

CACTUS CHRONICLE

MISSION STATEMENT

LACSS The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

This month's program:

STAGING - BRINGING OUT THE BEST IN PLANTS!

with Karen Ostler

As growers of cactus and succulents we love to show off our plants and there is nothing more satisfying than finding the right pot for our plants and that is where staging comes into play. I feel that there are two types of staging; one for our homes and one for Shows sometimes they are the same style, but frequently they are not.

As with anything, you have to determine what your goals for your plants are; do you want to show your plants in competition or do you want your plants to look wonderful in your yard? Both are worthwhile goals, but are often achieved differently.

My goal is to explain and define the difference between them. The very first thing that must be understood in staging for show is that you want your plant to stand out; for it to be the first thing the judges see as they arrive at the table. Not in a flamboyant way, but setting itself apart from the competition. I tend to describe it as making your plant the one the judges would like to take home with them.

That said, nothing is going to beat a well grown plant, that is the first requirement and it will look good in anything from a new clean plastic pot to one of the beautiful original one of a kind ceramic pots made by a fabulous potter. I prefer the one of-a-kind, you may not, but no matter what kind of pot you use, my goal is to show you how to make your plant look its absolute best.

Just as there are formulas or recipes for everything from cooking to working on a car; there are 'rules' that can be followed that make it much easier. I often hear, "well, I'm not an artist." It doesn't require art to stage your plant in the best possible way, just observation. I have 'Rules' when I stage my plants, they don't work for everyone, and I don't expect everyone to agree with them, but they work for me.

*article continues next page

PLEASE SEND ME PHOTOS FROM YOUR COLLECTION OF SULCOREBUTIA, WEINGARTIA AND ALSO FOCKEA! TO BE FEATURED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

(EMAIL NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM)

PLEASE READ ALL EMAIL UPDATES IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, A ZOOM LINK ALONG WITH INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE POSTED IN AN EMAIL BLAST EARLY IN THE WEEK, THIS WILL TAKE YOU TO OUR VIRTUAL MEETING ON THURSDAY!

-Kimberly





FIG. 1

Let's start with rule #1, every pot considered for staging must be clean and undamaged; that means if it's plastic it has no scratches, broken edges or cracks. The same thing goes for clay pots, they must be perfect. Here are some examples of what you don't want to do. Figure 1. A thirty year old *Mammillaria lloydii* in an old Ericka Van Auker pot. This is just what you don't want to do! This pot cracked on the way to the show, and I was just lucky it was a beautiful plant.

Fig.2 *Gymnocalycium "Hibotan"* is a cutie on your patio table; but the colors of the pot and the top dressing detract the eye away from the plant and the frog figurine is not appropriate on a show table.



FIG. 2



FIG. 3



FIG. 4

Figure 3. *Eriosyce auratum* in a clay pot. The pot has built up salts and chips on the rim, the top dressing is a mix of different sized and colors of gravel and does not come up to the rim of the pot and the pot is dirty. In Fig. 4, *Eriosyce auratum* is still in a clay pot, but the pot is clean, without chips and the top dressing comes all the way up to the inside rim.

Rule 2. Size of the pot compared to the plant. Your plant should just fit, neither too small; underpotted, nor too large; over-potted. I like to call this one the 'rule of thumb,' there should be a thumb width between the edge of the pot and the body of the plant. But you can break this rule with some succulents; such as Hoyas, Sedums, etc. often they want to spill over the edge and should be allowed. Fig.5 & 6 are both *Gasterias* and are properly potted.

Fig.7 is under-potted; in this case, due to the hooked spines on this particular species; over potting would be safer for both you and the plant. But underpotting makes the plant look pinched and over balanced.

Fig. 8 shows a single head of *M. senilis*, in a properly sized pot, nasty hooked spines safely away from the edge. But over potting has its issues as well.



FIG. 6
PHOTO BY SNAKE



FIG. 7
PHOTO BY SNAKE



FIG. 8



FIG. 5



FIG. 9



FIG. 10



FIG. 11



FIG. 12

Fig.9 *Neohenricia sibbetii*. Although this genus is notorious for falling apart when transplanted, this is excessively overpotted. However, in Fig.10 *Faucaria* is only slightly over potted to allow for future growth.

