

LOS ANGELES  
CACTUS  
AND  
SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY

# CACTUS CHRONICLE

Jan./Feb. 2009

2/5/1934:

Hank Aaron  
is born.

President: To Be Announced



Next Meeting: February 5th



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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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## February Program—"Prelude to Spring at the Arboretum"

Speaker : Laura Lyons

Our featured speaker for our first program for 2009 will be Laura Lyons. Laura is the Nursery Manager at UC Irvine's Arboretum. Her talk will include photos and information on our winter blooming aloes, South African bulbs, and California natives.

Laura was born in Los Angeles, CA and graduated from UC Irvine in June 1987 with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences. Laura has worked in the nursery industry for several years and achieved Advanced California Certified Nurserywoman (ACCN) status, as conferred by the California Association of Nurserymen. She was hired at UC Irvine Arboretum in July 1991 as a nursery technician; promoted to volunteer coordinator in August 1992. Promoted again in the Fall of 1996 to events and volunteer coordinator, then in February 1999 to Nursery manager with general responsibility for overall operations of the garden.

Laura is responsible for general operations of the Arboretum, supervising volunteers and student assistants, handling all PR and communications, and public outreach. She also recruits, trains, and places all the volunteers, and directly supervise three different volunteer workgroups. In addition, Laura is the staff liaison for Friends of the UCI Arboretum and edits the Friends' newsletter—The Arboretum Quarterly. Other responsibilities include all events held at the Arboretum, including more PR, preparation, and operations.

At home her major interests in the garden are tall bearded iris and roses. Laura is also interested in parrots and is owned by a dwarf macaw, Treyvan. Other interests include scrapbooking, geology, sewing, and astronomy.

You can visit the UCI Arboretum web site here— <http://arboretum.bio.uci.edu/>

### February Plants of the Month

Cacti	Succulents	Succulents (Caudiciform)
Gymnocalycium	Aloe & Aloe Hybrids	Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium, Begonia, Oxalis

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**PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2009**  
**LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

Month	Cacti	Succulents	Succulents (Caudiciform)
January	None	None	None
<b>February</b>	<b>Gymnocalycium</b>	<b>Aloe &amp; Aloe Hybrids</b>	<b>Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium, Begonia, Oxalis</b>
March	Thelocactus, Corypantha, Rebutia, Sulcorebutia	Gasteria & Gasteria hybrids	Bursera, Pachycormus
April	Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Sansevieria & Sanseveria hybrids	Ficus
May	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Obregonia	Fouquieria, Idria	Adenia, Adenium
June	Echinocereus	Haworthia & Haworthia Hybrids	Pachypodium
July	Echinopsis, Lobivia, Medioblobivia	Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, Synadenium	Uncarina, Pterodiscus, Ibervillea
August	Opuntia	Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria	Euphorbia caudiciform
September	Pediocactus, Uebelmannia, Turbinicarpus	Huernia, Caralluma, Hoodia	Ipomea, Dioscorea, Bulbs
October	Crests, Montrose	Crests, Montrose	None
November	Variegate	Variegate	None
December	<b>Annual Holiday Party</b>		

**Entry Classes:** A new member may show as novice. Any novice who has achieved 20 first place awards or 40 total awards must move to the Advanced Class at the beginning of the following year. Owner of commercial nurseries must show in the open class; however, all members are free to show in open class.

**Prizes:** In the Novice and Advanced entry classes, the top three scorers in cacti and the top three scorers in other succulents will be awarded prizes at the LACSS Holiday party in December. Starting in 2008, the "Open" category will not be eligible for the annual awards due to limited number of entries.

**Entry Requirements:** All entrants must be LACSS members. We would like plant entries to be on the judging table no later than 7:15pm. No more than two cacti and two other succulents per entrant per month. Advanced and open class entries must have been in member's possession at least six months. Minimum possession for novice class has been waived. All entries must be succulent plants. If there is a tie between plants the following three guidelines will determine the winner of the tie breakers: Plants in flower, the rarity of the plant, and the public appeal.

