



Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

June 2023

Volume 8 Number 5

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 June 5th 7:00 pm Doors open at 6:30

**California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center
130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360**



Monday June 5th Meeting

Gary Duke Landscaping and Micro-Climates for Small Yards

Gary Duke describes what questions should be considered when developing a plan to landscape your yard. Sun angles, focal points, creating micro-climates for your special needs plants as well as how to plan for maintenance with special emphasis for small yards. He will show numerous examples of various yards and gardens to demonstrate his points and broaden our thinking to enhance our creativity. Gary has also written a book on this topic which people are welcome to buy.



Gary Duke was on the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America for over 8 years. He has been collecting cacti and succulents for over 50 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Cactus Society. Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. One can view some plants in his collection on his Instagram site: [garyduke53](https://www.instagram.com/garyduke53). He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California, including being invited to speak at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and at the Denver Cactus and Succulent Society. He has traveled to Aruba, Peru, Baja Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina and Chile to see cacti and succulents in habitat.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE June 2023 - Volunteering and Field Trips

Our club finally fulfilled our promise to partner with the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden in Thousand Oaks to help make their Cacti and Succulent exhibits a special part of the park. At a recent board meeting, CCSS created a committee to get this project on track. Donna Pachorek (our vice-president) agreed to be the chairperson. The rest of the committee consists of myself, Ann Hopkinson, John Martinez, Ryan Ripley and Debbie Doolittle.

We met at the garden on Tuesday, May 9th along with Marshall Monley, Steve Davis, and Bob Butler from the garden to formulate a plan of action.

We decided the first thing to do is a clean-up, so one day a month our clean-up committee, Donna, Debbie, and myself will volunteer at the garden. Hopefully we will get more volunteers when I announce our plan at the June meeting. Clean up will consist of removing plant debris where needed, eliminating dead plants, and trimming plants that are not in the best shape. I'm excited to be a part of this project.

Our field trip to Xananda Wollard's in Ventura is scheduled for the morning of June 3. We will see how he creates his magnificent pots and see his cactus and succulent collection. After lunch we'll visit Seaside Gardens in Carpinteria. The Gardens have offered us a 10% discount. You must have your badge or club card to prove you're a member to receive the discount. Seaside wants a head count so please text Linda @ 805-501-0761 to RSVP.

Everyone is responsible for their own transportation. Car pooling is always fun. Maybe we could all stop for lunch somewhere or bring a brown bag lunch for a picnic. We are scheduled to meet at Xananda's house (426 Howard Street, Ventura, CA 93003) at 10 a.m.

I hope everyone takes advantage of this field trip. The more the merrier. We won't be having a meeting before the trip, so I'll see you there. Ann will be sending out a 'Reminder Blast'.

If you have any questions, please call me at (805) 501-0761.

Linda Holub



Field Trip Details!

RSVP via text to Linda 805-501-0761

When: Saturday June 3rd 10am

Where: Xananda Wollard's Pottery in Ventura AM and Seaside Gardens in Carpinteria PM

Transportation: Your own cars. Carpooling is encouraged.

Addresses: Xananda Wollard - 426 Howard Street, Ventura California 93003 **(MEET HERE AT 10:00 AM)**

Seaside Gardens - 3700 Via Real #3050, Carpinteria, California 93013



Bring your CCSS badge or membership card to receive a 10% discount at Seaside Gardens



CCSS 2023 Officers

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Linda Holub

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Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

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Terry Wilson

3rd VP, Special Events
Lisa Gailey

Assistant to Director I
Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator
Gerry Caruso

Event Publicity
Donna Pachorek

From: "K. Marshall Monley" <kmmonley@aol.com>

Subject: Activities for 9 May 2023 Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

Today CVBG hosted a team of six from Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society (CCSS) who came to scope out the Desert Garden for areas where they could make a difference. Several ideas were explored during the visit, and the following suggestions were made:

- CCSS will canvas their members to find volunteers to spend a day a month working at CVBG Desert Garden (or other gardens where succulents are appropriate in theme gardens such as the S. African Garden — S. Africa having a rich diversity of native succulent plants). Activities could include plant maintenance (trimming, e.g.), weeding, plant relocation, new plantings, proper ID, garden mapping, etc.
- CCSS has contacts who are willing to donate cacti and other succulents to CVBG.
- CCSS will explore use of space in the greenhouse for starting interesting succulents from seed.

