ESPINAS Y FLORES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
AN AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

WHATCHMACALLIT THINGII: PLANT NOMENCLATURE // 2024 HONOREES
2025 WINTER SHOW // MEMBER PHOTO GALLERY // ...and more

ON THE COVER

Ceropegia ampliata flower
Photo by Kevin Hosmer

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January 11th

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

President	Kelly Griffin
Vice President	Der-shing Helmer
Secretary	Olga Batalov
Treasurer	Ken Brown

DIRECTORS

Rick Bjorklund, Patricia Bryan, Luis Gonzalez, Tom Knapik, Georgia Kenney, Rita Lunceford, and Jared Petker

COMMITTEES & SUBCOMMITTEES

Conservation	Herb Stern
Brag table	Denise Huntsman-Griffin & Susan Hopkins
Plant of the Month	Denise Huntsman-Griffin
Summer/Winter Show	Rick Bjorklund
Historian	Jerry Garner
Grants	Jerry Garner
Library Committee	Luis Gonzalez
Exchange Plants/Seeds	Michelle Heckathorn
Annual Sales	Chris Miller
Auction & Holiday Plants	Kelly Griffin
Show Auction Manager	*[open]*
Monthly Plant Sales	Chris Miller
Benefit Drawing Table	Chuck Ramey
Programs	Kelly Griffin
Reception	Susan Hopkins & Candy Garner
New Member Orientation	Patricia Bryan & Jay Crowley
Monthly Regalement	Sandy Wetzel-Smith
Picnic Regalement	*[open]*
Coffee in the Garden Coordinator	*[open]*

LIAISONS

Balboa Park Desert Garden	Susan Hopkins
CSSA Affiliate Rep	Rick Bjorklund
SD Botanic Foundation	Lynn Elliot
SD Zoo Safari Park, Baja, & Old World Gardens	May Fong Ho
Palomar CS Society Liaison	Brita Miller

MEMBERSHIP, BUSINESS , & PUBLICITY

Membership	Olga Batalov
Business Manager	Donna Roden
Newsletter Editor	Der-shing Helmer
Webmaster	Jared Petker
General Club Publicity	Christie Lathrop
Show & Sale Publicity	Patricia Bryan & Emily Shuffield

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I find myself grateful and hopeful that this coming year will go well and if not, at the very least, I have my plants and a really great group of plant friends to distract me. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that contributed to our Holiday get together. It was nice to see so many of you there!

Thanks to all of you! I hope you had a good time and that it was the kick off for a wonderful holiday season for all of you.

For our traditional holiday gifts, we had plants from **Botanic Wonders** (Al Klein and Anthony) **Sphaeroid institute** (Steven Hammer and Oakes Austin) **Hidden Agave** (Jeremy Spath!) **Succulents.US** (Tina and Joe Zucker... And David too) **Altman Plants** (Kelly G), and we also had some nice pots from **Peter Hagopian** and some from **Jeremy Spath** too. Thank you all! Thank you **Jerry Garner** for helping to make this happen!

Our Holiday auction: a benefit for the conservation of succulent plants, was a great success due to your participation as well as awesome donations from some very incredible donors. I want to say thanks to **Ed DeLollis** and **Western Cactus** for bringing a tremendous spread of plants to bid on. Also thanks to **Peter Walkowiak** for his big and beautiful plants, much appreciated! Thanks to **Tom McCoy** for the kind donation of his spectacular Aloe book. Thank you to **Irwin Lightstone**, the CSSA vice president, for donating a signed print of the cover of the Journal. Thanks to **Rick Bjorklund** and **Kevin Hosmer** for their extra special contributions. Thank you **Gary Vincent** and **Wanda Mallen** for bringing the hand crafted whirly gig and another lovely bird house for a very special garden. Thanks to **Oakes** and **Steven H.** for the weirdo Bulbines, thanks to **Gerald Richert** for donating his pots to the auction. I hope all the winners will enjoy and grow them well!

Much appreciation to all the support crew for the auction: Ed and Peter doing the lions share of the auctioneering and **Jared**, **Der-shing** and Gerald for the tracking and delivery.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I also want to thank both Kevin and Rick for thinking outside of the box and then coming up with a way to make our festive gift plant give away a little brighter even for the unlucky ticket holders of the last few numbers drawn by providing them special plants from their collection to chose from.

I would like to thank **Candy Garner**, **Christine Vargas,** and **Olga Batalov** for the silent auction items and all the others that contributed. The centerpieces, original paper artworks, were like nothing I've seen before. Truly inspiring, Olga!

I want to thank **Melanie Howe** and **Lynn Elliot** and **Ken Brown** for the important component of taking the money and names, too!

Cheers to **Herb Stern** for coming through and hosting the celebratory beverages once again! Thank you all for bringing and or baking our favorites and bringing them!

We say goodbye this year to our forever - caterer **Ruth** who has done this for us for as. long as I can remember. We now have the unenviable task of figuring out how we approach our next holiday party. She treated us right, and I am not looking forward to seeing where this adventure takes us. Perhaps we can find a suitable replacement, or I suppose, we could turn the clock back 30 years to a potluck?!

Much gratitude to the folks that stuck around afterwards and cleaned up; **Pam Badger**, **Donna Roden** and **Luis Gonzalez**, among others. Thank you to those that helped out that I failed to mention. That is my shortfall, not yours... I owe you one!