Judging Scale		Points Awarded	
Condition	70%	First	15
Size and Maturity	15%	Second	10
Staging	10%	Third	5
Nomenclature	5%	Others	2

**Second Annual Desert Forum**

On Saturday, January 17th, Southern California's CSSA members and all affiliate club members (such as our LACSS) are invited for a free tour of the Huntington's Desert Garden, refreshments, a private nursery sale, and speakers. Beginning at 9:30am until 4:30pm. Have lunch at the cafeteria or bring a sack lunch. This second annual garden tour hosted by the CSSA and the Huntington, will feature the garden's most succulentastic luminaries stationed throughout the beds, conservatory, and nurseries. Who knows if former Director Emeritus Myron Kymnach will make another appearance like he did last year? You haven't seen the garden if you haven't seen it lately. Detailed schedule inside Chronicle.

Jeff Karsner

# Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cactus of the Month February 2009 – *Gymnocalycium*



*Gymnocalycium pflanzii*

*Gymnocalycium* are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in a large number of distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year.

*Gymnocalycium* is an old genus, first named in 1845. The genus is named for the naked (spineless) calyx (the outermost covering of the bud and lower flower). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles.

The heart of the genus *Gymnocalycium* is Argentina, although the genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.

*Gymnocalycium* cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with a weak general purpose fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months.

*Gymnocalycium* are easy to grow from seed, started in a well drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

All the species and all the varieties and forms of *Gymnocalycium* are worth growing.

Reference:

Pilbeam, J., ***Gymnocalycium, A Collector's Guide***

Tom Glavich September 2004

# Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month February 2009 - *Aloes*

The long blooming racemes of brightly colored *Aloe* flowers are attractive to sunbirds in Africa and hummingbirds in the West. When in bloom, hummingbirds will visit every few minutes, going from plant to plant and yard to yard, fertilizing hundreds of flowers as they make their rounds. Aloes are known through most of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and Madagascar.



*Aloe ferox* in the author's back yard

The classical references on *Aloe* are **The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar** and **The Aloes of South Africa**, both by G.W. Reynolds. In **The Aloes of South Africa**. There are more recent works as well, and the newest species, mostly from the Arabian Peninsula and Northern Tropical Africa are described in the CSSA Journal.

Aloe hybrids have been created and collected. Hybrids of "Garden Origin" are those produced by natural cross pollination, or a gardener with a small brush and a short memory. Many of these hybrids are of species that are geographically distinct, and grow together only in the gardens of *Aloe* collectors. They are often found plants, not only hybridized naturally, but sown by the wind and nurtured without human intervention, until they are big enough to be noticed. This casual method of hybridization has produced some strikingly beautiful plants, many of which are now cultivated on their own merits.

Aloes are incredibly easy to grow in Southern California. Almost all of the South African Species are easily grown, with the larger species making stunning landscape plants. They can take light frosts with no damage. The smaller species, both hybrids and species are also easy. The Madagascan species are frost tender, but will do well with even light protection. They make great pot plants, and are easily made into wonderful show plants.

Aloes are easily propagated. Cuttings are left to dry for a week or so and placed into a pot or directly into the ground. Seeds of rare species are available through several seed houses and the CSSA. Seeds from plants grown in the yard are almost always hybrids due to the large number of Aloes, in particular *Aloe arborescens*, grown throughout Southern California.

