

LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

September
2011

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Next Meeting: September 1, 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.

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LACSS September Program Propagation Workshop Presented by Tim Harvey

At this time of year, many plants in your collection will have grown well, with some having bloomed and produced seed. The main show season, for summer-growing plants, is over. It is an ideal time, therefore, to take cuttings from plants that might need a bit of a trim, and plant seeds that have ripened.

Together, we will look at taking different types of cuttings; this includes offsets and divisions. We will look at what works best for different types of plant, and why. A demonstration of the principles of grafting will be given.

Growing from seed is a fantastic way to build your collection. Many people think it takes years to get a decent specimen, but that is just not the case. Very quickly, you will come to regard seedlings as your 'babies', and have the chance to pick out the most vigorous and unusual plants to keep for yourself – something the Pros do before you ever get to see any of the plants for sale.

The process, starting with cleaning the seed, through sowing and planting up the resulting plants will be demonstrated. Different approaches, including the 'baggie method' will be used, and members will have the chance to plant seed, either something they bring, or 'Somis Hummingbird' *Gasteria* hybrids, courtesy of John Matthews. Those who plant *Gasteria* seed will be eligible to enter their pot of seedlings next year, when we will have a mini-competition to compare results.

Members are encouraged to bring some seeds they may have from their plants to sow, OR a plant that they'd like to divide or otherwise propagate, OR a plant that isn't growing as well as they'd like it to, and possibly has problems. Summer is also the time that, along with our cherished plants, bugs and diseases also thrive. Since there will be too many to go through all in the time we have for the meeting, a cross-section will be selected to best illustrate the widest variety possible. Members are encouraged to contribute their tips, questions and suggestions

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are in the middle of Summer, and boy does it feel that way. The temperatures have soared and I hope everyone is staying out of the extreme heat; but unfortunately, our plants cannot get up and walk in the house to escape the heat. We must take extra precautions to help our plants make it through this extreme weather. Make sure you water more often than you would in more moderate temperatures and, if necessary, relocating those plants that are exposed to the intense sun that may be burning or are not looking particularly well.

We had a wonderful meeting in July that included some new members and a few guests. Todd gave an interesting and educative program on the plants that grow in our area and surrounding states; one does not have to fly to Africa or South America to see great plants.

The Inter-City show and sale was a great success once again. A record number of plants were entered in the show. Most importantly, we had a record number of Beginner showers, which is very important to each club. On the Trophy table, it was great to see four beginners and five novices up there with the "big boys". We owe big thanks and praise to the show chairmen; Peter Walkowiak, our very own John Matthews, and Tom Glavich who manages the whole event. It is truly is a wonderful show and sale.

I will miss the next meeting, and there is some club business that needs to be taken care. We need to create a Nomination committee. The offices to be filled are PRESIDENT, 3RD VICE PRESIDENT in charge of special events, TREASURER, and a DIRECTOR. The nomination committee will propose their slate of nominations in October, and then we will have an election in November. Remember this is your club and the only way to improve or change the club is for you to get involved.

Please remember about the refreshments if your last name begins with M –P

Have a great meeting

Artie



**Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society
Nursery and Garden Field Trip to Malibu
September 18, 2011 from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**

We have 2 stops on this visit:

Serra Canyon Ranch (10:00AM – 12:00 noon)

*3314 Serra Road
Malibu, CA 90265
310-456-5888, 310-456-8326*

Formerly Serra Gardens, new owner Rosemary Hall is inviting us to wander through this 30 year old succulent nursery landmark. Serra Canyon Ranch is virtually a botanical garden of large cacti, Euphorbias, Aloes, and other established specimens, including plants for purchase in one gallon to 48" boxes. Enjoy browsing and treasure hunting, though some specimens may need a little TLC.

Morris Ranch (12:00 noon – 1:30 PM)

Bob Morris has been an LACSS member for 3 years, though his interest in succulents and other wonders and oddities of nature long precedes that. He has established a significant and eclectic collection of succulents and cacti, with many species of aloes, Euphorbias, Agaves, and other drought-tolerant plants. At his ranch, there is ample room for, planting, propagation, rocks and minerals, livestock, and even an animal rescue. Bob invites us to see it all.

Bring a bag lunch. Beverages and refreshments will be served.

Maps and entrance instructions will be distributed at the next LACSS meeting.



