

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 5

VOL. 93 ISSUE 1

MONTHLY PROGRAM

Solomon & Chris

Nursery Management

Pests, Seed Germination, Propagation, and Soils

REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING WITH
'A, B, & C'

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 JANUARY AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTERS "A, B, & C"

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.

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you well and that you're all off to a great start to 2025!

First, I want to thank all the volunteers who helped with our holiday sale. With more than 20 vendors involved, it was a fantastic event and a big success. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm at the auction, and from everyone who attended. We sold a lot of the club's T-shirts and sweatshirts, which was another highlight.

Looking back on the holiday party, I had such a great time seeing everyone come together and enjoy the evening. The catered dinner was delicious, and the Match Game was a true standout. Eli really stole the show in his fabulous 70s suit—it was perfect for hosting and added so much fun and flair to the event. The set was unbelievable (thank you Artie), and the participants were a lot of fun! I also want to extend my thanks to the volunteers who helped set up the dinner—it was no small task, and your efforts truly made the evening a success.

As we move into the new year, I've been especially enjoying the sight of my aloes in bloom. Their vibrant orange and coral-colored flowers bring so much life to the garden during the dormant season. I hope your winter growers are thriving too—it's amazing how much beauty these plants can bring during the colder months.

That said, I can't help but hope we'll get some rain soon. The blooms and greenery could certainly use the boost, and I imagine many of us are ready for a good soaking. Let's keep our fingers crossed for a much-needed rain to refresh our gardens and keep them flourishing.

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with growth and success, both in the garden and beyond. I look forward to more opportunities to connect and collaborate with you in the future!

**See you all Tuesday,
January 7th
Cande Friedman**





**ARID PLANTS
A-Z
ELI COHEN**

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



THIS
MONTH'S
PROGRAM

Solomon + Chris

Chris and Solomon have been good friends for over a decade. Through the years their passion for plants has matured into a small rare plant nursery. They specialize in learning how to germinate and grow some of the tougher plants to produce. They enjoy a decent collection of hard to find plants and are looking forward to growing their collection for the rest of the foreseeable future.

Nursery Management

Pests, Seed Germination, Propagation, and Soils

Nurseries are a vital part of horticulture, and the knowledge and skills needed by those who maintain them are invaluable. For this month's meeting, Solomon and Chris will be sharing their experiences running a nursery. Given their inclination for plants that have been difficult to cultivate, their knowledge on propagation, pest control, seed germination, and soils, is of great importance to anyone interested in xerophytic horticulture. This will be a partially interactive program, so we encourage the audience to ask questions pertinent to their own growing experience or just for the sake of curiosity. This will be a great opportunity for longtime growers to hear about new innovations and techniques, but also a wonderful primer for any novices trying to wrap their head around the nuanced and wide world of growing succulents.



OF BOARD DIRECTORS 2 0 2 5

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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Cande Friedman

PAST PRESIDENT

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Manny Rivera

3RD VP, EDUCATION

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Roxie Esterle

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Manny Rivera
with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

Al Mindel

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Kate Eplboim
Kimberly Gomez-Tong
Anthony Cantiello

