



# ON THE DRY SIDE

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Speaker for Meeting

Kelly Griffin

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## *Aloes*

### *A Perspective*

From the field to the garden and everywhere in-between.

Kelly Griffin's program will try to address the broad and varied genus Aloe and what it means to him. He will share his perspective gained from decades of study in the field, the greenhouse, the nursery and lab. He will share his latest creations and make an effort to answer as many questions as come.

Kelly is recognized for being a succulent plant hybridizer, propagator and avid plant explorer. His interest in plants particularly succulent plants, started at a fairly young age (11) Since then Kelly has traveled to 20+ countries, visiting Madagascar 5 times and Mexico 40+ times covering 28 of the 32 Mexican states. His father worked for United Airlines which allowed for many, many family trips. His mother worked as a florist for a time when Kelly was a kid. When you put the two together, this equals, "Plant Explorer." Besides working at NurseryLand, he had a landscaping business, worked as the Curator of Succulents at Rancho Soledad Nursery for 11 years and he is currently working for Altman's Plants as Succulent Plant Development Manager.

He has become well known for his hybridizing and is responsible for over 100 succulent hybrids now in the trade, including Aloes, Agaves and Echeverias. His specialty that he is well known for are his Aloe hybrids that are 30 years in the making (Pink Blush, Delta lights, Christmas Sleigh and Coral Fire etc) and some Agave hybrids and selections too (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.

## SPEAKER CONTINUED

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 more than 10 years, 4 of which he was President and 2 as Vice-President. He was honored to be named a Fellow of the San Diego Society. He also serves on the board of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH:

### Growing Aeonium Plants Indoors

Written by Jon VanZile



The Aeonium genus includes about 35 succulent plants, mostly hailing from the Canary Islands. Members of the Crassulaceae family, these generally follow the growth recommendations for most succulents: lots of light, perfect drainage, and not too much water.

Like other succulents, these are also highly prized for their beautiful foliage. On the most popular variety, the leaves are held on a nearly bare branch and grow in attractive rosettes that turn a deep, burgundy red in the summertime. They are not especially common in cultivation, and if you do see one, it's likely to be an immature plant. When they are young, it's easy to confuse Aeoniums with the closely related Echeverias, which are much more common in the nursery trade. It's easier, however, to tell adult plants with adequate light as the most popular species offer their spectacular leaf coloring.

#### Growing Conditions

- **Light:** They like plenty of bright light, but dislike intense direct light, especially in the summer. These plants are not very tolerant of heat, so try to avoid locations where they are exposed to harmful direct heat radiation, whether from the sun or a light.
- **Water:** When grown in containers, Aeonium like a regular supply of moisture during the growing season, which will typically be in the summertime. It's best to let the plants dry slightly between waterings, but because Aeonium have small roots, they are a bit less drought tolerant than other succulents and appreciate a steady supply of light water with good drainage.
- **Fertilizer:** A typical cactus fertilizer can help them look their best, especially in older plants where the potting media is getting older and lost some of its nutrients.
- **Soil:** A light, fast-draining potting soil is perfect. Cactus soils allow more latitude with watering because they hold less water, but regular potting soils can also be used.

#### Propagation

Many kinds of Aeonium do not clump as freely as more familiar succulents, which partially explains why they are less common in the trade (propagation is somewhat harder). However, they do root readily from leaf cuttings. Take a single leaf, allow it to dry out slightly, then place it in a seedling potting soil and keep barely moist and warm. New growth will eventually emerge. In some varieties, it's only possible to propagate from seed; this is more typical of the plants that do not branch but grow only single rosettes.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH — Continued

### Repotting

These will not need frequent repotting. They are usually weakly rooted, so when you're repotting, be careful not to damage the roots or fragile leaves. Repot in the beginning of the growing season and keep in a warm, bright place until new growth begins to emerge.

### Varieties

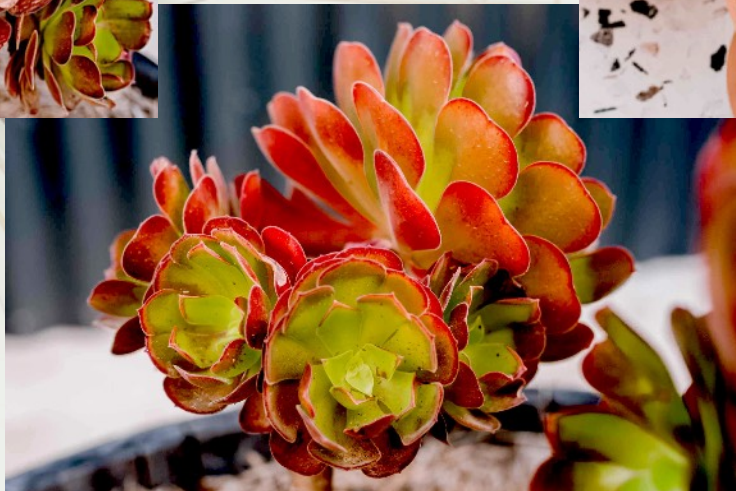
Collectors enjoy finding rarer Aeoniums, which grow in fantastic leaf forms and colors. Here are a few types of Aeonium that you might see:

