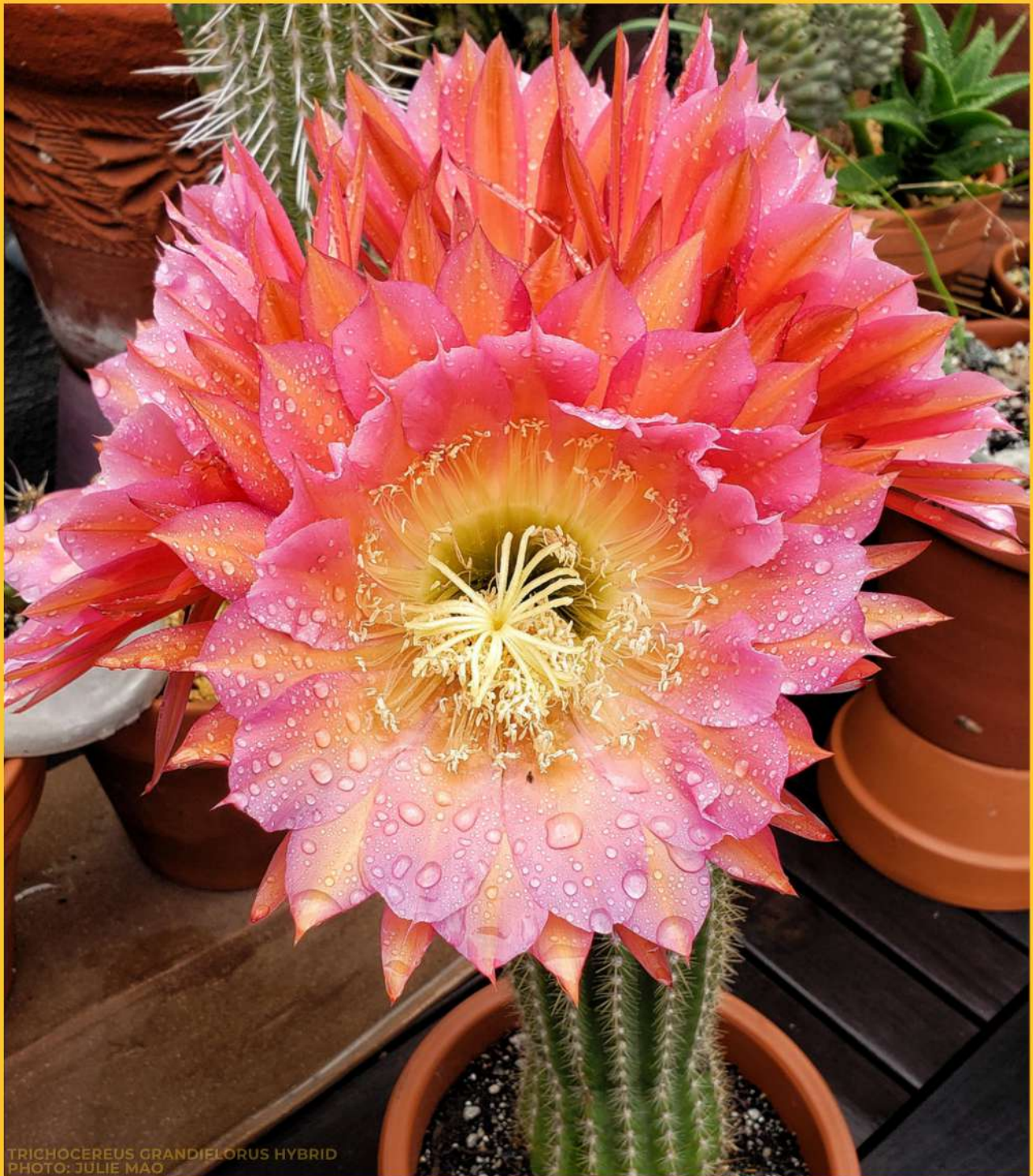


SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# COMMUNIQUE



TRICHOCEREUS GRANDIFLORUS HYBRID  
PHOTO: JULIE MAO

**MICHAEL ROMERO**  
SUCCULENT  
LANDSCAPING  
FOR YOU



**ECHINOCEREUS,  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
PACHYPODIUMS**  
PLANTS OF THE MONTH



MEETING 5/9 | WORKSHOP 5/15 | TRIP 5/17

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & MORE:

