



Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

April 2024

Volume 9 Number 4

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 April 3rd
Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00
California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center
130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360

Jeff Moore - Dudleya presentation

My talk and PowerPoint presentation will follow the flow of the new Dudleya book that I have co-written with Jeremy Spath and Kelly Griffin (projected book arrival date will hopefully be May 2024). It will cover most if not all of the currently described species of this California and Baja genus. Images will show plants in habitat as well as cultivation, with advice on growing plants in captivity and an emphasis on conservation.

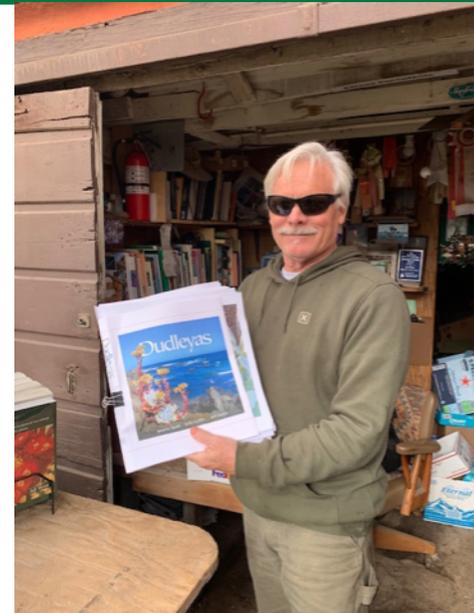
Images were taken by all three authors as well as contributors from the Dudleya community. Kelly and Jeremy have visited and photographed nearly all species *in situ*—most of the habitat photos are quite stunning, often with beautiful ocean or cliffside backdrops.

Bio:

I became interested in succulents in the early 80s after seeing a display of Rudy Lime's bonsai succulents at the San Diego County Fair. I sold succulents in my spare time at street fairs and farmer's markets for a few years before opening Solana Succulents in 1992, at the same location I'm still at. I am primarily a succulent retail shop - with the benefit of being located close to some of the premier growers in California and a long list of friends and contacts in the business. I used to do a bit of succulent landscaping, but have phased out of doing much of that anymore, aside from some consulting. I wrote my first book in 2014, followed by three more, then a book on Agaves co-written with Jeremy Spath, and will soon have my sixth book, also with Jeremy and Kelly Griffin as well.

I have been on the speakers circuit since 2014 as well, and have spoken to most of the cactus clubs in CA, AZ, and a few excursions to Texas, Portland, and New England. I haven't done a lot of field work until the past few years, but in researching the Agave and Dudleya books I've had the chance to botanize quite a bit in Northern Baja and Oaxaca, as well as California. Until recently I wasn't very involved with the CSSA (running my nursery primarily solo takes a lot of time), but I was recently elected to the board of the CSSA and am currently awaiting assignment.

I'm married with two adult sons, and surfed most of my life until the body told me otherwise.



President's Message April 2024



There isn't much news this month, but there is our Spring sale which is always big news. It's a lot of work, but as we all know, it's worth it. So far, twenty vendors have agreed to participate. The most we ever had.

The wholesale nursery, where I usually go, had an exceptional selection of plants this time. Here is a sneak preview of some of the plants I purchased.

There will be a sign-up sheet at the April Meeting for volunteers. LET'S MAKE THIS OUR BEST SALE EVER.

Please post our sales flyer wherever you can and post it on Next Door in the neighborhood where you live.

We've had to change the field trip planned for Petra's Rainbow Gardens, because she can't accommodate us there until June. In the meantime, we are still planning on the trip to Cima Dome and rock hunting in May. We will research dates and hotels and announce them at our May meeting. It seems the best blooms are between the end of March and the beginning of May.

For those of you unfamiliar with Cima Dome the following should be of interest. Cima Dome is a volcanic field that consists of 40 volcanic domes with 60 lava flows. It was one of the most dense and largest Joshua tree forests in the world. Unfortunately, a huge fire in August of 2020 consumed 43,000 acres. Cima Dome is famous for its remarkable smooth dome shape. It is a unique natural wonder. A 70 acre dome of near perfect symmetry that rises 1,500 feet above the desert floor. It has several lava tubes, one you can walk through. The solidified granite is said to be 80 to 190 million years old.

Unfortunately, the roads leading to Cima Dome will be closed until the end of May, so we will have to wait until we are sure the roads are open for our field trip.