- *A. arboreum*: A fairly common species with mint green colored rosettes and branching growth habit. This plant grows up to 5 feet and is easily propagated from leaf or branch cuttings. It has been extensively hybridized.
- *A. arboreum* 'Atropurpureum': This variety of the *A. arboreum* features the same green leaves that transition to purple or burgundy when exposed to sunlight. This is a very beautiful and relatively [common Aeonium](#), compared to some of the more esoteric plants.
- *A. arboreum* 'Zwartkop': Similar to the other two varieties, with the exception being that its leaves are dark purple and almost black. This plant is exceptionally beautiful when grown in masses.

### Grower's Tips:

Aeonium are wonderful succulents that can really add visual interest to a succulent collection. They are relatively cold and heat sensitive, however, and do best in a temperate range. The same is true for watering: they dislike intense droughts or too much water. Ideally, Aeonium thrive in a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and mild summers, and regular but not overwhelming water. Aeonium is vulnerable to [mealybugs](#) and [aphids](#).

This article was sourced from the [spruce.com](#) for both verbiage and photos.





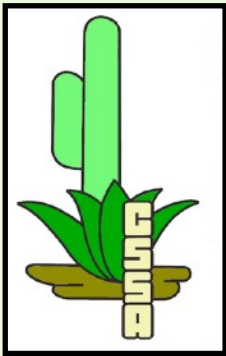
# December Meeting of 2020

The general meeting of December 13 ran smoothly with Harry's introduction of Joe Stead, instructor at Orange Coast College Horticulture Dept. who presented his landscaping projects and Boswellia hybridizing, followed by a plant give away. Everyone present at the meeting won a free plant by a number drawing. The outstanding Plant Giveaway concluded at the Odd Fellows Hall parking lot the following Sunday from 1-3:00. Here are few photos of the plant pick-up event.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued



Hello folks,

Join us Saturday, January 9th at 10:00 a.m. PST for the next in our series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

**Program: Graham Charles: [Matucana in Habitat and Culture](#)**

**To register for the webinar in advance, [click here](#)**

**After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.**

Graham Charles and Daisy

**Program: [Matucana in Habitat and Culture](#) presented by Graham Charles**

The cactus genus *Matucana* is a popular genus to grow and there are many diverse species available as seeds or young plants. Graham will talk about the history of the genus, the characteristics of the species, and where they grow naturally. He will introduce you to the best species to grow and tell you how to cultivate them. Having visited their Peru many times, Graham will show you some of the dramatic habitats where matucanas can be seen growing in the wild.

### **Biography:**

Graham Charles first started growing cacti and succulents at the age of 12 and joined the National Cactus and Succulent Society in 1962. Having graduated in Physics at Birmingham University, he started out on a career as a Marketing Manager specialising in publishing commercial catalogues of electronic and scientific equipment.

He qualified as a cactus judge in 1972 and soon after, began to assemble his collection of documented plants. His specific interest has always been South American cacti and he has written many articles about these plants that have been published in various journals. He is enthusiastic about practical conservation, reducing the demand for field collected plants by growing seedlings from documented seed and propagating plants with provenance already in culture.

He has given about 1000 talks at BCSS branch meetings and conventions in Britain as well as at events in mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. He has made more than 20 visits to South America to study the plants in their natural habitat. For his contribution to the hobby, the CSSA made Graham a Fellow of their Society in 2005.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

There followed a book titled *Cacti and Succulents* about the hobby in general and intended for beginners and those wanting to progress their interest. Graham then served as a member of the editorial group for the *New Cactus Lexicon*, contributing many photographs to the picture volume. The completion of this book about *Gymnocalycium* was the result of three years research including visits to Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. The next book project will be about Matucana due for publication in 2021.

Graham has organized an annual residential meeting since 2005 for cactophiles looking to expand their interest and knowledge. Known as the *Cactus Explorers Weekend*, it features talks about more unusual plants and places. Its journal, *The Cactus Explorer*, was launched in August 2011. It was the first free on-line journal in English for cactus and succulent enthusiasts and has achieved a large world-wide readership.

