

April 2012

Roadrunner News

Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club

Founded 1933; Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.

PROGRAM: Gregg DeChirico is giving a presentation **Peru: Discovery of Wonders** - a travelogue starting in arid coastal Northern Peru, heading south and traversing the Andes three times before ending in Peru's southern highlands. Our zig-zagging journey takes us through cactus gardens in the lush hills and valleys of Amazonia and Cajamarca, then west to the seemingly barren pacific coast where life teems on offshore islands, and then high into the Andes to the slopes of the Cordillera Blanca where forests of orchids and bromeliads grow within view of glaciers, then across the Altiplano where stands of huge Puya raimondii tower over grassy plains, and finally to the cultural wonder of Machu Picchu and historic city of Cusco. Along the way there are many splendid and wondrous sights of flora and fauna, as well as culture- both past and present- all captured in photos illustrated in this presentation.

Gregg DeChirico has grown plants of all types for over 30 years. He has a nursery, Gregg's Greenhouse, located in the Santa Barbara area and specializing in seed-grown rare and exotic plants. Gregg is a frequent participant and vendor at many local club shows and sales. He has travelled throughout Latin America to photograph the flora and fauna. Gregg served as president of both the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society and the Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society and most recently has been elected to the CSSA board. **Gregg will be bringing plants for sale to the meeting.**

LOCATION: Dominguez Rancho Adobe, 18127 South Alameda Street, Rancho Dominguez, CA 90220. Take the 91 Redondo Beach/ Artesia Freeway and exit south on Alameda. Signs for the Adobe are posted on the freeway and on Alameda. Coming from the freeway, the entrance to the Adobe is on the right or west side of Alameda. The meeting will be in the Carriage House which is at the south end of the Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum. It is at your right as you turn off the entry road into the parking area.

TIME: Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. We will follow this schedule: 1:00 to 1:30 -- setup and refreshments, 1:30 to 3:30 -- general meeting and program, 3:30 to 4:00 -- cleanup.

PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH:

Cactus: *Astrophytum*
Succulent: *Sansevieria*

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

DOOR PRIZES, BIRTHDAY PLANTS & PLANT SALES: Free plant for first time visitors.

PLANT RAFFLE: Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. **Members are asked to donate any plants they would like to pass along that they think others would like to buy.** Previous months' raffles have been big successes with several dozen plants available.

LBCC MEETING DATES 2012

	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Apr 22	Gregg DeChirico	Peru
May 27	Kelly Griffin	Madagascar
Jun 24	Todd Masilko	Pachycauls
Jul 22	Tom Knapik	Geometric Geophytes
Aug 26	Woody Minnich	Namibia
Sept 23	Annual LBCC Auction at the Adobe	
Oct 28	Doug Dawson	South Africa

Nov 18
Dec ??

Mike Buckner
Holiday Party?

Landscaping with Succulents

**CACTUS AND SUCCULENT
CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012
UPDATED 12/14/2011**

- APR 14 & 15** GREEN SCENE PLANT SALE—AT THE FULLERTON ARBORETUM
1900 ASSOCIATED ROAD, FULLERTON, CA 92831
- May 5 & 6** SUNSET CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, GARDEN ROOM
4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY, CA. INFO. 310-822-1783
- MAY 6** SOUTH BAY EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE---9am to 4pm
SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS - INFORMATION CALL-310-833-6823
- MAY 13** HUNTINGTON PLANT SALE 10 TO 5 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD
ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA. 626-405-2160
- MAY 18-19** GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE FRI & SAT 9-4:30 pm
JURUPA MOUNTAINS CULTURAL CENTER, 7621 GRANITE HILL DRIVE
GLEN AVON, CA INFO. 951-360-8802
- MAY 26-27** CENTRAL COAST CASTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
ANNUAL SHOW & SALE (10-4PM), LUDWICK CENTER, 864 SANTA ROSA
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA – INFO. 805-237-2054, www.centralcoastcactus.org
- JUNE 2 & 3** SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY –SUMMER SHOW AND SALE
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA. INFO. 858-382-1797
- JUNE 9-10** LOS ANGELES CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SHOW AND SALE 11th 9-5, 12th
9-3:30 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER, 16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD. ENCINO, CA INFO.
E-MAIL LACSS.Contact@gmail.com
- JUNE 29-JULY 1** CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA.
626-405-2160 or 2277 PLANTS SALES START JUNE 29TH THRU JULY 1ST
THE SHOW OPENS ON THE JUNE 30TH THRU JULY 1ST FREE TO THE PUBLIC
- JULY 27-28** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE.
FRIDAY JULY 27TH Noon until 7pm, SATURDAY JULY 28TH 9am to 5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329
- AUG. 11-12** 27th ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM,
9am-5pm daily. 301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA.
INFO. CALL TOM GLAVICH 626-798-2430 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-297-5364
- SEPT. 1** HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
ALL DAY AT THE HUNTINGTON
- SEPT. 23** LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION
18127 SOUTH ALAMEDA ST., RANCHO DOMINGUEZ, CA----12 PM
- NOV. 3-4** SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM ADDRESS ABOVE.
- NOV. 9-10** ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS & SUCCULENT WINTER SHOW AND SALE 9am-5pm
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
CONTACT VINCE BASTA 714-267-4329

