

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# Communiqué



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **Club Meeting May 14**  
Ayres Hall of the  
LA Arboretum:  
**Party** 7:00 PM  
Meeting 7:30 PM  
Gates open at 6:00 PM
- \* **C&S Workshop May 20**  
**Topic: Trichocereus,  
Echinopsis**  
Palm Classroom of the  
Arboretum. 7:30 PM  
Gates open at 6:00 PM

### ABOUT SGVCSS

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

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### Plants of the Month:

#### C&S Staged as Miniatures



DYLAN ZOLLER

## President's Message



Happy Mother's Day and happy Memorial Day! With warm weather and longer days, the growing season for our summer growers is well underway, along with the show and sale season. Be sure to check the calendar of events for upcoming cactus and succulent shows and sales in the greater Southern California area.

This month our general meeting features Dylan Zoller speaking on "Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands: Cacti and Succulent Bromeliads of Southeastern Brazil." Don't miss this unique presentation, which Dylan gave at the recent World Bromeliad Conference in Costa Mesa.

And be sure to arrive at the general meeting by 7:00, as we will host a pre-meeting farewell party for long-time members Jim and Roberta Hanna, who will be relocating to Central California.

Experts Manny Rivera and Tom Glavich will be leading our workshop this month on *Trichocereus* and *Echinopsis*. Bring your specimens if you need help with identification or just want to show them off.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting on May 14.

Warm regards,  
Nick Renteria

We're moving to a new Instagram page and would love for you to join us there. This will be our new place to share meeting updates, show announcements, special events, and everything happening in our SGVCSS community. Be one of the first to follow along and stay connected.

[instagram.com/sgvcss\\_org](https://www.instagram.com/sgvcss_org)



## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: DYLAN ZOLLER

### ***Jewels of the Brazilian Highlands: Cacti and Succulent Bromeliads of Southeastern Brazil***



In recent years, Dylan has traveled extensively across Brazil photographing unusual species of cacti and bromeliads in their natural habitats. He has focused on locating poorly understood species for which records are scarce, often requiring long trips to remote regions.

This presentation explores Brazil's diverse landscapes and highlights many of the remarkable species that inhabit them. From the semi-arid Serra do Espinhaço in Bahia and Minas Gerais to the granite inselbergs of the Atlantic Rainforest, attendees will gain insight into why Brazil is one of the world's great centers of cactus and bromeliad diversity.

Dylan Zoller is a California photographer, explorer, and horticulturist at Sherman Library & Gardens. Raised in Southern California, he developed an early fascination with exotic plants after discovering *Exotica: Pictorial Cyclopedic of Exotic Plants* by Alfred Byrd Graf. He has traveled widely to photograph rare cacti, bromeliads, and orchids and is currently pursuing a degree in biology.



# WELCOME TO OUR 2026 NEW MEMBERS!

## New Members:

Santiago and Eric Alvarez

Madeleine Beaumont

Caroline Bourque Brown

Sharon Correa

Ana Friedenberg

Mary Kinsler

Lori Koop

Tenny Lim

William McClelland

Ralph Moreno

Benita Ngan

Kay Noriega

Cyndi Woo

Bill Young

Jonathan Zhu

## Welcome Back!

(returning members)

Oscar Flores

Peggy Oberg

Time to join or renew your SGVCSS Membership!  
Membership is still \$20 per year.  
You may pay at the meetings or use the QR Code below:



Join



Renew

## Snack Schedule

May	Q-T
June	U-Z
July	A-D
August	E-H
September	I-L
October	M-P
November	Q-T

## From Newspaper Ad to Nursery Legacy: The Journey of Jim and Roberta Hanna by Gunnar Eisel

Some stories begin quietly. For Jim and Roberta Hanna, it started with two small ads that changed everything.

The first appeared in the mid-1970s.

