

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!

A warm "HELLO" to LACSS members! We have seen an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings after bringing back refreshments. Since most of our members (excluding retirees) come straight from work, it is nice to have a snack while enjoying the LACSS meeting.

It is a collective effort and responsibility each month to supply our members with sustanence, THIS BRINGS US TO THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER AND THE ALPHABET ASSIGNMENT IS

FOR THE MONTH IS LAST NAMES BEGINNING WITH LETTERS "N, W & Z"

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.

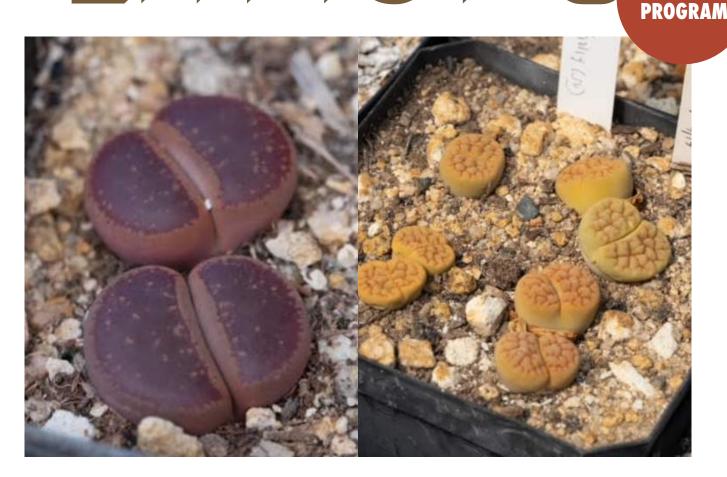
Oct - Members whose last name begins with "N, W, Z"

Nov - Members whose last name begins with "B, V"

Jan - Members whose last name begins with "O, R"t

WHAT'S OLD AND UNCHANGING IN

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

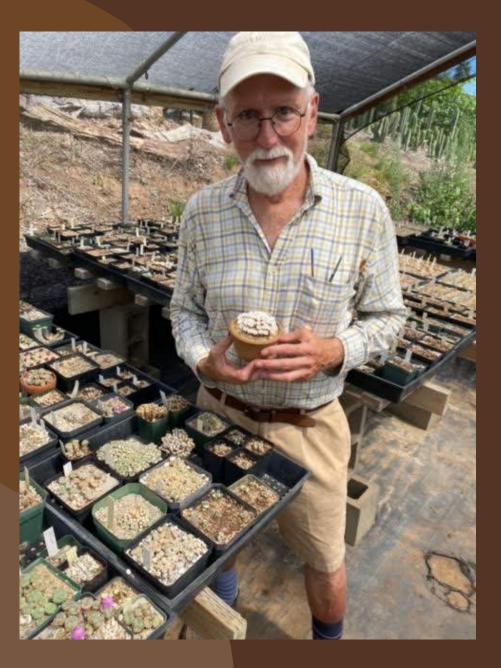


"What's Old and Unchanging in Lithops" is our captivating program for this month, featuring the renowned botanist and succulent expert, Steven Hammer. Join us as we explore the presumed ancestors of the genus, and the core beauty which gives them an undimmed fascination despite their perennial renamings, and many silly, sad, or funny olla podridas of every sort. Delve into the fascinating world of the enigmatic living stones. Steven will unravel the secrets of these remarkable plants, exploring their enduring qualities and timeless beauty that have captivated plant enthusiasts for generations. Get ready to embark on a journey through the ages of this genus and discover the enduring allure of these extraordinary succulents.



MONTH'S SPEAKER

NEW EDEN



In June 1962 I met Harry Johnson and Lithops Iesliei. Harry was 68 years old, the Ieslieis were 2, and I was 11 and too scared to speak. Nonetheless it was a most fruitful introduction and it led to a friendship with Harry - I must have been one of his youngest and shyest customers - and a lifetime's engagement with plants. After a misspent education at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and UCSC, I turned semi-pro in 1977, selling and sowing Cole lithops seeds, and in 1986 I joined Mesa Garden in New Mexico as staff pollinator. In 1997 I moved to Vista to work at my own one-horse nursery, the Sphaeroid Institute. Early in 2022 it added a second horse. Meanwhile I visited South Africa 29 times and found some interesting things. Or they found me.

