

August 2019

ROADRUNNER NEWS

Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club
Founded 1933; Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

PROGRAM: Gunnar Eisel – *Astrophytum* Revisited

How does a genus like *Astrophytum*, consisting of six species, remain such a perennial favorite and source of joy, headaches, and frequent disappointment? Clearly, a major attraction is the stunning beauty of these plants' exquisite symmetry and often intricately detailed body patterns. However, successful growing of these plants can pose problems and pitfalls even to some experienced growers.

The presentation will focus on primarily two species; *A. myriostigma* and *A. asterias* and the multitude of cultivars that have made these plants so popular. Starting with identification and sorting out the myriad of variations sought by *Astrophytum* collectors, Mr. Eisel will share a few tips based on his successes as well as point out some colossal failures in his attempt to master cultivation of these species.

Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with *Opuntia glochids*. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.



Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College and Fullerton College. He recently retired as a full-time music theory and history of music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students were occasionally subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as Executive Director of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.

TIME: Sunday, August 4th, 2019 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please arrive at least half an hour early to set up Plants of the Month, buy plants from our vendors, ask questions regarding your plants, or socialize.

LOCATION: Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 Bixby Hill Rd., Long Beach, CA. The Rancho is in a gated community, the entrance of which is at the south end of Palo Verde Ave. Tell the guard at the gate that you're going to the Cactus Club meeting. The meeting will take place downstairs in the Rancho Center's bullpen room.

REFRESHMENTS: We follow the alphabet to determine who is to bring snacks and finger foods. This month, those with last names starting with the letters **G** through **L** are asked to bring goodies. Please feel free to bring something even if you don't fall into this group.

PLANTS-OF-THE-MONTH:

Cactus: *Melocactus* & *Buiningia*

Succulent: *Mesemb*s other than *Lithops*

FREE PLANTS: A selection of plants are given away each month, one each to first time visitors, new members, and members who have a birthday that month. The rest are raffled off to attending members.

LBCC news by Krystoff:

- 64 members & guests showed up on July 7th for **JD's** Adromischus presentation.
- **Ken Shaw**, LBCC historian, talked about our club's move to the historical Rancho Los Alamitos.
- **Aaron Goldstein & Scott Bunnell** were the mini-show judges.
- **Nan Halbert** (LBCC Secretary) & **MA Bjarkman** (CSSA Liaison) ensured 40 free passes for our members to attend the annual CSSA Show & Sale at the Huntington's Botanical Gardens.
- If you are interested volunteering for the Inter-City Show (August 10th-11th) or show your plants, please contact **James Lemos**, the chair: 626-201-5519, jameslemos@yahoo.com.
- Given the difficult parking situation at the Rancho, our upcoming annual **Plant Auction** on September 15th will be limited to only 2 hours: 10am-12pm. The set up will start at 9am and must be ready for **Woody Minnich & Gary Duke**—this year's auctioneers—by 9:45am. Plants & pots arriving late will be disqualified. Coffee and pastries will be provided.
- Please park always at the Rancho's parking lot; but if you have to park on the street, please park on the Rancho side only. Cars parked in front of local residents will be towed away.
- Please remember we are only guests at the Rancho; therefore, do not open any kitchen cabinets; if we run out of cups or creamers, please ask either **Amelia** or **Henry Angulo**, who are in charge of the supplies. They are easy to spot in their LBCC logo T-shirts.
- Please sign-in as soon as you arrive to ensure you are included in our free raffle; please look **Tanisha Herr** (Membership Director) if you cannot find the sign-up sheet for any reason.
- If you bring free cuttings, please leave them at the specially designated table outside by the entrance.
- **Please continue arriving no later than 10:30AM!**

Long Beach Cactus Club 2019 Meeting Schedule

Aug. 4	Gunnar Eisel – TBA
Aug. 10 & 11	34 th annual Intercity Show and Sale
Sept. 1	Kal Kaminer: "Traversing the Transvaal"
Sept. 15	LBCC annual Auction
Oct. 6	Christian Cummings: "The Cactus Store"
Nov. 3	Jeff Chemnick: The Genera of Cycads"
Dec. 1	Holiday Party

