



Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

August 2023

Volume 8 Number 6

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 August 7th 7:00 pm Doors open at 6:30

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

Dudleyas: Our Native Succulents

Dudleya is a genus of soft succulents that had often been overlooked until a recent explosion of interest in them by succulent collectors and native plant enthusiasts alike. Southern California is their center of geographic distribution and a hotspot of their diversity, although they occur as far south as the tip of the Baja Peninsula, as far north as Oregon, and as far east as the Mojave Desert and Sonoran Desert regions of Nevada and Arizona respectively. In this program Dean will share his field observations of a variety of different species both south of the border and in several US states occupying biomes as diverse as coastal chaparral, low desert, and high elevation pine and oak forest woodlands.

Bio: Dean Karras

Dean Karras began collecting and growing cacti from seed as a hobby in 2008. He has been a member of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society since 2017, where he now serves as Vice President, and a member of the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society since 2019, where he now serves on the Board of Directors. Some of his favorite succulent genera are: aloe, agave, dudleya, trichocereus, echinocereus, astrophytum, and ferocactus. Dean 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 ethnobotanically significant plants. He realized his long-standing dream of owning his own nursery to serve the local community when he opened Gnosis Nursery in July of 2020, which he now runs full-time. When not busy propagating and selling plants, Dean can be found exploring and photographing the Desert Southwest and Baja.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE August 2023

Hi Members,

I hope you had a great 4th and weren't kept up all night, like I was, with my crazy neighbors shooting off firecrackers.

We had an excellent turnout for our June field trip (25 people), and everyone enjoyed the day. Watching Xanander making his beautiful pots was fascinating. He said he'd never done a demo before but did a great job. He created two gorgeous pots while explaining, in detail, his techniques. Xanander's collection of plants was also a treat; to top it off, he gave everyone who bought his pottery a 10% discount.

Then, it was on to Seaside Gardens, where everyone spread out and walked through the beautiful garden leisurely. Some of us found a cute little grotto where we ate our lunches. Like Xanander's, club members received a 10% discount on all plants purchased.

The second fun activity for the month was our involvement in the Thousand Oaks Botanical Garden's first clean-up day. Donna Pachorek, John Martinez, Debbie Doolittle, her husband Bob, and Mary Ellen Wong participated in what we hope will be the first of many. Beginning in August, we will meet there monthly to assist in cleaning up and planting projects. Volunteers are always welcome. The next planting and clean-up date will be announced at our August meeting.

Regarding future field trips, we are considering doing home garden tours at two of our member's gardens in September. The particulars will be discussed at the August meeting. Also, Cima Dome is in the works for next spring.



I'm glad so many of you could take advantage of the free tickets to get into the Huntington for the CSSA Show and Sale. Twenty members received complimentary tickets. I hope you enjoyed the show.

I, along with other members, attended the CSSA Convention in Colorado Springs. We will took some pictures and will have a full report at the August meeting.

I believe that catches everyone up on the summer news. I can't wait to see everyone. When we skip a meeting, it seems like it has been forever since we've seen each other. I hope you all have a fabulous summer and get to enjoy all the things you've planned.