Hi to all,

Spring sprang - Summer sizzled - and now we will see what Fall has for us.... As noted in the September Chronicle, the Nominating Committee was appointed at the last Board meeting. They have confirmed the selections for nominations and those nominees will be announced at the October 5 meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted, also.

We will then vote at the November meeting. Your presence is important at each meeting. I thank you in advance for your participation and continued support of the club and its officers.

Once again, we will feature a couple of plants and pots for a silent auction feature. Check at the east end of the Raffle table to see what you MUST have.

Mark your calendars - Sunday, December 3, 2023 Our Holiday Sale. One day only. Saturday, December, 16, 2023 Our Annual Awards Dinner Both will be held at the ONEGeneration in Reseda. More details to follow.

The Board of Directors will meet one more time this year - Thursday, October 26. If you have any issues that you think the board should consider, please email them to me so I can put it on the agenda.

And, last but not least, at the end of the Workshop on October 21, there will be a few more of Bonnie Ikemura's pots offered as door prizes. More details are available elsewhere in this Chronicle.

See you soon. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Joyce

BOARD BOIRECTORS

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.

CO PRESIDENTS

Artie Chavez + Joyce Schumann

PAST PRESIDENT

Kim Thorpe Chavez

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Ron Behar

2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH

Manny Rivera

3RD VP, EDUCATION

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TREASURER

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DIRECTOR 1 MEMBERSHIP

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CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong newsletter@lacactus.com

MEETING REFRESHMENTS

Angela Clubb + Nikki Bova

CSSA LIAISON

Roxie Esterle

SALE + FESTIVAL CHAIR

Kimberly Gomez-Tong

INTER-CITY REPRESENTATIVES

Manny Rivera with Artie Chavez + Kimberly Gomez-Tong

MONTHLY DRAWING

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PLANT PROCUREMENT

Collin O'Callaghan

HISTORIAN

Sandy Chase

AWARDS DINNER CHAIR

Vacant

LIBRARIAN

Joyce Schumann

POM PLANT DESCRIPTIONS

Kyle Williams

SOCIAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Kim Thorpe Chavez Kate Eplboim Kimberly Gomez-Tong



2023

JANUARY

Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya Aeonium

FEBRUARY

Coryphantha, Neolloydia, Neobesseya Sarcocaulon

MARCH

Echinocactus Anacampseros, Avonia, Grahamia

APRIL

Aztekium, Epithelantha Aloinopsis, Antimima, Aptenia, and Argyroderma

MAY

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

JUNE

Favorites

JULY

Melocactus Euphorbia Medusoid

AUGUST

Mammillaria (Dichotomous & 2 Heads) Gasteria, Astroloba

SEPTEMBER

Cacti from Coahuila Nolina, Calibanus, Beaucarnea

OCTOBER

Espostoa Fouquieria

NOVEMBER

Crest and Monstrose

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party



2024

JANUARY

Blossfeldia, Yavia Dudleya, Cotyledon

FEBRUARY

Mammillaria Hook Spine Cheiridopsis, Dinteranthus

MARCH

Copiapoa Tulista, Astroloba, Trachyandra

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

Variegated

DECEMBER

Holiday Awards Party

PLANT OF THE MONTH

ESPOSTOA

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Espostoa is a columnar cactus genus with approximately 11 species native to the Andes of southern Ecuador and Peru. They grow at mid to high elevations between 450-2800 meters, or 1500-9200 feet. While it certainly gets chilly at the upper end of the range, do keep in mind that they grow near the equator and therefore don't experience the same bone chilling cold those elevations would garner in North America. However, they should be able to handle the level of chill we get in the Los Angeles area without issue.