## A MESSAGE FROM NICK RENTERIA, SGVCSS PRESIDENT:

### "April Showers Bring May Flowers"



Growing up here in Southern California, I often heard that saying, but it never made sense to me because rain in April was so rare. Not so anymore. The last two years, we have had more rain in April than I can remember, which is good news for our gardens, but not so good news for our wet and cold-sensitive summer growers.

And speaking of summer growers, those who attended our **Spring Seed Workshop** in April walked away with several pots loaded with seeds ready to sprout. Thanks to everyone who attended this ever-popular workshop and thanks to all of those who brought in your seedlings from previous seed workshops. Don't miss our May workshop on **Echinocereus**.

Another event not to be missed this month is our first ever field trip to the **Dodger Stadium Botanic Garden**. Dodger Stadium has the distinction of being the only stadium in the country with an officially accredited botanic garden. Wow! This should be quite an experience. And stay tuned for more details on a field trip in the Fall to see **The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens** in Palm Desert.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting on May 9th.

Warm regards,  
Nick Renteria

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER

## RENEWALS:

To renew, **\$20** dues covers the entire year and ensures you are eligible to participate in our *Winter Show* and *Inter-City Show*, and to attend our always-entertaining field trips, picnics, and more! Please see **Membership Coordinator Travis Martin** at our next meeting or workshop.



## BECOME A MEMBER:

To become a **SGVCSS** member, please pay **\$20** dues per household (plus an additional **\$5** for each club name badge) to unlock all club member benefits.

You can pay at any meeting or workshop by cash or check. Checks must be made out to **SGVCSS**.

## ABOUT SGVCSS



Chartered in 1967, **San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society's** objectives are to promote knowledge, study, & interest in cacti and other succulent plants through educational programs, public exhibits, & the sharing of these interests to the general public.



## FOLLOW US ONLINE



[SGVCSS.COM](http://SGVCSS.COM)



[@SGVCSSCLUB](https://www.instagram.com/SGVCSSCLUB)



[@SGVCSSCLUB](https://twitter.com/SGVCSSCLUB)



[/SANGABCACTUS](https://www.facebook.com/SANGABCACTUS)

# MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS:

<b>2024</b>	
<b>PLANTS OF THE MONTH</b>	
<b>JAN</b>	MAMMILLARIA SENECIO, OTHONNA
<b>FEB</b>	BARREL CACTUS MESEMBS
<b>MAR</b>	TURBINICARPUS PELARGONIUM
<b>APR</b>	S. AMER. OPUNTIA ALOE SPECIES
<b>MAY</b>	ECHINOCEREUS AFR. PACHYPODIUMS
<b>JUN</b>	COPIAPOA AGAVE, YUCCA
<b>JULY</b>	GYMNOCALYCIUM GASTERIA
<b>AUG</b>	FAVORITES
<b>SEP</b>	HYBRIDS CULTIVARS
<b>OCT</b>	ARIOCARPUS AFR. EUPHORBIA
<b>NOV</b>	MONTROSE CRESTED

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**MAY 9 - MONTHLY**

**MAY 15 - ECHINOCEREUS WORKSHOP**

**JUNE 13 - MONTHLY**

**JUNE 19 - STAGING WORKSHOP**

@ The Arboretum  
ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 PM

**Meetings**  
Our club meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in Ayres Hall at the *Los Angeles Arboretum* in Arcadia. Come as early as 6:00PM to socialize and shop. Enter Side Gate.

**Workshops**  
Our hands-on workshops are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM in the Palm Classroom at the *LA Arboretum*. Enter Main Gate.

