

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

O C T O B E R 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 10

MONTHLY PROGRAM
Steven Hammer



Flowering Cones

ARID PLANTS
A-Z
ELI COHEN



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

REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING WITH
'S', 'T', 'U', & 'V'

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

Refreshments!

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

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.



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

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

FROM THE

M E S S A G E PRESIDENT

October is here, and with it comes that wonderful shift in the seasons. While some of our summer-loving plants are winding down, it's time to celebrate the ones that are just getting started—our winter growers! These unique plants thrive during the cooler months, and now's the time to give them the attention they need. Some of the winter plants in our collections include Aloes, Haworthias, Gasterias, and Conophytums. You might also see some leafing out of your Tylecodons and Pelargoniums. These plants love the cooler weather and shorter days that autumn brings, so look out for new growth!

Here are a few simple tips to help you care for your winter growers:

Watering: While most of our summer plants are resting, the winter growers are just waking up and will need a bit more water. Just be careful—let the soil dry out between waterings

Light: A bright window or a spot with indirect sunlight should do the trick for indoor plants.

Temperature: Keep your winter growers in a cooler range, ideally between 50-60°F.

Repotting & Fertilizing: Fall is a great time to repot if needed. A light feeding with a balanced fertilizer will also give them a little boost as they head into their growth season.

As we head into the end of the year, I'd also like to encourage you to step up and get more involved with the club! We're a community-driven organization, and we rely on the passion and energy of our members to keep things running. Whether you've been with us for years or are a newer member looking to contribute, there's always a role for you!

In November, we'll be presenting a new slate for the Board of Directors, and we need your help. If you've ever thought about taking on more responsibility

—whether it's joining the board, helping with events, or taking on a specific task—now's the perfect time to let us know. It's a great way to connect with fellow members, share your love of succulents and cacti, and help shape the future of our club.

If you're interested or have any questions about what's involved, please reach out to me or any of the current board members. We'd love to chat and find the right fit for you.

Whether you're excited to care for your winter growers or thinking about stepping into a new role with the club, there's plenty to look forward to as we head into the fall season. Enjoy the last burst of color from your summer plants and the first signs of life from your winter growers!



See you all Thursday,
October 3rd
Cande Friedman



Photo credit: Joshua Evans

Steven Hammer

In June 1962 I met Harry Johnson and *Lithops lesliei*. Harry was 68 years old, the *lesliei*s were 2, and I was 11 and too scared to speak. Nonetheless it was a most fruitful introduction and it led to a friendship with Harry - I must have been one of his youngest and shyest customers - and a lifetime's engagement with plants. After a misspent education at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and UCSC, I turned semi-pro in 1977, selling and sowing *Cole* lithops seeds, and in 1986 I joined Mesa Garden in New Mexico as staff pollinator. In 1997 I moved to Vista to work at my own one-horse nursery, the Sphaeroid Institute. Early in 2022 it added a second horse. Meanwhile I visited South Africa 29 times and found some interesting things. Or they found me.



Flowering Cones

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

In Steven Hammer's program "Flowering Cones," he delves into the fascinating life cycle of *Conophytum* plants, particularly emphasizing their peak period in October. During this time, these South African succulents reach their floral and vegetative climax, showcasing a vibrant display of colors and forms. Hammer expertly explains the intricate processes behind this seasonal transformation, highlighting the environmental and biological factors that trigger such beauty. His program not only celebrates the visual allure of *Conophytums* but also educates on the unique adaptations that allow these plants to thrive in their harsh native habitats, offering insights into their cultivation and conservation.





OF BOARD DIRECTORS 2024

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.

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Kimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com

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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

Variigated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



Hoya, Ceropegia & Dichidia

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



Hoya sp. Malaysia

The Apocynaceae is one of the largest plant families and includes many familiar succulent and caudiciform genera such as Milkweeds, Adenium, Pachypodium, Fockea, Plumeria and Stapeliads just to name a few. Equally deserving of merit from this family are today's genera Hoya, Dischidia, and Ceropegia. Hoya and Dischidia in particular are very closely related and often confused with each other. All 3 genera share a vining or trailing habit that made them ideally suited for hanging baskets and trellises.

