a lot of hands on deck and did that make it a fast and easy teardown.

Within the body of my report on the Festival, I have left out many names of volunteers. I was hesitant to mention too many names as I did not want to forget anyone and probably not aware of all the people who made the Festival a success. I do want to mention a few people I can remember. Richard was there from Thursday through Sunday afternoon. Bob and Carol Thille helped with Kids' Day. Roger Cohen and Gerald Richert worked all weekend.

On a personal level, this is a lot of work and takes an immense amount of my time and I am very happy to do it, but the time that it takes me to do a good job takes me away from Desert Creations. I would like to thank My Partners Steve and Phyllis Frieze for picking up so much of the slack, which allows me to spend so much time on the festival.

Thank you to everyone who made this event so special.

Artie Chavez



Note from a long-time LACSS member:

It has been my good fortune to attend and participate in over 20 LACSS shows and sales events over the past 25 years. I have been an exhibitor, seller, show chair, sales chair, and served in every possible volunteer capacity during this time. To say the least, I have had the opportunity to observe all sorts of individuals function in leadership capacities during this period. What I have not seen until this year is the singular devotion to a specific activity as exhibited by our own Dynamic Duo, Artie Chavez and Kim Thorpe. I can testify to the fact that both of these individuals spent close to a 1,000 hours in preparation for our Second Drought Tolerant Plant Festival and close to 50 hours during the event itself. From my point of view they almost will the extraordinary success that we experienced this year. Sunday eclipsed my expectation about the club and its potential to actually serve as an educational conduit. I sensed a feeling of community on that day; a jubilation and pride about the Festival we had created. Perhaps it was the children scurrying around, making pots, or participating in the educational activities planned by Artie and Kim. Perhaps it was the geniality and good will I observed. Or more likely, it was the fruition of six months of intensive planning and execution that yielded a result for which all Club members could be proud. We owe a great debt of gratitude to these two individuals for their tireless efforts, creative energy, and devotion to our Festival goals. I am especially impressed by Kim's contributions, since it went almost unnoticed. I remember the morning when I got a call from Artie telling me that he would be late for a business meeting because somehow Kim had arranged a meeting with the Daily News. It was to create the article that ran on the Saturday of our event resulted from this meeting. Much of the attendance from this weekend can be traced back to this kind of publicity. In combination with the Facebook pages that Kim developed, the success of this event was inevitable. Lastly, I have participated in almost every Club sale in the Southern California area (including one Northern California event), I can tell you some considerable experience that volunteers and sellers never feast on the variety of food we do during our Festival. Kim took responsibility for soliciting the food (nearly three quarters of it was donated from her contacts), preparing it, and assumed a role in ensuring that it was served properly. Amazing!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Thank you to both of you from all of us who understand the dedication and effort it takes to achieve this success. Steven Frieze

JULY EVENTS

July 27 & 28

**Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society
Summer Show & Sale
Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm
1000 S. State College Blvd.
United Methodist Church**

**LACSS WELCOMES
JUNE'S NEW MEMBERS**

**Abraham Rudnick
Carol Martin
Cheryl Hector
Dawn Smith
Esteban M., Alejandro,
& Alma Moctezuma**

**JoAnn Gallo
Matt Maggio
Natalie Welsh
Pedro Colin
Robert & Carolyn Feldman**

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU
THANK YOU**

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE
DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL FOR 2012

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS

MATT MAGGIO
ANDY SIEKKINEN
LILI SINGER
MIKE BUCKNER

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR
VENDORS

TIM HARVEY
DESERT CREATIONS
ANDY SIEKKINEN
BARBARA HALL
GEARLD RICHERT
ROGERS WELD
BILL MUNKCASEY
MICK GOTTSCHALK
JOHN MARTINEZ
RALPH MASSEY
MARQUITA ELLIAS
AL AND ERIKA VAN AUKER

JIM AND ROBERTA HANNA
CHRIS ROGERS
CHARLIE AND DEBBIE BALL
SANDY CHASE
MATT MAGGIO
MIKE AND JOYCE BUCKNER
PETER WALKOWIAK
THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION
JOHN MATTHEWS
KIM THORPE
DUKE AND KAZ BENADOM
MR FERTILIZER

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BROMELIAD SOCIETY

WITH GREAT APPRECIATION

to

NILS SCHIRRMACHER

THE DESIGNER OF THE FESTIVAL SHIRT ART WORK

Thank You to All Indoor Show Participants

The success of the indoor display could not have occurred without the participation from our membership. The Indoor Show Committee would like to acknowledge the following members for their skill, creativity, and their willingness to share their knowledge, experience, and most of all, their plants.