I wanted to take time to acknowledge our **Volunteer of the Year Luis Gonzalez** for his work with the library and for pitching in in a major way with the upcoming CSSA Convention. Well deserved!

Also, to **Chuck Ramey** and **Lynn Elliot** who became our newest **Life Members**. That is not a sentence and you should know that you both are so, so much appreciated by the club.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we enter the new year, we say thanks to the outgoing SDCSS Board Officers and Directors. Thank you for giving your time and efforts to guide the society. **Thank you President Pam Badger and Vice President Chris Miller** and outgoing **Directors Jen Greene** and **Dean Karras.**

We say welcome to our new Directors Rita Lunceford, Rick Bjorklund and Tom Knapik. We also welcome our President in training Der-shing Helmer, who has graciously accepted the position of Vice President. Collectively, you add your talents to a really great group, and I look forward to working with all of you.

Denise Huntsman-Griffin has stepped up to coordinate the Plant of the Month duties! We still are looking for someone to handle the coffee (or tea) in the garden organizing. Please ask me about this if you might have an interest in doing this for the club.

We have so much to look forward to. Our next speaker will be **Ernesto Sandoval.** He is always enthusiastic and informative. Jared, under duress, agreed to present our Plant of the Month. Truthfully, it was just short notice, and he stepped up. The bottom line—we get two great speakers in January to start our year off right!

The **Winter Show on February 8th** is fast approaching. Please take the time to preen and prepare your winter growers and bring them to show off a little. We need your smiley happy faces and your plants there to make this happen. At the very least, you need to show up and buy some neat plants and pots!

This year, a significant highlight will be our society's hosting of **the 2025 Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) National Convention** at the Marriott in Mission Valley. The event will feature distinguished speakers and plant experts from across the globe, embodying a national event with an international appeal. Although this convention has previously taken place in San Diego, it occurs less frequently than once a decade.

The theme for this year is "San Diego ~ A Succulent Plant Paradise Awaits You." While the theme may seem understated, it aptly reflects our region's status as a succulent plant haven, positioning our city as the focal point in April.

Please make this an event that you participate in and attend. It is truly an experience not to be missed. It will take place from April 23rd to the 27th. There are so many opportunities to help out be sure to include it in your schedule. San Diego will be the focal point for the world of Succulent plants and we are the hosts!

Here is to a bright eventful succulent plant filled 2025!

See you all January 11th!

Kelly Griffin

December 28, 2024

2024 HONOREES

2024 Volunteer of the year
Luis Gonzalez

2024 Life Member
Lynn Elliot

2024 Life Member
Chuck Ramey

UPCOMING GUEST SPEAKER

JANUARY 11TH SPEAKER
ERNESTO SANDOVAL
"GROWING SUCCULENTS, 30+ YEARS OF LEARNING, TESTING, OBSERVING... AND RESEARCH!"

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners.

He regularly lectures to various Western Garden Clubs throughout the year, particularly to succulent clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences and passions of others and his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, particularly gardeners, understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "Because that's how you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/ waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, and now as a Graduate Student getting his Masters (maybe a PhD??) in Horticulture and Agronomy at UC Davis.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER TOPIC

What are some important things Ernesto has learned about growing succulents? What has helped him be a more informed grower? What remains to be learned... and researched! As always, he'll frame his lecture with information to help us all better grow our plants as well as understand why we can and should "manage" their growth. In preparation, he encourages you to think about some plant challenges you might be having and to look up where your plants are from!

OUR PLANT OF THE MONTH TOPIC

Join us before Ernesto's talk for an introduction to Latin for succulent enthusiasts, presented by Jared Petker.

SEE YOU ON JANUARY 11TH, 2024!

Kevin Hosmer

UPCOMING EVENT

MASSIVE TROPICAL PLANT SALE

A very dear friend and avid collector in the plant community, Liz Butler, is selling her incredible collection to help cover medical expenses. This is your opportunity to get some great deals on amazing plants and support a friend. Unique treasures, massive specimens, and everything in between, everything must go, all reasonable offers will be considered!

- Bromeliads - Neoregelias, Billbergias, Vrieseas
- HUGE collection of terrestrial Broms - Hechtias and Dyckias galore!
- Tillandsias
- Staghorns
- Orchids
- Cycads
- Aroids
- Pots and plant stands
- Garden Art

January 24 - 26 2025 // 9am - 2pm

BRING YOUR OWN BOXES / Follow Signs / Park on Street

Cash, Check, CC Accepted

1612 HOLLOW PLACE / EL CAJON / 92019

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

WINTER SHOW & SALE: FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025

BALBOA PARK, CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 101 & PATIO

The show is **FREE** and open to the public!

SHOW HOURS

Bring in Plants: Friday 2pm - 6pm, Saturday 8am - 9am
Show open for viewing: Saturday 10am-3pm

SALE HOURS

Members only: Saturday 9am - 11am (please bring proof of membership)
General public: Saturday 11am - 3pm

For more information, go to our web page at **www.sdcss.net**
Become a member online, or fill out the form below!

OUR FANTASTIC VENDORS

// Antonina's Plants and Pots // Bear Dog Pottery //

// Botanic Wonders // Brian Shepherd //

// C/T Plants // Corona Cactus Nursery //

// DR Cactus // Fairview Plants //

// Gerald Richert Ceramics // Granite Hills Pottery //

// Grow Margo // Hula Tropicals // Kobe Clayworks //

// LA Succulents Plants and Pots // Mohawk Pottery //

// Muradian Pottery // Phoenix Rising Succulents //

// Root Down Pots // Sea Garden Pots //

// Succulent Gardening Plants and Pots // Succulent Plants //

// Susan's Ceramics // T REX Plants //

// TGZ Ceramics // The Purring Potter //

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SHOW INFO

Ready for another fun and exciting SDCSS show and sale in February 2025? Rita and I are very excited and are very much looking forward to the event and working with all the great volunteers, exhibitors, and vendors that make up such a wonderful event.