Hoya, sometimes called Wax Flower, is a very large genus of over 500 species of trailing epiphytes native to tropical Asia down to Australia. The plants have distinctive succulent leaves that are generally medium to large sized, though some have small leaves. But the real interest in this genus is the flowers. The great majority of species produce umbels (clusters of flowers originating from a single point) that look like balls of color. Individual flowers vary from a few millimeters to several inches in diameter, though most are 1/4"

to 1/2". Flower color runs the gambit from white to yellow, orange to red, pink to purple, and most every color in between (except blue). Often the flowers are bicolor with a main color for the petals and a contrasting color in the center. Most flowers are smooth and waxy looking, but quite a few species have fuzzy or hairy flowers.

Dischidia is closely related and shares a lot of similarities with Hoya. They have nearly the same range of tropical Asia down to Australia. They are both epiphytes found growing in trees, rocks, and other non-soil locations. They are both trailing vines with succulent leaves. Dischidia is a genus, with 125 species, though not quite so large as Hoya's 500+. So why not just combine them together into one larger genus? Because Dischidia does have distinct traits not found in Hoya. The leaves are generally smaller and "grip" or "grab" the bark of the tree, growing flat against it. They commonly have hollows in the tubers and leaves that ants live in. So it is a type of ant plant. In exchange for a home and nectar, the ants help defend the plant from pests. While small, these leaves are more interestingly shaped and patterned than Hoya. These leaves are the most common reason people grow Dischidia, as the flowers are much smaller and less intricate than the average Hoya. Don't misunderstand me, the flowers are attractive, it is just that Hoya have some of the most striking and showy flowers among all succulents!

Ceropegia is a bit of the odd man out in this group. That said, they are related, being members of the same plant family. Also, the habit is a vine. They have a very large range that overlaps that of Hoya and Dischidia, but also extends into Africa. The vining habit is obvious in the trailing leafy species like Ceropegia woodii or C.saundersii, but even in the thick stemmed species like C. stapeliiformis this habit can be seen once the stems get some length to them. Many species are leafy, but quite a number are leafless or at least functionally leafless in that the small leaves fall off shortly after being produced. This is an adaptation to drier environments. The real interest in Ceropegia comes from the unusual flowers. They look like they are from an alien planet! They are often tubular, or urn shaped with unique color patterns, hairs, and oddly shaped petals. Every species has its own unique take on these flowers as well. All 3 genera require similar growing conditions. They like shadier conditions and definitely don't want direct sun. A well-draining mix is important, and in fact most species would like an epiphyte mix similar to Orchids and Bromeliads. Despite wanting a well-drained mix most don't want to dry out either. So, some moisture all the time is important. The only exception is the leafless, more succulent, Ceropegia species which can dry out between waterings.



Dischidia ovata



Dischidia ovata

Trichocereus

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

Trichocereus comprises tall, columnar cacti native to the deserts and mountains of South America, especially in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru. They are known traditionally for their impressive height, stunning flowers, and cultural significance. Today, however, they are also popular both with general cacti enthusiasts that want an interesting landscape specimen as well as with a particular subset of collectors who are interested in their medicinal and hallucinogenic properties.



Trichocereus huascha

The genus Trichocereus was first described in the 19th century, but it has undergone significant taxonomic changes over the years. For much of the 20th century, Trichocereus was recognized as a distinct genus; however, it has since been incorporated into the genus Echinopsis by many taxonomists. Despite this, many plant enthusiasts and collectors still refer to them as Trichocereus, as the name has become deeply ingrained in popular use. So, for the sake of this month's cactus of the month we will go by the traditional circumscription of Trichocereus and not include it with Echinopsis.

Trichocereus are known for their tall, columnar growth habit. Some species can reach heights of 20-30 feet or more in their native environments and can be nearly as impressive in Southern California landscapes. Their stems are ribbed, with areoles (small bumps) along the ribs, from which large spines emerge. Outside of their large stature in the landscape, the most striking feature of Trichocereus are their large, fragrant flowers. The blooms can range from white to pink, red, or yellow, depending on the species. These flowers are typically nocturnal, opening in the evening and often lasting only a day or two. Some species produce flowers that are over 6" in diameter.

