Succulent Scoop
Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society
CSSA Affiliate
November 2026 Volume 11 Number 11

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. November 4th. Doors open at 6:00. Meeting starts at 7:00
California Lutheran University 130 Overton Court Thousand Oaks, CA.



Bio: Steven Norris grew up in New Mexico, camping and fishing and exploring natural areas around the state with his father and brother. He has degrees from The Colorado College (BA - Biology), Oklahoma State University (MSc - Zoology) and Arizona State University (PhD - Zoology). He held postdoctoral research positions at the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology (Fish Division), and the Royal Museum of Central Africa, Tervuren, Belgium (Laboratory of Ichthyology). His published research involves biodiversity and conservation of African and North American freshwater fishes. He co-authored and edited for publication the book, ***Freshwater Fishes of Mexico*** (University of Chicago Press). Moving to the Camarillo area in the early 2000s, he took an interest in the native flora surrounding CSUCI. Although not a trained botanist, he worked to identify and photograph this flora, with about 170 native species so far documented. A website is devoted to this flora, https://www.csuci.edu/arts-sciences/biology/native-plants/index.html

Presentation Description: Dr. Norris will be speaking about the native plants of California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). He will also discuss the 2013 Springs Fire and the recovery of habitats following the fire.

Dudleya blochmaniae





Dudleya verityi x D. lanceolata

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE November 2026



It is hard to believe it is the end of the year already. It is scary how fast time flies.

I guess it is time to start planning our holiday party. We will probably follow the same format as usual. After all, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it", and everyone enjoys our holiday parties so much. Although, if anyone has any new ideas to help make our party even better, we are always open to suggestions. Please let us know your ideas at the next meeting.

We definitely didn't make as much money at our fall sale as we usually make, so we need to try and make up for it at our holiday party auction. Please consider donating a plant or two and help us replenish our nest egg. It would be greatly appreciated.

One of our members, Laura Beth, made an excellent suggestion for a topic to discuss if we have a little time at our next meeting. She would like to have a group discussion on ideas for handling our outdoor plants to protect them from the rains expected in the upcoming El Niño. I think it is a great idea since a lot of us are at a loss as to how to handle so much rain and protect our plants.

I'm really looking forward to the field trip Lisa has planned for November 10th. Going to nurseries is probably my favorite thing to do, and we all enjoying lunch together at El Pescador will be great!

Don't forget, our meeting this month is in a different room so be sure and check the map for the room and for parking. I am told we can still park in the same lot and walk; it is not that far. There is also parking along Memorial Drive.

