

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

N O V E M B E R 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 11

MONTHLY PROGRAM
Oakes Austin

Haworthias
Propagation and
Hybridization



ARID PLANTS
A-Z
ELI COHEN



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

REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING WITH
'W, N, Q, Y & Z'

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



LACSS
HOLIDAY
SALE

DECEMBER
8TH 10AM T
4PM O

LIVE AUCTION - 12PM

ONE GENERATION
18255 VICTORY BLVD, RESEDA

LACSS HOLIDAY PARTY

DEC.
14TH

DOORS OPEN @5pm

DINNER @6pm - \$20
Tri-tip, chicken, green
salad, vegetarian beans,
chili beans, pasta salad

Pot Luck

Last Names

Appetizers: A-M

Desserts: N-Z

Live Auction

POM Awards

DJ

BONUS!

**SPECIAL
GAME!**

Stick around &
find out...

Refreshments!

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

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 MESSAGE PRESIDENT

As I write this, I'm in Ireland, where everything is lush and green, a stark contrast to our California landscapes. While the vibrant greenery here is beautiful, it reminds me how lucky we are to live in a climate that allows us to grow the cacti and succulents we love. They thrive in the warm, dry conditions we often experience at home, and their ability to adapt to our environment is truly remarkable.

With November upon us, it's time to start thinking about how we'll care for our collections as the weather cools down. Although we don't always experience a lot of rain in California, I'm beginning to move some of my cacti into the greenhouse for extra protection. This month's meeting will be a great opportunity to share tips on winterizing our plants and ensuring they continue to thrive through the season.

Looking ahead, we have some exciting events to close out the year. Our Holiday Sale is on Saturday, December 8th, offering a great chance to pick up unique plants and gifts. We'll also be hosting our annual Holiday Dinner on Saturday, December 15th, which is always a fun way to celebrate the season and connect with fellow members. We'll be looking for volunteers to help with the dinner, so please consider lending a hand to make it a memorable event.

In addition, we will be voting on new board members during our upcoming meeting. As more experienced members step down from the board, we look forward to newer members joining us and bringing fresh ideas and perspectives. Your participation in this process is important as we continue to grow and shape the future of our society.

I want to extend a special thanks to all of you for your dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. Your contributions—whether through volunteering, sharing knowledge, or donating plants—have made a big impact. As we look ahead to 2025, I'm excited about the plans we have in store, including new workshops, guest speakers, and of course, our annual show and sale.

Let's also take a moment to appreciate the friendships and community we've built together. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the society, the connections we share over our love for these extraordinary plants make our group truly special.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting and hearing about your latest cactus and succulent adventures!

**See you all Thursday,
November 7th
Cande Friedman**



Oakes Austin

Oakes Austin grew up on a farm in Dover Massachusetts, and has been an avid collector of succulent plants from the age of six. He moved to California to work under the esteemed Steven Hammer in early 2022, after graduating from Colby College in Maine. He has long been a fan of haworthias and has done his own breeding work as well as contributing to Steven's breeding projects.



Haworthia: Propagation and Hybridization

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

An in-depth look into the world of Haworthias, a beloved genus of succulent plants. We will explore the unique characteristics that make

Haworthias popular among plant enthusiasts, with their distinctive leaf patterns. Moving into propagation techniques, from cuttings to offsets, ensuring that members can confidently expand their collections. Austin will dive into the creative process of breeding Haworthias, sharing insights on selecting parent plants, understanding genetic traits, and creating new, unique hybrids. With practical demonstrations and clear explanations, this talk is ideal for both novice and experienced gardeners interested in enhancing their skills and knowledge of these striking plants.





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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Cande Friedman

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with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

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Kim Thorpe Chavez
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Kimberly Gomez-Tong
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

Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



Variegates

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



Haworthia pygmaea

Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many Agave) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words, the plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll

sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.

Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll (achlorophyllus), such as the brightly colored grafted *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are technically not variegated but are considered so for the purposes of cacti and succulent shows. Keep in mind, a plant is not variegated just because the leaves have colored areas. It must be partially lacking chlorophyll as well.

