



# CACTUS CHRONICLE



## CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting  
Thursday  
November 2, 2017**

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

**Doors Open  
at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins  
at 7:00pm**

**Refreshments for:  
November  
Last names  
starting with  
I - M**

Welcome to our new members!

### October

Jackie Azalbanan  
Miguel Delgado  
Don Sterstrom  
Kandis Sterstrom  
Martha Smyser  
Nick Steinhardt

### WEBSITE:

Visit us at:  
Lacactus.com

### EMAIL:

lacss.contact@gmail.com

### Editor

**Jose J Villarroel**  
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.

## November Program: "Belize - You won't Belize it" Presented by: Linda Holub

Linda's interest in cacti and succulents began thirty years ago. In Linda's words, "I killed them with kindness and over watering". When Linda moved to California in 1988 her interest was renewed. Her interest continued to grow, and when she joined the LACSS (Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society) in 2011 she was hooked. Through trial, error, and meeting like-minded people Linda's knowledge grew, and today she has over 600 different species of cacti and succulents in her collection.



In 2015 Linda and four members of the LACSS saw a need for a club in Ventura County and formed the Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society. In little less than a year, the club has grown to over one hundred and thirty members, and is one of the fastest growing (if not the fastest growing) clubs in the U.S.

In May of this year, Linda and her husband went on a six-day vacation to Belize. They found that the resort where they were staying had the largest botanical garden in Belize. Linda learned that the garden was the pet project of Ella, the wife of the resorts owner. Before meeting Ella, Linda had the opportunity to explore the garden on her own; but after she introduced herself to Ella as the president of the CCSS, Ella arranged for a private tour conducted by David, the gardens curator.

At the September meeting, Linda will be talking about and showing pictures of many of the extraordinary succulents and plants native to Belize. The presentation will also feature pictures of native wildlife, Mayan ruins, and cave formations. It's a presentation you're sure to enjoy, and won't want to miss.

## 2017 Officers

### **President**

Joyce Schumann

**1<sup>st</sup> VP, Programs**

Ron Behar

**2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Plant of the Month**

Manny Rivera

**3<sup>rd</sup> VP, Special Events**

Diane Miller

### **Secretary**

Matt Gatskill

[LACSS.contact@gmail.com](mailto:LACSS.contact@gmail.com)

### **Treasurer**

Gretchen Davis

### **Membership**

Iona Buratti

**Director 1 (2017-18) Odd Yrs.**

Kal Kaminer

**Director 2 (2016-17) Even Yrs.**

Kyle Williams

### **LACSS Show Chair**

Jim Esterle

### **Webmaster**

Kim Thorpe

### **Librarian**

Susan Phillips

### **Historian**

Nils Schirmacher

### **Cactus Chronicle Editor**

Jose J Villarroel

### **Inter-City Show Liaison**

John Martinez

### **CSSA Liaison**

M.A. Bjarkman

### **Education Chair**

Kyle Williams

### **Drawing & Plant Procurement**

Richard Roosman

### **Mentor Program Chair**

John Suci

### **Member at Large**

Nancy Neymark and Kal Kaminer

### **Cactus Garden Chair**

Chris Rogers

### **Cactus Chronicle Distribution**

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

### **Holiday Party Chairpersons**

Kandie and Don Soderstrom

### **Cactus Garden**

Chris Rogers

### **Meeting Refreshments**

OPEN

### **Monthly Drawing**

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

## President's Message

November, 2017

Hi all,

November already. In January it seemed so far away. This is my favorite month because of Thanksgiving, which is my favorite holiday. Originally, it was my favorite because of the food. Later, I found out how much work went into that feast and I decided would be easier to celebrate the things I am thankful for. And there are too many of those to list here. But, I will mention one – the members of LACSS and the C&S community in general. It is always heartwarming to see so many people who are also interested in my favorite plants. At the beginning of each meeting, there is so much enthusiasm that you can feel it in the air. Sometimes I hesitate to call the meeting to order because I don't want to stop the high level of excitement. The cause of this animated conversation is the continued learning we gain from joining together and sharing our experiences. It is important to learn from every source possible, be it face to face, internet, other show and sale venues, our library, or.....? and then to share that knowledge with others. And that is the mission statement of LACSS. Read it at the top of page one of the Chronicle. That is why we are here and why the Club will continue to thrive. But only with the continued participation and involvement of all members!