With Olga's help, we've created **>> an online volunteer sign-up for show and sale volunteer positions <<**. There will also be the paper volunteer sign-up lists that will be available at the January meeting in case you want to sign up that way. We are also having a volunteer **meeting for the show and sale at 11:00am at the SDCSS January meeting** on Saturday, January 11. We hope you will come and join us, even if you have never volunteered before, to learn about all the volunteer possibilities there are for the winter show and sale. It has been our experience that volunteering can be a lot of fun, and working with the various volunteer teams is a great way to make new friends, have a great time, and help contribute to such a successful show and sale. We could not do it without all the fantastic volunteers!

A few changes this year related to the show: we are not exactly sure how soon the tent and tables will be set up on Friday, February 7 on the interior patio, but hopefully it will be before noon. **We could use some show volunteers at 10am Friday morning** to help cover tables in case they are set up that early. If not, there will be plenty of other things to help with for the show or sale that morning. Folks can bring their show plants from 2pm to 6pm on Friday. This is a change from last year that indicated plants could arrive at noon on Friday—we likely will not be ready until 2pm as we need to arrange and cover tables and put out classification signs and dividers. Plants can also be entered on Saturday, February 8, from 8-9am (this is a change to 9am from 10am as we need time to arrange the show before judging. Kindly,

RICK BJORKLUND

SALE INFO

Hello San Diego Cactus Club Members, I am Rita Lunceford, your new Sales Chair, stepping into the role after Chris Miller's incredible 20 years of dedicated service. I am excited to continue building on the strong foundation she has created and to serve our amazing community of cactus and succulent enthusiasts.

I'm thrilled to share the fantastic lineup of vendors who will be participating in our **Winter 2025 Show and Sale**, happening on **Saturday, February 8**. This year's event promises to be one of our best yet, featuring a diverse array of vendors offering unique plants, pottery, and accessories. **See the previous page for a list of our incredible vendors!**

Mark your calendars and get ready to support these wonderful vendors while discovering rare plants, handmade pottery, and unique treasures for your collection. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at the show! Warm regards,

RITA LUNCEFORD

UPCOMING WINTER SHOW & SALE

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE FOR FRIDAY FEBRUARY 7TH 2025

BRING IN YOUR SHOW PLANTS from 2pm – 6pm
VENDOR Setup is midafternoon on Friday. Doors close at 6pm.

SCHEDULE FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 8TH 2025

8:00am to 9:00am	Set up for **OUT-OF-TOWNERS, BRING IN YOUR PLANTS**!
9:00am to 11:00am	Sales area open to members only (please bring proof of membership)
11:00am	Sales area opens to public
10:00am	Show area open for viewing 10am-3pm
10:00am to noon	Judging, open to public
3:00pm	Show and sales area close

AWARDS

A hand-crafted pot and a certificate suitable for framing will be given to BEST CACTUS, BEST SUCCULENT and BEST WINTER-GROWER plants in the NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE and OPEN Levels, and to the BEST OF SHOW plant (NOVICE or INTERMEDIATE or OPEN)

First, Second, and Third Place Ribbons will be awarded in all categories for both Novice, Intermediate, and Open entrants.

RULES

NO field collected specimens

1) Show is open to anyone who grows succulent plants.

2) Entries must be in the possession of exhibitors for at least six months. Plants must be clean, (no weeds or debris), healthy (no insects, disease or pesticide odor) and dry. Plant labels should be removed or hidden. Exhibitors are responsible for placing entry cards with plants prior to judging. The show committee may remove any entry that detracts from or jeopardizes the health of other entries.

3) Plants must be individually potted specimens except for the category 'Dish Gardens.'

4) Depending on number of entries, prior to judging, the show committee may combine or divide categories and rearrange entries. The show area may be PARTIALLY closed during judging, on a section-by-section basis. Judging will be open to the public. Plants must remain in show area until the end of the show.

5) Entries are judged on:

a) Condition, size, maturity and difficulty of culture: 70%
b) Staging - pot, top dressing, arrangement, cleanliness: 25%s
c) Nomenclature: 5%

Awards are given only if the judges believe they are merited, and all decisions are final.

6) The SDCSS and show committee will take due care to safeguard entries but cannot be held responsible for damage to, or loss of, plants and property.

