



LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

November
2011

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

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Next Meeting: November 3, 2011



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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

Thomas Cole presents, "The Aloes of Uganda".

Thomas currently is a food security for Save the Children US, Development Alternatives and several foundations providing technical and strategic support for programs in Sub-Saharan Africa. He also coordinates the Africa Pastoral Initiative for Save the Children International, an entity based in the Horn of Africa with a mission to inspire breakthroughs in pastoral programming and policy development in order to achieve immediate and lasting change in the lives of pastoral children. He recently completed a 3-year assignment for Save the Children in Uganda and was previously Save the Children's Africa Region Food Security Advisor providing support to programs in Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi and Mozambique.

When not trying to help grow or produce food in a variety of environments, he spends time as owner/operator of Cold Spring Aloes- a plant nursery devoted to the research, propagation and sales of plants in the genus *Aloe*. Much of his 'off-time' in Africa is spent tracking down and re-searching aloes in largely inaccessible areas.

Thomas has a Masters degree in Humanitarian Assistance from the Friedman School of Nutrition and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and is a 5-time world Frisbee champion.





CONVENTION REPORT: DUDLEYA

Nils Schirmmacher

The recent CSSA Convention offered admirers of the genus *Dudleya* a rare treat: a mini-bus excursion to the habitats of little-known species of the genus. Leading the trip was Kelly Griffin. Best known for the Aloe and Agave hybrids he is producing for Rancho Soledad Nursery, Kelly was also a contributor to the September 2004 issue of the CSSA Journal, an issue devoted solely to *Dudleya*.

Each of the four sites we visited within San Diego and Orange counties lay adjacent to suburban sprawl, with the plants always within eye or earshot of a highway or strip mall. While this made for easy access to the plants, it also underscored our fervent desire to share their coastal California habitat, bulldozers leading the charge.

Our first stop was just south of the 5 Freeway's Camp Pendleton exit. Once off the bus, we marched beneath the highway and up a trail that was sandwiched between a scarred hillside and a thicketed stream. The hill was topped by a row of houses whose backyards shed floral detritus downslope. Jade Trees, Ice Plant, and other landscaping stalwarts mingled with the native vegetation.

We searched the base of the hill for what Kelly described as a lanky form of *Dudleya viscida*. The plant's name refers to a viscous coating that covers its many narrow leaves. Once we began spotting specimens rooted to the hills' exposed rock, we discovered that this coating detracted from the plant's appearance, as it attracted bits of dirt and vegetation to its leaf surfaces. In spite of their unkempt appearance, we were grateful to have been introduced to these diamonds in the rough.

After heading further up the 5 to Laguna Beach, we set out for a short hike in the Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. The park's terrain is made up of gentle hills that are interspersed with outcrops of undulating sandstone. The weathered curves of these outcrops frame stunning vignettes of native flora, including Scrub Oak, *Opuntia*, Monkey Flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and *Dudleya pulverulenta*.

Our focus was the diminutive *D. stolonifera*, which we found on the north side of a large group of boulders that lay just off trail. Our group of two dozen crowded the boulders' base, mesmerized by the dense colony of plants that gripped the outcrop's sheer face. The clusters of these stout, blushing rosettes illustrated their species name: each group of plants consisted of offsets from a single stolon affixed to its sandstone host.

Next we headed inland, traveling east on the Ortega Highway. As we wound our way up the oak-lined mountain pass, I made a mental note to research camping sites within this picturesque location. Near the top of the pass, we pulled off the highway at a road cut that was home to a more compact and cleanly form of *D. viscida*. After this roadside introduction, we bound down the side of the narrow highway and stopped traffic as we descended beneath a bridge that spanned San Juan Creek.

Along the boulder-strewn banks of the creek grew *D. viscida* in all of its glory. Large colonies of the plant—their chartreuse leaves tinged with bright orange—lay nestled among the golden curls of *Selaginella* and the white, felty leaves of *Cheilanthes*, a xeriphytic fern. Add to this array of color and texture the sound of cascading water and you've got the perfect spot to spend an afternoon in floral reverie.

Returning west on the highway, we stopped for lunch at the Tree of Life Nursery, a nursery specializing in California native plants. After our meal, we were given VIP access to the nursery's propagation area that housed eleven(!) different species of *Dudleya*. For all who have spent time scrounging through nursery stock to find one weathered specimen of the more common species, seeing so many *Dudleya* for sale in one place was like winning the lottery. Standing out amongst the offerings were the geophytic *D. blochmaniae* and *D. multicaulus*, two species rarely seen for sale. These particular plants had been propagated for a habitat restoration project that was unexpectedly put on hold. Fortunately, the nursery allowed

us to benefit from their client's change of plans.