See you there,

Linda Holub

President CCSS



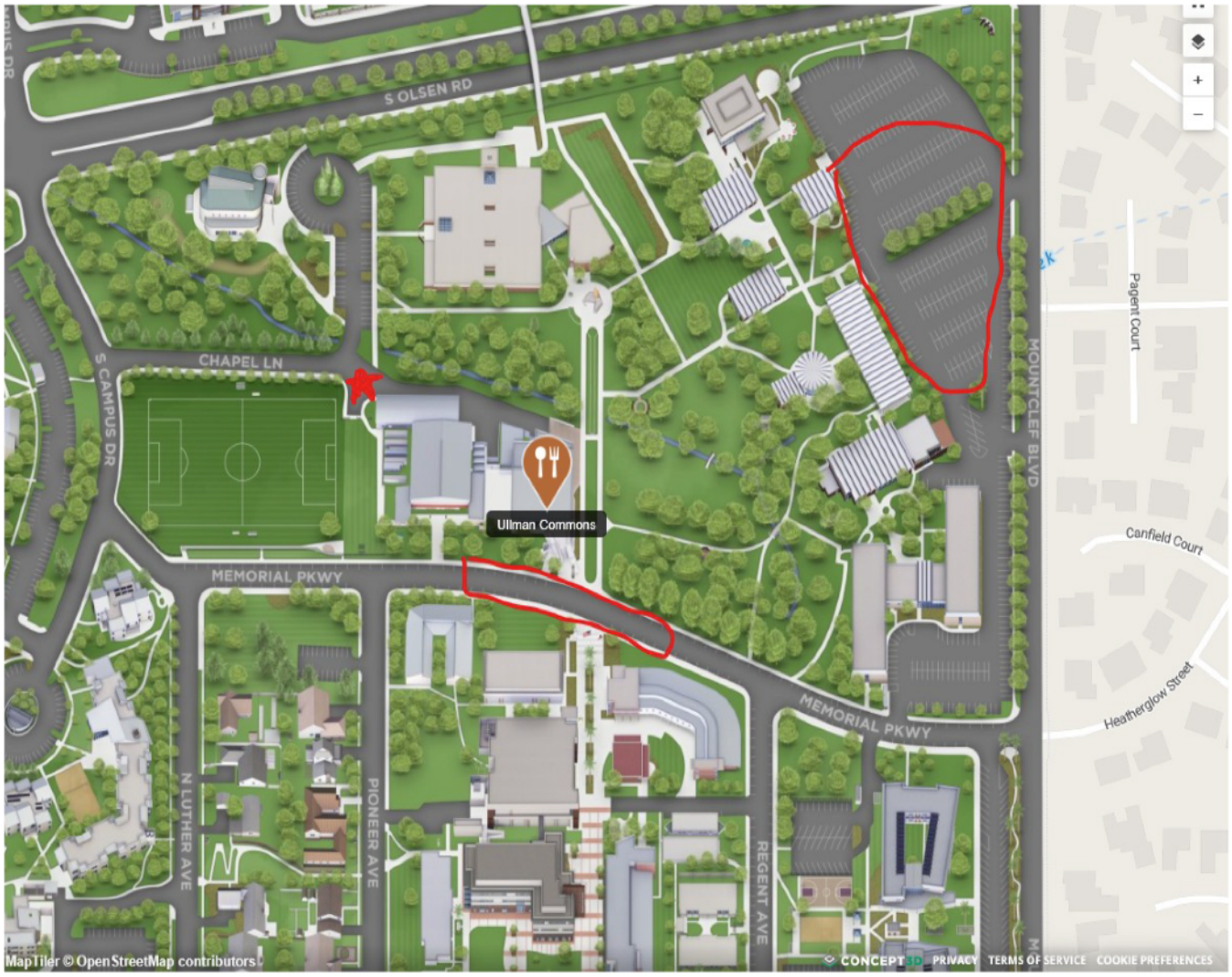
Important! Meeting location changes for 2026 and 2027

November 4, 2026: Letting you know that due to voting your November 4 Cactus Club meeting is moved to Ullman 100/101.
February 3, 2027: Letting you know that due to a speaker series your February 3 meeting is moved to Ullman 100/101.
May 5, 2027: Letting you know that due to a conflicting event your May 5 meeting is moved to Ullman 100/101.

The official physical address for the Ullman Commons building (which houses rooms 100 and 101)
101 Memorial Pkwy, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360
It is centrally located on the main California Lutheran University campus, right across from the Kingsmen Park lawn.

The Ullman Commons building is directly overlooking Kingsmen Park.
Rooms 100 and 101 are on the lower ground level right as you walk in near the Starbucks patio.

Parking for Ullman Commons: The areas circled in red is where you can park and the starred area is the unloading zone behind Ullman. Lot entrance is 1st right off of Mountclef Blvd and street parking on Memorial Parkway.





We're excited about our upcoming field trip Tuesday, November 10th

Hope you can join us for this fun day!
We'd really like a headcount, so please
RSVP Lisa G @ 805 402-4619

9:30am - Our 1st stop will be Moon Valley nursery, Moorpark. This is a brand new nursery, on the corner of Tierra Rejade and Brennan Rd in Moorpark.
3909 Brennan Rd, Moorpark
We will be given a tour of the nursery by John, so please be on time.

2nd stop, 11:30 lunch in Fillmore at El Pescado Mexican Restaurant
1305 W. Ventura St., Fillmore

3rd stop of the day - Sal's Cactus Mart in Fillmore , where Sal will give us a tour of the nursery.
2275 Grand Avenue, Fillmore





Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society HOLIDAY PARTY 2026

December 2nd 6:00-9:00 pm

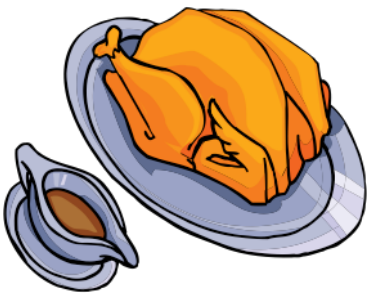
Pot Luck - whosbringingwhat.com/ccss

Optional Gift Exchange - Plant related gift in the $15-20 range

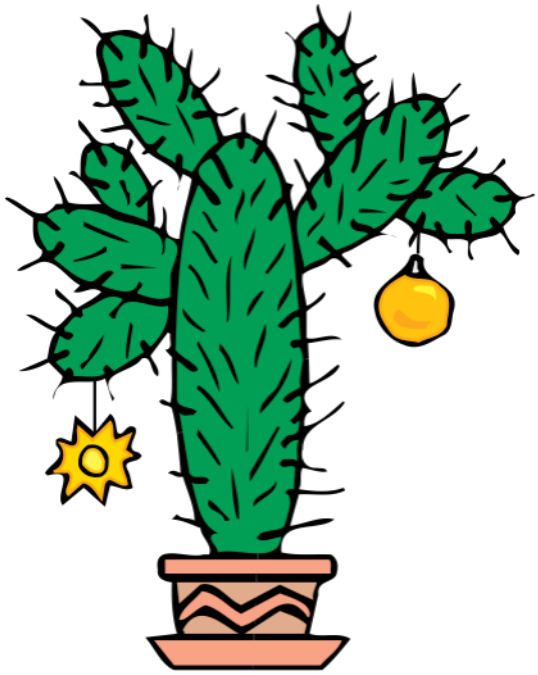
Auction - Exciting selection donated by members and supporters

Come and enjoy good food, friends, cactus and succulent fun! Doors will be open at 5:00. Potluck dinner will begin 6:00. Come early to help set up the feast!









Refreshments 2026 - November

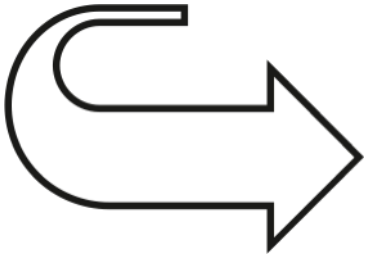


If your **last name starts with W, X, Y, Z** please bring in refreshments to share at the meeting.
Coffee is generously donated by Terry Wilson and water is provided by the club.
You don't have to only bring snacks on your month.
You can bring refreshments any additional months you wish.
Thank You!
December refreshments - POTLUCK HOLIDAY PARTY.









See page 13 for an upcoming CSSA event.

Holiday Party December 2 details Page 5



Volunteers, suggestions and comments are always welcome!

WHO TO CONTACT?

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

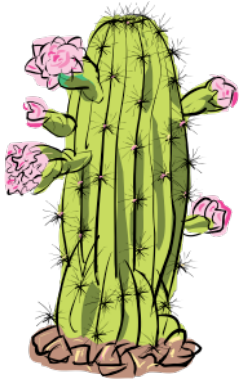
All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers or board members. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

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!

	Cactus	Succulent
January	Ferocactus & Echinocactus	Haworthia
February	Echinocereus	Mesembs
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon
April	Gymnocalycium	Aloe
May	Copiapoa	Adenia
~~June~~	~~Eriosyce~~	~~Curcurbitaceae~~
July	Parodia	Adenium
August	Mammillaria	Pachypodium
September	Variegates	Variegates
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.

Plants of the Month: *Crested and Monstrose*

Crested and Monstrose plants are deformed versions of otherwise normal plants caused by abnormal growth. Specifically, they exhibit deformed growth caused by the growing points (called meristems) of the plants forming new tissue in an improper manner. The exact nature of the deformed growth separates crested plants from monstrose ones. While most often seen, and coveted in cacti and other succulents, crested and monstrose growth can occur in any kind of plant.



Euphorbia lactea crest



Mammillaria geminispina crest

Normal plant growth takes place at a single point at the tip of each branch or stem called the apical meristem. The apical meristem produces new cells that go on to form the rest of the plant, but the meristem itself remains a single cell. This growth from a single point is why stems are generally round and regular in shape. The apical meristem also suppresses the growth of dormant meristems along the stem, especially those closest to the tip.



Cereus peruvianus crest

Crested plants (also known as fasciation) are distinctive in that they grow in a linear or wavy shape. This growth can be so unusual that it can be hard to tell that a crest and normal form of a species are really the same thing! This growth form results from a mutation in the apical meristem where instead of remaining a single cell it starts forming many new apical meristems all in a horizontal row. This means that instead of one apical meristem controlling growth, you have dozens if not hundreds all trying to produce new growth at the same time. This growth could be considered regular irregularity in that line of meristems is abnormal, but they grow in an organized fashion giving us the beautiful and strange crests we grow.

Monstrose growth also results from meristems going haywire. In this case the apical meristem can no longer control and suppress the dormant lateral meristems, so they all start growing. That creates a malformed, often overly branched, plant that looks strange to some and fascinating to others.