WINTER SHOW DIVISION + CLASS LIST FOR 2025

DIVISION I: CACTI (CACTACEAE)	
Name	**Class**
Ariocarpus	1
Astrophytum	2
Aztekium, Epithelantha, Obregonia, Ortegocactus, Pelecyphora, Strombocactus	3
Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neolloydia	4
Turbinicarpus (Gymnocactus), Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)	5
Echinocereus	6
Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Hamatocactus, Leuchtenbergia, xFerobergia	7
Mammillaria with hooked spines	8
Mammillaria with straight spines	9
Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Thelocactus	10
Melocactus	11
Blossfeldia, Coleocephalocereus (Buiningia), Discocactus, Frailea, Uebelmannia	12
Copiapoa	13
Gymnocalycium	14
Acanthocalycium, Echinopsis, Lobivia	15
Eriosyce (Horridocactus, Neochilenia, Neoporteria, Pyrrhocactus)	16
Parodia (Notocactus)	17
Rebutia (Sulcorebutia, Weingartia)	18
Matucana (Submatucana), Oroya	19
Opuntioids: Austrocylindropuntia, Consolea, Cylindropuntia, Grusonia, Miqueliopuntia, Opuntia, Pereskia, Pterocactus, Tephrocactus, Tunilla, etc.	20
Columnar Cacti: Arrojadoa, Bergerocactus, Browningia, Carnegiea, Cephalocereus, Cereus, Cipocereus, Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Micranthocereus, Myrtillocactus, Neobuxbaumia, Oreocereus, Pilosocereus, Pachycereus, Peniocereus, Stenocereus, Stetsonia, Trichocereus, etc.	21
Epiphytic Cacti: Disocactus, Epiphyllum, Hatiora, Hylocereus, Lepismium, Rhipsalis, Schlumbergia (Zygocactus), Selenicereus, etc.	22
Other Genera - Any Other Cactus	23
Cactus, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25
Variegated Cacti (with 50% or More Variegation)	26

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	**Class**
AIZOACEAE (MESEMBRYANTHEMACEAE)	
Lithops	27
Conophytum, Lapidaria, Dinteranthus	28
Other Mesembs without prominent roots or trunks: Faucaria, Pleiospilos, Titanopsis, etc.	29
Other Mesembs with prominent roots or trunks: Aloinopsis, Mestoklema, Trichodiadema, etc.	30
AGAVACEAE	
Agave, Yucca	31
Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Nolina	32
APOCYNACEAE	
Adenia, Pachypodium	33
Adenium	34
Stapeliads with succulent stems: Hoodia, Orbea, Pseudolithos, Stapelia, etc.	35
Caudiciform Stapeliads: Fockea, Gonolobus, Petopentia, Raphionacme, etc.	36
Ceropegia, Hoya, Dischidia	37

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS	
Name	**Class**
ASPHODELACEAE	
Aloe - species	38
Aloe - hybrids	39
Gasteria	40
Haworthia (Haworthiopsis, Tulista), Astroloba	41
ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITACEAE): Leptosyne (Coreopsis), Othonna, Senecio (Kleinia), etc.	42
BROMELIACEAE: Cryptanthus, Dyckia, Hechtia, Tillandsia, etc.	43
CRASSULACEAE	
Adromischus	44
Aeonium, Greenovia	45
Cotyledon, Tylecodon	46
Crassula	47
Dudleya	48
Echeveria	49
Graptopetalum (Tacitus), Pachyphytum, hybrids (xPachyveria, xGraptoveria)	50
Kalanchoe	51
Sedum, Sedum hybrids (xSedeveria)	52
Sempervivum (Jovibarba)	53
CUCURBITACEAE: Cephalopentandra, Corallocarpus, Dendrosicyos, Gerrardanthus, Ibervillea, Kedrostis, Momordica, Xerosicyos, Zygosicyos, etc.	54
DIOSCOREACEAE: Dioscorea	55
Sansevieria (DRACAENACEAE)	56
EUPHORBIACEAE	
Euphorbia medusa types	57
Euphorbias with leaves and spines	58
Euphorbias with leaves and no spines	59
Euphorbias with spines and no leaves	60
Euphorbias with neither leaves nor spines	61
Enadenium, Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus, Synadenium	62
GERIANACEAE: Monsonia, Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium, etc.	63
PORTULACACEAE (MONTIACEAE, DIDIEREACEAE, ANACAMPSEROTACEAE, TALINACEAE): Anacampseros, Alluaudia, Avonia, Ceraria, Didiera, etc.	64
Succulent Bulbs: Albuca, Boophane, Boweia, Bulbine, Haemanthus, Ledebouria, Massonia, Veltheimea, etc.	65
Other Caudiciforms: Boswelia, Bursera, Commiphora, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia, Ficus, Fouquieria, Ipomoea, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachycormus, Pseudobombax, Pyrenacantha, Sesamothamnus, Sinningia, Uncarina, etc.	66
Other Genera - Any Other Succulent	67
Succulent, Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Crested & Monstrose Succulents	69
Variegated Succulents (with 50% or More Variegation)	70

DIVISION III: OTHER	
Name	**Class**
Dish Gardens (Two or more plants in the same pot)	71