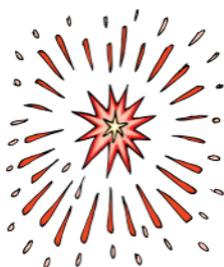
SEE YOU ALL AT OUR APRIL MEETING.

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.



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

Vendors Signed up for April Sale



Conejo Cactus And Succulent Society

John Martinez

Kyle Williams

Marquita Ellias

Glen and Pam Smith

Terry Wilson

Ralph Massey

Bryan Chan

Dean Karris - Gnosis Nursery

Cindy Tiefenbach - Potter

Ray Van Veen - Bromeliads

Carol Bealer - Potter

Genie Thomsen - Potter

Phyliss Freeze - Distinctive Flora

Lupe Casas - LA East Succulents

Joe Ambriz-Kingdom of Plants

Conejo Valley Garden Club

Joshua Evans - Death Cactus

Erika De Harlo

Susan Marquez

Cheryl Norris - Potter



Almost here! Sign up sheet will be available at April meeting



Cactus & Succulent Spring Sale **Sunday, April 14, 2024**

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

558 North Ventu Park Road
Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320
SE corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering
Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Tillandsia

Along with Pottery
and Jewelry

Experts will be available for
questions regarding plant care



Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

For more information: Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society
Web: ConejoCSS.com Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com

Refreshments 2024

April 2024 - members whose last names begin with G and H, please bring refreshments to share with the club.

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!

Even if it is not your month to contribute feel free to bring snacks anytime.

May meeting will be I, J, K names



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	Propagaton Terry Wilson
3rd VP. Special Events Lisa Gailey	Assistant to Director I Pam Smith, Membership	Drawing Coordinator Gerry Caruso	Event Publicity Lisa Gailey

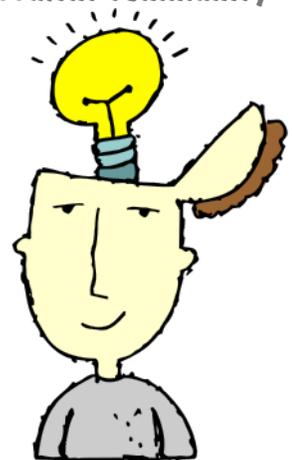


Volunteering is necessary to the well-being of any club or organization.

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

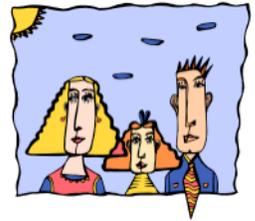
- 1) Gaining new skills
- 2) Making new friends
- 3) Mental and physical health and well-being
- 4) Giving something back
- 5) Improving your confidence



**Please contact Linda Holub cactuscougar@icloud.com
or Ann Hopkinson HopkinsonAC04@gmail.com**

Please don't miss out! Renew your CCSS Membership today.

After April 1st, we will remove non-renewing members from our roster and club emailing list. Thank you!



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 are no trash cans 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 cleanup will not be left to other members.**
- * **Be courteous to others bring in clean plants and take home all the plants you bring.**

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

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.

Plant of the Month: Aizoaceae (aka Mesembs)

Mesembryanthemaceae is one of the longest and most ugly plant family names. Thankfully, botanists do not call it that anymore. Now we refer to the family as the Aizoaceae. You can informally call them Mesembs as well. The change in name is due in part to the uniting of plants formally in different families. The Aizoaceae contains over 130 genera and nearly 2000 species, making it as big or bigger than the Cactaceae. Most Aizoaceae are fleshy and succulent plants. While most species that we grow are very highly succulent, such as *Lithops*, *Faucaria*, or Ice Plant (*Carpobrotus*), some genera are just slightly succulent and more resemble a typical herb.



