



Succulent Scoop

Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2022

Volume 7 Number 1

Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus And Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society

Web: ConejoCSS.com

Next Meeting
Monday, January 3
7:00 pm

California Lutheran University
 Lunding Events Center
 130 Overton Court
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
 Doors Open at 6:30

Program: Botanical Travelogue to Baja, Mexico Dean Karras – Gnosis Nursery



Dean will present a botanical travelogue of his first expedition to Baja, Mexico in February of 2018 wherein he traversed over 1,000 miles in a week. The emphasis of the presentation will be on field observations of the plants we know and love: cacti, agaves, euphorbias, pachycauls, and dudleyas. However, Dean will also discuss how the greater climate, geology, and ecology of the Baja Eco region collectively shape the unique landscape and the plants that inhabit it.



Bio:

Dean is the founder and owner of Gnosis Nursery in Ramona, CA. Palomar Club member since 2017, member of SDCSS since 2019. Some of his favorite succulent genera are: Aloe, Agave, Dudleya, Trichocereus, Echinocereus, Astrophytum, and Ferocactus. He is also partial to mesembs, caudiciforms, and xeric bromeliads, although his passion for plants extends far beyond succulents to include organic gardening & permaculture practices, natives, edibles, and ethno botanically significant plants. When not busy propagating and selling plants, Dean can be found exploring and photographing the Desert Southwest and Baja.

CCSS 2021 Officers

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Donna Pachorek

CCSS Mailing Address: 530 Los Angeles Ave. Ste #115-183, Moorpark, CA 93021

Happy Holidays

I think everyone would agree that our Holiday Party and Plant Exchange was a lot of fun and a big success. The plants and their quality was amazing. I miss the pot luck, sit down dinners we've had in the past, but it couldn't happen with Covid. So, we did the best we could. "Oh well, maybe next year."



I am very pleased with the number of plants members are bringing in for Plant of the Month. And I'm doubly impressed with how good everyone has gotten with staging. This coming year we are going to keep track of the winner's points, so the top winners can win prizes at our 2022 Holiday Party.

The weather we're having now is driving me crazy. The last week and a half has been the "Perfect Storm" for the worst weather for our plants. The worst 3 conditions, rain followed by freezing temperatures and the high winds.

First, the rain soaks the plants and fills them with water, then the freezing temperatures. Thirty two degrees and below freezes the water in the plants. This turns the leaves to mush unless the plants are protected from the freeze in some way. Then the winds, which make it almost impossible to cover the plants with frost cloth. "GET OUT THE CLOTHES PINS". Then it rains again, and everything you used to cover your plants gets soaked. "YIKES".

The first thing you need to do is watch the weather. There are many different weather apps available and most of them are free. The one I found that seems to be the most accurate and gives the most information is Weather Bug. I check the weather hourly, because it can, and usually does change hourly. Then there are the **last minute freeze warnings**. Sometime you're not notified until 8 or 9 p.m.

Just as I am extreme in caring for my plants on a daily basis, I am the same about protecting them from the weather.

I start my protection plan way ahead of time, so I don't have to rush at the last minute, because I have 757 plants. This last freeze I was glad I did. One morning Weather Bug said it was 36 degrees, but when I went out to my car there was a solid sheet of ice on the windshield. This time I brought many of my potted plants into my garage and sunroom. If it was only a freeze I would just cover them, but with all this rain, the potted plants would drown.

I've been talking with different collectors and it seems everyone handles how they protect their plants differently. Some don't do anything, and say "Oh well, if it lives it lives and if it dies, it dies."

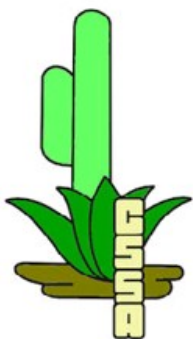
It would be interesting to hear how our members protect their plants. Maybe we could open the subject up for a quick discussion while Kyle is judging the Plant of the month at the January meeting.

Try to stay warm and dry

Happy New Year, see you next month

Linda Holub

President CCSS



As you may know, the CSSA publishes a quarterly e-newsletter "To The Point". Currently, a complimentary copy of *To The Point* is available to the public free of charge.

