



**Succulent Scoop**  
**Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society**  
**CSSA Affiliate**

**October 2024**

**Volume 9 Number 10**

**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 October 2nd**  
**Doors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00**  
**California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center**  
**130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA. 91360**

**October Speaker**  
**Kal Kaminer**  
**LA Succulents**



**BIO:**

Kal Kaminer has been obsessively growing cactus and succulents ever since he moved to Los Angeles and needed some plants to fill an empty balcony. Collecting plants soon turned to growing, and he began selling at many of the California cactus and succulent shows. He's also an avid grafter, focusing on grafting the most unusual and bizarre mutant cactus. In 2020, Kal opened his retail nursery, LA Succulents, in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles. His nursery specializes in unique and unusual succulent plants, including Ariocarpus, Astrophytum and Stapeliads, of which he grows over 200 species.

**PRESENTATION:**

The topic of Kal's presentation is "Grab A Shovel: An Honest Talk About Conservation in the Cactus and Succulent Community." The illegal plant trade has historically weaved its way through the Cactus and Succulent hobby in the US, especially in California. Kal will explain to us why plants collected from habitat are strongly desired among collectors, where these plants come from, and why it's wrong for consumers to buy collected plants. He will educate us in identifying these types of plants, and the part we can all play to stem the trade of field collected plants in our community. As someone who was once on the wrong side of this issue, he fully understands why it's so critical that we promote a conservation-minded approach to collecting cactus and succulents, and looks forward to sharing his story and outlook with us.

## President's Message October 2024



How many of you have heard of 'Agave Snout Weevils'?

When I first heard of them, I rushed to the internet and found they are a big problem in Arizona, but the article didn't say anything about California. **BULLETIN:** They're also becoming a problem in California. I've talked to numerous people who've had them, and they're scary.

Agave Snout Weevil is a black beetle with the scientific name: *Scyphophorus Acupunctatus*.

Female adult weevils bite the heart out of an Agave and lay their eggs there. The bite of the beetle injects bacteria into the plant which causes the plants tissue to soften and liquify. This makes it easier for the Snout Weevils larvae and adults to eat the tissue.

When the larvae hatch, they spread the bacteria, which does more damage, by chewing into the plant's core. They chew until they have disconnected the interior tissue which connect the leaves to the crown. One day the plant looks fine, the next day, it's wilted with its leaves lying on the ground. The center of the plant is mushy and foul smelling. At this point, the only thing you can do is discard the plant and protect your other Agaves with preventative measures.

Snout weevil treatments are widely available in Arizona and New Mexico where more Agaves are grown outdoors then here. Fortunately, you can find them on Amazon. Granular Triazinon is one such treatment. When it's mixed with soil from around the plant and watered, the chemicals in the granules will be slowly absorbed by the Agaves roots and into its vascular system protecting the plant from the weevils.

Broad stiff leaf and narrow leaf Agaves are more resistant to weevils than Agaves like the Americana or Century plant. But at this time, the only Agaves totally resistant to the weevils are those that have been treated with a systemic insecticide containing Imidacloprid.

When removing a diseased Agave place a tarp around the plant then dig 12 inches around the base. Pull up the plant, place it in a trash bag and sprinkle with insecticide before throwing it in the garbage. Drench the soil where the Agave was with insecticide.

I hope you enjoyed this article, and you never have the misfortune to be visited by this deadly intruder.

Don't forget about our upcoming elections when we'll be voting for CSSA board members and our club elections. Positions up for election are:

1. President
2. 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Plant Of the Month)
3. Secretary

Be ready to nominate yourself or someone who you feel would be able to fill these positions.

See you at the meeting.

Linda Holub  
President CCSS



See next page for more information about the Agave Snout Weevil

## What Are Agave Snout Weevils?

Agave Snout Weevils are inch-long, dusty black, wingless insects and — as their name suggests — are particularly fond of Agave. Adults are known to lay their eggs between the leaves of Agaves, and the hatching larvae burrow into the plant.

Mature larvae are up to 1 inch long. They are cylindrical, legless, and white or yellowish with a brown head. Larvae feed hidden in the apical meristem (central growing point) of hosts, the base of green flower stalks, and in roots.