**2024 WORKSHOPS**

<b>JAN</b>	SENECIO / OTHONNA
<b>FEB</b>	BARREL CACTUS
<b>MAR</b>	PELARGONIUM
<b>APR</b>	SPRING SEED
<b>MAY</b>	ECHINOCEREUS
<b>JUN</b>	STAGING
<b>JUL</b>	GYMNOCALYCIUM
<b>AUG</b>	TIPS & TRICKS
<b>SEP</b>	HYBRIDS & CULTIVARS
<b>OCT</b>	ARIOCARPUS
<b>NOV</b>	WINTER SEED

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

**MICHAEL ROMERO**  
**SUCCULENT LANDSCAPING**



PHOTO: MICHAEL ROMERO

**Michael Romero** has been growing succulents since he was 12 years old, eventually working at *The Huntington* in the Desert Garden, as well as enjoying employment at *California Cactus Center*, learning plant design & maintenance along the way.

Along with his wife Danielle, he created his business *Succulent Designs*. He and his wife have participated in various garden club and nursery talks and events in California, as well as designing and installing drought tolerant, low maintenance landscapes with their artistic touch and balance in their plant selections. They've worked together creating landscapes for the last 18 years.

**SUCCULENT LANDSCAPING:**

Michael will be discussing how to best use cacti and succulents and other xerophytic plants in your landscape to save water while making a statement.

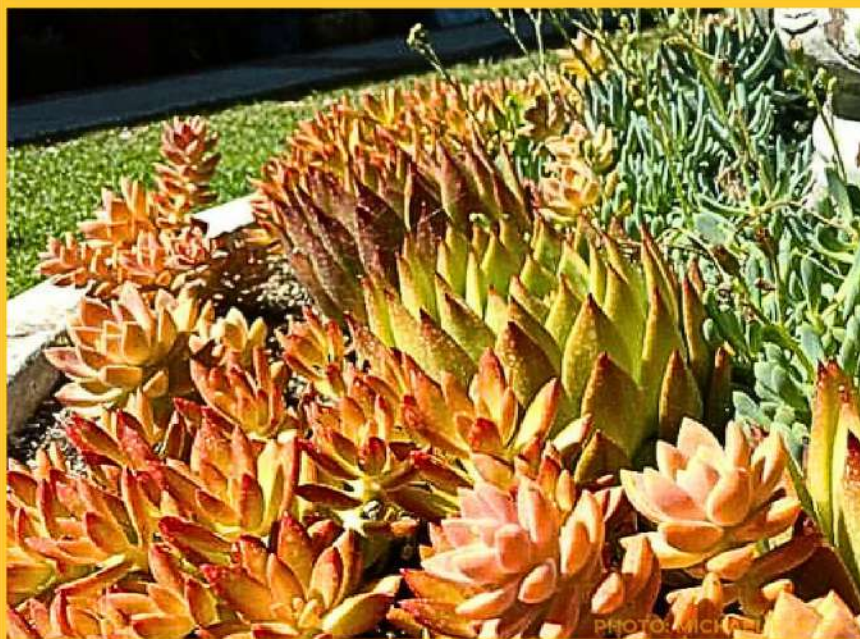


PHOTO: MICHAEL ROMERO



PHOTO: MICHAEL ROMERO

## CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

## ECHINOCCEREUS



***Echinocereus*** is one of the earliest recognized genera of cacti; first described in 1848 by George Engelmann from a plant collected in 1846 in what is now New Mexico. The type species (the first one found, and after which the genus is named) is *Echinocereus viridiflorus* -- a widespread species with a distribution that ranges from Southern Wyoming, South Dakota, and Kansas to Eastern New Mexico. As the name tells, it has brilliant green flowers.

*Echinocereus* species can be found throughout the Western United States and the range of species stretches through the American West and through Northern and Central Mexico to about Mexico City. As might be expected from a genus covering such a large range, *Echinocereus* are extremely varied in form, ranging from nearly spineless green balls such as *E. knippelianus*, to very spiny short columnar species such as *E. engelmannii*, to pencil thin sticks such as a *E. poseelgeri*.