Several factors are known to cause plants to crest or go monstrose. Sometimes a random mutation causes this. Usually this mutation is not passed on to any seeds it produces. It can also occur from a hormonal imbalance in the plant. External factors include certain fungal or bacterial infestations, or even environmental damage.



Austrocylindropuntia subulata crest

November 2026 POM - Succulent - Crested/Monstrose

Culture of crested and monstrose plants



Dasylirion crest

Crested and monstrose plants are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy normal growth plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. You can also research your plant online or by asking other growers to find out the special needs of your particular crest or monstrose. These plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. They tend to be more attractive to spider mites and mealy bugs than normal plants, and a careful eye must be kept on them to keep good growth.

Propagation of crested and montrose plants

In most cases, crests and monstrose plants flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering crest. Cresting and monstrosity are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a genetic mutant plant (i.e. not from pathogens or environmental factors) is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the parent, but any other mutation is also possible.



Lithops monstrose



Crested Daisy flower

The most common method of propagation of crested plants is vegetative. Cuttings of crests are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms. Cuttings of varieties that are on their own roots will generally root easily, as long as the cuts are taken during the growing season. After a few days drying, the cut sections are simply stuck into slightly moist potting soil. After a few weeks, there will be sufficient roots to resume normal watering.

-Kyle Williams

Photo Credits: J.G. Howes, Perduejn, Frank Vincentz, Joe Mabel, Dave Pape, Xenomorph, Maureen Gilmer

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

Cactus - Echinopsis

Novice:
No Entries

Intermediate:

1st	*Echinopsis famatimesis*	Gerry Caruso

Advanced:

1st	*Lobivia wrightiana*	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	*Echinopsis spachiana*	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	*Echinopsis oxygona*	Jonathan Zhu

Succulents- Agave

Novice:

1st	*Agave bracteosa*	Mick Gottschalk

Intermediate:

1st	*Agave victoria-reginae* 'Snow Prince'	Lisa Gailey
2nd	*Agave parryi* (could be Blue Glow)	Gerry Caruso
3rd	*Agave bracteosa*	Tom Horan

Advanced:

1st	*Agave victoria-reginae*	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	*Agave* 'Blue Emperor'	Linda Holub
3rd	*Agave victoria-reginae* 'Variegata'	Ann Hopkinson

For the October meeting POM we had 1 Novice, 6 Intermediate, and 14 Advanced entries for a total of 21 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.

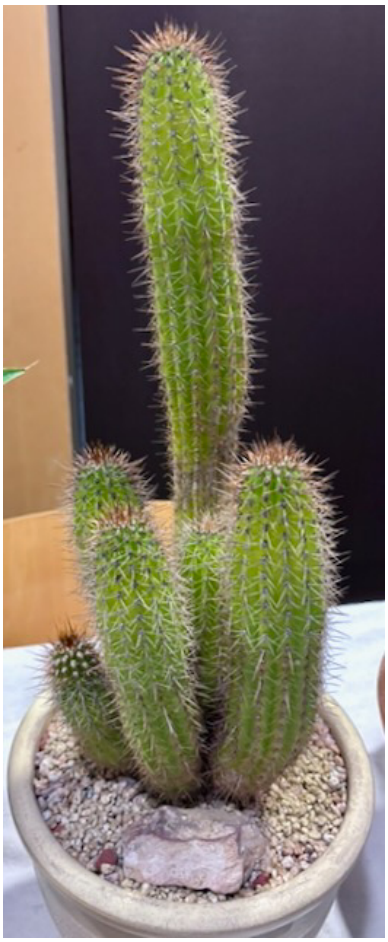
POM Winners Cactus - Echinopsis/Lobivia
October 2026
Congratulations!



Gerry Caruso
1st Place Intermediate
Echinopsis famatimesis

Jonathan Zhu
3rd Place
Advanced
Echinopsis oxygona





Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Echinopsis spachiana



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Lobivia wrightiana

POM Winners Succulent - Agave 2026
Congratulations!



Gerry Caruso
2nd Place Intermediate
Agave parryi
(could be Blue Glow)



Lisa Gailey
1st Place Intermediate
Agave victoria-reginae 'Snow Prince'



Mick Gottschalk
1st Place Novice
Agave bracteosa



Tom Horan
3rd Place Intermediate
Agave bracteosa



Linda Holub
2nd Place Advanced
Agave 'Blue Emperor'



Ann Hopkinson
3rd Place Advanced
Agave victoriae-reginae
'Variegata'



Ann Hopkinson
1st Place Advanced
Agave victoriae-reginae

https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/biennial-conventions/2027-convention