Rule 3. The right and the wrong of using colored pots. I love using bright colors but there are times when they just don't work.

Scilla socialis (Fig. 9) is an example of overpowering the plant with the pot; the pink pot against the bright green leaves is too jarring and you end up seeing the pot before you see the plant. However in Fig.10, *Cryptanthus 'Elaine'* is complemented by the combination of the pink pot and blush top dressing. The shape of the pot helps as well, focusing the eyes on the plant, preventing the plant from being overwhelmed.



FIG. 13



FIG. 14



FIG. 15

Fig.13 *Mammillaria lenta* in a turquoise pot, proving you can use color in a subtle way.

Rule #4 Pot shape. I love this one; your pot can mimic the shape of your plant, or not. You can, of course put a round plant such as Fig. 14, a singled headed *Echinocactus glauca* in a round pot, but really, how boring. Fig.15 shows *Mammillaria hahniana* ssp. *woodsii* in a rectangular pot, a much more dynamic pairing.

Fig. 16. *Mammillaria spinosissima* ssp. *pilcayensis*, in a 2" low oval Bonsai pot that shows off the shape of the plant. Of course you can push it even further as shown here, *Mammillaria geminispina* crest in a wavy pot that mimics the plants form.

And if your plant is tall, play it up; Fig. 18 shows *Austrocephalocereus dybowskii* in a tall, narrow pot.

Rule #5. Rocks and top dressing actually serve a purpose; I always use one rock that goes to the bottom of the pot so that when I water onto it, water goes all the way into the soil. Top dressing protects the neck of the plant from sitting

The rule of rocks...1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11...I think you get the point; always use an uneven number of staging rocks in your pot, or use none at all. But never, ever, use big river rocks; our plants don't grow in rivers.

Fig.19 shows river rocks all the way around the plant in a campfire ring; unless you are offering your plant up as a sacrifice to the god of the show, don't do it.

Fig.20. has a variety of different rocks; always use rocks that match; not only each other, but the top dressing as well, as seen in Fig. 18. Please, please do not use brightly colored aquarium gravel; at home a Sedum staged in a purple pot with purple top dressing is okay, but not in a show. The staging on this Mammillaria saboae; Fig. 19, is naturalistic and gives the impression that the plant is in habitat.



Rule #6. Faces. Yep, our plants have faces and you want those faces looking right at the judges when they walk up to the table. Pick the best side of your plant, and tip it very slightly forward,

Fig.15. And don't forget your pot; often they have a better side as well; make certain that the best side of the pot and the 'face' of your plant are on the same side. I can't tell you the number of times I have had to repot a plant because I got the good side of the pot on the back side of the plant. And remember, sometimes we make all make mistakes, if you find you just don't like how it looks, do it again until you are happy. Most of all, you have to like it; the judges are only going to be looking at it for minutes, you will be looking at that plant the other 360 days, and if you aren't happy when you look at it you won't take care of it.

All of these rules with the exception of brightly colored pots and top dressing; apply to the plants in our homes and the plants gracing our outdoor spaces as well as the plants we enter into our Shows. A well grown plant beautifully potted is plant you'll end up taking pride in, as you should.

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A Word From Our President



Remember the way we divvied up the refreshment schedule? I'd like to try something similar so that everyone has an opportunity to check in with us and us with you. So, all members who are in the alphabet group A – F, please write two sentences about how you are doing during this pandemic. Send this to Kimberly at newsletter@lacactus.com

You could just say "OK" or you could write a full paragraph. As a Club, we have always valued the exchange of personal greetings at our meetings and knowing that everything is "just fine." Your responses will be included in the August, 2020 Supplement - unless you don't want to be published.

I am not recruiting for CSSA but their bi-weekly webinars are open to everyone. You can join the Webinars by going to their website cactusandsucculentsociety.org for information on registering for the webinars. The most recent program even had attendees from out of the country. There are many other on-line resources for C&S information and if you have a favorite please share it with us. Our connection to the plant world is our connection to each other.