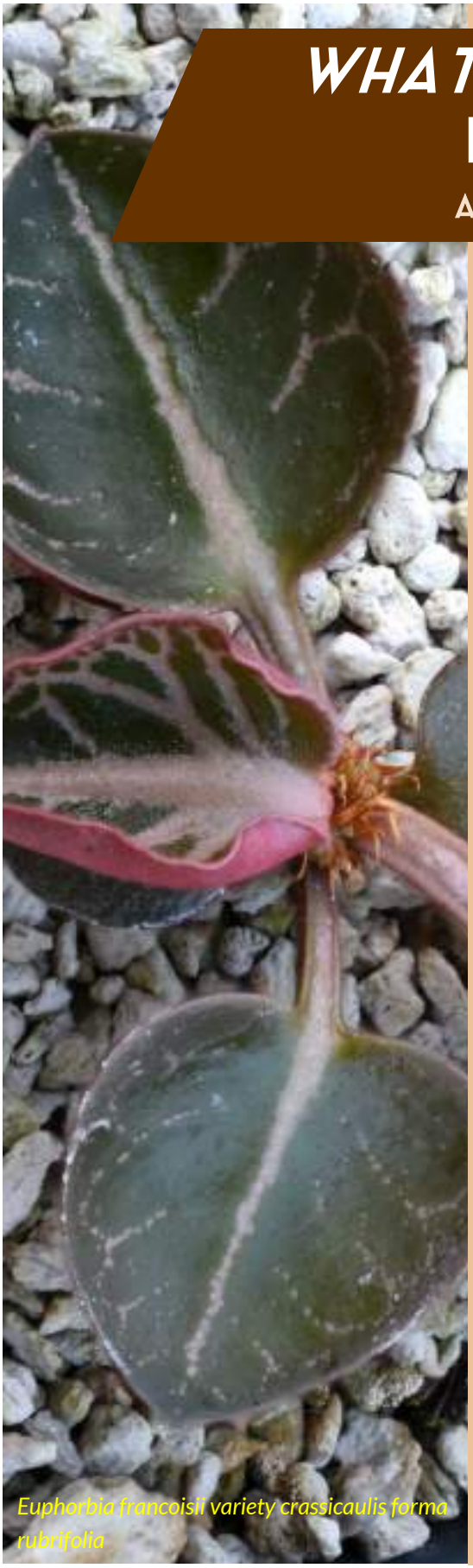
WINTER SHOW ALPHABETIZED CLASS LIST FOR 2025

Name	Class
Acanthocalycium	15
Adenia	33
Adenium	34
Adromischus	44
Aeonium	45
Agave	31
Albuca	65
Alluaudia	64
Aloe - hybrids	39
Aloe - species	38
Anacampseros	64
Ariocarpus	1
Arrojadoa	21
Astrolobe	41
Astrophytum	2
Austrocylindropuntia	30
Avonia	64
Aztekium	3
Beaucarnea	32
Bergerocactus	21
Blossfeldia	12
Boophane	65
Boswellia	66
Bowiea	65
Browningia	21
Buiningia	12
Bulbine	65
Bursera	66
Cactus - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	24
Calibanus	32
Camegiea	21
Cephalocereus	21
Cephalopentandra	54
Ceraria	64
Cereus	21
Ceropegia	37
Cipocereus	21
Cleistocactus	21
Coleocephalocereus	12
Commiphora	66
Corephyllum	28
Consolea	20
Copiapoa	13
Corallocarpus	54
Coreopsis	42
Coryphantha	4
Cotyledon	46
Crassula	47
Crested & Monstrose Cacti	25
Crested and Monstrose Succulents	69
Cryptanthus	43
Cycads	67
Cylindropuntia	30
Cyphostemma	66
Dendrosicyos	54
Dickeria	64
Dinteranthus	28
Dioscorea	65
Dischidia	37
Discocactus	12
Dish Gardens (two or more plants in the same pot)	71
Disocactus	22
Dorstenia	66
Dudleya	45
Dyckia	43
Echeveria	49
Echinocactus	7
Echinocereus	6
Echinofossulocactus	5
Echinopsis	15
Eriadenium	62

Name	Class
Epiphyllum	22
Epithelantha	3
Eriosyce	16
Escobaria	4
Espostoa	21
Euphorbia medusa types	57
Euphorbias with leaves and spines	56
Euphorbias with leaves no spines	59
Euphorbias with no leaves or spines	61
Euphorbias with spines no leaves	60
Faucaria	29
x Ferobergia	7
Ferocactus	7
Ficus	68
Fockea	36
Fouquieria	66
Frailea	12
Gasteria	40
Gerrardanthus	54
Gonolobus	36
Graptopetalum	50
x Graptoveria	50
Greenovia	45
Grusonia	29
Gymnocactus	5
Gymnocalycium	14
Haemanthus	65
Hamatocactus	7
Hatiora	22
Haworthia	41
Haworthiopsis	41
Hechtia	43
Hoodia	35
Homalocactus	16
Hoya	37
Hylocereus	22
Ibervillea	54
Ipomoea	66
Jatropha	62
Jovibarba	53
Kalanchoe	51
Kedrostis	54
Kleinia	42
Lapidaria	28
Ledebouria	65
Lepismium	22
Leptosyne	42
Leuchtenbergia	7
Lithops	27
Lobivia	15
Mammillaria with hooked spines	8
Mammillaria with straight spines	9
Maiacania	65
Mahucana	19
Melocactus	11
Mesoldema	30
Miccranthocereus	21
Miqueliopuntia	20
Momordica	54
Monadenium	62
Monsonia	63
Moringa	66
Myrtillocactus	21
Neobuxbaumia	21
Neochilenia	16
Neoltoyida	4
Neoporteria	16
Nolina	32
Notocactus	17
Obregonia	3
Operculicarya	66
Opuntia	20

