

Prickly News



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Jan 2024



Message from the President

Happy New Year to all and my best wishes for 2024!

Thank you to all the members who attended the Holiday Party, helped to set up and clean up afterwards. There was an abundance of well-prepared food by our member cooks, and many shared their recipes with

each other. It was easy to prepare the room with so many helping hands. It meant a lot to have so many members involved. A special thanks to Phyllis DeCrescenzo for preparing the plants in Holiday pots and Laurel Woodley for donating the Juniper which added a festive flair to the cactus stamped tablecloths. We awarded all the Mini-Show winners with a special prize plant (see photos on page 8).

The plant of the year is *Haworthia emelyea* var. *major*. Its description is included in this Newsletter. If you were not able to attend the party, we will be distributing more Haworthias at the upcoming meeting while supply lasts.

The fiscal year for our Society begins January first. Dues for the 2024 calendar year are \$20 per person. Membership includes receiving emails with links to upcoming events, Newsletters, meeting information, drawings at our meetings for free plants, and attendance at all events of the Society. You may pay at meetings with check or cash or by mail (check only please) to SCCSS and mailed to our Treasurer, Bernard. The application and mailing address are in this Newsletter. Please complete all items legibly so we have an accurate list of members.

Thanks also to all for helping out at our meetings. Anyone with a desire to get involved with putting together the Newsletter, helping with our Show and Sale, exploring off site small group excursions, or putting together workshops, please let me know.

Al Klein will be the presenter at our next meeting on Sunday, January 14th. Al will talk on "Growing Caudiciforms: Fat Plants". He is very knowledgeable as a long time collector, grower and now owner of Botanic Wonders, a specialty plant nursery. He will also be bringing plants to sell.

Coincidentally, our Mini-Show succulent for January will be caudiciforms, so it will be great to have lots of specimens to talk about. Our cactus of the month will be hooked spine Mammillaria. Because many of these have been name changed to Cochemiea, both names will be accepted this month. The list of name changes is published in this Newsletter and on the Website to help with the taxonomy.

I hope to see you at the meeting.
Maria Capaldo

Speaker of the Month



Al Klein
"Growing
Caudiciforms:
Fat Plants"

January 14 at 1:00 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
Auditorium

Save the Date:
South Coast Cactus and Succulent
Show and Sale
April 13-14, 2023 PV Art Center



To learn more visit southcoastcss.org



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Al Klein-Bio

Al's interest in the natural world started in his childhood in Chicago. His favorite hobbies were growing exotic plants like cacti, and collecting fossils, minerals, and insects.

After moving to California at the age of 17 he found his passion in plants. He was employed by South Shores Nursery in San Clemente, California while attending California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, where he received his Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture with emphasis in landscape design and retail nursery management.



He initially worked at Rodgers Gardens in Corona Del Mar, California and within a year was promoted to Nursery Manager. He then helped open a nursery-gift shop in Escondido, California, called Canterbury Gardens and Gifts where he ultimately became a partner in the business. Al recently retired from Canterbury Gardens after 35 years of service. Al is now running his own nursery business, Botanic Wonders, full time. Botanic Wonders specializes in growing and selling rare and exotic plants, including succulents, cacti, and cycads.

Program: "Growing Caudiciforms: Fat Plants"

Caudiciforms or "fat plants" are characterized by a part of the plant that basically is swollen and used for water storage and from this part a thin vine or stem grows. A perfect example of this is *Dioscorea elephantipes*. It is a broad classification that can also include Pachycaul trees, such as *Ficus palmeri* and some Euphorbias. Caudiciforms are magical plants that have found a way to adapt to some of the most inhospitable environments our world has to offer. As a result of these adaptations, they can be a challenge to grow, duplicating natural growing conditions, while growing in containers.

There are many species that are perfect for first-time growers, such as, many forms of Euphorbias, Dioscorea, Cyphostemmas, Pachypodiums, and a plethora of other species.

