



# Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

September 2023

Volume 8 Number 7

## 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](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com) Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Web: [ConejoCSS.com](http://ConejoCSS.com)

**Next Meeting Monday September 4th 7:00 pm Doors open at 6:30**

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

## Understanding Plant Hormones for Propagation and growth of Succulents

Many years ago, Ernesto gave a very well received lecture on plant hormones to several southern California Succulent clubs and perhaps even ours. This time around he will revisit hormones for an important review, but talk more about how they are involved in and used when propagating and pruning plants, particularly succulents, as well as their role in seasonal growth.

### Biography

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that 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 a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and 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 of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to 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 the way 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/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.



## President's Message September 2023



Hello Members,

I hope everyone survived unscathed from the 'hurricane' and 'earthquake'. I, being the overprotective, over reactive person I am with my plants, probably went overboard on preparing for the tropical storm. Every plant in a pot without a drain hole, every plant small enough to blow away, along with every hanging plant came into the garage or sunroom.

Thankfully, at least where I live, it wasn't as bad as expected.

Now let's talk about upcoming events like our October 8<sup>th</sup> plant sale. It will be at the same location as the last sale and starting (9 a.m.) and ending times (4 p.m.) will be the same. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at our September meeting. More volunteers are needed during set-up (8-9 a.m.) and break-down (4-5 p.m.) times, than during the day when there's little or nothing to do.

Great news! Lisa Gailey is back and will be acting as our official greeter. She will also be taking on the additional responsibilities of 'special events coordinator' and 'publicist' for our events.



Just a reminder. Our next field trip will be a Home Tour on Saturday November 4th . We will be visiting the homes of Debbie Risting, Donna Pachoreck, and Marquita Elias. Addresses will be given out at our October meeting.

Linda Holub



**Field Trip Saturday November 4th  
Home Tours  
Addresses available at October Meeting**





## **Succulent & Cactus Fall Plant Sale** **Sunday, October 8, 2023**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

558 North Ventu Park Road

Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320

Southeast corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering  
Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Plumerias  
Along with Pottery  
and Jewelry

Experts will be available to answer  
questions concerning planting  
and care



For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society  
Web: [ConejoCSS.com](http://ConejoCSS.com) Email: [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com)

## Editorial Comment - Shows are More than Bringing Home a Ribbon

There is a reward other than trophies and ribbons to entering and attending large cactus and succulent shows like Inter-City and CSSA. Participation allows for many educational opportunities.

The plants are all labelled and are in good condition.

You can learn about different genera and different species that you may want to grow.

Having a correct botanical name can help you learn more about necessary growing conditions.

Ideas about staging or creative ways to display your own collection.

Many experts on hand to answer questions.

You get to be part of the larger cactus and succulent community, make friends, meet up with friends and share information.

There are beautiful commercial grower exhibits on display. They often show plants that are available in the industry to purchase.

Ann Hopkinson

### CCSS 2023 Officers

**President**  
Linda Holub

**Treasurer**  
Julie Meyers

**Director II, Education**  
Terry Wilson

**Website**  
Tim Alvord

**1st VP, Programs**  
Donna Pachorek

**Secretary**  
Ryan Ripley

**Scoop Editor**  
Ann Hopkinson

**Librarian**  
Glen Smith

**2nd VP, POM & Education**  
Kyle Williams

**Director I, Membership**  
Glen Smith

**Hospitality**  
Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

**Propagator**  
Terry Wilson

**3rd VP, Special Events**  
Lisa Gailey

**Assistant to Director I**  
Pam Smith, Membership

**Drawing Coordinator**  
Gerry Caruso

**Event Publicity**  
Donna Pachorek

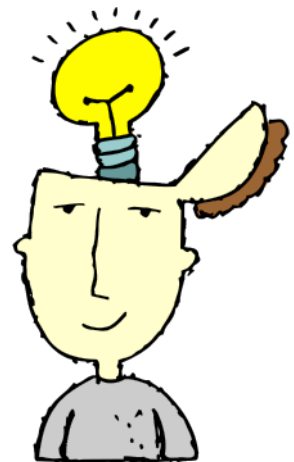


## Volunteering is necessary to the well being of any club or organization.

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](mailto:cactuscougar@icloud.com)  
or Ann Hopkinson [annh.domd@gmail.com](mailto:annh.domd@gmail.com) to see how fun and easy it is to help.

