



Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

January 2024

Volume 9 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 Wednesday January 3rd
Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00

California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center

January Speaker - Bryan Chan

Bryan Chan is a collector, hybridizer and most importantly a grower of plants with over 40 years of experience. Starting with vegetables and common landscape plants, then to Bromeliads and some orchids, then to Cactus, succulents and some bulbs. He has found many things to grow and satisfy his desires to add to his plant collection. Bryan's talk will touch on various subjects that he considers in growing plants. Through his successes and failures, he hopes that his experience will be useful for both beginners and experienced growers.

Bryan will include pictures of Mark Dimmitt's 2 greenhouses and the Tucson Rock and Mineral main show. Mark Dimmitt is known for his Tillandsia hybrids that he made in the past and his hybrid Adeniums that he is currently creating.



President's Message January 2024



Dear Members,

By the time you read this the holidays will be over and we will be looking forward to our first **Wednesday** night meeting. I'm glad everyone agreed on changing the meeting night from Monday to Wednesday. The benefits are already paying off as you will see during the coming year.

The Holiday party, enjoyed by close to 60 members, was a **FABULOUS SUCCESS**. The food was scrumptious, the auction brought in over \$600 for the club, and everyone appeared to have a **GREAT** time. Thank you for making it the best one ever.

We have three field trips planned for the beginning of the year and are working on ones for the second quarter. Dates for the trips we be announced later.

The planned trips include:

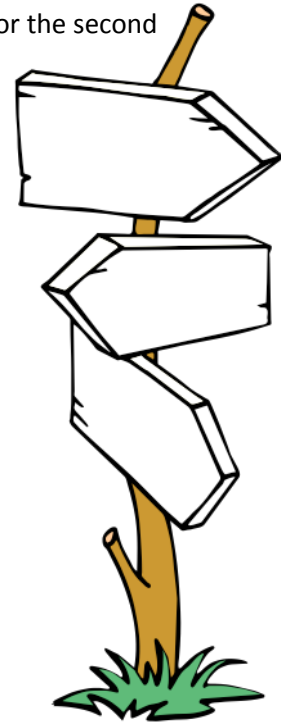
Kingdom of Plants in Carpinteria

Petra Crist Rainbow Nursery in Rainbow, CA

Cima Dome to see the spring blooms.

I feel fortunate to have you as club members, but more importantly—as **friends**.

Linda Holub
President, CCSS



Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society NEW MEETING SCHEDULE for 2024

Starting with January 3, 2024 we will now be meeting on the first Wednesday of every month.



January 3rd
February 7th
March 6th
April 3rd
May 1st
June 5th
July 3rd
August 7th
September 4th
October 2nd
November 6th
December 4th



NOTE! The last meeting of 2023 will still be on Monday December 4th



**Holiday Party
December 4, 2023**

**Food, Fun, Friends
and Fantastic
Plants**



Refreshments 2024

January 2024 - members whose last names begin with A and B, please bring refreshments to share with the club.

Terry Wilson has been graciously providing the club with coffee every month. Give Terry a big Thank you for her generous contribution.

In every monthly newsletter there will be a posting on who's turn it is to bring refreshments. We go alphabetically by last name.



Thank you for your participation by bringing in refreshments!



CCSS 2024 Officers

President
Linda Holub

Treasurer
Chris Gailey

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
Lisa Gailey

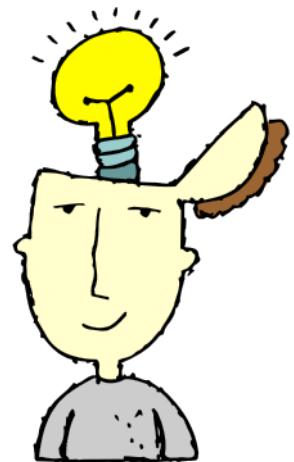


Volunteering is necessary to the well being of any club or organization.

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.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE BY DECEMBER 31ST - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1) IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, YOU CAN WRITE A CHECK AND MAIL IT TO:

**CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
530 W. LOS ANGELES AVE SUITE 115-183
MOORPARK, CA 93021**

2) IF YOU HAVE NAME, ADDRESS, EMAIL, PHONE CHANGES, PLEASE FILL OUT A NEW MEMBERSHIP FORM. MEMBERSHIP FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DECEMBER MEETING/HOLIDAY PARTY. THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP FORM INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

3) IF YOU CANNOT PAY RENEWAL BEFORE DEC 31ST, PLEASE BRING IT TO THE JANUARY 3RD MEETING.