The respective teams got together for a group photo below:



From L to R: Debby Doolittle (CCSS), Donna Pachorek (Team Chair for CCSS), Steve Davis, Ann Hopkinson (CCSS), Linda Holub (Board President of CCSS), yours truly, John Martinez (CCSS), Bob Butler, Bob Sage (CCSS and husband to Debby Doolittle). Debby took the photo and then her husband took one of her which she photo shopped into the group photo on her phone! Talk about being tech savvy!!

After our time in the Desert Garden, Jim and I took the group down to the Nature Trail to hunt for the *Dudleya* that lives along the path. A couple of interesting wild flowers we saw on the way:



Purple Chinese houses (*Collinsia heterophylla*) a CA native in sunny patches along the Nature Trail not too far in from entrance A, and Willow herb (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*), a plant native to much of the northern hemisphere. Frankly this is the first time I've seen it! It is just east of the honey bush at the top of the hill.

Enjoy the garden...KMM

K. Marshall Monley

Plant of the Month: *Discocactus* & *Melocactus*



Melocactus matanzanus

This month we are looking at two interesting genera of tropical cacti from Brazil and the Caribbean (plus Mexico), *Discocactus* and *Melocactus*. They share similar habitats, cultural requirements, and most importantly a very unusual growth form unique to these two genera.

Discocactus are small heavily ribbed South American cacti, primarily from Brazil. The name comes from the shape of the body, which tends to be much flatter than tall, at least compared to the other ball like genera (*Parodias* etc.) that share its habitat. There are approximately 7 species in the genus. *Melocactus* are from Brazil, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. They are also small and heavily ribbed, but tend to be more round in shape. Most experts in the genus recognize 30-40 species.

Melocactus and *Discocactus* have a very unusual growth habit that is nearly unique among cacti, the terminal cephalium. When young the plant looks like a run of the mill globular green cactus. The kind of cactus you might not even give a second glance to in a nursery. However, after several years of growth a sudden, radical, change occurs and the cephalium is produced. The cephalium is a structure that produces nothing but flowers, fruit, and small spines. It has no chlorophyll and is smaller in diameter than the main body of the plant. Specifically, this structure is formed by the growing point on top of the main body of the plant. The body of the plant stops growing upwards and all growth for the rest of the plant's life will be in the cephalium. This isn't like *Agave* which dies after flowering. A cephalium will continue to grow and flower for decades with the plant as happy as can be.



Discocactus bueneckeri



Variegated *Discocactus*

Fortunately, the genera are fairly easy to tell apart as *Discocactus* have a flattened top and small cephalium with wool, plus large fragrant night blooming flowers. *Melocactus* are often larger, rounder, and can form a very tall cephalium. The cephalium produces tiny flowers and small spines but not copious wool.

Melocactus and *Discocactus* are mostly from dry tropical regions instead of true deserts. They thrive in hot humid tropical climates where even the nights stay quite warm. However, they are fine in our Mediterranean climate with cool summer nights so long as we give them some extra warmth in the winter months. They can be grown outdoors here, but really prefer protection of night temperatures below 50F if possible. They like more moisture than similar looking non-tropical cacti, but don't keep them wet, especially in the winter.

-Kyle Williams
Photo credits: Kyle Williams & Stan Shebs

Pachypodium

When most people think of *Pachypodium* they think of Madagascar for good reason. Of the 30 plus species known to science, all but 5 come from there. The rest come from Southern Africa. Some species look like true desert dwellers like *P. namaquanum*, others look like they are from tropical rainforests, but are actually from tropical dry forests, like *P. lamerei*. Yet others, most notably *P. brevicaule*, look like they could come from an alien world!

That means every species you see comes from Madagascar, except: *P. namaquanum*, *P. succulentum* (including *P. griquense*), *P. bispinosum*, *P. saundersii* & *P. lealii*. Interestingly, these African plants tend to be a bit easier to grow on the whole, possibly due in part to more tolerance of our cool winters. Madagascar by contrast is a more tropical island with uniformly warm temperatures, even in the driest regions.



