

*February 2023*

# ROADRUNNER NEWS

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

**Presentation:** Hunter Martinez on Coahuila and San Luis Potosí

Hunter is a plant lover who travels throughout the deserts & backyard collections of the world showcasing the plants he finds most interesting. Driven by a passion for seeing plants in their natural environment Hunter has taken part in many in-situ trips both domestically and abroad. He hosts his YouTube show CACTUS QUEST as well as a talented ceramicist.





## Plant of the Month - Succulent

# Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe is a genus of about 125 species of tropical, succulent plants in the stonecrop family Crassulaceae, mainly native to Madagascar and tropical Africa. A Kalanchoe species was one of the first plants to be sent into space, sent on a resupply to the Soviet Salyut 1 space station in 1979. Most are shrubs or perennial herbaceous plants, but a few are annual or biennial. The largest, *Kalanchoe beharensis* from Madagascar, can reach 6 m (20 ft) tall, but most species are less than 1 m (3 ft) tall.

Kalanchoes open their flowers by growing new cells on the inner surface of the petals to force them outwards, and on the outside of the petals to close them. Kalanchoe flowers are divided into 4 sections with 8 stamens. The petals are fused into a tube, in a similar way to some related genera such as *Cotyledon*.



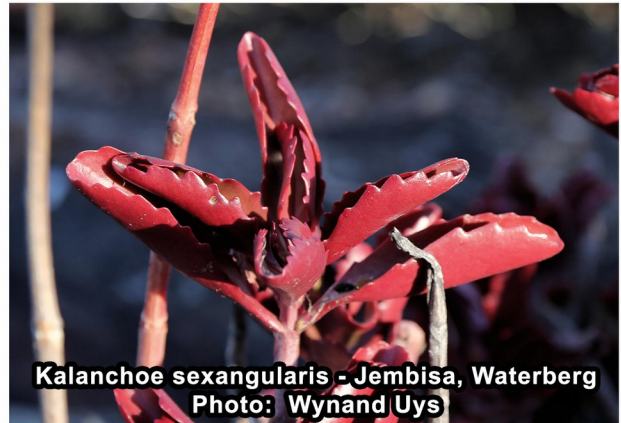
**Kalanchoe tomentosa G. Brakrivier, S.Africa**  
Photo: Val Marsh



**Kalanchoe bitteri - Fianarantsoa, Madagascar**  
Photo: Lauren Gardiner



**Kalanchoe delagoensis - Baix Camp**  
Photo: RitmeNatura via iNaturalist



**Kalanchoe sexangularis - Jembisa, Waterberg**  
Photo: Wynand Uys



# Plant of the Month - Cactus

## Discocactus

**Discocactus** is a genus of tropical cacti. The name comes from the ancient Greek *diskos* (=disc) because of its shape. *Discocactus* plants are endemic to southern Brazil, eastern Bolivia, and northern Paraguay. These species are in the risk of extinction in the wild. The plants have a slightly flattened spherical shape. The areoles bear sharp spines. At the apex of the adult plants, there is a woolly cephalium, white or shaded with yellow or grey. The white nocturnal flowers appear on the sides of the cephalium and are highly fragrant, most lasting only one night.



**Discocactus placentiformis** - Brazil, Curimataí  
Photo: Meri Oliveira



**Top & Bottom**  
**Discocactus horstii** - Brazil, Minas Gerais  
Photo: Giovanna Anceschi, Alberto Magli



**Discocactus hartmannii**  
Photo: Alexander Arzberger





# Plant of the Month - Cactus

## Melocactus

Melocactus is a genus of cactus with about 30–40 species. They are native to the Caribbean, western Mexico through Central America to northern South America, with some species along the Andes down to southern Peru, and a concentration of species in northeastern Brazil. Mature plants are easily recognizable by their cephalium, a wool- and bristle-coated structure at the apex of the plant, containing a mass of areoles from which the small flowers grow. The fruits of Melocactus are pink and resemble the shape of pepper fruits. The fruits of this genus are edible, and in the wild they are frequently dispersed by lizards and birds.



**Melocactus  
Fruit**



**Melocactus ernestii** - Monteiro, PB, Brazil  
Photo: Igor Pereira



**Melocactus neryi** - Voltzberg, Suriname  
Photo: Jakob Fahr



**Melocactus harlowii** - San Antonio del Sur, Cuba  
Photo: "amantedarmanin" via iNaturalist



## 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.

## Long Beach Cactus Club 2023 Plants of the Months

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTI</u>	<u>SUCCULENTS</u>
February	Melocactus/Discocactus	Kalanchoe
March	Ariocarpus	African Euphorbia
April	Mammillaria with straight spines	Agave
May	CLUB SALE	
June	Copiapoa	Sansevieria
July	Crests/Monstrose	Crests/Monstrose
August	Columnar Cereus	Adromischus
September	AUCTION	
October	Lobivia/Echinopsis	Pelargonium/Sarcocaulon
November	Miniatures (3) - pots under 3"	Miniatures (3) - pots under 3"
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	