Name	Class
Orbea	35
Orchids	67
Oreocereus	21
Oroya	19
Ortegocactus	3
Other Genera - Any Other Cactus	23
Othonna	42
Pachycereus	21
x Pachyveria	50
Pachycormus	66
Pachyphytum	50
Pachypodium	33
Parodia	17
Pedilanthus	62
Pediocactus	10
Pelargonium	63
Pelecyphora	3
Peniocereus	21
Pereskia	20
Petopentia	36
Pilosocereus	21
Pleiospilos	29
Pseudobombax	66
Pseudolithos	35
Pterocactus	20
Pyrenacantha	66
Pyrrhocactus	18
Raphionacme	36
Rebutia	18
Rhipsalis	22
SANSEVIERIA	56
Sarcocaulon	63
Schlumbergia	22
Sclerocactus	10
Sedum	52
Sedum hybrids (xSedeveria)	52
Selenicereus	22
Sempervivum	53
Senecio	42
Sesamothamnus	66
Sinningia	66
Stapelia	35
Stenocactus	5
Stenocereus	21
Stetsonia	21
Strombocactus	3
Submalacaria	19
Succulent - Seed-Grown by Exhibitor	68
Sulcorebutia	18
Synadenium	62
Tacitus	50
Tephrocactus	20
Thelocactus	10
Tillandsia	43
Titanopsis	29
Trichocereus	21
Trichodiadema	30
Tulista	41
Tunilla	20
Turbinicarpus	5
Tylecodon	46
Uebelmannia	12
Uncarina	66
Variegated Cacti (50% or more variegation)	26
Variegated Succulents (50% or More variegation)	70
Valdheimia	65
Weingartia	18
Xerosicyos	54
Yucca	31
Zygocactus	22
Zygosicyos	54

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE



Euphorbia francoisii variety crassicaulis forma rubrifolia

WHATCHAMACALLIT THINGII: PLANT NOMENCLATURE

AND WHY IT MATTERS – BY JARED PETKER

"Euphorbia francoisii variety crassicaulis forma rubrifolia."

That plant has a long name! It has as many syllables as I have fingers and toes. Does it have one of those common names so I can use that instead? And how is it even pronounced? Is it "fran-koh-ss-ee"? "fran-swah-ss-ee-eye"? Something else entirely? What's the difference between a variety and a form… and why do the other words matter? Looks like a tiny palm tree to me anyways. I'll leave it at that. It's a tiny palm tree.

These are the same thoughts that have run through my head in the past when I began learning about plants, or when encountering new species I haven't seen before at nurseries and shows. I've embarrassed myself many times in front of nursery owners by chopping names up into bits and spitting them out for all to be confused by. Well, they were always nice about it, but I still felt embarrassed.

Somewhere between my first *Euphorbia pachypodioides* rotting and my second *E. pachypodioides* becoming curiously hollow inside, I decided I should start discovering more about why the plants I was learning to love had the names they had, and also how to pronounce some of them. Along the way, I learned a bit more about the taxonomic ranks below species and why any of it matters.

I hope to share some of what I have learned with you. Maybe we'll figure out what the tiny little palm tree is along the way.

A HOODIA BY ANY OTHER NAME (WOULD SMELL AS HIDEOUS)

We use names every day to refer to people: our spouses, friends, favorite athletes, or celebrities. LeBron James, an NBA star, is sometimes called "Bron," "King James," or "LBJ." However, "LBJ" also refers to former President Lyndon B. Johnson. To ensure clarity, I'd use LeBron's full name when discussing highlights from last night's game.

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

Plant names share these same qualities. There exist common names for plants which are used by the general public. Common names, often used in local languages, vary widely. Sometimes, different languages have similar common names for the same plant, or even different common names within a single language.

Beyond simply pointing, we need a way to accurately identify plants. Common names like "Crown of Thorns" (*Euphorbia millii*) or "Madagascar Palm" (*Pachypodium lamerei*) are convenient for everyday use and often reflect the plant's appearance or their geographic origin. However, common names lack standardization. For example, "Elephant Foot" can refer to several different plants, including *Beucarnia recurvata*, *Dioscorea elephantipes*, and *Pachypodium rosulatum*. This ambiguity can lead to confusion, especially when identifying or researching specific plants. If we want to ensure preciseness when speaking about a particular plant, we'll want to use its scientific name presented as what's called a "Latin binomial".

THE LATIN BINOMIAL

The Latin binomial is a system for naming plants developed by Carl Linnaeus, an 18th-century Swedish botanist. This system uses a two-part name for each organism: the Genus (capitalized) followed by the Species (not capitalized). In *Euphorbia francoisii*, "*Euphorbia*" is the Genus and "*francoisii*" is the species, or specific epithet. Although the words themselves might not always be strictly Latin, they generally follow Latin grammatical rules.

Early botanists, including Linnaeus, often adapted Latin terms to describe plant structures. For instance, "filamenta" (threads) was used to refer to the stamen. When Latin lacked suitable terms, Greek words were incorporated. This resulted in a unique botanical Latin vocabulary that diverged from classical Latin.

Several factors contributed to the need for expanded botanical terminology. Increased global exploration led to the discovery of numerous plant species, requiring a more comprehensive naming system. Furthermore, advancements in microscopy revealed intricate details of plant anatomy, necessitating new terms to accurately describe these observations.

Today, in 2025 AD, there are nearly 400,000 known species of flowering plants. Each is uniquely identified by its Latin binomial.

ON PRONUNCIATION

There are two primary directions to go on pronunciation of botanical latin names. Stearn describes the two systems neatly in his book on "Botanical Latin".

> *In English-speaking countries there exist two main systems, the traditional English pronunciation generally used by gardeners and botanists and the 'reformed' or 'restored' academic pronunciation adopted by classical scholars as presenting a 'reasonably close approximation to the actual sounds of language as spoken by educated Romans.'*

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

That said, Latin is a 'dead' language, not spoken natively since the fall of the Roman Empire over a millenia ago. This makes definitive pronunciation uncertain. While understanding pronunciation guidelines is helpful for clear communication about plants, it's not crucial to obsess over. Pronunciation can vary, and we'll explore easier cases and helpful tricks in the upcoming sections when appropriate.