Pachypodium horombense



Pachypodium namaquanum

Pachypodium belongs to the Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. It is closely related to *Adenium*, *Stapeliads*, *Fockea*, *Oleanders*, *Milkweeds*, *Plumeria*, and many other non-xeric plants. While most similar to *Adenium*, *Pachypodium* can be distinguished from it by having spines, and usually by flower color. While pinks and reds are extremely common in *Adenium*, only a few *Pachypodium* have red or pink in their flowers. *Pachypodium* also stands out from most of the family, including *Adenium*, in having alternate leaves (one leaf at each node) while the rest of the family (usually) has opposite leaves (paired leaves).

Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why some places have more species than others? The distribution of *Pachypodium* may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental Africa? It must be because *Pachypodium* evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree like, species to form (e.g. *P. lamerei* & *P. geayi*) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while Madagascar might have had fewer plants at the time, making it easier for *Pachypodium* to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships of *Pachypodium* suggests this may well be what happened!

Cultivation of *Pachypodium* is generally easy. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter keep dry. Some species, like *P. brevicaule* are more water sensitive than others. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate more cold, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. *Pachypodium lamerei* is the biggest exception in that it is a Madagascar species that can tolerate the occasional

light frost in our region.



Pachypodium brevicaule

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams & Daederot

Online Articles of Interest - Thank you John Martinez for giving me the article to share

Arizona's Most Unusual Cacti Have Their Own Fan Club

The Crested Saguaro Society is on a quest to document the Sonoran Desert's strangest succulents.

BY KERRY WOLFE APRIL 24, 2019

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/unusual-cactus-club-arizona>

Secretive Society Keeps Watch Over Arizona's Holy Grail of Cactus

Members of the Crested Saguaro Society guard the location of rare specimens in the Sonoran Desert, a task made more urgent by population growth.

By [Eliza Collins](#) The Wall Street Journal Feb. 10, 2023

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/secretive-society-keeps-watch-over-arizonas-holy-grail-of-cactus-610db79a>

PIMA COUNTY, Ariz. — Millions of saguaro cactuses grow in the Sonoran Desert, yet only an estimated one in 200,000 exhibits the spectacular crown of the crested saguaro.

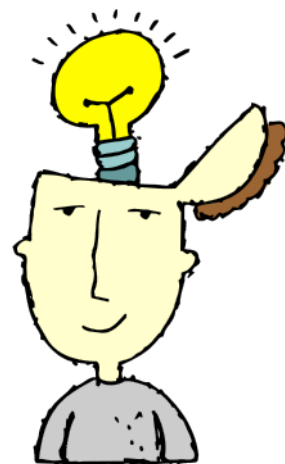


Volunteering is necessary to the well being of any club or organization.

Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society needs volunteers to keep the club going since the club is run exclusively through volunteer efforts. Volunteering allows you to connect to the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Community and help make a better club for all.

5 personal benefits of volunteering

- 1) Gaining new skills**
- 2) Making new friends**
- 3) Mental and physical health and wellbeing**
- 4) Giving something back**
- 5) Improving your confidence**



Please contact Linda Holub cactuscougar@icloud.com
or Ann Hopkinson annh.domd@gmail.com to see how fun and easy it is to help.

What's Flowering



Nancy Akahoshi
Echinopsis



Jonathan Zhu
Astrophytum asterias



K. Marshall Monley
Kumara plicatilis (Aloe plicatilis)



Jude La Chance
Rebutia



Cheryl Norris
Trichodiadema densum



John Martinez *Rebutia narvaecensis*



Bryan Chan
Trichocereus



Cheryl Norris
Stapelia



John Martinez
Astrophytum capricorne



Divina Grover
Epiphyllum



What's Flowering



Glen & Pam Smith
Echinocereus pentalophus



Bryan Chan
Euphorbia milii



Glen & Pam Smith
Lobivia haggeana



Bryan Chan
Aloe pseudorubroviolacea



K. Marshall Monley
Xanthorrhoea australis



Divina Grover
Echinocactus coccineus



Ann Hopkinson
*Lewisia and
Notocactus
uebelmannianus*



Ann Powers
Ruschia lineolata

Plant of the Month 2023

Cactus

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| February | Astrophytum |
| March | Parodia (Notocactus) |
| April | Rebutia |
| May | Miniatures |
| June | Melocactus & Discocactus |
| July | Epiphytic Cacti |
| August | Variegated |
| September | Opuntia |
| October | Mammillaria |
| November | Gymnocalycium |

