



# Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society

CSSA Affiliate

June 2024

Volume 9 Number 6

## Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

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

**Next Meeting Wednesday June 5th**  
**Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00**  
**California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center**  
**130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360**

Philippe de Vosjoli has raised caudiciform and pachycaul plants on and off since the 1970s when he first saw specimens of ant plants (*Hydnophytum* and *Myrmecodia* species) at Jerry Horne's nursery in Florida. In the 80s, while in graduate school, he partnered with Richard Wagner in a part-time business in Massachusetts that specialized in unusual plants, including caudexed succulents they imported from Africa. After moving to California in 1985 to pursue his interest in developing methods for keeping and breeding amphibians and reptiles, he attended several of the southern California cactus and succulent shows, which reignited his interest in these plants. As an author and publisher of a magazine and over 40 books on the husbandry and propagation of amphibians and reptiles, he decided to try his hand at writing a plant book on caudiciforms and pachycauls titled *Pachyforms*, which became a category bestseller. During that time, he also befriended Rudy Lime, a pioneer of SOMA (Succulents as a Medium of Art, a term coined by Rudy) and they worked together to co-author the book *Bonsai Succulents*. He has just finished a new expanded edition of *Pachyforms*, which will be available at the meeting.



### **Pachyforms: An Introduction to some of the most extraordinary plants on planet Earth.**

I coined the term 'pachyforms' to describe plants that develop proportionately large and thick bodies, species that include caudiciform (forming caudex-like bodies) and pachycaul (thick trunked/body) succulents. Because many of these plants look otherworldly and like living sculptures, they have become increasingly popular in recent years, often making up a significant portion of cactus and succulent shows and ranking among the best investment plants. In fact, just adding the term caudex in an online plant description will increase the number of views or clicks in social media groups and digital marketplaces (whether the plant develops a caudex or not).

My talk will focus on the physical and botanical features of these plants and aspects of their ecologies that are important for their cultivation but not widely known. That knowledge can increase long term success and produce plants with characters that more closely resemble plants in nature. In addition to plants in cultivation, I plan to show plants in the wild photographed by Rob Skillin, a significant contributor to the expanded edition of *Pachyforms*.



Pachypodium nanaquatum flowers

Nice Cyphostemma specimen. Photo taken at Huntington Gardens



## President's message June 2024



Well, it seems Spring has finally sprung. It's so good to see the rains stopped and the sun is finally shining.

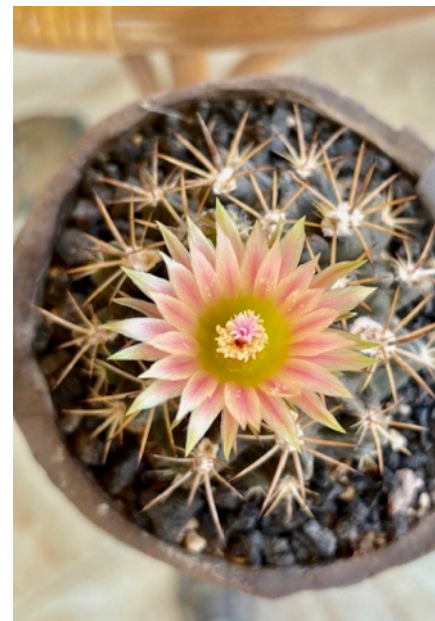
I won't be at the June meeting, but Donna will be there to fill you in on what transpired at our last meeting and what has happened since. For those of you who were or were not at the last meeting I want you to know I met with the meeting room coordinator to ensure it will not happen again. We reviewed the 2024-2025 calendar, and the coordinator assured me the room will be ours, without disruptions, until we sign a new contract in June of 2025.

Last week I received a Thank You card from Irwin Lightstone thanking us for the club's \$300 donation to the Conservation Fund of the CSSA. It seems our donation provided shade cloth for a green house in South Africa, so poached plants can be propagated. It made me feel good that our donation was used for such a worthy cause. He promised to email pictures of the house and plants which I will share with you when I receive them. Ann will have the card, so you can see it, at the June meeting.

It will feel strange missing my first meeting since the club was founded 7 years ago, but I will be in Chicago attending my grand daughter's high school graduation. Hopefully, I'll see you all in July.

Linda Holub  
President CCSS

Here are some of my spring flowering cactus blooms.





