

LOS ANGELES  
CACTUS  
AND  
SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY

# CACTUS CHRONICLE

March 2010

President: Artie Chavez  
(818) 201-7323  
[cactus7@socal.rr.com](mailto:cactus7@socal.rr.com)



Next Meeting: March 4, 2010



Editor: Phyllis Frieze  
(818) 892-1669  
[Phyllis.98@hotmail.com](mailto:Phyllis.98@hotmail.com)

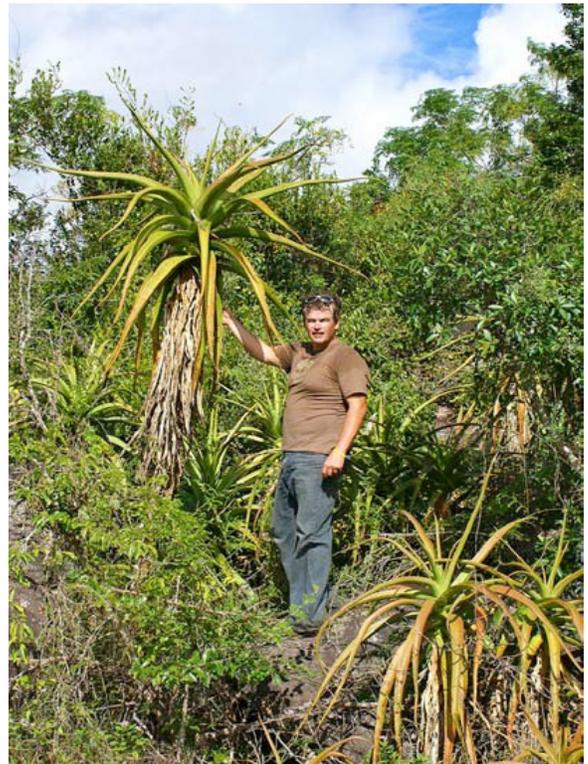
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**Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)**

## March Program—Kelly Griffin

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society is pleased to present Kelly Griffin as our March 2010 speaker. Kelly will be sharing his recent trip to Cedros Island.

As the Curator of Xeric plants at Rancho Soledad Nurseries, Kelly has been fascinated with all plants but in particular the succulent ones since the age of thirteen. Due to good health and good fortune he has been able to observe many beautiful and interesting plants in their natural habitat and enjoys sharing the knowledge he has gained as a result of his travels. The Mexican flora has been a favorite subject of study for many years, particularly Agaves, Echeverias, and other Crassulacea. Kelly is also well known for the many beautiful Aloe hybrids he has developed over the years.



### ***Important Messages for LACSS Members***

***The roster is ready for printing. Unless we hear otherwise, the information presented for each member will include the following: name, phone number, and email address. Call Joyce Schumann at (818) 705-3224***

***Plant of the month winners for February will appear in the April edition of the LACSS Chronicle***

# DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANT FESTIVAL

Water Wise - Money Wise

Educational displays and plant sale

Sponsored by: Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

**DATE** — JUNE 12 (9:00-5:00) and June 13 (9:00-3:30) — **Set Up Friday, June 11th**

**PLACE**—Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Boulevard, Encino

**THEME**— **Drought Resistant Plant Festival** - To improve ways to fulfill the Club's mission statement of "education, conservation and the study of cacti and succulents". In the past our show and sale has concentrated on the educational aspect with our extremely successful informational exhibits. The current approach will be to educate and demonstrate how cacti and succulents have had all of these qualities long before it was necessary and how these plants fit into landscape design with other plants.

**SHOW AND SALE FORMAT**—The show will consist of landscaping exhibits constructed by the club and vendors. The exhibit themes are *Cacti & Succulents*, *Succulents and Native Plants*, *Pet & Child Friendly Plants* and *Color Coordinated*. The festival committee is asking members to **loan** plants to populate the Club exhibits. We need 6" to 5 gallon landscape quality potted plants (these specimen do **NOT** have to be show quality). For those who submit plants, **PLEASE** use a separate tag to identify the genus, name of the plant and your name. There will be an attendant at each landscape plot to answer questions along with signage to explain the exhibit.