Graham met his wife Elisabeth at a cactus meeting and, for more than 30 years, they and their plant collections have shared a large glasshouse at their home in Rutland, near the historic town of Stamford, England.

**It is CSSA membership renewal time!  
Start the New Year right with a CSSA membership**

### CCCSS MEMBERSHIP DUES NEWS

Dues for the membership year 2020/21 are payable now, by mail. Nobody will be dropped from the rolls until our next in-person membership meeting, by which time you must have paid your dues. It would be very helpful to the club to pay your dues now, as we have ongoing expenses even though we are not meeting in person. Please pay by check, made payable to CCCSS. Dues are as follows: Individual - \$20; Family, all under same roof - \$25; Business, \$40. Please mail your dues c/o Terry Skillin, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, CA 93420.

Please take a moment to renew your dues today. A membership application is not needed unless there are changes to your current membership status or you are a new member. Applications can be found online at [https:// centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/](https://centralcoastcactus.org/home/membership-information/)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

### Highlights from the CCCSS Board of Directors Minutes, Dec 12, 2020

Present: Harry Harlow, Mary Harlow, Kathy Goss, Natasha Erickson, Pat Gilson, Karen Kolba, Mary Peracca, Bill Findley, Loring Manley, Rob Skillin, Terry Skillin, Ann Byrne (Quorum present)

#### Old business:

Due to personal circumstances, Ann Byrne will take a break from Secretarial duties & Mary Harlow will assume these responsibilities.

Draft survey discussion - - A question regarding the length of the meetings will be added to the survey, Loring will try to get the survey out to members before the Jan meeting.

#### New Business:

##### Plant give away

The plant give away during the meeting went pretty well. Karen organized the random selection of members & Rob gave a description and care instructions for almost all of the plants.

There was some discussion of paid members vs. non-paid members receiving plants. As was decided at a previous meeting, attendees are not required to pay dues until we can meet in person. However, everyone is encouraged to keep paying their dues to help cover our continued fixed expenses.

##### Future plant give aways

Suggested that we give away 20 or so plants every other month

Rob will check the Club's inventory of plants. He thinks there will be good possibility that this will be feasible.

##### Mary Peracca---SLO Botanical Garden update: Mary met with Eve Vigil (garden manager).

Aloes are coming into bloom and Eve would like to do a 10 minute video of someone walking through the garden talking about the aloes. This video could then be posted on the SLOBG website and the CCCSS website.

Mary walked through the garden with Eve and it was suggested that the CCCSS BOD visit the garden to see how the club could help with planting areas, design, clean up, soil amendment etc. Maybe just take one area at a time to work on.

Funding would have to be found. Donations from individuals? Farm Supply? Local Nurseries? AirVol Block? Kathy Goss will put together an analysis of our financial standing to see what the club could contribute.

Harry, Mary & Bill Findley will meet Mary P and tour the garden on 12/15.

##### Membership- - Rob & Terry will send out a current roster to BOD

Rob Skillin - - Show & Sale update: Unlikely that a May Show & Sale will happen, need to reserve a spot later in the year (Oct?) just in case we are allowed to hold the event. Rob will check on this.

The Show & Sale committee will need to start meeting (Zooming, that is) after the first of the year. Rob is wanting to "dial back" on his involvement in organizing the Show & Sale Club members will need to be recruited to staff the committee and cover the jobs that Rob has done for the previous shows.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

### Spring plant Sales:

There was discussion re: having plant sales at individual homes, much like the format of the Open Studios event. Who would organize/advertise this? Would there be a percentage of sales to the Club if we organize it? Further discussion needed.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting January 10, 2021



**Thank you Rob for the fantastic work you have done  
to make  
our Show & Sales such successful events!!**

### **SLO Botanical Garden Project**

Submitted by Mary Peracca

As a volunteer in succulent propagation at the botanical garden for the past 3 years, I believed our club could help to refurbish the succulent plantings. They have been in need of cleaning up and replanting for a while. I have become the liaison between the garden manager, Eve Vigil and our board of directors. Our board has been supportive and enthusiastic about the project.

Harry and Mary Harlow, Bill Findley and I surveyed the areas where it is possible to clean up and replant. We decided to focus on the Aloe bed where there are a number of big tree aloes. Our resident landscape architects, Kathie and Paul Matsuama, came out last week and added their plant and design ideas to the project.