LBCC PLANT-OF-THE-MONTHS RULES

At the April, 2003 meeting, the following rules were adopted for the Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced (blue tag), intermediate (pink tag) and beginner (yellow tag).
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 8 points for first place, 6 points for second place, 4 points for third place, 2 points for show/honorable mention (HM) and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

2019 LBCC PLANTS-OF-THE-MONTH

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTI</u>	<u>SUCCULENTS</u>
August	Melocactus & Buiningia	Mesembs other than Lithops
September	Crests, monstrose, & variegates	Crests, monstrose, & variegates
October	Epiphytic cacti	Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon
November	Miniatures (pots under 3")	Miniatures (pots under 3")
December	HOLIDAY PARTY, POM AWARDS	

2019 POM STANDINGS

Advanced		Intermediate		Beginner	
Gary Duke	95	Richard Salcedo	106	Amy Angulo	141
Gary James	70	Krystoff Przykucki	73	Henry Angulo	94
Jim Hanna	24	Regina Fernandez	58	Alden Norris	68
Russel Ray	4	Kathy McNair	47	Coni Nettles	66
Ken Shaw	2	Andrew Lander	45	Shirley Kost	30
		Mike Martin	26	Jim Tanner	24
		Scott Bunnell	18	The Prestons	22
		Jade Neely	10	Chris Bucka	18
		Jeff McNair	7	Tanisha Herr	15
		Karenn Ohlinder	1	M.A. Bjarkman	12
				Dean Woehrman	11
				Aaron Goldstien	10
				Lisa Weller	6
				Nancy Halbert	4
				Loyd Wilcox	3
				James Lemos	2
				Margot Taub	2
				Jean Dare	1
				Ivan Garibaldo	1
				Judy Leong	1
				Charina Tanaka	1

August Mini-Show Winners

Photos by Scott Bunnell



1st Place Advanced Succulent
Gary Duke's Argave albopilosa



1st Place Intermediate Succulent
Richard Salcedo's Agave multifilifera



1st Place Beginner Cactus
Alden Norris's Ariocarpus fissuratus



1st Place Beginner Succulent
Henry Angulo's Agave schidigera 'Shria Ito No Ohi'

Newbie Nook

by Chris Bucka

Pt.1: Getting Started – My C&S Origin Story



How does one develop an interest in cacti and succulents? I'd imagine everyone has a different story, but mine begins in a likely common way. "So we bought a house..."

Once I decided the parkway in front of our house was switching over from grass to drought tolerant, the spying on neighbor's yards began. Then, one late May morning while walking the dog and I found it. A short, mounding succulent with tall, vibrant pink flowers. *Calandrinia Spectabilis*. *How had I missed this amazing succulent???*

So I went out and bought one. As I was planting it, a piece broke off. I had heard somewhere that you could just re-plant succulent cuttings, so I made a second spot. A few months later, I made 3

more. Fast forward to today, and I have four super-healthy calandrinia in our parkway...and an aloe ciliaris, and portulacaria afra, and a variegated agave Americana, and...you get the idea. ;)

Newbie Plant Spotlight – Calandrinia Spectabilis

Always get to know your plants!...before you plant them is definitely best (I've learned the hard way... several times).

Calandrinia belongs to a larger classification of purslanes and redmaids. It is a perennial that will flower for most of the warm months of the year. Some sources of information will tell you that these mounds grow at a "moderate" pace to about a foot tall and wide. Each of the mounds in my parkway is at least 3 feet across, and are only that modest in size because I give them solid buzzcuts twice per year. Maintenance is well worth it, though, as the stems snap at will and a well-maintained specimen creates a vibrant, flower-filled mound sized-to-suit. As for water needs, I water mine with a hose every other week in the summer, but that's about it for the Long Beach area.