While some species stay on the smaller side, several can get quite tall over time. In cultivation don't expect large plants quickly. They are known to be slow growing by columnar cactus standards. The most recognizable feature among the best known species are the long white hairs covering the stem. These hairs have earned these plants the common name "Peruvian Old Man Cactus". In fact, I like the look of species like E. melanostele better than the true Old Man cactus, Cephalocereus senilis, as the hairs are softer and wrap around the plant like a cocoon in contrast to Cephalocereus where they are wirier and more untamed. Do not mistake that for the plant itself being soft and cuddly! Hidden beneath the soft hairs are dozens of sharp spines. The likely function of the hairs is twofold. First, they act as shade or sunscreen to reduce the intensity of the high elevation equatorial sun they endure in their native habitat. This habitat also has very low humidity and regular winds that can dry out normal plants. By virtue of being a cactus it already has several adaptations to reduce moisture loss, such as a compact shape and waxy cuticle. These hairs provide an additional layer of protection in that they form a wind baffle, preventing harsh winds from drying out the plant. The long white hairs seen in species like E. melanostele and E. lanata are what the genus is best known for, but don't mistake that for being a universal characteristic of Espostoa. Species like E. blossfeldiorum and E. mirabilis have green stems with spines but lack those long hairs.

If you grow an Espostoa you will probably have to wait a while to see the flowers, but they are interesting enough to be worth the wait. They develop vertical cephalia along part of a mature stem. A cephalium is a specialized structure in a small number of cacti genera where some or all of the stem becomes a dense flower producing structure instead of a standard green stem. The most famous example is Melocactus. While similar in having a permanent inflorescence that continues to grow throughout the life of the plant (once it originally forms), how this manifests is quite different. In Espostoa the cephalium forms along one side of a stem which allows



Espostoa melanostele



Espostoa lanata flowers



Espostoa blossfieldiorumt

the rest of the stem to remain normal. This is important for a columnar cactus as it allows the stem to keep growing vertically and producing photosynthetic tissue in addition to the inflorescence tissue. In Melocactus the cephalium takes over completely stopping all futher production of green tissue. While both strategies work for their respective genera, the "make an inflorescence and normal green tissue together" seems like a better adaptation in the long run for a columnar cactus species as a full cephalium would.

In the wild these plants form multiple stems and range from a few feet tall to small tree like plants, but in cultivation they rarely get taller than a person. They make great larger potted plants or small to mid-size landscape plants. As with most cacti they will get larger in the ground. Growing them in the ground also gives you a good cactus for a full sun location that might burn the skin of more sensitive cacti.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

FOUQUERIA

BY KYLE WILLIAMS



Fouquieria is one of the most distinctive and famous genera of (non-cacti) succulents from Mexico, with one species widespread in the southwestern US and one species reaching into Guatamala. It consists of 11 species and is the only genus it its family, the Fouquieriaceae. All species are woody and covered in spines, with most being pachycaulous shrubs, though some species appear as typical xeric shrubs and at least one species is a tree. Flowers are tubular and orange, red, or white in color. Unlike cacti the spines of Fouquieria do not form immediately on new growth. Instead they form the petiole, or stalk, of the leaf. Once the green part of the leaf falls off the petiole hardens into a sharp spine. These leaves form readily after rains and drop off just as readily when the soil dries out. This allows the plant to maximize photosynthesis during good conditions, but conserve water once drought threatens.