The next step is where you come in! :)

I am ready to organize the first clean up crew. We need to clean out dead plants and cut back overgrown plants. We can begin to dig up the soil, amend it and move rocks. We are able to use the garden's tools. The BG volunteers have been limited to 5 at a time, per COVID rules, so we will follow that guideline also.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

I would like to hear from any of you who would like to help with clean up or future work with gathering plants and planting. I'll keep you posted on our progress. The date for the first crew has not been set yet but I will email interested members to coordinate the date and time.

Anyone who would like to visit the garden on your own and offer suggestions is welcome. I would like to have as many members involved as are interested.  
Thanks, Mary



SLO Botanical Garden



## ANNOUNCEMENTS—Continued

Do you remember? Just look at our successful growers!

The *Haworthia Challenge* was a planting that our members did last February.

These were small plants of the variety, "White Ghost", and interested members were to grow them as they saw fit using their own potting mix and pot size.

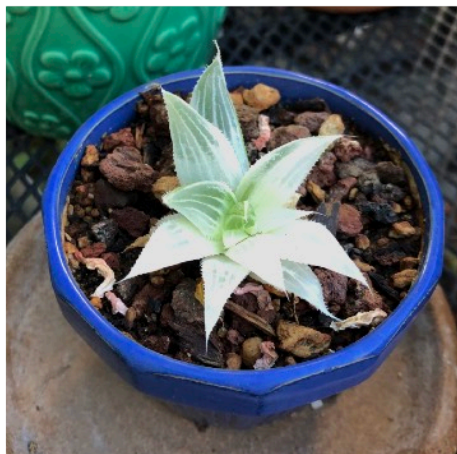
Here is my little *Haworthia* from last year's challenge in a StudioGwyneth pot.



Terrie Leivers says,  
"Mine has not grown much."



Here's 2 photos of my Challenge Plant  
—Laurie Aguilar



Pat Gilson  
Growing well but slowly most likely because all of my plants have been somewhat neglected.