In general, *Echinocereus* is an under-appreciated genus. Most species are very spiny, making them less attractive to the novice grower and those inexperienced in handling spiny plants. Many cactus growers try one or two, but having killed a few in their early collecting days, often because of over watering, concentrate on other genera. Most of the species are easy to grow.

Many species are variable, displaying different spination and flower colors depending on the local environment. There are about 30 to 50 species but the number of collectable varieties and local forms remains well over a hundred. The varieties and local growth forms provide an enormous selection of interesting plants to grow.

(continued on page 6...)



***Echinocereus brandegeei***



***Echinocereus pulchellus ssp sharpii***



***Echinocereus ferreiranus***

## CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

## ECHINOCEREUS



(continued from page 5...)

Most *Echinocereus* have spectacular flowers, giving rise to such common names as Claret Cup, Strawberry Cactus, and Calico Cactus. These common names are often attached to more than one species. *Echinocereus* flowers erupt through the skin leaving scars. Offsets also may erupt through the skin.

Almost all the species need bright light and warm temperatures to grow well and flower. Some are quite easy, but some have fragile root systems that are prone to rot if kept wet for too long. They often benefit from being slightly underpotted.

Good drainage is a must. A low organic potting mix, with mostly-to-all pumice will give the best results. The plants will keep their natural character. Recent publications have shown the benefit of low pH (slightly acid) water. This improves growth and minimizes rot. City water is high pH, often over 8. Reducing pH is a great way to improve plant appearance and growth.

Propagation from seed is easy. Seed germinates in a few days to about two weeks in warm weather, as long as soil mixture is kept moist. Once germination occurs, the seedlings need to be moved to an environment with moving air. They need to be kept damp until they have hardened off. Once seedlings get to a size where they can be safely handled, they can be pulled out of the seedling mix and repotted in straight pumice. Growth and survival rate will improve dramatically.

Propagation from cuttings is easy, as long as attention to cleanliness is paid. The cut stem must be dry before repotting.

--Tom Glavich

## Excellent Echinocereus:

- ***Echinocereus delaetii*** - white hair spines, pink to purple flowers. One of the more difficult to grow
- ***Echinocereus engelmannii*** - A clumping species with stems 2-3 inches thick with light tan spines and rose-like flowers.
- ***Echinocereus knippelianus*** - dark green body, nearly spineless, clustering, and slow. Lots of pale pink flowers. Sensitive to over-watering, and a fan of mealybugs everywhere, but worth growing.
- ***Echinocereus nivosus*** has dense white needle-like spines, with a dark green body. Clumps freely, and has large pink flowers.
- ***Echinocereus poselgeri*** was *Wilcoxia poselgeri*, and is one of several tuberous- rooted species that have above-ground pencil thin stems. Bright pink flowers.
- ***Echinocereus rigidissimus*** - columnar, with bands of red, pink and cream spines. A classic, and a frequent show winner. Not one of the easier species to keep alive.
- ***Echinocereus sharpii***, (now *Echinocereus pulchellus* subspecies *sharpii*) discovered in 1971 by club member Peter Sharp near La Asencion in Nuevo Leon, is one of the more difficult to grow, and infrequently seen in cultivation.

--Tom Glavich

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

# SOUTH AFRICAN PACHYPODIUMS

There are only a few species of *Pachypodium* native to Southern Africa but they are all wonderful plants. They are among the most collectable of all the *Pachypodiums*, are readily available, & are easily grown.

All the species of *African Pachypodium* can be grown out of doors year around in Southern California, requiring protection only from severe frost and freezing weather. If given good drainage they can survive the winter in pots, with some species even showing some growth throughout the winter months.

All are easy to grow from seed, with seed usually available either at the Spring Seed Workshop or through the CSSA, or any of the better known seed houses. They are best planted in warm weather, with May being ideal. Germination is quick and small plants are ready for transplanting before the end of the summer.