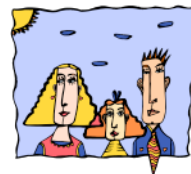
4) DUES HAVE NOT CHANGED AND ARE AS FOLLOWS AND LISTED ON MEMBERSHIP FORM.



**INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$25.00
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: \$30.00
STUDENT MEMBERSHIP: \$20.00**

5) THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF CCSS.

FREEBIE Table - Etiquette



The freebie table is a popular part of our monthly meetings and we want to continue sharing our cuttings.

We are lucky to have such a nice room for our meetings. We need to endeavor to keep it clean and tidy.

- * If you bring plants for the freebie table and no one takes them, PLEASE take them home.
- * There is no trash can available for plant material, especially spiny and thorny cuttings.
- * Clean your cuttings before bringing them in for the freebie table. Wash off any dirt or dead leaves.
- * If we all follow this simple etiquette, the freebie table clean up will not be left to other members.
- * Be courteous to others bring in clean plants and take home all the plants you bring.



Membership Form

____ 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* \$ 15.00 _____

TOTAL: \$ _____ _____

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

Please check box(s) containing the information you would like on our club roster.

☐ Phone number

☐ Address

☐ Email

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

Revised: 1-19-2023

Echinocactus and *Ferocactus*



Ferocactus viridescens

the eastern half. *E. texensis*, commonly called the Horse Crippler, is from Texas, New Mexico, eastern Arizona, Oklahoma, and northern Mexico. *E. polycephalus* is a California native, as well as occurring in Nevada, Arizona, and northern Mexico. It is among the most heavily cloaked in spines of any cactus.

The most famous and widely grown species, *E. grusonii* (Golden Barrel), is also the rarest and most restricted in the wild. There is a link between the two as large numbers of Golden Barrels were dug out of the wild for the horticultural trade. Thankfully large nursery grown specimens are readily available today, reducing the pressure on the remaining plants. Unfortunately, this already threatened species was dealt a more serious

blow in the 1990's when the Zimapan Dam was built in the heart of this species range. Countless plants were destroyed when the lake created by the dam submerged prime *E. grusonii* habitat.



Echinocactus polycephalus



Ferocactus cylindraceus

Ferocactus with about 30 species is the better known and more commonly grown genus of the two (excluding *E. grusonii*). The name means "fierce" cactus, a clear reference to the large, curved spines common throughout the genus. It has a similar range to *Echinocactus*, mostly differing in extending all the way to the California coast and into Baja California. Two species are native to California. *F. cylindraceus*, with bright red spines, is found in our desert regions while *F. viridescens*, a fairly small plant, can be found in coastal San Diego County. The greatest diversity in the genus can be found in Baja, as at least 10 species are found there.

Cultural requirements are similar for both genera. While some species are extremely cold tolerant (i.e. the native US species) and others less so, all species of *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* can handle winter temperatures in the Los Angeles region. They do well in the ground, though good drainage is a must as most species do not like our wet winters. They also do well as large potted specimens, requiring normal cactus care.

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams, Heath MacAllister, & ShineB

Succulent of the Month: *Gasteria*

Gasteria is a popular and easily grown genus that has been collected since the 17th century. Some species look very similar to *Aloe* while others resemble *Haworthia*. This is not surprising as these three genera are very closely related. So close in fact that recent evolutionary studies are causing some confusion about where one genus ends and the other begins. That said, *Gasteria* could be differentiated morphologically from *Aloe* and *Haworthia* by examining the flowers. *Gasteria* flowers have a distinctive narrow upper portion that expands out to a fat base that resembles a stomach. Sure enough, *Gasteria* is derived from "gaster" which means "stomach" in Latin. Interestingly the common name for the species is Ox Tongue, another "digestive" reference!



Gasteria 'Sakura Fuji'

Gasteria come in a much greater diversity of sizes than *Haworthia*, though they are smaller on average than most *Aloe*. *Gasteria* ranges in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all plants start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous), although most eventually begin to spiral. *Gasteria* are quite variable in appearance. Collectors need to be cautioned that they have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance, and have form and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of sunlight. Not realizing this runs you the risk of buying the same species twice!