### Systemic insecticides

Apply a systemic insecticide with imidacloprid to the base of the plant in early April and again in late May or June. This insecticide is absorbed by the plant's roots and can kill larvae and prevent the spread of bacteria.

### Contact insecticides

Use a least-toxic contact insecticide like insecticidal soap or spinosad to kill larvae before they can spread.

### Remove affected plants

Remove and discard plants that are severely affected by the weevil to prevent reinfestation.

### Preventative measures

To prevent infestations, ensure the soil drains well and avoid overwatering the plants.

## CCSS Related News

Please send me photos, articles or other information you would like to share with the club.

[HopkinsonAC04@gmail.com](mailto:HopkinsonAC04@gmail.com)



*Euphorbia francoisii* hybrid

*Adromischus caryophyllaceus*



### [California Lutheran Parking map](#)

Once you see the map you can click on parking in the menu to the left.

You can copy and paste this link into your browser.

You can also access maps by searching 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>

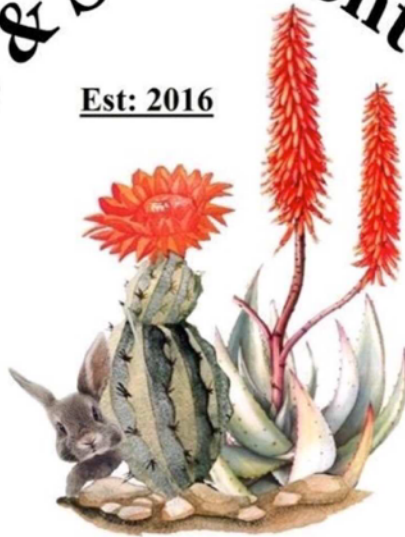
There is an overflow parking lot north of the Poulson Tennis Center.

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.

**Conejo**  
**Cactus & Succulent Society**  
Est: 2016



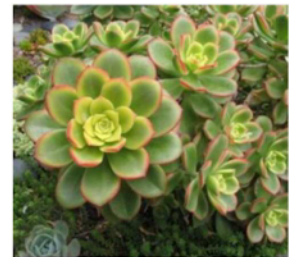
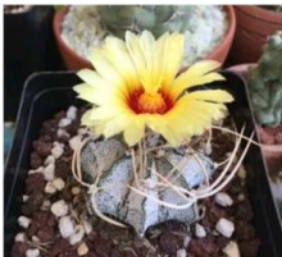
**Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale**  
**Sunday, October 13, 2024**

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, and Bromeliads  
Along with Pottery  
and Jewelry

Experts will be available for  
advice on growing and cultivation



**Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.**

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

## Refreshments 2024

**October 2024 - members whose last names begin with “ T, U & V “ 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.

November meeting will be W, X, Y, Z names



### WHO TO CONTACT?

Below is listed Conejo 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 your 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>Propagator</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
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.

## October Succulent of the Month

### Sansevieria

To many cactus and succulent growers, *Sansevieria* is something of an oddball group that gets thought of more as a houseplant than a real succulent. While it makes a great houseplant, it is an unfortunate way to look at this interesting genus of plants. I like to think of them as one of the very few groups of succulents that can tolerate, and even thrive in low light situations such as life inside a home. While most species can do well indoors, that is by no means the required or preferred way to grow them. In our mild climate they can grow outdoors year-round and make a great addition to the shadier spots of your landscape. They are among the easiest to grow and most tolerant of abuse of all succulents.

*Sansevieria* is a genus of approximately 70 species in the Asparagus family (Asparagaceae). Most species occur in Africa though some species have found their way to India and even Myanmar (Burma). The most notable differences between species are the length and shape of the leaves, as well as the coloration and patterning of the leaves. The common names "Snake Plant" and "Mother in law's Tongue" come from the long, stiff, pointed, and mottled leaf appearance of the most commonly grown species. However, some species produce much more interesting and unique leaf shapes. In particular, species such as *S. cylindrica* have leaves that are nearly circular in cross section. It is important to note that many taxonomists now consider *Sansevieria* to be part of *Dracena*, a genus well known for tropical houseplants and for the Dragon Tree, *Dracena draco*. For simplicity's sake we will consider *Sansevieria* to be a separate genus for purposes of plant of the month.



