



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

May 7th, 2015

16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356

Doors Open at

6:15 pm

Meeting begins at

7:00pm

Refreshments

I—M

Editor

Phyllis Frieze
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yahoo.com

Visit Us on the web
www.LAcactus.com.
OR contact us at
lacss.contact@gmail.com

Program: Mojave Desert Plants- They're Here in our Own Backyard Presented by Karen Ostler

The Mojave is known as a high desert with elevations up to nearly 8000 feet. The region has a large range in elevation and a diversified plant life. Along with vascular, fungi, mosses and lichen plant life is varied and contains many Cacti. These can be seen by taking a relatively short drive from Los Angeles. Karen's presentation will take us on this drive to explore the many ecological habitats found in the Mojave. So fasten your seat belt and let's explore our own backyard!



Karen has been growing plants from age ten, beginning with houseplants like Sansevierias and Epiphyllums. Her first real cactus was in 1979, a Gymnocalycium. After that she was hooked. She has been a member of LACSS off and on since 1988. She is also a member of CSSA, Central Coast, Gates, San Gabriel and Sunset Cactus and Succulent Societies. She received the 2014 CSSA Educational Award for her Educational display at the 2014 LACSS Festival. She has been a recent speaker at SGCSS on her specialty, Mammillarias. Ten years ago she moved from the San Fernando Valley to the Mojave Desert, where she lives at an elevation of 4100 feet.

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Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

May, 2015

Every time I sit down to write this message, my mind is a complete blank. What to say? What should be mentioned? Have I said that before? And then, after the Chronicle goes to press, I think "should have said this or that or something else....." So, if I miss something you think should have been addressed, feel free to let me know.

One very exciting thing happened. A new community festival held its first event this April. They contacted LACSS to see if we would be interested. Of course, we would! Out went the blast asking for (again that word) volunteers to represent LACSS at the First Chicken Festival in North Hollywood. Our members came through as they always do and joined other vendors in this new adventure. Lots of our Festival flyers were handed out to a new audience. The volunteers had a good time. My personal **Thank you!** goes out to all of you who participated in this new adventure and who always represent the cactus and succulent world in a most positive, exciting, and knowledgeable manner.



**Chicken Fest
Kim Thorpe, John Matthews,
Kyle Williams**

Two years ago, LACSS joined the Succulent Society of South Africa so that we could receive their journal "Aloe." After receipt of a couple of issues, no more arrived. Puzzle?? Finally, we had an email from them stating their postal service had gone on strike so the journals couldn't be mailed. The strike has been resolved and we should be getting the next issue soon.

The Board of Directors met again for their second meeting this year. As expected, a lot of the discussion centered on our Festival. Artie, Cheryl, and Kathleen gave updates of the planning of their respective areas. Again, this looks like it will be the biggest and best Festival ever. We always try to outdo ourselves year after year – and we do! Things to look forward to: multiple vendors, indoor educational displays, silent auction, kid's day activities and speakers. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

With the year almost half gone, and our Festival around the corner, we need to give thought about what issues should be addressed and resolved in the remainder of the year. We need your input and suggestions to aid the Board in determining which direction we will take over the next few years.

See you soon

What Did I Miss?

OR I Didn't Hear That!

April, 2015 meeting

The April meeting was special because it was our second double header event of the year! The first was the February bonus program with speaker Paul Klaassen followed with the Mentoring session on Landscaping at Bryan Chan's. All on the same day!!

Part One of our April program featured Buck Hemenway. Buck will soon be moving to South Africa and shared some slides with us to show why he is moving there. Buck, also, gave us a brief description of the CSSA Convention covering accommodations, speakers, etc.

Part Two of the evening featured three of our "novice" Festival participants describing their experiences in designing and building their educational display. There are always challenges but their message was that it was fun, exciting, and very rewarding. Next, Artie gave a status report on the inside, outside, and Kid's Day activities. We have many of last year's vendors returning, but we need more members to prepare the indoor displays. Kid's Day activities co-chair (Kathleen Misko) is ready to go with activities & games. As usual, the success of the Festival depends on the commitment of our members who volunteer to participate at all levels.