## 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.

## September Cactus of the Month *Opuntia* and close relatives

*Opuntia* is one of the largest genera of the Cactaceae (cactus family) and is the most common type of cactus in North America. Plants in this genus form jointed stems that to many look like leaves (but aren't). The most distinctive (and reviled) feature of *Opuntia* is "glochids", tiny hair like spines that stick in your skin even if you just brush against the plant lightly. Always have tweezers ready when *Opuntias* are near! Jointed stems and glochids are found in most of the Opuntioideae, which consists of *Opuntia* and several closely related genera (see below).

For the sake of the "Plant of the Month" we will include *Opuntia* and its close relatives, also known as the subfamily Opuntoideae. This includes *Austrocylindropuntia*, *Cumulopuntia*, *Pereskopsis*, *Quiabentia*, *Brasilopuntia*, *Miqueliopuntia*, *Tacinga*, *Tunilla*, *Pterocactus*, *Puna*, *Maihuniopsis*, and *Tephrocactus*, and the Chollas (*Cylindropuntia*).



*Tephrocactus geometricus*

*Opuntia* (in the broad sense) covers the largest geographical range of any cactus, stretching from Southern Argentina to Canada, and covers all of the Caribbean islands and Pacific Islands from the Galapagos to the Catalinas. It is naturalized on every continent except Antarctica. It is a pest and a noxious weed in many places, and is displacing native vegetation in parts of Africa, Asia, Madagascar and Australia.

The taxonomy of *Opuntia* is quite complex and is bound to keep plant taxonomists busy for years to come! Some of the genera I mentioned above are widely accepted while some accept others and others consider them part of a larger *Opuntia*. Most of the recent

changes in the *Opuntia* group are due to recent DNA phylogeny studies of the species.

Cuttings most easily accomplish *Opuntia* propagation. All cuttings root easily. Seed propagation requires patience, with seed scarification and sometimes artificial wintering by keeping the seed damp and cold in the refrigerator required. Seed germination can be erratic, with seeds from the same plant sometimes germinating in days, and sometimes not for months or years.

Handling of *Opuntias* is somewhat of a problem due to their glochids. Handling with steel tools is the best bet. Gloves get covered with glochids, which invariably end up in your hands when the gloves come off. Glochids can often be removed by washing with a strong hose stream. Plucking with tweezers is the most effective, especially if you use a good magnifying glass. Other options include brushing, duct tape and rubber cement.



*Opuntia* 'Sunburst' Variegated



*Puna clavarioides*

Kyle Williams  
Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

## September Succulent of the Month *Euphorbia*

*Euphorbia* are among the most successful plant genera, covering an amazing geographical and environmental range. Containing over 2000 species, it is one of the five largest genera of plants in the world (some rank it as the second largest behind *Astragalus*, a legume). While we know them as succulents, *Euphorbia* includes tiny herbs, leafy shrubs, and even giant rainforest trees. In horticulture, they span the range from English Garden plants to trees, stem succulents, geophytic (i.e. underground caudex) miniatures, to medusoid globules to caudiciforms.



*Euphorbia francoisii*



*Euphorbia greenwayi*

While *Euphorbia* species can be found on every continent (except Antarctica) and nearly every country, it is the ones from Africa that are of particular interest to succulent growers. The reason is that many *Euphorbia* are herbs, woody shrubs, or pesky weeds without succulence or a caudex. In other words, "normal" looking plants that wouldn't really go in a succulent collection. That's not to say the only interesting *Euphorbia* are succulent, as the most popular and economically important species of all is *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, everyone's favorite Christmas plant, the Poinsettia.

There is a succulent *Euphorbia* for everyone's taste. Want a spiny leafless plant that looks almost exactly like a cactus? Try

*Euphorbia horrida*. Need a large landscape specimen plant? Check out *Euphorbia ammak*. Do you prefer woody caudiciforms? Look at *Euphorbia squarrosa*. Like a plant with showy, colorful leaves? You have to get *Euphorbia francoisii*. Love unique oddballs? *Euphorbia obesa* looks like a green baseball, *Euphorbia abdelkuri* 'Damask' looks like a pink melted candle, and *Euphorbia piscidermis* looks like it is covered in fish scales! There are countless more species that fill those various roles and more.

