



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
July 2nd, 2015
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356
Doors Open at 6:15 pm
Meeting begins at
7:00pm
Refreshments S and T

April New Members

Melanie Green
 Alex Sandoval
 Martha Cantos
 Rose Rosenberg
 Morris Dressler
 Louise Alter
 Randy Leffler
 Marty Leffler
 Melinda Hines
 Regina Fernandez
 Chris & Sandy Johnson
 Gregg DeChirico
 Thalia Goldsworthy

May New Members

Elliott David
 Judith Skelton
 Jill Lefferman
 Maria-Teresa Chico
 Danielle Hillery

June New Members

Sean & Carolyn Barth
 Lurinda Chin
 Carol & Fred DeVoogol
 Shawn & Kurt Kusenko
 Peggy Smith
 Ross Frazier (Zan Tansey)
 Pamela Hebert
 Gloria Vargas
 Carol & Charles Russell
 Steve Chahine
 Enzo Trucco
 Cindy Dulong
 Jose (Mercedes Fabian-Cohen) Cohen
 Aaron Kahlenberg
 (Leslie, Max, Leo)

Program: Tillandsias in Coastal and Southern California Presented by Gregg DeChirico

Gregg DeChirico has grown plants of all types for over 30 years. He has a nursery, Gregg's Greenhouse, located in the Santa Barbara area, specializing in seed-grown, rare and exotic plants. Gregg is a frequent participant and vendor at many local and regional club shows and sales. He has travelled throughout Central and South America, outside of Mexico, Madagascar, Hawaii, Italy and islands throughout the Caribbean, just to name a few places, to photograph the local flora and fauna featured in many of the programs he offers. Gregg served as president of both the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society and the Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society, and is recent past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA).



Gregg DeChirico will offer a presentation featuring successful cultural guidelines for growing ***Tillandsias in Coastal & Southern California*** -from San Francisco to San Diego. The program will cover basic Tillandsia care and also offer a selection of species featured in the gardens of Santa Barbara residents and recommended for growing both indoors and outdoors in coastal and southern California. Gregg is a keen advocate of growing compatible tillandsia species among succulents in a varied collection.



Tillandsia dyearina



Tillandsia tectorum

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Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

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Cactus Chronicle Distribution

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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

July, 2015

Our June Chronicle went to press before our Festival started so we will have some catch-up articles in this issue. As you know, the intensity begins a couple of weeks prior to the actual event. I thought it would be less stressful for me to go on a 14 day white-water rafting trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. What an incredible experience!!! Especially if you can tolerate sand everywhere –in your clothes, in your hair, in your tent –you get the idea. We went 226 miles, through 117 rated rapids of which 7 are rated a 10 in difficulty and danger. No one fell overboard and no rafts overturned.

In the meantime, back in LA, everyone was working feverishly to bring the Festival together. And did they do a FANTASTIC job, or what?! The weather was perfect, attendance has increased, displays were voted on, speakers had standing room only audiences and Kid's Day was a joy to behold. I would like to thank the entire Board of Directors for their contributions to the success of the Festival. Special thanks to Cheryl White, Roxie Esterle, David Le, Danielle Duboff, and Kathleen Misko for their leadership in their respective areas. **Special thanks** to Kim Thorpe for ...what **doesn't** she do? And how could we do anything without someone watching the budget, paying the bills and making sure we have change for our Club sale areas? So, **Special thanks** to Kathryn Boorer for being the conscientious Treasurer that she is! **Special, special** thanks to Artie Chavez for continuing his role as Festival Director and Mentor for the leadership positions.

To complement our Festival activities, a small group of volunteers fluffed up the Garden Center Cactus Garden on May 9. Lots of weeding and raking and planting! Since the last clean-up, quite a few plants had been donated and many of those found a permanent home in the Garden. It is beginning to look like a healthy, well-cared for area. Feel free to stroll through the Garden, enjoy the old and the new plants, and make any suggestions for future care and design.