Growing "fat plants" can be a challenge as well as fun. Finding a soil mix which is best for you in relation to your climate and care can be a life long endeavor! Most soil mixes become an "average" mix which can be used on a wide range of plant species which cuts back on having hundreds of different formulas! Most soil mixes should be a minimum of 60% inorganic material such as pumice or perlite. Al's current mix is about 70%-80% inorganics. The remaining percent should be a good organic component such as a commercial potting mix or compost. He also recommends adding a slow release fertilizer when re-potting, which gives your plant a great start. With this well draining soil, your watering schedule can vary depending on climate, time of year, and sun exposure. Most of his plants are watered once a week during active growing seasons and sometimes no water for long periods during dormancy or rainy season. Fertilize during growing times regularly with a complete food containing all essential nutrients, and alternating two-to-three times a year with an organic food, such as fish emulsion. Sun exposure can also be a challenge. Most of your "fat plants" will appreciate some shade or filtered light during part of the day. Many caudexes will burn with direct sun exposure. Always acclimate new plants to your climate and exposure.

He suggests, if you really want a challenge, try growing your plants from cuttings and seed. It can be a lot of work however the satisfaction is well worth it. Learning how to grow these plants will take you to exotic countries and environments. You will never know it all, but that's the fun part! Remember be inquisitive and have patience growing these wonderful "fatties", and your reward will be great!



Euphorbia stellata



Gerrardanthus macrorhizus



Cyphostemma currorii

Hooked spine Mammillaria

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail-size solitary globulars, some straight spined, and some clumped and heavily spined with hooks. Although the hooked spined species give the genus one of its common names, “fishhook cactus”, they are not as often grown as the straight spined species. They are not as friendly either, with the hooks catching on skin and clothes, and pieces of stem coming off when least expected.

In 2021 as a result of molecular phylogenetic studies of the “mammilloid clade”, some Mammillaria were reclassified as Cochemiea. So, the following hooked spine Mammillarias are now in the genus Cochemiea:

- Mammillaria alamensis* = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria albicans = *Cochemiea albicans*
Mammillaria angelensis = *Cochemiea angelensis*
Mammillaria armillata = *Cochemiea armillata*
Mammillaria barbata = *Cochemiea barbata*
Mammillaria blossfeldiana = *Cochemiea blossfeldiana*
Mammillaria boolii = *Cochemiea boolii*
Mammillaria bullardiana = *Cochemiea bullardiana*
Mammillaria capensis = *Cochemiea capensis* \
Mammillaria cerralboa = *Cochemiea cerralboa*
Mammillaria chavezzei = *Cochemiea viridiflora*
Mammillaria dioica = *Cochemiea dioica*
Mammillaria estebanensis = *Cochemiea estebanensis*
Mammillaria fordii = *Cochemiea dioica*
Mammillaria fraileana = *Cochemiea fraileana*
Mammillaria garessii = *Cochemiea barbatabringing*
Mammillaria goodrichii = *Cochemiea dioica*
Mammillaria goodridgei = *Cochemiea goodridgei*
Mammillaria grahamii = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria gueldemanniana = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria guelzowiana = *Cochemiea guelzowiana*
Mammillaria guirocobensis = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria hutchisoniana subsp. *louisae* = *Cochemiea hutchisoniana* subsp. *louisae*
Mammillaria hutchisoniana var. *bullardiana* = *Cochemiea bullardiana*
Mammillaria inae = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria incerta = *Cochemiea dioica*
Mammillaria insularis = *Cochemiea insularis*
Mammillaria littoralis = *Cochemiea mazatlanensis*
Mammillaria louisae = *Cochemiea hutchisoniana* subsp. *louisae*
Mammillaria luthieniae = *Cochemiea barbata*
Mammillaria mainiae = *Cochemiea mainiae*
Mammillaria maritima = *Cochemiea maritima*
Mammillaria microcarpa subsp. *grahamii* = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria microcarpa var. *milleri* = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria milleri = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria morricalii = *Cochemiea barbata*
Mammillaria neopalmeri = *Cochemiea palmeri*
Mammillaria oliviae = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria orestera = *Cochemiea viridiflora*
Mammillaria patonii = *Cochemiea mazatlanensis*
Mammillaria phellosperma = *Cochemiea tetrancistra*
Mammillaria phitauiana = *Cochemiea phitauiana*
Mammillaria pondii = *Cochemiea pondii*
Mammillaria poselgeri = *Cochemiea poselgeri*
Mammillaria pseudofuscata = *Cochemiea dioica*
Mammillaria pseudoalamensis = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria radliana = *Cochemiea poselgeri*
Mammillaria rectispina = *Cochemiea blossfeldiana* subsp. *rectispina*
Mammillaria roseana = *Cochemiea poselgeri*
Mammillaria santaclarensis = *Cochemiea barbata*
Mammillaria schumannii = *Cochemiea schumannii*
Mammillaria setispina = *Cochemiea setispina*
Mammillaria sheldonii = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria slevinii = *Cochemiea albicans*
Mammillaria swinglei = *Cochemiea grahamii*
Mammillaria tetrancistra = *Cochemiea tetrancistra*
Mammillaria thornberi = *Cochemiea thornberi*
Mammillaria venusta = *Cochemiea schumannii*
Mammillaria verhaertiana = *Cochemiea phitauiana*
Mammillaria viridiflora = *Cochemiea viridiflora*
Mammillaria wilcoxii = *Cochemiea wrightii* subsp. *wilcoxii*
Mammillaria wrightii = *Cochemiea wrightii*
Mammillaria yaquensis = *Cochemiea thornberi* subsp. *yaquensis*