Pt. 2: Falling in Love – That next-level Interest

What drives one to elevate their curiosity beyond musing at roadside desert specimen, to the point of shrieking delight upon laying eyes on a “stupid cactus” whilst hiking? I may be just a newbie, but there appears to be a common thread between all cactiphiles; a profound immersive experience. For some, it’s visiting Joshua Tree National Park or the Mojave Preserve, for others it’s an international trip, or maybe even an impactful day at the Huntington.

Apologies for the déjà vu, but my story begins with, “So we bought some land in the desert.”



159 pristine acres that include sandy desert floor, rolling foothills, steep rocky mountain slopes, sprawling hillsides topped with boulders, and oh yeah, a faultline. I could go into massive detail about our plans, but that’s outside the scope of this little column. Just know that this place is a slice of heaven; a desert wonderland with unmatched views. My first trip back down the mountainside after we bought the place, I started noticing clumps of cacti.

I’d notice a small one near some rocks in the sand, a few clinging to the side of the mountains, and even some growing right out of boulders! They had massive spikes, but what looked like cotton balls on the inside, and were forming really neat yellow flowers.

In the sweeping canyons and sandy bottoms of the property, I could notice these blond, fuzzy looking bush-like cacti....then one stuck in my leg and came with me.

And hiding in between the creosote near the dirt roads were these prickly pear – looking clumps. Curiosity officially had kicked-in; I had to know who the natives were!

So I spent the weekend reading up as much as I could on the good ol’ World Wide Web. I learned that my natives all had cool names, like Cotton-Top, Teddy Bear, and Beaver Tail. I’ve come to refer to them in a bit more proper fashion now; *echinocactus polycephalus*, *cylindropuntia bigelovii*, and *opuntia basilaris*.

Three species of cacti and arguably three different genus all were able to handle the high-desert heat with no water supplements...crazy! So I propagated the opuntia and cylindropuntia, and rescued a few straggling echinocacti, brought them home, and began “playing with my plants” as Rob McGregor puts it. I’ve had enough success that I have already begun to reintroduce propagates back to the property, and hope to bring even more over time.

Which genus or species first sparked your love for cacti?



The Succulent Bliss

Photos by Krystoff Przykucki (pronounced Shi-koot-ski)



Aaron Goldstein

LBCC member since 2018

Focus: cacti

Trivia: our last month mini-show judge



Aaron's *Epithelantha micromeris*



Aaron's *Thelocactus rinconensis*



Aaron's *Stenocereus beneckeii*



Lisa Weller

LBCC member since 2018

Focus: eclectic

Trivia: just volunteered to become our next LBCC librarian



Lisa's *Agave ovatifolia*



Lisa's *Parodia magnifica*



Scott Bunnell

LBCC member since 1986

Focus: guerilla gardening with agaves & aloes

Trivia: our vice president, regularly updates the LBCC website & Facebook



Scott's Agave (*salmiana*) *ferox*



Scott's Agave *americana* *medio-picta*



Scott's Agave *ovatifolia*

2019 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG. 10-11** **34TH ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE**
9am-5pm daily
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MARTINEZ 805-390-2139
- AUG. 31 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
626-405-3504
- SEPT. 14 LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE
9-4pm
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD., ENCINO, CA.
INFO. www.lacactus.com
- SEPT. 15** **LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION**
11-1pm
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA 90615
INFO. 562-631-5876
- OCT. 12-13 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW & SALE
SAT. 10 to 5pm, SUN. 11 to 3pm
ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216 17th STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
FREE ADDMISSION & PARKING
INFO 661-8318488
- OCT. 25-27 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA
INFO 626-405-3504
- OCT. 26-27 PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE
SAT 9 to 5pm, SUN 10 to 3pm
SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN, 230 QUAIL GARDENS DRIVE, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO: EventCoordinator@PalomarCactus.org