*Sansevieria pinguicula*



*Sansevieria masoniana* 'Variegata'

In cultivation, many interesting hybrids and cultivars have been produced. *Sansevieria hallii* has several cultivars which carry variations on the name "Baseball Bat". The name really is fitting as the leaves are very thick and tough. One of the most attractive species is *S. kirkii*. It has wavy leaves that are produced horizontally or at least low to the ground. The species has a brown to bronze cast which has been the basis for hybridization and cultivar selection. Cultivars such as "Coppertone", with its rich bronze and pinkish brown coloration, really show how beautiful the coloring of a *Sansevieria* can be.

Among the most popular types of *Sansevieria* are variegates. Most everyone has seen *S. trifasciata* 'Laurentii' even if you don't know it by name. It has long upright leaves with a yellow margin. It is not only one of the most popular *Sansevieria*, it is among the most popular of all houseplants. However, that is the tip of the iceberg. Variegates of *S. pinguicula*, *S. robusta*, *S. kirkii* and others can sell for \$100 or more! For those looking beyond the typical yellow variegation, "Silver Streak" and "Siam Silver" are great plants with silvery-white variegation.

In recent years "miniature" *Sansevieria* have become popular. They tend to have rounder leaves which only get a few inches long and look great in small pots. Unfortunately, most of these "minatures" are actually the juvenile forms of full-sized species. Not only is the adult bigger, but it looks like a completely different plant. *Sansevieria pinguicula* and *S. eilensis* are examples of this. One of the only "miniature" species I'm aware of that stays small and retains much of its juvenile look into adulthood is *S. rorida*.

Cultivation of most species is quite easy. They thrive in most any well drained potting mix. Outdoors they can grow in similar light conditions as *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* (bright shade, maybe some morning sun) or even shadier spots. They do well in ground, though they don't like being in a cold and wet for excessive periods. Propagation is simple. Either divide a large plant or grow new plants from leaf cuttings. Do note that leaf cuttings of variegated plants virtually always produce regular, non-variegated plants.



*Sansevieria kirkii* 'Coppertone'

## October Cactus of the Month

### *Echinopsis* (including *Lobivia*)

Most cacti have attractive flowers, but in general we grow them for the look of the plant itself. *Echinopsis* are an exception to this. It is a genus of nearly 200 species and hundreds more cultivars. Most plants are small to medium columnar cacti that are green and fairly nondescript, although some species can reach 15 feet or more in height. They are generally ignored when made available for sale if they aren't in flower. However, come bloom time they produce some of the most stunning flowers of any cacti. This is enhanced by the extensive breeding that has been done among this genus. Modern taxonomic research has found that several genera of cacti belong in *Echinopsis*, most notably *Lobivia* and *Trichocereus*.



*Echinopsis famatimensis*

The standard *Echinopsis* flower is a few inches across and born on a long tube, giving it a trumpet like appearance. Many of the wild species have white flowers and bloom at night, but breeding has produced an array of colors that include red, yellow, orange, pink, and every color in between (as well as multicolor flowers). Some modern hybrids have been bred to produce flowers eight inches or more in diameter! An especially nice feature of these plants is they often produce flowers in large clusters which produce an amazing display.

Not all species and cultivars have plain plants. Plants like *Echinopsis* 'Fuzzy Navel' and 'Haku Jo' have attractive spines and tufts of white hair. This gives you a handsome looking plant even in times when it isn't flowering. The San Pedro Cactus, *E. panchoi*, is a great choice for a large columnar cactus for the landscape which requires little to no special care. This cactus is also famous as a source of mescaline, the same halogenic chemical found in Peyote (*Lophophora spp.*). While I don't advocate drug use, if people who used Peyote switched to San Pedro cactus it would be beneficial on an ecological level as San Pedro is fast growing and the same plant can be harvested over and over. By contrast, Peyote species are being decimated in the wild as they are a small, slow growing, endangered cactus that is completely destroyed when harvested.