But, fear not, those can be entered in February’s Mini-Show when Cochemiea will be featured. All hooked spine Mammillaria will be accepted this month if brought in.

Jan

2024

Mini-Show Plant of the Month: Cactus

*Mammillaria bombycina**Mammillaria duoformis**Mammillaria bocasana*

The secrets to good growth of Mammillaria are fertilizing with a dilute (1:4) solution with each watering, and using a pH of at least 6 during the growing season. Mammillaria prefer strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect-free growing environment. Although most Mammillaria are native to Mexico, some species in the genus can be found from Columbia to Kansas and California. The species from the tropics and warmer areas are rarely tolerant of cold and damp. Those from the drier desert regions are also intolerant of continued damp, but can take considerable cold. Propagation of hooked spined Mammillaria is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November), left to dry for a few days and replanted in a clean potting mix. Mammillaria are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. The seeds are simply placed on top of a damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel, placed in a plastic bag in bright light, but out of direct sun, and allowed to germinate. Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected, and should then be removed to a still shaded, but brighter and drier environment. Most will survive and grow quickly.

*Mammillaria rekoii subsp. rekoii**Mammillaria glassii**Mammillaria zeilmaniana**Mammillaria duoformis*

Caudiciform plants, also known as "Fat Plants", are a grouping of many totally-unrelated plants all having a fat, short, swollen stem-trunk. A fat, short, swollen stem is referred to by botanists as a caudex, while plants that display this kind of growth habit are called caudiciform plants. Caudiciform plants are almost exclusively desert dwellers that use their swollen stems for water storage between periods of drought. Cacti, especially the barrel type, have short, swollen stems, but are excluded because their stems have the major photosynthetic role. Caudiciform plants are found in many families, including the passion vine family, the grape family, the euphorbia family, the dogbane family and the baobab family. In nature, these fat-stemmed plants can attain enormous size. Baobab trees (*Adansonia sp.*) of Africa and Madagascar have swollen trunks more than 50 feet in diameter with what often looks like a modest topknot of growth to support the enormous base. The ponytail palm (*Beaucarnea recurvata* = *Nolina recurvata*) of Mexico can have swollen bases 4-to-5 feet across. Some of the most beautiful caudiciform plants are the Adeniums, known collectively as desert rose. In the wild, *Adenium obesum*, has swollen stems to 3-or-4 feet across. Most caudiciform plants, are propagated by cuttings. Caudiciform plants adapt well to pot culture and are easy to grow. Caudiciform plants are frost tender and even 28 °F (-2°C) will kill most of them. Most of these plants grow during the hot summer months and are dormant during the winter, so they adapt well to moving indoors during the winter. Evergreen species will need a bright location during winter. Ideally, a cool greenhouse maintained at 45-to-50°F (7-10°C) is perfect for overwintering most kinds.

To keep the size of the plant somewhat in check and lessen the possibility of overwatering, keep the pot size of caudiciform plants relatively small for the size of the plant. When repotting, use a clay pot and a good, well-drained potting soil designed for cacti.