WHAT'S (LITERALLY) IN A NAME?

With all these species, how will we figure out what all their names mean? Lucky for us, we can group most specific epithet name schemes into a few different categories. If we can figure out what category the species name is in for a plant we are engaging with, we can more easily figure out what it means, represents, or what to research. The most common categories in my opinion include:

- Species named for a descriptive characteristic (latin based
- Species named for a descriptive characteristic (greek or other language based)
- Species named after a person
- Species named in honor of a person
- Species named for a place

I'll provide a description for each of these, followed by some examples. Photos of some of the examples are included in the gallery section of this article to aid in understanding what the species name is referencing when applicable.

Euphorbia brevirama

CHARACTERISTICALLY DESCRIPTIVE NAMES (LATIN-BASED)

Many plant names reflect their characteristics (morphology, growth, etc.). Ideally, the species name alone would distinguish plants within a genus. However, reality doesn't always end up meeting that desire.

Latin-based plant names often use descriptive words to highlight a plant's (hopefully, but not always) unique qualities within its genus. Non-exhaustively, these can include color, shape, size, appearance, specific plant parts, or a mix of several of these.

The terms found in these names generally come from some root word in Latin, and may appear in a form that is not exactly the way the root is formed.

(cont'd)

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

CHARACTERISTICALLY DESCRIPTIVE NAMES (LATIN-BASED) *CONT'D*

- *Euphorbia aeruginosa* - aeruginosa = verdigris i.e "copper rust". Referring to the color of the branches
- *Euphorbia albipollinifera* - albi = white + pollinifera, in reference to the white pollen
- *Euphorbia brevirama* - brevi = short + rama = arm. It has short arms.
- *Euphorbia debilispina* - debil = weak + spina = spine. Weakly spined, that's not nice!
- *Euphorbia echinus* - echinus = hedgehog
- *Euphorbia fractiflexa* - fracti = broken + flexa = bend, "zig-zag". The continuous spine-shield zig-zags back and forth
- *Euphorbia micracantha* - micra = tiny + cantha = spine
- *Euphorbia multifolia* - multi = many + folia = leaves. Note, folia, not flora
- *Euphorbia multiceps* - multi = many + ceps = head
- *Euphorbia pubiglans* - pubi = from pubescent, meaning finely haired + glans = glands

If you suspect a plant name uses Latin or botanical terms, search for the meaning online or use a botanical glossary. A helpful resource is the 'Glossary of botanical terms with special reference to Succulent Plants' by Urs Eggli.

CHARACTERISTICALLY DESCRIPTIVE NAMES (GREEK- OR OTHER LANGUAGE- BASED)

Sometimes we encounter species which look like they may be made up of Latin words, but they are instead of Greek origin. At other times, the name used may actually be a word from an entirely different language, but usually a language which is used within the geographic area that the plant is native to. As with the latin-based descriptive names, the species name provided is usually providing some sort of descriptive quality about the plant itself.

- *Euphorbia enopla* - Greek, referring to nemertine worms. Indeed the branches do resemble worms.
- *Euphorbia kalisana* - Swahili, 'very sharp'. In reference to the very long and sharp spines.

SPECIES NAMED AFTER A PERSON (SUFFIX: -II, -I, -AE, -E)

Plants named after people often end in -ii, -i, -ae, or -e. For example, *Euphorbia francoisii* (Francois' Euphorbia) and *Euphorbia susannae* (Susanna's Euphorbia). The -ii suffix is pronounced as "ee-ee" or "ee-eye" with the rest pronounced as "ee".

It's often tempting to pronounce these names without considering the individual they are named after. Though in general, these types of specific epithets are quite easy to pronounce correctly compared to their Latin counterparts (since of course, we don't actually know how all of latin was really spoken). Since these names represent actual people, you can often find their correct pronunciation online.

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

Euphorbia multifolia

Euphorbia multiceps

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

A commonly mispronounced Euphorbia is *Euphorbia poisonii*. Since *E. poissonii* does indeed have a caustic latex it exudes when damaged (as do all Euphorbia), and is used as a poison by some tribes in western Africa, many are tempted to pronounce the species as "poison-ee-eye". Your newfound knowledge, however, has made you the wiser! If you are familiar with French, which I'm not, (or had taken a statistics class at some point in life) you may recognize this name to be pronounced more closely to "pwah-sawn" than to "poison" and fully as Euphorbia "pwah-sawn-ee-eye".

Euphorbia eduardoi

- *Euphorbia poissonii* - pronounced "pwa-sawn-ee-eye"
- *Euphorbia groenewaldii* - "grun-eh-wald-ee-eye"
- *Euphorbia guentheri* - "gun-ter-eye"
- *Euphorbia susannae* - "soo-san-a-ee"
- *Euphorbia eduardoi* - "ed-ward-o-ee"

SPECIES NAMED IN HONOR OF A PERSON (SUFFIX: -IANA, -ANA)

Plants named in honor or in commemorating a person follow the same pronunciation rules as when named for a person.

- *Euphorbia kimberleyana*
- *Euphorbia guillaminiana* - "ghee-yah-min-ee-ah-na"
- *Euphorbia pauliana*

SPECIES NAMED FOR A PLACE (SUFFIX: -ENSIS, AMONGST OTHERS)

While not the only way a geographic area is called out within a species name, the -ensis suffix is an easy one to spot. This suffix generally indicates that the plant occurs within the geographic area or place which precedes the suffix. Examples of these types of areas would include a specific country, city, or mountain.