Faucaria tuberculosa 'Sato'

Aizoaceae have a worldwide distribution in arid regions, including two species native to California. Despite the family technically being worldwide, the overwhelming number of genera and species (96%) come from southern Africa. It is interesting to compare the Cactaceae with the Aizoaceae in that both families have developed extreme succulence in order to survive their arid habitats, however how they went about it shows that evolution can converge on a basic idea in two different ways. Cacti have evolved thick fleshy stems that store water during lean times while also getting rid of big green leaves (except in *Pereskia* and a few other species) that lose a lot of water on hot days. The leaves of a cactus have been turned into the spines that protect the plant from predators. The Aizoaceae took a different path. The stems have been nearly lost in many species (e.g., *Lithops*), or tend to be fairly thin and not much for water storage. The leaves have become extremely fleshy to the point where they are practically balloons filled with water. Whereas cacti "fight" their predators by forming big sharp spines, the small stemless Aizoaceae hide from them by blending into their surroundings. They in essence become indistinguishable from rocks and are therefore ignored by thirsty predators. Another strategy employed by many Aizoaceae is to grow in the cracks of rocks. That gets them away from bigger, faster growing shrubs and grasses that would shade them out, but also helps them survive against predators. If a thirsty animal were to find one of these in the ground they could eat the whole thing killing it. If they find one wedged in a rock they might be able to eat the exposed leaves but the base of the plant would be protected, allowing the plant to regrow.



Conophytum obcordellum

Our climate is great for growing most Mesembs, though, with nearly 2000 species, general advice for growing all of them is impossible to give. However, for the fleshy leaved South African species basic advice can be given. First of all, you need to know if your plant comes from the winter rainfall regions (which is very similar to our own climate) or from summer rainfall regions. For winter growers such as *Conophytum*, *Cheiridopsis*, or *Fenestraria* you can embrace our climate by letting the winter rains water them from fall through spring and then keeping them totally dry (or nearly so) during the summer. For summer growers like *Faucaria*, *Pleiospilos*, or *Lithops* relatives like *Argyroderma* and *Tanquana* keep them totally dry in the winter and water in the summer, except when it is very hot out, at which time they should be kept dry again. With few exceptions no Mesemb wants to be wet for any length of time. So, if our winters are especially rainy even the winter growers might need some protection. Similarly, do not soak your summer growers too often even during the growing season. Please realize that summer and winter growers may vary within a genus. For example, *Titanopsis calcarea* is a summer grower while *T. hugoschlechteri* is a winter grower. The plants do not care what genus they are; they care about the climate where they live in nature. When in doubt look it up!



Titanopsis hugoschlechteri

Plant of the Month: *Gymnocalycium*



Gymnocalycium horstii

Gymnocalycium are among the most popular of cacti, from the novice through the advanced grower. Probably every cactus collector in the world has at least one in their collection. With over 70 species and hundreds of varieties, cultivars, and hybrids there is something for everyone!

There are several reasons for the popularity of the genus. They are easy to grow; flower readily; come in many distinguishable species; look great in flower, in bud, and even when dormant. A well grown plant will often flower several times during the year. Among novice growers, the most popular *Gymnocalycium* is undoubtedly the grafted cultivars of *G. mihanovichii* that lack chlorophyll (the green pigment in plants that lets them photosynthesize). These cultivars come in bright yellows, reds, oranges, and even pink. These plants certainly are stunning, but you almost never see a mature plant because they are quite difficult to grow and, quite frankly, many serious collectors see it as something of a freak of nature

and not a desirable addition to a collection.

Gymnocalycium is an old genus, first named in 1845. It is so named for the spineless flower buds in all species (*Gymnocalycium* translates to "Naked calyx"). Most *Gymnocalycium* are also readily identified by their 'chins' beneath the areoles. All *Gymnocalycium* are from South America, with the center of distribution in Argentina. The genus stretches into Southeastern Bolivia, Western Paraguay, Uruguay, and into the Southernmost part of Brazil. For the most part *Gymnocalycium* are grassland plants, growing and shaded in the grass of the Pampa and Chaco (dry forest) that covers much of Argentina. As a result, most like some protection from full afternoon sun, but need bright light during the day.



Gymnocalycium pflanzii



Gymnocalycium ragonesei

Gymnocalycium cultivation is easy. They need a dry rest during the winter; they can take Southern California climate without winter heat, as long as they are dry. They should be fed regularly with half strength fertilizer when growing. They are tolerant of any well drained soil, but constant wet will cause the roots to rot. Fortunately, they are easy to re-root, with roots generally re-growing in a just few months. *Gymnocalycium* are easy to grow from seed, started in a well-drained, damp potting mix in a plastic bag covered pot. Germination is fairly rapid, but growth during the first year is slow compared to most *Mammillaria* and many other genera. Vegetative propagation is also easy. Offsets from clumps can be removed, left to dry for a few days and potted. They generally root within a few weeks.