*Dioscorea elephantipes**Pachypodium saundersii**Pachypodium densiflorum**Fockea edulis*

LATIN LOOKUP – Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin?)

- The meanings of Latin plant names on this page – from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botany/>
- bombycina [bom-BEE-kin-uh] Silky.
- dioica [dy-oh-EE-kuh] Male and female flowers on separate plants.
- Mammillaria [mam-mil-AR-ee-uh] Nipple- or teat-like.
- Adansonia [ad-an-SOH-nee-uh] Named for Michel Adanson, 18th century French surgeon, botanist and naturalist.
- Adenium [a-DEE-nee-um] Named for Aden, a small country south of Saudi Arabia, where the species is native.
- Beaucarnea [bow-KAR-nee-uh] Named for Jean-Baptiste Beaucarne, 19th century Belgian plant collectors.
- brevicaule [brev-ee-KAW-lee, brev-ee-KAW-lay] Short stem.
- bulbosum [bul-BOH-sum] Bulbous.
- Calibanus [kal-IB-an-us] Named for Caliban, the beast-like monster who was Prospero's slave in Shakespeare's "The Tempest."
- Cibirhiza [sih-bee-RY-zuh] From the Latin words cibi (food) and rhiza (root).
- Cyphostemma [sy-foh-STEM-uh] From the Greek kyphos (tumor, hump) and stemma (garland, crown).
- decaryi [de-KAR-ye] Named for Raymond Decary, 20th century plant collector.
- densiflorum [den-see-FLOR-um] Densely flowered.
- digitata [dig-ee-TAH-tuh, dij-ee-TAH-tuh] Finger.
- Dioscorea [dy-oh-SKOR-ee-uh] Named for Pedanios Dioscorides, first century Greek pharmacologist.
- edulis [ED-yew-liss] Edible.
- elephantipes [ell-uh-fan-TY-pee] Elephant foot (stem).
- elephantopus [el-eh-fun-TOE-pus] Elephant's foot.
- ellipticum [ee-LIP-tih-kum] Elliptical, about twice as long as wide.
- Fockea [FOK-ee-uh] Named for Dr. Focke Albers, modern-day German professor and expert on the Asclepiadaceae family.
- Fouquieria [foo-KWEER-ree-uh] Named for Pierre Edouard Fouquier, 19th century French physician.
- hookeri [HOOK-er-ee] Named for Sir William Jackson Hooker, 19th century botany professor & director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew; or his son Joseph Dalton Hooker, 19th century British botanist & plant collector.
- juttiae [JOO-tay-ee] Named for Jutta Dinter, the wife of Professor Kurt Dinter, 20th century German botanist and collector in Africa.
- Kleinia [KLINE-ee-uh] Named for Dr. Jacob Theodor Klein, 18th century German zoologist.
- lugardii [loo-GAR-dee-eye] Named for 19th century plant collector Major E. J. Lugard.
- neriifolia [ner-ee-eye-FOH-lee-uh] Oleander-leaved (also spelled nerifolia).
- obesum [oh-BEE-sum] Fat.
- Operculicarya [oh-per-koo-lee-KAIR-yuh] From the Latin operculum (little lid) and Greek karyum (nut), referring to the lidded, nut-like seeds.
- Pachypodium [pak-uh-PO-dee-um] Thick foot.
- paniculatus [pan-ick-yoo-LAY-tus, pan-ick-yoo-LAH-tus] Referring to the flower clusters (panicles).
- Pseudobombax [soo-doh-BOM-baks] False Bombax (genus name from the Greek bombyx, silk; referring to the silken fibers).
- purpusii [pur-PUSS-ee-eye] Named for brothers Carl and Joseph Purpus, two early 20th century German plant collectors.
- recurvata [rek-er-VAY-tuh] Bent backwards.
- saundersii [son-DER-see-eye] Named for the botanist who discovered it in South Africa in the late 1800s.
- Sesamothamnus [ses-uh-moth-AM-nus] From the Greek thamnus (shrub) and the genus Sesamum; Shrubby Sesamum.
- Trichodiadema [try-koh-dy-uh-DEE-ma] From the Greek thrix (hair) and diadema (band around the head); referring to the crown of bristles on the leaf tips.
- Tylecodon [ty-lee-KOD-on] An anagram of Cotyledon (a closely-related genus).