## 2023 POM MINI-SHOW STANDINGS

<b>Advanced</b>		<b>Intermediate</b>		<b>Beginner</b>	
Gary Duke	23	Henry Angulo	17	Kelly Eddy	25
Russel Ray	17	Richard Salcedo	16	Derrick Cantu	11
		Amy Angulo	10	Christ Bucka	4
				Nelson Hernandez	4
				Julianne Skinner	3
				David Cantu	1
				Dan Papilli	1



# More Than Just Tequila: by: Nelson Hernandez Processing fiber from Agave

---

Alcohol is a very popular product of agave the genus, but there are many other uses for the plant. The flower stalks were once used as horizontal beams that span the wall tops of adobe-style housing structures called "jacals." Meristem of various species would be boiled and eaten. The leaves and roots of *A. lechugia* contain saponaceous properties (of, like, or containing soap) and have similar cleaning capabilities. Leaves were also a source of a fiber used for rope, twine, nets, baskets, and clothing. Indigenous peoples accross the americas would extracted the fibers for use as rough garments and used the spines as needles.

While I can't make my own Tequila, yet, I figured I would take a crack at processing agave fiber. Armed with a large pruning knife, I went to a Chase bank parking lot that has a dozen large neglected *A. americana* and sliced a few leaves. Did I steal from Chase Bank? Yes and I will do it again if given the chance.



Once the layer of catalytic converter dust was rinsed off, I shaved the spines off of the sides and cut them to pieces that would fit in a large pot. As you can see, the pieces were indeed not small enough.





After boiling the leaves for a few hours I set them down outside and pounded them with a piece of wood I found in the aforementioned Chase parking lot. The purpose of this is to loosen the pulp surrounding the fiber. Then, I used the same piece of wood, similar to a 2x4, and started scraping the pulp off of the leaf in a perpendicular direction.

When all of the pulp was scrapped off I washed the fiber and combed it using an old wire brush. Traditional technique is to use a board with nails or like the picture below an Echinocactus platyacanthus.





THIS IS THE FIBER ONCE  
ITS COMBED



I decided to dye the fiber using cochineal. Cochineal is a scale insect that grows on cacti, most commonly Opuntia. Female cochineal bugs produce carminic acid that deters predation by other insects. When their body is dried and ground into a powder it can be used as a natural dye that produces various hues. I don't know what I'm going to do with the dyed fiber, but I think it's pretty cool. - Nelson H.



THE FINAL PRODUCT







## **WHAT YOUR DUES DO:**

Your membership dues pay the club operating expenses that include, but are not limited to:

RENT - GUEST SPEAKERS  
WEBSITE HOSTING - EMAIL & MEETING SOFTWARE  
PRESENTATION EQUIPMENT- REFRESHMENTS - PLANT OF THE YEAR  
DOOR GIFTS - BIRTHDAY PLANTS - HOLIDAY PARTY

Above "Ransom Note" is by Stan Oleson, found in South Bay Brom. Associates newsletter "The Inflorescence," 1986





# The Long Beach Cactus Club

*Est. 1933*

## Meeting Highlights:

- Monthly programs led by plant experts from around the world
- Mini shows each month with different categories of cacti & succulents
- Vendors selling plants, pots, tools, and more
- Monthly raffles
- Advice from members for plant identification and care

## Meeting Information:

1st Sunday of each month

1:00 pm

Woman's Club of Bellflower 9402 Oak St, Bellflower, CA

## **Member Sign Up**

\$20.00 per year, per membership

\$10.00 for engraved name badge (optional)

☐ Cash or ☐ Check - Made out to the Long Beach Cactus Club

Membership year: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address (for mailing purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



## SNACK AND REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LAST NAME STARTS WITH</u>
February	C, D
March	E, F, G
April	H
May	I, J, K
June	L, M
July	N, O
August	P, Q, R
September	Auction
October	S, T, U, V
November	W, X, Y, Z
December	Holiday Party

## LBCC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2023

PRESIDENT	Nelson Hernandez	SECRETARY	Kelly Eddy
VICE-PRESIDENT	William Ramirez	TREASURER	Henry Angulo
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Scott Bunell, Ed Hansen, Daniel Almanza, Lemono Lott, Christopher Bucka		
CSSA LIAISON	M. A. Bjarkman	NEWSLETTER	Andrew Lander
VENDORS/PRIZES	Jim Hanna	PROGRAMS	James Lemos
MEMBERSHIP	Tanisha Herr	HISTORIAN	Ken Shaw
INTER-CITY SHOW	Henry Angulo & Scott Bunell	MINI-SHOW	Christopher Bucka
LIBRARIAN	Lisa Weller	X-MAS PARTY	Gary Duke
PHOTOGRAPHER	Alon Ronn	REFRESHMENTS	Amy Angulo
PLANT SALE	Kelly Eddy	AUCTION	Gretchen Lewotsky
INSTAGRAM	<b>OPEN</b>	WEBSITE	Scott Bunnell

## 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](mailto:landruc@gmail.com)