The only American species is the Ocotillo, Fouquieria splendens, a large shrub with long, straight, very upright

branches. This is a very widespread species native from California to Texas and through much of northern Mexico. While not really a pachycaul, its distinctive open, upright shape and cold tolerance (down to the single digits!) makes it popular to grow in arid regions. The orange-red flowers are magnets for hummingbirds. Easily the most unusual species in the genus, if not all woody succulents, is F. columnaris, the Boojum Tree. This is one of the most characteristic plants of central Baja California (it also grows in a small area of Sonora), and anyone traveling through the region it grows can't miss these bizarre "Dr. Seuss" plants. They grow to 50 feet or more in height and have few large branches, but the ones it does have often bend and twist into bizarre shapes that look like they come from an alien world! The plant is so distinctive that it was once placed in its own genus, Idria, though that designation is considered incorrect by botanists as it clearly belongs with other Fouquieria. Plants are very fond of water during the growing season and can be fast growing, though some people have problems with them in an especially wet winter when it doesn't want much moisture. Other species such as Fouquieria purpursii and F. macdougalii can be grown as pachycauls in a pot, forming beautiful specimens in time.

The Fouquieriaceae is unusual for a succulent/pachycaul family in being quite distantly related to any other succulent families. Its closest relatives (Polemoniaceae) are small herbs that frequently grow in xeric regions, but aren't succulent, while most of the other families it is related to are commonly found in the tropics. It does share many similarities with the totally unrelated Didiereaceae, a small Madagascan family also popular with succulent enthusiasts (e.g. Allauaudia and Didierea). These families are completely unrelated, yet both have evolved into similar looking spiny shrubs with ephemeral leaves that grow in very similar desert and dry scrubland habitats. This is a case of convergent evolution, which is the evolution of organisms that look very similar not because of relationship, but because they were subjected to similar climates and other conditions. The same phenomenon can be seen between cacti and succulent Euphorbia.



Fouquieria columnaris



Fouquieria splendens



ATURDAY PROGRAM

HOT NAIL THAT CACTUS IN IT'S MERISTEM!"

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21st 2023 SEPULVEDA GARDEN CENTER 10AM

I probably heard the stories. Cut a white rhino
If to propagate it! Hot nail that cactus in it's
Go ahead! Try it!

n't heard Rob Roy McGregor, here's your chance nan in person! Rob is an amazing, self taught, ucculent grower, and will be giving an educational sentation. Join him at the Sepulveda Garden Center v October 21 at 10 am.

liscussing grafting with us, and as always will take any of your questions. Do not re opportunity!



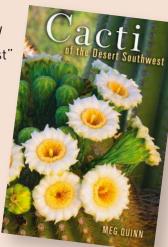


IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING,
PLEASE EMAIL LEEARC@AOL.COM

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

As promised in the September Cactus Chronicle, the Library will showcase four OLD-NEW books plus one that I picked up while on vacation. It is titled "Cacti of the Desert Southwest" by Meg Quinn. It is a perfect beginner's book with short descriptions of 80 cacti. Each description includes the Latin name, common name, habitat elevation & range, and of course a brief description. A fun book for everyone!

Re the remaining four: "Desert Landscaping" by George Brookbank is a must read for those who are thinking of redoing their yard. Even though it was published in 1992, the basics covered in this issue are still relevant. Don't tear up your yard until you read this!



Cactus and Succulent Journal

Special Issue:

Another good beginner's book is "Growing Cacti & Succulents" by Douglas Bartrum. Because this was published in 1973, most of the images are black & white photos or illustrations. Some of us are older than this book, but some of us are younger..... but all of us will appreciate the few color photos that are included.



The next book was published in 1992 and is titled "Zygocactus (Schlumbergera)" by Mark E. Cobia. We usually think of Zygocactus and poinsettia at the same time of the year (Christmas) due to their popularity during the winter season. Schlumbergera is now the accepted name. This slim volume contains a lot of concise information on the culture and caring of these usually overlooked plants. And as a bonus – many color photos of the many hybrids that have been developed and marketed over the years. As soon as you see this, you will become a fan of this Genus.

"Sedum – Cultivated Stonecrops" by Ray Stephenson is the last, but not the least, addition to our collection. Published in 1994, this publication precedes a later title {The Plant Lover's Guide to Sedums-Horvath} [also in our collection] and is a comprehensive presentation of a very complex topic.