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Hooked Spine Mammillaria	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, etc.)
February	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cochemiea, Sclerocactus	Gasteria and Hybrids
March	Echinocereus	Dudleya, Cotyledon
April	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May	Eriosyce, Neoporteria, Islaya Neochilenia,	Crassula
June	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July	Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia	Kalenchoe
August	Lobivia, Echinopsis	Stapeliads (Huernia, Stapelia, Orbea, etc.)
September	Discocactus, Uebelmania	Sansevieria, Dracaena
October	Miniature (3inch or less)	Miniature (3inch or less)
November	North American Columnar Cacti (Saguaro, Cereus, etc.)	Senecio, Caputia, Curio, Kleinia
December	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck

Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be Society members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-Show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity.

Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease.

There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulents". Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

Scoring:

First Place: 6 points

Second place: 4 points

Third place: 2 points

Placement: all entries that are not disqualified receive one point per plant. An individual plant may be entered only once a year.

There are three entry classes: "Novice", "Intermediate" and "Open". Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the Novice class.

After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of Directors of the Society. Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first

place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories.

Intermediate members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards, may be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for Novice and Intermediate and one year for Open class.

Holiday Party 2023

Our 2023 Holiday Party was held in the auditorium at the South Coast Botanic Garden, with an extensive Pot Luck and festive decorations. The Plant of the Year for 2024 was distributed and awards for the top Mini-Show winners were presented. Here are some of the highlights in photos.



2024

Plant of the Year: *Haworthia Emelyae* var. *major*Plant of the Year 2024*Haworthia emelyae* var. *major*

Family: Asphodelaceae

Author: M.B.Bayer(1997)

Climate: subtropical

Geographic Area: Cape Prov. (Ladismith Distr.)



Haworthia emelyae var. *major* is a small succulent that forms a stemless, usually solitary, rosette of thick fleshy leaves with numerous concolorous tubercles tipped with white teeth. The rosette grows up to 3.4 inches (8.5 cm) in diameter. Leaves are dark green and translucent with 3-to-7 greenish-white lines. Flowers are white suffused green, with brownish-green lines, and appear spirally arranged in up to 3.4 inch (8.5 cm) long raceme from spring to fall.

Care: *Haworthia emelyae* var. *major* can be grown indoors (windowsill for light) or outdoors. Bright filtered sunlight is preferred but avoid harsh midday sun. Grow in a deep pot with well-draining soil. Water when dry and avoid soaking in water; water lightly when cold. It can tolerate temperatures to 30°F (-1°C). Propagation is by offsets, leaves, or seeds.





SCCSS Membership Application

New and Renewing Members: You can either fill in the information on a computer then print, or print first then write in the information. Please sign after printing.

Make check payable to: **SCCSS**
Mail form and payment to: **Bernard Johnson,**
629 18th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Date mm/dd/yy:

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

\$20.00 Membership: Renewal or New Member

Lifetime Member Honoree: No Charge

I am a Member of CSSA – Cactus and Succulent Society of America

The above information will be included in our Membership Directory (for use by members only). If you wish to exclude any of the above information from the Directory, please indicate your exclusions here.

Do not publish my: Email Phone Address

SCCSS is a 501 3C organization. In addition to your dues you may make an optional charitable donation to support our philanthropic endeavors as well as the operating expenses of the organization. If you choose to do so, please indicate the amount _____. You will receive a donation receipt. Thank you.

I agree to have my information published in the Membership Directory with noted exceptions.

Signature Date: _____

Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair
sallyfasteau@cox.net
310-544-1313

ms-20220218

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Amount _____ Donation _____ Receipt _____

Upcoming Events



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Speaker: Al Klein
"Growing Caudiciforms: Fat
Plants"
January 14 @ 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
PST

South Coast Botanic Garden
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Speaker Gary Duke
"Chile: More than Copiapos"
February 11 @ 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
PST

South Coast Botanic Garden
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY

Speaker: Steve Frieze
Note new time
March 17 @ 1:00 pm-4:00 pm
PST

South Coast Botanic Garden
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA

For more information and to learn more



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