LACSS has been busy (mostly Kimberly – our Editor) trying to stay on the regular schedule that we have become accustomed to. Our VP-Programs (Ron Behar) has scheduled speakers for each remaining month of this year. Karen (Education) has, also, signed up speakers for every month. I think everyone has had a fast learning curve regarding the ZOOM method of meetings. I learned how to use the CHAT feature just last week. It still scares me. When computers first came into the business world, Rose was afraid she would push a wrong button and start a nuclear war. She has gotten over that fear but some of us are still slow to get into the fast lane with this new-fangled technology! In addition, Kimberly has published a "Supplement" mid-month newsletter since April. I hope you enjoy this extra issue. Have you contributed photos to both newsletters? Sometimes space is limited but all POM photos will be featured during the regular meeting with Manny's delightful commentary.

It is our sincerest hope that all of our members are staying safe and healthy during this challenging time. For those who have been affected, we extend our sympathy and strength. So, I look forward to seeing all of you at our August 6 meeting! If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email me. I have lots of time now...

Best,
Joyce Schumann

PLANT^{of the} MONTH *2020*

AUGUST	AZTEKIUM & GEOHINTONIA PACHYPODIUM FROM MADAGASCAR & PLUMERIA
SEPTEMBER	SULCOREBUTIA & WEINGARTIA FOCKEA
OCTOBER	FEROCACTUS & LEUCHTENBERGIA DORSTENIA & FICUS
NOVEMBER	PARODIA & NOTOCACTUS EUPHORBIA STEM TYPE
DECEMBER	CREST & MONSTROSE CREST & MONSTROSE

PLANT^{of the} MONTH CORRECTIONS

-Manny Rivera

Here's a list of plant ID corrections from June POM:

- Ron Behar - *Adromischus marianae herrei*
- Ron Behar - *Echeveria sings*
- Kevin Altar *Cereus forbesii monstroze* - 'Cereus Ming Thing'
- Collin + Kimberly *Euphorbia* hybrid - rugged x Susanna?
- Ron Cooper *Opuntia crest*- *Opuntia Roller Coaster*
- Bonnie Ikemura *Abromeitiella brevifolia* - *Deuterocohnia brevifolia*
- Bonnie Ikemura *Agave* sp. - *Agave guiengola* 'Creme Brulee'
- Bonnie Ikemura *Cyphostemma* sp. - *Cyphostemma juttae*
- Bonnie Ikemura *Agave* sp. - *Echeveria agavoides* 'Ebony'
- Bonnie Ikemura *Aloe* sp. - *Aloe dorotheae*
- Bonnie Ikemura *Pachypodium* sp. - *Pachypodium lealii*
- Nick Steihardt *Tephrocactus* sp. - Bolivian cumulopuncture
- Nick Steinhart *Tephrocactus boliviana*- *Cumulopuntia boliviana* subs *dactylifera*

Thank you All partipants for your Wonderful Plants and Great Pictures.
Stay in The Pink

MANNY RIVERA.



PLANT^{of the} MONTH SUBMISSIONS

THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS ZOOM MEETING ON AUGUST 6TH TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



PACHYPODIUM
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



AZTEKIUM
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



AZTEKIUM RITTERII
KAREN OSTLER



PACHYPODIUM LAMEREI
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



GEOHINTONIA MEXICANA
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



GEOHINTONIA SP.
KAREN OSTLER



AZTEKIUM HINTONII
KAREN OSTLER



PACHYPODIUM BREVICAULE
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE

AUGUST PLANT of the MONTH

PACHYPODIUM FROM MADAGASCAR + PLUMERIA

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

This month we are looking at two related genera that novices can easily confuse with each other, but are really quite different. Pachypodium is an African genus of roughly 30 species that is known for being caudiciforms with interesting shapes and pretty flowers. Plumeria is from the Americas, has about a dozen species, and forms thick stemmed small trees with stunning flowers. Both belong to the plant family Apocynaceae.

