

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# COMMUNIQUE



ACANTHOCEREUS TETRAGONUS  
PHOTO: ANTHONY CANTARELO

**ELI  
COHEN**

WEIRD & WONDERFUL  
CALIFORNIA GEMS



**PARODIA,  
AGAVE**

PLANTS OF THE MONTH



MEETING 4/10 | WORKSHOP 4/16



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & MORE:

### A MESSAGE FROM NICK RENTERIA, SGVCSS PRESIDENT:



Happy April Fools!

Speaking of pranks, our summer growers were fooled into thinking that summer had arrived early thanks to a week of above average temperatures in late March. Not to worry, it was about time for them to come out of dormancy anyway.

For those of you who are itching for something to do on the weekends now that the weather has warmed up and the days are longer, several local clubs and organizations are having sales this month. And don't forget about the CSSA Convention taking place at the end of this month in San Diego. More details about upcoming events can be found in this newsletter.

Closer to home, we've got plenty going on in our club with the general meeting and workshop. This month's general meeting will feature Eli Cohen speaking on "Hidden Gems: A Brief Look into the Weird and Wonderful Botany of California." And this month will also feature our ever-popular Spring Seed Workshop. Be sure to arrive early as seats fill up early for this event!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the general meeting on April 10th.

Warm Regards,  
Nick Renteria

### 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.

### SNACKS FOR OUR MEETINGS

APR

J-K-L



MAY

M-N-O



JUN

P-R-S



### WE NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE BRING IN SNACKS OR DRINKS  
FOR OUR MEETINGS BASED ON THE  
LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME ABOVE.

COOKIES, PASTRIES, FRUIT, VEGGIES,  
APPETIZERS, SODA, OR WATER ARE  
ALWAYS WELCOME!



# SGVCSS CLUB MEM- BERSHIP

LEARN ABOUT  
CACTUS...  
THE RIGHT WAY

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



### 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)

### SEND AN EMAIL



[SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SGVCSSCLUB@GMAIL.COM)



## MEETINGS &amp; WORKSHOPS:

2025

## PLANTS OF THE MONTH

JAN

THELOCACTUS  
ALOE HYBRID

FEB

ECHINOPSIS  
TYLECODON / COTYLEDON

MAR

BUININGA / UEBELMANNIA  
HAWORTHIA

APR

NOTOCACTUS / PARODIA  
AGAVE

MAY

STAGED AS MINIATURE

JUN

COLUMNAR CACTUS  
STEM EUPHORBIA

JULY

STENOCACTUS  
CADEX

AUG

FAVORITES

SEP

ERIOSYCE  
ASCLEPIADS

OCT

OPUNTIA  
SANSEVIERIA

NOV

VARIEGATED



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

APR 10 - MONTHLY

APR 16 - SPRING SEED  
WORKSHOP

MAY 8 - MONTHLY

MAY 21 - COLUMNAR CACTUS  
WORKSHOP

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 7:30 PM



**MEETINGS**  
2ND THURSDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
**DOORS 6:00PM**  
**STARTS 7:30PM**  
AYRES HALL, LA ARBORETUM  
ENTER SIDE GATE

**WORKSHOPS**  
3RD WEDNESDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
**STARTS 7:30PM**  
PALM CLASSROOM,  
LA ARBORETUM  
ENTER MAIN GATE

LOS ANGELES ARBORETUM  
301 NORTH BALDWIN AVE,  
ARCADIA, CA 91007



2025

## WORKSHOPS

JAN

TYLECODON / COTYLEDON

FEB

HAWORTHIA

MAR

NOTOCACTUS / PARODIA

APR

SPRING SEED

MAY

COLUMNAR CACTUS

JUN

CADEX

JUL

PRUNING

AUG

ASCLEPIADS

SEP

OPUNTIA

OCT

OVERWINTERING

NOV

WINTER SEED



## GUEST SPEAKER:

## ELI COHEN

## HIDDEN GEMS OF CALIFORNIA'S DESERTS

## HIDDEN GEMS: A BRIEF LOOK INTO THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL BOTANY OF CALIFORNIA

About a year ago, Eli had the opportunity to embark on a botanical journey into the heart of one of California's more famous yet largely unexplored deserts. From unpredictable weather to striking geometric geology, every aspect of the landscape and ecosystem was a marvel to witness.