The POM competition featured some fantastic variegated plants accompanied by the usual discussion of what really makes a plant a variegate. There are several versions of the description, but the main point seems to be the lack of chlorophyll, not just two different colors on the plant. No raffle and not much of a business meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

NOTE: The author of this article and the editor of the Chronicle would appreciate it if someone would volunteer to continue writing this. Please contact Phyllis Frieze if you are interested. Thank you in advance and see you in a few days.



Kim Thorpe, John Matthews and Kyle Williams represented LACSS

Chicken Fest on April 24, 2015

Cactus and Succulent Sale

Ric and Marilyn Newcomer's entire collection of cactus and succulents is being sold.

Over 1500 in show pots and many others. Included are landscape cacti. Everything goes including ceramic pots.

We are in Menifee (SUN CITY) off the 215 Freeway.

Sale is from MAY 23th through MAY 30th... **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Directions will be given at the time an appointment is made.

NO CALLS FOR EARLIER APPOINTMENTS.

HOME: 951-672-3074 **CELL:**951-566-6742

Staging Workshop By Kathleen Misko

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend this class. I attended the class last year and it was a game changer for me. It was suggested that the attendees bring a plant they would like answers to their questions or staged. It was an intimate group and everyone created a chapter in this book. Steve Frieze began with basics.

Soil. So very important. Desert Creations has their soil mixed at Whittier Farms and is available for purchase in manageable sizes. 70% pumice 30% humus. Artie spoke about an alternative mix available at hydroponic stores. Stressing how important it is to remove the peat that growers use. When peat dries out it shrinks from the sides of your pot, so when you water it just runs out. They also spoke about Green Thumb having a humus mix called Frog or Foxtail. [Forest Humus] Sounds lovely to me. Are there other hobbies that employ Forest Humus?



Kathryn had questions about creating a windswept staging. So Artie got out the clippers and got to work explain where and why. Then he showed us all how to drop a good branch to the shape we want by using a fishing weight attached by

string not wire. The weight will drop it to the show winning height. I hope we will be able to see Kathryn's result in the show.

John had brought what looked like a dead plant. *Bursera Microfilla* Wonderful lesson.



Artie started breaking off the roots. Snap, Snap, clearly dead. Then he got his knife and cut off the bottom of the caudex. Like you would cut the end off of a cucumber. Then, slicing into the base in a circular motion made a 1/8" continuous cut. What? He then instructed John to repot it and roots would grow from that cut. It was the best, getting to see that technique.



I LOVE THESE CLASSES AND THIS CLUB

Steve showed us some basic potting techniques for us to use. Imagine that I'm saying basic. I've grown so much in the club. Thank you to everyone. One last story. Ernie and I have a friend that is a costumer. His name is Don and he retired and moved to Idyllwild so he left some plants at our house. We tried to figure how old and came up with maybe 30 or 40 years. Anyway, somehow existing in the clay pot he brought it to us in.

Artie took on the giant task of breaking the pot. Lifting it and setting it into a new Gerald creation. Sending out new feeder roots and trying to figure what happened. What a morning. We are so lucky to be able to just graze tools, pots, books, plants.



He made a nest in the potting soil and sat it in. I did not think it was going to stay, but there it is, on a shelf at Desert Creations.

Gerald told us about a new watering device. We all beat track to buy it. 1000 holes. Didn't count. But it creates rain and gently delivers water to the plant. Not even disturbing the top dressing. Love mine. It's called Dramm. I think there are some left.



Bear State was represented and answered our native and butterfly questions. I have deer weed that I am not hovering over.



Then like a time lapse. It was noon and time to move on. Lunch was there, how nice. Just going to say it again. Don't miss a class. Even if you think you know what's being taught. It's what makes us a great club. All these brainiacs that are so generous with their knowledge.

Interior Show – 2015 Drought Tolerant Plant Festival

I'm honored and privileged to co-chair the interior show for the second straight year! Look below for the many exciting activities that are scheduled during the Festival. Participation is critical to the success of the show so LACSS members are highly encouraged to be active. Creating an educational display, entering plants into the show or volunteering to help are just a few ways you can be involved in our spectacular Festival!

