

# C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J A N U A R Y 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 1

MONTHLY PROGRAM

**KEITH TAYLOR**

Bonsai Methods for  
Succulent Winter Growers



ARID PLANTS A-Z

**ELI COHEN**

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



**REFRESHMENTS  
THIS MONTH:  
LAST NAMES  
BEGINNING WITH  
'O' AND 'R'**

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM

ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

# Refreshments!

A warm "HELLO" to LACSS members! We have seen an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings after bringing back refreshments. Since most of our members (excluding retirees) come straight from work, it is nice to have a snack while enjoying the LACSS meeting.

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

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.





Photo credit: Keith Taylor

T H I S  
M O N T H ' S  
S P E A K E R

# KEITH TAYLOR

THIS MONTH'S  
PROGRAM



Keith Taylor began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991 after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. "I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk". The *Cyphostemma* mentioned is also the first succulent he purchased and still in his possession. His collection has swollen to over 800 plants. He grows in plastic containers, raised and ground beds. Keith prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants. He grows them hard, meaning limited water, little to no feeding and hot sun.

In 2008, Keith began creating pots to show off his plants. He believes the pot should compliment, not distract from the plant. The main focus should be the succulent. If the pot is too ornate, colorful, or shiny, it draws your eye toward the pot rather than the succulent. Also proportions play a role. Rocks and topdressing add to complete the presentation. His pottery is sought after by C&S collectors as well as bonsai artists. Keith sells his work at C&S clubs and shows, bonsai clubs, online through Facebook, Instagram, and his website. He accepts custom orders and ships worldwide.





Photo credit: Keith Taylor

# FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

As the new president of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society, I wanted to wish each of you a Happy New Year!

I am genuinely excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for our club. In the upcoming months, we aim to offer enriching experiences. From educational sessions, to renowned guest speakers, we're planning activities that I hope will engage and inspire each one of you!

Your participation and input are crucial to our club. We are a volunteer group with lots of ideas and events. We will need volunteers shortly to help with all the programs we want to accomplish. We will need your help to make them a success. I hope you will seriously consider volunteering for one of the upcoming events.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have ideas, suggestions, or questions. Your feedback is important as we strive to make this society a welcoming and fulfilling space for everyone.

It's an honor to be entrusted with this responsibility, and I look forward to serving our club.

Warm regards,  
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**

Kim Thorpe Chavez,  
Artie Chavez + Joyce Schumann

### **1ST VP, PROGRAMS**

Ron Behar

### **2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH**

Manny Rivera

### **3RD VP, EDUCATION**

Desiree Alexander + Emily

### **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





Photo credit: Keith Taylor



# 2024

## **JANUARY**

Blossfeldia, Yavia  
Dudleya, Cotyledon

## **FEBRUARY**

Mammillaria Hook Spine  
Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

## **MARCH**

Copiapoa  
Tulista, Astroloba, Trachyandra

## **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

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

# DUDLEYA & COTYLEDON

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

If any succulent deserved the title of “The California Succulent” it would be Dudleya. The genus consists of approximately 50 species, all of which are found in California and Baja California. A few species range outside these boundaries, but even they are species native to California as well. SoCal in particular is one of the prime hotspots for Dudleya diversity, with over 20 species and varieties that can be found within a roughly 2-hour drive from our club’s home at the Sepulveda Garden Center.

Dudleya belongs to the Crassulaceae, or Crassula family. This is a large family of approximately 35 genera and 1500 species. Most of us have several types of Crassulaceae in our collections, be it Crassula, Aeonium, Kalanchoe, Echeveria, Sedum, or species of many other genera. Most species are grown for their attractive fleshy leaves that are produced either in a rosette or as paired leaves that alternate at a 90-degree angle on the stem.