Over 400 species, 110 color photos, 100 B&W photos and 50 illustrations are included to assist you in identification, cultivation, landscaping and anything else you might need to know about Sedums. And for those who are not interested in old books, we have the latest edition of the CSSA Journal - Special Edition." This is the first Special Edition of the Journal in a long time. Following tradition, this one focuses on a special topic - "Conservation." A very timely conversation that is important to the plants as well as the planet. If you don't have the time to read the entire journal, just read the editorial.

See you soon. Step right up and CHECK IT $\mathsf{OUT}!!!$

DES MOINES, IOWA BOTANICAL GARDEN CACTUS GARDEN

"lowa can grow more than corn!"



Cactus and Succulent Society of America Convention Report - Part IIh Succulents with Altitude

written by Eli Cohen

This summer saw the 39th biennial convention of the Cactus Club and Succulent Society of America, a lively meeting of succulent lovers learning about and discussing their favorite plants, purchasing pottery and plants from renowned growers and artisans, and taking field trips into the areas in and around Colorado Springs to appreciate the ways our desert-inclined plants can thrive even in the mountain peaks of Colorado. In the last installment, the field trip and area were covered extensively, today's follow up will focus on the wonderful lecturers brought in from across the globe to inform and inspire the crowd that gathered this year.



Top row starting left; Karen Ostler, Ernst Van Jaarsveld, Kelly Grummons, Stefan Burger, Don Barnett, Donnie Barnett, CSSA President Rod Haenni

Middle; Elisabeth Sarnes, Marcia Tatroe Bottom; Ernesto Sandoval, Rob Wallace, Peter Breslin, Panayoti Kelaidis Not Pictured; Woody Minnich

ARID PLANTS A-Z CONTRIBUTORS: ELI COHEN

Rather than attempt to recount each lecture in painstaking detail, a more funh method of describing the events might be giving a brief rundown on each speaker, and where their presentations thematically resonated. There are a select few presentations that LACSS members have seen or will soon see, and those may be covered in a lightly reduced format as well. Each lecture was informative, entertaining, and many were rare opportunities for audiences to hear particular speakers, and I hope to communicate even a fraction of what was gained there. Marcia Tatroe did a wonderful job presenting activities and facts of interest on Colorado Springs, but that is not \as relevant for readers in Southern California as some of the presentations.

For those who don't typically seek cacti abroad, having discovered the comforts of one's garden, there was much to learn about cultivation, but also the art in growing and displaying plants as well. Ernesto Sandoval gave an in-depth presentation on many of the more unique propagation methods employed by himself throughout his academic and horticultural career. Dr Robert Wallace gave a remarkably in-depth and engaging presentation on plant taxonomy, and the relevant plant science for growers at home. Kelly Grummons, a longtime cultivator and local to the area, explained the many benefits of grafting plants, and the advantages that cacti and succulents can offer and benefit from in that practice. Karen Ostler, a wonderful representative of our very own LACSS, taught the audience the beauty and bylaws of plant staging, a wonderful display of experience and talent to be shared with many. Woody Minnich is a beloved member of the CSSA for many reasons, all of which could be appreciated as he revealed the treasures of the Atacama in Chile, and the bountiful cacti and succulents of New Mexico.

Stefan Burger is well-known within the community as a dynamic photographer, a great advocate for conservation, and an erudite guide to the majesty of South America's dry climates. His lectures on Copiapoa and cactus were transformative, taking the audience into the unbelievable sights and remarkable lives that are throughout Argentina and its surrounding areas. Elisabeth Sarnes, a German traveler with a passion for Patagonian cacti brought the crowd to an area not too terribly far on the globe, and not dissimilar in its visual appeal. Patagonia may not seem like the traditional habitat for cactus, but as many many know, the dry winds and harsh geography make for a lovely extremophile habitat.