Succulent

| |
|---------------------------|
| Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon |
| Aloe |
| Mesemb |
| Miniatures |
| Pachypodium |
| Agave |
| Variegated |
| Euphorbia |
| Haworthia |
| Echeveria |

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 to introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion of the culture, care and display of these plants. We encourage members to share their plants with the other members of CCSS.

POM Submissions

Members may submit up to (3) three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulent). 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 Division 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

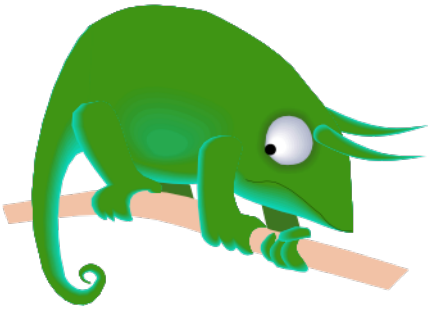
2nd Place – 3 points

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 encourage 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.

Congratulations to all our winners from last month!
The pots and staging were lovely and interesting.
Please keep them coming every month.



PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM) May 2023

Cactus - Miniatures

Novice:

| | | |
|-----|------------------------|----------------|
| 1st | <i>Puna bonnieae</i> | Susan Krevitt |
| 2nd | <i>Mammillaria sp.</i> | Jude La Chance |
| 3rd | <i>Mammillaria sp.</i> | Jude La Chance |

Intermediate:

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1st | <i>Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus</i> | Yuen Wong |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------|

Advanced:

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1st | <i>Tephrocactus geometricus</i> | Linda Holub |
| 2nd | <i>Mammillaria sp.</i> | Linda Holub |
| 3rd | <i>Frailea densispina</i> | Ann Hopkinson |

Succulents - Miniatures

Novice:

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1st | <i>Haworthia pygmaea</i> | Ann Powers |
| 2nd | <i>Echeveria colorata</i> | Jude La Chance |
| 3rd | <i>Haworthia attenuata</i> | Jude La Chance |

Intermediate:

| | | |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| 1st | <i>Crassula tetragona</i> <i>ssp. connivens</i> | Marquita Ellias |
|-----|--|-----------------|

Advanced:

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1st | <i>Dorstenia foetida</i> | Ann Hopkinson |
| 2nd | <i>Crassula rupestris</i> <i>ssp marnieriana</i> | Ann Hopkinson |
| 3rd | <i>Adromischus marianiae f. herrei</i> | Linda Holub |

A very good turnout for the May POM display, especially in the Novice class. There were 21 Novice, 2 Intermediate, and 14 Advanced for a total of 37 entries. The miniature POM category allows for a wide variety of genera which was quite evident by the plants brought in. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated.



Novice, Intermediate, Advanced
May Cactus
Miniatures



Jude La Chance
Novice 2nd Place
Mammillaria



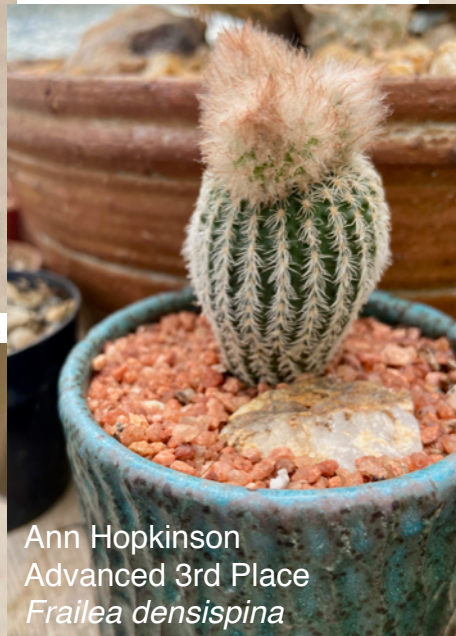
Susan Krevitt
Novice 1st Place
Puna bonnieae



