

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# Communiqué

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **April Club Meeting**  
**April 9**

Ayres Hall of the LA Arboretum: 7:30 PM.  
*Gates open at 6:00 PM*

\* **C&S Workshop**  
**April 15**

**Topic: Seed Workshop**  
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:

*Seed Grown by Exhibitor*



Speaker: Eli Cohen  
*The ABCs of Botany*

**President's Message**



Happy April Fools' Day! I think Mother Nature is the one that pranked us this year. Spring did not begin until March 20, but Mother Nature surprised us with spring-like (and even summer-like) weather a week early. The upside is that the unusually warm weather will give all our summer growers an early start, which means they will look great in time for the upcoming summer shows.

There are no special events this month, but be sure to attend our general meeting on April 9 to hear featured speaker Eli Cohen give a talk on "ABCs of

Botany." Also, our ever-popular, not-to-be-missed spring seed workshop takes place the following week on April 15. Hope to see you all at the general meeting.

Regards,  
Nick Renteria



2026 SGVCSS Winter Show and Sale  
February 20-21, Masonic Center, Aracdia

Watch: YouTube Trophy Table Video

## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH: ELI COHEN

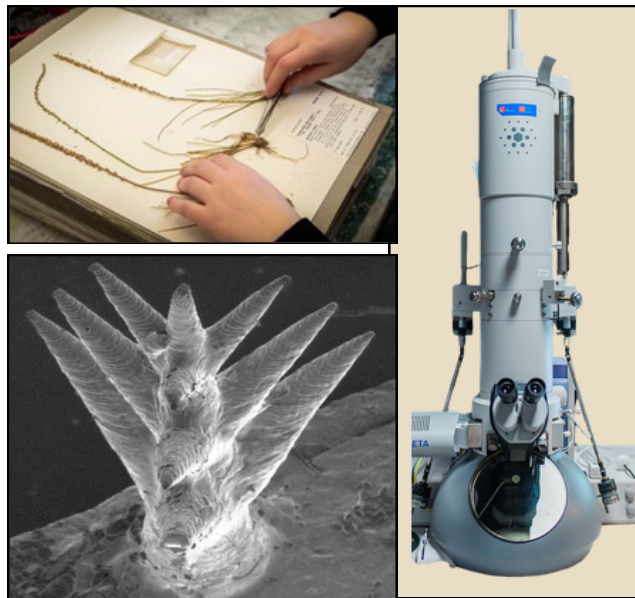


**Eli Cohen** is a student at Pasadena City College studying ecology and has a long-standing interest in desert biology. Over the past two years, he has joined friends and colleagues on trips focused on the botany of the American Southwest. These trips have taken him to a range of locations across California, from remote areas to sites close to home, where he has observed a wide variety of plant and animal life.

Through these experiences, Eli has developed a better understanding of California's natural history and the importance of protecting its native ecosystems. He aims to share what he has learned about the plants, landscapes, and natural processes he has seen, and to encourage others to appreciate and care for California's environment.

### ***ABCs of Botany*** by Eli Cohen

Participating in the cactus and succulent hobby is immensely rewarding and educational. Even so, many aspects of scientific botany can still feel mysterious. Where do plant names come from? What does DNA analysis actually involve? How can newly available technologies help us better understand the botanical world? This lecture aims to demystify the procedures and techniques used in botanical fieldwork, laboratory analysis, and the rules that guide modern botanical study.



***Time Machine:***  
 Communiqué  
 April 2001:  
 25 years ago



## SGVCSS 31ST ANNUAL WINTER SHOW AND SALE PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



All participants and volunteers contributed to the success of the 31st Annual Winter Show and Sale.

Tom Glavich moved the sale indoors because of the rain. Nick Renteria organized the Sunday Zoom meeting with the board. James Lemos continued to coordinate remotely throughout the event.

Thursday helpers set up both the show and sale areas, with Artie Chavez providing support and advice. Publicity efforts, including the postcard, flyer, video, and Communiqué, were handled by Kimberly Gomez-Tong and Gunnar Eisel.

This event involves many moving parts. Volunteers staffed the show and sales areas and managed entrances and exits. Keiko Doi assisted with new member sign-ups. Susan Weststeyn greeted attendees, and Walter Weststeyn managed the plant holding tables and drove the truck.

Food was provided by Barbara Hall, Sharon Sedillo, Angela Clubb, Liz and John Wagner, Roze Braunstein, Charlene and Nora Sandoval, Diana Galindo, Irene Chew, Amanda Gerberich, and Phyllis Frieze, with additional contributions from Louise Guerin and Susan Weststeyn.