Dudleya are mostly smaller herbaceous plants that grow in a rosette. They are often mistaken for Echeveria but differ in technical characters of the flowers, but in practical terms the most important difference the average grower needs to be concerned about is growing season. Dudleya are winter growers while Echeveria are summer growers. The fact that Dudleya are winter growers should be surprising to no one given that they literally grow wild on the hills around us which are bone dry in the summer and moist and green in the winter. The leaves of the most commonly grown species are covered in a white or bluish glaucous (powdery) coating, but several kinds have simple green or reddish green leaves. They range in size from rosettes upwards of 2’ across down to miniatures only an inch or two in size that die back to the roots in summer. Most of the species grown in non-specialist collections are big single rosette forms like *D. britonii* or *D. pulverulenta*, or are clumped forms like *D. caespitosa* that take standard winter growing care.

As Dudleya is the succulent most associated with California, it is worth talking about its life in the wild. In general, they can be found in coastal mountains growing on north facing slopes, usually on rocky steep grades and cliffs. Often you can walk right by them and not notice them, especially if you are expecting a big white plant like *D. pulverulenta*, one of our most common species. Most native Dudleya are only a few inches across and can only be found easily in the winter when in active growth. Some of these species are highly localized and extremely rare. In fact, some of the rarest plants on earth are certain of our local Dudleya, and they are under threat from fires, construction, and harvesting for the horticultural trade. If you are able you should get out and enjoy seeing these plants in the wild, especially since some of them may one day only exist in cultivation.



*Dudleya farinosa*



*Dudleya cymosa*



*Cotyledon tomentosa*

Cotyledon comes from half a world away Africa but is part of the very same family as Dudleya, the Crassulaceae. Native to the drier parts of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, Cotyledon contains around 35 species. It used to be a catch-all genus by early botanists before further study segregated out most species, particularly into *Adromischus* and *Tylecodon*. In fact, at one point most Dudleya species were placed into Cotyledon, so at least we have a slight connection between today’s genera. But that has long been seen as incorrect and no species of Cotyledon occur in the New World. Plants are stem forming with most being shrubs or subshrubs, though some are prostrate and will hang down in hanging baskets. Leaves are produced in pairs rather than in rosettes which is common in much of the Crassulaceae. The flowers are quite showy and hang down like bells in

clusters. Unlike Dudleya they are often summer growers or grow year-round when the weather is good. In our climate they make great landscape plants where a lower growing, spreading succulent is desired.



# YAVIA & BLOSSFELDIA

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



*Blossfeldia liliputana Grafted*



*Yavia cryptocarpa*

This month we are going small, very small, for our cacti. We are focusing on two genera, one of which is literally the smallest cactus species of all, Blossfeldia, and the other, Yavia, isn't much bigger. They are also small genera in the sense that each contain only one species each, otherwise known as monotypic or monospecific genera. This should be a heads up for those of you that think you are out of space for more plants. Not with these guys! Either of them could live permanently in a 2-3" pot without getting crowded.

Blossfeldia is genus containing the single species Blossfeldia liliputana from northern Argentina and southern Bolivia. It clumps readily with individual heads being smaller than a dime! This makes it the smallest cactus in the world. The flowers are similarly tiny. Blossfeldia is rarely seen in cultivation because it is hard to get the dust like seeds to germinate and when they do the plants are nearly microscopic. In nature the species is usually found growing in narrow cracks in rocks, not in open soil. When they are seen for sale they are nearly always in grafted form. It is easy to grow that way though it will grow bigger this way than on its own roots and will form big clumps. On its own roots the plant is very small growing and clumps less readily. It appears to be nearly impossible to get a degrafted Blossfeldia to root. So, getting a plant on its own roots likely requires growing from seed. While grafted plants will make seen in abundance, they are extremely tiny and hard to germinate and then grow into mature plants. Be aware that the combination of own root plants being highly desirable but difficult to produce has led to widespread poaching in the wild. Previously, botanists thought Blossfeldia was related to Parodia or Frailea but modern DNA research has found it to be a very distinct lineage of cacti all its own.