Linda Holub President CCSS



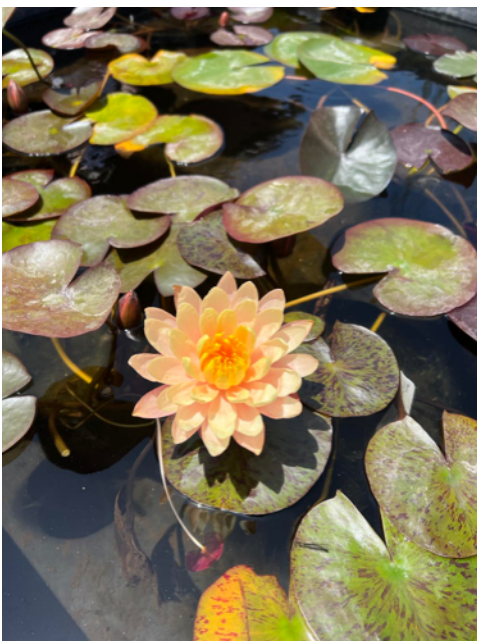
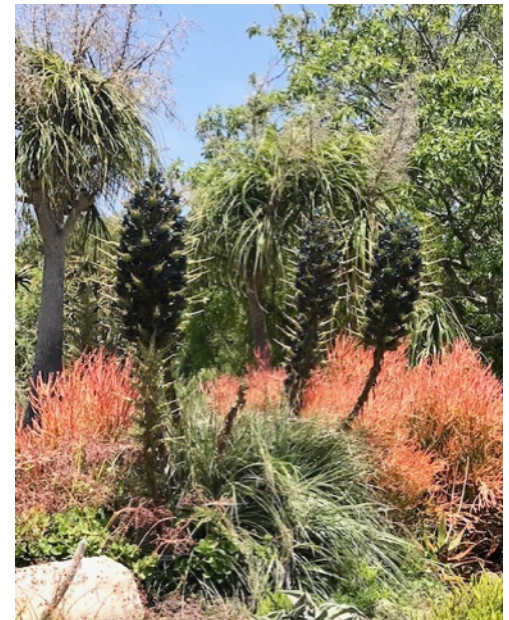
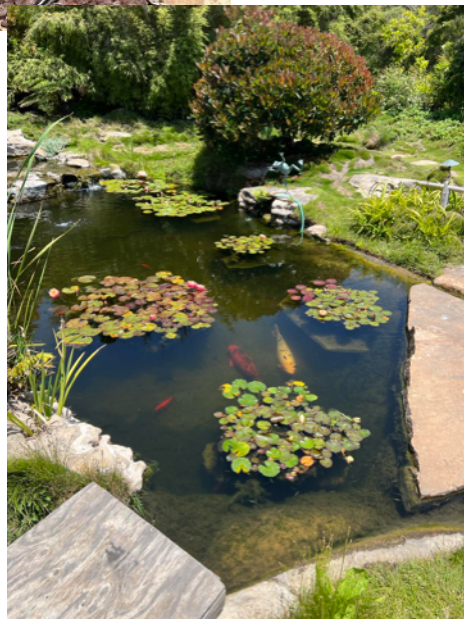
Field Trip June 3, 2023

Xananda Pottery



Field Trip June 3, 2023

Seaside Gardens



For those who enjoy Podcasts - Enter the world of Plant Poaching - Available on multiple podcast sites

Bad Seeds - A true crime podcast from iHeartPodcasts

Website: <https://www.iheart.com/podcast/1119-bad-seeds-112229352/>

The biggest black market you've never heard of is blooming right under your nose. Whether it's a 4,000-pound cactus shoveled from the Arizona desert or delicate orchids pinched from the tangled jungle of Peru, rare plants are at the center of a rapidly growing and lucrative world of crime. Hosted by plant expert Summer Rayne Oakes, Bad Seeds plunges straight into it, featuring the buyers, the sellers, the obsessives, and those who came face-to-face with the criminals behind an underworld few know exist.

CCSS 2023 Officers

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Propagator
Terry Wilson

3rd VP, Special Events
Lisa Gailey

Assistant to Director I
Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator
Gerry Caruso

Event Publicity
Donna Pachorek

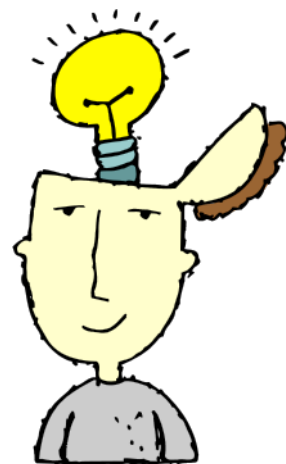


Volunteering is necessary to the well being of any club or organization.