### References

#### **Cactus and Succulent Journal**

G. W. Reynolds, **The Aloes of South Africa**

G. W. Reynolds, **The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar**

Tom Glavich February 2004

The Huntington Botanical Gardens  
invites CSSA members and affiliate clubs to a free

## **DESERT FORUM**

On Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
9:30am—4:30pm Rain or Shine

### **- SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 9:30 – 10:00 A.M.  | <p>REGISTRATION<br/>Assemble and sign in at the Entrance Pavilion<br/>Bring your club name badge or CSSA membership card<br/>Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag) to be transported to the Teaching Greenhouse</p>   |
| 10:00 – 12:00 Noon | <p>TOUR OF THE DESERT GARDEN<br/>Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory. Aloes will be flowering.</p>   |
| 12:00 – 1:00 P.M.  | <p>WELCOME, REFRESHMENTS &amp; LUNCH<br/>Proceed to the Teaching Greenhouse<br/>Pick up sack lunch that you dropped off at Registration<br/>Light snacks and beverages will be served<br/>CSSA Welcome Table: Laurel Woodley<br/>Note: Visitors have two other lunch options:<br/>- Huntington Café (no reservations required), or<br/>- Tea Room (advance reservations required: 626-683-8131)</p> |
| 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.   | <p>PLANT SALE<br/>Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M.<br/>Cash, checks and credit cards accepted<br/>Plants may be stored in the Teaching Greenhouse after purchase until end of day (with your name written on the tags)</p>  |
| 2:00 – 3:00 P.M.   | <p>FORUM<br/>Proceed to Ahmanson Classroom<br/>Led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom<br/>Q&amp;A session to follow</p>   |
| 1:00 – 4:30 P.M.   | <p>FREE TIME<br/>Attendees are free to tour the gardens and galleries until closing time</p>  |

## LACSS 2009 Calendar of Events

**January 17th**, 9:30 am to 4:40 pm — DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

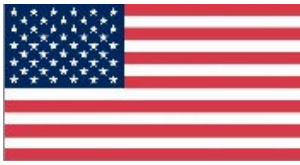
CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge!

**January 31st**, 9:30 am - 11:00 am — 9th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. The 6 acre succulent gardens at the Center are the result of planting done in the late 1960's and early 1970's. We will tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in the Inland Empire climate. This event is Free.

**February 14th**, 9:0 am to 4:00 pm — San Diego Winter Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego.

**March 7th and 8th**, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm — South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society 2009 Show and Sale at the South Coast Botanical Gardens, 263 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verde Peninsula. For more information contact Vendor Coordinator Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046 or Show Chair Jim Gardner at 310-378-1953.

### IT'S TIME TO VOTE!!



We will take a little time during the February meeting for a special election. Only members in good standing for 2009 are eligible to vote.

Nominations will be for :

- President (Board Nominee, Artie Chavez)
- VP Special Events (Board Nominee, Douglas George)

Members are also to cast their vote via secret ballot on whether or not to start our monthly meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Results will be tabulated and announced in the March edition of the Cactus Chronicle.

You must attend the meeting to nominate a member or cast your secret ballot vote. Thank you.

Hi Everyone, Happy New Year,

Just a few lines to thank all who showed up early, only to have to stand around in the cold in front of locked gates. There were sick individuals and a mix-up on the time of our arrival. But as soon as we got in the room, everybody went to work. The tables were set-up, tablecloth's were in place and FOOD-FOOD-FOOD was ready for consumption.

A special thanks to Joyce and Carol for passing out raffle tickets and getting members signed up for the new year. We have about one-half of 2008's membership already.

We were sorry to hear about Walt's health problem, but we all signed the box that had Walt and Maxine's Lifetime Achievement award in it. Walt, be healthy, we need you.

Walt will be at the Feb 5, 2009 meeting to pass out the P.O.M. awards.

The auction went well, we made about \$200 over the cost of the plants. It was a fun night for all.

Put your best plant forward and I'll see you at the February meeting.  
Best wishes for a great 2009.

Sandy Chase  
Membership Chair

## Plant of the Month Winners—November 2008

### NOVICE:

CACTI: 1st Bill Dall *Opuntia variegata*; 2nd/3rd none

SUCCULENTS: 1st Scott Schaffer *Gasteria armstrongii*; 2nd Bill Dall *Euphorbia lactea*;  
3rd Ronit Weiss *Gasteria* species; 3rd Ronit Weiss *Haworthia cuspidata*

CAUDICIFORM: None.

