



CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting
Thursday
October 6, 2016**

**16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91346**

**Doors Open
at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins
at 7:00pm**

**Refreshments for:
October**

**Last names starting
with E – H**

**New Members in
September**

Julie Haire
Shawn Nee
Wilkes Nee

WEBSITE:
Visit us at:
Lacactus.com

EMAIL:
lacss.contact@gmail.com

**Editor
Jose J Villarreal
Jo.villa818@gmail.com**

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.

October Program:

"Namibia: A Different Angle" Presented by: Tim Harvey

When people think of visiting succulents in habitat, they picture a group of GPS- and camera-laden plant geeks running around the stony wilderness. This usually requires some effort since most of the interesting plants do not grow where the vehicle stops. There are also many which prefer inaccessible cliffs, and so are similarly difficult to encounter. This talk will explore the use of a drone equipped with a camera, and highlight some of the things that can be done as well as the challenges encountered. There will also be some nice views and pictures of spectacular plants!



If you have not heard Tim speak, you might not know that he is originally from England. He moved across the pond in 1992, falling a little short and working at the Ontario Cancer Institute in Toronto for a couple of years. He completed the trip to California when he went to work in the Biotechnology industry. He was also able to relocate his cactus collection, started 20 years earlier, to a more favorable climate.

Escaping with his morals intact in 2006, he enrolled as a full-time propagator and pollinator of his favorite plants, as well as becoming Editor of the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* in 2011. He makes frequent trips to his adopted country Namibia, as well as many appearances at clubs in Southern California, either as a Speaker, or as a Vendor at sales. Never able to walk past a plant in flower without trying to pollinate it, he is also a keen hybridizer, with the pachycauls, Aloe and bulbs in his collection being defenseless subjects for experimentation.

2016 Officers

President

Joyce Schumann

1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

Diane Miller

Secretary

Cheryl White

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gretchen Davis

Director 1 Odd Years

Membership

Danielle Duboff

Director 2, Even Years

Ron Behar

Past President

Roxie Esterle

LACSS Show Chair

Jim Esterle

Show Committee

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

Webmaster

Kim Thorpe

Librarian

Susan Phillips

Historian

Nils Schirmmacher

Cactus Chronicle Editor

Jose J Villarroel

Inter-City Show Liaison

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze

CSSA Representative

John Matthews

Education Chair

Kyle Williams

Drawing & Plant Procurement

Richard Roosman

Mentor Program Chair

John Suci

Member at Large

Kathleen Misko

Cactus Garden Chair

Chris Rogers

Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairpersons

Kandi and Don Soderstrom

Holiday Party Awards

Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's message

October 2016

Our club has exceeded our wildest dreams of gaining new members. Ten years ago, membership was approximately 50 members with about half attending meetings. We now have standing room only at our meetings (it's a good thing!! really!) with new members joining each month. This gives us the opportunity to try new things with input and new ideas from new members who bring a great range of interests and skills. Let us know what your interests are, and what skills you have that you are willing to share with the club. Sometimes we don't tackle a project because we don't have the help. Point in case is the Sepulveda Cactus Garden. The Garden Center does not have the labor force to maintain the Garden. It seemed a natural extension of the mission of LACSS to assume the responsibility to maintain and grow the Garden into a "destination" place. Twenty years ago, Chris Rogers planted quite a few cacti just to get it started. Those plants are mature now and we have added more cacti and succulents over the past five years. At the last scheduled clean up, only three people showed up – out of a membership of 300! We are looking for ten members who will take ownership of this prize garden to continue its growth and educational benefits to the public. This will be a source of pride for all LACSS members who will be able to say "Look what we did" and "This rivals the Huntington!" Please be the first to step up to this challenge.

The Board of Directors met on September 11. Topics discussed included the Cactus Garden (no surprise there!) future Special Events, the new Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society, website, elections, Awards Dinner, electronic access to our roster and the 2017 speaker schedule. We approved the purchase of two garden carts for transport of plants, etc. at the meetings and Festival. Our third Saturday of the month special program was the most successful of all. I think we are on a roll with them. Our featured speaker was Edgar Valdivia. He has spent many years researching different types of fruits and has hybridized many new varieties. Adjectives to describe him: charming, sharing, entertaining, knowledgeable, humorous, inspiring - well, you get the idea. His description of the problems of hand pollinating his night blooming flowers was educational and entertaining. He not only donated cuttings from his garden but brought samples of the three "colors" of the Dragon Fruit to taste. The variety of the fruit is white, pink and red. The most common variety found in grocery stores is white, which is kind of tasteless. But the pink and red are quite sweet and proved to be a tasty treat. The cuttings will be available for sale at the October meeting.