*Pachypodium bispinosum* comes from the southern tip of South Africa. In habitat, most of the caudex of this plant is wedged between and beneath rocks giving it protection from the sun and predators. Only the relatively small and easily replaced branches stick out. This makes this species easy to bonsai and dwarf. It can develop an impressive caudex even in cultivation.

*Pachypodium lealii* is the most tropical of the African species growing into Namibia and Southern Angola on the west coast and in South Africa and southern Zimbabwe on the east coast. It grows at the same latitudes on both sides of the continent, with the east and west side generally being treated as separate subspecies.

(continued on page 8...)



PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

*Pachypodium bispinosum*



PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

*Pachypodium namaquanum*



PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

*Pachypodium succulentum*

## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

# SOUTH AFRICAN PACHYPODIUMS



(continued from page 7...)

The east coast species are *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *lealii*, and were first cultivated in 1859. They are easy to grow but require very good drainage to avoid root rot. They form large trees in habitat to 30 feet tall but remain small and easy to handle in pots. The west coast subspecies is *Pachypodium lealii* ssp. *saundersii*. These tend to be smaller and in habitat to have a more spherical caudex than a tree form. It is easier to grow than its east coast cousin.

***Pachypodium namaquanum*** is perhaps the most spectacular of all the African species. Its common name is 'half man', which is what it appears to be on the hillsides of Namaqualand. It can grow to 6 feet or more. It is the defining plant of portions of Namaqualand, just as the saguaro is to parts of the Sonoran desert. These go dormant in the early summer, losing all their leaves, sometimes keeping some, but showing no growth. They leaf out again in late summer and grow through the winter

***Pachypodium succulentum*** is similar in appearance to *Pachypodium bispinosum*. It is a dwarf species that grows at the Southern tip of South Africa, with a habitat that is larger than and encompasses that of *Pachypodium bispinosum*. The flowers and flowering times are different and the two do not hybridize in habitat. This species is easy to root from root cuttings. A piece of root is removed and immediately replanted, with about a quarter inch sticking out above the top dressing. Within a few days to a few months, new leaves will start to form at the tip, shortly followed by new branches and a new caudex. Stem cuttings can also be rooted, though with more difficulty.

This species is easy to grow from seed and like *Pachypodium bispinosum* easy to keep small.

--Tom Glavich

### DID YOU KNOW?

Pachypodiums are members of the family Apocynaceae which also includes Adeniums, Oleanders, Plumeria and Periwinkles.

Pachypodium means 'thick foot', referring to the large, swollen caudiciform stems all members of this genus have.



PACHYPODIUM NAMAQUANUM  
PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

# MINI-SHOW RESULTS



## April Mini-Show Results:

### • Novice Cactus

- 1st - Mike Pearson - *Tephrocactus articulatus* var. *papyracanthus*
- 2nd - Anthony Cantiello - *Tephrocactus aorocanthus* ssp. *paediophilus*

### • Novice Succulent

- 1st - Amanda Gerberich - *Aloe suprafoliata*
- 2nd - Amanda Gerberich - *Aloe mcloughlinii*
- 2nd - Angela Clubb - *Aloe* sp.
- 3rd - Amanda Gerberich - *Aloe albovestita*
- 3rd - Emily Diebold - *Aloe albovestita*

### • Intermediate Cactus

- 1st - Sharon Sedillo - *T. paediophilus*
- 2nd - Tricia Kangrga - *T. geometricus*
- 3rd - Tricia Kangrga - *T. weberi* (red-spined)

### • Intermediate Succulent

- 1st - Tricia Kangrga - *Aloe erinaceae*
- 2nd - Richard Salcedo - *Aloe castilloniae*
- 3rd - Tricia Kangrga - *Aloe suprafoliata*
- 3rd - Tricia Kangrga - *Aloe pearsonii*

### • Masters Cactus

- 1st - Karen Ostler - *Cumulopuntia boliviana*
- 2nd - Karen Ostler - *Cumulopuntia pentlandii*
- 3rd - Karen Ostler - *Austrocylindropuntia pachypus*