The link below will give access to receive a complimentary copy of the newsletter.

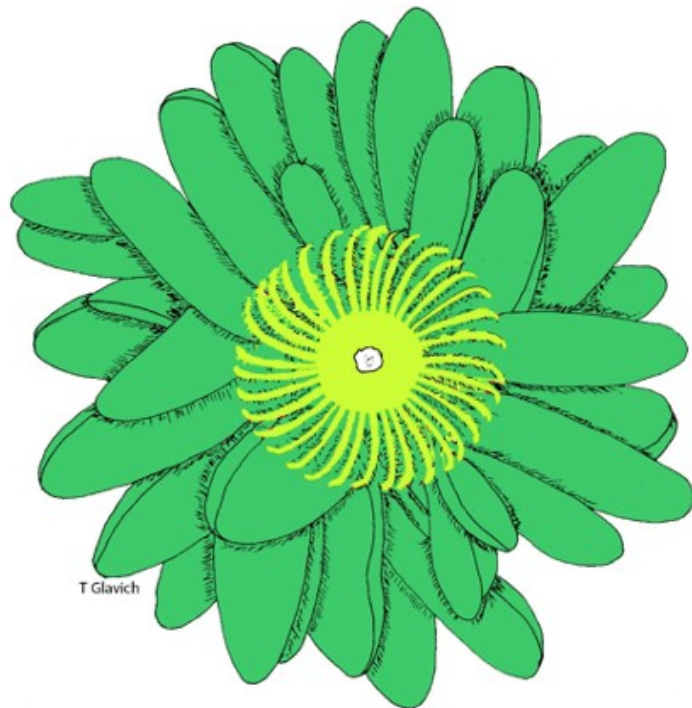
Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

John Matthews
CCSS Affiliate representative
jgmplants@aol.com

To The Point e-newsletter: To receive your complimentary copy, [Click Here](#)

**27th Annual San Gabriel Valley
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale**



Glottiphyllum oligocarpum

Tickets: Advanced Purchase Required On-line

Limited Tickets Available

Buy now at www.Arboretum.org

Arboretum Members Free – Cash Registers Open at 8:30

Hours 11 AM -5 PM: Sale February 4 – 6: Show February 5 – 6

Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N Baldwin, Arcadia

www.sgvcss.com

2022 Plant of the Month

Cactus

Succulent

January

Columnar cacti

Succulent Bulbs

February

Ferocactus

Aloe

March

Parodia (Notocactus)

Gasteria

April

Gymnocalycium

Pachypodium

May

Echinopsis

Euphorbia from Madagascar

June

Crested/Monstrose

Crested/Monstrose

July

Echinocereus

Agave

August

Mammillaria

Adenium

September

Eriosyce

Cyphostemma & Cissus

October

Copiapoa

Stapeliads (including Ceropegia)

November

Opuntia & relatives

Conophytum & Lithops

December

Favorites

Favorites

Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is two fold.

- Introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion on the culture, care, and display of these plants.
- Encourage members to share their plants with membership.

POM Submissions:

- Members may submit up to 3 three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulents). Plants entered in the Intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice category may be newly acquired plants.

POM Divisions:

- **Novice:** 0-25 Total points • **Intermediate:** 26-100 Total points • **Advanced:** >100 Total Points
- When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

POM Judging Criteria:

- Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria:
- Condition (health, form, damage). 50%
- Maturity and size. 25%
- Staging (Artistic composition - container, stonework, etc). 20%
- Nomenclature (proper plant identification). 5%
- Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

POM Judging:

- 1st place - 6 points • 2nd place - 3 points • 3rd place - 2 points
- All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping, and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We are encouraging all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

