



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 TUESDAY

January 6, 2014
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356
6:30 pm

Refreshments

S

Editor
Phyllis Frieze
frieze.phyllis@
yahoo.com

Program: Canary Islands: They are Out of This World

Marquita is a member of CSSA and a member of LACSS for three years and has been scheduling programs for two of those years. As a California native, born in Anaheim, she received her degree in Civil Engineering from Loyola Marymount University and also attended Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She worked as a Registered Civil Engineer for over 20 years with a portion of that time spent underwater as a hardhat diver. She spends her time helping with their family construction business, hiking, mountain biking and tending her collection of aeoniums and adeniums.

Marquita Elias will take the audience to space and then return them to the Canary Islands to witness adaptive radiation first hand. The program will include indigenous plants including Aeoniums, Euphorbia, Ceropogia, Caralluma and other Canarian natives. The presentation will include six of the seven major islands in this archipelago and will demonstrate the climatic diversity of these islands. Included in this presentation are pirates, Christopher Columbus and mealy bugs.



Visit Us on the web
<http://www.lacss.com>
OR contact us at
lacss.contact@gmail.com

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1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

John Martinez

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LACSS.contact@gmail.com

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Director 1 Odd Years

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Cactus Chronicle Editor

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Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairperson

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Awards Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

John Noster

Steve Rudolf

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

January, 2015

Here we are – starting a brand new year, full of hope and wishing we hadn't made those New Year's resolutions. No chocolate??? What was I thinking??!

As a Club, we are starting this year on the shoulders of a very successful 2014. As noted in the December Chronicle, the goals of 2014 were met. Now we must reassess our goals-looking for new things to do, successes to refine and new adventures to explore. Your ideas are always welcome so feel free to email any Board member or me to get the ball rolling.

Marquita Elias, VP- Programs, already has a full schedule for 2015. We even will have a special speaker program on Saturday, Feb. 21 so stay tuned for the details on that.

Manny Rivera has set the Plant of the Month list for a year in advance so we have plenty of time to prepare our plants for mini - competition.

The Festival Committee held a pre-pre-planning meeting and is thinking of new, improved ways of presenting the Festival. Again, new ideas are welcome, as are volunteers. {You didn't really think a month would go by without me asking for volunteers, did you???

Looking at the list of the Board of Directors, one might wonder what all these people do. Throughout this year, each Board member will write a summary of their areas of responsibility. We start this month with John Matthews' summary of his activities as the LACSS liaison to the Intercity Show. See his summary on another page. Feel free to ask him for more details of his activities.

We have quite a collection of plants for our January raffle. Buck Hemenway, Norma Lewis, and Rogers & Darlene Weld have been quite generous with more than 20 plants, all high quality and looking for a good home. So be sure to get your raffle ticket(s).

I am pleased to announce that Susan Phillips has volunteered to be our new Librarian. Please stop by the library table to meet Susan and welcome her to this new position. Our library is in great shape and will continue to grow as it has in the past. We always have the latest CSSA Journal plus the Aloe Journal from South Africa. The updated book list will be available in February.

See you soon, Joyce

Happy Holiday Award Dinner 2014

As with all big events, our Holiday Award Dinner is composed of many aspects. Barbara Hall has, once again, put it all together for an enjoyable, entertaining, and delicious event to end our year.

Let's start with the display of surviving *Pleiospilos bolusii*. Apparently, not too many survivors. Everyone had a good laugh about the non-survivor (named RIP) offered by Ilona. Mine survived but in the rush to pack everything into the truck, it got left behind. It is still surviving but a bit miffed at being left behind.

Our next activity was the imaginative games that Nils put together for us. The "How Long Is the Root" game challenged our knowledge of growth rates of *Euphorbia stellate*. There were many guesses but only one was correct. The crossword puzzle again challenged many but one member was faster with the solution than the rest of us. Unfortunately, winners were not recorded so cannot be identified. But, you know who you are, so please speak up at the January meeting for recognition. Regardless, each winner was awarded a designer pot.

A big part of the Holiday dinner is to recognize the winners of the Plant of the Month mini-competition. There were over 40 participants during the year and each received a hand crafted pot designed by our own Gerald Richert. We thank Gerald for being willing to throw so many pots for us. See the POM page for winners.

The evening culminates with the auction of plants and plant related items donated by our members. There were forty plants plus a few knick-knacks which prompted lots of interest. Bidding was spirited and competitive.