Gasteria bicolor

This genus contains approximately 20-25 species, nearly all-native to South Africa (one species ranges into Namibia). Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and generally grow under larger shrubs particularly when young. They also can be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs.

Gasteria cultivation is easy and is nearly identical to that of *Haworthia* and winter growing *Aloe*. They are mostly winter and spring growers, but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer. They do well in a range of soil mixes and are more tolerant of organic matter than some succulents. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon. However, the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sunburn, as possible.

Gasteria are generally free from most pests. The one difficulty is 'black spot', a fungus that attacks many *Gasteria*. The fungus is rarely fatal, but causes large unsightly black spots on the leaves. Since the spots are actual damage to the leaves, there is no way to remove the spots. Keeping the leaves dry, and particularly keeping dew off the leaves can minimize the fungus. Fungicides can be used to prevent this disease, but probably aren't worth the hassle unless you have show quality plants you are concerned about.

Gasteria are readily propagated from offsets at the base or on flower stalks, which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily. *Hummingbirds* often visit *Gasteria* flowers, and these visits often result in pollination. Seed can be collected as soon as the fruits start to dry. Cross-pollination can produce interesting plants and many hybrids are available, as are several variegated cultivars. Intergeneric hybrids with *Aloe* (called X *Gasteraloe*) and *Haworthia* (X *Gasterhaworthia*) are commonly seen.



Stomach shaped flowers

-Kyle Williams
Photo credits: Kyle Williams

Plant of the Month 2024

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Echinocactus/Ferocactus	Gasteria
February	Columnar Cacti	Aloe
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon
April	Gymnocalycium	Mesembs
May	Copiapoa	Adenia
June	Eriosyce	Pachypodium
July	Parodia	Senecio
August	Mammillaria	Euphorbia
September	Variegates	Variegates
October	Echinopsis	Sansevieria
November	Crested/Monstrose	Crested/Monstrose
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 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.

CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)
December 2024

Cactus - Favorites

Novice :

1st	<i>Mammillaria microthele</i>	Chris Bell
2nd	<i>Cephalocereus senilis</i>	Jonathan Zhu
3rd	<i>Lophocereus schottii</i> 'Monstrosus'	Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Mammillaria sp.</i>	Ryan Ripley
2nd	<i>Ariocarpus retusus</i>	Ryan Ripley
3rd	<i>Echinocereus rigidissimus</i>	Ryan Ripley

Advanced:

2nd	<i>Myrtillocactus geometrizans</i>	Linda Holub
2nd	<i>Eulychnia castanea</i>	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Opuntia zebrina reticulata</i> 'Cobra'	Linda Holub

Succulents - Favorites

Novice:

1st	<i>Aloe peglerae</i>	Lisa Gailey
2nd	<i>Decarya madagascariensis</i>	Susan Krevitt
3rd	<i>Euphorbia caput-medusae</i>	Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

1st	Unknown	Ryan Ripley
2nd	<i>Dorstenia gigas</i>	Ryan Ripley
3rd	<i>Euphorbia sp.</i>	Tom Horan

Advanced:

1st	<i>Agave</i> 'Snow Glow'	Linda Holub
2nd	<i>Agave</i> 'Blue Emperor'	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Euphorbia abdelkuri</i>	Linda Holub

I hope everyone who attended the holiday party had a great time. A shoutout to the following members for advancing from novice to intermediate POM categories, Gerry Caruso, Lisa Gailey, Susan Krevitt, and Cheryl Norris. Job well done.

We had a nice display of your favorite plants at the December holiday POM display. There were 10 Novice, 8 Intermediate and 6 Advanced entries for a total of 24 plants entered. Congratulations to all the winners and thank you for your participation.

Members are reminded not to take home the Pom entry slips. We need them to track your running total.
Thank you

POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM Mini Show allows members to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to care for and correctly stage them. Get involved and enter your plants!

Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

December Succulents - Favorites



Jonathan Zhu
Novice 3rd Place
Euphorbia caput-medusae



Susan Krevitt
Novice 2nd Place
Decarya madagascariensis



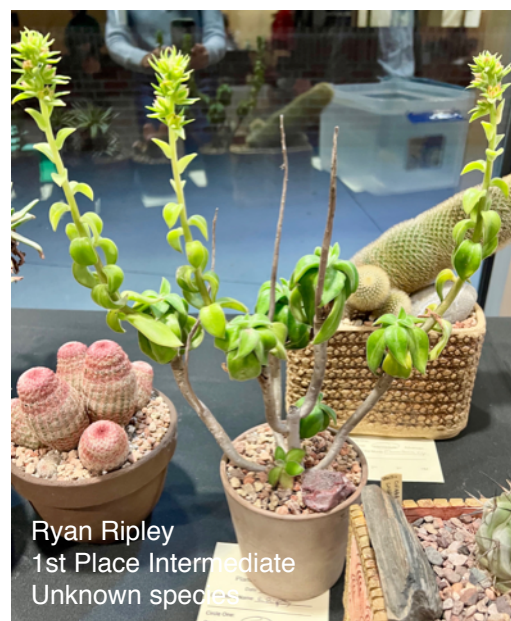
Lisa Gailley
Novice 1st Place
Aloe peglerae



Tom Horan
3rd Place
Intermediate
Euphorbia sp.



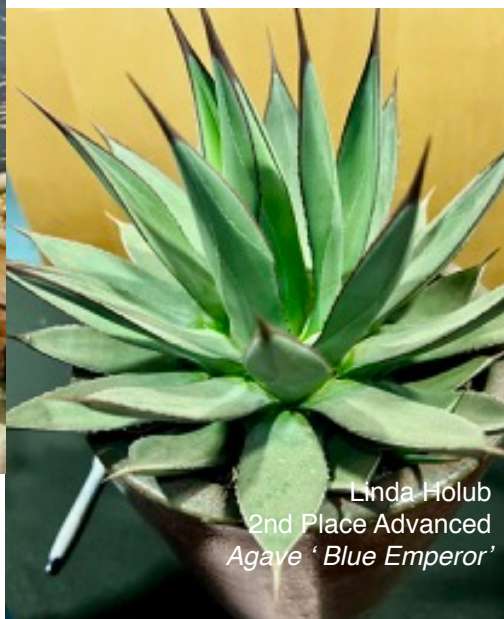
Ryan Ripley
2nd Place
Intermediate
Dorstenia gigas



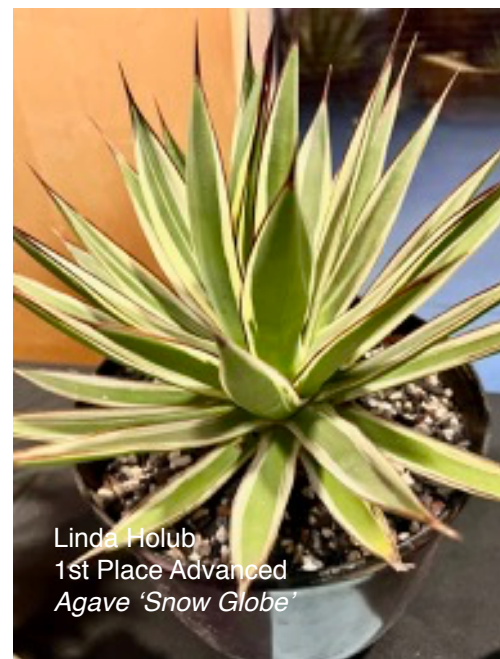
Ryan Ripley
1st Place Intermediate
Unknown species



Linda Holub
3rd Place Advanced
Euphorbia abdelkuri



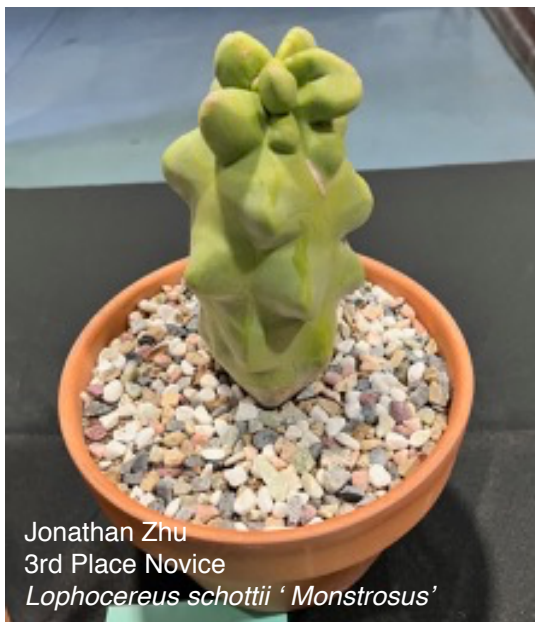
Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Agave 'Blue Emperor'