On a different note – back to the FAQ segment. Probably the number 1 FAQ of all times is “How do you know if it is a cactus or a succulent?” We generally offer a breezy response such as “look for the areoles” and then move on to the next question. The *CSSA Journal Vol. 89, #3 (May-June, page 128)* offers **Part 1** of a much more in depth and complex answer to what an areole is, its structure, composition, purpose, and variety. As if that is not enough information to stagger your mind, **Part 2** is now available in *CSSA Journal Vol. 89 #5 (Sept-Oct) page 219*. This segment focuses on **spines** and includes an intriguing paragraph on cacti that have **no** spines. These are “MUST READ” articles! Check with our Librarian for access to these two articles. You may check these out and any other books/journals at the November meeting and not return them until the January meeting. *Bonus time!!*

The Board of Directors held their last 2017 meeting on October 1.

Items of note were:

Membership renewal final date with new forms to fill out.

Update on our December 9 Awards Dinner.

Established LACSS calendar for 2018.

Approval of a 2018 Fall Sale event.

We are looking into the *Mailchimp* system for our emails.

The next Board meeting will be in January, 2018. If you have any issues you would like for the Board to consider, feel free to contact any Board member.

I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving. See you soon.

**Joyce**

## "What Did I Miss?" OR "I Didn't Hear That!" October, 2017 meeting

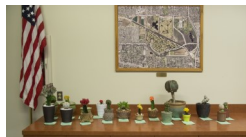
Our October meeting was full of reminders and announcements. A summary:

- Ilona announced a few changes in membership renewal dates. Latest date for renewal is Dec. 31. If renewal not received by January 31, 2018, your name will be dropped from the roster.
- Flyer for "Living Arrangements: Succulent Centerpieces" is on the white board.
- "Third Saturday of the Month" program will be Saturday, October 21 with Marquita Ellias presenting her program on *Decoding Botanical Names*.
- Roxie Esterle gave an update from the nomination committee. Four positions are scheduled for election of which two incumbents agreed to serve one more term. The two remaining open positions are President and Director 2 – Education. Kim Thorpe Chavez agreed to run for President and Artie Chavez agreed to run for Director 2.
- A summary was given regarding our very successful Fall Sale. Most of us were surprised how many people were willing to stand in a very long line to pay for their selections. The Fall Sale committee will meet soon to review the "lessons learned" and to start preparation for next year.
- At the November meeting, we will honor Gene and Laura Oster as Life Members.
- We need volunteers to fill the positions of Librarian, refreshment helpers, and membership assistants.
- Kandie Soderstrom gave an update on our December 9 Award Dinner. Sign-up sheets for potluck dishes were passed around.

Plant of the Month winners were announced and raffle plants were described.

Our scheduled Program speaker cancelled due to an emergency. Congrats to Ron Behar for his extra effort in securing Tom Glavich who presented his program on his trip to "The High Drakensbergs" in Lesotho, Africa. This is a rugged, incredibly green country with many unnamed plants.

Following our raffle, the meeting was adjourned.



**Plant of the Month  
2017**

**December**  
Holiday Dinner Party

**Plant of the Month  
2018**

**January**  
Blossfeldia, Frailea  
Othonna & Senecio

**February**  
Coryphantha  
Pelargonium

**March**  
Discocactus  
Fouquieria

**April**  
Lobivia  
Gasteria

**May**  
Small cactus  
staged as miniature  
Small Succulent  
staged as miniature

**June**  
Favorite for both

**July**  
Matucana, Oroya  
Echeveria

**August**  
Thelocactus, Hamatocactus  
Adenia

**September**  
Mammillaria Black Spines  
Bursera

**October**  
Espostoa,  
Oreocereus  
Jatropha, Monadenium,  
Perdilanthus

**November**  
Crest, monstrose  
Crest, monstrose  
( for both cacti and  
succulent)

**Plant of the Month – October 2017**

**Cactus – Grafted**

**Rookie**

First	Ron Cooper	Astrophytum asterias cv super kabuto
Second	Ron Cooper	“moon cactus”
Third	Daniel Pio	Astrophytum Japanese hybrid
Third	Al Mindel	Gymnocalycium Rebutia

**Novice** - none -

**Advanced**

First	Kathryn Boorer	Astrophytum “lotus land”
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Astrophytum hybrid
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Astrophytum hybrid

**Succulent – Grafted**

**Rookie**

First	Ron Behar	Euphorbia lacteal sensual
Second	Ron Behar	Pachypodium brevicaule - Madagascar grafted Euphorbia
Third	Al Mindel	