PLANT OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

Buiningia and Uebelmannia
Aloe hybrid

FEBRUARY

Echinocereus
Pelargonium

MARCH

Lobivia
Echeveria

APRIL

Mammillaria straight spines
Haworthia

MAY

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

JUNE

Cacti from California
Succulents from California

JULY

Opuntia South America
Neoregelia, Cryptanthus

AUGUST

Favorites

SEPTEMBER

Astrophytum
Adenia

OCTOBER

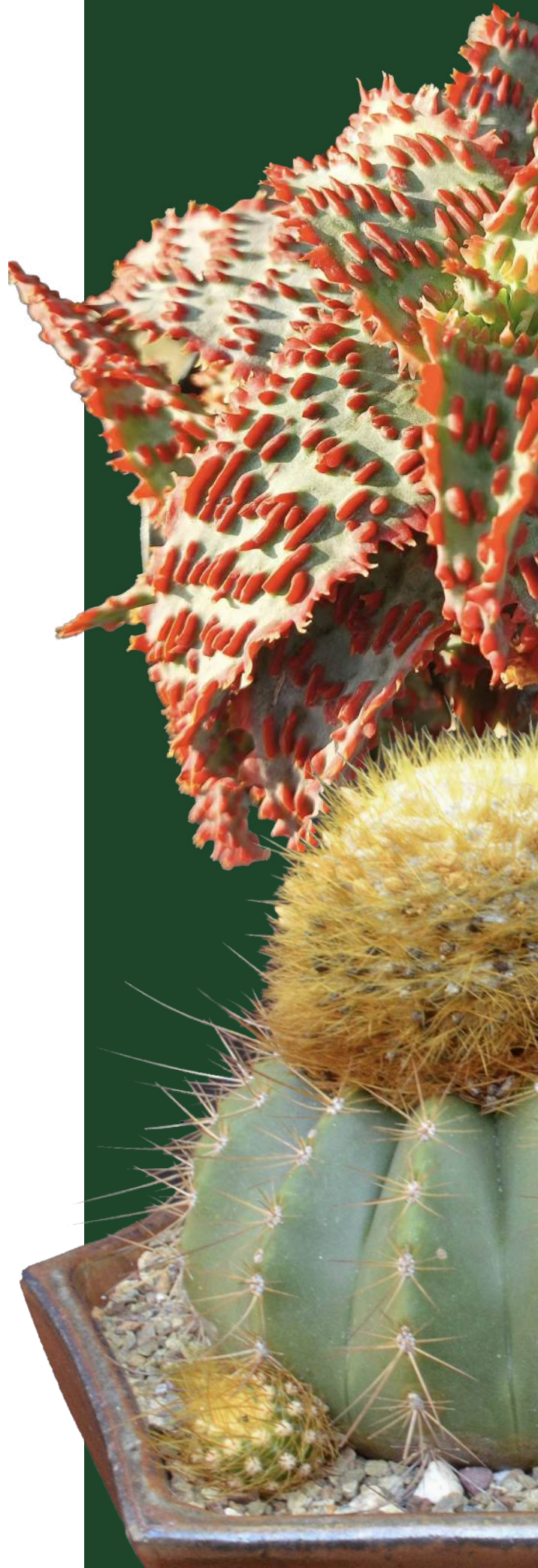
Parodia and Notocactus
Monadenium

NOVEMBER

Crest and Monstrose

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



Aloe Hybrid

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



Aloe x 'Bee's Pink'

An Aloe hybrid is simply the result of a cross between two different species of Aloe, or between Aloe and another genus such as Haworthia or Gasteria. Hybrids between different species of plants are commonly seen in the wild and have existed long before humans ever thought to create them. All it takes is two related species growing in the same area, plus a single bee, or other pollinator, to go from one plant to the other and a hybrid seed may be created. Sometimes the hybrids are sterile, meaning it may grow just fine but will never be able to form seeds. Other wild hybrids may be fertile and produce “selfed” seeds or even cross back with parent species. This leads to much confusion among botanists trying to figure out where one species ends and the next begins! It is believed that a number of species of plants originated as an ancient hybrid between two (now extinct) parent species.

While some Aloe hybrids are grown ornamentally, the real collector interest is in the vast array of man-made hybrids resulting from crossing species that would never have the opportunity to cross in the wild. Modern work on Aloe has taken a step further, crossing hybrids with other hybrids in an increasingly complex mixing of species and traits that are creating an array of truly bizarre, beautiful, and unique cultivars. Some of these hybrids are named and mass produced (e.g. Aloe x 'Hercules' or Aloe 'Dorian Black'), while others may only be grown by a handful of people.

Anyone can create an Aloe hybrid but being able to consistently create new and commercially desirable cultivars takes hard work and specialized knowledge, particularly of plant genetics. A hybridizer will select two species (or two existing cultivars) that each have traits he'd like to see shared in a single plant. For example, one Aloe may have smooth orange leaves and another bumpy green leaves. A hybridizer may want to see if he can create bumpy orange leaves by crossing these two plants. If he is lucky he might get one or two plants like that, though the vast majority of seedlings will be unexceptional. However, to get the complex hybrids, such as those produced by Kelly Griffin, Karen Zimmerman and others requires multiple cycles of crossing two plants, selecting the best seedlings and growing them out, then crossing them and selecting the best of those crosses. On average only one in 10,000 seedlings will become a commercially successful hybrid.