Some people confuse the spiny leafless *Euphorbia* with a cactus. They are completely unrelated plants that show convergent evolution. In other words, *Euphorbia* colonized the deserts of Africa and evolved to survive in that habitat by forming thickened stems or roots and either dropping their leaves or thickening them to store water. Cacti were once leafy plants that colonized the American deserts and evolved to survive by forming thickened stems or roots and dropping their leaves. If you have a spiny stem succulent and aren't sure if it is a cactus or *Euphorbia* the best thing is to jab the stem in an inconspicuous place. If it bleeds white sap it is a *Euphorbia*, clear or nothing and it is probably a cactus. Also, *Euphorbia* spines are always in pairs. Cacti usually have single spines or areoles with numerous spines.



*Euphorbia columnaris*

*Euphorbia* is too large a genus to give one size fits all care, but most of the more common species do well with standard cactus and succulent care. Good light (avoid hot afternoon sun), well-drained soil, water when nearly dry. In the winter protect from frost and don't let it stay cool and wet (cool and dry is fine).

Kyle Williams  
Photo Credits: Kyle Williams



Congratulations to all our winners and participants from August!  
Please keep bringing you plants coming every month.

## CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)

August, 2023

### Cactus - Variegated

#### Novice:

1st	<i>Echinopsis subdenudata</i>	Susan Krevitt
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#### Intermediate:

1st	<i>Tricocereus pachanoi</i>	Ryan Ripley
	<i>Tricocereus pachanoi</i>	Ryan Ripley

#### Advanced:

1st	<i>Ferocactus</i> sp.	Glen & Pam Smith
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### Succulents - Variegated

#### Novice:

1st	<i>Gasteria batesiana</i>	Susan Krevitt
2nd	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Sunburst Crest'	Lisa Gailey
3rd	<i>Haworthia limifolia</i>	Susan Krevitt

#### Intermediate:

1st	<i>Agave</i> 'White Rhino'	Ryan Ripley
2nd	<i>Adenium</i> 'Bumble Bee'	Ryan Ripley
3rd	<i>Agave isthmensis</i> 'Ohi Raijin Shiro Nakafu'	Ryan Ripley

#### Advanced:

1st	<i>Agave</i> 'Snow Glow'	Linda Holub
2nd	<i>Aeonium</i> 'Sunburst Crest'	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Euphorbia mammillaris</i>	Ann Hopkinson

We had a good showing in the August POM. Especially in the Novice class. There were 12 Novice, 8 Intermediate, and 7 Advance entries for a total of 27. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that 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 August Succulents Variegated

Lisa Gailey Novice 2nd Place

*Aeonium 'Sunburst Crest'*



Susan Krevitt  
Novice 1st Place  
*Gasteria batesiana*



Ryan Ripley  
Intermediate 1st Place  
*Agave 'White Rhino'*



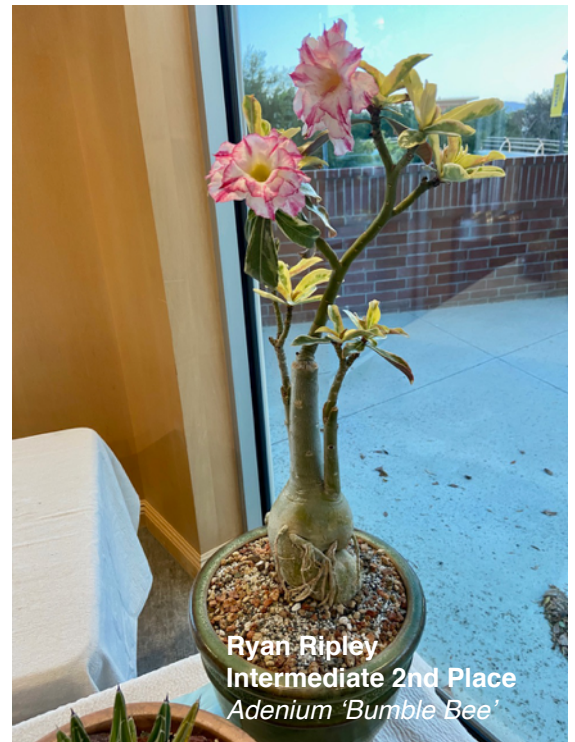
Susan Krevitt  
Novice 3rd Place  
*Hawortia limifolia*