## Beautiful Epiphyllum Blooms from Linda Holub's collection

Note: All members are welcome to send photos to Ann Hopkinson (annh.domd@gmail) to enhance our newsletters. Please only send 2-3 at a time and I will make a page. Thank you, Ann



## CCSS Related Information and News

**Linda Holub will be giving her Belize presentation at Growing Works June 8th.**

**This is also a public invited day at the Growing Works Nursery**

### **Plant Sale | California Native - Mediterranean - Succulents**

Sat, Jun 8 • 10:00 AM Growing Works Nursery

**Free Located at 1736 S. Lewis Rd Camarillo CA 93010**

**Belize— 'You Won't Belize It'**

**by Linda Holub**

Linda and her husband went on a six-day vacation to Belize. They found that the resort where they were staying had the largest botanical garden in Belize. Linda learned that the garden was the pet project of Ella, the wife of the resorts owner. Before meeting Ella, Linda had the opportunity to explore the garden on her own; but after she introduced herself to Ella as the president of the CCSS, Ella arranged for a private tour conducted by David, the gardens curator.

Linda will be talking about and showing pictures of many of the extraordinary succulents and plants native to Belize. The presentation will also feature pictures of native wildlife, Mayan ruins, and cave formations.

[Here is a link to California Lutheran Parking map](#)

Once you see the map you can click on parking in the menu to the left. I could not get an active link in the newsletter so you can copy and paste into your browser.

You can also access the map by searching for California Lutheran University maps.

<https://www.callutheran.edu/map/?id=135#!ct/19466,19467,19468,19469,19470,19471,19472,80360?s/?mc/34.223628196275,-118.87928009033?z/17?lvl/0?share>

There is an overflow parking lot north of the Poulson Tennis Center. Mountclef Blvd, left into parking lot, right turn just past tennis center.

This is a little more of a walk but available if we find crowded conditions.

You can use the drop off area in front of our meeting building to bring in your plants.



## Refreshments 2024

**June 2024 - members whose last names begin with L & M, 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.

July meeting will be N, O, P names



## WHO TO CONTACT?

Below is listed Conjeo Cactus and Succulent Society's current Officers and Board members.

All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

Come up to us at a meeting, call or email.

Club email is [ConejoCSS@hotmail.com](mailto:ConejoCSS@hotmail.com).

President Linda Holub - [cactuscougar@icloud.com](mailto:cactuscougar@icloud.com) 805-501-0761

Vice-President Donna Pachorek - [dpachorek@gmail.com](mailto:dpachorek@gmail.com) 805-279-4801

If interested in being an Officer on the board, please add you name to our nomination list for future elections.



### CCSS 2024 Officers

<b>President</b> Linda Holub	<b>Treasurer</b> Chris Gailey	<b>Director II, Education</b> Terry Wilson	<b>Website</b> Tim Alvord
<b>1st VP, Programs</b> Donna Pachorek	<b>Secretary</b> Ryan Ripley	<b>Scoop Editor</b> Ann Hopkinson	<b>Librarian</b> Glen Smith
<b>2nd VP, POM &amp; Education</b> Kyle Williams	<b>Director I, Membership</b> Glen Smith	<b>Hospitality</b> Julie Cox & Liz Gollner	<b>Propagaton</b> Terry Wilson
<b>3rd VP. Special Events</b> Lisa Gailey	<b>Assistant to Director I</b> Pam Smith, Membership	<b>Drawing Coordinator</b> Gerry Caruso	<b>Event Publicity</b> Lisa Gailey

## Plant of the Month 2024

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Echinocactus/Ferocactus	Gasteria
February	Columnar Cacti	Aloe
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon
April	Gymnocalycium	Mesembs
May	Copiapoa	Adenia
<b>June</b>	<b>Eriosyce</b>	<b>Pachypodium</b>
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.



## June Cactus of the Month

### *Eriosyce* (including *Neochilenia* & *Neoporteria*)

*Eriosyce* is a genus of cacti from Chile and parts of Peru and Argentina. They are popular among cactus enthusiasts as they are small, easy to grow and many of the species have colorful bodies and interesting spines. Most species start out globular, with some staying that way and clumping readily, while others slowly become columnar. At least one species, *E. aurata*, becomes large and round somewhat similar to a Golden Barrel. The name *Eriosyce* means "wooly fruit", one of the distinctive characteristics of the group. The genus in its current form is a relatively recent taxonomic change from up to eleven small genera into a single medium size genus of about 35 species. Of those many genera, *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* are the best known to growers.

*Eriosyce* is a great example of how good taxonomy can work. Professional taxonomists do not change names for the sake of change. If they make a change it is because intensive research, often spanning several years, shows that a nomenclatural change is in the best interests of science.



*Eriosyce villosa*



*Eriosyce occulta*

In this case we have lots of different genera because numerous taxonomists over the last century or so looked at these plants piecemeal, often using only dry specimens in a museum, or only seeing a small number of species in habitat. They did their best with what they had, but without the big picture it is easy to think you have something unique that deserves its own genus. Then came along a taxonomist who decided to really focus on this group and spent extensive time in the field seeing them in the wild. Once he was able to study the full range of variation within and between species it became clear to him that they really were just a single genus. A different researcher did a DNA study (phylogeny) of these species and also came to the conclusion they were all closely related and should be a genus. The combination of field work and laboratory study necessitated the change that led to 11 different genera being combined into one, *Eriosyce*. A takeaway of this for the average grower is that if you have any cacti labeled as *Neochilenia* and *Neoporteria* you should change

them to *Eriosyce*.