Long Beach Cactus Club

Cactus of the Month April 2012 - *Astrophytum*

Astrophytum are often one of the first cacti that collector buys. They are inexpensive, available in discount stores, groceries, and home centers. How can anyone resist the \$2 (now \$4.50) special Bishop's Cap? More than a few show plants started out this way, but most are soon dead. Keeping seedlings alive for the first year or so is much more difficult than maintaining a mature plant. Growing a perfect, 10 or 20 year old specimen plant is a challenge few growers can master. Fortunately, the genus offers rewards and surprises at every level between novice and master, making it one of the most popular genera of cacti.

Astrophytum are native to Southern Texas and Northern to Central Mexico. They grow in very arid regions, with porous mineral soils. One of the cultivation difficulties with *Astrophytum* is their tendency to split open from sudden increases in soil moisture level. To avoid this, keep them in a soil that is very quick to drain, and which has little organic matter. A mixture of pumice and gravel or very coarse sand, with only a little potting soil is best for these plants.

The roots are designed to pump up as much moisture as possible in as short a time as possible from infrequent rains. In a slow draining potting mix they will do this very effectively, and the body of the plant will swell, but the skin will not. Eventually the body pressure gets too great and the skin cracks.



Astrophytum myriostigma

There are currently five recognized species; however, there are older plants, clearly visibly different from the recognized species available in the trade. There are also varieties of the species, cultivars, and hybrids, all worth growing.

Growers in Japan and more recently in Thailand have developed some spectacular clones, cultivars and hybrids. The Japanese cultivars of *A. asterias* are sold under the name of *A. Super Kabuto* and *A. Miracle Kabuto*. Some of these special clones with intricate patterns can sell for more than \$100, when first developed. After a few years of propagation, the price drops to levels that most can afford. Look for some of these special clones at upcoming shows and sales.

Astros:



Astrophytum asterias exhibited by Carol and Paul Maker in the 2001 Inter-city Show

Astrophytum asterias is the smallest of the species. It is the hardest to grow well, prone to splitting if over watered. It is the parent plant for many of the best hybrids. It is native to the Chihuahuan Desert of Northern Mexico. It has prominent spineless areoles,

Astrophytum capricorne is generally the longest spined species, with spines are generally twisted and curved. Although young plants are globular, they soon become ovoid, and eventually columnar. It is widespread in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Astrophytum myriostigma is the well known 'Bishops Cap.' Although usually five sided, three, four, six, seven and eight sided clones are also cultivated. Spiral forms, are also well known as are some very large clones. *A. myriostigma* v. *columnare* can grow to several feet.



Astrophytum myriostigma cv *Onzuka*



Astrophytum ornatum v. *mirbellii*

Astrophytum ornatum from Hidalgo can grow to 12 inches in diameter and three feet in height. The spines are straight, yellow brown, and the woolly areoles tend to come in patches. The picture above shows a selected form.

References:

Anderson, E. **The Cactus Family**

Cullman,

Kobayashi, A. *Cacti and Succulents in Japan. Part 3-*

Some Cultivars of Astrophytum asterias and A.

myriostigma in the **CSSA Journal Vol. 68, p 245 (1996)**

Preston-Mafham, **Cacti, The Illustrated Dictionary**

Inter City Photos T. Nomer

Tom Glavich May 2008

Long Beach Cactus Club

Succulent of the Month April 2012 - *Sansevieria*

The world is divided into two types of people, those who like *Sansevieria* and those who don't. An alternative is that there are two types of people, those that think all *Sansevieria* look alike, and those that think only most of them look alike.

Sansevieria lovers know that there is a wealth of form, color and texture available in this genus of succulent plants.



