



LOS ANGELES
CACTUS
AND
SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

CACTUS CHRONICLE

September, 2006

Sept 7, 1926

Hollywood studios
close for
Rudolph Valentino's
funeral.

President: Douglas George
(626) 359-0133



Next Meeting : September 7th



Editor: Liz P. Tungate
(818) 891-0330
liz@toadownracing.com

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.

September Program - Presented by Norma Lewis "Sansevieria"

Norma's program will be presented by plants, and not pictures. Cuttings will be offered. Program outline will be given. Norma's Sansevieria interest began in 1978 with a plant from the Vincent Price Estate which later turned out to be a Sansevieria cylindrica var. patula, a member of the Agave family. Norma's collection of this genus is about 225 plants. Commonly called "Mother-In-Laws Tongue", there are many different sections with species and Norma will be sharing this with us in her talk and by bringing some plants for members to view. Different soil mixtures need to be used and that will also be discussed.

Reference books and thank you:

Thank you Hermine Stover for your generosity of time and material for this program. References: Hermine Stover, The Sansevieria Book. Professor Len Newton Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants. Juan Chahinian The Sansevieria Trifasciata Varieties. Juan Chahinian The Splendid Sansevieria. N.E. Brown 1915 Bulletin #5 A monograph of all the known species (with plates). International Sansevieria Society Journal.



SEPTEMBER PLANTS OF THE MONTH

< Cactus: *Uebelmannia pectinifera*
(pictured), Discocactus
Succulents: *Sansevieria kirkii* (shown) >
Caudiciforms: Ficus



Plant of the Month mini-show.

ENTER YOUR PLANTS!! We learn more when we all share, and it's fun! :o)

UPCOMING SPEAKER LIST

OCT 5. Steve Frieze – Managing & Expanding a Collection. Steve has teamed up with Artie Chavez to create Desert Creations, a nursery dedicated to rare and unusual cacti and succulents. Opened in June 2006.

NOV 2. Michael Buckner—Owner of The Plant Man in San Diego's Old Town and designer of a water conservation garden at Cuyamaca College campus which is named after his Father, Warren Buckner. Visit http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20051120/news_mz1hs18cactu.html to read about the Buckner family.

AUGUST PLANT OF THE MONTH WINNERS

Cacti

Columnar Cacti

Succulents

Euphorbia (non-caudex)

Succulents: Caudiciform

Pachypodium

Novice

Cacti 1st Bill Dall, 2nd John Noster, 3rd John Noster

Succulent 1st Bill Dall, 2nd Liz Tunçgate, 3rd Bill Dall

Caudiciform 1st John Noster, 2nd Liz Tunçgate

Advanced

Cacti 1st Tom Thompson, 2nd Walt & Maxine Weşner, 3rd Barbara Nolan

Succulent 1st Walt & Maxine Weşner, 2nd Tom Thompson, 3rd none

Caudiciform 1st Walt & Maxine Weşner, 2nd Barbara Nolan, 3rd Tom Thompson, 3rd Barbara Nolan

Open

Cacti None

Succulent None

Caudiciform None

CACTUS EXPEDITIONS TO NORTHWESTERN ARGENTINA

My name is Guillermo Rivera, a friend of Woody Minnich. I organize trips in South America to see cactus in their habitat. Here are some of the details, and of course you can ask Woody for references.

- Starting date November 17 from Cordoba-Argentina (you should arrive to Cordoba on November 17. Leave your country day before)
- Departing date December 2 from Cordoba-Argentina
- Availability: yes
- Mode: all inclusive. From Cordoba to Cordoba. Our tours are all inclusive packages in which everything is included, that is:
 - v Ground transportation in air conditioned minibus, or van depending on number of people.
 - v All hotels, with private bathrooms
 - v All meals: breakfasts at hotels, picnics, sandwiches for lunch, dinners at restaurants
 - v Transfers from/to airports
 - v Park entrance fees
 - v Snacks and cold drinks while on the bus
 - v Not included:
 - v Alcoholic beverages
- Duration: 16 days
- Price: US\$ 2050.00 (the additional supplement for single room is of 280 US dollars).
- Itinerary: www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar/northcact2006.htm

If there are many members of the club who would like to join, I could make a group price as well. I thank you in advance for your response.