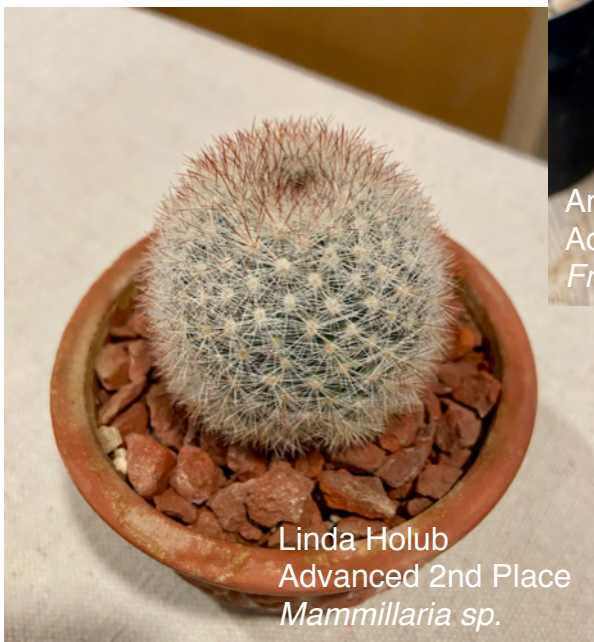
Yuen Wong
Intermediate 1st Place
Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus



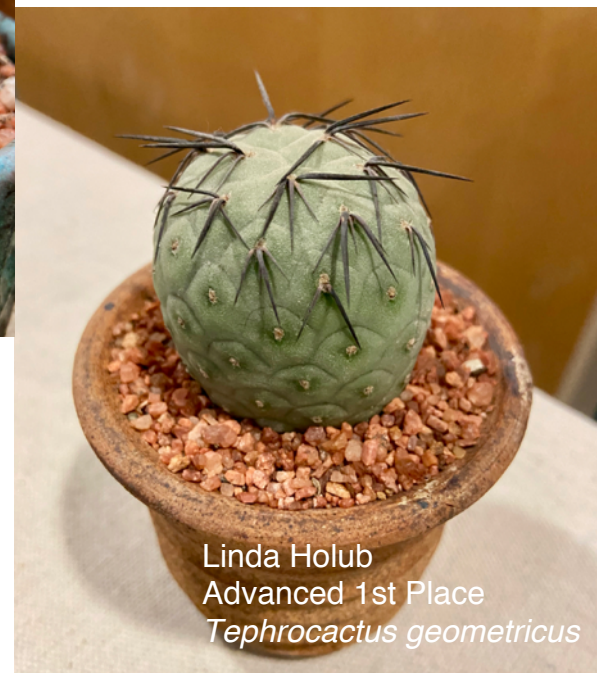
Jude La Chance
Novice 3rd Place
Mammillaria species



Ann Hopkinson
Advanced 3rd Place
Frailea densispina



Linda Holub
Advanced 2nd Place
Mammillaria sp.



Linda Holub
Advanced 1st Place
Tephrocactus geometricus



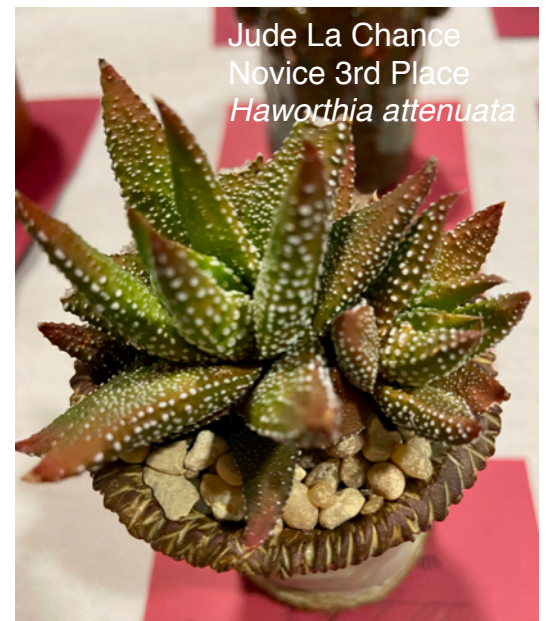
Novice, Intermediate, Advanced
May Succulents
Miniatures