Linda Holub
1st Place Advanced
Agave 'Snow Globe'



Novice, Intermediate, Advanced December Cactus - Favorites



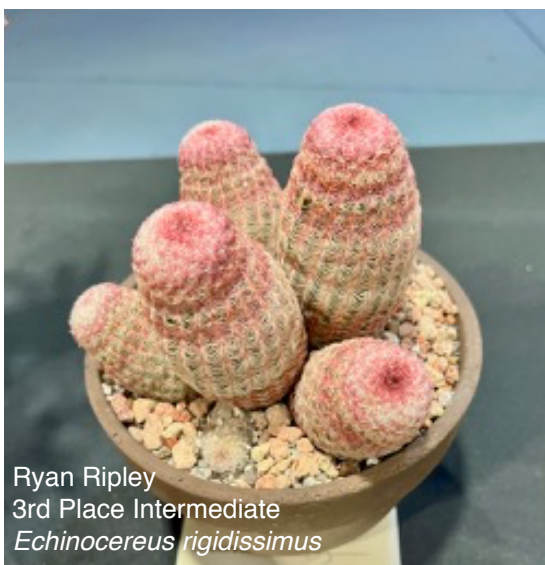
Jonathan Zhu
3rd Place Novice
Lophocereus schottii 'Monstrosus'



Jonathan Zhu
2nd Place Novice
Cephalocereus senilis



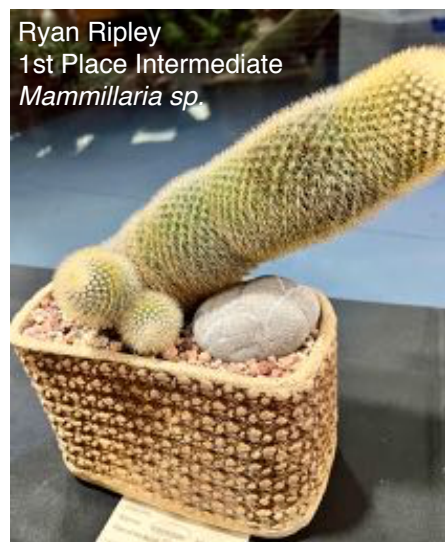
Chris Bell
1st Place Novice
Mammillaria microthele



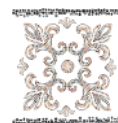
Ryan Ripley
3rd Place Intermediate
Echinocereus rigidissimus



Ryan Ripley
2nd Place Intermediate
Ariocarpus retusus



Ryan Ripley
1st Place Intermediate
Mammillaria sp.



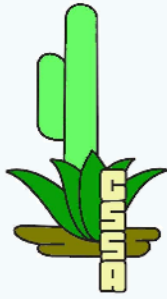
Linda Holub
3rd Place Advanced
Opuntia zebrina reticulata 'Cobra'



Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Eulychnia castanea



Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Myrtillocactus geometrizans



The Cactus and Succulent Society of America

Conservation Policy Statement

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is the national organization for the study, education, and promotion of cacti and succulents. The popularity of cacti and succulents, their availability online, and their increased monetary value have critically endangered their populations in the wild. The conservation of these unique plants and their habitats is of critical concern.

Existing Policies and Guidelines

CSSA shall adhere to:

- ♦ All national and international guidelines, treaties, and laws regarding the protection of cacti, other succulents, and their habitats.
- ♦ The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) treaty and the American Endangered Species Acts for both plants and animals.
- ♦ The International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) Code of Conduct.
- ♦ Specific conservation policies of the applicable State or other local jurisdictions.

CSSA Show and Sale Policies

- ♦ CSSA will not accept field collected plants in its competitive shows; plants in question will be evaluated by a review team upon entering.
- ♦ CSSA functions will not allow the sale, purchase, or promotion of habitat-collected plants.