All the best,
Guillermo Rivera
Cactus Expeditions

2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

September Succulenticon 2006 in Perth, Western Australia. Sponsored by the C&SS of West Australia.
Contact Shirley Laslett, secretary, at 348 Hardey Rd., W. Australia 6105, Australia

Sept. 2 HBG. Succulent symposium all day at the Huntington. To register call (626) 405-3504
or e-mail mthorpe@huntington.org. **Registration deadline August 29th.**

Sept. 3 CSSA Board Meeting, Ahmanson Class Room at the Huntington.

Sept. 16 2:00pm-4:00pm—Christmas Wreath Workshop by Norma Lewis

\$25 covers wreath and starter kit of plants. 2 hr estimate. Only 8 people may attend.

Bring your paid up membership receipt. Please come and have some fun, get to know each other!

Call 818-763-0048 or email crasulady2@dslextreme.com

Sept 24 Long Beach C&SS Annual Auction at Dominguez Adobe, 18127 S Alameda St., Compton

Sept. 30 10:00am-2:00pm—New Members Workshop by Norma Lewis

For new members that are beginners only. All others \$25.00. Bring your own lunch in bag, I can serve drinks.

This is a free workshop for members only. Bring your paid up membership receipt.

Your chance to meet new friends and plants. Call 818-763-0048 or email crasulady2@dslextreme.com

OCTOBER

Oct. 14-15 SGVCSS show and sale at LA. Co. Arboretum

[IF I HAVE MISSED SOMETHING, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.](#)

2006 Club Officials and Officers

President- Douglas George	626 / 359-0133	doug_w_george@hotmail.com
VP Special Events- Jeff Karsner	818 / 623-0685	jeffkarsner@aol.com
VP P.O.M.- Walt Wegner	818 / 225-7336	wlwegner@msn.com
VP Programs- Tom Thompson	805 / 493-2021	goldnrod@verizon.net
Treasurer- Ron Main	661 / 265-9179	ron@mwicom.net
Secretary- Helen Frank	818 / 985-5887	helen.frank@allvantage.com
Directors- Norma Lewis	818 / 763-0048	crasulady2@dslextreme.com
& Martin Carman	818 / 704-7780	nocarme@yahoo.com
Librarian- Joyce Schumann	818 / 705-3224	ropojo@pacbell.net
Membership Chair— O P E N		
Cactus Chronicle Editor- Liz Tungate	818 / 891-0330	liz@toadtownracing.com
Publication Chairman— John Matthews	661 / 297-5364	jgplants@aol.com
CSSA Rep.- Duke Benadom	805 / 526-8620	duke_kaz@sbcglobal.net

EVERYONE SHOULD WEAR THEIR NAMETAGS

FREE clumps of garden-variety ALOES in ground - you dig,
I'll help. Need to dispose of ASAP. John Matthews. 661-297-5364

Please Update Your Email Address

If you have an email address and are NOT receiving the Chronicle via email, please send an email to liz@toadtownracing.com to update your information. We are getting ready to publish our club roster so please be sure we have your email address correctly listed. **THANK YOU!!**



INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS !!

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at www.lacss.com

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!

Yvonne & Deborah Ash, North Hollywood. Burton Bush, Castaic.
Sue Ann Chui, Venice. Eileen & Theodore Dall, Canoga Park.

Herb Goodman, Van Nuys. Laura K. Graff, Chatsworth. Sherry Heyman, Beverly Hills.
Diana Hayes, Acton. Sue Romaine, Encino - a guest that joined at the meeting!