See you at the next meeting
CCSS Board

Plant of the Month: Columnar Cacti

Columnar cacti are a highly heterogeneous group defined by growth form rather than any natural grouping or relationship. As such, there is very little that unifies the group outside of growth form, which can roughly be defined as an upright, mostly self supporting, cactus that is at least twice as tall as wide. Implied in this definition is that the "column" is largely unjointed, thereby excluding cacti such as *Opuntia* and *Schlumbergera*. Even so, we are left with a vast array of cacti that are anywhere from a few inches to over 50 feet tall, ranging from the United States all the way down to southern South America, with cold tolerance ranging from highly frost sensitive to those that can be frozen solid for the winter without harm. To add confusion to the mix, some species start out as globular but after many years become columnar. For example, *Astrophytum* species are usually seen in shows as globular, or short columnar plants at most. However, at the Huntington Garden you can see examples of *Astrophytum* in the ground that are several feet tall!



Carnegiea gigantea 'Saguaro'



Stenocereus eruca



Mammillaria bombycina

So what can we say about them? As a rule, they tend to grow faster than globular cacti. They also are more tolerant of full sun, as the nature of their growth means they don't stay shaded by shrubs and grasses, unlike their more diminutive counterparts. Larger species will eventually need to be put in the ground. Smaller types (like many *Mammillaria*) make wonderful specimen plants in pots for years on end. Some of the taller types may require some staking in windy climates to avoid the risk of snapping in a windstorm. When choosing a place to plant them it is important to know if the cactus stays fairly upright and unbranched or if it sends out multiple stems and branches turning into a giant shrub of sorts. Knowledge of growth rate is also key, as many species can reach 15 feet in a few years, while a Saguaro may take your entire lifetime to reach that height! With such variation between species it is paramount that you look up the specific requirements of the plants you choose.



Espostoa melanosteles



Astrophytum ornatum (globular)



Astrophytum ornatum (columnar)

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Ken Lund, Frank Vincentz, Raffi Kojan, & Bernard Gagnon

Plant of the Month: Succulent Bulbs

When we think of succulents, we usually think of a plant with fat stems or thick fleshy leaves. But that isn't the only way to be a succulent or xeric plant. Some plants produce a fleshy bulb to get them through times of drought. Most of them are native to South Africa and neighboring regions.

Most of us have grown bulbs at one time or another. Plants like Tulips, Lilies, and Daffodils are some of the classic bulbs everyone knows. Those plants come from cold winter regions. They grow from spring to fall then die back to the bulb to survive the winter. Water availability generally isn't an issue for these plants. In South Africa the situation is different. Frost is rare to non-existent, so there is no reason to hide under the soil to avoid the cold. A different problem faces these plants, seasonal drought. The vast majority of succulent bulbs are members of the lily family (or other very closely related ones). So, they didn't invent the bulb when they arrived in Southern Africa. Instead, they adapted a life strategy they already had, going dormant when conditions are bad, to the dry climate they arrived in. Of course, it is equally possible that this sort of bulb evolved in southern Africa then moved north and adapted to cold. No one was around to see this millions of years ago so we can only guess!



Albuca concordiana



Ledebouria socialis 'variegata'

Why do succulent collectors have interest in bulbs? Because they have a great diversity of leaf forms and beautiful flowers, but require the same growing conditions as more "normal" succulents in our collection. The greatest diversity of bulbs is seen in the winter as most are winter growers well adapted to our climate. They start growing in the fall and die back to the bulb in late spring. Some, like many species of *Albuca* have twisted or contorted leaves that are both cute and bizarre at the same time. Others like *Lachenalia* have spotted leaves and gorgeous flowers. *Bulbine* has everything from straight grass like leaves to short fat leaves that look like a mesemb or *Haworthia*. If you want bulbs that are up and growing year-round look no further than *Ledebouria* with its mottled leaves or *Bowiea* with large above ground bulbs and contorted vine-like leaves.



Lachenalia aloides

A question worth asking is "what is a bulb?". You've probably heard terms like corms, tubers, and rhizomes which get lumped under "bulbs". Botanically, bulbs are modified leaves, while corms and rhizomes are types of modified stems, and tubers are modified roots. Don't worry about that though. A true bulb is easy to recognize as they consist of fleshy scales which are modified leaves that overlap each other. Think of an onion. When you cut through it you see multiple layers. Each layer is a leaf. Compare that to a potato, which is a tuber and is just a solid mass of starchy tissue.