See you soon.

Joyce

“What Did I Miss?” Or “I didn’t hear that!!” September meeting, 2016

In spite of the entertaining feedback from the microphone, the meeting was its usual fun time of plants, plants and more plants, and NO discussion of you know what (hint: Festival and volunteering).

This is what you missed..

❖ Linda Holub gave an update on the new CCSS and invited us to join them for their inaugural meeting on Monday, October 3, 2016

❖ Jose J Villarroel was introduced as our new Chronicle Editor.

❖ John Suciu explained the nomination process for our November elections. There are several positions open and if anyone is interested in running, please contact John.

❖ The 3rd Saturday Special Meeting will take place Saturday, September 17 at 9:30AM at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

❖ And don’t forget the Holiday Awards Dinner. It will be here sooner than we think. Kandi and Don are already working on details. Feel free to contact them if you wish to help them.

❖ Artie Chavez filled in as our Plant of the Month mini-competition judge. Very high quality plants continue to fill our counter for competition.

❖ The September program was outstanding! Nils Schirmacher and John Martinez have spent considerable time hiking the local area in search of the elusive (and possibly endangered) Dudleya. They presented marvelous photos, data, identification criteria and hope for the future. Good job, guys!!

❖ The high quality raffle plants continue to generate a lot of interest and excitement.

And then the meeting adjourned.

Plant of the Month: *Mammillaria* with Hooked Spines

Mammillaria is quite possibly the most popular genus of cacti, and is usually one of the first succulents a person buys. There are several reasons for this. With nearly 200 species, *Mammillaria* is one of the larger genera in the Cactaceae, which means there is an enormous amount of variety to choose from. Some species are fingernail size, others solitary globular plants, some are straight spined, some form sizeable clumps, while others are heavily spined with hooks. It is these hook spine species, often called fishhooks, that we focus on this month.



Mammillaria bombycina

Mammillarias, both straight and hooked spined, are ubiquitous at any nursery, big box store, or even supermarket that sells plants. Most species are small, easy to grow, and have a "cute" factor that make even non-gardeners want to buy one for their patio or windowsill. The most commonly grown species are also quite tolerant of abuse and neglect. Hooked spine species such as *M. bombycina* have an attractive contrast between the small white radial spines and the large hooked spine. Be careful handling these plants as the spines act like sharp Velcro and will stick to your fingers very easily and are a pain to remove. While some fishhook species are closely related, two species having hooks does not necessarily mean they are more related to each other than to straight spine species.



Mammillaria dioica a California native

One of the most distinctive features of *Mammillaria* are flowers born in the axils of the tubercles that as a group form a ring around the stem. They are usually small, but many can be open at once providing a nice display. Flowers range in color from white and yellow to pink and red. Other species have orange, salmon, or even bicolor flowers.

Mammillaria ranges from Columbia all the way to Canada. Approximately ten species are found in the south western portion of the United States, including California. The heart of *Mammillaria* diversity is Mexico however. Most species occur there and you

can see the full range of variation the genus has to offer.

While some species are extremely hardy (particularly the North American species), others are more frost sensitive. Almost all *Mammillaria* will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely draining potting mix. If you live in areas that get hard frost in the winter (e.g. the Antelope Valley) be sure to check the frost tolerance of your species.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season (typically from March through October), strong light, intense heat if available, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most *Mammillaria* will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. During the summer heat growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving.



Mammillaria duwei

Kyle Williams

Plant of the month: Asclepiads



Edithcolea grandis (Stapeliad)

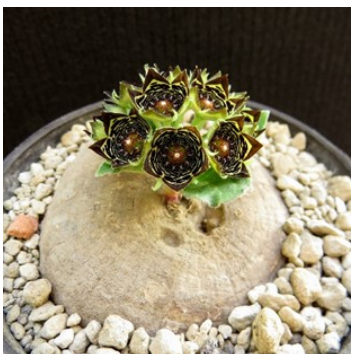
Asclepiads are a diverse group of plant found worldwide and range from lush herbs to succulents. The most well known of the group are the Milkweeds (*Asclepias*). They get this name from the milky latex most species of Asclepiads produce. A large number of Asclepiads are succulents and/or caudiciforms. For a long time these plants were considered to belong to their own family, Asclepiadaceae, but now are universally recognized as being a subfamily of the Apocynaceae called the Asclepioideae. Because Asclepiads still form a distinct group within the Apocynaceae we will focus on them for our monthly show, not expand it out to all Apocynaceae.