And as this Chronicle goes to press, the CSSA Convention will have concluded as will the CSSA Huntington Show and Sale. Articles for those events will be forthcoming. The June Plant of the Month competition was an incredible display of members' favorite plants. The category was "Favorite" with such a variety of plants that the judges were challenged to determine winners. I hope everyone reads the POM descriptions prepared by Kyle Williams. He summarizes each category with accuracy and humor. Now that our warm weather has turned to HOT, we must reevaluate our watering schedule. Generally speaking, smaller pots will need more frequent watering as there is less soil to hold water. Also, clay pots allow faster evaporation than plastic pots. Rule of "finger" – stick your finger into the soil about ½ inch deep. If soil is dry, add water. If soil is damp, it's ok for another day or so. If soil is wet, do not water.



One of the many Opuntias on our way



Me and a very old Ferocactus

Plant of the Month 2015

July

Echinocactus,
Ferrocactus
Pachypodium-
Madagascar

August

Eriosyce, Neochilenia,
Neoporteria
Lithops

September

Ceriodes (N. America)
Didiereaceae

October

Miniatures

November

Crests and Monstrose

December

Holiday Party

Plant of the Month 2016

January

Blossfeldia, Frailea ,
Yavia
Bulbs

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

June Plant of the Month

Succulent -- Favorites

Rookie

First Kim Jacobi
Second Kim Jacobi
Second Lisa Gailey
Third Kim Jacobi

Sarcocaulon crassicaule
Ibervillea lindheimeri
Euphorbia decaryi v. spirosticha
Euphorbia kibwezensis

Novice

First Robert and Carolyn Feldman
Second Robert and Carolyn Feldman
Second Robert and Carolyn Feldman
Third Roxie Esterle
Third Kathryn Boorer

Mestoklemma tuberosum
Ficus plumerii
Pachypodium succulentum
Yucca endlichiana
Euphorbia capsaintemariensis

Advanced

First Kim Thorpe
Second Kim Thorpe
Second John Martinez
Third John Martinez
Third Kim Thorpe

Matelea cyclophylla
Ceraria namaquensis
Dudleya candida
Gibbaeum album
Haworthia sp.

Open

First Artie Chavez
Second Artie Chavez
Third Artie Chavez

Cyphostemma uter
Cyphostemma betiforme
Pachypodium baronii var. windsor

Cactus -- Favorites

Rookie

First Kathleen Misko
Second DiAne Cabanne

Tephrocactus
Tephrocactus articulatus inermis

Novice

First Kathryn Boorer
Second Kyle Williams
Third Kathryn Boorer
Third Kathryn Boorer

Uebelmania pectinifera
Echinocereus rigidissimus v. rubispinus
Gymnocalycium mazanense
Peniocereus greggii

Advanced

First Kim Thorpe
Second Kim Thorpe
Second John Martinez
Third John Martinez

Turbincarpus pseudomacrochele
Astrophytum ornatum
Opuntia sp
Astrophytum myriostigma 'onzuka'

Open

First Gerald Richert
Second Bryan Chan

Mammillaria humboldtii
Opuntia

Echinocactus* and *Ferocactus

For July we are taking on two genera of cacti with names that say "stay away!", though I suggest just the opposite. The real reason we are talking about these genera is that they are very closely related, and together they make up the vast majority of what we refer to as "Barrel cacti". The only significant difference between the genera is that *Echinocactus* has woolly fruit while *Ferocactus* does not. In addition they both have representatives that you can see growing wild within a couple hour's drive from Los Angeles.

Echinocactus is Latin for "spiny" cactus or "hedgehog" cactus, both of which refer to the prominent, very sharp spines found in every species. The genus has roughly 6-10 species in a range that covers all of the Southwestern US from Death Valley to Oklahoma and Texas, as well as the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of Mexico. There are two species native to the US, one covering the western half of the Southwest and the other covering the eastern half. *E. texensis*, commonly called the Horse Crippler, is from Texas, New Mexico, eastern Arizona, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico. *E. polycephalus* is a California native, as well as occurring in Nevada, Arizona, and northern Mexico. It is among the most heavily cloaked in spines of any cactus.



Echinocactus polycephalus

The most famous and widely grown species, *E. grusonii* (Golden Barrel), is also the rarest and most restricted in the wild. There is a link between the two as large numbers of Golden Barrels were dug out of the wild for the horticultural trade. Thankfully large nursery grown specimens are readily available today, reducing the pressure on the remaining plants. Unfortunately, this already threatened species was dealt a more serious blow in the 1990's when the Zimapan Dam was built in the heart of this species range. Countless plants were destroyed when the lake created by the dam submerged prime *E. grusonii* habitat.