Aloes, including the hybrids, are incredibly easy to grow in Southern California. Almost all of the South African species and hybrids are easily cultivated, with the larger types making stunning landscape plants. They can take light frosts with no damage. One of the largest hybrids found in this area is Aloe x 'Hercules' whose parents are the two largest species of Aloe (now Aloidendron) Aloe bainesii and A. dichotoma. The smaller hybrids are also easy, but it should be noted that most of the highly desirable newer hybrids are derived largely from species native to Madagascar. As such they are more frost tender, but will do well with even light protection. They make great pot plants, and are easily made into wonderful show plants. Aloes are easily propagated. Just separate pups from the main plant and pot them up!



Aloe x 'Christmas Carol'



Unnamed John Martinez hybrid

Buiningia & Uebelmannia

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

This month we look at two genera of cacti from Brazil that are difficult to spell. *Coleocephalocereus* is a genus of approximately six species of with a columnar habit. Many know the genus as *Buiningia*, but botanists have determined *Coleocephalocereus* is the more proper name. What makes this a standout genus worthy of cultivation (and easy to identify!) is the lateral cephalium running down the sides of mature plants. “Lateral cephalium” probably made several people’s eyes glaze over, but don’t worry, once you see one you won’t forget it! *Coleocephalocereus* is a mouthful to say but in English it means “the *Cereus* with a sheath head” which makes a lot of sense.

Most people are familiar with *Melocactus* because it grows like a normal cactus for several years but then starts to produce a strange fuzzy and spiny “head” (that’s what cephalium means) which makes flowers. Over the years this fuzzy head grows taller and taller while the normal green part of the plant remains the same. These plants are highly prized by collectors because of this. Turns out that *Coleocephalocereus* does the same thing but in a “smarter” way from a growth standpoint. While *Melocactus* completely stops producing a normal green stem for the rest of its life, *Coleocephalocereus* produces the cephalium on one side of the plant only, meaning the stem can keep growing up.



Coleocephalocereus flavisetus



Uebelmannia gummifera

Uebelmannia does not produce a cephalium but is as much, if not more, highly prized than *Coleocephalocereus*. It is a small genus of globular to shortly columnar cacti with approximately three species, though some split up *U. pectinifera* into several different species. The genus is distinctive in having numerous spine covered ribs that give a very regular and pleated look to the plant. In addition most plants are various shades of purple to gray, giving even more beauty to the species. The most popular species is *U. pectinifera* and large, show quality, specimens can sell for hundreds of dollars. The biggest problem in growing nice big plants is their propensity to form marks and scars on the stems that detract from their appearance. A specimen sized plant without distracting marks is something to behold.



Uebelmannia pectinifera

While these genera look very different, they are together as plants of the month because they are both Brazilian genera that like similar growing conditions. They are from tropical regions and appreciate warmer temperatures. It is best to keep them at a minimum of 50 degrees in the winter, but they can be grown cooler (but never below freezing) if kept dry in the winter. Cool and wet makes them prone to rot. During the summer they appreciate more water than the average cactus.



LIVE STONES
50 E. BIRCHWOOD, TUCSON
520-628-8773 WWW.LS

LACSS Annual Awards Dinner

The LACSS Annual Awards Dinner on December 14, 2024, at OneGeneration in Reseda was a delightful evening filled with camaraderie and celebration. Guests savored a delicious feast provided by Dearmore BBQ Catering, while the live auction proved to be a resounding success, raising significant funds for the society. The highlight of the evening was the entertaining Match Game, hosted by our very own Eli Cohen, featuring some of our beloved members and sparking comedy and friendly competition. The event was a wonderful way to cap off the year and honor our community.







A N L A C S S E X C L U S I V E F I E L D T R I P T O

San Diego Zoo!

written by Roxie Esterle

LACSS members trekked to San Diego on Saturday, November 2, 2024 for an amazing trip to the San Diego Zoo. The trip, guided by zoo Horticulturist Patrick Smith, not only took us through the innards of the zoo's growing areas, but also inside the cages and living quarters of the Galapagos Tortoises.