Guest speakers will be inside the Garden Center - topics will include:

*Container gardening—Propagation—Pest control and fertilization*

*Pet and child friendly plants—Color coordinated gardens—Native plants*

The show chairs Sandy Chase (818-367-0864) or Joyce Schumann (818-705-3224) need to know by **Monday, May 17th** the number of plants, genus and category you are willing to loan for the construction of the exhibits.

**Vendors will be selling landscaping plants in addition to their usual merchandise.**

The Bromeliad Society will participate in this Festival as they have in the past.

**Of Special Importance:** Publicity is critical to the success of this Festival. Flyers, post cards, and email announcements will be distributed. Retail nurseries and other garden centers will also be contacted. *Involvement of all LACSS members is critical to the success of the Festival.*

**PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2010**  
**LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY (LACSS)**

Month	Cacti	Succulent
January	Hooked Spine Mammillaria	Senecio and Othonna
February	Monotypic Cacti	Adromischus, Anacampseros & Avonia
March	Copiapoa	Aeonium, Sempervivum & Sedum
April	Astrophytums	Cucurbitaceae
May	Echinopsis, Libovia, & Trichocereus	Agavaceae
June	Thelocactus	Caudiciform Euphorbia
July	Melocactus	Cissus & Cyphostemma
August	Favorite	Favorite
September	Miniatures	Miniatures
October	Variegates	Variegates
November	Echinocactus	Haworthia Retuse Type
December	<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. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Although it is not advised, LACSS members are free to enter a plant in the Open class at any time.

**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 three 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 or two succulent categories during the prior year.

**Entry Requirements:** All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to two plants per entry category per month – a total of four 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.

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

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

**New Members—Month of March**

**Ralph Massey**

**Jairo Ramirez**

**Amy Wolkins**

**Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society**  
**Succulent of the Month March 2010 - Aeonium, Sempervivum and Sedum**



*Aeonium decorum 'Sunburst'*

*Aeonium's* originate in Northern Africa and subtropical islands geographically proximate to this area; the Canary Islands, the Cape Verde Islands, and Madeira. This plant forms rosettes with waxy leaves that can grow to 6 inches or more in mature plants. Leaf color varies from dark maroon in *Aeonium arboreum* 'Schwartkopf' to bright yellow and light reds in 'Sunburst' and Kiwi. True species and hybrid *Aeoniums* can reach three feet in height and in the heat of the San Fernando Valley will grow best in partial shade. As the rosette grow and expands older leaves die back and should be removed. To ensure that the plant remains compact and is grown in a manner to maximize the development of new rosettes, the older 'naked' stems may be cut off and propagated. The mature rosettes produce flower stalks that can reach 12 inches or more depending on the size of the plant. The star-shaped flowers appear in the winter and are typically creamy white, pink, yellowish, or golden. Once the rosette has flowered it dies back.

The genus *Sempervivum* is endemic to the mountainous regions of central and Southern Europe and the Mediterranean islands. They grow at anywhere from 3,000 to 8,000 feet and can therefore tolerate colder temperatures than other succulents. There are over 50 species and 3,000 cultivars. *Sempervivum* form smallish rosette clumps of many different sizes (1/2 inch to 3 inches), forms, textures, and colors. Like *Aeoniums*, *Sempervivum* produce a star-shaped flower stalk after which the rosette dies. Flower colors are typically red or pink. The rosette leaves may appear to be glossy or more matt like. Hairy rosettes are found in the cultivars, where silver colored strands can occur along the leaf margins. Even more distinctive are the clumps of hair which can be found on the leaf tips. With some cultivars the effect is significant enough to produce a cobweb like appearance. *Sempervivum* are collected and prized for their forms and numerous colors.



*Sempervivum collection*

The genus *Sedum* is known as the stone crop plant of the family Crassulaceae. They are found throughout the Northern Hemisphere and are ubiquitous in all types of garden. Prized for their vibrant and colorful flowers, they can form bush-like plants that grow to approximately 2 feet or appear as low ground cover plants. Flower colors vary from white, pink, red, purple, yellow, or orange. *Sedum* leaves also are found in a variety of colors that include gray/silver, red/purple, or blue-green. Depending on the species one can find a variegated plant as well.

*Sedum* species require soil with good drainage and tolerate full sun even in the hottest areas. Some sedums are too small or fragile to serve as landscape plants and should be grown in pot culture only.