### ADVANCED:

CACTI: 1st Tom Thompson *Thelocactus* species; 2nd / 3rd None.

SUCCULENTS: 1st John Matthews *Haworthia cymbiformis*; 2nd Mick Gottschalk *Gasteria* species;  
3rd John Matthews *Agave lophantha*; 3rd Tom Thompson *Gasteria gracilis*

CAUDICIFORM: None.

OPEN: None.

## ALOE WALK 2009

You're all invited to participate in the 9th annual Aloe Walk on Saturday January, 31, 2009 at 9:30 AM. It is Free and usually lasts about 1-1/2 hours. This event is held annually at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center 7621 Granite Hill Dr. Glen Avon, CA. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. The more than 6 acre succulent gardens at the Center are the result of work done by some wonderful people in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The mature specimens of cacti and succulents on the grounds are fantastic. We will tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland empire climate. See you there! *Buck Hemenway*

## 2009 Club Officials and Officers

President– To Be Announced

VP Programs– John Martinez

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VP P.O.M.- Steven Frieze

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CSSA Rep.- Douglas George

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## LACSS MEMBERSHIP FORM 2009

If your contact info has changed during 2008, please include the updated info with your renewal. Thanks!!

Yes I would like to be a member of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society!

Membership choice: **Single** membership  \$15/yr  \$7.50 1/2 yr. **Family** membership  \$20/yr  \$10 1/2 yr

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Names of the additional members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Day \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to “LACSS” and *send this form along with check or money order to:*

LACSS, P.O. Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

**Half Year Memberships Available after June 2009. Check here for Engraved Name Badge  \$8.00 extra**

# Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month February 2009 - *Sarcocaulon* and *Pelargonium*

*Pelargonium* and *Sarcocaulon* are two succulent genera of the *Geraniaceae* family. *Sarcocaulon* is native to South Africa and Namibia, and *Pelargonium* is centered there, but with outlier species appear as far away as Kenya and Yemen. Most of the succulent species come from South Africa or Namibia.



***Pelargonium oblongatum***

*Pelargoniums* are mostly winter growing succulents. They are dormant in the summer, and at this time some look like dead sticks. Most species are very easy to grow, if attention is paid to providing an environment very similar to their South African home. Some species, such as *P. echinatum* and *P. triste* are tolerant enough to be naturalized in the ground in Southern California when given good drainage and protected from summer watering. Many species will not go dormant if watered all summer, but the plant health and appearance both suffer.

*Sarcocaulon* is a small genus of about 14 species. Growing conditions for *Sarcocaulon* are identical to those for *Pelargonium*, however most require a drier summer environment for best growth.

The potting mix for *Pelargoniums* and *Sarcocaulon* should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter. Fertilizer should be applied sparingly, and only during good (bright and warm) growing weather. A potting mix recommended by Michael Vassar is 50% pumice, 35% washed builders sand and 15% leaf mold based planter mix. Plants growing under these conditions will stay compact, have thick leaves, and a healthy appearance. A well grown *Pelargonium* will have leaves that appear to float near thick, rugged stems. If given too much water and fertilizer, they will grow leggy, and the leaves will become soft, large and droop. Plants grown hard will be healthier, and better able to survive hot summers undamaged. All *Pelargoniums* need pruning to maintain size and shape. Pinching new growth will make the plants bushy, and develop good trunk structure.

Many are self fertile, and seed is easily collected after flowering. Most are promiscuous, and garden hybrids are easily set if more than one species is in flower at a time. Seed collected in the spring and planted in late September to November germinates quickly, and will have an entire winter to grow before going dormant during the summer.

Tom Glavich January 2005

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

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

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

**First Class Mail**

**Next Meeting: February 5th**  
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

**PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Newsletter of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

**January/February 2009**

**CACTUS CHRONICLE**



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