



Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

May 2024

Volume 9 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 Wednesday May 1st
Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00
California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center
130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360

Hello members of the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society!

My name is Eli Cohen; I'm a student at Pasadena City College and a part time propagator of many wonderful xerophyte plants.

I've previously worked at several retail nurseries around the Greater Los Angeles area. I have held a deep passion for growing xeric plants for over a decade. The hardiness, beauty, and sheer oddity of the natural world never fail to astound me, and I'm very grateful my work and education allows me to spend time near it. All of this has led me to pursuing my education in biochemistry, for a chance to one day possess a greater understanding of the functions of life around us. Thank you for allowing me to spend time with your club, and have a great time discussing some of our favorite plants!

California's Quirky Flora: Unveiling Native Marvels

There is an old saying misattributed to several authors, but the essence of it has stood the test of time: "America is built on a tilt, and everything loose slides to California." The quote's author may be in doubt, but many would agree with the sentiment. I'll be sharing with you some of the unusual, beautiful, and perhaps oddly familiar plants that resemble, relate to, or exist in the same habitats as many of our favorite backyard cacti and succulents. In particular, genera such as *Crassula* and *Dudleya* may be familiar, but even they have remarkable and strange species. Meanwhile, some genera may be unfamiliar in name, but display forms any succulent lover would recognize. The aim of our discussion will be to foster appreciation for native plant diversity, expand the perception of what native plants can be, and place greater focus on education and conservation.



WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY PLANT?

Our May Speaker Eli Cohen has volunteered to help diagnose plant problems and give growing tips.

If you have a problem plant or any cultivation questions please feel free to bring your plant to the May meeting.

Are those spots on the leaves normal? Insects? Why does my plant look yellow or red? There is some dieback on my plant is it part of the normal growing cycle?



President's Message May 2024



Who would have thought that we would have to worry about rain for our April sale? Every day surrounding the event the weather was beautiful but the day before the sale (everyone's preparation day) and the day of the sale it rained. Right up to the last minute we were thinking of canceling. Five had already vendors decided not to be part of the sale because of the rain.

At 6:30 a.m. on the way to the venue it poured, but when we got there and the vendors started to arrive everyone decided, as long as they were there, to go ahead set up and hope for the best.

We had quite a bit of clear weather throughout the day except for two downpours.

Surprisingly, despite the cold rainy weather the sale went extremely well.

We seemed to have had a more serious group of buyers this time than in the past. This was probably due to the amount of advertising done prior to the sale. The shoppers seemed to be true collectors and didn't seem to mind shopping for plants holding umbrellas in the rain.

The club's income was not as good as it was in October, but that was mainly due to the shortage of vendors. Only seventeen, instead of twenty-two showed up due to rain. The main point is that all the vendors were happy with their sales and that's the important thing.

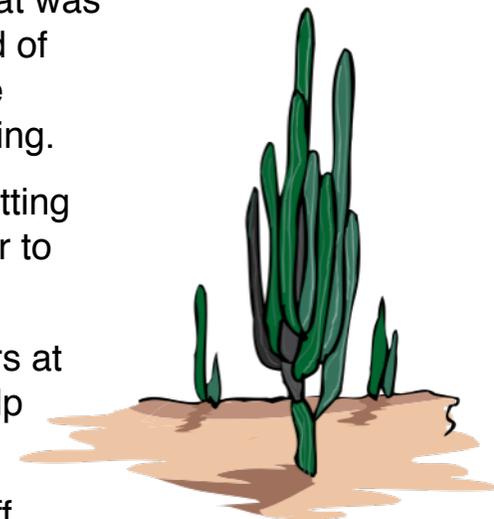
As for our arrangement with the Botanical Garden, Donna is setting up a day for us to help them weed. If anyone wants to volunteer to help, please talk to Donna at our May meeting.

Speaking of volunteers, a big thank you to our twenty volunteers at the sale. Everyone went above and beyond in being a huge help throughout the day.

Keep May 15th and 16th open for our next field trip down to Jeff Moore's Solana Succulents in Solana Beach. Check it out online. More details will be announced at our May meeting.

See you there.

Linda Holub
President, CCSS



Refreshments 2024

May 2024 - members whose last names begin with I, J and K, 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.

