

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

A U G U S T 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 7

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Gianluca Bacci

**Introduction to The
Biology of Xeric
Plant Cultivation**



ARID PLANTS A-Z ELI COHEN

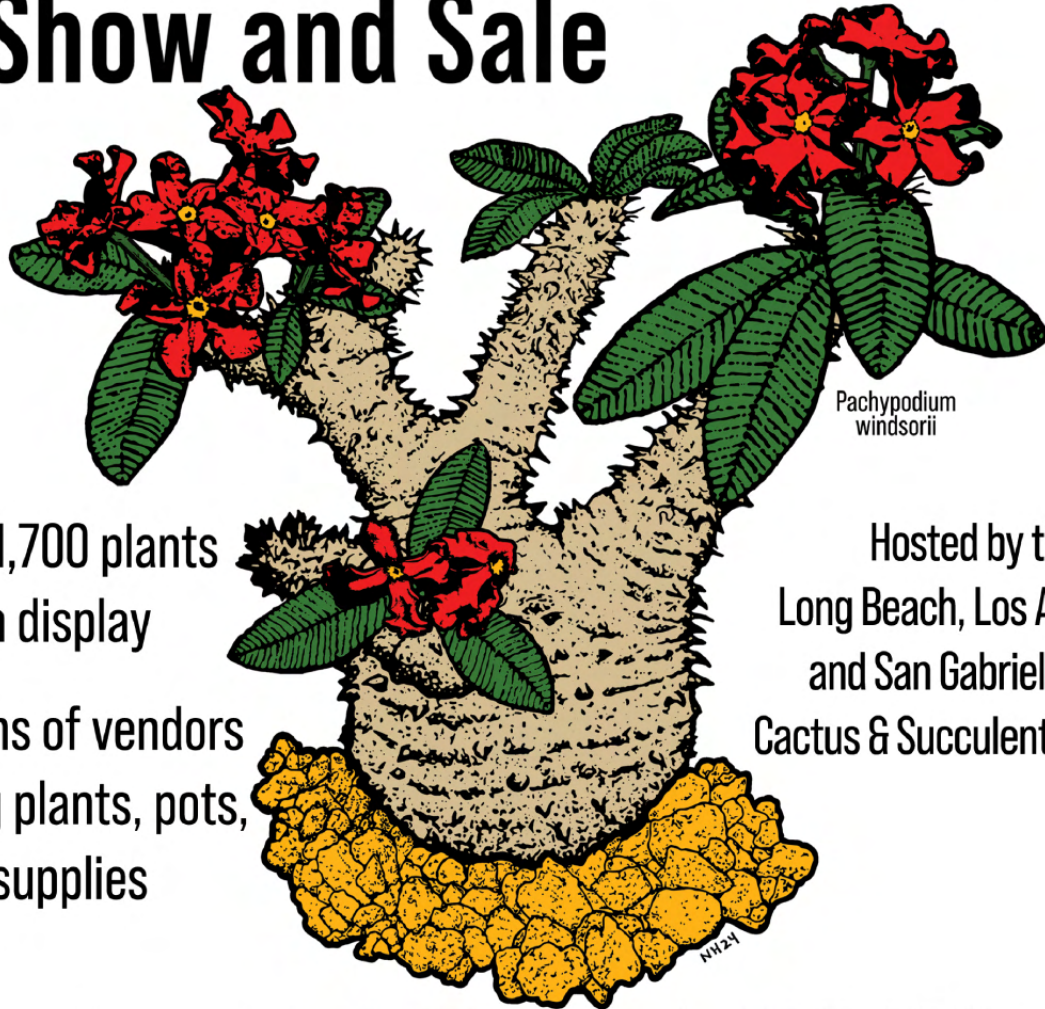
Remember to bring in
problem plants, plant ID
+ special interest plants



REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING
WITH 'M'

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST THURSDAY
MEETING START TIME: 7PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM
ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

38th Annual *Inter-City*
Cactus & Succulent
Show and Sale



Pachypodium
windsorii

Over 1,700 plants
on display

Dozens of vendors
selling plants, pots,
supplies

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

August 2nd, 2024 - Sale 8AM-5PM

August 3rd & 4th, 2024 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum - www.intercityshow.com

 Instagram: @intercityshow  Facebook Group: intercityshow

We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale

FOR MORE INFO CLICK HERE

[TICKETS, SHOW SCHEDULE, VENDORS, SPEAKER SCHEDULE ETC.](#)

Refreshments!