Ferocactus with about 30 species is the better known and more commonly grown genus of the two (excluding *E. grusonii*). The name means "fierce" cactus, a clear reference to the large, curved spines common throughout the genus. It has a similar range to *Echinocactus*, mostly differing in extending all the way to the California coast and into Baja California. Two species are native to California. *F. cylindraceus*, with bright red spines, is found in our desert regions while *F. viridescens*, a fairly small plant, can be found in coastal San Diego County. The greatest diversity in the genus can be found in Baja, as at least 10 species are found there.



Ferocactus cylindraceus



Ferocactus macrodiscus

Cultural requirements are similar for both genera. While some species are extremely cold tolerant (i.e. the native US species) and others less so, all species of *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* can handle winter temperatures in the Los Angeles region. They do well in the ground, though good drainage is a must as most species don't like our wet winters. They also do well as large potted specimens, requiring normal cactus care.

-Kyle Williams

***Pachypodium* of Madagascar**

When most people think of *Pachypodium* they think of Madagascar for good reason. The vast majority of species (all but a handful of the 25-30 species) occur only on that island. Some species look like they come from a desert (e.g. *P. brevicaule*), while many others would look as much at home in a tropical landscape as a desert one (e.g. *P. lamerei*). That shouldn't be surprising as Madagascar really is a tropical island, just one with deserts, rainforests, and everything in between! In fact, when I first learned about the plants of Madagascar it was in relation to the unique rainforests. In particular, the amazing Traveler's Palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), a close relative of the Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia*). Only later did I learn the island was also a succulent paradise!



Pachypodium baronii

That means this month we are talking about every *Pachypodium* species except: *P. namaquanum*, *P. succulentum* (including *P. griquense*), *P. bispinosum*, *P. saundersii* & *P. lealii*. In other words, any *Pachypodium* that isn't one of those species is eligible for the monthly show.



Pachypodium geayi

Pachypodium belongs to the Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. It is closely related to *Adenium*, Stapeliads, *Fockea*, Oleanders, Milkweeds, Plumeria, and many other non-xeric plants. While most similar to *Adenium*, *Pachypodium* can be distinguished from it by having spines, and usually by flower color. While pinks and reds are extremely common in *Adenium*, only a few *Pachypodium* have red or pink in their flowers. *Pachypodium* also stands out from most of the family, including *Adenium*, in having alternate leaves (one leaf at each node) while the rest of the family (usually) has opposite leaves (paired leaves).

Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why some places have more species than others? The distribution of *Pachypodium* may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental Africa? It must be because *Pachypodium* evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree like, species to form (e.g. *P. lamerei* & *P. geayi*) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while Madagascar might have had less plants at the time, making it easier for *Pachypodium* to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships of *Pachypodium* suggest this may well be what happened!

Cultivation of *Pachypodium* is generally easy. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter keep dry. Some species, like *P. brevicaule* are more water sensitive than others. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate more cold, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. *P. lamerei* is the biggest exception in that it is a Madagascar species that can tolerate the occasional light frost in our region.



Pachypodium makayense

-Kyle Williams

VOLUNTEERS MADE IT HAPPEN! By Roxie Esterle

Everyone is talking about the fantastic success of our 2015 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival. We simply couldn't have done this without the dedication and hard work of over 40 volunteers (not counting board members) who were knowledgeable and welcoming. Many volunteers stayed well past their assigned times because they were having such a good time, working with old friends and new. Countless others of you stepped up as needed, and we hope your names aren't missing from this list. Please accept our warmest thank you for your help! And congratulations to Artie Chavez for his meticulous and enthusiastic coordination of this event.