A heartfelt THANKS to everyone who set-up, tore-down, donated food and plants, etc. who made this one on the best Holiday Awards Dinner EVER!

A good time was had by all!

Mentoring Program Summary 2014

Planning for the 2014 Mentoring Program began at the LACSS Board Meeting in December 2013. The focus of that discussion was to identify potential topics for 2014. During 2014 there were four Mentoring Workshops; these are listed below:

Winter Growers	Manny Rivera	February
Staging	Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze	April
Vegetative Propagation	John Matthews and John Martinez	September
Family of Asclepeidiceae	Sandy Chase	October

Each of these workshops was attended by 12-15 members; at each workshop a volunteer offered to write a summary for the Cactus Chronicle.

Planning for 2015 began at the November Board meeting. The first program will be on Landscaping with Cactus and Succulents and will be conducted by Bryan Chan in February. One of the recommendations, which received a lot of support, was to establish one on one mentoring sessions for less experienced members. This will be developed over the next several months.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Mentors who have participated in the program. Your expertise and willingness to provide assistance is very much appreciated by the membership.

If you have any suggestions or comments about the program, please contact me.

John Suciu

805-374-7306

Johns.three@gmail.com

PLANT OF THE MONTH POLICIES for 2015

Competition Divisions:

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

Plant Entries

Members may enter 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 entries	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
2015**

January

Discocactus
Anacampseros, Avonia,
Ceraria

February

Mammillaria Clusters
Sarcocaulon

March

Pediocactus,
Sclerocactus
Echinomastus
Sedum

April

Variegates

May

Aztekium
Geohintonia
Sansevieria

June

Favorite

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

Graduate Rookie to Novice > 25 points

Kathryn Boorer	144
Carolyn and Robert Feldman	50
David Le	47
Kyle Williams	39
Natalie Welsh	31

Graduate Novice to Advanced > 100 points

Sylvia Strehlo	124
John Suci	103

Total Points

Thorpe, Kim	158
Kathryn Boorer	129
John Matthews	91
Artie Chavez	62
Sylvia Strehlo	47

Total Points Cactus

Kim Thorpe	88
Kathryn Boorer	68
John Matthews	66
Sylvia Strehlo	38
John Suci	24

Total Points Succulent

Kim Thorpe	70
Artie Chavez	62
Kathryn Boorer	61
Carol and Robert Feldman	38
Jim Esterle / Sandy Chase (Tie)	34

Rookie Cactus

Kathryn Boorer	68
Kyle Williams	23
Natalie Welsh	11

Novice Cactus

Sylvia Strehlo	38
John Suci	24
Phyllis Frieze	7

Advanced Cactus

Kim Thorpe	88
Rio Cernik	23
John Martinez	15

Open Cactus

John Matthews	66
Manny Rivera	8

Rookie Succulent

Kathryn Boorer	61
David Le	29
Kathleen Misko / Kyle Williams (Tie)	12

Novice Succulent

Carol and Robert Feldman	38
Jim Esterle	34
John Suci	20

Advanced Succulent

Kim Thorpe	70
Sandy Chase	34
John Martinez	25

Open Succulent

Artie Chavez	62
Manny Rivera	26
John Matthews	25

Brief Inter-City Meeting Report from John Matthews

I attended the pre-show meeting in April where it was decided to honor Larry Grammer with a new trophy for best Lithops. Also at the meeting Tom Glavich requested 3 new Inter-City volunteers to take over publicity, write the newsletter, and do videography of the sale/show. A description of the duties for the publicity chair and the videographer may be found below.

Inter - City Publicist - Job Description:

Send notices of the Inter City Show to:

1. Sunset Magazine
2. AAA Magazine
3. Pacific Horticulture
4. Cactus and Succulent Society of America
5. All local clubs (San Francisco to San Diego Sunset to New Mexico and Nevada)
6. Arcadia Patch
7. Pasadena Patch
8. Yelp
9. Craig's List
10. Cactus-etc
11. Fat Plants
12. Facebook
13. Any other you can think of.

Place paid ads in (we will show you how to do this and set price limitations)

1. Tribune Group (and write advertorial)
2. LA Times
3. Thai newspaper
4. (If funding allows, Chinese American News)
5. Facebook

Get flyers to

1. California Cactus
2. San Gabriel Nursery
3. Huntington Library
4. LA Arboretum

Keep show chairs and treasurer informed on status and problems at least bi-weekly.