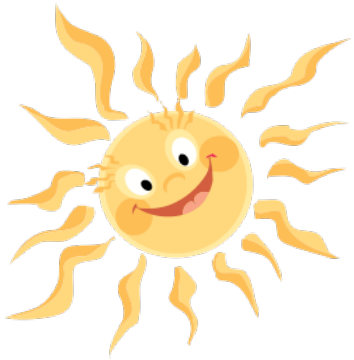
Jude la Chance
Novice 2nd Place
Echeveria colorata



Ann Powers
Novice 1st Place
Haworthia pygmaea



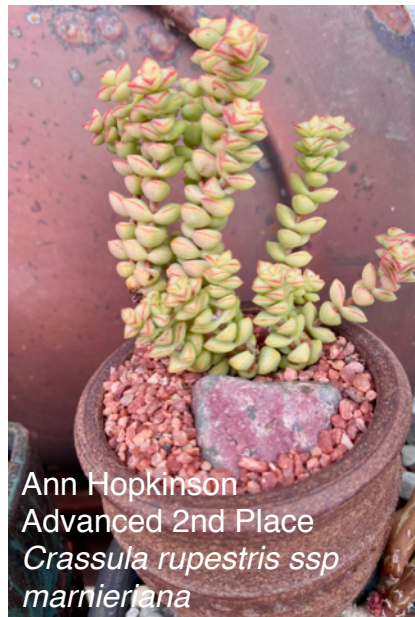
Jude La Chance
Novice 3rd Place
Haworthia attenuata



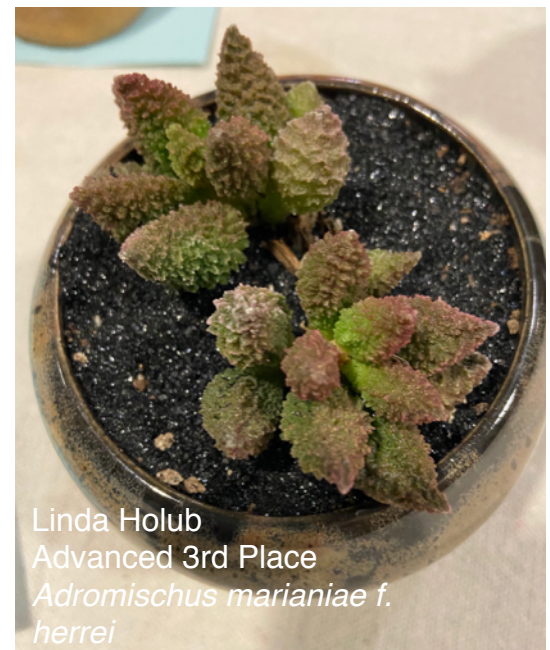
Marquita Ellias
Intermediate 1st Place
Crassula tetragona ssp connivens



Ann Hopkinson
Advanced 1st Place
Dorstenia foetida



Ann Hopkinson
Advanced 2nd Place
Crassula rupestris ssp marnieriana



Linda Holub
Advanced 3rd Place
Adromischus marianiae f. herrei

It is very important to to the success of the club that we fill all our club positions!
Please consider volunteering some of your time to help the club.



Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society is seeking a Treasurer



Ideally some experience with Quick Books but not mandatory.
Please contact Linda Holub by phone 805-501-0761 or email cactuscougar@icloud.com.

Refreshments - Thank you!

All who attend appreciate the great refreshments!



If your last name starts with J, K, L please bring refreshments to the June Meeting.

We are going back to using the A-Z method for bringing refreshments to the meetings. Each month in this newsletter a letter range will be posted. Coffee, water and sodas are provided.

July Meeting - last names starting with M, N



56TH ANNUAL

CSSA SHOW & SALE

JUNE 23-25, 2023

**THE HUNTINGTON
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

ALOE BRUYNsii

FOR TICKETS:

HUNTINGTON.ORG

MORE INFO:

CSSASHOW.COM

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH PAID ADMISSION OR HUNTINGTON MEMBERSHIP. ADVANCE ONLINE TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED ON WEEKENDS FOR BOTH VISITORS AND MEMBERS. NO WALK-INS. FRIDAY RESERVATIONS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.