**Novice** - none -

**Advanced** – none -

**Open**

First	Manny Rivera	Adenia pochelii
Second	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia gymnocalycoides
Third	Manny Rivera	Euphorbia piscidermis

**Note:** 26 total entries across all categories



## Plant of the Month: *Ariocarpus*

*Ariocarpus* is one of the most prized and distinctive of all cacti genera. Ranging from Central and Northern Mexico to southern Texas, the genus has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but *Ariocarpus*, and have hundreds of plants in their collections. Rare specimens can change hands for hundreds of dollars. Rare cultivars with unusual tubercles can be sold for even more, particularly in Japan. There is no denying that this single genus has generated a world wide cult of devotees.

What about *Ariocarpus* has led to such popularity? There are several possible reasons. The form of the plant is nearly unique among cacti. Specifically, the tubercles are flattened and triangular, looking very much like succulent leaves. There is essentially no stem separate from the tubercles. Most of the species are quite distinct from each other, and all of them stay small enough to grow in pots. Additionally, they are very slow



*Ariocarpus retusus*

growing and, until the last 10-15 years, most were rarely seen for sale. Fortunately, a number of growers have been producing *Ariocarpus* in large numbers and supply is keeping up with demand. This allows people to collect them at a fair price and helps reduce the demand for wild dug plants. Today, the high priced *Ariocarpus* are usually unusual hybrids or variegates.



*Ariocarpus Hybrid*

*Ariocarpus* has an undeserved reputation as being difficult to grow. Nothing could be further from the truth. They are no more difficult to grow than many other central Mexican genera, and is well within the cultivation ability of even beginning growers. They come from a hot desert region that gets most of its rain in the summer, with the winter being quite dry. That is the exact opposite of our rainfall pattern, which has led some people to have trouble with them. Wet cool winters will make them rot prone, but it is the water that is the problem not the temperature. So during the rainy season just put them under a bench or somewhere dry that still gets bright light and don't water until spring. This "cool and wet is bad" advice goes for a lot of succulents, but most of the time the plants actually want warmer weather and people bring them inside for that reason (e.g. *Euphorbia* and *Adenium*). Don't do that with *Ariocarpus*. They come from a winter region

with colder winters than ours, so they like the chilly weather. It truly is just the water that is the problem.

With all of the fuss we make over this genus, it is important to remember that the plants have had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles contain a sticky mucilage, which was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *A. kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism, and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies. Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is considered. They grow in mineral soils, with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, (but lightly throughout the summer growing season) good growth will result. There are six species (or more depending on if you want to divide *A. retusus*), several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.



*Ariocarpus kotschubianus*

-Kyle Williams

## Plant of the Month: Agave

*Agaves* are one of, if not THE, most popularly grown succulents in California and the Southwest. It is hard to go down any street in our region without seeing at least one *Agave americana*, *A. attenuata*, *A. potatorum*, or a host of other species. They are easy to grow, come in a great variety of sizes and shapes, and most thrive on neglect. No wonder they are so popular!

*Agaves*, like the *Cacti*, are entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world. *Agaves* are native to Southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern South America and the Caribbean. A few species are native to the deserts of Southern California. There are roughly 200 species of *Agave* and countless varieties and cultivars, with new species being discovered regularly. Some species are so common in



The rare and expensive *Agave albopilosa*

cultivation that you practically can't give them away while others (such as *A. albopilosa*) command \$100 or more for a small plant.

Many people shy away from *Agaves* because they think the plants are all spiny giants that take over half of your yard. While species like *A. americana* and *A. mapisaga* certainly fit that description, there are lots of well behaved small to mid-sized species such as *A. victoriae-reginae*, *A. potatorum*, *A. isthmenensis* which can even be grown in a pot (hopefully so or we won't have any entries for our contest!). If stiff leaves and sharp spines are the problem then *A. attenuata* is perfect for you. Its leaves are so soft and lush that it would look right at home in a tropical planting instead of a xeric one.

*Agaves* are easily grown from seed. Although many of members of this genus grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings, and can be kept small for many years in pots. They thrive with regular feeding with any general purpose fertilizer. Their appearance is best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves, and dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many offset freely, and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small plants. Many growers keep the offsets, and dispose of the mother plant, keeping size, health and condition under control. *Agave* flowers are spectacular with spikes that sometimes reach as high as 20 feet. After flowering, the *agave* mother plant dies back.