June meeting will be L & M 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

Propagator
Terry Wilson

3rd VP, Special Events
Lisa Gailey

Assistant to Director I
Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator
Gerry Caruso

Event Publicity
Lisa Gailey

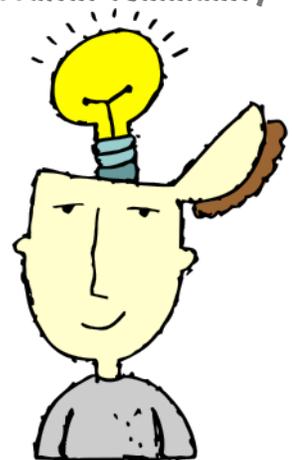


Volunteering is necessary to the well-being of any club or organization.

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 well-being
- 4) Giving something back
- 5) Improving your confidence



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

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.

Succulent of the Month: *Adenia*

This month we are looking at *Adenia*, a very interesting genus of caudiciform plants from Africa, Madagascar, and Southeast Asia. If you see this name and say "I know that plant, it's the Desert Rose!" sorry, you'd be wrong. That is *Adenium*, which is totally unrelated. *Adenia* forms a fat somewhat lumpy base with numerous branches that are actually stiff vines. It may seem odd to say the plant has stiff branches but is a vine, but that's what we have here! At this point it is worth mentioning that *Adenia* is in the Passifloraceae, or Passion Flower family. Passion Flowers are tropical vines that climb over everything. So imagine in the distant past a tropical vine that over many generations spread out from the tropics into drier, more arid regions, eventually reaching the desert. In evolutionary terms, you'd need to change from a lush tropical plant to one that has adapted to xeric conditions. A good way to do this is to start storing water in your base. This leads to the fat bases we see today. Keeping lush green leaves isn't a good idea either. So (in most cases) you'll find that *Adenia* has small leaves. Along the way the soft vines stiffened up, becoming more branch like but still keeping some elements of a vine. In particular, the branches are long and straight and grow indefinitely. These branches also have tendrils which grab on to other plants. Even in the desert that can be useful, as it can grab onto nearby shrubs to keep the stems upright and therefore more exposed to the sun.



Adenia glauca



Adenia pechuelii

Adenia consists of approximately 100 species, yet only around 10 or so are regularly seen in cultivation. Some, like *A. glauca* and *A. spinosa* are easy, fast growing plants that can go from a small plant to one with a caudex a foot in diameter within a few years. In our region we can grow those plants in the ground, and mature specimens can be over 3 feet diameter. I don't mean a 100-year-old plant in Africa, but plants less than 20 years old right here in Southern California! To achieve this rapid growth be sure to water plants regularly during the warmer months. These plants don't like drying out completely and in the summer may need nearly as much water as a regular, non-succulent, plant. Those are the easiest and best species to start with, but as your interest in these plants grow you may start to notice species like *A. globosa* and *A. pechuelii*, which are extremely unusual and attractive, but extremely slow growing and expensive to obtain.

Adenia aren't especially prone to pests and disease but can get the standards like mealybugs and spider mites. There is one unique pest to be aware of however. The Gulf Fritillary is a common orange butterfly seen commonly in the summer. The caterpillars are generally known to eat *Passiflora* vines exclusively. If you look them up online that's what you'll see everyone say. Remember when I said *Adenia* was a close relative of *Passiflora*? Well, these butterflies know this too! They will fly around a cactus and succulent collection, landing only on *Adenia* to lay their eggs. Soon after orange and black caterpillars hatch and systematically eat all the leaves but touch no other plants. The best control is to pick the caterpillars off the plants when you see them. The most useful pesticide is a BT spray, which contains toxic bacteria that the caterpillars eat.



Adenia stylosa

Copiapoa

Copiapoa is a genus of spectacular cacti from the Atacama Desert along the north coast of Chile. *Copiapoa* were first collected in the 1840s, and described as *Echinocactus*, then the home to any of the more or less globular cacti. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work *The Cactaceae*. The name derives from Chilean province of Copiapo, home of many of the species. Currently 26 species of *Copiapoa* are generally recognized. Species of this genus are relatively small, though they can form large clumps. The largest species rarely surpass three feet in height, while the smallest species, *C. laui*, rivals *Blossfeldia* for the title of world's smallest cactus.