It is a collective effort and responsibility each month to supply our members with sustenance, **THIS BRINGS US TO THE MONTH OF AUGUST AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTERS "M"**

If your last name begins with that letter, please bring something to share, enough for approximately 10 people. If you'd like to bring more that is okay too.

To facilitate set-up and clean-up, we ask that your contribution be in individual portions and/or a disposable container. At the end of the meeting, all leftovers, including containers, will be discarded. If you are available to help set up or tear down the refreshment center, please see me at the meeting at the Refreshment Table.

If you are unable to contribute, the club will also have a jar/bowl at the refreshment table if you would like to donate money so that the club can continue to supplement refreshments brought by the attendees.



Aug - Members whose last name begins with "M"

Sept - Members whose last name begins with "O, P, R"

Oct - Members whose last name begins with "S, T, U, V"

Nov - Members whose last name begins with "W, N, Q, Y, Z"



Gianluca Bacci is an avid succulent collector who has a passion for developing new innovative ways to sustainably grow and propagate rare plants. He began collecting succulents at the age of 5, and has worked professionally in the horticultural industry for the past 10. He spent the last 2 years managing and caring for the Xeric plant collection at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He is now in the process of establishing his own specialty wholesale production nursery in Northern California, and hopes to use it to make many of the rare species he grows more readily available in the Horticultural trade, because “no species should be rare”.

Introduction to the Biology of Xeric Plant Cultivation

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

Join me in learning about the fundamentals of plant biology, with an emphasis on its relation to cultivating Succulents and Cacti.

Together we will discuss light and temperature requirements through the lens of photosynthesis. We will explore fertilizer and water requirements by understanding the chemistry of plant nutrients. And we will gain a basic understanding of potting media composition using the nature of water.

Use this knowledge to enhance and fine tune your growing technique!



FROM THE M E S S A G E PRESIDENT

Inter-city! Inter-city! Inter-city!

Excitement is in the air as we approach the 38th Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale! This spectacular event, hosted by the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society, the Long Beach Cactus Club, and the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society, is an unparalleled gathering for cactus and succulent enthusiasts!

If you haven't attended this event before, you are in for an extraordinary experience! The show is a visual feast, featuring hundreds of stunning plants that will captivate your imagination and inspire your own collection. You'll encounter rare and unique specimens that you won't see anywhere else!

Mark your calendars for August 2nd through the 4th at the Arboretum. To add to the excitement, we invite you to volunteer for a few hours. Not only will you contribute to the success of the event, but you'll also gain free entry! You can still sign up to volunteer at our Thursday night meeting.

This event isn't just about viewing plants. There will be informative classes and an opportunity to purchase new additions for your collection. It's a must-attend event for anyone passionate about cacti and succulents!

As you prepare for this exciting event, please keep in mind we are currently experiencing a heat wave. Average temperatures are soaring higher than usual, making it all the more important to stay hydrated and take necessary precautions when outdoors. Interestingly, this extreme weather mirrors the natural habitats of many cacti and succulents, showcasing their incredible adaptability and resilience in hot, arid environments.

In these unusually warm conditions, it's essential to know how to care for your cacti properly. Here are a few tips:

Watering:

Water early in the morning or late in the evening to prevent rapid evaporation.

Shading:

Protect from intense, direct sunlight by providing partial shade. Use shade cloths or move potted cacti to a shaded area.

Ventilation:

Ensure good air circulation around your plants to prevent overheating and potential fungal issues.

Soil Moisture:

Keep an eye on the soil moisture. Even though it's hot, avoid overwatering as this can lead to root rot.



**See you all Thursday, August 1st
Cande Friedman**

OF BOARD DIRECTORS 2 0 2 4

LACSS MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

PRESIDENT

Cande Friedman

PAST PRESIDENT

Artie Chavez + Joyce Schumann

1ST VP, PROGRAMS

Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, EDUCATION

Desiree Alexander + Emily Diebold

SECRETARY

Kate Eplboim

TREASURER

Nick Steinhardt

DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP

Kelsey Osterman

DIRECTOR 2 SPECIAL EVENTS

Jim Esterle

CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Angela Clubb + Nikki Bova

CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

SALE + FESTIVAL CHAIR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Manny Rivera
with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

Al Mindel

PLANT PROCUREMENT

Collin O'Callaghan

HISTORIAN

Sandy Chase

AWARDS DINNER CHAIR

Vacant

LIBRARIAN

Joyce Schumann

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Kim Thorpe Chavez
Kate Eplboim
Kimberly Gomez-Tong
Anthony Cantiello