Educational Theme Displays

Our Festival offers a unique opportunity to educate the general public on the use and care of cacti and succulents. Educational theme displays give members the freedom to express their love and passion of the hobby by creating themed exhibits using a variety of mediums that includes live plants, poster boards, pictures, maps, drawings etc. Topics can range from repotting techniques, medicinal uses of certain plants, landscaping techniques, staging plants or the habitat and care of a specific genus. If you are interested in creating an educational theme display then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Public voting will be implemented once again this year. Members of the public will be given three voting tickets and will be encouraged to vote for their favorite educational displays. The tickets will be collected and totaled for both days. Winners will be announced at the end of the show and awards will be presented at the following June general club meeting.



Last year's winners include Karen Ostler and her Staging Plants display; Cheryl and Frank White with their 'Agaves and Their Many Uses' and Barbara Hall and Manny Rivera on their Pelargonium display. Submit an educational display and show your creativity to the public!

Plant Show

Members may submit up to three plants in each cactus and succulent category. The show is open to all divisions (rookie, novice, advanced and masters/open) and will be judged on the same criteria as the Plant of the Month. Please send me a list of the number of plants, genus and categories that you would like to exhibit in the show by Wednesday May 27th. Here are the four plant categories for the show:

Cacti:

Succulents:

Gymnocalycium

Agave

Mammillaria

Euphorbia

Important Dates

Show Plant List: Wednesday May 27th
Set Up: Friday May 29th, 10am to 5pm
Festival: Saturday May 30th, 9am to 5pm
Sunday May 31st, 9am to 4pm



Additional Interior Displays

- **San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society:** Beautiful bromeliads will be on display from our active affiliate club.
- **Book Sale:** The fabulous Rose Polito and her team will be selling a wide variety of plant and garden books. Come say hello and buy a book or two or five.
- **Dinner Auction Plants:** See the amazing specimen plants that are available at the Saturday night dinner auction.



Volunteers Needed

Many volunteers are needed during both days of the Festival. Interior show duties include handing out voting tickets, answering questions from the public and monitoring doors. It would be greatly appreciated if members can donate some of their time to the club.

Please contact me if you would like to submit an Educational Theme Display; enter show plants; volunteer to help during the Festival or if you have any questions.

Thank you!
David Le
626-676-0301
davidlle@gmail.com

So many ways to Volunteer for the May 30 -31 Show!

The Drought Tolerant Plant Festival is just around the corner, and “drought” is definitely in the news every day. This year’s show promises to be bigger, better, and more relevant than ever. We have a great opportunity to share our love of succulents and cacti, to support the vendors whose knowledge advances our club, and to earn funds to enrich and sustain our fabulous activities. Here are some ways you can help:

Prior to the Show

Provide plants for the club sales table, silent auctions, and dinner auction
Bring extras and rooted cuttings from your own collections to the Hospitality Table. 100% of sales go directly to our club.
Donate special plants for the silent auctions throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday. Just fill out a card at the Hospitality Table.
Donate or “split” plant proceeds for the Silent or Dinner Auctions (you set a minimum bid and keep 70%; club gets 30%)

Work a few shifts on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday

Friday, May 29 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Help set up the outside vendor area by placing tables, setting up tarps, assembling outdoor displays, hanging banners
Help set up Hospitality and Membership Table and club sale plants
Set up the inside tables and cloths, kids’ exhibits, books, signage

Saturday, May 30 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Kitchen set up, trash removal throughout the day, clean up
Hospitality Table, sign in visitors, distribute programs and membership info, sell T-shirts, plant “holding” area
Stand at the entrance to the Interior Show and direct visitors to check their plant purchases at the Hospitality Table
Lead Cactus Garden tours
Assist visitors in transporting purchases to their vehicles as needed
Floaters – general “Ask Me” questions
Dinner set up, arrange tables and chairs, and tablecloths

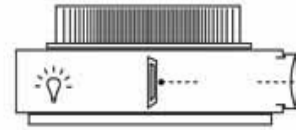
Sunday, May 31 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Kids’ Day support with crafts, photos, exhibits, games
Kitchen set up, trash removal throughout the day, clean up
Hospitality table, sign in visitors, distribute programs and membership info, general information, sell T-shirts, plant “holding” area
Cactus Garden Tours
Assist visitors in transporting purchases to their vehicles as needed
Floaters – general “Ask Me” questions

Please sign up for your favorite task at the May 7 Meeting!