Most of our time was spent in the "Africa Rocks" section, housing a great collection of Aloes, Euphorbias, Moringas, Baobabs, and much more. Planning the landscape for this area occurred years in advance, with horticulturists working to procure the specified plants. Extreme measures were required to crane the trees into their proper habitats, and many were actually moved from other areas of the zoo.



In all, the plant specimens at the zoo certainly rival the collection of animals. After the tour, club members had an opportunity to explore the rest of the park.



South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

Ernesto Sandoval

"BAJA PLANTS AND PLACES: PHOTOGRAPHICAL BIOGRAPHY"

Ernesto, Director at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. As a photographer who has traveled to the Baja CA Peninsula over 15 times since 1995, Ernesto hopes his collection of photographs will inspire you to visit what is probably the most lush desert in the world.

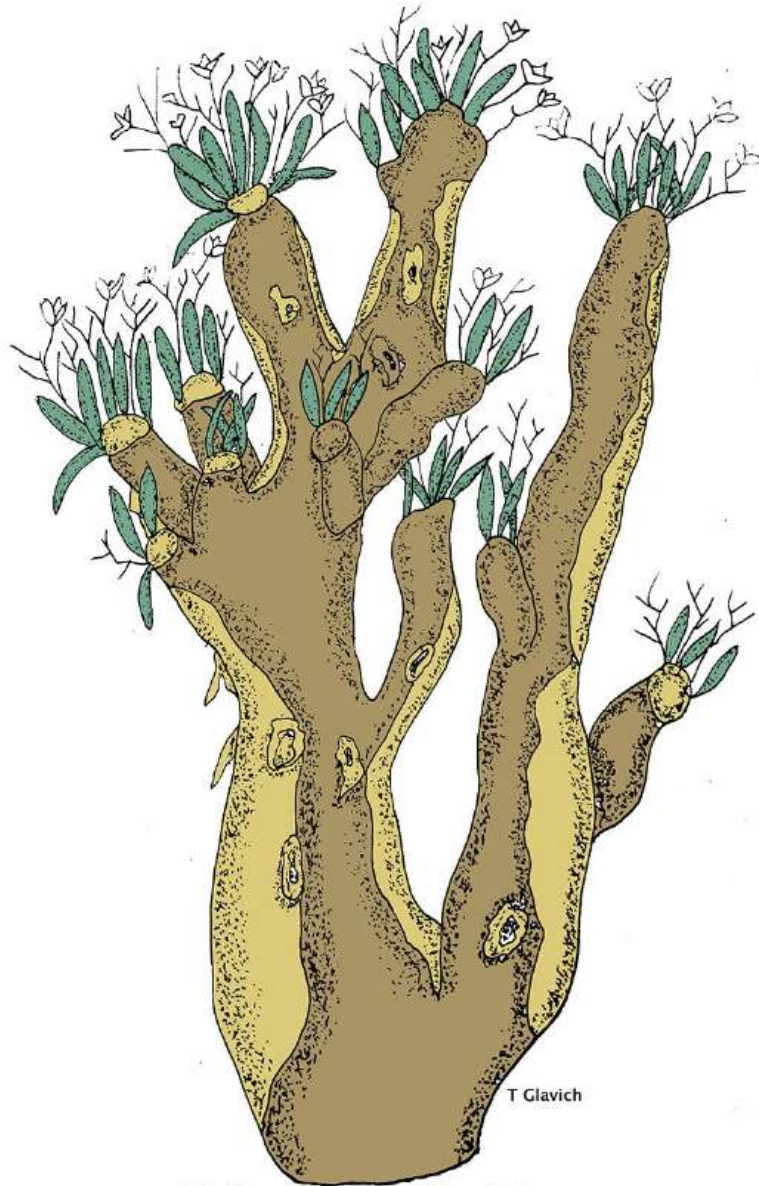
SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024
1:00 PM

1:00 PM, South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300
Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
Peninsula 90274.

Free for SCBG and SCCSS members.
Non-member guests require reserved
General Admission tickets at scbgf.org
For more information visit southcoastcss.org.



30th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show



Tylecodon reticulatus

**Arcadia Masonic Center
February 21-23 2025**