PLANT OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

Blossfeldia, Yavia
Dudleya, Cotyledon

FEBRUARY

Mammillaria Hook Spine
Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

MARCH

Copiapoa
Tulista, Astroloba

APRIL

Cacti of Baja California
Succulents of Baja California Mex

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Opuntia North America
Jatropha, Pedilanthus

AUGUST

Neochilenia, Neoporteria
Commiphora, Boswellia

SEPTEMBER

Ariocarpus
Fockea, Ipomoea

OCTOBER

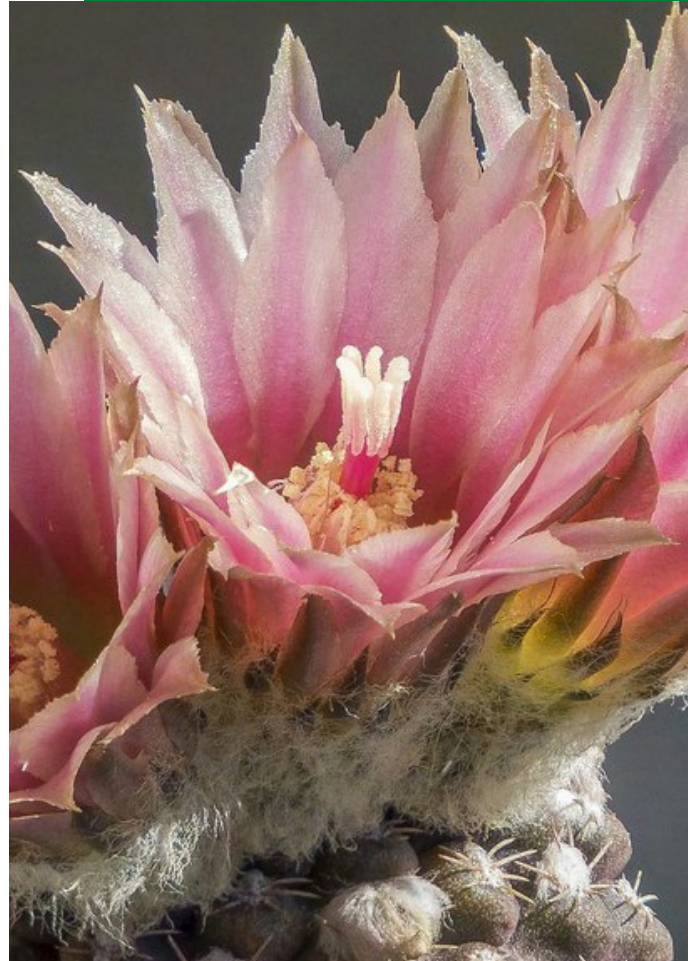
Trichocereus
Hoya, Ceropegia, Dischidia

NOVEMBER

Variiegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



Eriosyce including Neochilenia & Neoporteria

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

*Eriosyce napina*

Eriosyce is a genus of cacti from Chile and parts of Peru and Argentina. They are popular among cactus enthusiasts as they are small, easy to grow and many of the species have colorful bodies and interesting spines. Most species start out globular, with some staying that way and clumping readily, while others slowly become columnar. At least one species, *E. aurata*, becomes large and round somewhat similar to a Golden Barrel. The name Eriosyce means “wooly fruit” one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. The genus in its current form is a relatively recent taxonomic change from up to eleven small genera into a single medium size genus of about 35 species. Of those many genera, Neochilenia and Neoporteria are the best known to growers.

Eriosyce is a great example of how good taxonomy can work. Professional taxonomists do not change names for the sake of change. If they make a change it is because intensive research, often spanning several years, shows that a nomenclatural change is in the best interests of science.

In this case we have lots of different genera because numerous taxonomists over the last century or so looked at these plants piecemeal, often using only dry specimens \in a museum, or only seeing a small number of species in habitat. They did their best with what they had, but without the big picture it is easy to think you have something unique that deserves its own genus. Then came along a taxonomist who decided to really focus on this group and spent extensive time in the field seeing them in the wild. Once he was able to study the full range of variation within and between species it became clear to him that they really were just a single genus. Interestingly, in 2019 a different researcher did a DNA study (phylogeny) of these species and found the they were all closely related and should be a single genus. The combination of field work and laboratory study necessitated the change that led to 11 different genera being combined into one, Eriosyce. A takeaway of this for the average grower is that if you have any cacti labeled as Neochilenia and Neoporteria you should change them to Eriosyce.