Projector available

A couple of years ago, LACSS took the big step, entering into the new technology by purchasing a new digital projector. It has enhanced the quality of our presentations and provides our presenters, who now have most of their "slide" shows in digital format, with a proper projector.



That leaves us with a very usable, old fashioned slide projector which we no longer have a use for. We are offering to loan it to our members if they need a slide projector to help view/sort their old fashioned slides.

One member just recently borrowed it for that reason and found it incredibly helpful. Loan period would be the same as our Library books. Borrow it one month, return it the next. Please see Susan the Librarian to check it out.

Save the Date Sepulveda Garden Cactus Garden Clean Up Saturday, May 9, 2015 9:00 AM till Noonish

Several years ago, LACSS assumed the responsibility of upgrading and maintaining the Cactus Garden. Since then, we have held several cleaning and planting sessions for which we have received compliments from various Garden Clubs and the Center's staff. Currently, there are many potted succulents waiting to be placed and planted. We plan to hold guided tours of the Cactus Garden and therefore need to remove weeds and dead stuff, trim a few plants, rake leaves and find the perfect spot for our plants.

**Bring your gloves, hat, garden tools*, sun screen lotion....
Light refreshments will be available.
See you there!!!**

***Put your name on your tools. Pick axes have been very useful.**



**Plant of the Month
2015**

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

February
Gymnocalycium
Clusters
Aeonium

March
Echinocereus
Conophytum

April
Parodia, Notocactus
Haworthia

May
Small cactus staged as
a miniature
Small succulent staged
as a miniature

Plant of the Month

Succulent -- Variegates

Rookie

First	Nancy Neymark	Agave schidigera
Second	Kim Jacobi	Aloe cristata
Third	Kim Jacobi	Ledebouria socialis

Novice

First	Kathryn Boorer	Euphorbia X crest
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Agave xylonacantha
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Haworthia cymbiformis
Third	Roxie Esterle	Agave potatorum

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Sansevieria masoniana
Second	John Martinez	Dyckia hybrid variegata
Second	Phyllis Frieze	Haworthia cuspidata
Third	Phyllis Frieze	Gasteria pillansii
Third	John Martinez	Gasteria hybrid variegata

Open

First	Chris Rogers	Agave "Kissho Kan" hybrid 'Desert Diamond'
Second	John Matthews	Haworthia limifolia
Third	John Matthews	Haworthia retusa 'Kinjo'

Cactus -- Variegates

Rookie

First	Sonia Villarroel	Mammillaria
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Novice

First	Kyle Williams	Gymnocalycium saglione
Second	Kyle Williams	Astrophytum myriostigma
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Opuntia cochenillifera

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Astrophytum myriostigma
Second	Kim Thorpe	Gymnocalycium eurypleurum
Third	Kim Thorpe	Astrophytum asterias

Open

First	John Matthews	Cereus peruvianis monstrose variegata
Second	Gerald Richert	Gymnocalycium triacanthum variegata

Aztekium and Geohintonia

This month we focus on two small genera of cacti that are very rare in the wild, quite uncommon in most collections, and hardly anyone has mature specimens of them that are NOT wild dug. Why would focus on such an obscure group you may ask? Because sometimes the most obscure plants can make for some of the most interesting subjects.



Aztekium ritteri



Aztekium valdezii
In habitat

Aztekium contains three species of small, slow growing cacti that grow in highly inaccessible areas (though not inaccessible enough to stop poaching) of Nuevo Leon state in northeastern Mexico. The plants are quite small, averaging 1-4" diameter depending on the species. They stand out from other small globular cacti in having very unusual and attractive wrinkles covering the plant body. They grow in cracks and pockets of limestone and gypsum cliffs. They are said to prefer growing on north facing slopes, which is common for small cliff dwelling succulents of all types. Small plants eking out a living on the side of a cliff with a tiny area for roots is hard enough. Getting blasted all day by the intense desert sun in addition to that is just too much for little plants to bear.