The best way to buy a hybrid *Echinopsis* is of course to see it in bloom. That's not always possible, but most of the nicest hybrids are named. So do some research online and write down the name of the types you like then take the time to check tags at a cactus sale. Alternatively, look for sellers who provide pictures at their sales table. Plants are easy to grow and most can live happily in a pot or in your landscape with standard cactus care.



-Kyle Williams  
Photo Credits: Kyle Williams

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

**Cactus - Variegates**

**Novice:**

1st	<i>Myrtillocactus</i> 'Crest'	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Trichocereus</i> 'Crest'	Chris Biehl
3rd	<i>Opuntia</i> 'Variegata'	Jonathan Zhu

**Intermediate:**

1st	<i>Echinocereus knippelianus</i>	Susan Krevitt
2nd	<i>Myrtillocactus geometrizans</i>	Susan Krevitt
3rd	<i>Opuntia cochenillifera</i> 'Sunburst'	Tom Horan

**Advanced:**

1st	No Entries
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**Succulents -Variegates**

**Novice:**

1st	<i>Euphorbia poissonii</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Euphorbia lactea</i> 'Crest'	Chris Biehl
3rd	<i>Monadenium ritchiei</i>	Chris Biehl

**Intermediate:**

1st	<i>Agave victoriae-reginae</i> 'White Rhino'	Susan Krevitt
2nd	<i>Haworthia truncata</i>	Susan Krevitt
3rd	<i>Agave</i> 'Blue Glow'	Marquita Ellias

**Advanced:**

1st	<i>Dyckia x</i> 'Dakota'	Bryan Chan
2nd	<i>Agave leopoldii aura marginata</i>	Bryan Chan
3rd	<i>Agave</i> 'Variegata'	Linda Holub
HM	<i>Portulacaria afra</i> 'Variegata'	Ann Hopkinson

For the September POM display there were 11 Novice, 8 Intermediate, and 7 Advanced entries for a total of 26 plants. Congratulations to Chris for sweeping the Novice Succulent category 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. This is your show.

# September - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Variegates



Chris Biehl  
3rd Place Novice  
*Monadenium ritchiei*



Chris Biehl  
2nd Place Novice  
*Euphorbia lactea 'Crest'*



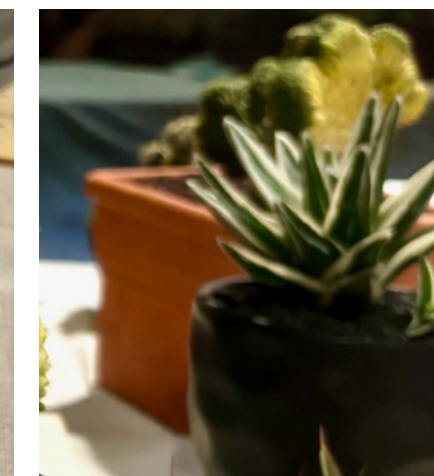
Chris Biehl  
1st Place Novice  
*Euphorbia poissonii*



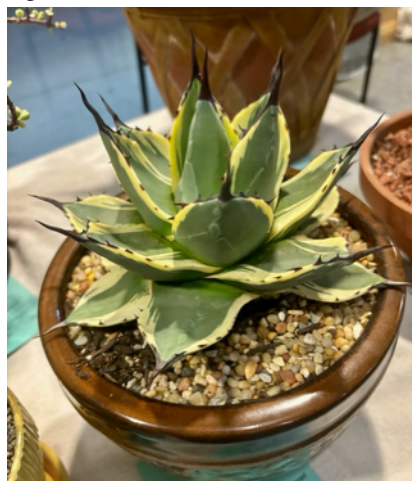
Marquita Ellias  
3rd Place Intermediate  
*Agave 'Blue Glow'*



Susan Krevitt  
2nd Place Intermediate  
*Haworthia truncata*



Susan Krevitt  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Agave victoriae-reginae 'White Rhino'*