In overly simplified terms, Asclepiads stand out from other Apocynaceae in having very complex flowers. They are so unusual that botanists have created specialized floral terminology that applies only to this group! I won't bore you with the terms, but suffice to say that a normal Apocynaceae such as *Plumeria*, *Pachypodium*, and *Adenium* which are NOT Asclepiads, have normal tube shaped flowers with five big petals. Asclepiads (like Stapeliads) have petals that merge with stamens and pistils and form structures that only allow certain insects to pollinate the flowers, basically by making the structures a particular size and shape which keeps out many other insects.

The largest and most notable group of Asclepiads are the Stapeliads. Known as the Orchids of the succulent world, Stapeliads have over 300 species, most of which have stunningly beautiful flowers. The plants themselves are normally clusters of small leafless stems that branch from the ground, though some can reach a meter or more in height and others look like round or cube shaped rocks. These plants don't receive nearly the amount of respect they deserve for a couple reasons. One is that many species look nearly identical when not in flower, even if the flowers themselves are night and day from each other. A second reason is that the flowers of many species smell like rotting meat. While true, there are a lot of species which have only a faint or no smell, and even the stinky species aren't that bad if grown outdoors. An interesting feature of Stapeliads which differs from most other Asclepiads is that their sap is clear, not milky. Some of the best known genera of Stapeliads are *Huernia*, *Stapelia*, *Orbea*, *Caralluma*, and *Hoodia*.



Fockea edulis



Brachystelma

Most Asclepiads grown by succulent enthusiasts, aside from Stapeliads, are succulent or caudiciform vines. In caudiciform species the caudex is usually formed under the soil but raised out of the soil by growers to enhance the appearance of the plant. Some of the most commonly grown genera in this group are *Fockea*, *Brachystelma*, *Matelea* and *Raphionacme*. The flowers in this group range from inconspicuous in *Fockea*, to very showy in *Brachystelma*. The most famous succulent vining Asclepiads are *Hoya*. Somewhat surprisingly *Hoya* seem to be grown more commonly by Orchid enthusiasts than succulent collectors. Though this makes sense when one considers that *Hoya* are epiphytes from humid climates, like many orchids.

Kyle Williams

Autumn Plant Care

Succulent plants and the Autumnal Equinox

This can be a tricky time of year for proper succulent-plant care. A little sprinkle now and then (hopefully some actual rain eventually), very hot days followed by cooler days, very warm nights followed by much cooler nights, and the angle of the sun continuously decreasing from its zenith. It's also the time of year (the autumnal equinox occurring on the 21st) wherein a great many plants begin to enter dormancy while the winter-growing succulents are beginning (at least thinking about it) to egress from dormancy and ingress into photosynthesizing. What this means for horticulture is that fertilizing summer-growing plants should be replaced by fertilizing winter growers. With our continuing drought, watering on a continuing basis is probably still OK, but as the weeks progress through the autumn months, supplemental watering (other than that received from precipitation) should be decreased for summer growers.

Most of the plants let us know what they need; e.g., plants dropping leaves (exfoliating) no longer need that extra water for active growth; plants with emerging leaves are telling us that watering has become essential. Without it, those new leaves, once they run out of moisture from the succulence of the plant, will wilt and drop. It is advisable to group plants according to summer or winter dormancy, with a third category of that more forgiving group of plants that seem to grow all year, although not necessarily at the same rate all year. This way, it becomes quite easy to know what to water and fertilize and what should not get that special treatment.

Treat your plants well. They will grow well in return.

Written by: Duke Benadom

Plant of the Month 2016

October
Mammillaria with hooks
Asclepiad

November
Variegated

December
Holiday Party

Plant of the Month 2017

January
Copiapoa
Tylecodon

February
Escobaria
Acharragma
Aloe Clusters
(no larger than 6" pot)

March
Echinopsis
Euphorbia Caudiciform

April
Mammillaria
w/out hooks
Bromeliad

May
Small cactus
staged as miniature
Small Succulent
staged as miniature

June
Favorite

July
Stenocactus
Echinofossulocactus
Pachypodium/Africa

August
Melocactus
Euphorbia Caudiciform

September
Opuntia N. America
Sanseveiria

October
Grafted Cactus
Grafted Succulent

September Results for Plant of the Month

Cactus -- Turbinicarpus, Gymnocactus

Rookie

First	Kal Kaminer	Turbinicarpus alonsoi
Second	Matthew Gaskill	Turbinicarpus gielsdorfianus
Third	Kal Kaminer	Turbinicarpus graminispinus
Third	Matthew Gaskill	Turbinicarpus alonsoi
Third	Matthew Gaskill	Turbinicarpus swobodae