Steve Ball – Steve is an extremely talented grower of terrestrial bromeliads. The *Dyckia* display he provided was a fine representation of his collection.



Sandy Chase – Sandy went all out again this year with her color coded display of the various succulent genera demonstrating the family connection of many of the plants we grow and admire.

Steve Frieze – Steve recently had the opportunity to visit the habitat of some of the plants he enjoys. The presentation of his Chilean cacti collection combined with the with power point display was a rare opportunity to compare side-by-side habitat and cultivated plants.

Barbara Hall – Barbara's display "The Genus *Frailea*; Hidden Treasures" provided a wonderful representation of these miniature South American cacti.

John Mathews (the *Haworthia* Guy) – John is an avid collector of *Haworthias*, His display was an excellent representation of mature plants from within the *Haworthia* genera.

Ronit Weiss – Ronit's attractive display provided an introduction into the interesting world of *Hoyas*. These sometimes succulent, vining, epiphytes are native to India, New Guinea, Northern Australia, and Southern China.

Cheryl and Frank White – The White's display was an excellent representation of the show theme of "Public Education". Their display included not only fine *Agave* specimens, they also included examples of *Agave* products, both commercial and local. Although, we are still wondering what happened to the tequila.

Peter Wolkowiak – As in past years, Peter continues to impress us with his beautiful, mature, and well staged plants.



The Committee would also like to recognize those club members that provided plants for the Club Display of Cacti and Succulents. This display was a great mix of **your** favorite plants and proved to be quite popular.

In addition to the LACSS displays we would also like to acknowledge the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society and the Bonsai society for their participation and for their wonderful displays.

Thank You to all who participated

Indoor Show Committee

Joyce Schumann

John Martinez

2012 LACSS Show and Sale Activities – Comments and Thoughts

What excitement!! What positive energy!! What a thrill to have so many activities!! And what a great feeling to be able to say **The Best Show and Sale ever!!**

Everywhere you looked, something was going on that caught the interest of our visitors. Without a doubt, the Kid's Day was a smashing success. All the attendees enjoyed the indoor demonstration stations and the outdoor painting, planting, and pot making. (I think the parents enjoyed these activities as much as the kids!) The Cactus Couch returned as the perfect Photo-Op for kids of all ages.

If you had a chance to attend a Saturday Speaker program, you would have noticed a Standing Room Only situation. Our Speaker program has been growing more successful due to the quality of speakers and the growing interest of our visitors. Matt, Andy, Lili and Mike always have something interesting to say.

This year we took a bold move and located our Hospitality Booth in the center of the action. We placed all Club activities here except the Public Silent Auction and Book Sales. Member's Plant sales (a new option) and T-shirt sales were brisk. Members were invited to contribute items for the Drawing and did you come through! Tickets sold quickly and crowds gathered eagerly to see if they were winners. Our scheduled one-day Drawing was extended to two days due to public and member enthusiasm. The Silent Auction items, (also contributions by members and vendors), totaled more than 40 items. And, again, the crowds gathered to see if they won. The Silent Auction, also, was extended to two days. Some of you participated in the Wreath construction earlier this year. The component parts were (again) contributed by members and sold at the Hospitality Booth. People were amazed to see succulents displayed in such a beautifully unique way. All were sold.

Last year we added Book Sales as another avenue to provide information for our visitors. Again, bigger and better, book sales this year exceeded last years. AND, visitors were asking for specific books and/or topics. Methinks they are getting **veeery** interested.

It would be easy to go on and on with superlatives upon superlatives to describe our 2012 Show and Sale. I won't. The increased attendance and the enthusiasm for all the extra features we offered speak to the success of our Festival. We even had an Ice Cream truck!! Fun was had by all.

Our Festival success is also due to the involvement of our members as vendors, volunteers, displayers, auctioneers, and contributors. Thank you one and all for making this **THE BEST SHOW AND SALE EVER!!**

Sincerely,

John Martinez
Joyce Schumann
Co-Chairs

Inter-City Show and Sale

Saturday, August 11 and Sunday, August 12

Now that our own very successful LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival is over and most of the work for the CSSA show is done, it is time to start planning for the Inter-City Show and Sale. It will be held on August 11-12 2012 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This is the 27th annual show and the theme is 'Succulent Explorations'. There will be a link to the show newsletter in the calendar section of our club website (www.lacss.com). Karen Zimmerman's aloe hybrid 'Gargoyle' is on the show T-shirt and will be available for sale at our upcoming meetings. And we've got women's shirts this year! Get your shirt early! I know they will sell out quickly (especially the women's sizes). The T-shirt acts like a walking advertisement for the show so wear yours often.