Photo credits: Kyle Williams + Kerina Yin

When most people think of Pachypodium they think of Madagascar for good reason. The vast majority of species (all but a handful of the 25-30 species) occur only on that island. The rest are in Southern Africa. Some species look like they come from a desert (e.g. *P. brevicaulis*), while many others would look as much at home in a tropical landscape as a desert one (e.g. *P. lamerei*). That shouldn't be surprising as Madagascar really is a tropical island, just one with deserts, rainforests, and everything in between! In fact, when I first learned about the plants of Madagascar it was in relation to the unique rainforests. In particular, the amazing Traveler's Palm (*Ravenala madagascariensis*), a close relative of the Bird of Paradise (*Strelitzia*). Only later did I learn the island was also a succulent paradise! That means this month we are talking about every Pachypodium species except: *P. namaquanum*, *P. succulentum* (including *P. griquense*), *P. bispinosum*, *P. saundersii* & *P. lealii*. In other words, any Pachypodium that isn't one of those species is eligible for the monthly show.

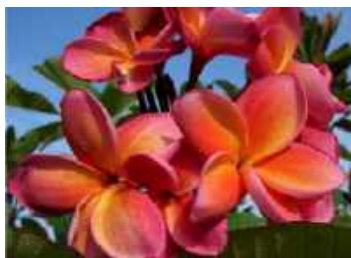


Pachypodium brevicaulis

Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. They are related to Adenium, Stapeliads, Fockea, Oleanders, Milkweeds, and many other non-xeric plants. Plumeria differs from Pachypodium in having smooth stems (no spines) and growing as a large shrub or small to medium tree. While a few Pachypodium can get tree sized, they don't look like a normal tree whereas Plumerias have a normal trunk and is heavily branched. Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why some places have more species than others? The distribution of Pachypodium may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental Africa? It must be because Pachypodium evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree like, species to form (e.g. *P. lamerei* & *P. geayi*) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while Madagascar might have had less plants at the time, making it easier for Pachypodium to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships of Pachypodium suggest this may well be what happened!



Pachypodium sp.



Plumeria cultivar

Cultivation of Pachypodium is generally easy. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter keep dry. Some species, like *P. brevicaulis* are more water sensitive than others. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate more cold, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. *Pachypodium lamerei* is the biggest exception in that it is a Madagascar species that can tolerate the occasional light frost in our region.

Plumeria range from Mexico through Central America to Brazil and into the Caribbean. Once species even includes Florida in its native range. Do you know where Plumeria is NOT native? Hawaii. Any visitor to Hawaii has seen them there and probably been led to believe they are a Hawaiian flower (they are used to make leis). But like so many other plants and animals they were introduced by people. Wild type Plumeria are rarely grown in cultivation. Instead extensive breeding has let to hundreds or more cultivars differentiated by their flowers, which come in a wide range of colors from white, yellow, orange, pink, red, bicolor, and even purple. This contrasts with Pachypodium which have few if any cultivars. Culture-wise Plumeria differs from Pachypodium in needing more water and more space as they become large shrubs or trees. They are similar to Madagascar Pachypodium in being cold sensitive and prone to rot in cold wet soil.

AUGUST PLANT of the MONTH

AZTEKIUM + GEOHINTONIA BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo credits: Kyle Williams

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 (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 hintonii *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.



Aztekium hintonii

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.



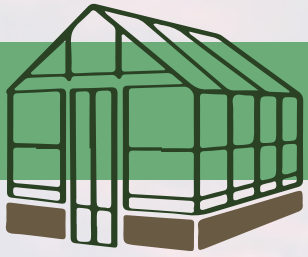
Aztekium valdezii



Geohintonia mexicana

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.

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. Own 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.



GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

HOT 118 degrees in the greenhouse at 9:30AM and 125 degrees by noon. Other than me, nothing is suffering, in fact, my collection of seed grown *Gasterias* is in full flower, a virtual forest of flower stalks, covered with the dangling stomach shaped flowers that give the genus its Latin name. I was fortunate when we moved here to be able to hybridize this genus using hummingbirds, because no one and I mean no one; grows *Gasterias* out of doors up here. And it was pretty simple; one, pick the parents; two, put them next to each other in the courtyard and watch the hummingbirds dance their way around the flowers.