If you were interested in *Aztekium* just 25 years ago, you would have thought the genus was monotypic containing just *A. ritteri*. So difficult to find are these plants that it wasn't until 1991 that the second species, *A. hintonii* was found, and it took all the way to 2013 to find and name the newest member of the genus, *A. valdezii*. At first glance it would be difficult to tell the species apart, but paying attention to the size of the plants, the shape and number of ribs, and details of the flowers can help you distinguish them. By contrast, *Aztekium* is so unique in appearance that it would be nearly impossible to mistake any other cactus for this genus.

Geohintonia mexicana is the sole species in its genus. Like *Aztekium*, it is a small, slow growing cactus whose habitat is gypsum hills and cliffs of Nuevo Leon. In fact, in many places it is sympatric (grows in the same location as) *Aztekium hintonii*. Knowing this, it may not surprise you that both *Geohintonia mexicana* and *Aztekium hintonii* were discovered by the same people at the same time and were published as new species together in the same scientific paper. Further scientific research into the evolutionary relationships of the cactus family has shown *Aztekium* and *Geohintonia* to be very closely related. Visually there is a something of a resemblance between the genera, though *Geohintonia* is quite distinct in having many more ribs and no wrinkles. Some have gone so far as to suggest *Geohintonia* could be a hybrid between *A. hintonii* and *Echinocactus grusonii* (Golden Barrel Cactus) as they occur in the same area and are related. However, it is much more reasonable to assume *Geohintonia* is an evolutionary distinct species that happens to resemble *Aztekium* and *Echinocactus* because it is a close relative, not because of some elaborate hybridization theory.



Geohintonia mexicana

Cultivation of both genera is nearly identical, and not overly difficult. They are very, very slow growing cacti, so patience is a must. They can be sensitive to overwatering, but if you can grow an *Ariocarpus* you should be able to handle these plants. Plants having their roots is most people's preference, but grafting will give you a faster growing plant and less worries about watering. Growing from seed will take many, many years before you get a decent sized plant. Finding these plants for sale on grafted or on their own roots is one of the biggest challenges of all. If you see one for sale at a reasonable price grab it quick! Otherwise it will be gone before you know it.

-Kyle Williams

Sansevieria



S. kirkii "Coppertone"

To many cactus and succulent growers, *Sansevieria* is something of an oddball group that gets thought of more as a houseplant than a real succulent. While it makes a great houseplant, it is an unfortunate way to look at this interesting genus of plants. I like to think of them as one of the very few groups of succulents that can tolerate, and even thrive in low light situations such as life inside a home. While most species can do well indoors, that is by no means the required or preferred way to grow them. In our mild climate they can grow outdoors year round and make a great addition to the shadier spots of your landscape. They are among the easiest to grow and most tolerant of abuse of all succulents.

Sansevieria is a genus of approximately 70 species in the Asparagus family (Asparagaceae). Most species occur in Africa though some species have found their way to India and even Myanmar (Burma). The most notable differences between species are the length and shape of the leaves, as well as the coloration and patterning of the leaves. The common names "Snake Plant" and "Mother in law's Tongue" come from the long, stiff, pointed, and mottled leaf appearance of the most commonly grown species. However, some species produce much more interesting and unique leaf shapes. In particular, species such as *S. cylindrica* have leaves that are nearly circular in cross section.

In cultivation, many interesting hybrids and cultivars have been produced. *Sansevieria hallii* has several cultivars which carry variations on the name "Baseball Bat". The name really is fitting as the leaves are very thick and tough. One of the most attractive species is *S. kirkii*. It has wavy leaves that are produced horizontally or at least low to the ground. The species has a brown to bronze cast which has been the basis for hybridization and cultivar selection. Cultivars such as "Coppertone", with its rich bronze and pinkish brown coloration, really show how beautiful the coloring of a *Sansevieria* can be.



S. pinguicula

Among the most popular types of *Sansevieria* are variegates. Most everyone has seen *S. trifasciata* 'Laurentii' even if you don't know it by name. It has long upright leaves with a yellow margin. It is not only one of the most popular *Sansevieria*, it is among the most popular of all houseplants. However, that is the tip of the iceberg. Variegates of *S. pinguicula*, *S. robusta*, *S. kirkii* and others can sell for \$100 or more! For those looking beyond the typical yellow variegation, "Silver Streak" and "Siam Silver" are great plants with silvery-white variegation.



