

# C A C T U S CHRONICLE

J U N E 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 6

MONTHLY PROGRAM  
PHILLIPE DE VASJOLI

## Pachyforms



ARID PLANTS A-Z  
ELI COHEN



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

REFRESHMENTS  
THIS MONTH:  
LAST NAMES  
BEGINNING  
WITH 'F,G, & I'

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!

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

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.

June - Members whose last name begins with "F, G, I"

July - Members whose last name begins with "J, K, L"

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"



Photo credit: Phillipe de Vosjoli



**THIS  
MONTH'S  
PROGRAM**

# Pachyforms

An Introduction to some of the most extraordinary plants on planet Earth.

I coined the term 'pachyforms' to describe plants that develop proportionately large and thick bodies, species that include caudiciform (forming caudex-like bodies) and pachycaul (thick trunked/body) succulents. Because many of these plants look otherworldly and like living sculptures, they have become increasingly popular in recent years, often making up a significant portion of cactus and succulent shows and ranking among the best investment plants. In fact, just adding the term caudex in an online plant description will increase the number of views or clicks in social media groups and digital marketplaces (whether the plant develops a caudex or not).

My program will focus on the physical and botanical features of these plants and aspects of their ecologies that are important for their cultivation but not widely known. That knowledge can increase long

term success and produce plants with characters that more closely resemble plants in nature. In addition to plants in cultivation, I plan to show plants in the wild photographed by Rob Skillin, a significant contributor to the expanded edition of Pachyforms.

Philippe de Vosjoli has raised caudiciform and pachycaul plants since the 70s when he first saw specimen ant plants (*Hydnophytum* & *Myrmecodia* species) at Jerry Horne's nursery in Florida.

In the 80s, while in graduate school, he partnered with Richard Wagner in a part-time business in Massachusetts that specialized in unusual plants, including caudexed succulents they imported from Africa. After moving to California in 1985 to pursue his interest in developing methods for keeping and breeding amphibians and reptiles, he attended several of the Southern California cactus and succulent shows, which reignited his interest in these plants. As an author and publisher of a magazine and over 40 books on the husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles, he decided to try his hand at writing a plant book on caudiciforms and pachycauls titled *Pachyforms*, which became a category bestseller. During that time, he also befriended Rudy Lime, a pioneer of SOMA (Succulents as a Medium of Art, a term coined by Rudy) and they worked together to co-author the book *Bonsai Succulents*. He has just finished a new expanded edition of *Pachyforms*, which will be available at the meeting.

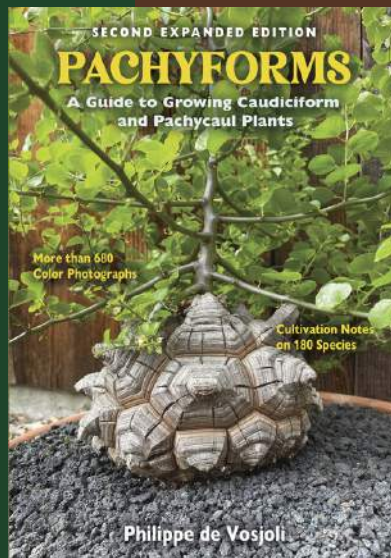




Photo credit: Phillipe de Vosjoli

# FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

I hope you all had a chance to attend our great spring sale. This year, we hosted it at a new venue, and it was a refreshing change. With a wide selection of unique plants in such a beautiful setting, it was a plant lover's paradise. I know I found a few plants that called my name and had to come home with me!



Friday night was particularly lovely under the large pine trees with the string lights. The live auction was exciting and a lot of fun, and it was great to see the club raise money through it. We had many new vendors offering a large variety of plants. The kids had a blast in the kids' day area, and while we were all busy shopping for our plants, it was also a great opportunity to educate the public. The live music and the pizza truck made the event even more enjoyable and many shoppers signed up to become new members too.



A special thank you to all the volunteers. Your efforts not only contributed to the success of the sale but also provided a great opportunity to interact with other club members. Well done, everyone!



I hope to see you all at the next meeting and hear your feedback for next year. As we move into the summer months, I hope you'll all enjoy your plants.

**See you all Thursday, June 6th!**  
**Cande Friedman**

**COVERAGE  
ON OUR SPRING  
CACTUS SALE  
WILL BE IN AN  
EMAIL BLAST**

# Plant Swap!

JULY'S  
MEETING  
WILL BE ON  
JULY 1ST

*July 1st, 2024 @ 7pm*

Have plants you're looking to trade? LACSS is hosting a swap night! Come and bring any cacti and succulents plus other plant-related items you're interested in trading with others.

