

January 2024

ROADRUNNER NEWS

Newsletter of the Long Beach Cactus Club
Founded 1933; Affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.



PRESENTATION: An Adventure to Namibia With Kelly Griffin

Kelly's talk will center on his most recent long trip to South Africa and Namibia. He traveled with Tom Knapik and Joey Betzler to Cape Town and then made a giant loop from there up to the Brandberg in Namibia and then back. That is a distance of nearly 1,000 miles if you drove direct, but they did not, covering some 2800 miles. Although this presentation is a travelog, Kelly hopes to impart some helpful info regarding the cultivation of the plants from these areas. Some truly magnificent plants were encountered, including Welwitschias, Aloes, Lithops, Pachypodiums and everything in between.

Kelly is a succulent plant hybridizer, propagator and avid plant explorer. Like many of us, his interest in plants (and particularly succulent plants) started at a fairly young age. He has traveled to 20+ countries searching for plants, visiting Madagascar 5 times, South Africa 5 times and Mexico 25+ times, to name a few.

Kelly worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years, and for the past 11 years he has been working for Altman's Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager. He has become well known for his hybridizing and is responsible for many succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves and Echeverias. His best known introduction are his Aloe hybrids that are 30 years in the making (Pink Blush, Delta lights, Christmas Sleigh, Krakatoa, and Coral Fire, among many), but he has also introduced many Agave hybrids and selections ('Blue Glow', 'Snow Glow', 'Cubic', 'Black and Blue', 'Dragon Toes', 'Spawn', and 'Crème Brûlée', to name just a few). He is also responsible for obtaining seed from many interesting species and propagating the seed for all to enjoy in cultivation. Kelly has been a member of the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society since 1992. He has been on the board of Directors for the SDCSS for decades and has served as both President and Vice-President. He was very honored to have been named a Fellow of the San Diego Society, and he currently serves on the board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

2023 Plant of the Year - Mammillaria schiedeana

Endemic to Mexico in the states of Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Querétaro, San Luis Potosí, and Tamaulipas growing on limestone and rocky slopes in submontane matorral.

Cultivation and Propagation:

Mammillaria schiedeana is a slow growing species of relatively easy culture, recommended for any collection. If grown correctly, it will reward the grower with generous displays flowers.

Growth rate: It grows slowly in its natural habitat, but in greenhouses it grows more quickly. In cultivation it cluster after several years forming small mounds.

Watering: It is noticeably sensitive to excess moisture, as the roots are prone to rot. Water regularly in summer, but do not overwater. Let the soil dry out between watering. Keep dry in winter.

Soil: Use pot with good drainage and a very porous potting media.

Fertilization: Feed with a high potassium fertilizer in summer.

Hardiness: It is quite frost resistant if kept dry, hardy as low as 23° F (some reports give it hardy to 23°F)

Sun Exposure: High levels of light are needed to flower and for good spine development. Can be sunburned if moved from shade/greenhouse into full sun too quickly. During the spring it may be able to take full sun until the heat arrives at the end of spring. In an area that has hot afternoon sun, it may be able to take full morning sun, but requires afternoon shade or afternoon light shade.

Repotting: Re-pot in the spring when its roots become cramped. Generally, it should be re-potted every other year, in order to provide fresh soil. After re-potting, do not water for a week or more. For best results, use a shallow pot, and only use the smallest diameter pot that will accommodate the plant.



SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH HAWORTHIA

Haworthia are native to South Africa, and grow in a winter-rainfall, Mediterranean environment not very different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring. Many will grow year round, if given sufficient water. They are in flower now, and some species will remain in flower into the summer. However, the flowers are small and generally off-white and not particularly notable. Haworthias are grown for their beautiful leaf shapes and colors. Haworthia in general are tolerant of almost any potting mix, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil/pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing, any balanced fertilizer will do. An application of time release fertilizer in late winter will improve growth from late winter and early spring rains. Healthy

Haworthia generally have stiff thick white roots. When repotting, it's important to inspect the roots for mealy bugs, and for old, dried brown or hollow roots, which are often the source of infection or rot. These should be removed back to healthy tissue.



Haworthia truncata

Uploaded by: Valentino Vallicelli



Haworthia cooperi var. truncata

Uploaded by: K.k. Agrawal

CACTUS OF THE MONTH - SINGLE HEADED MAMMILLARIA



For our Mini-Show we will accept Mammillaria that currently have only one head. Otherwise it is confusing because some members of the genus that are generally known as “single head” can produce offsets with age, and conversely some that usually offset may never produce any.

Mammillaria comprises around 300 species, primarily originating from Mexico, with some found in the southwestern USA, Caribbean, Central America, and northern South America. Thriving in diverse environments, these cacti vary widely in size, from 1-inch diameter varieties to 1-foot-tall columnar types. The name "Mammillaria" stems from the Latin word for "nipple," reflecting the unique arrangement of areolas on nipple-like structures.

Unlike many cacti, Mammillaria's flowers emerge from the juncture of two tubercles, not the areola. The species exhibit diverse growing requirements, with some being easy to cultivate, while others are hardy or susceptible to rot in cold conditions. Excellent drainage, achieved through a quality cactus soil mix and shallow pots, is crucial.

Mammillarias generally bloom prolifically, though certain species need a winter rest period for flowering, requiring cooler conditions. To ensure annual growth and blooming, regular watering and fertilizing during their active growth period are essential.

