



Succulent Scoop
Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society
CSSA Affiliate

September 2026 Volume 11 Number 9

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

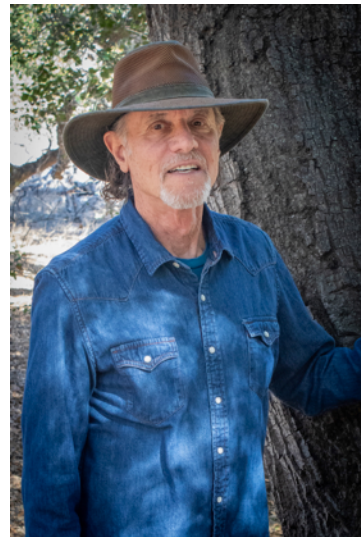
Next meeting Wed. September 2nd. Doors open at 6:00. Meeting starts at 7:00
California Lutheran University 130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA.

September Speaker - Lanny Kaufer

Presentation - Native Plants for a Cactus-Friendly Garden

Drought-Tolerant California Flora & Medicinal Companions for Summer-Dry Landscapes

Bio: Lanny Kaufer is celebrating 50 years of leading herb walks, nature hikes, and foraging workshops in Southern California and beyond. He has educated thousands of residents and visitors on the edible and medicinal flora of California since 1976. He holds a biology degree from UC Santa Cruz with independent studies in naturopathic medicine and is the author of *Medicinal Herbs of California: A Field Guide to Common Healing Plants* (Falcon Guides, 2021). Lanny hosted the Ojai Herbal Symposium and the Ojai Herbal Retreat from 2018 to 2026. He is on the faculty of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at California State University, Channel Islands, and serves as consultant on medicinal plants for the Chumash Garden at the Ojai Valley Museum and Swimmer Medicinal Garden in Playa Vista, CA. Lanny shares his events and knowledge online through his website at HerbWalks.com.



Lanny specializes in making learning about edible and medicinal plants accessible and fun for people of all ages. He acquired much of his plant knowledge in field study with well-known herbalists and ethnobotanists, including in the 1970s with the late herbalist William LeSassier and the late Chumash plant expert Juanita Centeno. He has co-lead workshops, field classes and expeditions with noted experts such as the late herbalist and author Michael Moore, author-herbalist Michael Tierra, author-herbalist Amanda McQuade Crawford, author-Professor Emeritus James Adams of USC School of Pharmacy, author-survivalist Christopher Nyerges, and Chumash educators and siblings Julie Tumamait-Stenslie and Patrick Tumamait, among others.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE September 2026



Greetings to everyone from Chicago!

There is no formal president's message this month as I am on vacation.

I thought I would at least share some photos with you.

On August 17 I had the opportunity to visit the Garfield Park Conservatory. The great thing was, Ray Jorgensen, the curator of the Desert House at the conservatory is a good friend of mine, so my niece and I were able to get a four hour private tour even though the conservatory is closed on Mondays. What a treat!

Here are some photos. Enjoy!

Linda Holub

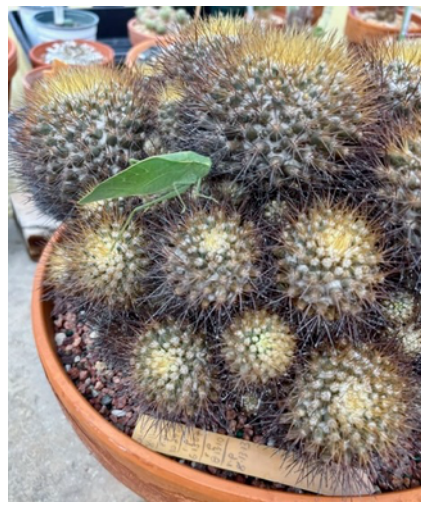
President CCSS



Garfield Park Conservatory

Known as "landscape art under glass," it is one of the largest and most stunning-scale indoor greenhouse collections in the nation, spanning 12 acres of indoor and outdoor display gardens.





More photos from the
Garfield in Chicago.



Refreshments 2026 - September

If your **last name starts with S**, please bring in refreshments to share at the meeting.

Coffee is generously donated by Terry Wilson and water is provided by the club.

You don't have to only bring snacks on your month.

You can bring refreshments any additional months you wish.

Thank You!

October refreshments will be T, U, V.



See page 11 for an upcoming event.
CSSA Convention hotel rooms will
be available starting Sept.



**Volunteers, suggestions and
comments are always welcome!**

WHO TO CONTACT?

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

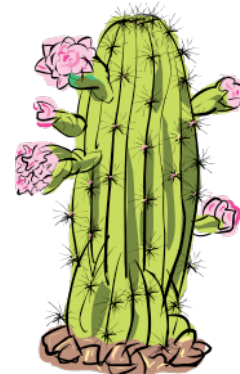
All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers or board members. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

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

Club email is ConejoCSS@hotmail.com.