*Sedum ellacombeanum*

Steve Frieze, February 2010

## Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cactus of the Month March 2010 – *Copiapoa*



*Copiapoa humilis* v. *tenuissima*

*Copiapoa* is a unique genus of spectacular plants from the North Coast of Chile. The genus has no close relatives, and is confined to a region of ecological change, becoming steadily drier for the past several hundred years. The Southern limit of *Copiapoa* is where reliable winter rains can be found, while the Northern limit is the tropical region of reliable summer rains. *Copiapoa* live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. Some of the species live completely on dense fogs that occur daily for months at a time. They are slow growing.

The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view, and new species are still being described and additional species will be found in the future.

Given these extreme conditions, one would expect the cultivation of these

plants in Southern California, with our frequent winter rains, fogs, and “June gloom” to be quite a challenge. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti, growing many times faster than they would 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.

*Copiapoa* are easily propagated from cuttings or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed houses, and germinates quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting soil, and moved to drier surroundings after germination.

*Copiapoa* were first collected in the 1840s, and described as *Echinocactus*, then the home of anything more or less globular. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work **The Cactaceae**. The name derives from Chilean province of Copiapo, home to many of the species.

All of the *Copiapoa* are worth growing. This is a genus unparalleled in excellent species.

Tom Glavich February 2005

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

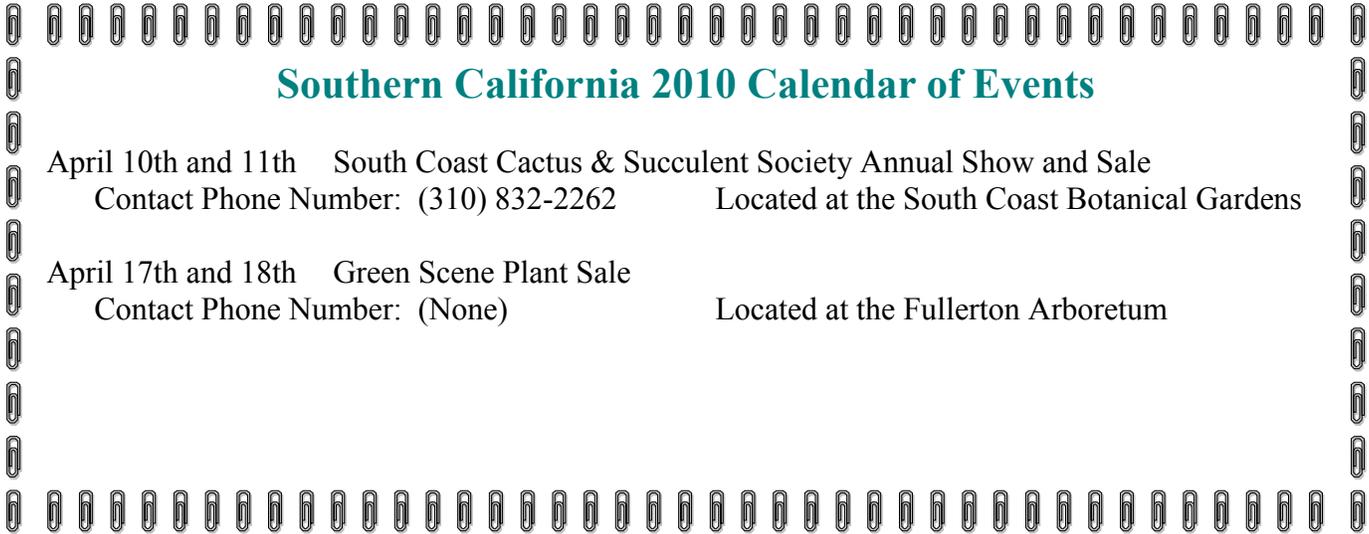
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### We Want Your Stories

The Board of Directors has had several discussions on the content of the Chronicle. They thought it would be good to have some fresh ideas about the world of cactus and succulents. One of the suggestions was for volunteer “guest columnists” write an article focusing on their special interests. We are confident that many of you could easily write 500 words on your favorite topic, such as – how I got interested in cactus and/or succulents, my favorite potting soil, my favorite plant (or least favorite), and why. If we had a person a month do one article to be published in the Chronicle it would enhance everyone’s knowledge and can be used as a diversified learning tool.

**So who will step up and author the first guest column?** We want to publish the first article in the **April 2010** Chronicle and hope that all of you will contribute to this new feature.

