

Minutes for the Long Beach Cactus Club – April 28, 2019

The April 28th meeting of the Long Beach Cactus Club was called to order at 11:00am by President **Krystoff Przykucki** at Rancho Los Alamitos, CA. He welcomed 38 members and guests, including attending LBCC board members:

Scott Bunnell, VP/Social Media
Henry Angulo, Treasurer
Andrew Lander, Newsletter/ Scorekeeper
Tanisha Herr, Membership
Regina Fernandez, Social Media/Publicity
Mike Martin, Rancho Garden Committee

Nan Halbert, Secretary
Amelia Angulo, Social Media/Publicity
James Lemos, Tri-City Co-Chair
Rose Bank, Social Media/Publicity
Jim Hanna, Prize Plants

Also in attendance was our guest speaker, **Sandy Chase**.

Announcements

Henry Angulo, Treasurer, updated us on the status of our May Plant Show and Sale which looks as if it has all of the elements to be a great success! There will be 36 different categories for Show Plants and 13 verified vendors for the Plant Sale. Ribbons will be offered for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

Plants will be accepted for the May Sale and Show on Friday from 1-4pm. All plants must be clean and pest free. They must be picked up on Sunday between 1 and 4pm. The show will be staged at the tent and will be a perfect photo opportunity for Facebook and Instagram.

Volunteers are still needed.

Krystoff conducted the raffle while Sandy prepared for her presentation. Special nametags were given to **Jim and Roberta Hanna** for their many years of support for LBCC.

Free plants were given to **Rose Bank**, our photographer, **Dean Woehrman**, guests and several new members who have heard about our club on Instagram. **Regina Fernandez**, Publicity Committee Chair, acknowledged **LaVerne Pritzer**, who was LBCC Vice President around 1980 and **Jean Dare** for her contributions on Facebook.

While Sandy prepared for her presentation, Krystoff posed the question “Why do we bring plants to our Mini -Show and the Inter-City Show”? The answer... it generates money to pay our Speakers, funds our Christmas Party and covers LBCC expenses. The May Mini-Show is a

dress rehearsal for the Inter-City Show. The people at this show are experts in plant ID which helps all of us to learn. A successful Inter-City Show will also guarantee our club one third of the proceeds from the biggest Succulent Show in the country!

We also have members working for the better of our club **Mike Martin, Regina Fernandez** and **Scott Bunnell**, who maintains our website. Our club meets on the 1st Sunday of every month at 10:30am at Rancho Los Alamitos. Some of the up and coming events included the Annual May Plant Sale and Show, the Inter-City Show on August 10 and possibly another show in November.

James Lemos, Inter- City Show Chair asked all members to bring a plant that you are proud of and have owned for at least one year.

New members Nelson and Derick were acknowledged and informed us that they heard about the LBCC through Woody's lecture.

Sandy Chase, our guest speaker judged our Mini-Show assisted by **Scott Bunnell** and **Coni Nettles**.

Regina Fernandez, Publicity Committee Chair, spoke about Instagram and Facebook and thanked everyone for photos and postings that generate a huge interest in our club and often result in new membership. **Shirley Kost, Jean Dare, Amelia Angulo, Tanisha Herr, Alden Norris, Scott Bunnell** and **Gary Duke**, a new Facebook member, have offered to help ID plants and share photos on social media which is appreciated.

Guest speaker, **Sandy Chase**, The Sweet, the Foul and the Awesome Asciepiads!

Sandy introduced to us through photos and information the world of Asciepiads, a large group of succulents which are mostly confined to Old World and have a highly specialized pollination process. The flowers of these very interesting and most unusual plants are pollinated by insects and are grown in the hottest parts of Africa, Madagascar, Socotra and the Canary Islands.

They would include a picture gallery very similar to orchids and the flowers smell like rotting flesh which attract flies for pollination. They use the "lock and key method", which is a very specialized process unique to this species. Then they produce 2 seed horns which are blown by

the wind. Some have a birdcage structure with a very putrid smell which comes from the unique star shaped flowers. Also, some are easy growers from hanging baskets and due to their popularity are becoming available in the United States. Some have a symbiotic relationship and help each other out without harm. These vary from Echinopsis, the Persian Carpet flowers which can be very tall as well as microscopic as well as some hoyas that have a sweet scent like cinnamon, chocolate and citrus. These plants prefer a tropical environment with misty water. One of their unusual characteristics are hairs inside of plant which help to create a path for insects to reach the center of plant. Sandy's collection was started in 1986.

Sandy also explained the "pencil test" when attempting to determine whether a plant needs water as well as the soil mixture of 80% pumice with 20% organic and sometimes 100% pumice. Drainage and overwatering are the main problems with the growth of these somewhat temperamental and very beautiful, special plants. Truly a gift from Mother Nature!

Sandy also suggested using "dry stall" which is a product originally used for horse stalls and fertilizing at a ½ to ¼ of the normal strength. Most of all, she advised us to "Have fun and play with them" and if all else fails try cutting them up and try for seedlings! Thank you Sandy!

Coni Nettles announced the winners of the Mini- Show: **Amelia Angulo** and **Richard Salcedo**. Sandy Chase noted that we have some "dynamite plants" that would do very well at the Inter-City Show in August.

James Lemos, Inter-City Committee Chair requested an email from any members who had questions about the Inter-City Show at jameslemos@yahoo.com or get information from Krystoff.

Krystoff thanked all members and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Halbert – LBCC Secretary