Linda Holub 3rd Place Advanced  
*Agave 'Variegata'*



Bryan Chan 2nd Place Advanced  
*Agave leopoldii aura marginata*



Bryan Chan  
1st Place Advanced  
*Dyckia x 'Dakota'*



Jonathan Zhu  
3rd Place Novice  
*Opuntia 'Variegata'*



Chris Biehl  
2nd Place Novice  
*Trichocereus Variegated Crest*



Chris Biehl  
1st Place Novice  
*Myrtillocactus Variegated Crest*



Tom Horan  
3rd Place Intermediate  
*Opuntia cochenillifera 'Sunburst'*



Susan Krevitt  
2nd Place Intermediate  
*Myrtillocactus geometrizans*



Susan Krevitt  
1st Place Intermediate  
*Echinocereus knippelianus*



## 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 Castlemaine 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.**



2025 CSSA Biennial Convention  
Hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

April 23 – 27, 2025

at the Mission Valley Marriott in San Diego

More information coming soon



Ticket sales not yet open

It's time to plan your visit to San Diego.

Springtime in San Diego with the Anza Borrego Desert to the east and Baja to the south makes a great destination and jumping off point for both pre and post convention plant tours.

It's an inspiring location for our convention with great weather, informative speakers, plant and pottery vendors, auctions, fine food, and many opportunities to visit desert plant habitats.

Our local host society.

The San Diego Society is excited to be hosting this time, and is working with the CSSA to plan a fun, informative, and memorable experience.

The San Diego Society was founded in 1961, and has grown into one of the largest and most active in the country. Their regular meetings are held in the lovely Balboa Park. The region is blessed with perfect succulent weather, and San Diego county is home to a vast number of commercial, botanical, and hobbyist growers.



World Renowned Speakers  
International Presenters

Adam Harrower (South Africa)  
Andry Petignat (Madagascar)  
Julia Etter & Martin Kristen (Mexico)  
Atilla Kapitany (Australia)  
Pieter Van Wyk (South Africa)  
Elisabeth Sarnes (Germany)  
US Presenters

Brian Kemble (Agave, Yucca, Gasteria)  
Guillermo Rivera (Taxonomy, Pre-conference Tours)  
Jeremy Spath (Agave)  
Joe Stead (Fouqueria, Bursera)  
Kelly Griffin (Dudleya)  
Michelle Cloud Hughes (Opuntiods)  
Steven Hammer (Mesembs)  
Tom McCoy (Aloe, Asclepiads, Saudi Arabia)  
Final list subject to change.

A Lovely Hotel

The San Diego Marriott Mission Valley is located in a bustling neighborhood next to Rio Vista Station on the San Diego Trolley's Green line. It features a swimming pool, fitness center, and lovely succulent landscaping for attendees to enjoy. There are plenty of nearby restaurants.



## Adam Harrower and his conservation work at Kirstenbosch

In March 2024, the CSSA proudly recognized Adam Harrower with our Conservation Award, celebrating his unwavering dedication to preserving and successfully propagating the poached Conophytums entrusted to his care.

CSSA President Rod Haenni presented the award in person at the NARGS (North American Rock Garden Society) Western Chapter conference in Oakland, California.

Adam Harrower, Senior Curator at [Kirstenbosch Botanic Gardens in Cape Town](#), South Africa, has been honored with the 2024 CSSA Award in Conservation. This recognition highlights his exceptional efforts in preserving tens of thousands of poached Conophytums over recent years.

Working closely with South African police, Adam has played a pivotal role in rescuing countless Conophytum plants, representing various species, from certain death. These plants, illegally taken from their natural habitats, were seized from poachers who were subsequently arrested. Adam has dedicated himself to caring for and propagating these plants within the greenhouses at Kirstenbosch, ensuring their survival and future growth.

Although the poached plants cannot be returned to their original habitats—due to the unknown nature of many of their locations and the lack of funding for such a labor-intensive, multi-year reestablishment process—Adam's work has led to the successful production of seeds from many Conophytum species. Some of these seeds have already been distributed globally, and there is hope that they will become even more widely available to nurseries and hobbyists in the future.