The Inter-City show is billed as the greatest cactus and succulent show in the country. Visitors from all over the world attend this show and sale. The Walks and Talks programs feature many speakers from LACSS. And don't forget the dinner (\$30) --carved beef, chicken, vegetables, salad, drinks and dessert. The dinner and auction on Saturday night is at Coco's. Sign up early for this opportunity to shmooze with fellow collectors and bid on some really fantastic plants. Contact Evelyn Stevens at (626) 442-1391 for the dinner, it is always a sellout.

Since the LACSS is one of the three clubs sponsoring this show, to maintain the caliber of our show, we need your show plants. You should be selecting and grooming your plants now. Those plants you entered in the CSSA show are a good start. The number of show entries has been dropping in recent years so please enter your favorite plants. The show is easy to enter with novice, advanced, and open sections. The Golden Sweeps are back. If you win 1st, 2nd and 3rd in a single class you win a special pot. These are easiest to win in the novice category. Show schedules and entry tags will be available at our meetings and the show schedule can be found online at www.lacss.com.

Your volunteer help is very much needed to setup, takedown, and keep the show and sale humming along. Signup sheets will be at our July and August meetings along with all show details and at the CSSA in July. Help is especially needed Saturday morning when the sales are busiest and more volunteer assistance on Wednesday morning for setup. I have kept the time commitments during the show to approximately one hour so you won't get stuck anywhere too long. If you can't commit to a specific time, at least signup and we'll find an opportunity for you when you attend the show. Volunteering is also a great way to meet people from the other clubs and it presents unique learning opportunities. Our club profits greatly from this show, so your participation is essential.

If you have any questions regarding the show or please call me at (661) 714-1052.

John Matthews,

Inter-City Show Co-Chairman

LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
NEW PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2012

Competition Divisions:

Rookie: 0 – 25 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “rookie” award points
Novice: 1 - 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Advanced: Over 100 combined 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place “novice” award points
Master/Open: Any experienced grower may compete in this division, but this required for individuals who **sell** at shows outside of LACSS.

Submissions:

Members may submit up to three plants in each designated monthly cactus and succulent category. In the Advanced and Master/Open divisions, members must have cared for their plants for at least 1 year. In the Novice division, the ownership requirement is 6 months. Rookies may show newly purchased plants. Entries should be labeled and placed on the display table by 7:00 pm.

Judging Criteria:

Plants are evaluated according to the following guidelines:

Condition (health, form, damage-free)	50%
Maturity and size	25%
Staging (complementary container, top dressing, composition)	20%
Nomenclature (identification and label)	5%

Other factors include rarity, growing difficulty, and whether or not the plant is in flower.

Awards:

First place	6 points
Second place	3 points
Third place	2 points
Other submissions	1 point per plant to acknowledge entry

Entry slips are collected by the 2nd Vice President in charge of Plant of the Month who coordinates tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the *Cactus Chronicle*.

Annual cumulative prizes are awarded at the **holiday party in December** to the top three scorers in each division for cacti and for succulents. Additional prizes are awarded for overall total scores from highest to lowest across all divisions. Every individual who has brought plants during the year is acknowledged with a prize. Individuals who “graduate” from one division to the next for the following year will also be recognized.

Plant-of-the-Month

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

Plant of the Month - June Winners

Rookie Division

Succulent -

Award	Name	Plant	Points
First	Marquita Ellias	Adenium obesum	6
Second	John Suciu	Adenium obesum	3
Second	John Suciu	Adenium arabicum	3
Third	Marquita Ellias	Adenium obesum	2
Third	Marquita Ellias	Adenium obesum	2

Advanced Division

Cactus -

First	Darlene Weld	Melocactus azures	6
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The above were the only winners in the June Plan-of-the-Month competition

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 with 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 Q 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 July are members whose last names begin with T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z

July 2012

FROM THE STACKS OF THE LIBRARY

As has become habit so far this year, we have a new book for you this month. It is the long awaited book titled "*Agaves – Living sculptures for landscapes and containers*" by Greg Starr. You may remember this author because of his very popular book "*Cool Plants for Hot Gardens*."

The first chapter is "An Introduction to Agaves" which includes a physical description of differences and similarities of Agaves along with other topics such as distribution (four major areas), taxonomy, reproduction, etc. Chapter 2 is about "Growing Agaves" and has a very interesting section on "Insects, Diseases, and Other Pests." "Cold Hardiness" is another section that usually is not covered by other authors. Side bars are titled "The Ten Most Xeric Species," "The Ten Most Mesic Species," "The Ten Hardest Species and Cultivars," and "The Ten Most Frost-Sensitive Species and Cultivars."