S. "Siam Silver"

In recent years "miniature" *Sansevieria* have become popular. They tend to have rounder leaves which only get a few inches long and look great in small pots. Unfortunately, most of these "minatures" are actually the juvenile forms of full sized species. Not only is the adult bigger, but it looks like a completely different plant. *Sansevieria pinguicula* and *S. eilensis* are examples of this. One of the only "miniature" species I'm aware of that stays small and retains much of its juvenile look into adulthood is *S. rorida*.

Cultivation of most species is quite easy. They thrive in most any well drained potting mix. Outdoors they can grow in similar light conditions as *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* (i.e. bright shade, maybe some morning sun) or even shadier spots. They do well in ground, though they don't like being in an cold and wet for excessive periods. Propagation is simple. Either divide a large plant or grow new plants from leaf cuttings. Do note that leaf cuttings of variegated plants virtually always produce regular, non-variegated plants.

-Kyle Williams

50th ANNUAL CSSA SHOW & SALE AT THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

Dates: Friday, June 26 to Sunday, June 28, 2015
Location: Botanical Center (same as last year)
Show Setup: Thursday, June 25th, 9:00am-1:00pm
Enter Plants: Thursday, June 25th 1pm-6pm and Friday, June 26th
10:30am-4:00pm. Judging starts at 5:00pm on
Friday, June 26th

Auction: Items need to be registered by 12pm Saturday, June 27th.
There will be a Live Auction (30 items maximum) after dinner and a Silent Auction during dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items. Two (2) items maximum per person/business marked as donation or split.

Dinner: Dearmore BBQ: \$25 per person. See Kathleen Misko. Reservations must be made by 12Noon, Saturday, June 27th.

Tear down: Sunday, June 28th at 4pm

There are many opportunities to participate in this year's Show and Sale. Be sure to pick up a Show Schedule and Index at the next meeting. All Cactus and Succulent Club members, CSSA members, vendors, and volunteers or show participants need to wear their club badges AND a special CSSA/HBG pass that reads "Annual CSSA Show Participant" to enter for free. Please see Barbara Hall, Show Chair, or John Matthews, our CSSA Affiliate, to obtain a pass before the event. We cannot give these passes out at the HBG entry gate.

Even though this is a one-class Show I would encourage everyone to enter a plant or two. Last year a few novices had plants on the trophy table. Please consider volunteering for a few hours in the showroom or sales area, cashiering, information table, hospitality area, welcome table at the HBG entrance, holding table, T-shirt distribution, showroom setup and teardown. We also need 12 clerks to help the Judges on Friday night. See Manny Rivera.

All participants will receive a T-shirt as a thank you. There will be signup sheets at the May and June club meetings. Last year we had a great turn out of volunteers from the LACSS and SGVCSS. Let's do it again!

Barbara Hall
CSSA Show Chair
lbcjhall@aol.com
818-368-6914



In the Veterans Garden
the not-for-profit nursery of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
100 Davis Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90049 | [\(424\) 234-0481](tel:(424)234-0481) | gnnwestla@rsabg.org | [facebook.com/GNNWestwood](https://www.facebook.com/GNNWestwood)

Dear native plant friends:

We are sorry to announce that after five years of operating as the only all-California native plant nursery serving the greater Westwood community, Grow Native Nursery at the Veterans Garden will be closing. The last day of operation will be Sunday, May 10, 2015. For our closing sale, all plants in stock will be 50% off starting Wednesday, April 22.

Factors related to the financial sustainability of the nursery and veterans training program, combined with events beyond our control at the Veterans Administration, led the Trustees of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to this decision. We believe that it is in RSABG's best interest to end our operations now rather than wait for the future use of the site to be determined as the VA-GLAHS undertakes what will likely be a lengthy but ultimately very constructive and valuable master planning process.

For your gardens, we refer you to the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley or (although it is far away) Grow Native Nursery in Claremont. Ask your local garden centers to carry California native plants, too! We will miss seeing you, and wish you and your gardens well.

FOR SALE - Norma wants to sell her nearly complete set of CSSA journals. Missing a few of the earlier issues. Contact John Matthews at 661-714-1052 if interested.