I discuss this not to try to turn you into a taxonomist, but to help explain why name you are familiar with has changed. Must you follow a name change? Of course not, but don't justify your refusal by claiming scientists just like to change names. Note that I'm referring to professional or very serious amateur taxonomists (the latter being the case for Eriosyce) that back up their claims with solid data and publish in respected journals. Bad taxonomy does exist, but it usually has telltale signs.

All of the species of Eriosyce are small enough to be potted plants, with some of the bigger ones also working as small landscape plants for a succulent garden. They take general cactus care though they can be especially sensitive to overwatering as most species have tap roots. Well-draining soil is a must. The species with colorful bodies are usually at their best in high light (protect from afternoon sun) and may turn greenish in lower light. Most species can take the occasional light frosts we get in this region.

*Eriosyce occulta**Eriosyce villosa*

Boswellia & Commiphora

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

This month we are going biblical! Don't worry, we are still a cactus club, not a church. But we are dealing with the source for two of the most famous biblical gifts, Frankincense and Myrrh. Both *Boswellia* and *Commiphora* are members of the Burseraceae, a family of drought tolerant woody plants with ethereal oils in the stems and leaves. These ethereal oils are the source for the scents that makes these plants so distinctive. Both genera come from dry parts of Africa, the Arabian Peninsula and India. Their ethnobotanical importance is clear from mentions in the bible, ancient Greece, and earlier still ancient Egypt.

Both genera have similar cultivation requirements. They all do best when watered in the summer in Southern California. They are best protected during the winter rain and need protection when freezes occur. Any standard succulent mix will do as a potting medium. Growth is much more rapid when they are fed. If grown in an open mix they can take an amazing amount of water in the summer, and will reward the grower with substantial growth and trunk thickening. All of the plants do well when treated as bonsai, and pruned to expose the geometry and structure of the trunk and bark. Planting in the ground will greatly accelerate the growth rate.



Commiphora zanzibarica Fruit



Boswellia sacra

Boswellia is a wide spread genus of 20 species, with a range that extends from East Africa to India. Many of the species are beautiful caudiciform trees with glossy leaves. The species are aromatic, with woody fragrance from their leaves and bark. Most of the species are worth growing and can be made into show specimens by suitable pruning. Species frequently seen are *Boswellia sacra*.



Commiphora saxicola

Commiphora is a large (120 species) and widespread genus, stretching from South Africa through tropical Africa and continuing into Madagascar and even India. Many of the species have peeling bark, although the color tends to run more towards the yellow and brown rather than red. In general *Commiphora* tend to be larger and are more likely to be forest trees than *Boswellia*.

Vigorous growth is also found in well fed and watered plants. *Commiphora* are aromatic, with fragrances that manage to be both similar and different to *Boswellia*. *Commiphora pyracanthoides* is a larger plant and easily grown from seed. *Commiphora capensis* and *cervifolia* are both occasionally available. Unnamed (or unidentified) species of *Commiphora* from Sudan, Madagascar,

Kenya, and Tropical Africa are sometimes available, and beginning to be propagated. Named species are beginning to appear on seed lists and nursery catalogs. The genus is understudied, and there are many species unknown or unidentified.

Blooming Knowledge

**UPCOMING
Educational Workshops
HOSTED by the
Los Angeles Cactus
and Succulent Society**

OUR EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS SPAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EACH MONTH FEATURING A DIFFERENT THEME AND EXPERT SPEAKER. LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT AWAITS ATTENDEES IN THE COMING MONTHS:

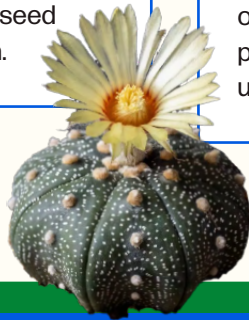
**THIS
MONTH'S
WORKSHOP**

**AUGUST 17
10AM**

**SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
16633 MAGNOLIA BLVD,
ENCINO, CA 91436**

All About Flowers with Ernesto

Join us as we delve into the fascinating world of flowers with Ernesto Sandoval. He'll take us through everything you've ever wanted to know about flowers, pollination and seed production.



SEPTEMBER

Grafting with Rob Roy

Join us in September as Rob shares the art of grafting succulents. This hands-on workshop will provide participants with practical skills in plant propagation, opening up new possibilities for creating unique and resilient hybrids.