THANKS TO THOSE THAT WERE GUESTS AT THE AUGUST MEETING...

Glenna Ratner—Marilyn Sedel—Stephen Schuster—Jane Marsh—Terry Szostek—Manny Rivera
Eunice Thompson—Glena Lewis—Charles Rhodenbaugh—Francis P. Tobin—George & Yolanda Leaird

AND TO THOSE OF YOU THAT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP! THANKS!!

Useful e-mail address for New Members: cacti_etc@opus.labs.agilent.com

Groups to Join: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Sansevierias/> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/agaveforum/>

A Learning Tool: www.TheAmateursDigest.com

Beginners Workshop: Norma Lewis will be hosting workshops that will be addressing the basics of growing, soil, potting, propagation, etc.

Mentor Program: The mentor program allows one on one consultations in your special interest such as Cactus, Euphorbias, landscaping, etc. You'll be matched up w/someone specializing in your interest.

Mentors : **Duke Benadom** – aloes & cactus; **Chris Rogers** – plants in general, mainly cactus;

Artie Chavez – staging and bonsai; **Gene Oster** – landscape information.

Interested in workshops or mentor program? See Norma Lewis or call (818) 763-0048

UPCOMING MEMBER WORKSHOPS:

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\$25 covers wreath and starter kit of plants. 2 hr estimate. Only 8 people may attend. Bring your paid up membership receipt. Please come and have some fun, get to know each other!

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For new members that are beginners only. All others \$25.00. Bring your own lunch in bag, I can serve drinks. This is a free workshop for members only. Bring your paid up membership receipt. Your chance to meet new friends and plants.

Received 7/27/2006 from Walt Wegner:

Donna Gierst of Green Valley, phone number 661-270-9612 has to have a new septic system put in & her yard will be dug up. She has many cacti in the ground some to four feet tall plus many potted cacti plus many pots that she wants to sell as a lot or individually. Anyone interested should call her & make arrangements to go to Green Valley.

She will be away on vacation from 5-12 August.

CACTUS RAMBLINGS

by Walt. Wegner

All I can say is "WOW!" about the really special program we had at the August meeting. Maxine & I have heard many programs given by our friend Woody Minnich & each one just gets better. Hopefully we will be able to enjoy several more before he & Kathy depart for New Mexico next summer. They will certainly be missed. Another "WOW" for the Inter-City Show & Sale, one of the best if not the best. Our club thanks all of those who worked during the show & also thanks to those who entered those wonderful plants. The plant sales were excellent with long lines Saturday to purchase plants. For 20 years Maxine & I have helped with the show set-up, take down, kitchen work & helping in general, however, this year we just enjoyed the show & became spectators, so forgive us. We will let the younger members assume these tasks in the future. All of our members who entered plants in the show can now keep them ready for the Plant Of The Month contest at our monthly meetings. I will have the POM listing for 2007 soon so if any of you desire some specific plants listed, please let me know & I will try to comply with your request. Now back to CACTUS RAMBLINGS. I have an interesting Echeveria among my collection called Nodulosa or Painted Lady, a very striking plant. It is a rather compact plant except when it blooms & then watch out. My flowering branches were about 15 inches long & very colorful. What to do when the blooms fade? I cut them back to the basic plant & cut the stems in pieces to root & bring as door prizes to our meetings. As I said in last months CACTUS RAMBLINGS, I am downsizing my "jungle" & will bring donations to the raffle monthly. Our oldest daughter visited us during the show weekend & really enjoyed the show. She is a plant nut like her dad. The best part was that she took about 15 plants home with her from my jungle, every little bit helps. Now to another common problem that I have & I am sure most of you have the same problem. I have some 10 large shallow pots planted with mostly cacti that were planted many years ago & have outgrown these pots. Some have plants 3-5 feet tall no less, so what's do?????? To remove almost any of them would require breaking the pots, which I will probably do & repot most of the plants to bring to the club, some are very nice. Maxine & I will miss the 7 September meeting as that is the day we depart for a military reunion in Rapid City, SD. We will return on the 11th & depart again on the 12th for 2-weeks at our timeshare in Mazatlan, Mexico, tough life but someone has to do it. The judging of the POM will be handled by Chris Rogers so bring lots of plants. I know that you are all saying that this edition of CACTUS RAMBLINGS must be brought to a close so will do so, but remember what we always do & that is DOUBLE TAG our plants.

PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2006
LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Month	Cacti	Succulents	Succulents (Caudiciform)
JANUARY	Mammillaria single/clusters up to 6" pots	Crassula	Sarcocaulons or Pelargoniums
February	Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Stapelia, Huernia, Caraluma	Ceraria or Portulaca
March	Melocactus	Gasteria	Mestoklema or Trichodiadema
April	Weingartia, Strombocactus, Parodia	Pedilanthus, Jatropha, Monadenium	Bursera or Pachycormus
May	Thelocactus, Notocactus	Echeveria and Echeveria Hybrids	Caudiciform Euphorbias Non Madagascan
June	Baja Cacti	Baja Succulents	Uncarina, Pterodiscus
July	Grafted Cactus	Grafted Succulents	Fockea or Raphionacme
August	Columnar Cacti	Euphorbia (non-caudex)	Pachypodium
September	Uebelmannia, Discocactus	Sansevieria	Ficus
October	Neochilenia, Neoporteria	Lithops, Conophytum	Bulbs
November	Your Favorite Cacti	Your Favorite Succulent	Your Favorite Caudiciform Succulent
December	Annual Holiday Party		

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 each of the three 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.

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

CACTUS CHRONICLE : FOR YOUR READING ENJOYMENT

We would love to publish your cactus/succulent pictures! Any information, stories, upcoming calendar events or general information about cacti and succulents that might interest our members **ARE NEEDED!**

Please send them in or call me! Your comments, suggestions, **AND PICTURES** are always welcome!

DO YOU FIND THIS NEWSLETTER BORING? REMEMBER... THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER! My address is:
Liz P. Tungate, 10108 Noble Avenue, Mission Hills, CA 91345 : 818.891.0330

Any information to be included in the Cactus Chronicle must be received on time or the newsletter will be published INCOMPLETE.

→ → **Submit Editorial Changes by 22nd of Each Month to liz@toadtownracing.com** ←

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society
Cacti of the Month—September 2006 : Uebelmannia, Discocactus

Uebelmannia pectinifera



The genus was named in honour of Werner Uebelmann, from Wohlen, Switzerland, whose financial backing of some of Mr. Leopold Horst's expeditions provided the opportunity of discovering a number of interesting new cacti.

Recommended Temperature Zone:
 USDA: 10b-12

Frost Tolerance: Keep above 40°F (4°C) in winter, avoid any frost

Minimum Avg. Temperature: 60°F (15°C)

Heat Tolerance: Keep cool in summer

Sun Exposure: Full sun, possibly afternoon shade in summer in very hot climates

Origin: Brazil (mountain of Minas Gerais)

Growth Habits: Solitary cactus, 4 to 6 inches wide (10-15 cm), 20 inches tall (50 cm); 15 to 18 prominent ribs; close set areoles; 1 to 4 central spines, up to 0.6 inch long (1.5 cm), in the classical look, the spines are straight and give a comb-like effect.

Watering Needs: Regular water. Root prone if kept cold in winter, sometimes grafted to eliminate this problem. Enjoys humid air.

Propagation: Seeds

The species pectinifera comes from the Latin for "bearing combs".

Blooming Habits:
 The diurnal yellow flowers come sporadically. They are 0.6 inch long (15 mm), 0.5 inch in diameter (12 mm).