*Agave funkiana*



*Agave applanata* 'Cream Spike'

**-Kyle Williams**





# Refreshments reminder

## A Reminder, It's November – I thru M

*If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means YOU. It's your turn to bring the goodies that will sustain us during our meeting on Thursday, November 2nd. We may have a larger than normal turnout with new members that joined LACSS in the last couple of months so please bring enough for everyone!*

*Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, Chips & Dip, cookies, brownies, sandwiches, burritos, pizza...you name it, we will heat & serve it.*

*Yes, we have a microwave.*

*It's nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as during the break, drinks are also welcome.*

We are pleased to report that Sylvia Strehlo has volunteered to be our Refreshment Chair. Sylvia has been with LACSS for several years now and is happy to provide us with our coffee fixes at the meetings.

She will appreciate any assistance you can provide to carry supplies from the cabinet to the counter and back again at the end of the meeting the supplies in the refreshment cabinet need to be replaced in the same place they were in, otherwise they will not all fit back into the space. Thanks to all that help

See you soon. Best,

Joyce



## Introducing Our Newest Life Members

# Laura and Gene Oster

Gene and Laura are unusual in that they were actually born and raised in California – Gene in Long Beach and Laura in Stockton. They met at Wilson High in Long Beach, are childhood sweethearts and have been together for 63 years.

Throughout their years together they have shared many hobbies, such as cooking, making pottery, reading the same books, and, of course, gardening and plant care. One of their favorite activities is rock hunting in the Alabama Hills near Bishop, CA.

In addition to hobbies, they both had professional careers. Laura is a Registered Nurse (retired) and Gene's claim to fame as an aerospace engineer is that he wrote the navigation program for the B52 bomber.

The Oster's joined LACSS in 1998 and were immediately put to work in various Board positions - President in 2000, Chronicle Editor in 2001, Secretary (Laura). Gene was part of the planning committee for the First LACSS Show and Sale.

Since becoming involved with cacti and succulents, both have entered plants in the CSSA Show and Sale and the Intercity Show and Sale. Many of their plants won blue ribbons and some were featured on the trophy table at the Intercity Show and Sale.

LACSS has grown due to the contributions, dedication, leadership and friendship of Laura and Gene.

We are pleased to honor them with the status of Life Membership.



# LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK

As the sun sets and 2017 ends, we need to gather with family and friends.  
It's time for the LACSS Dinner! To celebrate everyone who's a winner.  
The date you need to remember —is Saturday, the Ninth of December.  
Bring a dish, be it sweet or hearty, for all to enjoy at the year-end party.

## WHEN:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2017

## WHERE:

SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER  
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD.  
ENCINO, CA 91316

POTLUCK DINNER, RAFFLE, PLANT AUCTION,  
OPTIONAL GIFT EXCHANGE ACTIVITY \$15 VALUE  
PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH TOTAL POINTS AWARDS!

MEMBERS MUST PROVIDE 8 SERVINGS OF FOOD PER ATTENDEE.  
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED AND MAY BRING ONE GUEST.  
PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ITEMS AT THE SEPTEMBER THROUGH NOVEMBER MEETINGS  
OR CALL KANDIE @ 818-625-0699

PLEASE BRING GIFTS AND FOOD BY 4:30PM.  
SOCIAL HOUR FROM 4:30 TO 5:00 PM.

DINNER AND PROGRAM STARTS AT 5PM .



# Announcements

## 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER SHOW



**CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

**LA COUNTY ARBORETUM**

**301 N Baldwin Ave Arcadia**

**Sat and Sun Nov 4-5 2017 9 - 4**

Information: [www.sgvcss.com](http://www.sgvcss.com)