- ♦ CSSA encourages its affiliate societies to adopt or incorporate CSSA Conservation Policies in developing their own missions and show and sale policies.

Commercial Selling

- ♦ CSSA endorses and promotes vendors which produce sale plants from seed, cuttings or other artificial means.
- ♦ CSSA discourages the use of nurseries and online vendors that sell field collected plants.

Legal Initiatives

- ♦ CSSA will work with our appropriate government agencies to modernize laws regarding the sale of plants across international borders, especially for hybrids.
- ♦ CSSA will endorse and promote state laws and policies pertaining to the rescue of plants due to urban or agricultural encroachment.
- ♦ CSSA will assist in the development of procedures to conserve and disseminate rescued plants.



Eriosyce napina subsp. *lembckei*. A little cactus of Atacama Region that is a species in danger.

Photo: Rescuti - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=64463623>

CREATING AN ETHICAL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT COLLECTION

Cactus and succulent species are at risk



One third of all cactus species (Cactaceae) are at risk of extinction¹, and so are many succulents and caudiciforms, including *Dudleya*, *Dioscorea*, and *Pachypodium*². Half of threatened cacti are at-risk at least in part due to the horticultural trade¹. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram influence the desire to take old and rare cacti, succulents and their seeds from habitat^{3, 4}.

Cacti and succulents are central in dry ecosystems



Cacti and succulents store water in their tissues, provide nesting areas and food for wildlife, photosynthesize, store carbon, and even provide a place for insects to lay their eggs until they develop into adults. These plants play an essential role in dryland ecosystems and must be protected.

Building your collection

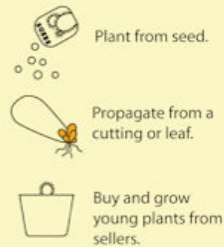
1 Check the source before you buy



2 Buy from reputable plant sellers



3 Grow your own cacti and succulents



4 Educate yourself and spread the word



Plants to be cautious of when purchasing

Slow-growing, rare plants sold online are more likely to be field-collected because their size and habitat characteristics are hard to replicate in a nursery, therefore the time it takes to grow them ethically reduces practical and economic feasibility. If you're looking for rare plants for your collection, ask experts in your plant community for help finding ethical sources, or learn which plants are endangered and/or protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (cites.org). Examples include:



Aztekium



Pachypodium



Dudleya

Identifying field-collected vs. greenhouse-grown

Wild plants tend to face harsher growing conditions than greenhouse-grown plants leading to features which can help you identify the source. These characteristics are not always diagnostic, so when in doubt ask a community expert.

Copiapoa cinerea subsp. *columna-alba*



Poaching impacts on wild populations



Wild populations can be significantly reduced by poaching. For example, in 2015, 3500 *Ariocarpus fissuratus* were stolen, likely from Big Bend National Park⁵.

Large-scale harvest of slow-growing wild cacti can decimate habitat populations by removing the mature, reproductive plants. This demonstrates how wild and illegal field collection for the horticultural trade is a significant threat to the survival of cacti and succulents in habitat.

This map highlights regions with high levels of cacti and succulents at-risk including Mexico, Chile, and southern Africa which face poaching impacts¹.



Copiapoa cinerea which are ~30 cm/12 in. tall and take ~100 years to reach this size in habitat. When they are removed from the wild, all that is left are holes in the ground.

Find out more at:
www.ethicalcactus.com

¹ Goettsch, B., Hilton-Taylor, C., Cruz-Piñón, G. et al. High proportion of cactus species threatened with extinction. *Nature Plants*. 2015

² <https://www.iucn.org/ssc-groups/plants-fungi/cactus-and-succulent-plants-specialist-group/cites-species> (Accessed Jan 31 2021)

³ Margulies, J. D. (2020). In *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* (Vol. 8, p. 367). <https://www.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/fevo.2020.604921>

⁴ Hinsley, A., Lee, T. E., Harrison, J. R., & Roberts, D. L. (2016). *Conservation Biology*. 30(5), 1038–1047. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cobi.12221>

⁵ Annette McGivney: "Yanked from the ground": cactus theft is ravaging the American desert. *The Guardian*. [Online]. Published Feb. 20 2019.