President Linda Holub - cactuscougar@icloud.com 805-501-0761

Vice-President Robyn Sakadjian - weiss.robyn.m@gmail.com



CCSS 2026 Officers and Board Members

President

Linda Holub

Treasurer

Chris Gailey

Director II, Education

Terry Wilson

Website

Tim Alvord

1st VP, Programs

Robyn Sakadjian

Secretary

Alex Holub

Scoop Editor

Ann Hopkinson

Librarian

Glen Smith

2nd VP, POM & Education

Kyle Williams

Director I, Membership

Glen Smith

Hospitality

Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

Propagation

Terry Wilson

3rd VP, Special Events

Lisa Gailey

Assistant to Director I

Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator

Gerry Caruso

Event Publicity

Lisa Gailey

Plant of the Month 2026



NOTE: There will be no POM Show in December so everyone can enjoy the Holiday Party and we can have more time for fun!

	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
January	Ferocactus & Echinocactus	Haworthia
February	Echinocereus	Mesembs
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon
April	Gymnocalycium	Aloe
May	Copiapoa	Adenia
June	Erioseya	Curcubitaceae
July	Parodia	Adenium
August	Mammillaria	Pachypodium
<u>September</u>	<u>Variegates</u>	<u>Variegates</u>
October	Echinopsis	Agave
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.

September 2026 POM - Variegates

Plants of the Month: Variegates



Variegation is the appearance of differently colored areas leaf or stem due to a partial loss of chlorophyll. This is usually due to genetic mutation, developmental abnormalities or certain viruses. People have also been able to induce variegation in plants through the use of radiation or treatment with certain chemicals. The scientific details of exactly how variegation arises in plants, and how it is maintained (or lost), are too complex to go into in depth here.

The pattern may be consistent and well organized (e.g. many Agave) or it may be randomly distributed (e.g. most variegated cacti). Plants with patchy or mosaic patterns of variegation are often the result of a cell mutation that is fairly random. In other words the plant may be prone to producing cells without chlorophyll sporadically, and when that cell appears it divides many times (just like normal cells). Some plants have fairly organized and consistent variegation patterns. That is quite often due to different meristem (i.e. mother) cells being responsible for forming different layers or parts of a leaf or stem. For example, if the meristem cells responsible for making the outer edges of a leaf have the variegation gene while meristem cells for the center of the leaf do not, you will get a consistent pattern of white edges and a green center.

Plants totally lacking in chlorophyll (achlorophyllus), such as the brightly colored grafted *Gymnocalycium* cultivars are technically not variegated, but are considered so for the purposes of cacti and succulent shows. Keep in mind, a plant is *not* variegated just because the leaves have colored areas. It must be partially lacking chlorophyll as well.

Variegated plants normally have white or yellow patches and streaks, but can also be colors including red, orange, brown, pink, and purple. Colors other than white are due to the presence of colored plant pigments such as anthocyanins and carotenoids.



Euphorbia mammillaris

Variegation is known throughout the plant kingdom, but is rarely seen in the wild. The reason variegated plants are common in horticulture is that people like the color and unusual nature of these plants. When a rare variegated seedling appears in a batch of seedlings we are keen to grow it, propagate it and spread it around!



Variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The strange and colorful patterns bring unique visual interest to any collection. In cacti and succulent shows, variegates generally compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing. The Inter-City Show gives the following guideline for showing plants in the variegated category: "Plants with 30% or more variegation may only appear in such category except for variegation in Agave, Gasteria, Sansevieria."

In general, variegated plants grow slower and are smaller than non-variegates of the same species. They also tend to sunburn easily and most need more sun protection than a typical member of the species. Ironically, variegates also have less shade tolerance than their non-variegated counterparts. The reason for this is that chlorophyll "soaks up" the sunlight to make food. With less chlorophyll the plant needs more light to get the same amount of food, but at the same time the more delicate tissues are exposed to the light without any protection. A good rule of thumb is simply not to grow variegates in extremely bright or dark situations. Otherwise, the care of a variegated plant is the same as for the normal form of the species. A large well grown variegated of any species is truly an achievement.

September 2026 POM - Variegates

Examples of Variegated Succulents

Agave – Variegates of a number of *Agave* species exist. One of the most fascinating is *Agave lophantha* 'Quadricolor' This cultivar exhibits multiple degrees of variegation in every leaf. The outer stripes lack chlorophyll completely, the middle stripes are fully green, but the center stripe has a partial loss of chlorophyll resulting in a pale green stripe! The fourth color in 'Quadricolor' is seen in the reddish teeth.