Yavia is a recently discovered monotypic genus with the sole species Yavia cryptocarpa. First described in 2001, it is native to the border of Argentina and Bolivia it occurs in a similar region and habitat to Blossfeldia. They plants look somewhat similar as well, but to the best of our knowledge they are unrelated. The plants look similar to some Frailea or the species Echinopsis famatimensis, but it is most likely a closer relative to Eriosyce. It is a very high elevation species, growing from 11,800 ft to 12,500 ft (3,600-3800 m) elevation in the Andes. While it can get quite chilly at times, the more tropical latitude where it occurs prevents the extreme cold we would expect at that elevation in North America. This species is still rare in cultivation so detailed growing tips are hard to come by. I would suggest treating it similar to other miniature South American cacti like Frailea including keeping it on the drier side. Given the very high elevation it comes from I would expect it not to like hot temperatures and probably would like extra shade or a cooler spot in the heat of summer.



*Blossfeldia liliputana in habitat*



Winter in the desert

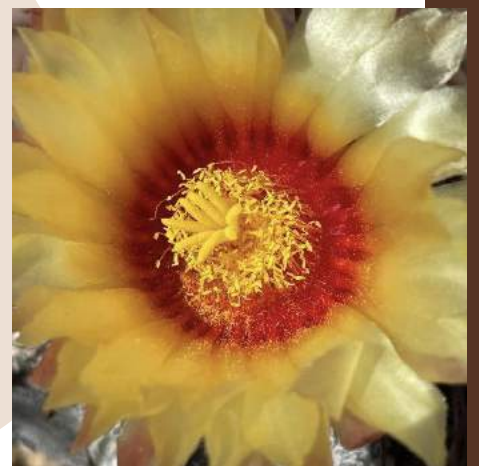


# L A C T U S S A T U R D A Y PROGRAM

## CACTI AND SUCCULENT PHOTOGRAPHY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13th 2023  
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER  
10AM

Brian J Gold's photography and passion for Cactus & Succulents, started as a hobby. He and his father joined the Sunset Succulent Society in 1973 and the LA Cactus Club in 1974. In 1975, both Brian and his father started The Golden Barrel nursery in Sherman Oaks and Brian has since carried on the family business on a much lesser scale. He has participated in many plant shows and sales, and has more recently enjoyed judging at the annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING,  
PLEASE EMAIL [DESIREEALEXANDER86@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DESIREEALEXANDER86@GMAIL.COM)  
OR CALL/ TEXT: (818) 269-0916

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
FROM L.A.C.S.S.





South Coast  
Cactus & Succulent Society

# AL KLEIN

## "GROWING "FAT PLANTS"

Al Klein will talk about how growing "fat plants", aka caudiciforms, can be a challenge as well as fun. He will help you determine the right soil mix, watering schedule, fertilizer, and sun exposure based on your climate.

Al retired from Canterbury Gardens after 35 years and runs his own nursery business, Botanic Wonders, which specializes in growing and selling rare and exotic plants.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 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](http://southcoastcss.org)



## 2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB. 9-11      SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW AND SALE  
SALE FRI.-SAT. 8AM-5PM, SUN. 8AM-4PM SHOW SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 9AM-4PM  
INFO. MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 OR JAMES LEMOS 626-201-5519  
ARCADIA MASONIC CENTER, 50 W DUARTE RD., ARCADIA, CA
- FEB. 10      SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY WINTER SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. CALL 619-990-2051
- MAR. 1-3      FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE  
10AM-5PM FREE WITH PAID ADMISSION TO FRESNO HOME & GARDEN SHOW  
FRESNO FAIRGROUNDS, GARDEN PAVILION, 1121 S. CHANCE AVE., FRESNO, CA
- MAR. 22-23      ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE  
FRI. NOON-6PM, SAT. 9AM-4PM INFO. CALL 657-549-0702  
1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL., (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)