While this discussion will extend beyond the scope of that particular trip, it serves as an excellent introduction to some of the many hidden gems California has to offer in terms of desert-dwelling plants. Some plant families and forms may be familiar—such as ferns and crassulas—each displaying remarkable adaptations to survive extreme conditions.

Eli also aims to highlight lesser-known species, offering insight into the hidden gems of California's botanical world that reveal clues about the state's geological history. Through this exploration, he hopes to inspire others to discover new perspectives on the natural world, even within their own backyards.



**Eli Cohen** is a dedicated Pasadena City College student and an avid propagator of arid plants, with a deep fascination for their unique forms, adaptations, and ecological roles. His passion for xerophytic flora began over a decade ago and has since evolved into a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and conservation.

As an active board member of the *Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS)*, Eli shares his enthusiasm for nature by hosting a segment called "Arid Plants A-Z" each month, where he investigates plants with problems, helps ID tagless plants, and discusses specific plant care. As 1st Vice President in charge of Programming for the club he brings in plant experts from near and far to present their knowledge to members.

He is particularly passionate about highlighting the often-overlooked beauty of the natural world, starting with the striking landscapes of California's superb deserts. Through his work, Eli hopes to inspire others to appreciate and protect these extraordinary environments.





## CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

## PARODIA



**Parodia** and **Notocactus** were once considered separate genera, mainly distinguished by their flower structures — *Notocactus* with red stigmas and *Parodia* with yellow. Over time, as more species were discovered that blurred the lines between the two, the distinction became less significant. By the 1980s, taxonomists, including David Hunt and Nigel Taylor, reclassified all *Notocactus* species under *Parodia*. Today, *Notocactus* is no longer a recognized genus, though some collectors still use the name informally.

*Parodia* has continued to absorb other genera and will likely expand further as genetic and botanical research progresses. These cacti are native to South America, primarily found on the eastern slopes of the Andes in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. They come in various shapes and sizes, from small, globular plants to columnar species that can reach up to a meter in height. Their flowers usually appear near the crown, and their spination varies widely depending on the species and its natural habitat.

Growing *Parodia* is relatively easy, making them popular among cactus enthusiasts. They grow actively from spring through fall, requiring regular but well-controlled watering to prevent rot. A well-draining soil mix is essential, as these plants don't tolerate sitting in wet soil. In winter, most *Parodia* species go dormant and need little to no water, though some from tropical regions benefit from occasional watering. A few species will even bloom in the colder months. In climates like Southern California, most *Parodia* can grow outdoors year-round, but species from wetter regions may need protection from extreme cold to avoid scarring.

(continued on page 6...)



**Parodia warasii**



**Parodia leninghausii**



## CACTUS OF THE MONTH:

# PARODIA



(continued from page 5...)

Propagation is straightforward, especially from seed, which is readily available for most species. Growing plants from different localities can reveal interesting variations in spination and form as they mature. Seedlings develop quickly and can reach show quality within a few years. Clustering species can also be propagated by cuttings, which root easily when taken in late spring or early summer.

Like all cacti, *Parodia* can have issues with pests, particularly mealybugs and spider mites. Keeping the plants clean, ensuring good air circulation, and keeping ants away (which spread mealybugs) helps prevent infestations. Spider mites tend to appear when plants are dry for extended periods, especially in winter. Periodic hosing, insecticidal soaps, miticides, or light horticultural oils can help manage them. Fungal infections, including "creeping crud," can be minimized by keeping the plants actively growing, fertilizing regularly, and maintaining a clean, well-ventilated growing area.

With their variety of forms, ease of care, and reliable flowering, *Parodia* remain a favorite among cactus growers. The continued taxonomic shifts reflect the complexity of this group, but one thing remains constant—these South American cacti are as rewarding to grow as ever.

--Tom Glavich, updated by Anthony Cantiello

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Parodia** cacti can bloom multiple times a year, even in winter, with vibrant flowers.