Kids' Day Volunteers	Hospitality and Membership Table	Indoor Show and Grounds
Chairs: Kim Thorpe and Kathleen Misko	Chairs: Danielle Duboff and Roxie Esterle	Chair: David Le
Illona Buratti Roger E. Cohen Ryder Bova Shayla Wright Mary Chan Pat Byrne Gerald Richert Darlene and Rogers Weld Eric Miller Ron Behar Phyllis Polakow Ross Frazier Nancy Pyne-Hapke Sara Tune Amanda Gore Amber Jordyn Andrea Monroe Gail Bixby	Ralph Allen Massey Pat Byrne Lisa Gailey Rosemary Ecker Judy Benedict Kim Jacobi Ron Behar Sylvia Strehlo Merkie Rowan Diane Miller Nicki Larsen Dana Mylar Jim Esterle Norma Lewis Susan Phillips Kathryn Borrer	Jennifer Bensi Ralph Allen Massey Linda Holub Roger Cohen Tim Harvey

Outside Show / Vendors By Cheryl White

The outside festival was the most successful in the past 4 years since we have been keeping records. We've grown from 21 vendors in 2012 to 33 vendors this year. Virtually all of our vendors were happy with the staging and support and are planning to return next year. We also had a number of potential new vendors enquiring about participation in 2016. In addition to the vendors, we had participation from the Tortoise and Turtle Society, the Orchid Society and Mr. Fertilizer, Don Knipp.

Spending for the tents in the Kids area, the LACSS Hospitality and the Speakers area continues to be a wise investment. We doubled the size of the tent area for the speakers and all seats were full for most of the talks. This year we used the Speakers tent for the Saturday night Barbecue Dinner and that worked out well, with approximately 60 attendees. And finally, the dinner auction was a success, netting \$608 for LACSS. Thanks for the many volunteers, especially those who helped with set-up on Thursday and teardown on Sunday afternoon. We couldn't do it without all of you!

Interior Show Displays at the 2015 Festival By David Le

The LACSS 2015 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival was an enormous success! Thousands of visitors continuously streamed through the entire two days of the show. Chairman Artie Chavez emphatically summed it all up during the June club meeting: "This was the best show in the history of the club!" Artie would never admit this but the success of the show is attributed to his creative vision and strategic leadership. As the interior co-chair, I am so grateful for the tremendous member participation with the indoor displays.

LACSS will celebrate its 80th year anniversary. Our historian Nils Schirmmacher volunteered to create a display to commemorate the rich history. His imagination and originality was simply superb. The display depicted three stages of plant growth (Seedlings, Reaching Maturity and Getting Wiser) and was represented by club member photos with the varying lengths of membership. Succulent plants ranging from seedlings to specimens were staged to mirror the various stages of growth. The spectacular display garnered huge compliments from everyone. It also served as the perfect backdrop for the anniversary proclamations. The club received certificates of recognition from the offices of several elected officials. It was incredible honor for LACSS!



Proud Nils Schirmmacher with his display

Elected Official Certificates

State Senator Fran Pavley
Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian
State Assemblymember Matt Dababneh
Congressman Brad Sherman
Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz

Staff Who Presented Certificate

Rosalba Gonzalez
Timothy Lippman
Talene Dermenjian

The educational theme displays was exceptional this year! Club members poured extraordinary effort in creating such outstanding and enlightening displays. Public voting was implemented again and what an incredible turnout with more than 1400 total votes! Each visitor was given three votes each and that resulted in over 450 voting participants. The attendance was estimated to be more than 600-700 visitors just for the interior show. Congratulations to Kim Thorpe for winning the public vote with her colorful Echeverias display. Kim was awarded with an engraved CSSA plaque (graciously donated by Joe Clements) for the Best Educational Theme Display! Second place was Karen and Martin Ostler (The Magnificent Genus Mammillaria) and third place was Sandy Chase (A Study in Caudiciforms). Every club member should experience the joy of creating an educational theme display.

The plant show included Agave and Euphorbia in the Succulent category and Gymnocalycium and Mammillaria in the Cactus category. The competition was open to all divisions. I greatly appreciate our knowledgeable and faithful Judge Manny Rivera for arriving early and ranking nearly 70 plant submissions. Member's plants who were selected the Best in Class received a blue ribbon and a special hand-made pot by Erika Van Auken or Gerald Richert.

Thank you to our affiliate club the San Fernando Valley Bromeliad for joining us again in our special event. I'd also like to thank our dedicated volunteers Jennifer Bensi and Ralph Massey for helping to monitor the interior show.

It was an extraordinary amount of work but it was definitely a rewarding experience. I look forward to next year's Festival and hope it will surpass the success from this year!