Information courtesy of www.desert-tropicals.com

Discocactus contains a dozen species of tropical cacti. Most species grow in rock outcrops in the tropical forests, and are endangered in their natural habitat.

Mature Discocactus stop growing, and instead divert their energy into growing a cephalium. The cephalium is a specialized flowering head, generally covered with fibers. Discocactus blooms in summer, on and off. The flowers are generally white and open in late afternoon until the following morning. Many species have fragrant flowers.



Discocactus are tropical species, and should be kept warm in winter. Many species are extremely difficult to keep on their own roots and are generally grafted. The grafted plants are less cold sensitive, but none has any frost tolerance.

Picture shown is Discocactus araneispinus.

Recommended Temperature Zone:
 USDA: 10-12

Frost Tolerance: Need to be kept warm in winter (minimum 55°F)

Minimum Avg. Temperature: 60°F (15°C)

Sun Exposure: Light shade

Origin: Southern Brazil

Growth Habits: Clustering ball shaped cactus to 4 inches in diameter each (10 cm)

Watering Needs: Regular summer water

Propagation: Offsets, seeds

This clustering dwarf species is the smallest Discocactus. It has a dark green body and small white spines. It is named after the Dr. Leo Zehntner.

Blooming Habits:
 The Discocactus flowers are have a sweet scent reminding of Gardenia flowers. They open in April, last only a day and are fully open in the middle of the night. The fruit is dark red.

Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society Succulent of the Month—September 2006 : Sansevieria

There are over 140 named Sansevierias. Please visit www.endangeredspecies.com/Projects/Sansevierias/Text/names.html to see this list as it is too long to include on this page. You may also download a FREE book on Sansevierias by Hermine Stover by visiting www.endangeredspecies.com/Intro/frontpage.htm.

Sansevieria hallii



Sansevieria hallii, previously known as Sansevieria sp. 'Baseball Bat'. Flowers are fragrant. This plant is suitable for growing indoors. Drought-tolerant; suitable for xeriscaping. Suitable for growing in containers

Sansevieria franciscii —

The Sansevieria franciscii plant does not grow extremely tall. The leaves are cylindrical in shape and there are five sets of leaves that grow in whirls around the stem. Propagation is by stolen (above the ground growth) and perhaps from the base growth.



Sansevieria kirkii variegated



Sansevieria kirkii has a pom-pom shaped inflorescence with scented flowers. Leaves can reach up to six feet long.

Sansevieria aubrytiana

Norma Lewis received this plant years ago from Dr. Dan Mahr (sp.?) - past president of CSSA. Lovely grower and flowers in

clumps along the stem. Easily grown. Member of the masoniana complex. This plant grows from rhizomes (below the soil line).

Sansevieria in general are not easy to classify. They are part of the dracaenaceae family.

All of these plants will be available to view at the September meeting, courtesy of Norma Lewis.

If you would like to participate in on-line Sansevieria discussion - there are two un-moderated discussion groups wherein collectors discuss, ask and answer questions about Sansevierias and anything else they feel like. Membership is international in scope and boasts at least two persons who have actually written books. There are two lists because occasionally one list or the other stops working, so they act to back each other up. If you wish to join one or both of the lists - send a blank email letter to Sansevierias-subscribe@yahoo.com and/or - Sansevierias-subscribe@topica.com.



Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

Caudiciform Succulent of the Month—September 2006 : Ficus

Ficus benjamina, or commonly called the weeping fig, is one of the most popular trees that are grown indoors. There are 3 main reasons for them to commonly loose their leaves: (a) adapting to a new environment, (b) over/under watering and (c) insects.

It is normal for a ficus to lose 20% of its foliage as it adapts to a new environment, even from one room to another. Ficus enjoy an outing for the summer when night time temperatures have risen above 50 degrees F. and placed in a shady location. They respond favorably to being outdoors with plenty of light, fresh air, humidity and rain water. Healthy green leaves grow abundantly, but when they go back indoors in early fall, before the night time temperatures drop below 50 degrees F., they will lose some of their leaves. They will lose even more, if subjected to colder night temperatures. It is best to place them in the brightest window, so they can adapt easier to the change. In winter it is wise to wipe the dust off the leaves occasionally too.