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.

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 M please bring refreshments to the August 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.

September Meeting - last names starting with N, O, P



Divinia Grover - Echinopsis Flowers - Thank you sharing these beautiful flowers

Echinopsis is a large genus of cacti native to South American. Over 100 species of colorful vivid flowers. Blooms appear off and on between April and October.

Echinopsis huascha
var. grandiflora



Echinopsis schickendantzii



Echinocereus coccineus

Plants of the Month: Variegates



Haworthia pygmaea

Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas on leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many *Agave*) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words the

plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.

Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll (achlorophyllus), such as the brightly colored grafted *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are technically not variegated, but are considered so for the purposes of cacti and succulent shows. Keep in mind, a plant is *not* variegated just because the leaves have colored areas. It must be partially lacking chlorophyll as well.

Variegated plants normally have white or yellow patches and streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.



Euphorbia mammillaris

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom, but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegated appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!



Agave victoriae-reginae

Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Intercity Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category except for variegation in *Agave*, *Gasteria*, *Sansevieria*."

Variegates generally grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll "soaks up" the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegate of any species is truly an achievement.

Examples of Variegated Succulents

Agave – Variegates of a number of *Agave* species exist. One of the most fascinating is *Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor'. This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe! The fourth color in 'Quadricolor' is seen in the reddish teeth.

Aeonium – *Aeonium* 'Sunburst' and *A.* 'Kiwi' are by far the most commonly seen *Aeonium* variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as *A. castello-paivae*, *A. balsamiferum*, and even *A. tabuliforme*. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as *A.* 'Atropurpureum' and *A.* 'Zwartkop' are not considered variegates.



Aeonium 'Sunburst' on crest



Astrophytum asterias

Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, especially the grafted *G. mihanovichii* cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately, they are somewhat tricky to grow and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows. These less

commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable.

Haworthia – Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in *Haworthia*. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on *Haworthia* (and the closely related *Gasteria*). A Google search for "Japanese *Haworthia*" will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of *H. truncata* can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!



Senecio aristata

-Kyle Williams
Image Credits: Kyle Williams

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
Mesembs
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

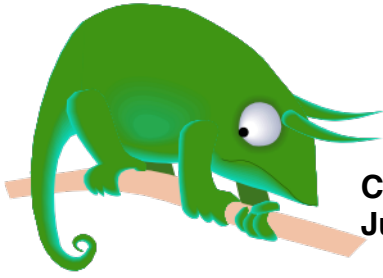
1st Place – 6 points

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 June!
Please keep them coming every month.
Having your beautiful specimens to admire really helps make
a great meeting.

CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM) June, 2023

Cactus - Melocactus/Discocactus

Novice:

1st	<i>Melocactus matanzanus</i>	Cheryl Norris
2nd	<i>Melocactus oreas</i>	Cheryl Norris
3rd	<i>Discocactus araneispinus</i>	Cheryl Norris

Intermediate:

No entries

Advanced:

1st	<i>Melocactus ferreophilus</i>	Linda Holub
2nd	<i>Melocactus warasii</i>	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Melocactus sp.</i>	Linda Holub

Succulents - Pachypodium

Novice:

1st	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>	Cheryl Norris
2nd	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>	Cheryl Norris
3rd	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>	Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

No entries

Advanced:

1st	<i>Pachypodium rutenbergianum</i> <i>var. meridionale</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Pachypodium brevicaule</i> <i>x P.densiflorum</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Pachypodium succulentum</i> <i>var. griquense</i>	Ann Hopkinson

The POM tables were a little lite for the June competition, especially in the Intermediate class. There were 8 Novice, 0 Intermediate, and 8 Advance entries for a total of 16. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who participated.