LBCC PLANT-OF-THE-MONTHS RULES

At the April, 2003 meeting, the following rules were adopted for the Plant-of-the-Month (POM) competition:

- A maximum of three plants may be entered in each category (cactus and succulent).
- There will be three classes for entrants: advanced (blue tag), intermediate (pink tag) and beginner (yellow tag).
- Advanced and intermediate entrants must have had the plant in their possession for at least six months, beginners for three months.
- Entrants will receive 8 points for first place, 6 points for second place, 4 points for third place, 2 points for show/honorable mention (HM) and 1 point for showing a plant that does not place.
- At the discretion of the judges there may be up to three third places in a category. If plants are not deemed to be of sufficient quality, no third place will be awarded.
- For an entrant to receive points, the entry tags must be collected by the person in charge of record keeping for POM.
- At the annual Christmas party, award plants will be presented to the ten highest cumulative point holders regardless of class.

Long Beach Cactus Club 2024 Plants of the Months

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CACTI</u>	<u>SUCCULENTS</u>
January	Single headed Mammillaria	Haworthia
February	Astrophytum	Aloe
March	Neoporteria/Neochilenia	Aeonium
April	Echinocactus/Ferocactus	Echeveria
May	CLUB SALE	
June	Rebutia/Sulcorebutia	Bromeliaceae
July	Opuntia/Tephrocactus	Pchypodium
August	Favorites (3)	Favorites (3)
September	AUCTION	
October	Thelocactus/Stenocactus	Cotyledon/Tylecodon
November	Miniatures (3) - pots under 3"	Miniatures (3) - pots under 3"
December	HOLIDAY PARTY	



DORMANCY

By James Feucht, PhD, 2005 Colorado State University Cooperative Extension ~ Dormancy in Northern Hemisphere plants is caused by chemical changes within plant cells. It is stimulated by cooling temperatures and shorter days in late summer and fall. This "binds" water so it cannot freeze and injure plant cells. To break dormancy, plants must first go through a period of cold (about 40 degrees F or colder) for an average of 63 days. This cold period triggers changes which, when warm weather appears, allows plants to "deharden" and resume growth.

WINTER DORMANT Summer Grower

This group is generally regarded as the "summer growers". They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle & are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.

Adenia, Adenium, Agave, Alluadia, Aloinopsis rubrolineata, brachystelma, Bursera, Calibanus, Ceropegia, Cissus, Cyphotstemma, Didieria, Dorstenia, Echeveria, Encephalartos, Euphorbia, Ficus, Fockea, Huernia, Ibervillea, Ipomoea, Jatropha, Lithops, Monadenium, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachypodium, Pedilanthus, Plumeria, Pseudolithos, Pterodiscus, Raphionacme, Siningia, Stapelianthus, Synadenium, Tillandsia, Titanopsis, Trichocaulon, Trichodiadema, Xerosicyos

SUMMER DORMANT Winter Grower

Usually referred to as the "winter growers", these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.

Adromischus, Aeonium, Aloe, Anacamperos, Astroloba, Avonia, Bowiea, Bulbine, Ceraria, Conophytum, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dioscorea, Dudleya, Fouquieria, Gasteria, Gibbaeum, Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Haemanthus, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, Neohenricia, Othonna, Pachycormus, Pachyphytum, Pachyveria, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Portulacaria, Sansevieria, Sarcocaulon, Sedeveria, Sedum, Senecio, Stomatium, Sulcorebutia rauschii, Talinum, Tylecodon



The Long Beach Cactus Club

Est. 1933

Meeting Highlights:

- Monthly programs led by plant experts from around the world
- Mini shows each month with different categories of cacti & succulents
- Vendors selling plants, pots, tools, and more
- Monthly raffles
- Advice from members for plant identification and care

Meeting Information:

1st Sunday of each month

1:00 pm

Woman's Club of Bellflower 9402 Oak St, Bellflower, CA

Member Sign Up

\$20.00 per year, per membership

\$10.00 for engraved name badge (optional)

Cash or Check - Made out to the Long Beach Cactus Club

Membership year: _____ Amount paid: _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address (for mailing purposes): _____

Phone number: _____

SNACK AND REFRESHMENT SCHEDULE

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LAST NAME STARTS WITH</u>
January	A, B
February	C, D
March	E, F, G
April	H, I, J
May	Show & Sale
June	K, L, M
July	N, O
August	P, Q, R
September	Auction
October	S, T, U, V
November	W, X, Y, Z
December	Holiday Party

LBCC OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2024

PRESIDENT	Nelson Hernandez	SECRETARY	Kelly Eddy
VICE-PRESIDENT	William Ramirez	TREASURER	Henry Angulo
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Daniel Almanza, Christopher Bucka, Scott Bunell, Lemono Lott, Alfonso Molina		
CSSA LIAISON	M. A. Bjarkman	NEWSLETTER	Andrew Lander
VENDORS	Lupe Casas	PROGRAMS	Nelson Hernandez
MEMBERSHIP	Lawrence Hofman	HISTORIAN	Ken Shaw
INTER-CITY SHOW	Henry Angulo & Scott Bunell	MINI-SHOW	<i>Open</i>
LIBRARIAN	William Ramirez	X-MAS PARTY	<i>Open</i>
PHOTOGRAPHER	Dereck Diaz	REFRESHMENTS	Erika Villalobos
MAY SALE	Henry Angulo	AUCTION	Gretchen Lewotsky
INSTAGRAM	Scott Bunnell & Nelson Hernandez	WEBSITE	German Rivera & Scott Bunnell

NEWSLETTER

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES, cultivation tips, information about upcoming events, photos, corrections, or news in general about cacti and succulents that might interest our members, **please send them in**. **Comments and suggestions are always welcome**. Remember, *this is your newsletter*. Physical address: Andrew Lander, 3041 Roxanne Ave., Long Beach, CA 90808. Cyber address: landruc@gmail.com