-Kyle Williams
Photo credits: Kyle Williams

**CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)
March, 2024**

Cactus - Astrophytum

Novice:

1st *Astrophytum myriostigma* Chris Biehl

Intermediate:

1st *Astrophytum* 'Super Kabuto' Cheryl Norris

2nd *Astrophytum ornatum* var. *nudum* Ryan Ripley

3rd *Astrophytum asterias* Susan Krevitt

Advanced:

1st *Astrophytum ornatum* Ann Hopkinson

2nd *Astrophytum myriostigma* Linda Holub

3rd *Astrophytum ornatum* Linda Holub

Succulents - Tylecodon

Novice:

1st *Tylecodon paniculatus* Chris Biehl

Intermediate:

1st *Tylecodon wallichii* Marquita Elias

2nd *Tylecodon buchholzianus* Ryan Ripley

3rd *Tylecodon schaeferianus* Susan Krevitt

Advanced:

1st *Tylecodon wallichii* John Suciu

2nd *Tylecodon paniculatus* Ann Hopkinson

var. *dinterii*

3rd *Tylecodon suffultus* Bryan Chan

For the March POM display, there were 3 Novice, 13 Intermediate, and 11 Advance entries for a total of 27 plants.

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

March - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Tylecodon



Chris Biehl
1st Place Novice
Tylecodon paniculatus



Susan Krevitt
3rd Place Intermediate
Tylecodon schaeferianus



Ryan Ripley
2nd Place Intermediate
Tylecodon buchholzianus



Marquita Ellias
1st Place Intermediate
Tylecodon wallichii



Bryan Chan
3rd Place Advanced
Tylecodon suffultus



Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Tylecodon paniculatus v. dinterii

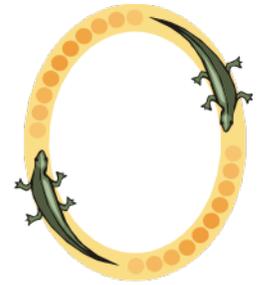


John Suci
1st Place Advanced
Tylecodon wallichii

March - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Cactus - Astrophytum



Chris Biehl
1st Place Novice
Astrophytum myriostigma



Susan Krevitt
3rd Place Intermediate
Astrophytum asterias



Ryan Ripley
2nd Place Intermediate
Astrophytum ornatum f. nudum



Cheryl Norris
1st Place Intermediate
Astrophytum 'Super Kabuto'



Linda Holub
3rd Place Advanced
Astrophytum ornatum

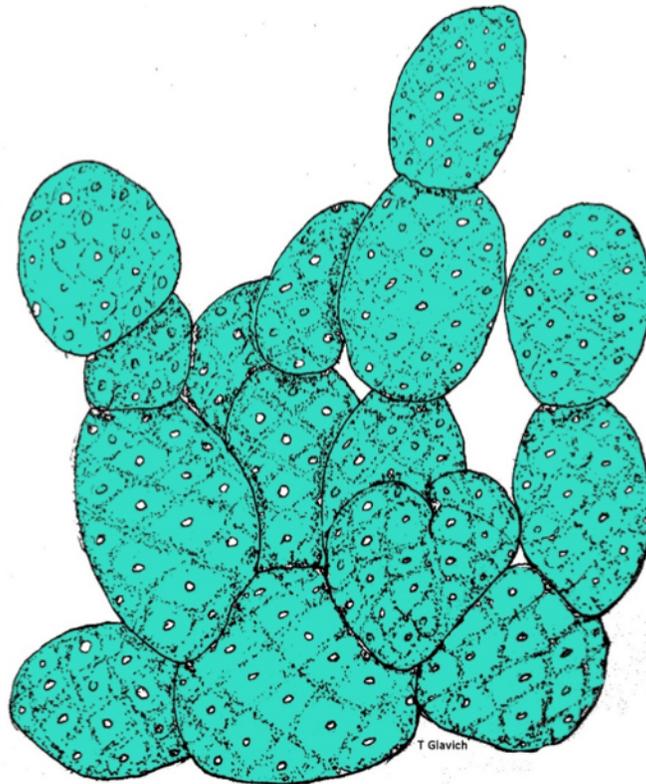


Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Astrophytum myriostigma



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Astrophytum ornatum

Cactus and Succulent Society of America
57th Annual Show and Sale
June 28-30 2024



Tephrocactus geometricus

Huntington Library, Art Museum & 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
Advanced online timed entry reservations are now required on Fridays and weekends
for both visitors & members. NO WALK-INS. Limited daily capacity.