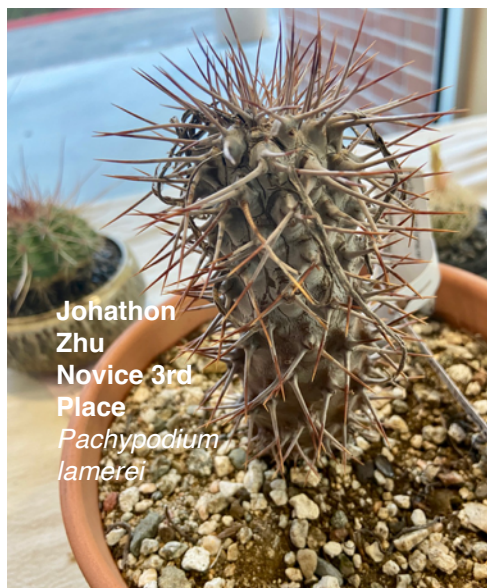
POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter those beloved treasures.



Novice, Intermediate, Advanced June Succulents Pachypodium



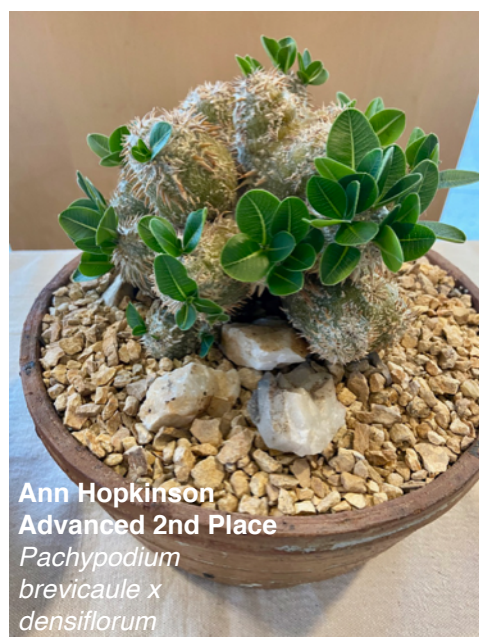
Cheryl Norris
Novice 2nd Place
Pachypodium lamerei



Johathon
Zhu
Novice 3rd
Place
*Pachypodium
lamerei*



Cheryl Norris
Novice 1st Place
Pachypodium lamerei



Ann Hopkinson
Advanced 2nd Place
*Pachypodium
brevicaule x
densiflorum*



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place
*Pachypodium
succulentum v.griquense*



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place
*Pachypodium
rutenbergianum v.
meridionale*



Novice, Intermediate, Advanced
June Cactus
Melocactus & Discocactus



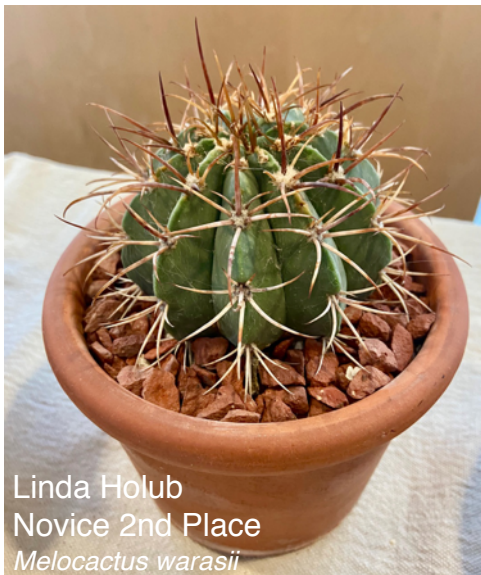
Cheryl Norris
Novice 2nd Place
Melocactus oreas



Cheryl Norris
Novice 3rd Place
Discocactus araneispinus



Cheryl Norris
Novice 1st Place
Melocactus matanzanus



Linda Holub
Novice 2nd Place
Melocactus warasii



Linda Holub
Advanced 3rd Place
Melocactus sp.