Of course, it wasn't that simple at all because some of the plants I wanted to use didn't flower at the same time. That required saving the pollen in tiny bead jars in the fridge until the seed parent flowered; then peeling back the petals, stripping off the anthers and waiting until the pistil opened.

But it is so worth it to play with your plants; oh, boy, hundreds of seedling! Of course, they don't look like anything but grass when they first come up and they look like that for what seems like forever, as you wait and then wait some more until they grow into something that looks like a real plant. Then they came out of the four inch pots the seeds were sown in and into four flats, everything carefully labelled. It takes a couple of years before you know how many are going in the trash and how many are going to grow into charming little jewels. Out of those four flats of plants and hundreds of seedlings, I ended up with ten plants worth keeping and naming.

Some of crosses are slower than slow; *Gasteria armstrongii* X *Gasteria elliphae* 'Little Ella' is one cross I recommend only for the ultra-patient, after 18 years and some splitting to make certain that I didn't lose it; it has finally filled a four inch show pot with multiple heads. But it is a beautiful little gem; dark purple brown with a rough texture and small heads; I was proud to name it after my grand-daughter, both of them born the same year. But of the fifty seedlings of that cross it were only two that made the cut, the rest went into a shaded bed under a plum tree at the old house in the Valley. They made a nice show when they flowered and were pretty enough the rest of the time, but they just weren't spectacular.

That is one aspect of hybridizing, you have to be brutal and keep only the ones that fulfill the expectations that you had when you made the original cross. I like using opposites; *Gasteria excelsa* X *Gasteria lilputana*; big and little; or *Gasteria excelsa* X *Gasteria carrinata* ssp. *verrucosa*; large size and nice texture. Give it a try, I guarantee you won't be disappointed, you might have to wait for a while, but it's not as if you are standing there while they grow, you are doing what you do and one day they will do what they do and will reward you with a gem of a plant.

Stay safe, stay home and stay healthy.

Happy growing,
Karen

You may have heard ABOUT SOME MYSTERIOUS SEEDS FROM CHINA?

* Written by Allyson Waller, The New York Times

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has identified 14 varieties of mysterious seeds purportedly sent from China to U.S. citizens who didn't order them. The known varieties include rosemary, sage, mint and hibiscus. The common herbs hardly seem a threat, but APHIS maintains its warning—reiterated by all 50 states—that recipients of unsolicited seed shipments should not plant them.



"Our main concern is the potential for these seeds to introduce damaging pests or diseases that could harm U.S. agriculture," APHIS said in a thorough statement on the seed situation, posted on the USDA's website. Osama El-Lissy, an official with APHIS, said the 14 seeds represent "just a subset of the samples we have collected so far."

The strange seeds began appearing in mailboxes at least two months ago, often arriving in packages marked as containing jewelry. One man in Arkansas planted the seeds he received and nurtured them to growth. He then reported the incident to the Arkansas Department of Agriculture once authorities issued the public warnings. Local authorities have since dug up the offending plant.

Reports say the majority of these mysterious seed packets have been shipped from China, although China foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said that the China Post shipping labels found on the packets had been forged. Wang said China Post "prohibits seeds from conveyance by post" and had requested the U.S. Postal Service "send those fake packages to China for investigation."

Most countries regulate the import of seeds and other organic material, to protect against invasive species. In the U.S., gardeners have previously been blamed for unleashing Japanese knotweed and butterfly bush on American soil, while the U.K.'s Animal and Plant Health Agency intercepts around 1,000 plant-related shipments a year.

The latest batch of mysterious seed parcels has received more media attention than normal, perhaps due to the deterioration of China-U.S. relations. Some pundits have wondered aloud whether the seed shipments could be an act of state-sponsored ecoterrorism. The USDA, however, says there's no evidence to suggest the fraudulent packages are anything other than a "brushing scam." Mailing cheap products to unsuspecting customers is one way to do that. The practice is common in China.