“I was dared to put an ad in the Singles Register,” Roberta recalls. “I said I liked the outdoors and camping. Jim answered it.” Their first meeting was cautious. A public place, a short conversation, and phone numbers exchanged. Then nothing. Roberta says, “He was dealing with some personal matters at the time,” so it took a while before he called.

When he returned to California, he did. Weekend dates followed, and a relationship took root.

A few years later, another ad would shape their future in an entirely different way.

“Around 1980, right after we got married, we saw an ad in the Press-Telegram for a plant sale,” Roberta says.

“We were already into houseplants, so we went.”

That sale, held at the Lakewood Library, was the Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Show.

“We literally got hooked,” she says.

Jim adds, “Once we walked in and saw everything, that was it. We were all in.”



Always Busy



Roberta Hanna and Jerry Williams in Namibia 1998

## Hanna Story | Communiqué

### From Hobby to Way of Life

Like many enthusiasts, their interest quickly became something more.

“We joined the Long Beach club first,” Roberta explains. “Then South Coast, Sunset, San Gabriel, and others. Before long, we were involved everywhere.”

Plants became part of daily life. Jim spent 35 years working in a wholesale warehouse in Vernon, while Roberta balanced multiple careers, including running her own dental lab and later managing a medical office. Through it all, their growing collection remained central.

After Jim retired in the 1990s, the hobby deepened. “The plants became a major focus,” Roberta says.

Jim reflects, “We didn’t plan on turning it into a business. It just grew along with everything else.”

By the early 2000s, that focus became Hanna Succulents. Over the years, the Hannas have supplied plants to numerous clubs for meetings and raffles and have been longtime vendors at shows and sales throughout Southern California, becoming a familiar and trusted presence in the community.



**Top and Left:** Roberta and Jim enjoying life  
**Middle:** (L-R) Jerry Williams, Roberta and Jim at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, ZA, 1998.  
**Bottom:** (L-R) Jim Hanna, Karen Zimmerman, Larry Grammer

## Hanna Story | Communiqué

### Watching the Hobby Evolve

Over four decades, the Hannas have seen the cactus and succulent world change dramatically.

“There are a lot more vendors now,” Jim says.

“But it also means you see plants today that we never would have seen back then.”

The presentation of plants has improved as well.

“The staging is much more professional today,” they note, pointing to the influence of leaders like Larry Grammer.

“There’s a much bigger emphasis on rare plants now,” they explain. “And fewer spiny cacti. People got tired of getting wounded.”

### The Gatherings Everyone Remembered

If plants brought people together, the Hannas helped turn those gatherings into something memorable.

“I loved the CSSA sales at The Huntington under the jacaranda trees,” Roberta says. “We had discreet happy hours with margaritas.”

At CSSA conventions, they hosted a suite that became a welcoming hub.

“People came from all over,” she recalls. “Some didn’t have anywhere else to go. We had food, drinks, and a place to sit and relax. They were so grateful.”

These moments, as much as the plants, defined their experience.

### A Community That Endures

Ask what mattered most, and Roberta answers without hesitation.

“The friendships,” she says. “The people.” She recalls decades of shared experiences with names familiar across the community.

“We were lucky to know people like Joe and Jerri Clements, Jean Mullins, Betty Gay, Manny Singer, Guy Wrinkle, and especially Bill Baker. He was such a true, caring gentleman.”

Education was also central to their involvement.

“We loved teaching at shows,” she says. “We’d pass out cactus fruit and even cactus salsa. It brought people in.”

### Turning the Page

After 46 years in the same home, Jim and Roberta are preparing for a new chapter. “We’re moving to Tulare by the end of May,” Roberta says.

The move reflects a shift in priorities.

“Caring for this many plants is harder than a job,” she admits. “We’re only taking a few special ones to see how they do.”

The goal is simple. “We want to travel and not worry about watering all the time,” she says. “Just enjoy a slower pace.”

Even so, their connection to the community continues.

“We hope to get involved with the Fresno or Central Coast clubs once we’re settled.”

They are also planning one final milestone.