Go to the huntington.org website for tickets
See www.cssashow.com for further details

Mail Order Cactus and Succulent Vendors for your Enjoyment

The list below provides known, established nurseries who ship seed-grown and cutting-propagated cacti and other succulents throughout the United States. We include this list as a service to CSSA members, but it is not an endorsement of any vendor nor has any vendor paid to be included. Let us know if your cactus and succulent related business would like to be included. Please [send us](#) a link to your website and a good contact email address.

Please enjoy.

Botanic Wonders

<https://www.botanicwonders.com>

Cold Hardy Cactus

<https://coldhardycactus.com>

Ethical Desert

<https://ethicaldesert.com>

Plant Delights

<https://www.plantdelights.com/>

Hidden Agave

<https://hiddenagave.com>

J & J Cactus and Succulents

<https://www.jjcactus-succulents.net>

Kyle's Plants

<https://kylesplants.com>

Miles' To Go

<https://www.miles2go.com>

Paradise Found Rare Plant Nursery

<https://www.paradisefoundnursery.com>

Mountain Crest Gardens

<https://mountaincrestgardens.com>

The Haworthia Society

The International Society for the study of Haworthias, Gasterias, Aloes, Bulbines and other related South African plants



3 Journals per year, Biennial Convention, National Show, Seed List, Special Publications

UK £14, Europe £15,
Rest of the World £17

Membership enquiries:
Dr Tony Roberts
email: tony@robertsctacti.co.uk

www.haworthia.org

British Cactus & Succulent Society

Website: <http://www.bcsc.org.uk>



- Quarterly full colour Journal, *CactusWorld*, for all levels of interest, covering conservation, cultivation, propagation, plant hunting and habitats, botanical gardens, plant descriptions, book reviews, seed lists, news and views, and advertisements from suppliers worldwide.
- Optional subscription to *Bradleya*, a high quality annual publication, with articles of a more scientific nature.
- Online discussion Forum and publications including books.
- See our website for current subscription details, which can be paid online by credit card, or by cheque payable to BCSS.
- Further details also available from our Membership Secretary: Mr A Morris, 6 Castlemaine Drive, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1RY, UK. Telephone: +44 (0) 1455 614410. Email: membership@bcsc.org.uk



A Completely Volunteer Organization

Hobby Greenhouse Association

The Association

for people who grow plants and flowers in Greenhouses, windows and under lights!

Quarterly Digital Magazine, Help & Advice and Greenhouse & Supply Discounts

Membership is \$10 per year and \$18 for 2 years World Wide

Visit us at

WWW.Hobbygreenhouse.org

for more details.

South Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024

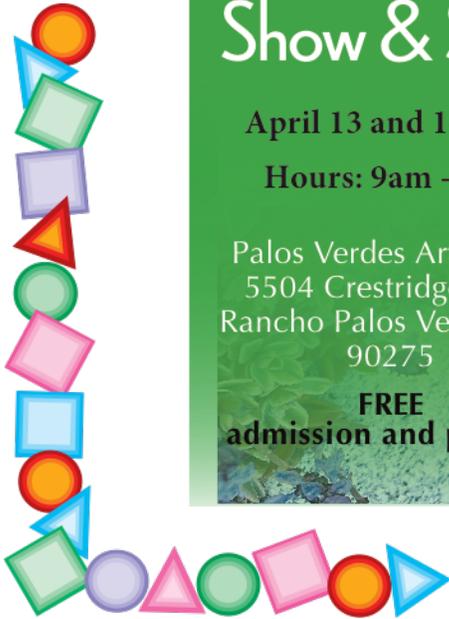
Hours: 9am - 4 pm

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

FREE
admission and parking



Aeonium 'Sunburst'



18th BIENNIAL MID-STATES CONFERENCE

JULY 26th, 27th, 28th, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico

Nothing like the summer in historical Santa Fe!

SIX OF THE BEST SPEAKERS IN THE COUNTRY

**SIX OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING CACTUS & SUCCULENT VENDORS
AFFORDABLE HOTELS, SHOW PLANT AUCTION & FABULOUS OUTINGS**

For more information, go to www.santafecactusclub.org/MidStatesCon or
contact conference chair Woody Minnich at cactusdata@msn.com or 661-406-9816