The Barnetts (Don and Donnie, father and son) are longtime residents of Colorado, and have become experts in the plant species that reside there. Their slides became the 'welcome to colorado' that a xerophile like myself was waiting for. Peter Breslin had wonderful talks on the plants of Arizona and Baja. While cacti were certainly always a favored subject, the diversity in each habitat is nonetheless remarkable, and Dr. Breslin's explanations are so vivid, lively, and educational, one can't help but fall in love with the world he sees too. Panayoti Kelaidis provided a wonderful view into some of the more unusual succulents that Southern California growers may not be as readily familiar with. By focusing on alpine inclined succulents, it felt as if a new world of plants emerged before our very eyes. In other alien worlds, Ernst Van Jaarsveld has traveled and extensively documented the many aloes of Africa, and as such, has knowledge of some of the most radical and beautiful plant forms that even longtime enthusiasts would be gobsmacked by.

2023 was a wonderful convention, with a brilliant diversity of speakers, topics, and activities! All in all, the succulents with altitude left me with gratitude. 17



Saturday Educational Program Report

CACTUS PROPAGATION

With Ernesto Sandoval, by Cande Friedman

On Saturday September 9th, Ernesto Sandoval hosted a hands-on workshop on cactus propagation that exceeded all our expectations! Ernesto, renowned for his passion and knowledge of cacti, did not disappoint!

With practical demonstrations, Ernesto made complex concepts accessible, ensuring that even beginners could follow along. We each mixed our own soil, and were given pots to sow our seeds in. Ernesto gave step by step detail on how to plant, when to use hydrogen peroxide, how to maintain humidity, and when to move the germinated seeds, and eventual plants, from our

plastic bags.

What truly set this workshop apart was the opportunity for hands-on learning. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own cacti seed. Everyone had a chance to apply what they had learned. Ernesto's patience and encouragement made the workshop an invaluable experience for everyone present! As the workshop drew to a close, everyone left with a newfound appreciation for seed propagation and the confidence to try their hand at it at home.

The program ended with a raffle of beautiful pots donated by Bonnie Ikemura. Thank you Bonnie!!!!! Stay tuned for updates and be sure not to miss the next exciting cactus and succulent workshop!





2024 MEMBER?

YOUR 2024 MEMBERSHIP TO THE LACSS IS YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO YOURSELF AND FAMILY.

RENEW NOW BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2023
TO ENSURE YOU CONTINUE TO RECEIVE
YOUR MONTHLY CHRONICLE

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP – \$20 ANNUALLY FAMILY MEMBERSHIP – \$25 ANNUALLY

THERE ARE 3 WAYS TO RENEW:

ONLINE VIA PAYPAL

CLICK HERE TO PAY VIA PAYPAL

CHECK VIA MAIL

CLICK HERE TO PRINT AN APPLICATION

OR IN-PERSON AT THE NEXT MEETING!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN 2024

AT OUR MEETINGS OR ON ZOOM

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

JIM GARDNER

"FASCINATING SUCCULENT FLORA OF THE CANARY ISLANDS"

Jim Gardner will share his experience growing winter-growing succulent plants from the "Mediterranean" climate zones that are so well-adapted to our climatic area and the travels he's taken to the Canary Islands. You'll also get to see the beautiful ceramic planters that Jim makes for his succulents and sells to others.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023 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





Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale Sunday, October 8, 2023

9:00 am - 4:00 pm 558 North Ventu Park Road Thousand Oaks, CA, 91320 Southeast corner of Ventu & Hillcrest

Vendors will be offering Cactus, Succulents, Bromeliads & Plumerias



Along with Pottery and Jewelry

Experts will be available to answer questions concerning planting and care



2023 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

OCT 8 CONEJO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE 9AM-4PM 558 N. VENTU PARK ROAD, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320

INFO. WWW.CONEJOCSS.COM OR CONEJOCSS@HOTMAIL.COM

NOV 3 - 5 HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED SAT-SUN

10AM-5PM INFO. RESERVATIONS- WWW.HUNTINGTON.ORG

HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1151 OXFORD RD., SAN MARINO, CA

DEC 3 LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY POP UP SALE

DETAILS TBD