But we were searching for less conspicuous flora. Kelly had recognized the flattened pans of soil at the top of the bluffs as the type locality for *D. blochmaniae*. According to him, these areas bore the tell-tale sign of the plants' habitat: the surface of the pans was littered with iron-rich pebbles that resembled rusty marbles. After a bit of searching, it was determined that although the site appeared ideal, the plants had yet to move in. However, our combing did reveal many specimens of the spiny San Diegan, *Ferocactus viridescens*. The barrels varied widely in size, and many of the plants—young and old—were in bloom. As the afternoon sun yielded tapering shadows from the squat cacti, and the Pacific shimmered in the distance, the beauty of seeing these plants in habitat threatened to rival Dudleya's own.

Back on the bus, Kelly was given a rousing cheer for his organization of the trip and willingness to share his enthusiasm and knowledge of the genus. Everyone agreed that our trip was the convention's best.



Photos by Nick Wilkerson

Plant-of-the-Month 2011

January	Gymnocactus and Ortegocactus	Aloe hybrids
February	Mammillaria (single head)	Dudleya
March	Echinocereus	Asclepiads -caudiciform and tuberous forms
April	Gymnocalycium (multiple heads)	Sansevieria
May	Epiphytes	Echeveria
June	Turbinicarpus and Frailea	Mesembs (other than Lithops and Conophytum) e.g. Pleiospilos, Lapidaria
July	Tephrocactus	Adenia
August	Brazilian cacti	Pachypodium (African species)
September	Ferocactus	Euphorbia (stem forms)
October	Ariocarpus	Terrestrial Bromeliads
November	Monstrose and Crest	Monstrose and Crest
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 or who have been a member of the LACSS for three years or more. Individuals who own a nursery are required to enter in the Open class. Members must determine which class is appropriate for their skill level and must then continue to enter in that class for the remaining of the calendar year.

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 two 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 and/or succulent categories during the prior year.

Entry Requirements: All entrants must be LACSS members. Members are restricted to 3 plants per entry category per month – a total of 6 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.

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

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

** Each member who enters one or more plants in a Plant-of-the-Month mini-show will be awarded a point for their participation which can be added to any other awards they receive for that month.

Plant of the Month - September Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Miniature

Award	Name	Plant
First	Efren Flores	Tylecodon Buchulziana
Second	Jairo Ramirez	Conophytum truncatum v. wiggetiae
Third	Ronit Weiss	Lithops sp.

Cactus - Miniature

First	John Martinez	Rebutia heliosa
Second	Rio Cernak	Unknown
Third	Helen Frank	Mammillaria hemandzii

Advanced Division

Succulent - Miniature

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Hall	Conophytum obcordellum
Second	Barbara Hall	Conophytum reconditum ssp. Reconditum
Third	Barbara Hall	Crassula ausensis ssp. Titanopsis

Cactus - Miniature

First	Barbara Hall	Puna bonniea
Second	Barbara Hall	Mammillaria crenita monstrose
Third	Barbara Hall	Mediolobivia pygmaea
Third	Barbara Nolan	Rebutia heliosa

Open Division

Succulent - Miniature

Award	Name	Plant
First	John Matthews	Conophytum obcordellum 'Lambertense'
Second	John Matthews	Conophytum pellucidum
Third	John Matthews	Haworthia emelyae hybrid

Cactus - Miniature

First	John Matthews	Astrophytum caput-medusae
Second	John Matthews	Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus
Third	John Matthews	Mammillaria gracilis monstrose

Plant of the Month -October Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Terrestrial Bromiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Kim Thorpe	Dyckia 'Red Devil'
Second	Rio Cernak	Abrometillia brevifolia
Third	Roxie Esterle	Bromeliad aechmea recurvata

Cactus - Ariocarpus

First	Kim Thorpe	Ariocarpus trigonus
Second	Rio Cernak	Ariocarpus retusus
Third	Rio Cernak	Ariocarpus fissuratus

Advanced Division

Succulent - Terrestrial Bromiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Steve Ball	Dyckia 'Bill Paylen'
Second	Steve Ball	Dyckia Marnier Lapotolii hybrid
Third	None	

Cactus - Ariocarpus

First	None	
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Open Division

Succulent - Terrestrial Bromiads

Award	Name	Plant
First	Chris Rogers	Dyckia 'Brittle Star'
Second	Chris Rogers	Dyckia 'White Fang'
Second	John Matthews	Cryptobergia rubra

Cactus - Ariocarpus

First	John Matthews	Ariocarpus fissuratus
Second	John Matthews	Ariocarpus retusus v. furfurceus
Third	John Matthews	Ariocarpus retusus



Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera, VP of Plant of the Month, has been asked by members to feature certain types of plants in each category. Please call Manny with your specific requests at 626-579-7954 so they can be considered for the 2012 list.