Intermediate, Advanced  
August Succulents  
Variegated



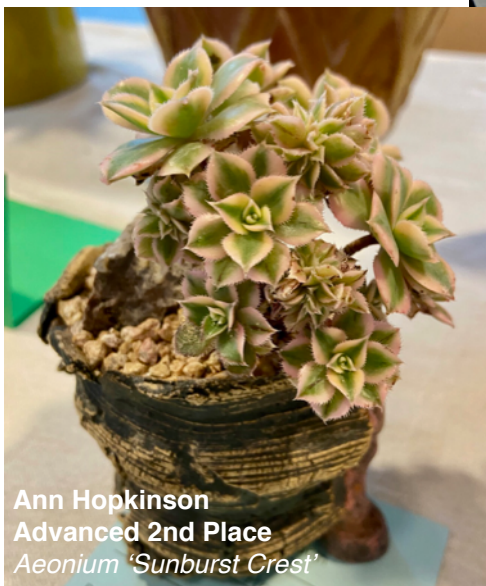
Ryan Ripley  
Intermediate 3rd Place  
*Agave isthmensis* 'Ohi Rajin'  
Shiro Nakafu



Ryan Ripley  
Intermediate 2nd Place  
*Adenium* 'Bumble Bee'



Ann Hopkinson  
Advanced 3rd Place  
*Euphorbia mamillaris*



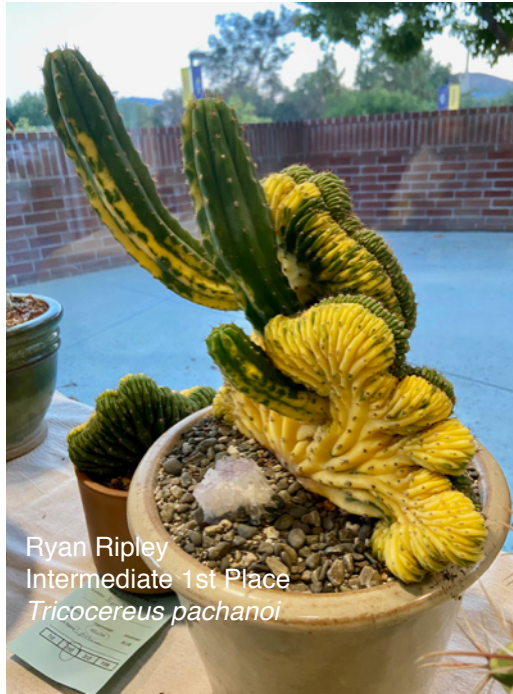
Ann Hopkinson  
Advanced 2nd Place  
*Aeonium* 'Sunburst Crest'



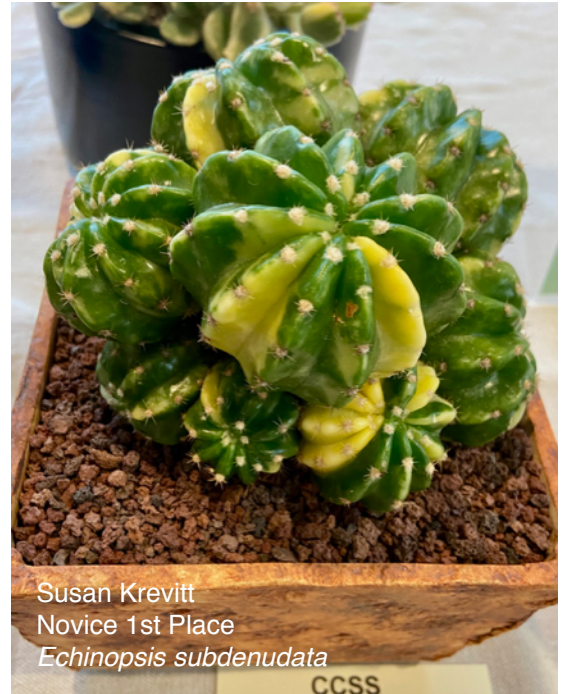
Linda Holub  
Advanced 1st Place  
*Agave* 'Snow Glow'