Videographer Job Description

Make a video of the Inter-City Show, emphasizing plants and in particular blue ribbon and trophy table plants. Also pictures of the sales area and show area, but not focusing on anyone without permission. Some simple editing capabilities will be required, along with a steady hand. Add low key legal musical background, and upload to YouTube. Can attend judging, set-up etc as able. Quietest time is Sunday Morning before the show opens. Steadiness is the key and ability to edit out extraneous background noise. No video during auction or dinner.

(There is an older YouTube of the show, but it is so jerky that you can get motion sickness trying to watch it.)



THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

BOTANICAL GARDENS

DESERT FORUM *Saturday, 17 January 2015*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 10:00 **Registration**
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden**
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales**
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping*
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 **Free Time**
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30

Lunch:

The Rose Garden Café features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items
The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

Don't miss:

“Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World” in Dibner Hall (Library building)
The newly renovated Japanese Garden
Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)

**California Garden Club, Inc
2015 Dates to Remember**

Garden Club Calendar for 2015

January 23-25	Flower Show Symposium, Bakersfield
February 2-5	CGCI Winter Board Meeting, Fresno Host: Sequoia Foothills District
February 11-13	Flower Show School. Course IV Sponsor: Diablo Foothills District
April 20-22	Pacific Region Convention, Eugene, Oregon
April 23-24	Landscape Design Study School. Series 26, Course II Sponsor: Luther Burbank District
May 14-17	National Garden Convention. Louisville, Kentucky
June 8-12	CGCI 84th Annual Convention. Reno, Nevada Host: Golden Foothills District

San Fernando Valley District Calendar for 2015

January 22	Campo de Cahuenga Commemoration
February 23	District meeting
April 13	District Bus Tour
June 22	District meeting

San Fernando Valley District Member Clubs and Meeting Dates

Club Name	email address	Meeting Date
Burbank-Valley Garden Club	queenmum@foothill.net	1st Thursday
Cherry Blossom Garden Club	ksunness@hotmail.com	1st Wednesday
Gardening Club of Santa Clarita	leonbrook@aol.com	2nd Thursday
Lake View Improvement Association	josieza@gmail.com	1st Monday
Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society	lacss.contact@gmail.com	1st Thursday
Sherman Oaks Garden Club	patchogue26@att.net	4th Wednesday
Southern California Garden Club	hovallens@att.net	3rd Tuesday
Sunshine Garden Club	nosher04@yahoo.com	2nd Monday
Toluca Lake Garden Club	robynallyn3@gmail.com	2nd Wednesday
West Valley Garden Club	iburatti@social.rr.com	2nd Tuesday
Woodland Hills Floral Designers	bevswitzer@aol.com	4th Tuesday

LACSS and the CGCI

The California Garden Club, Inc. has an incredible Award Program that covers many aspects of Club activities. The list is too long to post here, but four awards seemed to fit some of our best projects. So, the Chair of each of those projects wrote the applications, included photos and I mailed them to the CGCI for award consideration. The four applications were for our Newsletter (Phyllis Frieze), Mentoring Sessions (John Suci), Monthly Programs (Marquita Ellias) and Special Events (John Martinez). I thank all of you for your thoughtfulness in preparing the applications. I am quite proud of this effort and welcomed the opportunity to utilize the Award Program as a way to evaluate our efforts with another's viewpoint. The deadline for applications is January 10 so results will not be known for a while. Why not nominate our Festival? Good question! But, before and after photos are needed and we only have "during" photos. But, there's always next year.....

Plants of the Month: *Anacampseros*, *Avonia*, & *Ceraria*



Anacampseros filimentosa

This month we look at three genera of Southern African (primarily South African and Namibia) succulents that are interesting both from a horticultural perspective and a taxonomic one. *Anacampseros* in the strict sense has around 30 species, primarily from South Africa and adjacent countries, with one species native to Australia. For the most part the species tend to have fleshy rhomboid, or diamond shaped, leaves, very soft and fleshy stems, and have white hairs at the base of the leaves. Some species are covered in a netting of thin white hairs that resemble a spider web! The most commonly grown species is probably *A. rufescens*, particularly the bright pink variegated form known as 'Sunrise'. *Anacampseros* stays quite small and most tend to form

clumps over time. One of the nicest aspects of this genus are its flowers. In most species they are large (for the size of the plant) bright pink and produced on long stalks.