### • Masters Succulent

- 1st - John Matthews - *Aloidendron ramosissimum*
- 2nd - Karen Ostler - *Aloe variegata*
- 3rd - Karen Ostler - *Aloe bowiea*



# SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

## LACSS SPRING CACTUS SALE

**MAY  
17th  
& 18th**



**FRIDAY  
5pm - 9pm  
TWILIGHT SALE  
\$10 Admission**  
(Free with current membership)

+  
**COLLECTORS  
LIVE AUCTION  
8pm**

**SATURDAY  
9am - 3pm  
SATURDAY SALE &  
KIDS DAY**

**FOOD & MUSIC ON-SITE**

**TARZANA COMMUNITY  
AND CULTURAL CENTER**

19130 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana, CA 91356

**YOUR PLANT RELATED EVENT  
OR BUSINESS HERE**

Email  
[sgvcssclub@gmail.com](mailto:sgvcssclub@gmail.com)  
for more info

## the LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB

### CACTUS & SUCCULENT SALE

- Vendors:
- EAST\_LOS\_SUCCULENTS
  - URPLANTSSUCC
  - GARYDUKE53
  - GTNURSERY
  - ROJASSUCCULENTS
  - JENILUKAS, CORONA CACTUS
  - BOTANICWONDERS
  - HULATROPICALS.COM
  - DA.POTTERY
  - VARIEGATEDTROY
  - DDSSUCCULENTS
  - KYLESPLANTS
  - TOMSONSAICACTI.CERAMICS
  - GNOSIS\_NURSERY

**SUNDAY  
MAY 5TH 12-4PM  
9402 OAK ST  
BELLFLOWER  
CALIFORNIA**

[WWW.LONGBEACHCACTUSCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.LONGBEACHCACTUSCLUB.ORG)



Free Plants  
for the first  
50 Guests

SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

**MAY 4 - 5, 2024  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY SALE  
9AM - 4PM  
SATURDAY SHOW 12PM - 4PM  
SUNDAY SHOW 9AM - 4PM**

(TEEN CENTER) AT VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CENTER  
4117 OVERLAND BOULEVARD CULVER CITY



### Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 49th Annual Show & Sale



Plant Sale - Friday & Saturday, May 10-11, 2024  
Exhibit Show - Saturday, May 11, 2024  
9:00am - 4:00pm  
Redlands Church of the Nazarene  
1307 East Citrus Avenue, Redlands, CA 92374  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
Plant auction and raffle.  
[www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com](http://www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com)  
(909) 910-9195 (909) 222-3326

## 18th BIENNIAL MID-STATES CONFERENCE

JULY 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Santa Fe, New Mexico

*Nothing like the summer in historical Santa Fe!*

SIX OF THE BEST SPEAKERS IN THE COUNTRY  
SIX OF THE MOST OUTSTANDING CACTUS & SUCCULENT VENDORS  
AFFORDABLE HOTELS, SHOW PLANT AUCTION & FABULOUS OUTINGS

For more information, go to [www.santafecactusclub.org/MidStatesCon](http://www.santafecactusclub.org/MidStatesCon) or  
contact conference chair Woody Minnich at [cactusdata@msn.com](mailto:cactusdata@msn.com) or 661-406-9816

# SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:

**MORE INFO:**  
[@CSSASHOW](#)

**JUNE  
28-30,  
2024**

**10AM-  
5PM  
DAILY**

**57TH ANNUAL  
CSSA  
SHOW  
& SALE**  
[CSSASHOW.COM](#)

**TICKETS:  
HUNTINGTON.ORG**

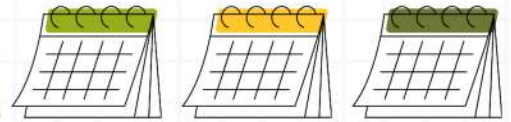
**THE HUNTINGTON  
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,  
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH PAID ADMISSION  
OR HUNTINGTON MEMBERSHIP. ADVANCE ONLINE  
TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRIDAY-SUNDAY.**