“We’ll attend the 2027 CSSA convention as our last one,” Roberta says. “It feels meaningful to go back.”



### Still Rooted

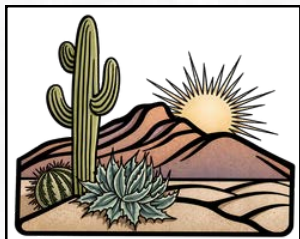
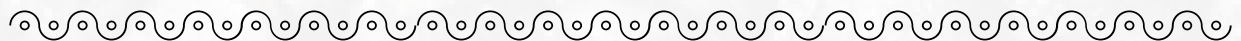
A chance meeting, a shared curiosity, and a lifetime shaped by plants and people.

“We literally got hooked,” Roberta said of that first show. Jim adds, “And we never really stopped.”

# HANNA STORY | COMMUNIQUÉ



7<sup>th</sup> Inter-City Show, 1992  
Back: Charlie Spotts, Larry Grammer, Woody Minnich, Jim Hanna  
Front: Bill Hagbloom, Chris Rogers



More History:  
Communiqué  
May 2006:  
20 years ago!



## PLANTS OF THE MONTH: Cacti and Succulents Staged as Miniatures

This month, the Cacti and Succulent of the Month are both miniatures. Miniatures are defined differently for different shows. In most cases, the definition is a mature plant in a pot with an inside diameter of less than three inches. Some shows define the miniature category as any plant displayed as a miniature. This allows seedlings and young plants to be entered as miniatures. Others require the plant to be the smallest in a genus. We'll use the broad definition for the Plant of the Month: the inside dimension must be less than three inches, but anything else is allowed.

The miniature category is one of the most popular in our shows, with the number of entrants often one of the largest. The key to success is staging plants. Particular attention must be paid to the relation of the plant to the pot, the top dressing, and any rocks. The importance of color, geometry, and texture is magnified at the smaller scale of miniatures.



Succulents entered as miniatures include representatives from almost every family, and a list would be far too long to print. Unusual entries often do well. Many *Haworthia* fit, as do *Lithops*, *Conophytum*, and many of the other smaller mesembs. Small *Crassulaceae* also do well.

With care, species that normally grow large can be kept small by controlling root development. Even though small, miniatures need a little fertilizer to keep top growth looking fresh and frequent watering, since there is little storage either in the pot or the body of the plant.