### Perfect Parodia:

- ***Parodia chrysacanthion*** from Argentina is a solitary globose species with great spines.
- ***Parodia leninghausii*** from Brazil is easy to come by and with patience and care becomes a very impressive species. It is nearly columnar, offsetting from the base, with short yellow spines. The growing tip always leans towards the sun (much more so in California than in its native Brazil)!7
- ***Parodia maassii*** has dense spination, often colored. It is native to Southern Bolivia and Northern Argentina.
- ***Parodia penicillata*** from Northern Argentina has very dense radial spines that stick out from the body. A very unusual species that is easy to grow. This is another species whose growing point always points towards the sun, giving the plant a leaning appearance. This can be avoided by frequently turning the plant, or it can be emphasized as part of the unique character of the species.
- ***Parodia schummaniana*** grows to more than a foot in diameter. This is an extremely variable species, always having deep ribs, but very different spination.
- ***Parodia turecekiana***, named after the late Victor Turecek, a long time club member, comes from western Uruguay, and Northern Argentina. A great species that is readily available.

--Tom Glavich



## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

## AGAVE

The **Agave** family, like the *Cactaceae* family, is entirely new world in origin, although many members have been naturalized around the world.

*Agaves* are native to southern North America, Mexico, Central America, Northern South America, and the West Indies. There are dwarf forms just a few inches across, but most species are larger, spanning the range of 8 inches to 10 feet.

Although many members of this genus grow very large with age, they are particularly good looking as seedlings and can be kept small for many years in pots. All of the species described below are easily grown in Southern California. They can remain unprotected in pots or the ground year-round. They thrive with regular feeding with any general-purpose fertilizer.

They appear best when they are cleaned regularly, with debris removed from the leaves and dead leaves removed to prevent insects from making homes. Many offset freely and these offsets can be removed and repotted, giving a steady supply of small plants. Some growers keep the offsets and dispose of the mother plant, thereby keeping size, health, and condition under control.

Some *Agaves* will get sunken spots on the leaves when grown in pots. This blemish takes several years to heal and can be avoided by pruning the roots back to about 1/3 of their length and then repotting.

All *Agaves* are easily grown from seed - the difficulty for most species is in getting seed. Increasing interest in the genus has made this easier, with many species now available on some of the better seed lists. There still are many species and cultivars that are not available.

Seed should be started when the weather turns warm and night temperatures are consistently above 50°F. This allows constant growth through the first summer and prevents seedling loss.

--Tom Glavich



*Agave potatorum* cv. *Cubic*



PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

*Agave 'White Rhino'*



PHOTO: TOM GLAVICH

*Agave pumila*



## SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH:

## AGAVE



## Astonishing Agave:

- **Agave pumila**, known only from cultivation, but may be a natural hybrid. This is a beautiful small species that is very slow growing and offsets infrequently. There is a rapidly offsetting clone currently becoming available.
- **Agave albopilosa** is from La Huasteca in the Sierra Madre Oriental in Mexico. This is a high-altitude species, but does well in Southern California when protected from full summer sun. Easy to grow, but requires some patience, and produces a stunning specimen.
- **Agave potatorum**, from Oaxaca and Puebla, has a number of interesting cultivars. These mostly stay small, maxing out at less than a foot.
- **Agave utahensis** and its varieties grow to 10 to 20 inches across. The narrow tooth leaves have long sharp ends. *Var. nevadensis* is particularly beautiful when well-grown. The long ends of the leaves twist.
- **Agave tequilana** AKA Blue Agave is a fast-growing, striking blue-green agave that thrives in warm climates.
- **Agave americana** AKA Century Plant is a bold, architectural plant with large, gray-green leaves and dramatic, spiky edges. Always a showstopper in any landscape
- **Agave victoriae-reginae** AKA Queen Victoria Agave is a collector's favorite! This slow-growing, compact agave has beautifully symmetrical white-edged leaves, making it perfect for small gardens and pots.

AGAVE AMERICANA  
PHOTO: ANTHONY CANTIELLO

## DID YOU KNOW?

Agaves are monocarpic, blooming only once — often after 10 to 30 years — before dying.

Their flower stalk can grow over 20 feet tall in weeks, producing seeds or offsets to ensure the plant's legacy.