LACSS 2011 Board Members

Artie Chavez, President
Tim Harvey, VP, Programs
Manny Rivera, VP, Plant of the Month
Doug George, VP, Special Events
Ronit Weiss, Treasurer
Helen Frank, Secretary
Phyllis Frieze, Newsletter Editor

Officers for 2012

As reported by Richard Roosman
Nomination Committee Chair

President	Roxie Esterle
3rd Vice President (special events)	Bob Morris
Director II (even years)	Sylvia Strehlo
Treasurer	Ronit Weiss

Monthly Meeting Refreshments

Each month different members whose last name ends in a particular letter are requested to furnish refreshments for the club. Below is the list, by month, for 2012.

January	A B C D	July	A B C D
February	E F G H	August	E F G H
March	I J K L M	September	I J K L M
April	N O P R	October	N O P R
May	S	November	S
June	T U V W X Y Z	December	HOLIDAY PARTY

Members were selected by the approximate number of members attend each meeting.

Refreshments for the Month of November are
furnished by member's names ending in

S

Southern California Calendar of Events
November

November 5-6 San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society
Show and Sale at the LA County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia

November 11-12 Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society
Winter Show and Sale
Friday, November 11 & Saturday, November 12
9am—5 pm
Contact: Vince Basta 714-267-4329

Early Membership Renewal

Anyone paying their **2012** membership dues at the November meeting will receive 3 raffle tickets for a special drawing at the Holiday Party. If members pay their dues by mail prior to November 30, and before the holiday party on December 3 they will receive 2 raffle tickets. If membership dues are paid at the Holiday Party, the member will receive 1 raffle ticket.

LACSS Membership Form (Please print the following information)

Name _____ Phone _____

Name of Additional Members: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Send me the newsletter by E-Mail Send me the newsletter by U.S. Mail(\$5 extra fee)

Send me a plastic name badge (\$5 each)

Type of Membership: New Member Renewal

Single Membership \$20 annually \$10 1/2 year (July or after)

Family Membership \$25 annually \$12.50 1/2 year (July or after)

Newsletter by U.S. Mail \$5 fee in addition to the membership charge

Cash Check: number _____

From the Stacks of the Library

Hi All,



We are wrapping it up for the year, so this will be a short article. Is it hot? Or is it cold? T shirt or winter coat? Maybe it's just a good day to read a book.

This is the last month for the year to check out a book. If you have any requests, let me know soon.

To close out the year, we will see more books that have not been featured this year. Some would be appropriate for the "then" portion of the "Now and Then" feature but a newer book is not available. Most of these publications are about a unique or narrow topic that is still the most current information available. Our full collection of CSSA Journals (from 1980 to current) will be on the table along with all the "Special Issues."

TRIVIA QUESTION: What are three different winter growers?
Answers will be in the December Chronicle.

In the meantime – ***Stop by and Check it out!!***
See you soon.
Joyce the Librarian

When you check out a book in November you can use it until January 2012 when it will need to be returned for other members to enjoy.



Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Cactus and Succulent of the Month November 2011 - Crests and Monstrose



Lophocereus schottii monstrose

The three most common types of mutation are crests, monstrose growth and variegation. All of these are mutations of the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tip is a point, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests the genetic mutation removes this dominance, and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. For monstrose growth, the local dominance is lost, and every growth tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point.

Cresting and monstrose growth is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent

plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

Culture of crests and Monstrose Plants

Crests and monstrose plants are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Mutant plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. This is one of the many reasons they are often grown as grafts.



Carnegie gigantea



Euphorbia lactea variegata crest

Propagation of Crests and Monstrose Plants

Crests flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering plant. Mutations are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the mother plant, but monstrose and variegated plants are also possible.



Rebutia einsteinii crest

The most common method of propagation of these plants is vegetative. Cuttings of are often grafted to speed

growth and to preserve special growth forms.



Aeonium arboreum 'Atropurpureum' crest

References:

The New Cactus Lexicon, David Hunt

Tom Glavich March 2004
Edited by Steve Frieze, November 2011

Monstrose and Crested Cacti and Succulents—Pictorial Supplement



Parodia densispina



Ariocarpus retusus

*Pachypodium
lamerei*



General Meeting starts at 7:00 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

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

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

Upcoming Program for
November

Thomas Cole

First Class Mail

Next Meeting:
November 3, 2011

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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