Aeonium – *Aeonium* 'Sunburst' and A.'Kiwi' are by far the most commonly seen *Aeonium* variegates in cultivation. However, attractive variegates are known from several other species such as *A. castello-paivae*, *A. balsamiferum*, and even *A. tabuliforme*. It should be noted that the dark purple to black cultivars such as *A. 'Atropurpureum'* and *A. 'Zwartkop'* are not considered variegates.



Aeonium sunburst crest



Astrophytum asterias

Cacti - variegates can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, especially the grafted *G. mihanovichii* cultivars lacking chlorophyll. Bright red, yellow, orange or even pink varieties can be seen at most nurseries and even home improvement stores. Unfortunately, they are somewhat tricky to grow and most plants owned by novices die shortly after purchase. Some columnar variegates and some *Ferocactus* variegates are common in cultivation. The odd variegate appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of recent shows. These less commonly seen variegates can be quite valuable.

Haworthia – Some of the most unusual and expensive of all variegated plants can be found in *Haworthia*. Japanese horticulturalists have done extensive breeding on *Haworthia* (and the closely related *Gasteria*). A Google search for "Japanese *Haworthia*" will bring you countless websites and images of these amazing variegated cultivars. Certain variegated varieties of *H. truncata* can sell on Ebay for over \$1000!



Senecio aristata

-Kyle Williams
Image Credits: Kyle Williams

**CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANT OF THE MONTH
(August 2026)**

Cactus - Mammillaria

Novice:

1st	<i>Mammillaria gracilis</i>	Mick Gottschalk
2nd	<i>Mammillaria albicans</i>	Keith Schmidt
3rd	<i>Mammillaria sp.</i>	Melinda Hines

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Mammillaria schiedeana</i>	Tom Horan
2nd	<i>Mammillaria decipiens ssp. camptotricha</i>	Gerry Caruso

Advanced:

1st	<i>Mammillaria parkinsonii</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Mammillaria hahniana</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Mammillaria sp.</i>	Chris Biehl

Succulents- Pachypodium

Novice:

No Entries

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Pachypodium saundersii</i>	Gerry Caruso
2nd	<i>Pachypodium lamerei</i>	Tom Horan

Advanced:

1st	<i>Pachypodium brevicaule x densiflorum</i>	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	<i>Pachypodium succulentum</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Pachypodium horombense</i>	Ann Hopkinson

For the August meeting POM we had 7 Novice, 4 Intermediate, and 19 Advanced entries for a total of 30 plants. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated

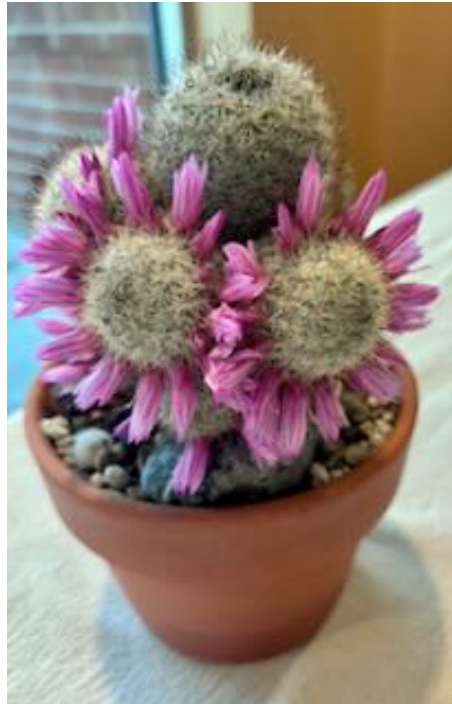
POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter your plants. This is your show.

POM Winners Cactus - Mammillaria

August 2026
Congratulations!



Melinda Hines
3rd Place Novice
Mammillaria sp.



Keith Schmidt
2nd Place Novice
Mammillaria albicans



Mick Gottschalk
1st Place Novice
Mammillaria gracilis



Gerry Caruso
2nd Place Intermediate
Mammillaria decipiens
ssp. camptotricha



Tom Horan
1st Place Intermediate
Mammillaria schiedeana



Chris Biehl
3rd Place Advanced
Mammillaria sp.



Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Mammillaria hahniana



Chris Biehl
1st Place Advanced
Mammillaria parkinsonii

POM Winners Succulent - Pachypodium
August 2026
Congratulations!



Tom Horan
2nd Place
Intermediate
Pachypodium lamerei



Gerry Caruso
1st Place Intermediate
Pachypodium saundersii



Ann Hopkinson
3rd Place Advanced
Pachypodium horombense



Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Pachypodium succulentum



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Pachypodium brevicaule x densiflorum

SAVE THE DATE
CACTUS & SUCCULENT
SOCIETY of AMERICA
2027 BIENNIAL CONVENTION



MAY 19-24, 2027, TUCSON, ARIZONA