Copiapoa laui



Copiapoa lembeckei

The habitat of *Copiapoa* is incredibly dry, even by desert standards. They occur in the Atacama, the world's driest desert. The average rainfall in the region is 1mm/year (0.04 inches). Many areas get rainfall only once every four years and some weather stations have never recorded a single drop of rain! Interestingly *Copiapoa* thrives in these extreme conditions to the extent that the genus peters out at the northern and southern ends of its range because these areas are where rainfall starts to become more regular and predictable.

How can any plant, even a cactus, survive in a climate where years can go by without rain? They do it by living off the fog that regularly covers the coastal regions of northern Chile. Anyone living in coastal California in June knows this gloomy fog all too well. Surely, we've all noticed our plants, and pretty much any outside surface, covered in moisture condensed from the fog on overcast mornings. Without this fog, even *Copiapoa* could not survive in the Atacama Desert.

Copiapoa live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view. When these areas have been explored new species have been found, and it is likely more will be found in the future.

Given these extremely dry conditions, one would expect cultivation to be difficult in our comparatively wet Southern California winters. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti. When given favorable growing conditions these plants develop many times faster than they would in their native habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground in the Los Angeles area, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to grow slower than some other cacti of similar size.

Copiapoa are easily propagated from cuttings or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed nurseries. These seeds germinate quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting mix and moved to drier media after germination. They do very well in a mineral potting mix with almost no organic matter.



Copiapoa hypogaea

Kyle Williams
Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

CCSS PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM)
April 2024

Cactus - Gymnocalycium

Novice:

1st	<i>Gymnocalycium inermis</i> 'Kikko'	Chris Biehl
2 nd	<i>Gymnocalycium baldianum</i> Crest	Chris Biehl
3 rd	<i>Gymnocalycium saglionis</i>	Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Gymnocalycium pflanzii</i> var. <i>marquezii</i>	Cheryl Norris
2nd	<i>Gymnocalycium</i> sp.	Ryan Ripley
3rd	<i>Gymnocalycium campestre</i> var. <i>tucavocense</i>	Cheryl Norris

Advanced:

1st	<i>Gymnocalycium friedrichii</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Gymnocalycium pflanzii</i>	Linda Holub
3rd	<i>Gymnocalycium pflanzii</i>	Linda Holub

Succulents -Mesembs

Novice:

1st	<i>Conophytum luseae</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Cheiridopsis candidissima</i>	Chris Gailey
3rd	<i>Rabiea albinota</i>	Chris Biehl

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Aloinopsis rubrolineata</i>	Ryan Ripley
2nd	<i>Faucaria tigrina</i>	Cheryl Norris
3rd	<i>Pleiospiles nelii</i>	Lisa Gailey

Advanced:

1st	<i>Marlothistella stenophylla</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Aloinopsis rubrolineata</i>	John Suci
3rd	<i>Aloinopsis schooneesii</i>	Bryan Chan

For the April POM display there were 16 Novice, 10 Intermediate, and 15 Advance entries for a total of 41 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 different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter your plants.

April - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Mesembs



Chris Biehl
3rd Place Novice
Rabiea albinota



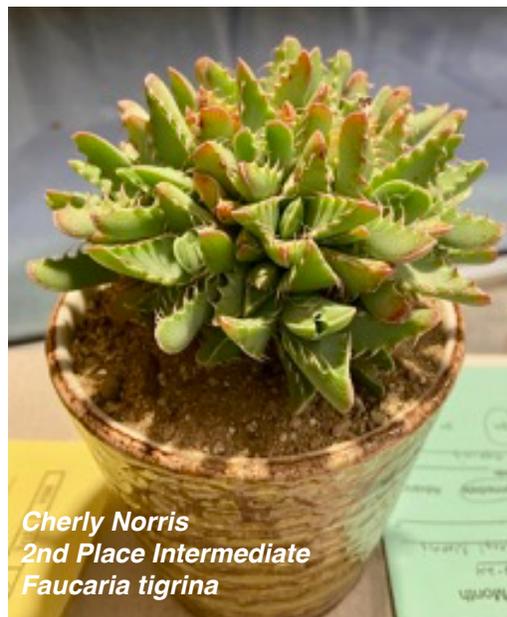
Chris Gailey
2nd Place Novice
Cheiridopsis candidissima