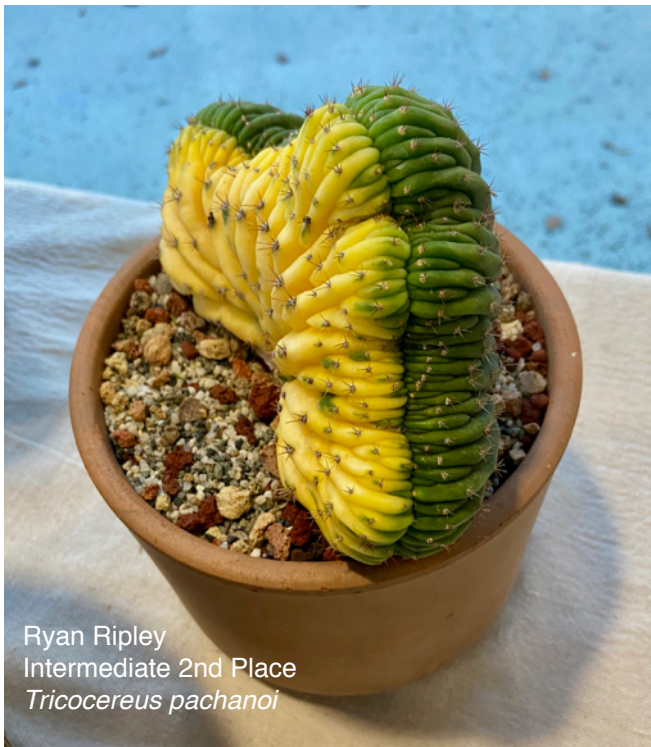
Novice, Intermediate, Advanced  
August Cactus  
Variegated



Ryan Ripley  
Intermediate 1st Place  
*Tricocereus pachanoi*



Susan Krevitt  
Novice 1st Place  
*Echinopsis subdenudata*



Ryan Ripley  
Intermediate 2nd Place  
*Tricocereus pachanoi*



Glen & Pam Smith  
Advanced 1st Place  
*Ferocactus variegated*

**Refreshments** - Thank you!

All who attend appreciate the great refreshments!

**If your last name starts with N, O, P please bring refreshments to the September Meeting**



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

October Meeting - last names starting with Q, R, S, T



**Beautiful Garden Photos From Glen and Pam Smith - July 2023** thank you for sharing your beautiful photos



*Echinopsis 'Flying Saucer'*

*Parodia magnifica*



# My Favorite Book - Ann Hopkinson

One of the reasons I started growing caudiciform and pachycaul succulents is this book that I bought many years ago. It was published in 1987 by Strawberry Press, Mill Valley California.

**Fantastic photos and great information!**

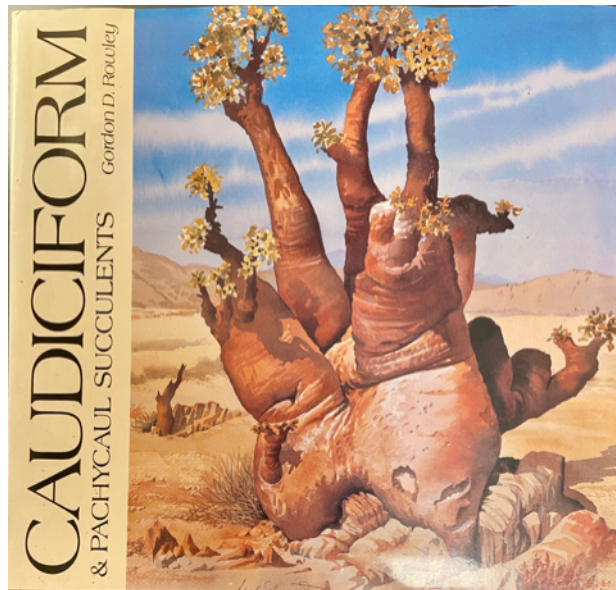
Gordon Douglas Rowley was a British botanist and writer specialising in cacti and succulents.

Born: July 31, 1921, London, Canada

Died: August 12, 2019, Reading, United Kingdom

Books: Caudiciform & Pachycaul Succulents

Pachycauls, Bottle-, Barrel- and Elephant-trees and Their Kin : a Collector's Miscellany



NOTE: These books can be expensive.  
Best deals are for used editions.

**Another good book about Caudiciforms has a new 2023 second edition.**

## **PACHYFORMS**

A Guide to Growing Caudiciform and Pachycaul Plants

Author: Philippe de Vosjoli