Manny Rivera 626-780-6957

John Matthews 661-714-1052

# Announcements

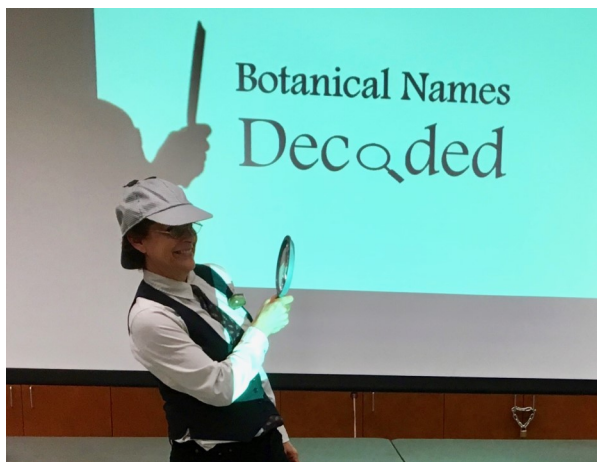
Cycads are often referred to as "living fossils" due to their abundance when dinosaurs ruled the earth (think Jurassic Park). In fact, their fleshy-coated seeds are thought to be an adaptation for being eaten and then distributed by plant-eating dinosaurs. Of the 300 plus species still living, many are treasured for their slow growth rate, low maintenance needs, and aristocratic appearance. Sadly, habitat loss threatens many species in the wild, with some species considered endangered and rarely offered for sale.

On Saturday morning, November 4th, from 9-11, Maurice Levin, proprietor of Jurassic Garden Nursery in Chatsworth, will present a cycad-filled program on the care and maintenance of cycads, including the challenges of propagating and growing these endangered species successfully in southern California. He will discuss the species that are best suited to this area and bring examples, both popular and rare, to encourage you to grow living fossils in your garden.

Registration for the free class is required. Please e-mail [botanicgarden@csun.edu](mailto:botanicgarden@csun.edu) to request a space in the class or for more information. Driving and parking directions, as well as the class meeting location, will be sent upon registration.

Please visit [www.csun.edu/botanicgarden](http://www.csun.edu/botanicgarden) for the detailed info.

Thanks,  
**Brenda Kanno**



The coffee was hot, bagels were fresh & the company was excellent for this year's final 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month, *Special Program*.

It was a Fantastic, Informative, Entertaining and inspirational talk. A *jump start* on plant names, history, clues to their origin to help in learning and using their names.

**Marquita Elias** pulled it all together with her power point presentation. She emphasized the fun of discovery, with hints on "remembering" the names. Knowing *why*, I find helpful.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday series is an informal, quiet and fun way to learn & participate. The

series is another benefit of LACSS membership and will resume after the Holidays in 2018. Watch your emails, and newsletter for future programs. You are encouraged to suggest topics for this program that interest *You*...

**Ilona Buratti**



# Announcements

**Attention to all members. This just in!**

*From Brenda Kanno, LACSS member*

The Southern California Horticultural Society monthly program for November will feature Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents who will present a program on “**Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation**”.

Jeff is the author of “*Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation*” and “*Under the Spell of Succulents*.”

For more information, call [818-567-1496](tel:818-567-1496) or email [socalhort@gmail.com](mailto:socalhort@gmail.com).

For more information regarding Jeff Moore, go to [www.solanasucculents.com](http://www.solanasucculents.com).

**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2017

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Place:** Los Angeles Zoo, Witherbee Auditorium

**Cost:** \$5.00 for non-members

## Last Call for Officer Nominations 2018

The Nominating Committee announces our slate of candidates for LACSS board positions for two year terms beginning in January, 2018:

President:	Kim Thorpe Chavez
Vice President, Special Events:	Diane Miller (returning)
Treasurer:	Gretchen Davis (returning)
Director II, Education:	Artie Chavez

The election will take place at the November 2 meeting. Because each candidate is running unopposed, the vote will be by acclamation.

If you are interested in serving on a board committee or in another leadership capacity, please step up and let the new officers know. The work of our outgoing officers will be acknowledged at the holiday party. Thank you from the nominating committee,

**Roxie Esterle, Chair**  
**Karen Ostler**  
**Nils Schirmacher**

# Announcements

## ☞ LACSS Open House ☞

Saturday, November 18, 2017  
11am-2pm



Join us on Saturday, November 18, 2017 from 11am-2pm for an Open House at Gene and Laura Oster's garden in Chatsworth. The Osters have been growing and collecting succulents and cactus for over four decades and have won numerous awards for their show plants.

Rock and mineral specimens, hand-made pottery, and whimsical garden sculptures compliment the plants and enhance the experience of the garden viewing. Notable features include, but are not limited to, a wall of haworthias, a gallery of platyceriums, a collection of exotic adeniums, and beautiful in-ground specimens that are surely worth the trip!

Hand-made pottery will be available for purchase. The beautiful, original designs would make lovely holiday gifts!

Light refreshments will be available.

Please RSVP to [dianemiller@socal.rr.com](mailto:dianemiller@socal.rr.com) and include "LACSS Open House" in the subject line or call 818-882-1856. The location address will be provided after you RSVP.