Sansevieria 'Lillian True' turning false

There are about 60 species of *Sansevieria*, but since many of the species are variable and have widespread habitats, there are more names than this. There are also dozens of cultivars, particularly of variegated *Sansevieria*. They are currently in the *Dracenaceae* family, but have moved through the 'dumping ground' families. In older references, they will be found in the *Lilaceae*, *Aloinaceae*, *Agavaceae*, and other families. Most *Sansevieria* are native to Africa, although some come from India,

Asia and the South Sea Islands.

They are among the easiest of all succulent plants to grow, requiring only a pot or a spot in the ground. They are tolerant of incredible neglect and abuse, but most grow rapidly and well if watered and fertilized regularly. They do well in Southern California outdoors or in, and suffer damage only if they are cold and wet for extended periods. They are free from most pests, suffering only rarely from scale. They are prone to fungal rusts, particularly in damp weather. The only cure for rust is to cut off the infected leaves, sterilizing the cutting tool after each cut (an alcohol wipe will do) and then spray the entire plant with a fungicide such as Funginex. Prevention is much easier. Bright light, and moving air prevents most rusts.

Sansevieria propagation is remarkably easy. Cut a piece off, let it dry for a few days, and stick it in some potting soil. They propagate readily from leaves (tips are best), rhizomes, roots, etc. They can also be propagated from seeds. In Southern California *Sansevieria* flower frequently, particularly when grown outdoors. The flowers are extremely fragrant, and can perfume an entire house. Each rosette only blooms once, so after flowering, the new rosettes should be kept, while the old ones are discarded. They are usually self fertile, and produce orange berries, each containing a single seed.

Variegation is very common in cultivated *Sansevieria*, and variegated plants form the majority of some collections. For a few species, variegated forms are much more common than normal forms. Variegation is produced apparently at random. A variegated pup will appear on an otherwise normal plant. The variegation can be preserved by removing

the pup and a portion of the rhizome, and growing it on. If this is not done, the variegated pup, being weaker than the rest of the plant will not reproduce. Variegated plants are slower growers than normal plants, and are much more sensitive to cold and wet conditions. They need protection, particularly in the winter. They are also sensitive to standing water in their crowns, quickly rotting if water is allowed to remain.

Variegated plants are likely to produce pups with new variegated patterns. These can be removed and grown as a new cultivar. This is the source of many of the cultivars we now know. Even more likely are reversions, as seen above. The normal growth must be removed, or the variegation will not reproduce.

Selected Species

Sansevieria aubrytiana is a beautiful thick leafed species, now sometimes included in *Sansevieria kirkii*. From Malawi, Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Sansevieria bacularis grows with thin stems up to four feet long, but only half an inch in diameter.

Sansevieria kirkii a thin leaved, rapidly growing species has leaves that turn copper colored in bright light. Several cultivars are known.



Sansevieria patens entered in the 2001 Winter Show by Karen Ostler

Sansevieria parva, is not particularly good looking, but it is a rapid offseater, and frequent bloomer with extremely fragrant blooms.

Sansevieria patens, with an unknown, but probably Kenyan origin, is shown above. This is one of the most architectural of all of species.

Sansevieria pinguicula, also from Kenya makes small hard rosettes supported on stilt like roots, and offsets by aerial branches. It is very slow. A plant of any size at all does well in all shows. The one shown above is a fine example.

T. Glavich
January 2008

LBCC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2012

PRESIDENT John Luhnnow 310-922-6090 **SECRETARY(TEMP)** **OPEN**
VICE-PRESIDENT **OPEN** **TREASURER** Jess (Vern) Yandell
DIRECTORS, in alphabetical order, are John & Edwina Caceres, John Luhnnow, Dot Miller and Gary Duke (Past President)

COMMITTEES:

AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE	Hank Warzybok	NEWSLETTER	David Quadhamer
BIRTHDAY/PRIZE PLANTS	Jim Hanna	PROGRAMS	Woody Minnich
GARDEN CURATOR	OPEN	PUBLICITY – LOCAL	Danielle Linden
HISTORIAN	Ken Shaw	PUBLICITY – SHOWS	Peter Walkowiak
INTER-CITY SHOW CHAIRMAN	Peter Walkowiak	REFRESHMENTS	Javier Arroyo
LIBRARY	Ken Shaw	SHOW & TELL TABLE	Carol Causey
MEMBERSHIP	John Luhnnow	SUNSHINE	Dot Miller
WEBMASTER	David Quadhamer		

MEMBERSHIP

SEND APPLICATIONS to John Luhnnow, 3340 West 152nd St. Gardena, CA, 90249. **Dues** are \$15 per year for regular membership, seniors \$10. (Senior membership is for retired persons, 65 and older.) Checks should be made out to **LBCC**.