Variegated plants normally have white or yellow patches and streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegate appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!

Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Intercity Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category



Euphorbia mammillaris



Agave victoriae-reginae

Variegates

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

except for variegation in Agave, Gasteria, Sanseveria.”

In general, variegated plants grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll “soaks up” the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Examples of Variegated Succulents

Agave – Variegates of a number of Agave species exist. One of the most fascinating is Agave lophantha ‘Quadricolor’ This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe! The fourth color in ‘Quadricolor’ is seen in the reddish teeth.



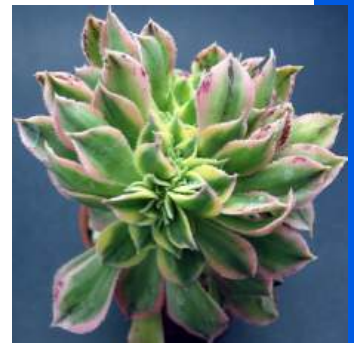
Astrophytum asterias

Aeonium – Aeonium ‘Sunburst’ and A. ‘Kiwi’ are by far the most commonly seen Aeonium variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as A. castello-paivae, A. balsamiferum, and even A. tabuliforme. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as A. ‘Atropurpureum’ and A. ‘Zwartkop’ are not considered variegates.

Cacti – variegates can be found in many genera. Gymnocalycium are the most often seen, especially the grafted G. mihanovichii cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately, they are somewhat tricky to grow, and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some Ferocactus

variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated Turbinicarpus, Astrophytum, Matucana and Ariocarpus have been seen at some recent shows. These less commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable.

Haworthia – Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in Haworthia. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on Haworthia (and the closely related Gasteria). A Google search for “Japanese Haworthia” will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of H. truncata can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!



Aeonium sunburst crest



Senecio aristata



Blooming Knowledge

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

STAGING WORKSHOP WITH RALPH MASSEY

**SATURDAY, NOV 9TH 2024
SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER
10AM**

**THIS
MONTH'S
WORKSHOP**

This workshop is a repeat of one I put on for several clubs about twenty years ago. At that time LACSS was smaller, and was still meeting at Sepulveda Garden Center. Having this event in that space reminds me of the more than fifty years I have been involved with succulent plants. In 1971 a friend introduced me to Clayton Woods, a retired Lockheed supervisor who, at that time kept thousands of plants in, on top of, and around his home in Highland Park. Within a year I was a member of three clubs, and after many years of volunteer work at the Huntington Botanical Gardens became an employee there, working on the ISI program with John Trager. I have pretty much worked with all aspects of plant culture, from seed growing, grafting, and learning thousands of botanical names. One activity that is a lasting source of pleasure is staging, and creating dish gardens in a quasi- Bonsai style.

For this workshop all materials will be supplied by the club to a maximum of thirty participating club members. After a brief introduction everyone will create their own dish-garden.

Related materials will be for sale during the event for those who may wish to enhance their creations, however members need only bring a few simple hand tools for working with non- spiny plants and will find challenge and pleasure with the materials supplied.

Make your reservations with event coordinators Emily and Desiree. The only requested restriction is that all participants leave their cell-phones turned off during the event, respecting others in the room and leaving their minds open to new experiences and creativity.

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

Blooming Knowledge

SATURDAY WORKSHOP RECAP

report by Emily Diebold

WINTER SEED WORKSHOP WITH TOM GLAVICH

On October 12th, fifteen LACSS members got together to learn about growing winter growing succulents from seed. Tom Glavich took us through his process covering things like what soil to use, how to sow the seeds and how to take care of the seedlings. After Tom's talk, participants got to sow seed pots of their own. Everyone who participated was able to take home a few seed pots.





South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

Keith Taylor

"TRANSITIONING FROM SUMMER TO WINTER GROWERS"

Keith will talk about what he has learned over eight years of living in the Central Valley. He prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants; growing them with limited water, little to no feeding, and hot sun to give them the look of collected plants. His succulents and pottery will be available for purchase.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024
1:00 PM**

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

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