I discuss this not to try to turn you into a taxonomist, but to help explain why a name you are familiar with has changed. Must you follow a name change? Of course not, but don't justify your refusal by claiming scientists just like to change names. Note that I'm referring to professional or very serious amateur taxonomists (the latter being the case for *Eriosyce*) that back up their claims with solid data and publish in respected journals. Bad taxonomy does exist, but it usually has telltale signs.

All of the species of *Eriosyce* are small enough to be potted plants, with some of the bigger ones also working as small landscape plants for a succulent garden. They take general cactus care though they can be especially sensitive to overwatering as most species have tap roots. Well-draining soil is a must. The species with colorful bodies are usually at their best in high light (protect from afternoon sun) and may turn greenish in lower light. Most species can take the occasional light frosts we get in this region.



*Eriosyce napina*

Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

## June Succulent of the Month

### *Pachypodium*

When most people think of *Pachypodium* they think of Madagascar for good reason. Of the 30 plus species known to science, all but 5 come from there. The rest come from Southern Africa. Some species look like true desert dwellers like *P. namaquanum*, others look like they are from tropical rainforests, but are actually from tropical dry forests, like *P. lamerei*. Yet others, most notably *P. brevicaule*, look like they could come from an alien world!

That means every species you see comes from Madagascar, except: *P. namaquanum*, *P. succulentum* (including *P. griquense*), *P. bispinosum*, *P. saundersii* & *P. lealii*. Interestingly, these African plants tend to be a bit easier to grow on the whole, possibly due in part to more tolerance of our cool winters. Madagascar by contrast is a more tropical island with uniformly warm temperatures, even in the driest regions.



*Pachypodium horombense*



*Pachypodium namaquanum*

*Pachypodium* belongs to the Apocynaceae, one of the largest of all plant families as well as one of the families with the most species of succulents. It is closely related to *Adenium*, *Stapeliads*, *Fockea*, *Oleanders*, *Milkweeds*, *Plumeria*, and many other non-xeric plants. While most similar to *Adenium*, *Pachypodium* can be distinguished from it by having spines, and usually by flower color. While pinks and reds are extremely common in *Adenium*, only a few *Pachypodium* have red or pink in their flowers. *Pachypodium* also stands out from most of the family, including *Adenium*, in having alternate leaves (one leaf at each node) while the rest of the family (usually) has opposite leaves (paired leaves).

Have you ever given thought to how plants end up where they are and why some places have more species than others? The distribution of *Pachypodium* may lead you to consider that. Why are there so many more (4-5x) as many species in Madagascar than in the whole of continental Africa? It must be because *Pachypodium* evolved in Madagascar, right? Possibly, but it is equally likely that it evolved in Africa but didn't diversify greatly there, but when a single plant arrived in Madagascar it rapidly spread around the island then became isolated in different habitats which over time evolved into different species. In other words, a center of diversity for a plant group today doesn't necessarily mean that's where the group originated. In one location the conditions may have allowed for tall, tree-like, species to form (e.g. *P. lamerei* & *P. geayi*) while in other places, such as very dry rocky hills, small very xeric species may have been better adapted. Yes, Africa also has lots of different habitats, but it may have had to compete with many other plants already there while Madagascar might have had less plants at the time, making it easier for *Pachypodium* to thrive and diversify. Recent research into the relationships of *Pachypodium* suggests this may well be what happened!

Cultivation of *Pachypodium* is generally easy. Most like constant moisture (not wet though!) during the growing season. When they drop their leaves in the winter keep dry. Some species, like *P. brevicaule* are more water sensitive than others. The biggest difference between African and Madagascar species is in cold tolerance. In general, African species can tolerate colder conditions, while Madagascar species need to at least be kept above freezing, with some species only thriving if kept above 50 degrees. *Pachypodium lamerei* is the biggest exception in that it is a Madagascar species that can tolerate the occasional light frost in our region.