-Kyle Williams
Photo credits: Kyle Williams & Moraea123

PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM) WINNERS
December 2021

Cactus - Favorites

Novice:

1st	Christmas Cactus	Julie Cox
2nd	<i>Mammillaria vetula</i> ssp. <i>gracilis</i>	Ann Powers
3rd	<i>Cereus</i> 'Monstrose'	Julie Cox

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Mammillaria plumosa</i>	Donna Pachorek
2nd	<i>Mammillaria parkinsonii</i>	Donna Pachorek
3rd	<i>Epithelantha polygona</i> v. <i>micromeris</i>	Ann Hopkinson

Advanced:

1st	<i>Echinocactus grusonii</i> 'Monstrose'	John Matthews
2nd	<i>Obregonia denegrii</i>	John Matthews
3rd	<i>Gymnocalycium</i> sp.	Linda Holub

Succulents - Favorites

Novice:

1st	<i>Crassula ovata</i> 'Shrek's Ears'	Gerry Caruso
2nd	<i>Senecio scaposus</i>	Ann Powers
2nd	<i>Tylecodon wallichii</i>	???

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Fockea edulis</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Euphorbia polygona</i> v. <i>anoplia</i>	Donna Pachorek
3rd	<i>Pelargonium carnosum</i>	Donna Pachorek

Advanced:

1st	<i>Lithops hookeri</i>	John Matthews
2nd	<i>Cheiridopsis denticulata</i>	John Matthews
3rd	<i>Euphorbia lactea</i>	Linda Holub

The December POM tables provided an impressive display of your favorite plants. Keep up the good work. There were 24 entries in all, 6 Novice, 10 Intermediate, and 8 Advanced. Congratulations to the winners and thank you for all that participated.



A note from the editor to those entering their plants;

This month Melinda, John Martinez and Jerry Caruso had difficulty identifying the winning plants for this list and for the photo captions.

Please print legibly and do not take the cards home with you.

John needs them to keep track of the winning points

Melinda Hines

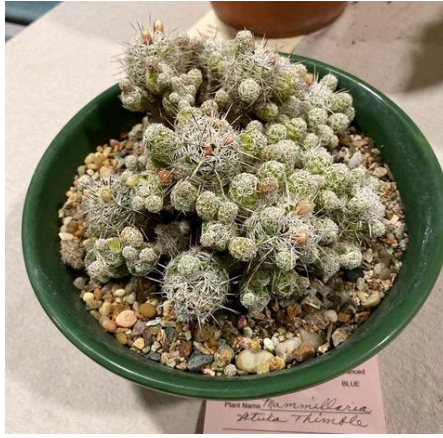
Thanks to Gerry Caruso for taking the POM photos on the following two pages

Winners of December Cactus POM - Favorites

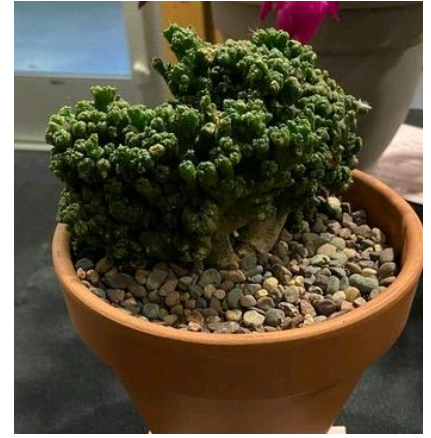
Novice Favorite Cactus -



1st Place
Christmas Cactus
Julie Cox



2nd Place
Mammillaria vetula ssp. *gracilis*
'Thimble Cactus' Ann Powers



3rd Place
Cereus monstrose
Julie Cox

Intermediate Favorite Cactus



1st Place
Mammillaria plumosa
Donna Pechorek



2nd Place
Mammillaria parkinsonii
Donna Pechorek



3rd Place
Epithelantha micromeris
Ann Hopkinson?