IF FOUR OR FIVE OR MORE MEMBERS are interested they may order **official Long Beach Cactus Club member badges**. The cost is \$6.50 per person. Please see club treasurer at the meeting.

NEWSLETTER

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES, cultivation tips, information about upcoming calendar events or news in general about cacti and succulents that might interest our members, please send them in or give me a call. **Comments and suggestions are always welcome. Remember, this is your newsletter.** The address is: David Quadhamer, P.O. Box 861, San Pedro, CA 90733-0861. Telephone: (310) 833-3095. Email – davidq@lbcss.org

CLARENCE B. WRIGHT MEMORIAL DESERT GARDEN

COME AT **12:00 PM.**, AN HOUR BEFORE THE REGULAR MEETING and help plant, water and maintain our garden. Find out what's blooming each month and get ideas for your home garden.

SPECIAL THANKS to **RANCHO SAN PEDRO** and the **DOMINGUEZ RANCHO ADOBE MUSEUM** for allowing us to use the grounds for our auction and the site for our monthly meetings. We appreciate the pleasant setting as well as being able to meet near our garden.

LIBRARY

WANT TO CONSULT A BOOK ON CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OR A COPY OF THE **CSSA JOURNAL**? Call librarian Ken Shaw at (562) 430-1237 or email at kenlbca@earthlink.net and he will bring the requested items to the next meeting for you to check out.

!!!! We still have several open positions in the club. Get involved and volunteer to take a role in YOUR club!

LBCC PLANT-OF-THE-MONTH 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.

2012 LBCC PLANTS-OF-THE-MONTH

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTUS</u>	<u>SUCCULENT</u>
January	Mammillaria	Aeonium
February	Echinocereus	Haworthia/Astroloba
March	Neochilenia/Neoporteria	Sedum/Pachyphytum
April	Astrophytum	Sansevieria
May	Cereus (Columnar Cactus)	Monadenium/Jatropha
June	Opuntias	Adromischus
July	Notocactus/Parodia	Euphorbia African
August	Favorite (3)	Favorite (3)
September		LBCC Auction
October	Lobivia/Echinopsis	Succulent Bromeliads
November	Miniature (3) Under 3"	Miniature (3) Under 3"
December		HOLIDAY PARTY

2012 POM STANDINGS

Advanced		Intermediate		Beginner	
Gary Duke	57	Bob Gillett	86	Jade Neely	83
Ken Shaw	52			Evelyn Maxwell	21
Jim Hanna	40			John Drake	16
Hank Warzbok	11			David Quadhamer	12

We are planning on working in the garden after the meeting.

Plant-of-the-Month Winners - March

Cactus – Advanced		Succulent – Advanced	
1. Ken Shaw	Neoporteria nidus senilis	1. Jim Hanna	Sedum furfuraceum
2. Gary Duke	Neoporteria subgibbosa	2. Gary Duke	Sedum stahlii
3. Ken Shaw	Eriosyce aurata	3. Gary Duke	Pachyphytum compactum

Cactus – Intermediate		Succulent – Intermediate	
1		1. Bob Gillett	Sedum acre
2		2. Bob Gillett	Sedum dasyphyllum
3		3. Bob Gillett	Pachyphytum bracteosum

Cactus – Beginner		Succulent – Beginner	
1. Jade Neely	Neoporteria nidus senilis	1. Jade Neely	Pachyphytum oviferum
2. Jade Neely	Neoporteria nidus senilis	2. John Drake	Sedum species (stahlii?)
3. Jade Neely	Neoporteria subgibbosa	3. Jade Neely	Sedum nussbaumerianum
		3. Jade Neely	Pachyphytum bracteosum

LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2012 DUES INFORMATION-ONE YEAR

Regular membership \$15.00

Senior Membership (retired person, age 65 or older) \$10.00

Please make out checks to LBCC (Long Beach Cactus Club) and give or send them to the treasurer:

John Luhnnow, 3340 West 152nd St., Gardena, CA 90249

NEW MEMBER : ____ RENEWAL : ____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ ____.** Date: _____

NAME: _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER (S): _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT:- _____

CITY: _____ STATE: ____ ZIP CODE: _____ HOME PHONE:(____) ____ - _____

CELL PHONE: (____) ____ - ____ E-MAIL: _____

BIRTHDAY MONTH: _____ FAVORITE CACTI OR SUCCULENT: _____

David Quadhamer
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San Pedro, CA 90733-0861

FIRST CLASS PLEASE