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 - July Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Adenia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Kim Thorpe	Adenia globosa
Second	Kim Thorpe	Adenia ellenbeckii
None		

Cactus - Tephrocactus

First	Kim Thorpe	Tephrocactus floccosus
Second	Kim Thorpe	Tephrocactus clavaroides
Third	Rio Cernik	Tephrocactus articulatus
Third	Kim Thorpe	Tephrocactus molinensis

Advanced Division

Succulent - Adenia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Barbara Hall	Adenia furticosa
Second	Barbara Hall	Adenia spinosa
Third	Barbara	Adenia olaboensis

Cactus - Tephrocactus

None

Open Division

Succulent - Adenia

Award	Name	Plant
First	Artie Chavez	Adenia karibensis
Second	Barbara Nolan	Adenia firingalavensis
Third	Barabara Nolan	Cyphostemma jutae

Cactus - Tephrocactus

First	Norma Lewis	Tephrocactus longispinua v. brevispina
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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

Plant of the Month - August Winners

Novice Division

Succulent - Pachypodium (African Species)

Award	Name	Plant
First	Rio Cernik	Pachypodium biospinosum
Second	Kim Thorpe	Pachypodium succulentum
Third	Roxie & Jim Esterle	Pachypodium succulentum
Third	Rio Cernik	Pachypodium namaquanum

Cactus - Brazilian Cacti

First	Rio Cernik	Buiningia brevicylindrica
Second	Rio Cernik	Ulbelmania flavispina
Third	Rio Cernik	Buiningia purpurea
Third	Kim Thorpe	Discocactus zehnrteri

Advanced Division

Succulent - Pachypodium (African Species)

Award	Name	Plant
None		
Cactus - Brazilian Cacti		
First	John Mathews	Frailea schilinskyana
Second	John Mathews	Parodia sp.
Third	John Mathews	Parodia ubelmaniana

Open Division

Succulent - Pachypodium (African Species)

Award	Name	Plant
First	Manny Rivera	Pachypodium biospinosum
Second	Artie Chavez	Pachypodium succulentum
Third	Artie Chavez	Pachypodium namaquanum

Cactus - Brazilian Cacti

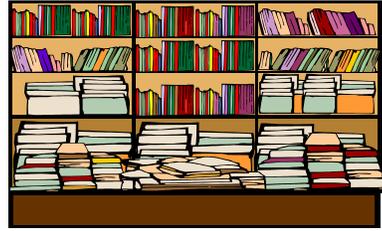
None

Southern California Calendar of Events September

September 3 **Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium**
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
Information: 626-405-2160 or 2277

September 25 **Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Annual Plant Auction**
18127 South Alameda St.
Rancho Dominguez, CA Starts at 12pm

From the Stacks of the Library



Step right up, folks. Don't be shy...Step right up and take a look at the last new book for this year. I am pleased to feature the "2nd edition, 2010" book titled "*LITHOPS - Treasures of the Veld*" by Steven A. Hammer. This is **not** a redo of the earlier "*Lithops-Flowering Stones*" by Desmond T. Cole published as the definitive work on lithops in 1988. This book is actually an update of Mr. Hammer's 1999 book and begins with entertaining and informative articles of forward, preface, introduction, acknowledgements, history, maps, a few pages on habitat and concludes with Appendix 1 – 8 on various topics. My favorite Appendix is "*Agony Column, or Ask Mabel.*" This, alone, would make this book a must-read! But, between those pages are over 50 pages of species descriptions. The outstanding photos highlight the plants [some with flowers] in habitat or natural looking staging.

I encourage everyone to avail themselves of our complete collection of CSSA Journals dating back to the 1980s. All are available to be checked out. The last issue of each year contains an index of articles of the past year to assist you in locating ones of interest to you. This is a valuable resource of Genera, species, habitat, cultivation, taxonomy, etc. just waiting to be found by you. As a bonus, our very own Tim Harvey is now the editor.

I'm thinking of starting a "Question of the month" trivia feature for this column. I've dabbled with the concept in earlier issues. Is anyone interested? Example: What is the difference between ***nomenclature*** and ***taxonomy***? No prizes – just a fun thing to keep us alert....

For the history buffs, a slim volume worth looking at this month is "*The Cactus and other Tropical Succulent*" by Henry Allnutt. Originally published in 1877, this is a wonderful work on how things were in the beginning..... It is a stand-alone "THEN" book!