**Danielle Duboff with Talene Dermenjian
(Office of Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian)**

LACSS 80th Year Anniversary Proclamations



Packed house during both show days



Interior Show



San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Display



Plant Show Specimens



Mammallaria duwei – John Matthews

Table dividers created by Artie Chavez

Educational Theme Displays

**Winners of the 2015 Best Educational Theme Display
Kim Thorpe – Echeverias**



**Second Place
Karen and Martin Ostler – The Magnificent Genus Mammillaria**



**Third Place
Sandy Chase – A Study in Caudiciforms**





Barbara Hall - Fraileas



Cheryl White-Agaves Many Many Uses

John Martinez - Aloe Hybrids



John Matthews - Haworthias



Best of Show Genus Winners



Best Agave – Cheryl White

Best Euphorbia – Artie Chavez

Best Mammillaria – John Matthews

Best Gymnocalycium – Karen & Martin Ostler

Winners (left to right) and plant names are listed below

Succulent Show Plant Winners

Succulent – Agave

Rookie/Novice

First	Kathryn Boorer	Agave utahensis var. eborispina
Second	Jim & Roxie Esterle	Agave applanata
Third	Kyle Williams	Agave applanata cv. 'Cream Spike'

Advanced

First	Cheryl White	Agave victoriae-reginae – Best in Class
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Masters/Open

First	Artie Chavez	Agave toumeyana var. bella
Second	Karen & Martin Ostler	Agave potatorum cv. 'Cubic'

Succulent – Euphorbia

Rookie/Novice

First	David Le	Euphorbia unispina
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Euphorbia squarrosa
Third	Jim & Roxie Esterle	Euphorbia pseudoburuana

Advanced

First	Sandy Chase	Euphorbia stellata
Second	Barbara Hall	Euphorbia millotii
Second	Sylvia Strehlo	Euphorbia gorgonis hybrid
Third	Barbara Hall	Euphorbia multifida
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Euphorbia cylindrifolia var. tuberfera

Masters/Open

First	Artie Chavez	Euphorbia misera – Best in Class
Second	Gerald Richert	Euphorbia rossii
Third	Gerald Richert	Euphorbia squarrosa

Cacti Show Plant Winners

Cactus – Gymnocalycium

Rookie/Novice

First	Kathryn Boorer	Gymnocalycium manzanense
Second	Kyle Williams	Gymnocalycium anisitsii
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Gymnocalycium occultum
Third	Kyle Williams	Gymnocalycium vatteri

Advanced

First	Cheryl White	Gymnocalycium horstii var. buenekeri
Second	Cheryl White	Gymnocalycium horstii
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Gymnocalycium friedrichii

Masters/Open

First	Karen & Martin Ostler	Gymnocalycium pflanzii sp. pflanzii – Best in Class
Second	John Matthews	Gymnocalycium marsoneri ssp. matoense
Second	Karen & Martin Ostler	Gymnocalycium weissianum
Third	Karen & Martin Ostler	Gymnocalycium bayerianum

Cactus – Mammillaria

Rookie/Novice

First	Phyllis Frieze	Mammillaria formosa
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria longimamma
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria geminispina

Advanced

First	Sandy Chase	Mammillaria plumosa
Second	Cheryl White	Mammillaria gracilis
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Mammillaria gracilis

Masters/Open

First	John Matthews	Mammillaria duwei – Best in Class
Second	Karen & Martin Ostler	Mammillaria karwinskiana ssp. collinsii
Third	Karen & Martin Ostler	Mammillaria petersonii

Inter-City Show and Sale August 8th and 9th, 2015 By John Matthews

Now that our own very successful LACSS Drought Tolerant Plant Festival is over and 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 8-9 2015 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum. This is the 30th annual show and the theme is - wait for it - '30'. There is a link to the show newsletter on the LACSS website(www.lacactus.com). Check out the Lithops dorotheae pizza pie by Tom Glavich on the show T-shirt. They will be 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. Pictures from prior shows are ubiquitous in online media. The Walks and Talks programs will feature several speakers from LACSS. And don't forget the dinner (\$30) - Carved Beef and Chicken with salad, drinks and dessert. The dinner and auction on Saturday night is at Coco's. Sign up early for this opportunity to schmooze with fellow collectors and bid on some really fantastic plants. Many of these auction plants end up on trophy tables in many shows in coming years. Contact Evelyn Stevens at (626) 303-1239 for the dinner - it is always a sellout.