CSSA ANNUAL CONVENTION

The 36th biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be at Pitzer College in Claremont this year. The opening reception and get together will be Sunday, June 14 2015 at 5:00 PM. Convention proper begins on Monday morning June 15 and continues through the Closing Banquet on Friday June 19.

The Society is happy to return to the Los Angeles basin for the first time since 2001. The Gates and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies are our hosts for this Convention. The more than 300 members of the combined societies are anxious to welcome members of the CSSA from all over the world.

Our hosts are formulating an effort to make this convention more affordable. Pitzer is one of the Claremont Colleges group that consistently produce some of the most successful graduates in our country. In addition, the director of the Arboretum at Pitzer (Joe Clements), has completely revamped the decorative plantings at Pitzer and today the grounds are a true succulent wonderland.

Attendees will be able to stay in the dorms at Pitzer. The brand new West Hall will be our home. Rooms are double, with two twin beds. Two double rooms share one bath. The cost is \$70 per night per double room. You are able to book one (\$35.00) or two beds (\$70.00) in one room as you please. With your permission, we will pair you up with another attendee, or you can make your own arrangements. You must let us know when you are making your booking, if you wish to share with a specific person. We are also able to book two rooms together for specified people, if you let us know.

Food at Pitzer is excellent. Those of you who've had children at private universities recently, know that the food service has changed since we were there. The price of the food is the best part. We have a package that includes breakfast and lunch for all 5 days of Convention for \$119.90 total. We suggest that every attendee exercise this tremendous deal. We will not be serving sweet rolls prior to any of the morning meetings.

Now for the good parts:

- Fabulous plant sale for all the days of the Convention!
- Talented speakers from all over the world! Wonderful Tours on Tour Day!
- Fantastic Plant Auction!
- Opening banquet at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens!
- Terrific Bookseller, Chuck Everson!

Guided tours of the grounds at Pitzer!

19 well-respected speakers include Ernst Van Jaarsveld, Len Newton, Panayoti Kelaidis, Kelly Griffin, and our own Tim Harvey

Tours include local places like Lotusland, Huntington Gardens, LA Arboretum and others you may have visited, but this time you will have many co-visitors who may have a different perspective on the plants.

Full preregistration to the convention is \$295 (before May 1) and \$365 after. You must be a CSSA member to attend (LACSS membership is not sufficient). CSSA membership is \$50/year.

Online registration for Convention, rooms, trips, food, CSSA membership and much more information including pictures can be had at convention website cssa2015.COM.

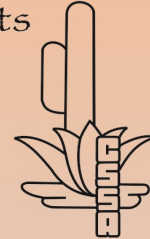
Prepare to Enjoy!

the 2015 *CSSA* Biennial Convention
in a setting filled with Succulent Plants

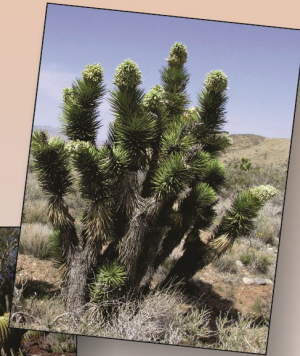
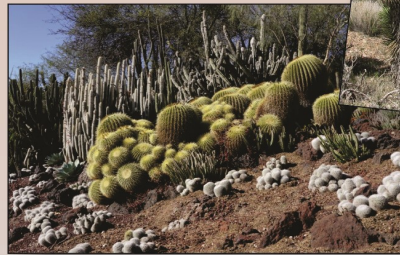


Pitzer College
Claremont, California
June 14 – 19, 2015

online registration
www.cssainc.org



- Internationally renowned Speakers
- Plant and Book Sales
- Plant Auction
- Field Trips
- Tours
- Opening Banquet at the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens



Hosts
San Gabriel Valley C&S Society and Gates C&S Society

Presenters

Michelle Cloud-Hughes
Thomas Cole
Doug Dawson
Julia Etter & Martin Kristen
Kelly Griffin
Steven Hammer
Dr. Heidi Hartmann
Tim Harvey
Ernst Van Jaarsveld
Gary James
Zlatko Janeba
Panayoti Kelaidis
Brian Kemble
Stephen McCabe
Len Newton
Andry Peignat
Jon P. Rebman
Jeremy Spath
Joe Stead
Sula Vanderplank

Inter-City Volunteers Needed

Tom Glavich needs someone to take over publicity for the Inter-City Show and Sale and needs a volunteer to assist him. Our share of the income from this show is significant and is directly related to the effectiveness of the publicity. Planning for this year's show is already starting. Job description follows. Please contact Tom at 626-798-2430 if you can take over these very important tasks.