Ficus benjamina comes from an area that has very distinct seasons. It will shed its leaves during the dry season. When the rains return, new growth comes out and the canopy of the tree fills in. The rule of thumb on watering is that more water is required when the plant is receiving more light and the reverse also applies when less light is available, less water is needed. Many times roots can fill a pot making watering difficult. The water runs out without penetrating the root ball, so check for pot bound plants and plant them in a one size larger pot if necessary. It is generally best to keep the soil moist, but never soggy wet with ficus as well as other foliage houseplants.

A happy, well grown plant rarely has many insect problems, but yellowing leaves can be caused by the common insects of scale, mealybug and spider mites. Check: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/horticulture/DG1031.html> for more information on these insects on how to treat them. If your ficus tree is summered outdoors, you may want to check the plant carefully for insects. If you see a few, they can be hosed off with a forceful rush of water before taking it indoors. If several insects are seen, you may want to use an insecticidal soap spray to rid the plant of them before bringing it indoors.

Once the tree is stable and growing it requires minimal care, usually a weekly check of the soil for moisture content and watering if needed. As the tree grows, it may require shaping and pruning, typically every spring, depending on its speed of growth. A well maintained ficus tree can be a stunning addition to your home for many years.

Above is compliments of Minnesota Master Gardener.

From www.ficustree.com : Check out a few of the newer Ficus varieties and don't forget make sure you have the "[right stuff](http://www.ficustree.com)" (<http://www.ficustree.com>) for your Ficus to thrive....

[Benjamina](#) - The Ficus tree that is the most popular of all varieties!

www.ficustree.com/ficus-benjamina.php

[Amstel King](#) - This variety has long, banana-shaped leaves. The large, leathery, fast- growing foliage has a lush tropical appeal.

www.ficustree.com/ficus-amstel-king.php

[Indigo](#) - Its leaves emerge deep green and darken with maturity to almost blue-black with a high-gloss.

www.ficustree.com/ficus-indigo.php

[Midnight](#) - extremely dark, bluish to black, glossy leaves that sit along the stem with very close internodes. Its growth pattern is upright...

www.ficustree.com/ficus-midnight.php

[Monique](#) - One of the most outstanding features of this plant is its resistance to leaf drop.

www.ficustree.com/ficus-monique.php

[Wiandi](#) - has the look of bonsai, with branches that zig and zag between internodes, often turning at right angles. *Pictured at right >>>>*

www.ficustree.com/ficus-wiandi.php





From the Stacks of the Library

This month brings another exciting announcement! We were able to purchase Volume 1 of van der Walt's "Pelargoniums of Southern Africa". (The illustrations in the book remind me of the beautiful artwork on the covers of the earlier CSSA Journals.) The book is now available for you to check out. We now have Vol. 1 & 3 and are still looking for Vol. 2. Maybe next year.....

As for handouts – for those of you who didn't get a **10 year index** of the CSSA Journals, there are still a few left. Also, the updated **SUBJECT and AUTHOR listings** of our library collection are available.

Not exactly handouts but available for your perusal:

The original "**50 Year Cumulative Index**" for the CSSA Journals of articles dated July, 1929 through December, 1978 - for the true history buffs.

Copies of the **book reviews** from the CSSA Journals beginning Jan., 2006 to present. Many of you have found used book "bargains" but were uncertain of the quality of the book. Here's your chance to see if it has been reviewed & the reviewer's opinion.

Our Journal collection is still missing the following issues:

- 1892 #6
- 1893 #1, 2, 4
- 1894 #4, 6
- 1895 #2, 3, 4, 5, 6
- 1896 #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

If anyone has any of these issues and would like to donate them to our Library, it would be greatly appreciated.