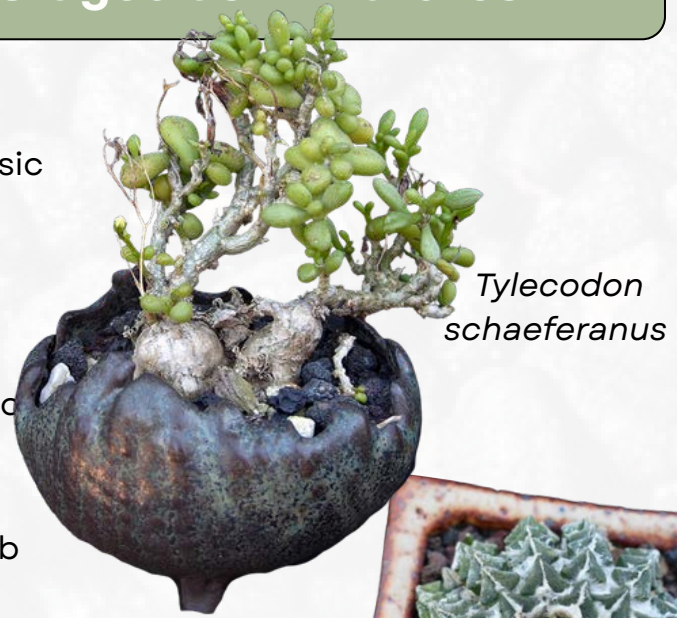


*Crassula alstonii*

# PLANTS OF THE MONTH: Cacti and Succulents Staged as Miniatures

### Some Cacti Suitable as Miniatures:

- *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* - the classic entry
- *Blossfeldia* - a genus of miniature cacti from Brazil
- *Epithelantha micromeris* - a variable species from Texas and northern Mexico
- *Frailea* - a genus of small cacti, some of which clump
- *Mammillaria saboae* (discovered by club member Kitty Sabo!)
- *Mammillaria herrerae*
- *Mammillaria hernandezii* is a particularly beautiful species from Oaxaca
- *Peleciphora aselliformis* - another classic from Mexico
- *Turbinicarpus* - another genus of slow-growing, small cacti from Mexico.
- There are many great species in this genus, all small and worth growing.



*Tylecodon schaeferanus*

*Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus*



*Escobaria minima*



### Some Succulents Suitable as Miniatures:

- Lithops
- Conophytum
- Many other mesembs
- Smaller Haworthia
- Smaller sedums
- Small bonsai succulents
- Dwarf bulbs in all families



*Lithops schwantesii*  
ssp *schwantesii* var. *urikenensis*

- Tom Glavich, April 2026

# PLANT OF THE MONTH: APRIL MINI-SHOW

## Novice

### Cacti

- 1st – Emily Diebold, *Mammillaria* sp.
- 2nd – Tom Blanton, *Gymnocalycium baldianum*
- 3rd – Emily Diebold, *Neobuxbaumia polylopha*
- 3rd – Tom Blanton, *Pilosocereus pachycladus*

### Succulents

- 1st – Tom Blanton, *Cheiridopsis cigarettifera*
- 2nd – Tom Blanton, *Argyroderma crateriforme*



## Intermediate

### Cacti

- 1st – Angela Clubb, *Ferocactus gracilis*
- 2nd – Mary Jo Mateer, *Echinopsis subdenudata*
- 3rd – Mary Jo Mateer, *Neoporteria floccosa*

### Succulents

- 1st – Nick Renteria, *Adenium obesum*
- 2nd – Nick Renteria, *Adenium arabicum* ‘God Tung Man’
- 3rd – Mary Jo Mateer, *Ledebouria pauciflora*



## Open

### Cacti

- 1st – Tom Glavich, *Ferocactus fordii*

### Succulents

- 1st – Tom Glavich, *Uncarina* hybrid



## 2026 C&S AND EPI EVENT CALENDAR

**MAY 3:**

**Long Beach Cactus Club**

Show and Sale

12pm-4pm

Women's Club of Bellflower

9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA 90706

Info: <https://longbeachcactusclub.org>

714-553-6914



**MAY 8-9:**

**Gates C&S Show and Sale**

Friday (Sale Only) 9am-4pm

Saturday (Show and Sale) 9am-4pm

Redlands Church of the Nazarene

307 E. Citrus Ave., Redlands, CA 92374

Info: [www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com](http://www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com)

[www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com](http://www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com)

909-910-9195



**MAY 16-17:**

**Los Angeles C&S Society**

Spring Cactus Sale

Sat. 9am-5pm Sale

Sun. 9am-5pm Sale and Kids Day

Info: [www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)

Tarzana Community and Culture Center,  
19130 Ventura Blvd.,  
Tarzana, CA



**May 16-17:**

**Carmichael C&S Society**

Show and Sale

Saturday, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Sunday, 9:00 AM-2:30 PM

Carmichael Park Clubhouse

5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael, CA

Info: [lldewe@gmail.com](mailto:lldewe@gmail.com)



**May 17:**

**Epiphyllum Society of America Show and Sale -**

Reservations Required

Sat. 10am-4pm, Info.

[www.epiphyllums.org](http://www.epiphyllums.org) or 909-438-8242

Ayres Hall, LA County Arboretum, 301 N.

Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA



**June 6-7:**

**San Diego C&S Society Summer Show and Sale**

Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm,

Info. 619-990-2051

Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA



**June 12-14:**

**CSSA Annual Show and Sale**

- Reservations Required

Fri.-Sun. 10am-5pm daily.

