

March 2023

ROADRUNNER NEWS

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



Copiapoa longistaminea in habitat near Esmeralda, Chile; photo by Woody Minnich

PRESENTATION: Wendell S. “Woody” Minnich - *20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapos*

Similar to the coast of Namibia, the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile, known as the Atacama, is mainly watered by amazing fogs, “the Camanchacas.” These fog-fed regions, in two of the driest deserts in the world, have some of the most interesting cactus and succulents to be found anywhere. The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved, the Copiapoa. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old, and there are those who feel it might well be on its way out! The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs. Some of these areas rarely, if ever, get rain and the plants that have evolved there live almost entirely off the heavy condensation from the Camanchaca.

There are many different Copiapoa species ranging from small quarter sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. Thanks to Rudolf Schulz’s excellent field work and his two comprehensive Copiapoa books, we have all been introduced to these amazing plants. Having worked with Rudolf in Chile, I can honestly say that the genus Copiapoa is without comparison! Now, having visited Chile numerous times over the last 20+ years, I have become familiar with most all of the representatives of this genus. With this presentation, I hope to taxonomically introduce you to most of the Copiapoa species as well as show their relationships and synonyms. Along with the Copiapoa, we will also encounter many other genera including the Neochilenias, Neoporterias, Eriosyce, Eulychnias, Trichocereus, as well as many of the

other Chilean succulents. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom seen places of Chile. Not only did we take them on very bad roads, the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver, we also had them camp out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions. No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

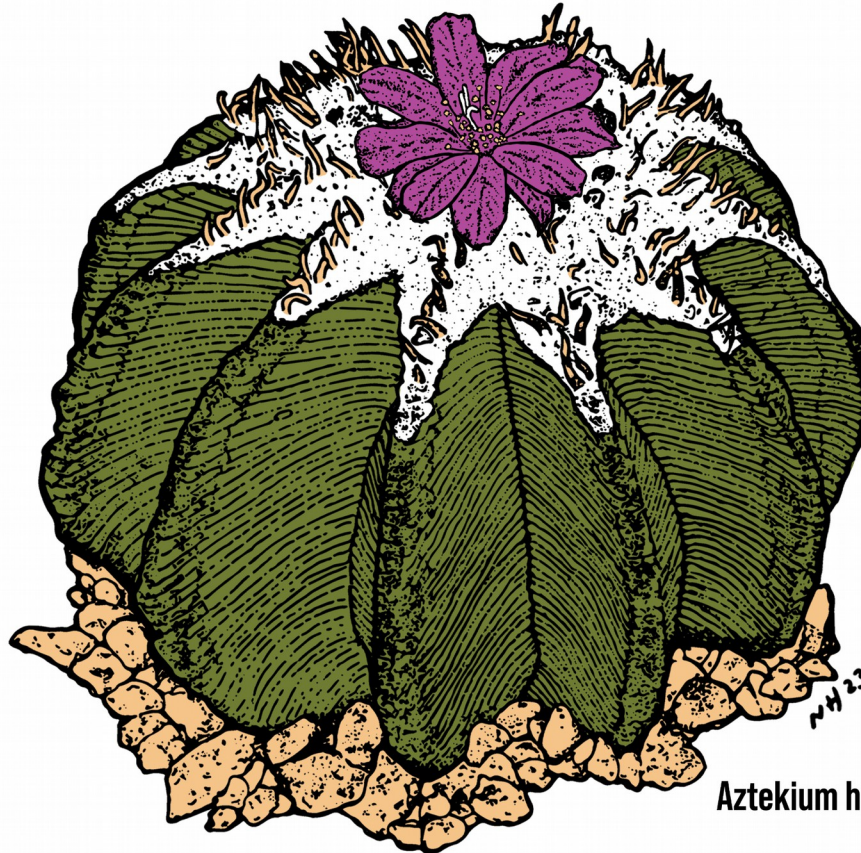
Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including: "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of thirteen C&S societies across the country. He has been president, show and sale chair, newsletter editor, program chair, and plant of the month coordinator. Woody has also served on the CSSA board and numerous societies in many other leadership positions. He is a co-creator, and currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show.



37th Annual **Inter-City**
Cactus & Succulent
Show and Sale



Aztekium hintonii

August 4th, 2023 - Sale 8AM-5PM

August 5th & 6th, 2023 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum - www.intercityshow.com

Hosted by the Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies

 **Instagram: @intercityshow**  **Facebook Group: intercityshow**

We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale

LBCC Desert Campout in the Anza Borrego Desert

March 17-19, 2023



Spring is the perfect time to visit the desert. Come join us for a campout in the Anza Borrego Desert, which is in the Colorado Desert section of the Sonoran Desert. Bring your own food and camping supplies for a great weekend in the desert. We will camp on the McNair property next to Anza Borrego State Park. Water and a bathroom are available there. We can accommodate tents, small trailers or vehicle camping. It is approximately a 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hour drive from Long Beach.