[@CITYCYNIC](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

## CACTUS CALENDAR



### MAY

#### Sacramento CSS Show & Sale

May 3-5, 9AM-5PM  
[sacramentocss.com](http://sacramentocss.com)



#### Sunset Succulent Society Show & Sale

May 4-5, 9AM-4PM  
[sunsetsucculentsociety.org](http://sunsetsucculentsociety.org)

#### Long Beach Cactus Club Show & Sale

May 5, 12PM-4PM  
[longbeachcactusclub.org](http://longbeachcactusclub.org)

#### Gates CSS Show & Sale

May 10-11, 9AM-4PM  
[gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com](http://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com)

#### Santa Barbara CSS Show & Sale

May 11, 10AM-3PM  
[sbcactus.org](http://sbcactus.org)

#### LACSS Spring Cactus Sale

May 17-18, 5PM-9PM, 8AM-3PM  
[lacactus.com](http://lacactus.com)



#### Carmichael CSS Show & Sale

May 18-19, 9AM-4PM, 9AM-2:30PM  
[ccandss.com](http://ccandss.com)

#### Epiphyllum Society of America Show & Sale

May 18-19, 9AM-5PM, 10AM-4PM  
[epiphyllums.org](http://epiphyllums.org)

#### Epiphyllum Conference XVII

May 25, 8:30AM-5PM  
[sdepsis.org](http://sdepsis.org)

#### Central Coast CSS Show & Sale

May 25-26, 10AM-5PM(4PM)  
[centralcoastcactus.org](http://centralcoastcactus.org)



### JUNE

#### San Diego CSS Summer Show & Sale

June 1-2, time TBA  
[sdcss.net](http://sdcss.net)

#### Fresno CSS Annual Show & Sale

June 8-9, 10AM-5PM(4PM)  
[fresnocss.com](http://fresnocss.com)

*NOTE: All dates and times are subject to change.*

### Snacks For Our Meetings

We need YOUR help!  
 Please bring in **snacks or drinks** for our meetings based on the letter of your last name below.

Cookies, pastries, fruit, veggies, appetizers, soda, or water are always welcome!

May  
 June  
 July

M-N-O  
 P-Q-R  
 S-T-U



### Newsletter Submissions

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you would like to have announced in the **SGVCSS Communiqué**, forward the information to the address below. Please verify the event date.

Articles, notices, photos, and any corrections may be sent via email to: [SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM)

Material must be received by the 15th of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the newsletter.

# SGVCSS EXECUTIVE BOARD:



# LEADERSHIP TEAM 2024

 <p><b>NICK RENTERIA</b> President</p>	 <p><b>AMANDA GERBERICH</b> Vice President + CSSA Rep.</p>	 <p><b>ANTHONY CANTIELLO</b> Secretary + Newsletter Editor</p>	 <p><b>MARGIE WILSON</b> Treasurer</p>
 <p><b>GUNNAR EISEL</b> Past President + Inter-City Show Chair</p>	 <p><b>ANGELA CLUBB</b> Director 2023-2024</p>	 <p><b>JESSICA JANOSKI</b> Director 2023-2024</p>	 <p><b>LOUISE GUERIN</b> Director 2023-2024</p>
 <p><b>JAMES LEMOS</b> Winter Sales Chair</p>	 <p><b>HANSEL REYES</b> Director 2024-2025</p>	 <p><b>MANNY RIVERA</b> Director 2024-2025 + Winter Show Chair</p>	 <p><b>SHARON SEDILLO</b> Director 2024-2025</p>
 <p><b>TOM GLAVICH</b> Inter-City Sales Chair</p>	<p><b>PROGRAMMING</b> Gunnar Eisel</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Travis Martin</p> <p><b>REFRESHMENTS</b> TBD</p> <p><b>WORKSHOPS</b> Tom Glavich Manny Rivera</p>		<p><b>CLUB LIBRARY</b> Cindy Arakaki</p> <p><b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b> Anthony Cantiello</p> <p><b>WEBSITE</b> Gunnar Eisel</p> <p><b>A/V TECH</b> TBD</p>