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

A videographer is needed at the Inter-City Show, emphasizing plants and, in particular, blue ribbon and trophy table winners. Also pictures of the sales and show areas, 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. Able to attend the judging, setting up and preparations. Quietest time is Sunday morning before the show opens to do the videography. Steadiness is the key and ability to edit out extraneous background noise. NO video during the auction or dinner.

(There is an older YouTube version of the show but it is very unstable that you can get motion sickness trying to watch it.)

John Matthews, Co-Chair

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

- May 3** South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale---9am-4pm
South Coast Botanical Gardens **Info** (310) 833-6823
- May 2-3** Sunset Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room
4117 Overland Ave., Culver City **Info** (310) 822-1783
- May 9-10** Long Beach Cactus Club Plant Show & Sale 10-5
Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Road, Long Beach **Info** (310) 922-6090—www.lbcss.org
- May 15-16** Gates Cactus & Succulent Society 34th Show & Sale Friday & Saturday 9-4:30
Land Scapes Southern California Style 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, CA
Info: (951) 360-8802
- May 23-24** Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale 10-4pm
Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo **Info** (805) 237-2054,
www.centralcoastcactus.org
- May 30-31** **Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Drought Tolerant Plant Show & Sale 9-3:30**
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd., Encino E-Mail www.lacss-show.com
- June 6-7** San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society –Summer Show & Sale
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego **Info** (858) 382-1797
- June 14-19** CSSA Biennial Convention, Pitzer College, Claremont, CA <http://www.cssainc.org>
- June 26-28** CSSA Annual Show & Sale –Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, **Info** (626) 405-2160 or 2277
Plant Sales Start June 26 -28 The Show Opens on June 27-28
- 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
- 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

**California Garden Club, Inc
Calendar for 2015**

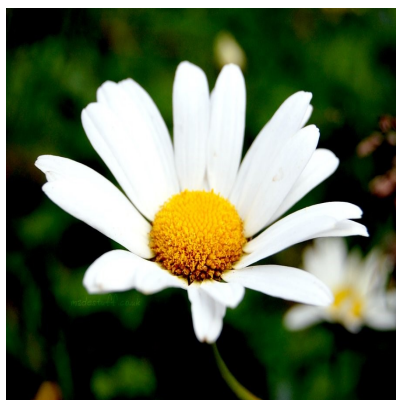
May 14-17 National Garden Convention. Louisville, Kentucky
 June 8-12 CGCI 84th Annual Convention. Reno, Nevada
 Host: Golden Foothills District

San Fernando Valley District Calendar for 2015

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
LA 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





MAY 23 & 24, 2015 **CENTRAL COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

Ninth Annual Show and Sale

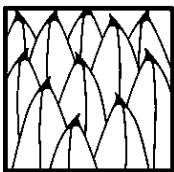
Saturday, May 23, 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, May 24, 10 am to 4 pm

Ludwick Community Center

864 Santa Rosa Street, SLO

FREE ADMISSION



CCCSS meets on the second Sunday of each month at the Odd Fellows Hall, 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo, at 2:00 pm

Visit our website for more information

centralcoastcactus.org

**MEMORIAL DAY
WEEKEND**

**Unusual, rare and
hard-to-find
specimen plants**

**Knowledgeable
growers and experts**

**Pottery by local
artists designed for
succulents**

**Helpful and cheerful
CCCSS volunteers
and vendors**

**SPECIAL
AUCTION OF
SHOW-QUALITY
PLANTS ON
SUNDAY AT
1:00PM**



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346
E-mail: LAcactus.com
lacss.contact@gmail.com

General Meeting Thursday, May 7, 2015 May Events

Program: Mojave Desert Plants- They're Here in our Own Backyard Presented by Karen Ostler

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