OCTOBER

**Winter Seed Workshop
with Tom Glavich:**

Round off the year exploring the beauty of winter seeds. Participants will learn about the different adaptations of cacti and succulents during the colder months and how to capture their seasonal charm.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING,
PLEASE EMAIL EMILYDIEBOLD13@GMAIL.COM**



HE
RN
CITY
W

LACSS Member Buying Opportunity

LACSS members are invited to purchase plants from a succulent enthusiast in North Hollywood who wants to reduce her collection. She has many nice, reasonably-priced mature plants that need a little TLC. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please call Linda Beigle at 661-575-3985 to set up an appointment.



Notes from the Library

By Joyce Schumann
Librarian

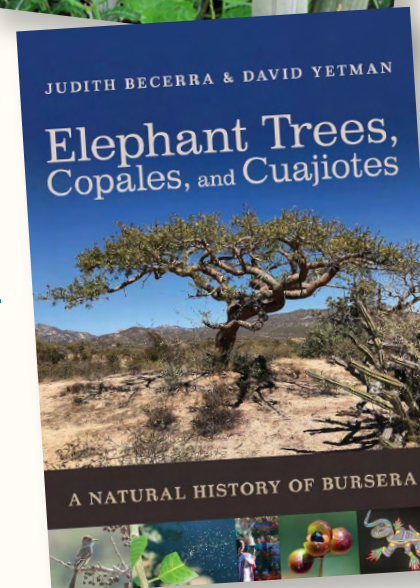
Hi everyone,

This month we have **TWO** new additions to our collection. The first book is by courtesy of our July speaker, Bob Wood, who generously donated his new book, **“The Genus Sansevieria: A Pictorial Guide to the Species”** to our Club. I always suggest that reading the Introduction before trying to match the photos with your plant is the best way to fully utilize the information presented in a book. Especially since the DNA testing is available to help with taxonomy. This up-to-date offering has maps, charts, lists and incredibly beautiful photos.

Our second new book is **“Elephant Trees, Copales, and Cuajjotes - A Natural History of Bursera”** authored by Judith Becerra and David Yetman. Again, I say - read the Forward and Introduction before you compare photos and your plants. The authors have covered every aspect of this unusual plant (one of my favorites!) - history, cultivation, habitat, description, uses, and some incredible photos. A must read for everyone!!!

Check out both of these new arrivals and you will be hooked!! And since we have so many new members, I will summarize the policies/ procedure for checking out a book: The books are stored in storage bins in categories. Check the labels on the bins. Find the book(s) you would like to check out. You may check out 2 books. Remove the old-fashioned library card from the pocket, write the date (month, year), your name & phone number on the card. Give card to me or whoever is stationed at the Library. Return the book(s) at the next monthly meeting. Then you may check out two more books.....

Happy reading and SEE YOU SOON.



South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

Peter Walkowiak

"SOIL AND FERTILIZER FOR SUCCULENTS"

Peter, who has been fascinated with plants since he was 5, will be speaking about the best soil and fertilizer for growing succulents. There are three ingredients for his soil mix. He'll explain what materials you can substitute and what materials to avoid.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 2024
1:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden,
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
Peninsula 90274.

Free admission for SCCSS members and
their guests. For more information visit
southcoastcss.org



2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUG 2-4 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
INFO. WWW.INTERCITYSHOW.COM OR CALL 805-264-6262
FRI AUG. 2 SALE ONLY(NO SHOW) 9AM-6:30 PM
SAT & SUN AUG. 3-4 SHOW & SALE 9AM-5PM
LA COUNTY ARBORETUM, 301 N. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA
- AUG 30 - SEP 1 MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE AND SHOW
FRI. 3PM-6PM MEMBERS ONLY, SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 9AM-3PM
ISTW PORTUGUESE HALL, 124 ATKINSON LANE, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
- AUG 31 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
9AM-3PM RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
INFO. RESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG, SYMPOSIUM-CALL 626-405-3571
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA
- OCT 6 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL AUCTION
1PM-330PM, INFO. CALL 714-553-6914
WOMENS CLUB OF BELLFLOWER, 9402 OAK ST., BELLFLOWER, CA
- OCT 13 CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE 9AM-4PM
INFO. WWW.CONEJOCSS.COM OR CONEJOCSS@HOTMAIL.COM
558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320
- OCT 26-27 PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW AND SALE
SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN ADMISSION REQUIRED
SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 10AM-3PM INFO. RWKOPFSTEIN@GMAIL.COM
SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN, CONSERVATORY, 230 QUAIL GARDENS DR.
- NOV 1-3 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRI./SAT./SUN.
10AM-5PM INFO: RESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG CALL 626-405-3571
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA