

C A C T U S CHRONICLE

M A R C H 2 0 2 4

VOL. 92 ISSUE 3

MONTHLY PROGRAM

WOODY MINNICH

Pachypodiums



ARID PLANTS A-Z

ELI COHEN

Remember to bring in
your problem plants, plant ID
+ special interest plants



**REFRESHMENTS
THIS MONTH:
LAST NAMES
BEGINNING
WITH 'B'**

MONTHLY MEETINGS ARE HELD EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

MEETING START TIME: 7PM, DOORS OPEN AT 6:15PM

ONE GENERATION: 18255 VICTORY BLVD. RESEDA CA.

Refreshments!

It is a collective effort and responsibility each month to supply our members with sustenance,

THIS BRINGS US TO THE MONTH OF MARCH AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTERS "B"

If your last name begins with that letter, please bring something to share, enough for approximately 10 people. If you'd like to bring more that is okay too.

To facilitate set-up and clean-up, we ask that your contribution be in individual portions and/or a disposable container. At the end of the meeting, all leftovers, including containers, will be discarded. If you are available to help set up or tear down the refreshment center, please see me at the meeting at the Refreshment Table.

If you are unable to contribute, the club will also have a jar/bowl at the refreshment table if you would like to donate money so that the club can continue to supplement refreshments brought by the attendees.

March - Members whose last name begins with "B"

April - Members whose last name begins with "C"

May - Members whose last name begins with "E, H"

June - Members whose last name begins with "F, G, I"

July - Members whose last name begins with "J, K, L"

Aug - Members whose last name begins with "M"

Sept - Members whose last name begins with "O, P, R"

Oct - Members whose last name begins with "S, T, U, V"

Nov - Members whose last name begins with "W, N, Q, Y, Z"



Pachypodium geayi Photo credit: Woody Minnich

PACHYPODIUMS

& OTHER FAT (CAUDICIFORM) PLANTS



Pachypodium rosulatum v. *densiflorum* Photo credit: Woody Minnich

The Genus *Pachypodium* is one of the most popular of all caudiciform genera. *Pachypodiums* are all old-world plants, coming mainly from Namibia, South Africa and Madagascar. The genus *Pachypodium* means, having a short, thick or often succulent stem appearing like a platform. From this platform, or thick stem, the branches appear and are apically attached to this fat or caudiciform base. Once appearing above the caudex, the branches stay thin and often radiate outward in multiple numbers. *Pachypodiums* are also recognized by the morphology of their flower, fruit and seed. There are many other genera that develop a large swollen base, but they often branch from the base or side or top of the caudex. These other large water storing caudiciforms, are frequently found growing side by side with many of the *Pachys*.

The *Pachys* are found from seven countries in the southern hemisphere; Angola, Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, and Zimbabwe. From these countries, the northern most species comes from Angola and Namibia, *Pachypodium lealii* v. *lealii*. Going further south and east in these wild northern regions, the sub species *Pachypodium lealii* v. *saundersii* occurs in Zombabwe, Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa.

The third species, comes from southern Namibia and occurs mainly in Namaqualand, *P. namaquanum*. The last two of the African species are from the extreme southern regions, *P. bispinosum* and *P. succulentum*. These five African species appear closely related and seem morphologically similar with the exception of *P. namaquanum*, yet they are all mostly different from the majority of the Madagascan species.

Going into Madagascar we will be seeing the probable center point for the evolution and distribution of the genus. The number of species considered to be endemic to Madagascar is generally thought to be 18. The current opinions of species includes; *P. ambongense*, *baronii*, *bicolor*, *brevicaule*, *cactipes*, *decaryi*, *densiflorum*, *eburneum*, *geayi*, *gracilius*, *horombense*, *inopinatum*, *lamerei*, *meridionale*, *rosulatum*, *rutenbergianum*, *sofiense*, and *windsorii*. Majority are from warm insular areas and are not often able to take as much cold temperatures as their related African species.



Pachypodium geayi Photo credit: Woody Minnich



Pachypodium brevicale after the fires have burnt the region. Photo credit: Woody Minnich

Many of these Madagascan species are most highly desired by the serious succulent collectors. Due to this high demand in the trade, in recent years, we have seen some very serious problems developing with the removal of 1,000s of specimen plants from the field. The great thing about the Pachypodiums is that the seeds are generally very easy to grow. The only issue for hobbyist's, is growing them from seed takes many, many years, and to get the handsome caudiciform that looks as nice as the ancient field specimen, is difficult to do.

Some of the other FAT plants that we will encounter in our search for the Pachys will include; *Adansonia*, *Adenia*, *Adenium*, *Aloe*, *Cyphostemma*, *Delonix*, *Moringa*, and *Operculicarya*. It will be great to have you join me in the back country of Southern Africa and Madagascar.

T H I S M O N T H ' S S P E A K E R

WOODY MINNICH

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the wild places he has traveled. This talk will be featuring his encounters with many beautiful flowering cacti and other succulents, as well as his observations of their pollinators.

He has published numerous articles and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit.



As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of thirteen C&S societies across the country. Woody has also served on the National board as well as in many leadership positions with numerous other C & S societies. He is a co-creator, and currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show. If you're like Woody, put your glasses on and turn up your hearing aids, and we'll all have some fun.



Copiapoa at the Sunset Show and Sale

FROM THE MESSAGE PRESIDENT

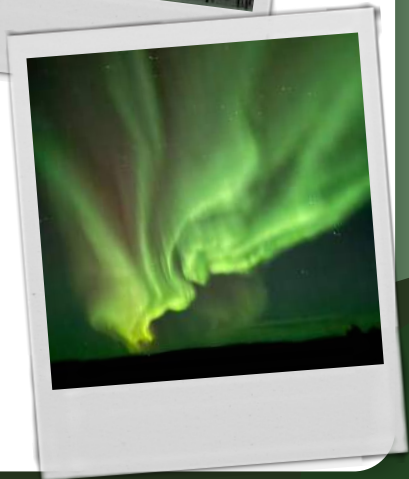
February has passed, and the rain continued. Hopefully all your plants are faring well. I am carefully watching a larger Ferocactus in my yard, that's become the leaning tower of Pisa! I have tried to feel if it's mushy, but it is very hard to get at with all it's spines. I'm really hoping it's the soil and not the plant! Unfortunately I had the bad luck of having a double headed ferocactus stolen out of my front parkway too.

You've all heard about our April Drought Tolerant Festival having to be moved to May 17,18, and 19th. This will give you all a chance to look at your calendars, and find a time to volunteer.

The festival is not only a great fundraiser for the club, but an outreach to the community, particularly for kid's day. You can also get a chance to spend some time with other club members who have volunteered, and help develop the bonds that make us the great community that we are! It's a wonderful thing to find so many others who share the same love of succulents and cacti! So please make the effort come to the meeting and sign up for the time slot that work best for you, and spend some time with your fellow succulent lovers!

One final note, earlier this month, my husband and I had a chance to go to Fairbanks, Alaska, not to see cacti unfortunately, but to see the Aurora Borealis. It was very cold! I thought I would share a couple of photos.

See you all Thursday, March 7th!
Cande Friedman



OF BOARD DIRECTORS

2 0 2 4

LACSS MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

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with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

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POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

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64 SOKHAR... & KANSURINI
65 CALVIN...
66 JOE CL...
67 BUCK &...
68 MARK...
69 GLE...
70 GLE...
71 GLEN...

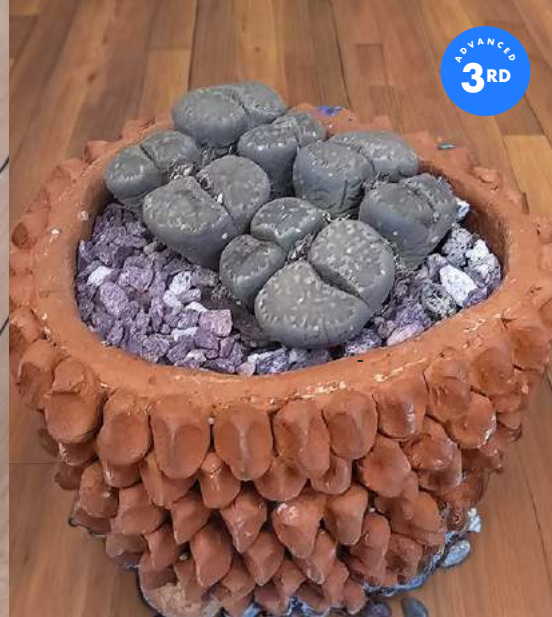
Pachypodium brevicaule at CSSA Show and Sale 2019



GLENN MURRAY
MAMMILLARIA SP.



MANNY RIVERA
CHEIRIDOPSIS PUPPEREA

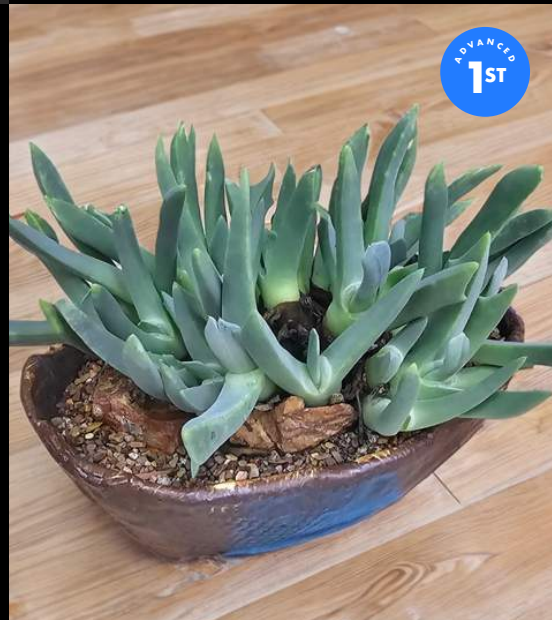


BONNIE IKEMURA
DINTERANTHUS SP.



MANNY RIVERA
DINTERANTHUS VANZYLII

FEBRUARY
PLANT OF THE MONTH
MAMMILLARIA HOOK SPINE
CHEIRIDOPSIS,
DINTERANTHUS
WINNERS



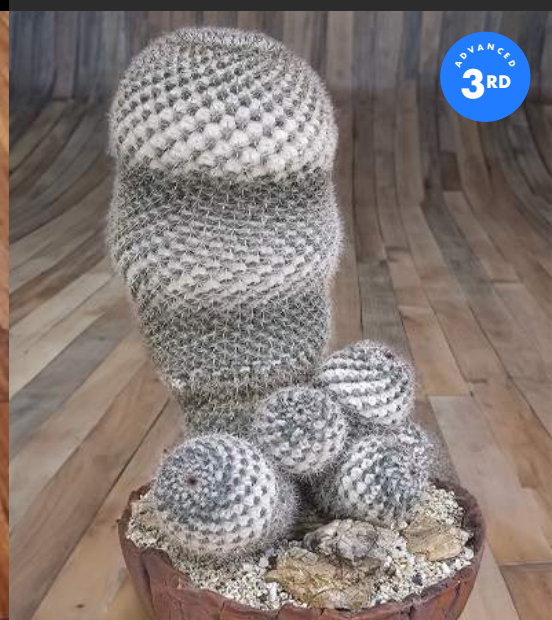
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE
CHEIRIDOPSIS DENTICULATA



MANNY RIVERA
CHERIDIOPSIS DENTICULATA



ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE
MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA



ROXIE + JIM ESTERLEV
MAMMILLARIA SP.

2024

JANUARY

Blossfeldia, Yavia
Dudleya, Cotyledon

FEBRUARY

Mammillaria Hook Spine
Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

MARCH

Copiapoa
Tulista, Astroloba

APRIL

Cacti of Baja California
Succulents of Baja California Mex

MAY

Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 3")

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Opuntia North America
Jatropha, Pedilanthus

AUGUST

Neochilenia, Neoporteria
Commiphora, Boswellia

SEPTEMBER

Ariocarpus
Fockea, Ipomoea

OCTOBER

Trichocereus
Hoya, Ceropegia, Dischidia

NOVEMBER

Variigated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

PLANT OF THE MONTH



P L A N T O F T H E M O N T H

COPIAPOA

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

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.

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 laui



Copiapoa lembeckei



Copiapoa hypogaea

ASTROLOBA & TULISTA

B Y K Y L E W I L L I A M S

*Tulista marginata**Tulista minima*

This month we look at two small genera easily mistaken for, Haworthia. Tulista was once part of Haworthia while Astroloba has been seen as distinct for longer due to the more unusual flowers in the group. All species of both genera are native to South Africa. While some overlap occurs in the western extent of their ranges, it can be generalized that Tulista is found in far southern South Africa while Astroloba occurs just a bit further north but otherwise paralleling Tulista in an east-west line.

Tulista, with 6 species, was long considered part of Haworthia until modern DNA analysis showed it really was distinct. The main reason it, and several other genera, were considered Haworthia was due to the flower shape. Nearly every Haworthia (in the broad sense) has small white zygomorphic flowers. Zygomorphic meaning symmetrical in one plane only, like a human face. In particular it has 2 petals on top and three on the bottom. By comparison, most Aloe flowers are actinomorphic, meaning that the petals are evenly distributed and can be divided symmetrically in any plane. What this suggests is that the standard Haworthia bunny ear flowers might not have a unique origin. Instead plants in the broader Aloe/Haworthia group may be prone to evolving the same sort of flower independently, quite possibly due to trying to attract the same sorts of insect pollinators. In other words, convergent evolution, albeit among taxa with a common genetic origin that more easily allows for the similar flowers to develop. Differentiating Tulista from Haworthia can be a bit tricky, in general Tulista form stemless rosettes of thick triangular leaves. They lack fibers in the leaves and have a yellow exudate when damaged, more commonly seen in Aloe than in Haworthia.

Astroloba is a lesser-known genus related to Gasteria, Aloe, and Haworthia. In fact it is very easy to mistake for a Haworthia and it is possible you have one without realizing it, instead thinking it is a Haworthia. The most clearcut way to tell the difference is to look at the flowers. Haworthia flowers are small, white, and forked at the tip into an upper and lower flared lip. Astroloba by contrast have flowers with a narrow opening. The flowers are actinomorphic, also known as radially symmetric. Only some Astroloba are white like Haworthia, but the symmetry difference easily distinguishes them. Some are orange and look much more like Gasteria or Aloe flowers. The genus has around twelve species, all from the southern Cape Province of South Africa. Care is similar to Haworthia as it appreciates more shade than the typical succulent.

Modern molecular studies have led to interesting discoveries about relationships in Aloe, Haworthia, and related genera. In the case of Tulista and Astroloba we now know they are actually sister genera, meaning they are more closely related to each other than to any other genera of plants. In theory you could combine them into one genus, but the floral differences are sufficient to justify keeping them distinct. The other interesting finding is that, based on the evidence we have at the moment, these two very Haworthia-like genera are in reality more closely related to Aloe than Haworthia. Once again showing that we cannot rely on our simplistic prior understanding of these big genera. Instead we need to look more closely and recognize that a more nuanced approach which requires more genera which are better defined is the better one.

*Astroloba herrei*



Pachypodium namaquanum, Namaqualand Photo credit: Woody Minnich

WE NEED PLANT DONATIONS

SUCCULENT PLANTS FOR THE SHERMAN OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

City Councilmember Nithya Raman's District 4 Office is partnering with the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council for a Community Earth Day Celebration at Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park on **MARCH 23**. They plan to distribute free trees at that time, and they would also like to include free succulents for the community as part of their Earth Day activities.

Ryan Ahari, Field Deputy for Council District 4, contacted LACSS and has asked for donated plants. Donations should be in plastic pots from 4 inches to 1 gallon. Please bring your donated plants to the March club meeting or speak to Jim Esterle about alternative delivery plans.

Your help with this event is most appreciated and aligns with our club mission to educate and support our local communities.

**CONTACT JIM ESTERLE AT 310-864-3224
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**



**LACSS FIELD TRIP TO SOFI STADIUM
IS NOW FULLY BOOKED. STAY UPDATED
FOR INFO ON OUR NEXT FIELD TRIP.**

BLOOMING KNOWLEDGE

EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS BY THE LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) is proud to invite plant enthusiasts, gardeners, and curious minds alike to join us on a journey of exploration and learning through our educational workshops. As an organization committed to the appreciation and conservation of cacti and succulents, these workshops aim to empower participants with knowledge and hands-on experience, fostering a deeper understanding of these unique and resilient plants.

OUR EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS SPAN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, EACH MONTH FEATURING A DIFFERENT THEME AND EXPERT SPEAKER. LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT WHAT AWAITS ATTENDEES IN THE COMING MONTHS:

APRIL

Spring Seed Workshop with Ed Reed

Join expert Ed Reed as he delves into spring seeds. Participants will gain insights into the propagation and cultivation of these plants from seed, equipping them with the skills to nurture new life in their own gardens.



MAY

Staging with Karen Ostler:

Renowned designer Karen Ostler takes center stage in May, offering a workshop on the art of staging succulents. From container arrangements to landscape design, participants will learn how to showcase these plants in aesthetically pleasing and harmonious compositions.

JUNE

Pollination with Ernesto

Explore the fascinating world of pollination in July with expert Ernesto. Discover the intricate relationships between cacti, succulents, and pollinators, gaining a deeper understanding of the ecological dynamics that contribute to plant reproduction.

JULY + AUGUST

Take a breather in August, allowing participants to reflect on the knowledge acquired thus far and prepare for the upcoming workshops.

SEPTEMBER

Grafting with Kal

Join us in September as Kal shares the art of grafting succulents. This hands-on workshop will provide participants with practical skills in plant propagation, opening up new possibilities for creating unique and resilient hybrids.



OCTOBER

Winter Seed Workshop with Tom Glavich:

Round off the year exploring the beauty of winter seeds. Participants will learn about the different adaptations of cacti and succulents during the colder months and how to capture their seasonal charm.



South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society

STEVE FRIEZE



"JOURNEY TO BRAZIL"

Steven will share the nearly one month journey he took with his wife to Brazil to explore an extraordinary variety of plant life that includes cacti, succulents, and *Dyckia* flourishing in surprising locations. The trip was led by two prominent Brazilian horticulturists who provided them a glimpse of their private collections.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

1:00 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden,
26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes
Peninsula 90274.

Free admission for SCCSS members and
their guests. For more information visit
southcoastcss.org



2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAR. 22-23 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE
FRI. NOON-6PM, SAT. 9AM-4PM INFO. CALL 657-549-0702
1000 S. STATE COLLEGE BL., (ANAHEIM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH)
- APR. 12-14 MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE & SHOW
FRI. 3PM-6PM MEMBERS ONLY, SAT. 9AM-5PM, SUN. 9AM-3PM
INFO MBACSSPRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM OR MBSUCCULENT.ORG
ISTW PORTUGUESE HALL, 124 ATKINSON LANE, WATSONVILLE, CA 95076
- APR. 14 CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING SALE 9AM-4PM
INFO. WWW.CONEJOCSS.COM OR CONEJOCSS@HOTMAIL.COM
558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320
- APR. 13-14 SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
DAILY 9AM-4PM INFO. WWW.SOUTHCOASTCSS.ORG OR CALL 310-346-6206
PALOS VERDES ART CENTER, 5504 CRESTRIDGE RD., RANCHO PALOS VERDES
- APR. 27 PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING FESTIVAL
SAT. 11AM-3PM C&S SALES AND FREE WORKSHOPS ON GROWING C&S
THE PARK AVE. COMMUNITY CENTER, 210 E. PARK AVE., ESCONDIDO, CA
- APR. 27-28 SAN JOSE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SAT. 10AM-5PM, SUN. 10AM-4PM INFO. WWW.CSSSJ.ORG
PETERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL, 1380 ROSALIA AVENUE, SUNNYVALE, CA
- APR. 28 HUNTINGTON SPRING PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
10AM-5PM IRESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG, SALE CALL 626-405-3571
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA
- MAY 3 - 5 SACRAMENTO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
9AM-5PM INFO. WWW.SACRAMENTOCSS.COM
SHEPARD GARDEN AND ARTS CENTER, 3330 MCKINLEY BLVD., SACRAMENTO, CA
- MAY 4 - 5 SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE
SAT. SHOW NOON-4PM, SALE 9AM-4PM, SUN. SHOW & SALE 9AM-4PM
INFO. CALL 310-822-1783
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER, TEEN CENTER, 4117 OVERLAND AVE., CULVER CITY
- MAY 5 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB SHOW AND SALE
NOON-4PM INFO. CALL 714-553-6914
WOMEN'S CLUB OF BELLFLOWER, 9402 OAK ST., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706

South Coast Cactus
& Succulent Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024

Hours: 9am - 4 pm

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Chestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

FREE
admission and parking



Agave 'Sunburst'

Success with Succulents

South Coast Cactus &
Succulent Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024

Hours: 9am - 4pm

Palos Verdes Art Center

5504 Chestridge Road

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

90275

Information: www.southcoastcactus.com

714.433.4111 909.433.6106



For anyone who
loves the beautiful
and the unusual.

Collectors

Gardeners

Landscapers

Families & Friends

Kids & Grandkids



- Thousands of plants for sale
- Hard to find plants
- Artistic pottery
- Expert advice for all levels of growers
- Showing plants in an artistic venue
- Art Center galleries and gift shop open



Cactus & Succulent Spring Sale **Sunday, April 14, 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, Bromeliads & Tillandsia
Along with Pottery
and Jewelry

Experts will be available for
questions regarding plant care



Please bring boxes or bags to carry home your purchases.

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