To ensure that the caliber of the show is maintained we need all member to exhibit their best show plants especially since the LACSS is one of the three sponsoring clubs for this mega show. You should be selecting and grooming your plants now. Those plants you entered in the CSSA show, the LACSS show, and the LACSS June POM favorites are a good start. The number of show entries has been dropping in recent years so please be sure to enter plants. The show is easy to enter and there are three levels in which you can show; novice, advanced, and open sections. Don't forget the Golden Sweeps. 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 online at www.sqvcss.com.

As usual, we are in need of volunteer help to ensure that setup and takedown are accomplished with as little pain as possible and to keep the show and sale humming along. No particular expertise with succulents or cactus is necessary for volunteers. Signup sheets will be at our July and August meetings along with all show details. Help is especially needed Saturday morning when the sales are busiest and more volunteer assistance on Wednesday morning, August 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 presents unique learning opportunities. Our club profits greatly from this show so your participation is essential.

Tom Glavich is still looking for IC show help in the following areas - videographer and show publicity. Task descriptions for these opportunities have been presented in LACSS Chronicle will continue until positions are filled.

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

John Matthews, Inter-City Co-chair

Cactus and Succulent Society of America
36th Biennial Convention
By John Martinez



This past week (June 14 through June 19, 2015), I had the opportunity to attend the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's (CSSA) 36th Biennial Convention. The convention was held at Pitzer College, in Claremont, Ca. I was joined by several of our club's members along with over 300 other CSSA members from around the world.

This was my first CSSA Convention and I was extremely impressed by the many beautifully planted succulent gardens on the campus, the friendliness of the attendees, the quality of the speakers, and the incredibly fascinating topics.

The topics ranged from the discovery of a new plant (*Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*) right here in our own backyard to many incredible travel logs into Mexico, Africa and Madagascar. Our own Dr. Tim Harvey gave a fascinating look into the diverse flora of Namibia. We were also treated to a gallery of amazing photography set to music by Martin Kristen.

Late afternoon Monday, we were bused to the Huntington Botanical Garden. Here we had the opportunity to tour the gardens (including the desert garden greenhouse), attend a very nice banquet dinner out on the garden lawn, and hear the opening comments from the Keynote Speaker, Dr. James P. Folsom titled "The Time Has Come" in the brand new Robert C. Ritchie Auditorium.

The live rare plant auction was held on Tuesday evening and many amazing plants were offered. I was particularly interested in a collection of 4 different *Gasteria batsesiana* clones provided by Ernst van Jaarsveld. Even though I set what I thought to be a pretty high dollar limit, I was not even close and was not awarded any of the auction plants. However, it was quite interesting to watch some of the bidding wars. I believe the highest priced plant went for \$1,000. A couple of our members went home with some very nice auction plants.

Although I did not bring home any of the auction plants, I certainly made it up in the very well stocked plant and book sales area.

The days were long but I thoroughly enjoyed the week I spent at the Convention. The camaraderie, the opportunity to learn so much about the plants we all love, and the chance to actually meet many of the folks that are so prominent in our hobby was a thrill.

Far too much occurred over the week to cover in this short article. However, rumor has it that the next CSSA Convention will be in the Phoenix area in 2017. I will certainly be there.

So, if you are not currently a member of CSSA you may want to join and hopefully see you at the next CSSA Convention in 2017.

John Martinez



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Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

- August 8-9** 30th Annual Intercity Show & Sale at Ayres Hall & Lawn Area, 9am-5pm Daily
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or John Matthews (661) 714-1052
- August 29** Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium **All Day at the Huntington**
- September 6** Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Plant Auction -12-5
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach 90615 **Info:** (310) 922-6090
- October 24-25** Palomar Show & Sale Saturday 9-5 Sunday 10-4 at San Diego Botanic Gardens
230 Quail Gardens Road, Encinitas **Info:** hciservices@gmail.com (858) 382-1797
- November 7 -8** San Gabriel Valley Winter Show & Sale - Ayres Hall
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **Info** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or John Matthews (661) 714-1052, Manny Rivera (626) 579-7954

General Meeting

Thursday, July 2nd, 2015

Program: Program: Tilandsias in Coastal and Southern California
Presented by Gregg DeChirico

July Events

July 24-26 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale
Friday July 25 9am-5pm, Saturday July 26 9am-5pm, Sunday 27 12-4pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, **Info** (949) 212-8417