Chris Biehl
1st Place Novice
Conophytum luiseae



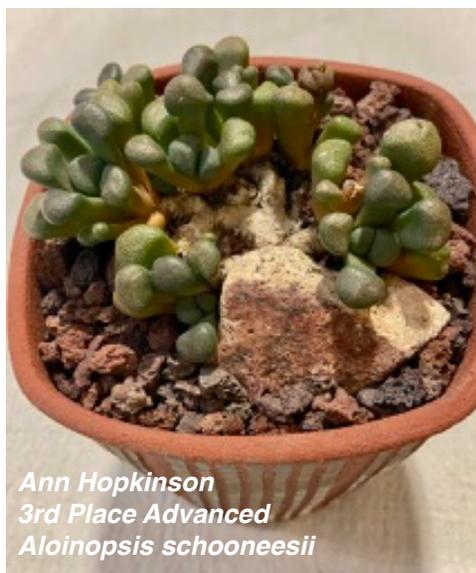
Lisa Gailey
3rd Place Intermediate
Pleiospiles nelii



Cherly Norris
2nd Place Intermediate
Faucaria tigrina



Ryan Ripley
1st Place Intermediate
Aloinopsis rubrolineata



Ann Hopkinson
3rd Place Advanced
Aloinopsis schooneesii



John Suci
2nd Place Advanced
Aloinopsis rubrolineata

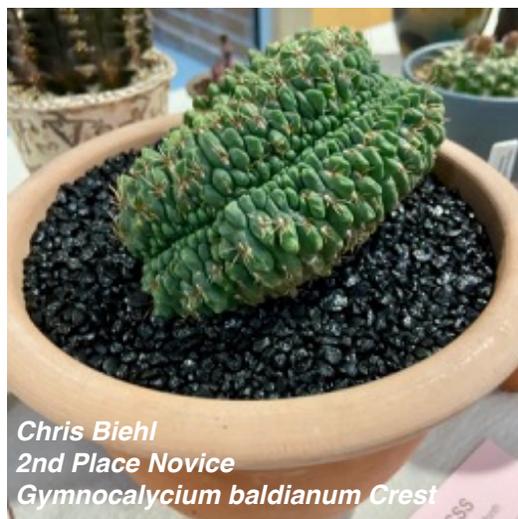


Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Marlothistella stenophylla

April - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Cactus - Gymnocalycium



Jonathan Zhu
3rd Place Novice
Gymnocalycium saglionis



Chris Biehl
2nd Place Novice
Gymnocalycium baldianum Crest



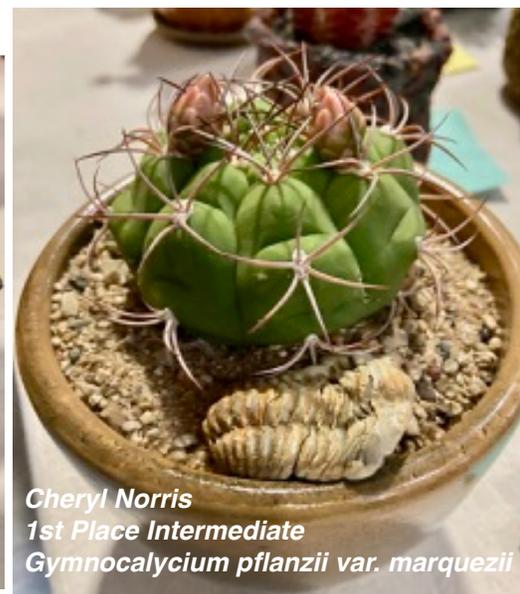
Chris Biehl
1st Place Novice
Gymnocalycium inermis 'Kikko'



Cheryl Norris
3rd Place Intermediate
Gymnocalycium campestre
var. tuvacocense



Ryan Ripley
2nd Place Intermediate
Gymnocalycium sp.