Presumably most of us grow these in appreciation of their beauty. There is, however, a sizeable number of collectors that look for newer varieties not bred so much for their appearance but for the mescaline content of the plants. Yes, this genus contains the same psychoactive compounds as in the better-known Peyote, Lophophora. Much like Peyote, these plants have been used for hundreds of years by traditional South American societies for medicine. Today, collectors interested in accessing these compounds are spending hundreds to thousands of dollars on the most desirable cultivars. It should be noted that while Peyote is explicitly illegal to own and use in this fashion, it is more of a gray area with Trichocereus. We are not in a position to give legal advice, however there is no prohibition in owning Trichocereus for purely horticultural purposes. Anything beyond that becomes questionable.



Trichocereus hybridt



Trichocereus panchanoit



Blooming Knowledge

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

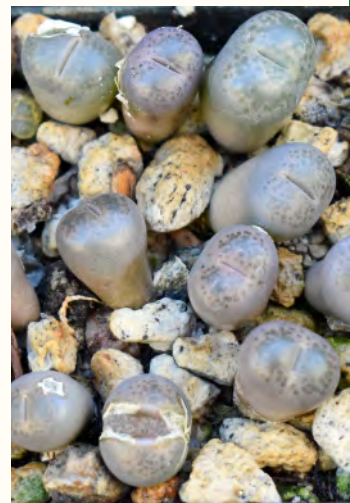
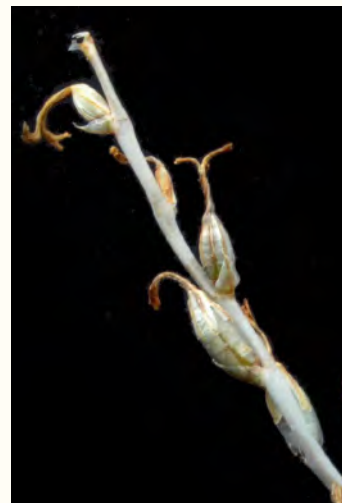
WINTER SEED WORKSHOP WITH TOM GLAVICH

SATURDAY, OCT 12TH 2024
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
10AM

THIS
MONTH'S
WORKSHOP

Tom Glavich is a long time member of the CSSA and is a member of the Inter-City, CSSA and San Gabriel Winter Show committees. He has been show chair and sales chair. He has been growing from seed since he started growing plants.

This workshop will take you through the process of starting winter growing succulent seeds. We will provide the seeds, growing medium pots and all other supplies needed. You get to do the work and then take home several pots of seeds that you can grow on to become future show plants. No previous experience is needed.



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

Blooming Knowledge

SATURDAY WORKSHOP RECAP

report by Emily Diebold

Last month, Long Beach Cactus Club vice president and greenhouse manager Will Ramirez came to talk to us about grafting.

We spent the first part of the workshop talking about the theory of grafting. We learned how and why grafting works. We discussed when and why you should graft plants, and when you shouldn't.

Will walked us through how he does grafts. We went through the materials, technique and how to care for newly grafted plants.



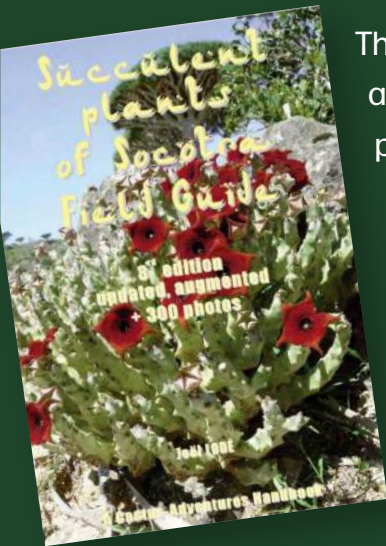
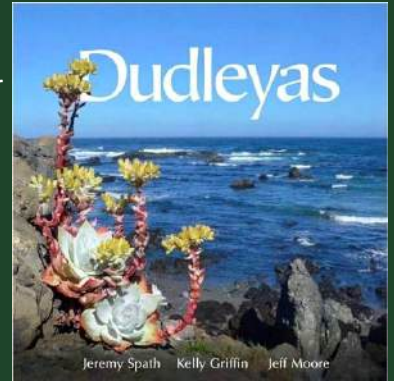
After learning what to do, we got a chance to try it ourselves. We grafted Rebutia to Myrtillocactus stocks. Everyone at the workshop got to try a few grafts.