☞ We hope to see you there! ☞



# Membership

## Members, New and (especially) Renewing

Please handle your dues renewal ASAP, mail or bring to the November 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
We are developing a new email list *from the renewals* using, **Mail Chimp**.



With your help, paying dues now, will get it up & running.  
It will **only include members who have paid their dues**.  
Dues are payable now,

**LACSS 2018**

Delinquent December 31<sup>st</sup> in a "grace period" 'till January 31<sup>st</sup>  
Paid Members, will be the list for emails in February.

*Please be on that new list.*

There is a lot to do; it will be worth the effort. Do your part and pay your dues, and complete the Membership/Information Sheet, also available on our website [www.LAcactus.com](http://www.LAcactus.com)  
Printed forms will be at the meeting.

Cash or check, please pick up your Yellow receipts.

New procedure for guests, just to keep you in the loop.

Guests will get a ticket that they can exchange for a plant; let your guest know that.

Therefore:

- Complete the form, confirms & update your information
- Fill in your birthdate...Month & Day, (this will not be published)
- **Please.... Pay your dues**

Yup, that has been said six (6) times in this message.

Always feel free to email, call or text me

Thank You,

Ilona Buratti, Membership Chair

818-414-3971

[iburatti@socal.rr.com](mailto:iburatti@socal.rr.com)





## LACSS Membership Information Form

Primary member name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB Month/Day \_\_\_\_\_

Additional family member: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB Month/Day \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

*The LACSS newsletter, Cactus Chronicle, and announcements are distributed via email.*

*Membership dues are paid annually with a renewal deadline of December 31.*

- |                       |               |                                  |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| Individual membership | \$20.00/ year | <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| ½ year July or after  | \$10.00       | <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| Family membership     | \$25.00/year  | <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| ½ year July or after  | \$12.50       | <input type="checkbox"/>         |
| Name badge(s)         | \$10.00 each  | <input type="checkbox"/> # _____ |

Total payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Payment date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as it should appear on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional badge name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Contact information, excluding birth date, will appear in the LACSS Roster unless otherwise requested.*

Please send this form with a check made payable to LACSS to:

LACSS Membership  
PO Box 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328-0581

For office use: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Revised: RE 10/17

**TIMELY TIDBITS**  
Nils Schirmmacher

In **November of 1961** the club was meeting on Sunday afternoons at Fremont High School, under the aegis of President Ed Gay. That month's **Chronicle** notes Ed and his wife Betty had given October's presentation: slides from their trip to the CCSA Convention in Mexico City. At the convention, they received the honor of being crowned King and Queen of The Ancient Order of Cactus Nuts. Perhaps *you* know a nut to be nominated in 2019?

November's theme of gratitude underlies an article titled *Seeing Cactus With Finger Tips* by Benton H. Spaulding. Because she was blind, Mrs. Spaulding enjoyed the tactile nature of succulents. Her encounter with glochids is notable, reminding her of "the time I endeavored to misplace an electric plug into a socket". For those with sight, she recommended "on a moonless night, go among your cacti without a light": an exercise in the appreciation of our senses. Continuing the theme is an article from **November 1973**, *Spiny Foster Mothers*. Its author, Indian Miller, describes how the Saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) often spends its first decades under the protection of the Palo Verde Tree (*Parkinsonia sp.*) and, upon reaching adulthood, passes the favor on: "While the Saguaro leaves its children for another to rear, it is not unmindful of the birds which live in its trunk". For Miller, Thanksgiving was found in the interdependence of desert organisms.

While these inspiring quotes can serve as fodder for holiday grace, you may need help with dinner conversation. For that we turn to Ed and Betty's article in the **November 1990 Chronicle** titled *The Mystery Plants*. In it, they trace the enigmatic origins of cristate growth, listing theories that have been around since the Nineteenth Century. This attractive mutation has been blamed on fire, hail, insects, fungus, toxins, radiation, starvation, and overfeeding, but no theory has ever been backed by science. If you're fortunate to be dining with cactus nuts, I'm sure they'll offer theories of their own!

**2017 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**UPDATED 1/06/2017 ANY CHANGES please email: [aloecats1@aol.com](mailto:aloecats1@aol.com)**

NOV. 4 - 5      **SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**  
9am-4pm BOTH DAYS---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA  
INFO: MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-1052





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**November Program: "Belize - You won't Belize it"**  
**Presented by: Linda Holub**

**November Events**

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