The "Encyclopedia of Agaves" chapter covers "*eighty species, varieties, cultivars, and hybrids that are available to the agave enthusiast, including some species that are most suitable for container culture in areas where frost occurs.*" This is not a complete inventory of agaves but covers the ones that most of us will come into contact. A large majority of the photos are in habitat with many close-up photos of the inflorescence. Each specie description includes 4 or 5 lines of history, and a few paragraphs of field notes, description, culture, and taxonomy. Also included is a feature titled *landscape value*. This section is particularly aimed for those who wish to mix agaves with your other garden plants. The author completes his book with a chapter on agave look-alikes, and a long list of *Plants by Size Categories* and a pertinent glossary.

This is an outstanding book for the Agave enthusiast as a hobbyist and landscaper. Well organized, easy to read, and beautiful photos!

And here is a second chance to refresh your memory or brush up on details on the October Plant of the Month, Mesembs. Our new June book "Mesembs of the World" will again be featured.

For the future, the Librarian has ordered the Succulent Society of South Africa's Journal "*Aloe*". Delivery date is unknown – watch this space for the announcement.

See you soon and make sure you stop by the Library table and **CHECK IT OUT!**

Happy reading,
Joyce the Librarian



Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus of the Month July 2012 – *Eriosyce*



Eriosyce aurata (golden spine)

Eriosyce is a ubiquitous genus found throughout Chile in a wide variety of habitats. This plant group can be found in arid valleys and get much of their moisture from morning fogs and other light forms of precipitation. They can also be found in sandy dunes in close proximity to the Chilean coast, and in the Andes' mountains at elevations of 6,000 feet or more. It is a somewhat cylindrical plant with prominent ribs. *Eriosyce* are armed with dense very solid spines of varying color. The opportunity to see *Eriosyce aurata* with golden spines in the Andes is breathtaking. These plants can be up to three feet in diameter. *Eriosyce* has many features that make them a close relative of plants in the genus of *Neochilenea* and *Neoporteria*.



Eriosyce taftaensis

Eriosyce are a relatively hardy plant that can survive for an indefinite period of time in the rocky crevices found in many Chilean valleys. In habitat, they are considered to be slow growing plants.

Given the idiosyncratic conditions that *Eriosyce* face in Chile, one would expect the cultivation of these plants in Southern California to be a difficult, if not an impossible chore. With our frequent winter rains, fogs, and extreme temperatures (especially during the summer) this would seem to be a sizeable challenge for growers. Fortunately, *Eriosyce* are relatively easy to grow. They react well to the same well drained soil mix, watering, and fertilization schedules that most cacti are subjected to. They also tend to grow many times faster than they would in habitat since they will receive regular moisture and are protected from the extreme conditions that they would be exposed to in habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to be slower growers than many other genera.



Eriogyne subgibbosa ssp. subgibbosa

Eriogyne can be propagated from 'pups' (division of clumps). Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed houses, and germinate quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting soil, and moved to drier surroundings after germination.

Eriogyne are well worth growing and will produce spectacular plants as they mature.

References:

Schulz, R., **Copiapoa 2006**

Kattermann, F., **Eriogyne The genus revised and amplified**

Steven Frieze June 2012

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Succulent of the Month July 2012 - *Cyphostemma*



Cyphostemma betiforme

Cyphostemma is a member of the *Vitaceae* or grape family. The members of this genus span the range from extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Many of the species will grow large, given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season. This genus contains some of the most striking pachycauls and caudexes of the entire plant world.

Most *Cyphostemma* will set fruit in Southern California. In almost all cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets, although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color, usually bright red.

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, easily obtained, and often a show winner, comes from South Africa.

It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character in just a few years. *Cyphostemma seitziana*, on the other hand comes from Namibia, and is much less tolerant of unprotected cold and over watering.



Cyphostemma juttae

Cyphostemma betiforme is still another unusual species originating from Kenya. They form rather large caudexes and stand up to five feet tall. Another highly valued species is *Cyphostemma uter*. This plant comes from Namibia where it grows in very arid conditions



Cyphostemma seitziana



Cyphostemma uter

Propagation is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species is sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. Germination is erratic (days to months), so only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration helps. The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep soil moisture constant. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green

appears, the seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic.

Softwood cuttings can be taken when in active growth. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones. This is a good way to propagate overgrown specimen plants. Growth of all species is greatly aided by ample root room, but the more sensitive varieties must be lifted in the fall as they go dormant.

References

Gordon Rowley **Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents**

Tom Glavich June 2003
Edited, Steve Frieze, June 2012

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 6:00 PM.

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

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

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