--Tom Glavich and  
Anthony Cantiello



## SHOW & SALE RECAP:

# WINTER SHOW '25



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ANTHONY CANTILLAS



## SHOW & SALE RECAP:

# WINTER SHOW '25



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ANTHONY CANTIELLO



## SHOW & SALE RECAP:

# WINTER SHOW '25



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ANTHONY CANTIello



## SHOW & SALE RECAP:

# WINTER SHOW '25



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ANTHONY LAMIELLO



## SHOW & SALE RECAP:

# WINTER SHOW '25





## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

# MINI-SHOW RESULTS



## March Mini-Show Results:

### • Novice Succulent

- 1st - Tony Mao - *Haworthia correcta* hybrid 'Quartz'
- 2nd - MaryJo Mateer - *Haworthia reinwardtii*
- 3rd - Russell Kibbee - *Haworthia* sp.

### • Intermediate Cactus

- 1st - Travis Martin - *Uebelmannia pectinifera*
- 2nd - Anthony Cantiello - *Uebelmannia pectinifera*

### • Intermediate Succulent

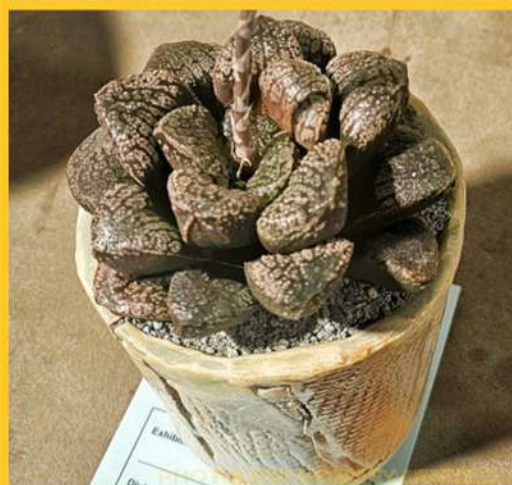
- 1st - Travis Martin - *Haworthia truncata*
- 2nd - Tricia Kangrga - *Haworthia splendens* 'Aries'
- 3rd - Travis Martin - *H. truncata* 'Lime Green'

### • Masters Cactus

- 1st - Manny Rivera - *Uebelmannia pectinifera*

### • Masters Succulent

- 1st - Tom Glavich - *Haworthia maughanii*
- 2nd - John Matthews - *Haworthia bayerii*
- 3rd - Tom Glavich - *Haworthia truncata*
- 3rd - John Matthews - *Haworthia* 'Modor'





## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

# MEMBERSHIP CORNER



**TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**  
NEW MEMBER PORTAL IS LIVE!

RENEW AND ACTIVATE  
YOUR ACCOUNT TODAY:  
**[TINYURL.COM/SGVCSS](https://tinyurl.com/SGVCSS)**



**LIKE PLANTS?  
WE DO, TOO!**  
**JOIN OUR CLUB TODAY!**

- 🌵 MONTHLY MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS
- 🌵 BOTANICAL FIELD TRIPS & FREE PLANTS
- 🌵 SPECIAL ACCESS TO SHOWS & SALES
- 🌵 MEET EXPERTS AND GET PLANT ADVICE

VISIT OUR MEMBERSHIP WEBSITE:  
**[TINYURL.COM/JOINSGVCSS](https://tinyurl.com/JOINSGVCSS)**

ONLY  
**\$20**  
PER YEAR



# SHOWS, SALES, & MORE:



Grow Your Passion for Cacti and Succulents at the  
Cactus and Succulent Society of America  
Biennial Convention

hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society

**April 23 – 27, 2025**

- Spectacular Plant, Book, and Art Sales
  - Exciting Auctions
  - Engaging Networking Opportunities
  - Inspirational Speakers
  - Educational Workshops
  - Beautiful Tours and Excursions
  - Luxurious Accommodations
- at San Diego Marriott Mission Valley

Celebrate your love of cactus and succulents  
with fellow enthusiasts.