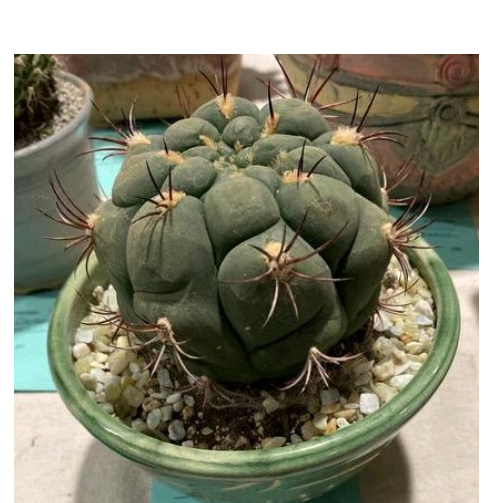
Advanced Favorite Cactus



1st Place
Echinocactus grusonii
John Matthews



2nd Place
Obregonia denegrii
John Matthews



3rd Place
Gymnocalcium sp
Linda Holub

Winners of December Succulent POM - Favorites

Novice Favorite Succulent -



1st Place
Crassula ovata 'Shrek's Ears'
Gerry Caruso



2nd Place
Senecio Scaposus
Ann Powers



3rd Place
Tylecodon wallichii
???

Intermediate Favorite Succulent



1st Place
Fockea edulis
Ann Hopkinson



2nd Place
Euphorbia polygons v. anoplia
Donna Pachorek



3rd Place
Pelargonium carnosum
Donna Pachorek

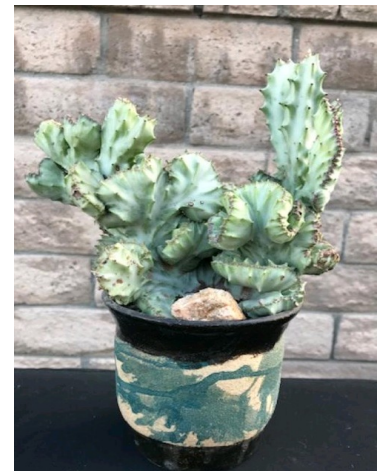
Advanced Favorite Succulent



1st Place
Lithops hookeri
John Matthews



2nd Place
Cheiridopsis denticulata
John Matthews



3rd Place
Euphorbia lactea
Linda Holub

Holiday Plant Exchange
2021 CCSS Officers



Linda Holub



Ann Hopkinson



Kyle Williams



Donna Pachorek



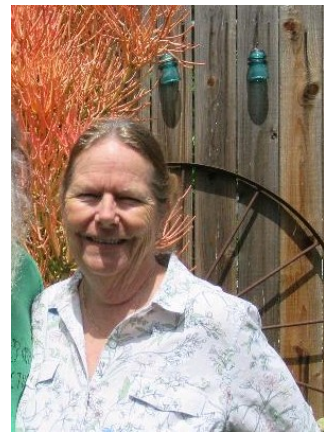
Julie Meyers



Valerie Fox



Glen Smith



Pam Smith



Terry Wilson



Melinda Hines



Lisa Gailey



Jerry Caruso

Holiday Plant Exchange



Holiday Plant Exchange





2022 Dues were due by the December meeting.

If you haven't paid -

Please fill out the form on below and either:

Bring it to the meeting with your payment

or

Mail it to: **CCSS**
530 W. Los Angeles Ave. Ste #115-183,
Moorpark, CA 93021



Membership Form

Please Print Legibly

New Membership

Renewal

Badge Order

Name: _____ Date: _____

Additional Family Member(s) _____

Additional Family Member(s) _____

Use back of page if necessary:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Individual Membership: \$ 25.00 _____

Family Membership: \$ 30.00 _____

Student Membership: \$ 20.00 _____

Name Badge:* \$ 12.00 _____

TOTAL: _____

* Name Badge Orders: Please clearly print below how you would like your name badge/s to read.

Contact Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society at:
CCSS
530 W. Los Angeles Ave. Suite 115-183
Moorpark CA. 93021
or conejocss@hotmail.com