- *Euphorbia jansenvillensis* - Occurs near Jansenville, South Africa
- *Euphorbia baioensis* - Found on the Baio mountain of Marsabit, Kenya
- *Euphorbia godana* - Found within the Goda Mountains of Djibouti
- *Euphorbia handiensis* - Found in Jandia of the Canary Islands, Spain

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

Euphorbia fractiflexa

Euphorbia baioensis

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

SPECIES NAMED AFTER ANOTHER PLANT (SUFFIX: -OIDES)

Once in a while, species are named in a way to indicate that they look like another plant genus. In these cases, the suffix of -oides is used. -oides is actually of Greek origin, and it is pronounces "oh-ee-deez" or "oh-eye-deez", depending on who you listen to.

- *Euphorbia gymnocalycioides* - Like a Gymnocacalycium
- *Euphorbia pachypodioides* - Like a Pachypodium
- *Echeveria agavoides* - Like an Agave

ON THE COMPREHENSIVENESS OF THE ABOVE

The categories presented are not comprehensive of all the various ways specific epithets are derived, nor are all of the suffixes provided complete for each category. I'll leave learning the full breadth of botanical Latin to the reader, and William T. Stearn's 550-page book on the topic.

INFRASPECIFIC RANKS AND FRIENDS

If only we could call it quits! The taxonomic rank of species aims to bucket plants by their morphological characteristics, and more recently, their biological similarities as well. At times we see variance within a species, and when that occurs we need to employ a few infraspecific taxonomic ranks to aid in recognizing this variance. Subspecies, variety, and forma are some of the more "official" infraspecific ranks. At times other terms such as cultivar and affinis are also used. Let's touch on them here.

subspecies - Abbreviated as "ssp", subspecies is generally used to to describe a geographically isolated population of plants within a species. A subspecies only makes sense as defined relative to another species. Euphorbia obesa and Euphorbia obesa ssp. Symmetrica are nearly identical looking plants but their populations are geographically separated from each other. E. obesa occurs, whereas E. obesa ssp. Symmetrica occurs…

variety - Abbreviated as "var", variety of a species or subspecies usually differs by more than one quality. At times subspecies and variety are used interchangeably with one another even if they aren't necessarily interchangeable.

forma - Abbreviated as "f", forma is similar to variety, but used when there is a single difference between the species or subspecies being referenced.

cultivar - Abbreviated as "cv", cultivars are used for indicating artificially bred plants or plants bred for specific characteristics.

affinis - Abbreviated as "aff", affinis designates when a plant is closely related to another species.

- *Euphorbia polygona var. striata* (polygon-shaped with horizontal striations)
- *Euphorbia gareipina ssp. balsamea*
- *Euphorbia obesa ssp. symmetrica*
- *Euphorbia ritchiei ssp. nyambensis*

PLANT OF THE MONTH FEATURE

- *Euphorbia francoisii var. crassicaulis f. rubrifolia* - A thicker stemmed and red-leafed variety of *E. francoisii*. We did it! Take that, tiny palm tree!
- *Euphorbia aff. kalisana*
- *Euphorbia aff. actinoclada*

ALL IN THE NAME OF CONSERVATION

The IUCN Red List of Endangered Species recognizes taxonomic ranks down to the levels of species, subspecies and variety. Assessments are conducted in habitat over time to understand how threatened or endangered a particular taxon is, whether due to climate change, human expansion, or other factors.

While not a professional in conservation, it seems important to me that similar subspecies and varieties in habitat not be "lumped" with one another at the species level to ensure that appropriate assessments are conducted and cataloged for the preservation and conservation of the plants in question. For example, if *E. obesa ssp. symmetrica* were to be grouped *E. obesa*, and the *E. obesa ssp. symmetrica* sub-population was to wane, we may not catch it in time to take action!

Euphorbia susannae

IN CONCLUSION

I hope this overview of plant nomenclature and why it matters was insightful and fun, regardless of what your level of expertise in plant cultivation lies. The next time you're at a plant show, nursery, or even in your own garden, try challenging yourself in learning more about the plants you see solely from their plant name tag!

JARED PETKER

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[3] Detlef H. Schnabel. (2022). A Monograph of Euphorbia Polygona, Revised Edition. Self-Published.

[4] Urs Eggli (1993). Glossary of botanical terms with special reference to Succulent Plants. BCSS.

[5] Bihrmann. https://bihrmann.com/

MEMBER PHOTO SECTION

A selection of beautiful garden photos (from which we selected our first cover of the year). Top left: Aloe inflorescences. Top right: *Othonna pachypoda* in bloom. Bottom: purple inflorescences. **Kevin Hosmer**

MEMBER PHOTO SECTION

A recent trip by Olga. Top: *Agave utahensis ssp kaibabensis*, Grand Canyon National Park. Bottom left: *Agave utahensis* from Red Rock Canyon. Bottom right: *Echinocereus engelmannii* from Blue Angel Peak. **Olga Batalov**

MEMBER PHOTO SECTION

A recent trip by Olga. Top left: *Cochemiea tetrancistra* from Blue Angel Peak. Top right: *Escobaria chlorantha* from Red Rock Canyon. Bottom: the Fire Wave formation from the Valley of Fire. **Olga Batalov**

2024 COVER GALLERY