CSSA's Special Invitation to the 2023 Colorado Springs Convention To all CSSA Affiliate Cactus and Succulent Societies



All of the members of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society look forward to meeting many convention attendees from the many CSSA affiliate societies on July 12-16 at the Colorado Springs CSSA Convention. The incredible view of 14,115' Pikes Peak outside the convention hotel will inspire and refresh, as will the 70-80F days and cool nights in the low 60's.

The line-up of speakers of particular interest to CSSA members includes, Ernst van Jaarsfeld, Elisabeth Sarnes from Germany, speaking for the first time at one of our conventions, Panayoti Kelaidis, and Stefan Burger. All of the speakers' biographical information and presentation topics are detailed on the CSSA website, https://cssaconvention.com/speakers_2023.html. We would also encourage CSSA affiliate societies to sponsor a speaker of their choice, acknowledging the CSSA affiliates generous contributions at previous CSSA conventions.

There is so much more: field trips, an enormous plant sale, the auction and banquet, and, not least, the opportunity to meet and have in depth conversations with the speakers and your fellow succulent enthusiasts from the other affiliate chapters. Please take a good look at the CSSA website for additional information and I look forward to meeting each of you in July.

Rod Haenni, Convention Co-Chair
President, CSSA



Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Founded in 1929, The Cactus and Succulent Society of America is an international community dedicated to advancing the appreciation, knowledge, research, and conservation of cacti and succulents.



Cactus and Succulent Journals — available now

The leading publication of its kind since 1929. Featuring popular and scientific articles about cacti and other succulent plants, including caudiciform and pachycaul succulents and xerophytes, horticultural instruction, new plants, and more.

CSJ is essential reading for all hobbyists and students of cacti and succulents, botanists, alpha-taxonomists, ecologists, conservationists, and professional growers.

[Get the journal](#)

CSSA 2023 Convention

July 12-16, 2023

The CSSA and Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society invite you to visit Colorado Springs for the 2023 CSSA Convention.

- Nationally and internationally renowned speakers.
- Field trips to visit remarkable gardens along the Front Range.
- Traditional welcome evening, banquet, plant auction, and more.
- World class vendors with unique cacti and succulents for sale.

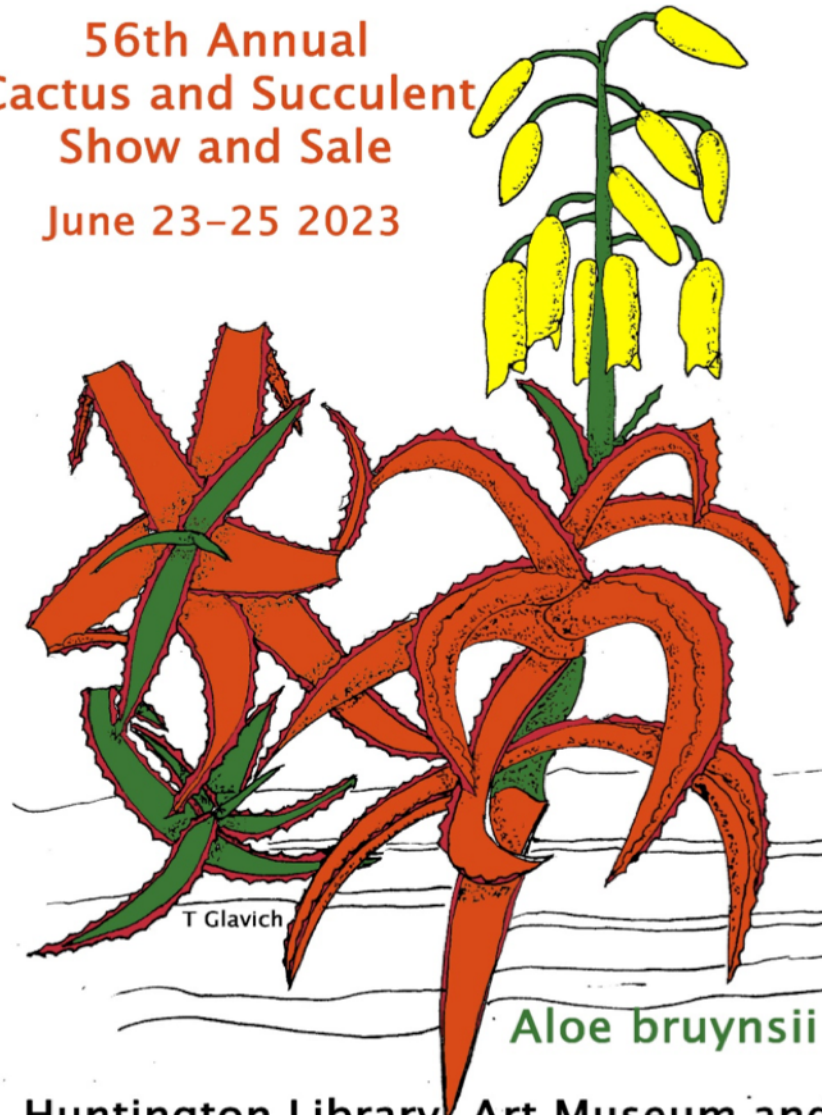
[Learn more](#)