LBCC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2019

PRESIDENT	Krystoff Przykucki [310-647-7300]	SECRETARY	Nancy Halbert
VICE-PRESIDENTS	Scott Bunnell, Ken Shaw	TREASURER	Henry Angulo
CSSA LIAISON	M. A. Bjarkman	NEWSLETTER	Andrew Lander
VENDORS/PRIZES	Jim Hanna	PROGRAMS	Woody Minnich
MEMBERSHIP	Tanisha Herr	HISTORIAN	Ken Shaw
INTER-CITY SHOW	James Lemos	MINI-SHOW	Karenn Ohlinder
LIBRARIAN	Lisa Weller	X-MAS PARTY	Gary Duke
PHOTOGRAPHER	Rose Bank	REFRESHMENTS	Amy Angulo

LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB COMMITTEES:

Executive Committee:

Task: meetings.

Members: Henry Angulo (Treasury), Tanisha Herr (Membership), Nan Halbert (Minutes), Amy Angulo (Supplies), Woody Minnich (Programming), MA Bjarkman (Speakers), Scott Bunnell (website), Andrew Lander (Newsletter), Jim Hanna (prize plants).

Chair: Krystoff, 310-647-7300, mamathemovie@gmail.com

Rancho Garden Committee:

Task: volunteers at the Rancho's historical Cactus Garden.

Members: Alden Norris, Loyd Wilcox, Jeff Preston, Nan Halbert, John Drake, Rose Bank, Kitty Guzman, Art Guzman, Scott Bunnell.

Chair: Mike Martin, 562-743-7801, martinslb@verizon.net

Inter-City Show Committee:

Task: participation on August 10th-11th

Members: Krystoff Przykucki, Tanisha Herr, Henry Angulo.

Chair: James Lemos, 626-201-5519, jameslemos@yahoo.com

Publicity Committee:

Task: Publicity.

Members: Scott Bunnell, Andrew Lander, Rose Bank, Kelly Eddy, Jim Hanna, Amy Angulo, Aaron Goldstein, Alden Norris, Jean Dare, Tanisha Herr, James Lemos, Henry Angulo, Russel Ray, David Hodgson, Chris Bucka, Richard Salcedo, Tammi Wildman, Shirely Kost, Ken Shaw, Ivan Rus Garibaldo, Shirley Kost, Laurie Keller, Jade Nelly.

Chair: Regina Fernandez, 562-673-7660, reginaspottery@gmail.com

May Plant Sale & Show Committee:

Task: Sale & Show on May 18th-19th.

Members: Regina Fernandez, Amy Angulo, MA Bjarkman, Loyd Wilcox, Scott Bunnell, Rose Bank, Jim Hanna, Katrina Mosher, Gretchen Lewotsky, Aaron Goldstein, James Lemos, Kelly Eddy, Laverne Pitzer, Annette Hadjimarkos, Kathy McNair, Gary James.

Chair: Henry Angulo, 562-852-2576, Hangulo111@gmail.com

Auction Committee:

Task: revenue for the club.

Members: Woody Minnich & Gary Duke.

Chair: ?

Mini-Show Committee:

Task: Plant-of-the-Month.

Members: Karenn Ohlinder, Rose Bank, Regina Fernandez, Andrew Lander, Coni Nettles, Scott Bunnell, Aaron Goldstein.

Chair: ?

Christmas Party committee:

Task: annual holiday party.

Members: Tanisha Herr, Sue Birch, Jim Hanna, Henry Angulo.

Chair: Gary Duke, 310-947-9803, dukebb@earthlink.net

Archive Committee:

Task: documentation.

Members: MA Bjarkman, Krystoff Przykucki, Andrew Lander.

Chair: Nan Halbert (Secretary) 562-230-5853, nancyhalbert@roadrunner.com

NEWSLETTER

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES, cultivation tips, information about upcoming events, photos, *corrections*, or news in general about cacti and succulents that might interest our members, **please send them in.** **Comments and suggestions are always welcome.** **Remember, this is your newsletter.** Physical address: Andrew Lander, 3041 Roxanne Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808. Cyber address: landruc@gmail.com



Eulophia petersii, photo by Andrew Lander