Avonia is a small group of roughly a dozen species that generally have very small, often scale-like leaves that envelop narrow stems. The most popular species is *A. alstonii* due to the beautiful caudex it forms. While the plant is quite small (big ones have a caudex a few inches across), the stout nature of the caudex and the numerous little green stems on top of it make the plant a must have for many succulent collectors. It produces attractive pink or white flowers, depending on the subspecies. While that is the best known species, it differs quite a bit from the other species seen in cultivation. The others, such as *A. buderiana* are tiny clumping oddities that have paper-like leaves. These papery leaves are so numerous it can sometimes make it hard to even tell if your plant is alive or dead! The flowers are much smaller in these species and no caudex is formed.



Avonia alstonii ssp. *quinaria*



Ceraria namaquensis

Ceraria is the least commonly grown of the three genera. It has just a few species, primarily in Namibia. The genus is similar to, and related to, *Portulacaria*. They form woody shrubs to small trees with peeling bark. The leaves small and fleshy, and drop off in times of drought. *Ceraria pygmaea* is the smallest species and can make a nice succulent bonsai.

Why did these three different genera get chosen together for plant of the month? Because traditionally they all belonged to the Purslane Family, Portulacaceae. However, modern taxonomic research use DNA has discovered that they don't belong in that family. *Ceraria* has now, along with *Portulacaria*, been placed in the Didiereaceae. Prior to this all Didiereaceae were thought to be thorny shrubs from Madagascar (e.g. *Didierea* and *Allauaudia*). Now this extends the family to the African mainland. Another finding from molecular research is that *Anacampseros* and *Avonia* are really the same genus (to be called *Anacampseros*) and belong in their own separate family, the *Anacamserotaceae*. It would be difficult to call this a completely new finding as taxonomists originally considered them the same genus before splitting them up. The new data just shows us the original guys were right all along!

Plant of the Month: Discocactus

To allay any confusion I want to make clear that this month's cactus discussion will have no mention of bell bottoms, mirror balls, or the Bee Gees! Though, if you want to watch Saturday Night Fever with your cactus sitting next to you that is your business.

Discocactus are heavily ribbed South American cacti, primarily from Brazil. The genus is quite old, first described in 1837. The name comes from the shape of the body, which tends to be much flatter than tall, at least compared to the other ball like genera (*Parodias* etc.) that share its habitat. *Discocactus* can be found inland in the state of Minas Gerais, and further South in the states of Sao Paulo, Parana, Mato Grosso, and crossing into Paraguay, and even into the Southeastern most state of Bolivia, Santa Cruz. Although popular in cultivation, many of the species are endangered in the wild.



Discocactus horstii



Discocactus zehntneri

The beautiful spination, the flat bodies, and the pleasantly fragrant flowers have made this a popular genus, and there are far more names in cultivation than there are true species. The number of species has varied from more than 60 down to 24 in recent publications (1990s), to the currently recognized 7. This is unlikely to be the last word on this attractive genus, so keep your old labels, they may soon be good again. In our shows, most of the generic names are accepted.

The distinguishing characteristics of *Discocactus* are globular to flattened globular shape, a cephalium, and fragrant night blooming flowers. The cephalia stay relatively small, are almost always white, and have long soft wool. *Discocactus* have ring-meristems (a ring of growth cells) that surround the cephalium, and allow the body to continue to grow after the cephalium forms. This growth ring distinguishes *Discocactus* from the very similar and related *Melocactus*.



Discocactus magnimammus

Discocactus has similar cultivation requirements to other tropical terrestrial cacti such as *Melocactus* and *Uebelmannia*. They thrive in warm humid climates where even the nights stay quite warm. However, they are fine in our Mediterranean climate with cool summer nights so long as we give them some extra warmth in the winter months. They shouldn't be kept in a location where the temperature drops below about 50. They like more moisture than similar looking non-tropical cacti, but don't keep them wet, especially in the winter.

-Kyle Williams
Special Thanks to Tom Glavich

LACSS Cactus Chronicle



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

E-mail: lacss.conct@gmail.com

General Meeting
TUESDAY, January 6, 2015
6:30 P.M.

Program: Canary Islands: They are Out of This World
Presented by Marquita Elias

January Events

January 17 Huntington Desert Forum (see page for information)