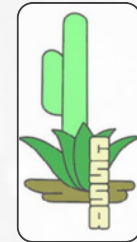
Reservations:

[www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org);

Info: Nick Renteria 1-323-428-2215

Huntington Botanical Gardens

1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA



**June 13-14:**

**Fresno C&S Society Annual Show and Sale**

Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm, Info.

[rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_scott85@yahoo.com)

Fresno Fairgrounds, Commerce

Bldg., 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno, CA



Download  
[Year at a Glance](#)

Long Beach Cactus Club

# Cactus & Succulent Sale

Cacti - Succulents - Other Plants  
Ceramics - Coffee  
Club Merch

May 3rd, 2026  
11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

9402 Oak St.  
Bellflower, CA

Free Event  
Open to  
the Public



Gates Cactus & Succulent Society's

# 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Show & Sale

May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2026

FREE ADMISSION & PARKING

PLANT SALE: Friday 9-4  
Saturday 9-4

SHOW: Saturday 9-4

Thousands of rare and unusual cacti and succulents for sale! Unique handmade pottery! Free exhibit show! Photo ops & more!

Located at the Redlands Church of the Nazarene  
1307 East Citrus Ave  
Redlands CA 92374

Chat with professional growers and learn about drought tolerant plants.

Information:  
909/910-9195  
909/935-6218

www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com





SCAN FOR SOCIALS!

# LACSS

## SPRING CACTUS SALE

May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

9 AM - 3 PM

SATURDAY AUCTION 1PM  
TALKS 10<sup>am</sup> - 11:30<sup>am</sup>

SUNDAY KID'S DAY  
10<sup>am</sup> - 2<sup>pm</sup>

MUSIC & FOOD TRUCKS

LACACTUS.COM @LACACTUS

TARZANA COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTER  
19130 VENTURA BLVD.  
TARZANA, CA 91356



# 59TH ANNUAL CSSA SHOW & SALE



## The Huntington

June 12-14, 2026 | 10am-5pm daily

Huntington.org reservation required. CSSASHOW.COM

## PLANT OF THE MONTH AND WORKSHOPS

Month	2026 Plants of the Month	2026 Workshops
Jan	Mammillaria Clusters Echeveria	Crassula
Feb	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia Crassula	Coryphantha, Escobaria
Mar	Coryphantha, Escobaria Medusoid Euphorbia	Spring Seed Workshop
Apr	Seed Grown	Medusoid Euphorbia
May	Cactus Staged as Miniature Succulent Staged as Miniature	Trichocereus, Echinopsis
Jun	Trichocereus, Echinopsis Lithops	Adenium
Jul	Echinocactus Adenium	Grafting
Aug	Favorite Cactus Favorite Succulent	Ariocarpus
Sep	Ariocarpus Bursera	Madagascan Pachypodium
Oct	Melocactus, Discocactus Madagascan Pachypodium	Winter Seed Workshop
Nov	Crest and Monstrose	Tips and Tricks



Manny Rivera discussing the plants of the month

## LEADERSHIP TEAM 2026



Nick Renteria, President  
Amanda Gerberich, Vice President  
Charlene Sandoval, Secretary  
Margie Wilson, Treasurer  
Gunnar Eisel, Past President

Margie Wilson, Director  
Manny Rivera, Director  
Sharon Sedillo, Director  
Angela Clubb, Director  
Mike Pearson, Director  
Liz Wagner, Director

Gunnar Eisel, Program Chair  
Cindy Arakaki, Club Librarian  
Social Media Chair, Open  
Newsletter Editor, Gunnar Eisel  
Membership Chair, Keiko Doi

Manny Rivera, Winter Show Chair  
James Lemos, Winter Sales Chair  
Gunnar Eisel, Inter-City Show Chair  
Tom Glavich, Inter-City Sales Chair  
Amanda Gerberich, CSSA Representative

Got News or Comments?

Contact us at: [editor@sgvcss.com](mailto:editor@sgvcss.com)