Cactus and Succulent Society of America

56th Annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

June 23–25 2023



Huntington Library, Art Museum and
Botanical Gardens

Hours 10 AM to 5 PM

1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA

INFORMATION 626-405-3571

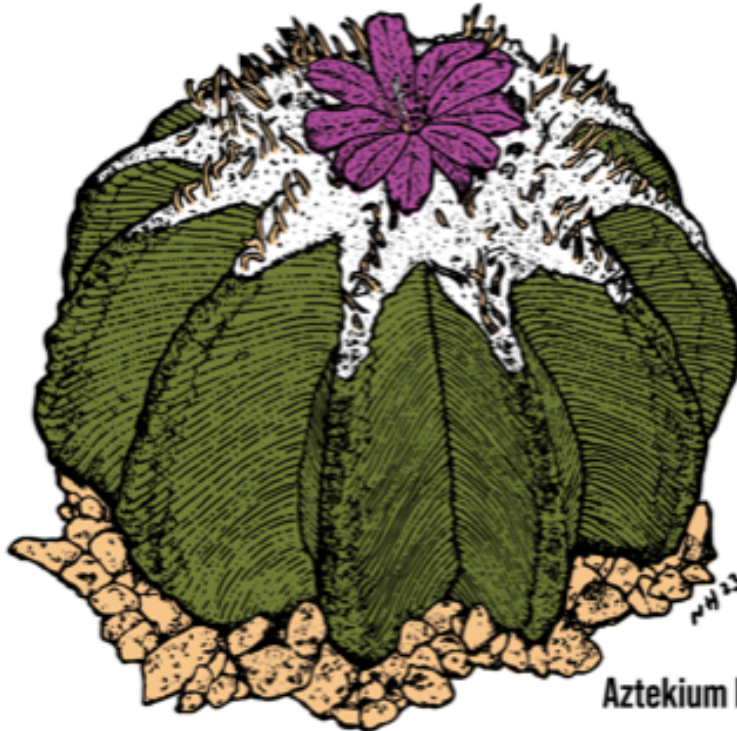
Open to the public with paid admission or Huntington membership
Advance online timed entry reservations are now required ONLY on weekends
for both visitors & members. NO WALK-INS. Limited daily capacity.

Friday sale reservations strongly recommended.

Go to the [huntington.org](https://www.huntington.org) website for tickets

See www.cssashow.com for further details

37th Annual **Inter-City**
Cactus & Succulent
Show and Sale



Aztekium hintonii

August 4th, 2023 - Sale 8AM-5PM

August 5th & 6th, 2023 - Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum - www.intercityshow.com

Hosted by the Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Societies

Instagram: @intercityshow Facebook Group: intercityshow

We encourage you to bring your own box to the sale

NOTE:

This is a great show to enter if it is your first time entering your plants in a show. They have a Novice entry category.
This show also has a large number of vendors selling cactus, succulents and pottery.