*Pachypodium brevicaule*

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: Kyle Williams & Daederot



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

**Cactus - Copiapoa**

**Novice:**

1st <i>Copiapoa hypogaea</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd <i>Copiapoa sp.</i>	Chris Biehl
3rd <i>Copiapoa sp.</i>	Chris Biehl

**Intermediate:**

1st <i>Copiapoa laui</i>	Ryan Ripley
2nd <i>Copiapoa haseltoniana</i>	Ryan Ripley
3rd <i>Copiapoa cinerea</i>	Ryan Ripley

**Advanced:**

1st <i>Copiapoa griseoviolacea</i>	Bryan Chan
2nd <i>Copiapoa krainziana</i>	Linda Holub
3rd <i>Copiapoa gigantea</i>	Linda Holub

**Succulents -Adenia**

**Novice:**

No Entries

**Intermediate:**

No Entries

**Advanced:**

1st <i>Adenia glauca</i>	Ann Hopkinson
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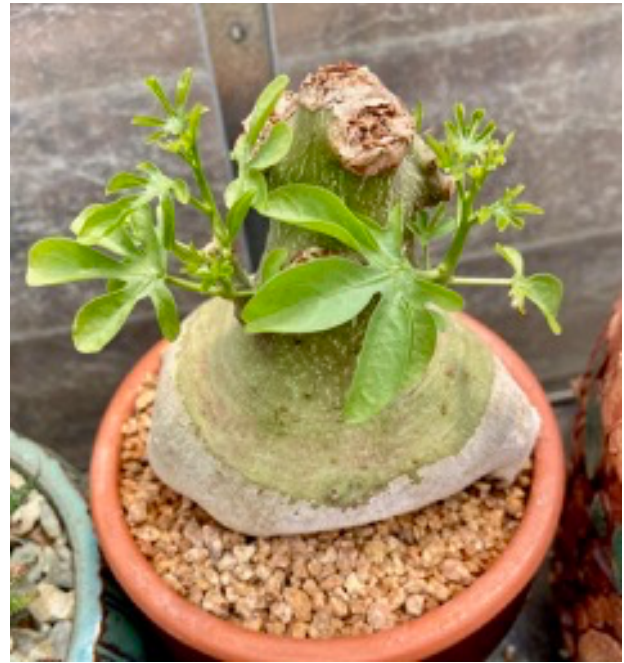
Unfortunately, the May meeting had a limited attendance due to circumstances beyond our control. As a result, for the POM display there were 4 Novice, 5 Intermediate, and 6 Advance entries for a total of 15 plants. Congratulations to Chris and Ryan for sweeping their categories and thank you to all that 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.

## May - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Adenia



Ann Hopkinson  
1st Place Advanced  
*Adenia glauca*



Three weeks after May meeting.  
Finally starting to send out stems.

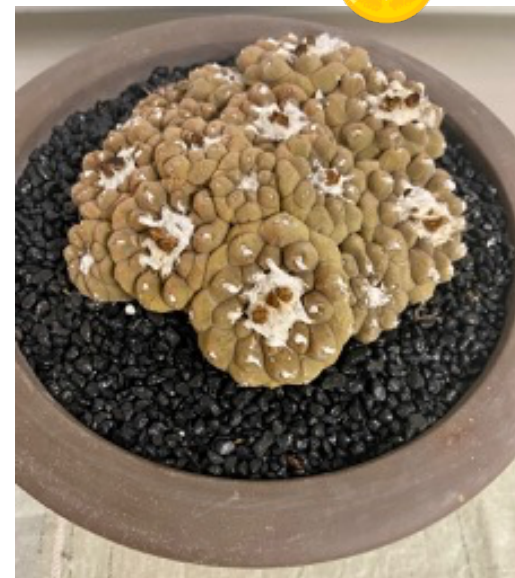
## May Novice Cactus - Copiapoa



Chris Biehl  
Novice 3rd Place  
*Copiapoa* sp.



Chris Biehl  
Novice 2nd Place  
*Copiapoa* sp



Chris Biehl  
Novice 1st Place  
*Copiapoa hyogaea*



May - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Cactus - Copiapoa



Ryan Ripley  
3rd Place Intermediate  
*Copiapoa cinerea*



Ryan Ripley  
2nd Place Intermediate  
*Copiapoa haseltoniana*



Ryan Ripley  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Copiapoa laui*



Ryan Ripley  
Honorable  
Mention  
*Copiapoa  
cinerea*



Linda Holub  
3rd Place Advanced  
*Copiapoa gigantea*



Linda Holub  
2nd Place Advanced  
*Copiapoa krainziana*



Bryan Chan  
1st Place Advanced  
*Copiapoa griseviolacea*



## 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@robertscacti.co.uk](mailto:tony@robertscacti.co.uk)

[www.haworthia.org](http://www.haworthia.org)

### British Cactus & Succulent Society

Website: <http://www.bcss.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 Castlemeane Drive, Hinckley, Leicester, LE10 1RY, UK. Telephone: +44 (0) 1455 614410. Email: [membership@bcss.org.uk](mailto:membership@bcss.org.uk)



### 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](http://WWW.Hobbygreenhouse.org)  
for more details.

## 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](http://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](mailto:Nick_Renteria@yahoo.com)