*Trading will  
officially begin  
at 7:15pm after  
announcements  
and end at 8pm*

*Things you can trade:*

Cacti  
Succulents  
Pottery  
Rocks  
Seeds  
Top Dressing

*18255  
Victory  
Blvd,  
Reseda,  
CA 91335*



# 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.

#### **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



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**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

# PLANT OF THE MONTH



Insights from the Educational Workshop

# TRIMMING with Karen Ostler

report by Desiree Alexander

This month we held our third workshop of the year. Our very own Karen Ostler showed us how to stage and trim our plants, in preparation for our upcoming shows. Karen's innovative use of chopsticks, to hold up a plant while staging, was invaluable information.

The workshop buzzed with discussions on bonsai techniques, particularly their application in the staging and trimming of cacti and succulents. Karen recommended techniques through resources like Peter Chan's work, by watching 'Heron's Bonsai' on YouTube. She also emphasized the significance of Navarre (trunk) in trimming and staging practices. She created a Jin (a bare-stripped part of branch) or Shari on a succulent to accentuate its features.

Karen's demonstration on taming a succulent captured everyone's attention. With deft trimming and hacking, she transformed a mature *Bursera* into a beautifully composed plant. Her advice on pot sizing—leaving approximately 1" around the plant—and harmonizing top dressing and rocks—resonated with everyone. One more priceless





piece of advice was holding your plant next to the pot you want to put it in; to get a feeling for features that are accentuated by the color of the pot.

Reminder, Emily and I recommend RSVPs for planning purposes. We often have door prizes, plant giveaways and snacks at workshops. However, even without prior notification, we can typically accommodate a last minute addition. Workshops serve not only as learning opportunities but also for building connections within the cacti enthusiast community. This is a great opportunity for our new members to learn more about the cacti and succulent we all love.

**We encourage all members to join our next workshop, Pollination with Ernesto Sandoval, July 13th, 10am; at the Sepulveda Garden Center. It will be an enriching experience of learning and camaraderie.**



## 2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 8-9      SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE  
BALBOA PARK, ROOM 101, SAN DIEGO, CA INFO. CALL 619-990-2051
- JUNE 8-9      FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE  
SAT. 10AM-5PM, SUN. 10AM-4PM INFO. ROB\_SCOTT85@YAHOO.COM  
FRESNO FAIRGROUNDS COMMERCE BLDG, 1121 S. CHANCE AVE., FRESNO, CA
- JUNE 14-16    SAN FRANCISCO SUCCULENT AND CACTUS SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE  
FRI. MEMBER-ONLY PREVIEW, INFO. AT WWW.SFSUCCULENT.ORG  
SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY FAIR BUILDING, 1199 9TH AVE. SAN FRANCISCO, CA
- JUNE 28-30    CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRI./SAT./SUN.  
DAILY 10AM-5PM  
INFO. RESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG,  
SHOW/SALE- CALL NICK RENTERIA 323-428-2215  
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA
- JULY 19-20    ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE  
FRI. NOON-6PM, SAT. 9AM-4PM INFO. CALL 657-549-0702  
1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL., (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH) ANAHEIM, CA

South Coast  
Cactus & Succulent Society

# Ernesto Sandoval

**"30+ YEARS OF GROWING  
SUCCULENTS PROFESSIONALLY  
AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS  
AND THE WILD"**

Ernesto will share with us some of the important takeaways he's learned over his many years working at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory as well as observations and tips he's learned from other growers large and small as well as public and private.

**SUNDAY, JULY 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)



# Plant Expo and Sale I

## June 7, 8 & 9 @ 9:00 am - 6:30 pm

Event Series

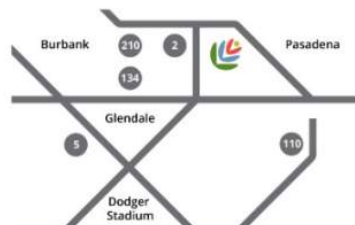
INCLUDED WITH ADMISSION

\$15 GENERAL \$11 SENIOR



### Location

1418 Descanso Drive  
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011  
818.949.4200



Join us for the inaugural weekend of the Descanso Gardens plant expo and sale, June 7-9. This event will focus on everyone's favorite desert plants: Cactuses and succulents!

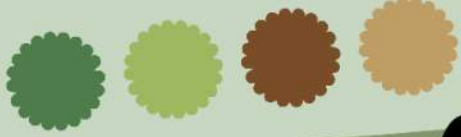
The expo will feature the talents of The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society, Long Beach Cactus Club, and The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society— a community of enthusiasts who cultivate the study and enjoyment of cactus and succulent plants. Come see what they've been working on with loads of cool plants on display.

There will also be plants for purchase from Society members and from specialty grower, [Latinx with Plants](#).