Here are some plants that we will be sure to see: *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*, *C. acanthocarpa*, *Mammillaria dioca*, *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, *Opuntia basilaris*, *Fouquieria splendens* and *Agave deserti*. We may also see some wildflowers. The days will be in the 70-80's and the night in the 50-60's. During the day, we will check out the desert and in the evening we will have a potluck dinner and camp fire.

Those signing up will receive more detailed information on what to bring and driving directions.

To sign up, email: kathymcnair@dslextrême.com

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>
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

Advanced		Intermediate		Beginner	
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

Plant of the Month - Succulent

African Euphorbia

African Euphorbia is a diverse group of succulent plants that are native to the African continent. The genus Euphorbia contains a large number of species, many of which are known for their unique and striking appearance. African Euphorbias are prized for their adaptability and low maintenance requirements, making them popular choices for gardeners and landscapers. They can be used in a variety of ways, from planting as individual specimens to using in mass plantings and as borders. Despite their beauty and ease of care, it is important to be cautious when handling these plants, as many species contain a toxic white sap that can irritate the skin and eyes.



Euphorbia poissonii - Chinko Nature Reserve
Photo: marynvdlarse via iNaturalist



Euphorbia obesa - Cacadu, South Africa
Photo: Jean Audissou



Euphorbia caput-medusae
Table Mountain National Park, South Africa
Photo: Ray Turnbull



Euphorbia squarrosa - Eastern Cape, South Africa
Photo: Valentino Vallicelli

Plant of the Month - Cactus

Ariocarpus

Ariocarpus is a genus of slow-growing cacti that are native to northern & central Mexico with one species also being found in southern Texas. It's name comes from Greek aria (an oak type) and carpos; 'fruit' because of the resemblance of the fruit of the two genus in acorn form. In cultivation, and in habitat, most plants occur as single headed specimens, but all will form multiheaded clumps. Ariocarpus have a very late flowering season. Flowers usually appear in late August or early September and the season may extend to early November, by which time the winter drying out process should be well under way. Some species of Ariocarpus are considered to be endangered due to habitat destruction and over-collection, it is important to purchase plants from reputable sources.



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus - Cepeda, Mexico
Photo: Nathalie Pineda



Ariocarpus trigonus - Tamaulipas, Mexico
Photo: Felipe Eduardo San Martín González



Ariocarpus retusus- Coahuila, Mexico
Photo: Jesús Alejandro Salazar Ortiz



Ariocarpus fissuratus cv. Green Coral
Japan (Nursery produced cultivar)
Photo: Flavio Agrosi

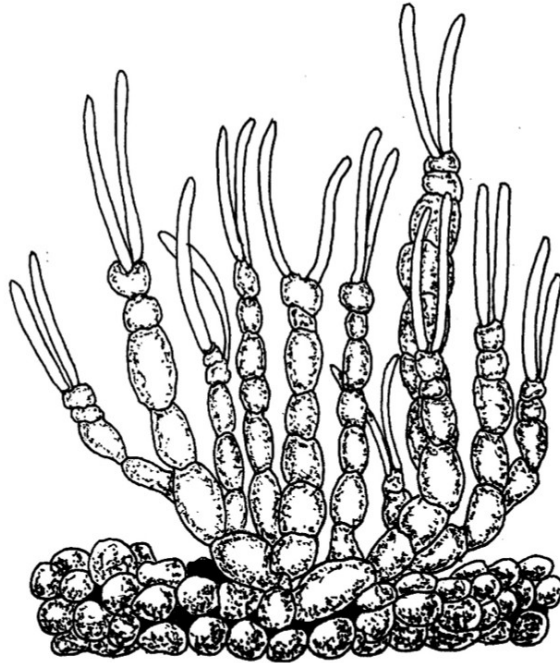


Copiapoa haseltoniana along the coast north of Taltal, Chile; photo by Woody Minnich

SNACK AND REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LAST NAME STARTS WITH</u>
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

**28th Annual San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale**



Monilaria chrysoleuca

March 17 8 AM - 5 PM March 18 8 AM – 5 PM

NEW LOCATION FREE ENTRY FREE PARKING

Arcadia Masonic Center, 50 W Duarte Road, Arcadia

www.sgvcss.com



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: _____

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	OPEN
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



*Raffle item at a plant exchange in Long Beach
photo by Andrew Lander*