Jack Ma, founder of China's largest e-commerce site Alibaba, has said that when his eBay-alternative started, he and the other employees did a similar thing: listing their own items and selling them to each other, in order to make the website seem more active.

THE DESERT GARDEN

Article courtesy of The Huntington Gardens

at the Huntington

The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens is known for many things. Ask a history buff, and you'll hear about the priceless rare books and manuscripts housed here. The connoisseur of art will tell you of the world-class collection of paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts. And garden lovers will rhapsodize about the beauty of the 12 themed landscapes, from a 100-year-old Japanese Garden to a new classical style Chinese Garden, that comprise the 120-acre grounds on this former private estate.

A stunning view of the Desert Garden at The Huntington Gardens.

But among all its acclaimed treasures, one of the things The Huntington is most famous for is its outstanding collection of cacti and succulents. The 10-acre Desert Garden, established in 1907, is one of the oldest and largest assemblages of arid-adapted plants in the world, showcasing more than 2,000 different species. Hundreds more reside in the Desert Garden Conservatory and nursery. The Huntington's Desert Collections are the institution's most important research and conservation collection among the gardens, containing a number of species that are now extinct in the wild. Since The Huntington first opened to the public in 1928, the Desert Garden—with its vibrant colors, unusual forms, and varied textures—has been a visitor favorite.



Mature, massed plantings create dramatic displays, such as the winter flowering of hundreds of Aloe species; the spectacular spring/summer bloom of the Puya collection; summer blooms from 20-30 different species of Yucca and numerous varieties of cacti; large groupings of golden barrel cacti (*Echinocactus grusonii*); and dozens of *Echinopsis* cactus hybrids with their astonishingly beautiful blooms. The hillside landscape of the Desert Garden is also rich with *Opuntia*, *Mammillaria*, *Agave*, *Echeveria*, *Crassula*, *Sedum*, *Fouquieria*, and *Aeonium* species, along with many more. Delicate succulents that would not survive outdoors in Southern California's cool

Prolific bracts of *Euphorbia lambii* also known as Truffula Tree

winters are housed in the Desert Garden Conservatory, located at the top of the garden.

The Desert Garden serves as a living classroom, as well, introducing school children to the amazing diversity of succulent plants and their adaptations to dry climates. Behind the scenes, the desert collection supports a wide range of research and conservation activities, including a tissue culture laboratory and cryopreservation research program. The International Succulent Introductions (ISI) is the Huntington's plant introduction program, and an annual list of offerings is published in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal* and on the Huntington's website.



Puya alpestris in bloom.
Photos courtesy of The Huntington Gardens



Echinopsis 'Celeste'
blooming at The Huntington Gardens.

SECOND SATURDAYS with LACSS

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT DUKE BENADOM OF SUPERB SUCCULENTS
WILL BE GIVING A PROGRAM ON ECHINOCEREUS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH
HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM
AT 9:30AM

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/82920387178](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82920387178)

MEETING ID: 829 2038 7178
ONE TAP MOBILE
+16699009128,,82920387178# US (SAN JOSE)
+12532158782,,82920387178# US (TACOMA)

DIAL BY YOUR LOCATION
+1 669 900 9128 US (SAN JOSE)
+1 253 215 8782 US (TACOMA)
+1 346 248 7799 US (HOUSTON)
+1 646 558 8656 US (NEW YORK)
+1 301 715 8592 US (GERMANTOWN)
+1 312 626 6799 US (CHICAGO)
MEETING ID: 829 2038 7178

**THE COVID-19 VIRUS MAY HAVE PREVENTED US FROM PHYSICALLY GATHERING
AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, TOURS, FESTIVALS AND WORKSHOPS, BUT IT SURE HAS NOT
PREVENTED US FROM GETTING NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING
NEW MEMBERS FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020:**

JEAN CHECKWOOD

**LISA FANCHER
JACOB THOMPSON**

MICHELLE MURRAY (FAMILY)

MIKE NELSON

HARPER MURRAY

ROBERT JACKSON