Anyone who missed out on the fun last month can still join us this month for another hands on workshop on October 12th. We'll be growing winter growing succulents from seed

Notes From the Library

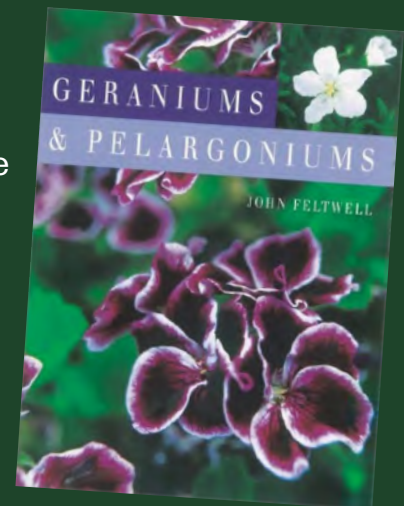
I'm very excited to announce the acquisition of three new books to our LACSS Library collection. Actually one is new, one is an update of a book already in our collection, and one is a replacement of one that was lost.

First the new one – the one we have been waiting for someone to write! “Dudleyas” authored by Jeremy Spath, Kelly Griffin and Jeff Moore. 280 pages, well organized into 10 sections, cover the standard topics of Introduction, Taxonomy, Range/Habitat, Hybrids/Cultivars & Aberrations, Cultivation, Propagation, and Species. Almost all the photos are in habitat. Dudleyas have become very popular and this is the book to help us become successful Dudleya collectors.



The second book is “Succulent Plants of Socotra Field Guide 3rd edition.” This book is authored by Joël Lodé. For those who don't like to take the time to read, this is for you. photos, all in habitat.

The third book is titled “Geraniums and Pelargoniums” by John Feltwell. The “Similarities and Differences” of Geraniums and Pelargoniums are explained in the Introduction. The author grouped the Pelargoniums into five sections covering “Zonals,” “Highfields,” “Stellars,” “Startels and Cacti,” “Regals” and “Butes.” Which of these do you have?? Well worth the time to read!! The Directory at the back lists 175 species and cultivars.



But, don't take my word for it.....Step right up and CHECK IT OUT!!

Joyce

BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE SAN DIEGO ZOO

A Members Only Private Tour

EXCLUSIVELY FOR LACSS MEMBERS



DATE: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2, FROM 10:00AM TIL 12:00 NOON

TRANSPORTATION: ON YOUR OWN. WE WILL MEET AT THE PARK ENTRANCE AT 9:45AM. YOU CAN DRIVE DOWN SATURDAY MORNING OR STAY OVERNIGHT IN SAN DIEGO FRIDAY NIGHT.

THE TOUR: CONDUCTED BY THE ZOO'S HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, THE TOUR WILL INCLUDE THE AFRICAN COLLECTION AND THE ZOO GREENHOUSES.

COST: \$50:00 PER PERSON, INCLUDES THE TOUR AND AFTERNOON VISIT TO THE REMAINDER OF THE ZOO, AN INCREDIBLE VALUE.

This trip is limited to 25 LACSS members, over 18 years of age.

A waiting list will be maintained in the event of cancellation.

Please respond to Jim Esterle with your name, email, and cell phone contact.

Payment is due before or during the October 3 meeting.

jimesterle@gmail.com | 310-864-3224

South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

Gary Duke

**"ROADSIDE WEEDS OF
NEW MEXICO AND TEXAS:
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT"**

Gary will talk about the cacti and succulents he photographed on his a road trip along gravelly fire roads in Texas and New Mexico.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2024
1:00 PM**

Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park McTaggart Hall, 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes 90275.

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





Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale **Sunday, October 13, 2024**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

558 North Ventu Park Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320
SE corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering
Cactus, Succulents, and Bromeliads

Along with Pottery
and Jewelry

Experts will be available for
advice on growing and cultivation



Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society
Web: ConejoCSS.com Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- DEC 8 LACSS ONE DAY HOLIDAY POP UP SALE
ONE GENERATION RESEDA 18255 VICTORY BLVD, RESEDA, CA 91335
FOR MORE INFO LAC