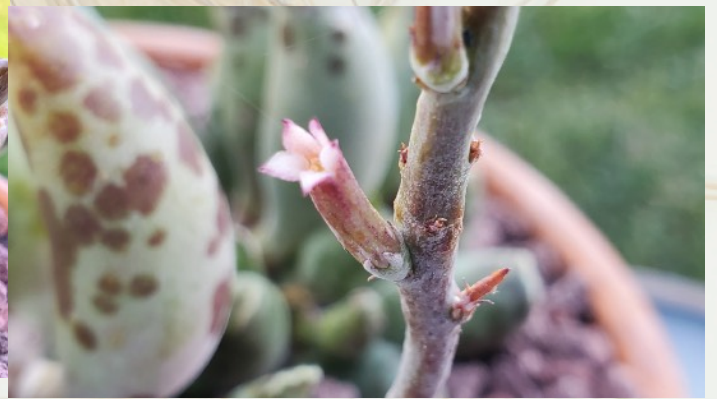




# BRAG PLANTS

From Bill Findley

*Adromischus festivus*



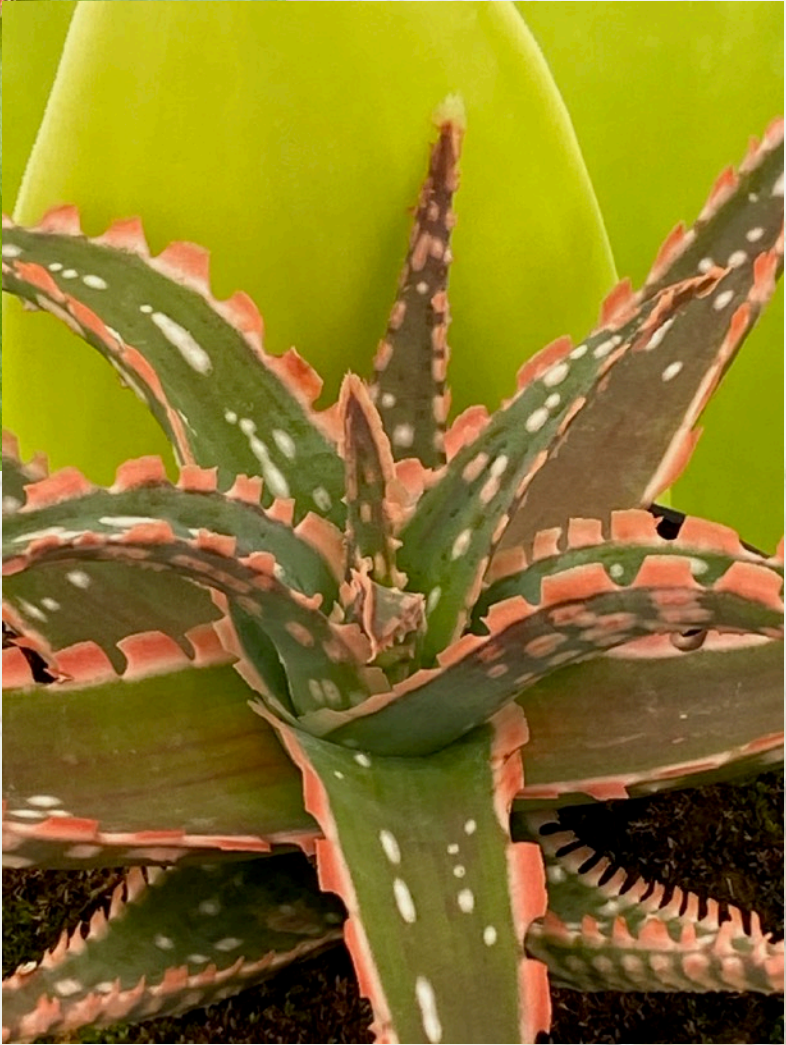
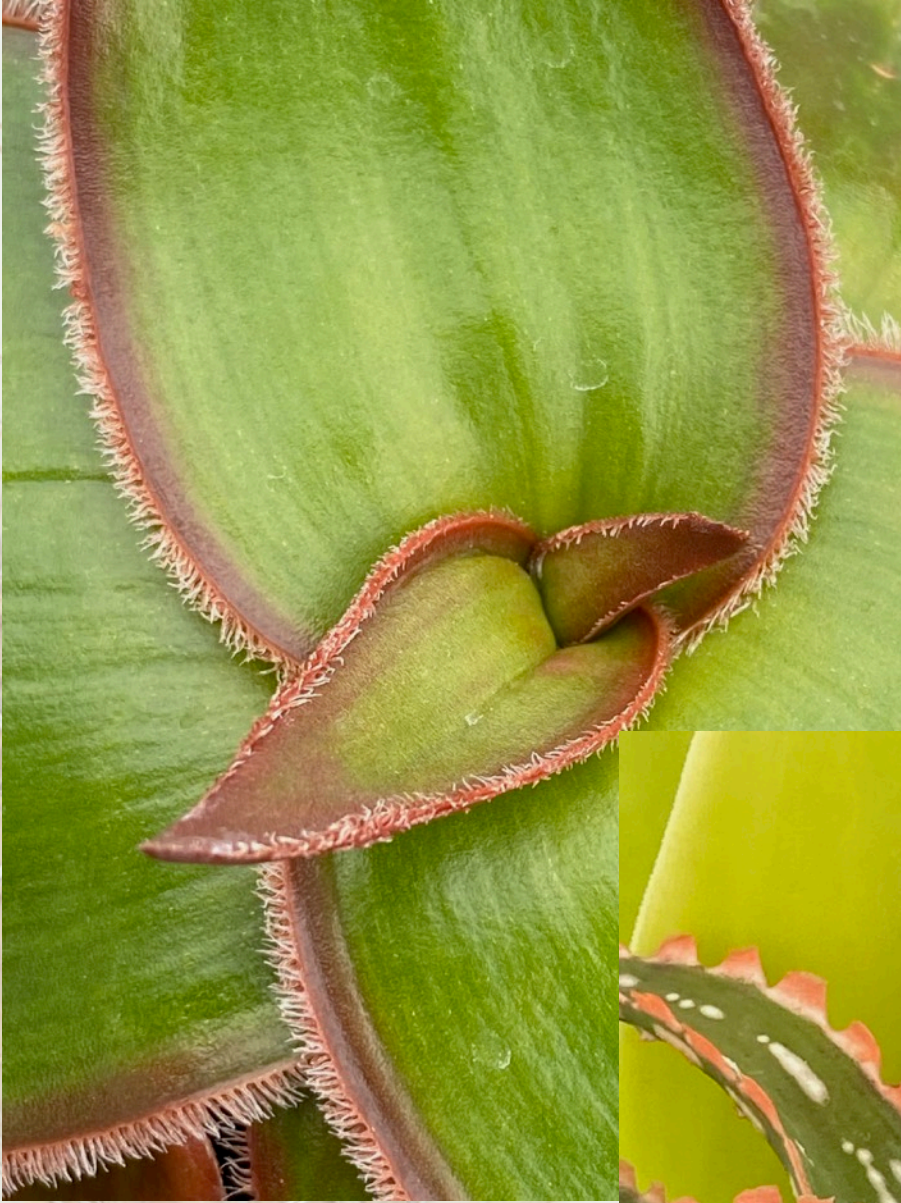
*Aeonium leucoblepharum*





BRAG PLANTS - Continued

Also from Bill Findley





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