Novice

First	Roxie Esterle	Turbinicarpus valdezianus
Second	Linda Holub	Turbinicarpus saueri
Third	Linda Holub	Turbinicarpus viereckii
Third	Linda Holub	Turbinicarpus lophophoroides

Advanced

First	Kathryn Boorer	Turbinicarpus sp.
Second	Cheryl White	Turbinicarpus krainzianus var. minimus
Third	Cheryl White	Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele var. krainzianus
Third	Barbara Hall	Turbinicarpus viereckii

Open

First	John Matthews	Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele ssp. minimus
Second	Karen Ostler	Turbinicarpus alonsoi
Third	John Matthews	Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele ssp. minimus
Third	Karen Ostler	Turbinicarpus saueri

Succulent -- Cyphostema, Cissus

Novice

First	Robert Feldman	Cissus tuberosa
Second	Robert Feldman	Cissus tuberosa
Third	Kim Jacobi	Cissus tuberosa
Third	Roxie Esterle	Cyphostemma uter

Advanced

First	Barbara Hall	Cyphostemma uter
Second	John Suci	Cyphostemma juttae
Third	John Suci	Cyphostemma curreri

Open

First	John Matthews	Cyphostemma 'Fat Bastard'
Second	John Matthews	Cyphostemma 'Fat Bastard'

Desert Creations Nursery and Gift Shop

Starts a new tradition

THE ANNUAL FALL SALE

New Friday October 7 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Saturday October 8 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Sunday October 9 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

ALL Nursery Plants are on Sale at a **SPECIAL**
discount for as much as 50% off

You determine your own discount

Here is how it works!!!

- Select the items you wish to purchase
- Bring them to the register
- The cashier will total your order
- You will then be asked to select a folded piece of paper from a container
- The folded paper will have one of the following numbers on it; 10, 20, 30, 40 or 50
- That number will be the percentage deducted from your total order

Pots, tools, and gift items will receive a 10%
discount

Be sure to save the dates!!!

18161 Parthenia Avenue
Northridge, CA 91324
info@desertcreations.net

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar of Upcoming Events For 2016

- October 7-9** Desert Creations Fall Sale, 18161 Parthenia Street, Northridge 91324
INFO: info@desertcreations.net
- October 8-9** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield
INFO: 661-831-8488
- October 22-23** Palomar Show and Sale 9-5PM and Sunday 10-4PM
San Diego Botanic Gardens 230 Quail Gardens Rd., Encinitas CA
INFO: hciservices@gmail.com Phone: 858-382-1797
- October 28-30** The Huntington Fall Plant Sale Friday—Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Huntington Library 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
INFO: 626-405-2100 or www.huntington.org
- November 5-6** San Gabriel Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale 9-4 Both Days
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia
INFO: Manny Rivera 626-780-6957 or John Matthews 661-714-1052
- December 10** HOLIDAY DINNER (details coming soon)

From the Stacks of the Library

Oct, 2016

Hmmmmm Haven't seen **this** column in a long time.....
I'm filling in for Susan as she is on vacation.

This is to remind everyone of the end-of-year loan policy of the LACSS Library. Because we do not have a regular monthly meeting in December, any book(s) you check out at the **November** meeting will not be due back until the January meeting. This gives you plenty of time to catch up on some of the recent acquisitions of the Library. Also, don't be afraid to check out some of the older CSSA Journals. I'm sure you will find at least one that will have an article on a plant you are interested in.

People new to the hobby usually try to match the photos to their plant. This is a very tedious and inexact method to identify your plants, I speak from experience on this time consuming process and I still have plants with no names!

As an alternate approach on how to get the most out of a book, read as much of the Preface, Introduction, Forward and Table of Contents as you can. This will give you a clue to the author's thinking process and why the book is put together as it is.

Well, that's my opinion and I'm sticking with it.

See you soon.

Joyce



Mailing Address
LACSS
PO BOX 280581
Northridge, CA 91328

Phone: 818-749-5346

Website: www.LAcactus.com

Email: lacss.contact@gmail.com

October Program:
"Namibia: A Different Angle"
Presented by: Tim Harvey

October Events

- October 7-9** Desert Creations Fall Sale, 18161 Parthenia Street, Northridge 91324
INFO: info@desertcreations.net
- October 8-9** Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 2216 17th Street, Bakersfield
INFO: 661-831-8488
- October 22-23** Palomar Show and Sale 9-5PM and Sunday 10-4PM
San Diego Botanic Gardens 230 Quail Gardens Rd., Encinitas CA
INFO: hciservices@gmail.com Phone: 858-382-1797
- October 28-30** The Huntington Fall Plant Sale Friday—Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
The Huntington Library 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
INFO: 626-405-2100 or www.huntington.org