Cheryl Norris
1st Place Intermediate
Gymnocalycium pflanzii var. marquezii



Linda Holub
3rd Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium pflanzii



Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium pflanzii



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium friedrichii

CONVERGENCE

Convergence is the evolution of the same or very similar traits independently in different lineages of organisms. In evolutionary botany, convergent evolution is the process whereby distantly related plants independently evolve similar traits to adapt to similar necessities.

Agave
Genus of monocots
native to the Americas



Aloe
Genus of monocots native
to Africa, Madagascar and
the Arabian Peninsula



*To laugh often and much;
To win the respect of intelligent people
And the affection of children;
To endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better,
Whether by a healthy child, a garden patch
Or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed
Easier because you lived, this is to have succeeded*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

FREEBIE Table - Etiquette - THANK YOU!

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.**

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA 57th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE AT THE HUNTINGTON

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 28th – 30th, 2024

Location: The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA
The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3571

Sale and Show: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Show set-up: Wednesday, June 26th 9:00 am - 1:00pm

Enter plants: Wednesday, June 26th 1:00pm - 6:00pm & Thursday, June 27th 9:00am - 4:00pm. Judging starts at 5:00pm Thursday

Dinner: Saturday, June 29th at 6:00pm, \$40 dinner. Menu: Tejas-style BBQ chicken buffet with vegetarian options provided by Bon Appétit. Contact Barbara Hall by cell phone 818-429-6914 or email lbcjhall@aol.com to reserve a spot. Reservations must be made by June 21st.

Auction: Saturday, June 29th at 7:00pm. Items need to be registered by 2:00pm. There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per person/business marked as donation or split (70/30)

Tear down: Sunday, June 30th 5:00pm

- CSSA Club Affiliates need to pass this information on to their club members. Show Schedules & Indexes will be available online through your Club newsletter or website & www.cssashow.com. Entry tags will be available at many of the local clubs & at the show. I can mail entry tags upon request.
- All Vendors, Volunteers or Show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) and a HBG wrist band each day they participate. These will be distributed by the Show Chair each day. Please go directly to the Botanical Center and not through the front entrance.
- For those NOT participating, special passes for this event will no longer be distributed ahead of time. Information regarding comped entry for CSSA & CSS Club Members will be forthcoming in May or June. At this time, entry to the HBG is by advance online reservation on Fridays and weekends, no walk-ins. Stay tuned for updates!
- There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year's show, in the showroom or sales areas, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry and for setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you. See you at the Show!

Nick Renteria
CSSA Annual Show Chair

Phone: 323-428-2215 (cell)
Email: Nick_Renteria@yahoo.com



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!

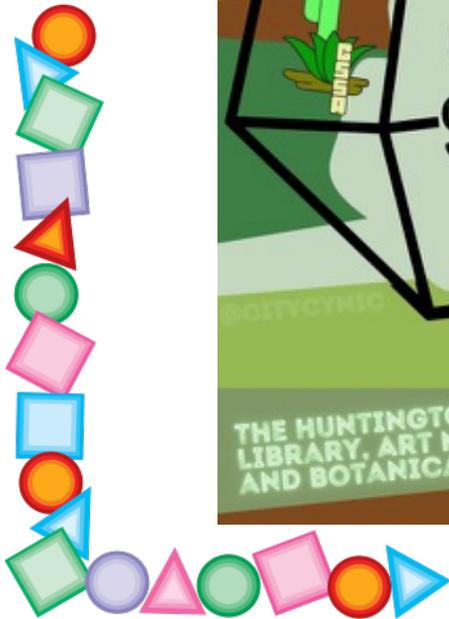
Quarterly Digital Magazine, Help & Advice and Greenhouse & Supply Discounts

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

Visit us at

WWW.Hobbygreenhouse.org

for more details.



MORE INFO:
@CSSASHOW

JUNE
28-30,
2024

10AM-
5PM
DAILY

57TH ANNUAL
**CSSA
SHOW
& SALE**
CSSASHOW.COM

TICKETS:
HUNTINGTON.ORG

THE HUNTINGTON
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH PAID ADMISSION
OR HUNTINGTON MEMBERSHIP. ADVANCE ONLINE
TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRIDAY-SUNDAY.

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