Linda Holub
Advanced 1st Place
Melocactus ferreophilus

CSSA Show and Sale Update

Two members of Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society received ribbons at the recent CSSA Show and Sale at Huntington Gardens June 23-25. If I missed anyone, please send me photos and I will include them in the next newsletter.

Johnathon Zhu received an Honorable Mention Ribbon for his *Abromeliella brevifolia*.
CONGRATULATIONS!

Ann Hopkinson was lucky to have two of her entries make it to the trophy table.

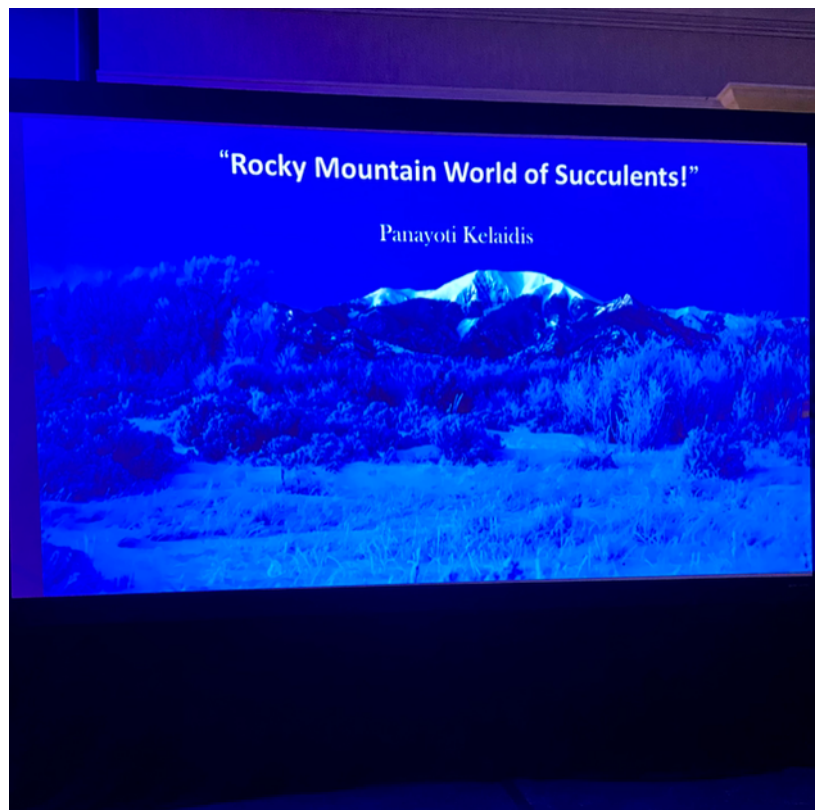
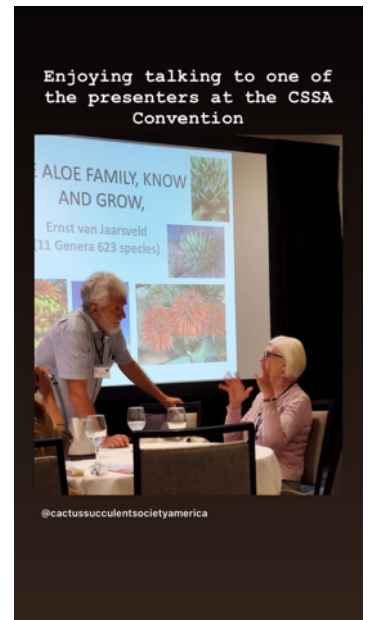
Voted best Stapeliad - *Petopentia natalensis*

Voted best Monadenium - *Monadenium ritchiei*



**CSSA 2023 Colorado Springs Convention
July 2023**

Here is a photo of Ann, Donna, Marquita, Linda and friends enjoying the Saturday banquet.



**Get Ready for 2025 Convention hosted by LACSS!
It will be in Burbank May 2025**