So, folks, step right up and ***CHECK IT OUT!***

See you soon
Joyce, The Librarian

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Cacti of the Month September 2011 - *Ferocactus*



Ferocactus reppenhagenii

Ferocactus is medium sized genus, with about 40 members and centered in Mexico, with a few species native to California and the Southwest, and a few to Guatemala.

With age, *Ferocactus* generally get to be very large plants, particularly when grown in the ground. Fortunately, they are fairly slow growers and when grown in pots, they will stay at a comfortable size for many years. Although there are only about 40 species, many of them are fairly variable, with widely varying spine lengths, shapes, textures and colors, depending on the specific locality.

Ferocactus are easily grown, and most are perfectly happy outdoors without protection year round in Southern California. A normal well draining potting mix will do well. They need sun to bring out the colors and textures of the spines.

Ferocactus are easily raised from seed. Planting is most successful when done in April or May. The seedlings grow slowly at first, but soon take off. There are several advantages to growing *Ferocactus* from seed. The first is that the selection of type localities and spine variations is far greater than you will ever see at a plant

show or sale. The second and most important is that you get to grow the plant through its awkward juvenile growth. During the second year *Ferocactus* spines grow completely out of proportion to the *Ferocactus* body. A *Ferocactus* that will eventually be a foot in diameter, and 4 feet tall with 3 or four inch spines, will have as a seedling a body less than an inch in diameter, with spines an inch or more long.

Some of my favorite species include:

Ferocactus chrysacanthus from Baja California has dense golden spines. It becomes a spectacular species when it grows to about 8 inches in diameter. It will eventually grow to 3 feet, eventually.



Ferocactus chrysacanthus

Ferocactus emoryi is endemic to Arizona and Sonora Mexico, and shown below has long red spines that can vary from straight to hooked.



Ferocactus emoryi

Ferocactus latispinus, from central Mexico, has flat reddish spines, with distinct grooves running crosswise, particularly on the bottom. A variety, *Ferocactus latispinus v spiralis* has the spines forming a spiral pattern up the stem. This is a spectacular plant when it gets to be about 18 inches tall.



Ferocactus latispinus v spiralis

Ferocactus wislizenii, another Baja species has flat spines. It grows more in the winter than the summer.



Ferocactus wislizenii

Lastly, we should mention *Ferocactus glaucescens* a stunning plant with prominent golden yellow spines and a glaucous blue body. This *Ferocactus* can be found in Hildago Mexico in the limestone hills.



Ferocactus glaucescens

Reference:

The New Cactus Lexicon, David Hunt

Tom Glavich, January 2002
 Edited by Steve Frieze, September 2011

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Succulent of the Month September 2011 - *Stem Euphorbias*



Stem succulents

Euphorbias exhibit an extraordinary variety of shapes and life forms. One of the most common forms of *Euphorbias* are the stem variety which are represented by literally hundreds of species from many different locales and ecologies. Some of the stem *Euphorbias* have deciduous leaves while other have leaf structure that persist during the colder months.

In general all of these are easy to grow. Good, fast draining potting mixes, protection from excessive winter water and cold, are really all they ask. They benefit from relatively frequent repotting, and fairly frequent applications of fertilizer when they are growing.

Examples of Stem Euphorbias

Euphorbia gymnocalicioides from Ethiopia looks very much like a *Gymnocalycium*.



Euphorbia horrida, from South Africa has a variety of cultivars. Easy to grow, two forms are shown in figure 1.



Euphorbia suzannae, another classic in almost every collection. Easy to grow, bright green stems, that quickly clump to form an impressive specimen.



Euphorbia polygona is indigenous to South Africa. This species is relatively frost tolerant.



Euphorbia gottlebei, endemic to Madagascar, is a stem euphorbia that produces a plethora of fragile thin leaves. This species branches and, in maturity, assumes bush-like shape.



Euphorbia millii is a very popular and hardy *Euphorbia* that can be found in many Southern California Gardens. This species has been recently hybridized to produce 'Firecracker', a variegated leaf and stem succulent that is stunning.

Euphorbia millottii is another very handsome stem euphorbia. This tropical species, endemic to Madagascar, generates many branches and has leaves which maintain a purple coloration of the bottom side.



Intercity Show Pictures by T. Nomer
Tom Glavich July 2002
Edited , Steve Frieze, September 2011

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!**

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Upcoming Program for
September
Propagation Workshop
Presented by
Tim Harvey

First Class Mail

Next Meeting:
September 1, 2011

Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

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