**Expo:** 10am-4pm at the Boddy House

**Sale:** 9am-6:30pm at Birch

Free with admission, no registration required.



MORE INFO:  
@CSSASHOW



JUNE  
28-30,  
2024



57TH ANNUAL  
**CSSA  
SHOW  
& SALE**

CSSASHOW.COM



10AM-  
5PM  
DAILY



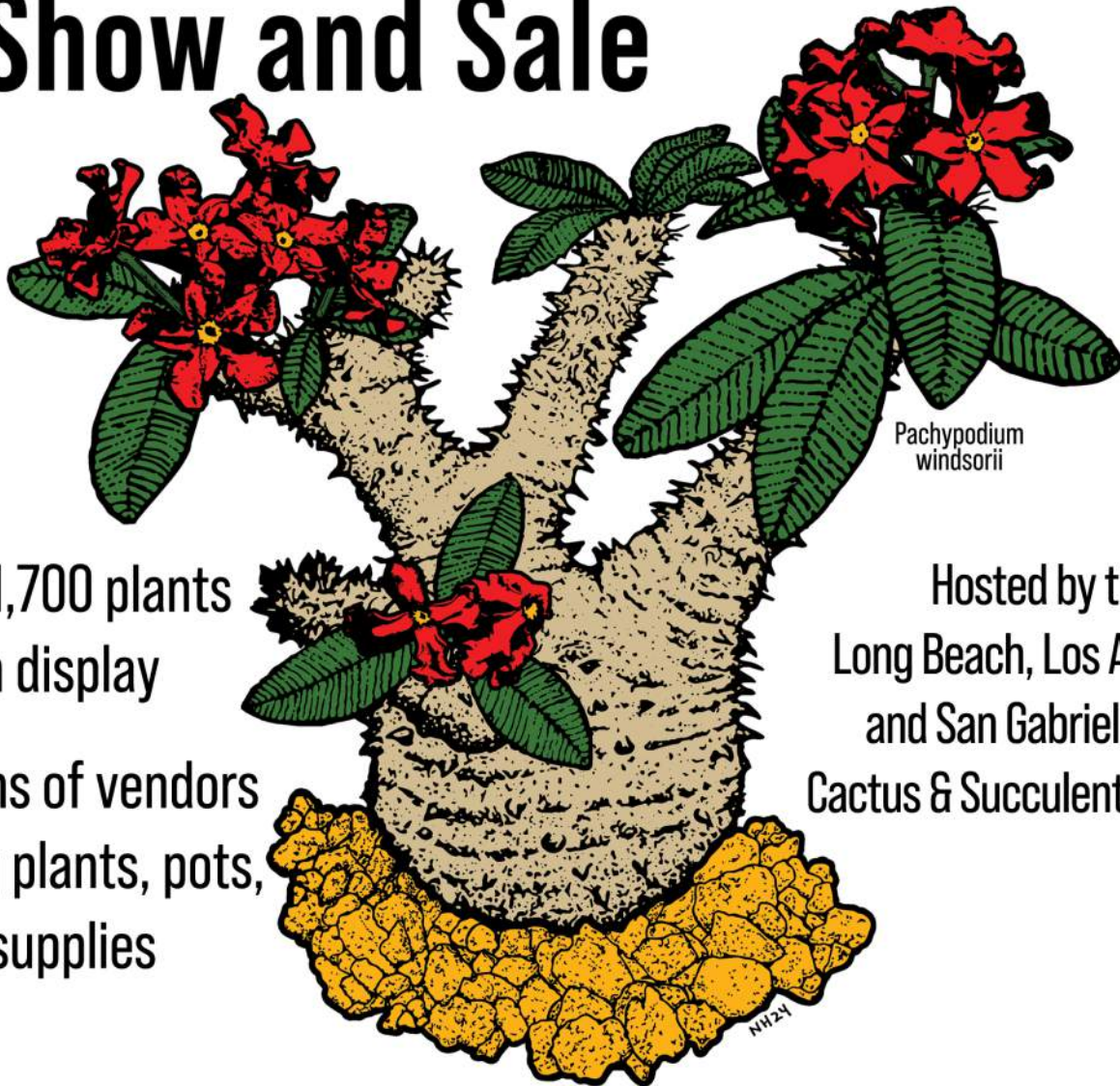
TICKETS:  
HUNTINGTON.ORG

THE HUNTINGTON  
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,  
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH PAID ADMISSION  
OR HUNTINGTON MEMBERSHIP. ADVANCE ONLINE  
TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRIDAY-SUNDAY.

@CITYCYNIC

38<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.intercityshow.com)

Instagram: @intercityshow

Facebook Group: intercityshow

\*We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale\*