For more information scan the QR code or visit:  
[cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention](https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention)



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

**Annual Show & Sale**  
April 5 and 6, 2025  
Hours: 9am to 4 pm

Admission and parking: FREE

Palos Verdes Art Center, 5504 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA



THE HUNTINGTON



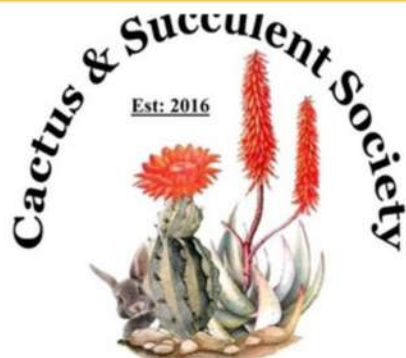
Sun., April 27, 2025, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



Plant Sale Nursery



Capacity is limited. Timed entry reservations are required.



## Succulent & Cactus Plant Sale Sunday, April 13, 2025

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, and Bromeliads  
Along with Pottery  
and Jewelry

Experts will be available for  
advice on growing and cultivation



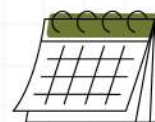
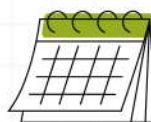
58TH ANNUAL  
**CSSA  
SHOW  
& SALE**  
JUNE 27-29, 2025  
10AM-5PM DAILY  
@ THE HUNTINGTON  
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,  
& BOTANICAL GARDENS  
1151 OXFORD RD. SAN MARINO, CA

**CSSASHOW.COM**  
**@CSSASHOW**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

## CACTUS CALENDAR



## APRIL

**South Coast CSS Show & Sale**

April 5- 6, 9AM-4PM

[southcoastcss.org](http://southcoastcss.org)**Conejo CSS Spring Sale**

April 13, 9AM-4PM

[conejocss.com](http://conejocss.com)**Monterey Bay Area CSS Spring Sale**

April 19-20, 9AM-5PM/9AM-3PM

[mbsucculent.org](http://mbsucculent.org)**Northern California CSA Spring Show & Sale**

April 19-20, 8AM-4PM/8AM-3PM

[norcalcsa.org](http://norcalcsa.org)**CSSA Convention in San Diego**

April 23-27

[cactusandsucculentsociety.org](http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org)**Palomar CSS Spring Festival**

April 26, 11AM-3PM

[palomarcactus.org](http://palomarcactus.org)**Huntington Spring Plant Sale**

April 27, 10AM-5PM

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

## MAY

**Sacramento CSS Show & Sale**

May 2-4, 1PM-5PM/9AM-5PM/9AM-3PM

[sacramentocss.com](http://sacramentocss.com)**Long Beach Cactus Club Show & Sale**

May 4, 12PM-4PM

[longbeachcactusclub.org](http://longbeachcactusclub.org)**Gates CSS Show & Sale**

May 9-10, 9AM-4PM

[gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com](http://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com)**Santa Barbara CSS Show & Sale**

May 10, Times TBD

[sbcactus.com](http://sbcactus.com)**LACSS Spring Cactus Sale**

May 17-18, 9AM-5PM

[lacactus.com](http://lacactus.com)*NOTE: All dates and times are subject to change.*

## 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 2025

**NICK RENTERIA**  
President



**AMANDA GERBERICH**  
Vice President +  
CSSA Rep.



**ANTHONY CANTIello**  
Secretary +  
Newsletter Editor



**MARGIE WILSON**  
Treasurer



**GUNNAR EISEL**  
Past President +  
Inter-City Show Chair



**HANSEL REYES**  
Director 2024-2025



**MANNY RIVERA**  
Director 2024-2025 +  
Winter Show Chair



**SHARON SEDILLO**  
Director 2024-2025



**JAMES LEMOS**  
Winter Sales Chair



**ANGELA CLUBB**  
Director 2025-2026



**MIKE PEARSON**  
Director 2025-2026



**LIZ WAGNER**  
Director 2025-2026



**TOM GLAVICH**  
Inter-City Sales Chair



**PROGRAMMING**  
Gunnar Eisel

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Travis Martin

**REFRESHMENTS**  
Anthony Cantiello

**CLUB LIBRARY**  
Cindy Arakaki

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
Anthony Cantiello

**WEBSITE**  
Gunnar Eisel

**WORKSHOPS**  
Tom Glavich  
Manny Rivera