The Board of Directors has indicated interest in purchasing another book or two sometime in the near future. We have created a short list of the following titles and would like your input re interest and value to our collection:

Echeveria Cultivars by Lorraine Schultz & Attila Kapitany 2005

Crassula-A Grower's Guide by Gordon Rowley 2003

Stapeliads of Southern Africa and Madagascar by Peter Bruyns 2005

A Cactus Odyssey-Journeys in the Wilds of Bolivia, Peru and Argentina by Mauseth, Kiesling and Ostolaza

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR OUR NEXT NEW BOOK

BE SURE TO STOP BY THE LIBRARY TABLE AND CHECK IT OUT!!

Joyce Schumann – Librarian, LACSS

LACSS MEMBERSHIP FORM 2006

If your contact info has changed during 2005, please include the updated info with your renewal. Thanks!!

DATE: _____

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 2006. Check here for Engraved Name Badge \$8.00 extra

why a person ought to grow 'em

The recent mania for houseplants has subsided, as fads will do, and has left in its wake some people who have found that growing plants is great pleasure. My husband and I enjoy plants for their own beauty and not because they make good "interior landscape". A large part of the challenge and pleasure is in growing them with attentiveness towards their needs, and in selecting only such plants that we can reasonably hope to care for properly. Yet many serious plant fanciers try to grow plants for which they cannot possibly hope to provide a suitable environment. They seem to think that if a plant does not require an unusual environment, and a difficult regimen of care, it is a weed, and not worth growing.

Perhaps this is one reason why Sansevierias are ignored. Sansevierias don't know when to die. They are so easy to grow that collectors tend to ignore them. When you do find Sansevierias in nurseries, they are usually stuffed under the benches because it is widely believed that they like it that way, with no light, or at least with less light than the average fern. How can this be, a desert or dry-plains plant which likes less light than a fern?

Have we not all seen dismal pots of Sansevierias in dim corners, subsisting for years under a thick coat of dust? On side-tables in old, barely surviving restaurants, lightly coated with a sticky film of kitchen grease, and not having seen the light of day in living memory?

I have no idea what makes a person wish to put a plant in a place where no plant could possibly grow. I find nothing ornamental in dead or dying plants. However, since human beings are collectively capable of breaking all the Ten Commandments, it is not surprising that some individuals have sunk to the lowest depths of the human spirit - THEY TRY TO KILL SANSEVIERIAS. The unappealing sight of so many filthy, neglected "Mother-In-Law's-Tongues" has given the genus a bad name. "Mother-In-Law's-Tongue" IS a bad name! The only reason more people are not crazy about Sansevierias is that they have no idea how many different kinds there are, and what they look like when they are properly cared for. For to know them is to love them, and for that reason, Sansevierias need to be yanked out of the dark corner, out from under the bench, out from under the coat of dust, and thrust into the light of day where they can grow properly and be admired! I bet you could easily locate and rescue an abused Sansevieria today, with very little effort!

Because Sansevierias are so non-demanding, you can have a vast number of them without having to have a greenhouse and without having to dedicate enormous amounts of time and energy towards their upkeep. I am not speaking here only of bare maintenance. You can give your Sansevierias the kind of care which will yield show-quality plants with less time and effort than that required by any other kind of plant. This means you can spend time admiring and touching your plants without having to fuss and worry over them. The exceptions to this are the highly variegated plants, some of which are not so tough. You can easily take care of the delicate ones when the rest of your plants take so little of your energy and time.



General Meeting Information

Our general meeting starts at 7:30 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the **NEW MEETING PLACE:** 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!**

FREE clumps of garden-variety ALOES in ground - you dig, I'll help. Need to dispose of ASAP. John Matthews. 661-297-5364

First Class Mail

September 7th, 2006
NEXT MEETING :

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Mission Hills, CA 91345
10108 Noble Ave.