Please email your article to me by **April 20, 2010** so it can be included in the **April 2010** issue. It would be helpful if you could let me know the subject you will write on and what month it can be sent to me for inclusion.



### Southern California 2010 Calendar of Events

April 10th and 11th	South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale
Contact Phone Number: (310) 832-2262	Located at the South Coast Botanical Gardens
April 17th and 18th	Green Scene Plant Sale
Contact Phone Number: (None)	Located at the Fullerton Arboretum

The Caro Desert Nursery is proud to present  
**The Incredible Staging Workshop  
& Potters Sale March 20th, 2010**

Featuring Larry Grammer and John Luhnaw

**A rare staging opportunity with  
Larry Grammer**

Larry Grammer, perhaps the finest stager of show quality plants that we have in the hobby. Larry's staged plants have been awarded such prestigious awards as:



Best in Category, Best Cactus, Best Succulent, and the grand daddy of them all, Best in Show.

Larry's work has been seen at all the major shows of the west coast, such as the CSSA and InterCity shows. Larry will be bringing some staging materials, such as rocks to sell.

**Bonsai staging with  
Bonsai Artist John Luhnaw**

John is a master bonsai artist, not only in the traditional bonsai of miniaturized trees, but also specializes in succulent plants. Those of us who have admired his work know that John's staged plants have been honored as the Best of Show at the InterCity in the Bonsai category.

In the world of bonsai, which is quite separate from the world of cacti and succulents, John is or has been a member of 5 different bonsai clubs over the past 18 years. His instructors are nationally and internationally respected. John has taught the art of bonsai for the past 3 years. (Not a "new-kid-on-the-block"). John will first instruct on the basic bonsai techniques as they apply to our cactus and succulent plants.



**Workshop Times**

**10:00 – Noon – Larry Grammer**

**1:00 – 3:00 – John Luhnaw**

**3:30 – 5:30 – Larry Grammer**

Inner Circle Cost: \$35 per person per session  
Strictly limited to 8 persons per session!

Sign up now @ [www.CaroDesert.com](http://www.CaroDesert.com)

You can bring your own plants, or show up empty handed (with a "blank pallet") and acquire show-quality plants, pots and staging material (top dressings and rocks) at the Caro Desert Nursery.

**P O T T E R S   S A L E**

**First Of The Year Buying Opportunity  
Of Fine Ceramic Pottery**

Come and be the first to acquire the new pots of the 2010 year. Many of these potters create new and gorgeous pots over the fall and winter. Be among the first to see their new creations.

**Currently Scheduled Potters:**

**Joe Wujcik, Mark Muradian, Karenn Ohlinder,  
Debbie & Charlie Ball, and Steve Pate**

**STAGING ROCKS AND  
TOP DRESSING FOR SALE**

Browse the largest selection of top dressing ever assembled in one place. John Matthews will have his entire top dressing inventory available for purchase.

**Date: Saturday March 20th  
from 9am till ????**

**The Caro Desert Nursery  
9607 East Avenue S12, Littlerock, CA 93543**

Visit the website for ALL the details  
[www.CaroDesert.com](http://www.CaroDesert.com)

# Tom Thompson is Selling His PRIZE Cactus and Succulent Collection

**His collection has *accumulated* many ribbons at show competitions in the Southern California Show Circuit over the years and he is a long time valued member of the LACSS**

Tom is retiring from show exhibitions - his retirement is your opportunity to obtain excellent show quality plants at a fair price

More about the collection:

- The collection consists of approximately 600 plants
  - 🪴 27 plants in pots less than 4"
  - 🪴 270 plants in 4" pots
  - 🪴 200 plants in 6" pots
  - 🪴 137 plants in pots greater than 6"
- Most plants are in glazed pots or decorative red clay pots
- The collection includes the following genera; kalanchoe, mammillaria, adromischus, haworthia, crassula, echeveria, euphorbia, gymnocalycium, and hoyas
- In addition to the plants listed above there are a smaller number of other cactus and succulents (except Mesembs which fit into his new residence)

**To schedule an appointment to see the collection (it is located in Thousand Oaks)**

**Call Tom Thompson at (805) 205-5711**

**The asking price for the collection is \$1,500  
or about \$2.50 a plant**

**General Meeting** starts at 7:30 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](http://www.lacss.com)

Upcoming Programs:

First Class Mail

Next Meeting: March 4, 2010  
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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