Judging was carried out by Tom Glavich, Artie Chavez, Nick Renteria, and Manny Rivera, supported by clerks Cathy Tosetti, Mary Jo Mateer, Sharon Sedillo, Liz Wagner, Ken Hanke, Maria Camargo, Ed Garbarino, Nancy Navarro, Daniel Veelik, and Betty Farfan.

Trophy table setup and arrangement were handled by Louise Guerin, with additional support from Travis Martin and Tom Blanton. Tabulation was completed by Mary Brambaugh, Rebecca Mallonee, Tori Wilson, and June Wong.

The show dinner was provided by Martinez Catering, with David Tufenkian serving as auctioneer. Vendors provided a wide selection of cacti, succulents, and pottery. Members assisted with Saturday teardown.

Board members supporting the event included Nick Renteria, Amanda Gerberich, Charlene Sandoval, Margie Wilson, Tom Glavich, Gunnar Eisel, Sharon Sedillo, Angela Clubb, Liz Wagner, and Mike Pearson. Exhibitors contributed their plants to the show.

The Winter Show and Sale is made possible by five essential groups: Board Members and Show Committee, Vendors, Volunteers, Exhibitors, and Caterers.

The success of the Winter Show and Sale was made possible through the dedication and cooperation of everyone involved.

- Manny Rivera  
SGVCSS Winter Show and Sale Chair

## 2026 SGVCSS WINTER SHOW AWARDS

### CACTI

- Best Cactus, Novice: Steve and Dolores Cameron, *Ortegocactus macdougalii*
- Best Cactus, Intermediate: Glenn Murray, *Ariocarpus retusus*
- Best Cactus, Open: Desert Creations, *Aztekium ritteri*
- Best Ariocarpus: David and Eileen Tufenkian, *Ariocarpus fissuratus* × *fissuratus*
- Best Mammillaria: Travis Martin, *Mammillaria lenta*
- Best Epiphytic Cactus: Sharon Sedillo, *Rhipsalis pilocarpa*
- Best Gymnocalycium: Angela Clubb, *Gymnocalycium saglionis*
- Best Rebutia/Sulcorebutia: Pat Wheeler, *Sulcorebutia heinzii*
- Best Opuntia: Tom Glavich, *Maihueniopsis subterranea*
- Best Echinocereus: Cathy Tosetti, *Echinocereus rigidissimus* ssp. *rubispinus*

### SUCCULENTS

- Best Succulent Novice: Cathy Tosetti, *Beiselia mexicana*
- Best Succulent Intermediate: Barbara Hall, *Crassula saxifraga*
- Best Succulent Open: Matt Maggio, *Hechtia lanata*
- Best Agave: Glenn Murray, *Agave albopilosa*
- Best Mesemb: Travis Martin, *Conophytum crateriforme*
- Best Haworthia: Jim Smith, *Haworthia* hybrid
- Best Madagascar Euphorbia: Cathy Tosetti, *Euphorbia francoisii*
- Best Euphorbia: Pat Wheeler, *Euphorbia multifolia*
- Best Dorstenia/Ficus: Manny Rivera, *Dorstenia gigas*
- Best Crassulaceae: Moses Nuno, *Tylecodon nolteei*
- Best Geraniaceae: Manny Rivera, *Sarcocaulon l'heritieri*
- Best Pachypodium: Beatriz Farfan, *Pachypodium namaquanum*
- Best Winter Growing Succulent: Gunnar Eisel, *Tylecodon pearsonii*
- Best Bulb: Lynn McIlwain, *Lachenalia flava*

## 2026 SGVCSS WINTER SHOW AWARDS

### JOINT

Best Collection: Lee Family, *Ariocarpus*

Best Mutant: Desert Creations, *Gymnocalycium saglionis f. inermis*

Winter Theme: Glenn Murray, *Mammillaria* species

Best Baja Plant: Barbara Hall, *Pachycormus discolor*

Best Mexican Plant: Desert Creations, *Astrophytum asterias* hybrid

Best Miniature: Liz Wagner, *Dudleya gnoma*

Best Staged Plant: Angela Clubb, Mixed Plants

### SWEEPSTAKES

High Points Cacti, Novice: Liz Wagner

High Points Cacti, Intermediate: Julie Mao

High Points Cacti, Open: Desert Creations

High Points Succulents, Novice: Mike Pearson

High Points Succulents, Intermediate: Mary Jo Mateer

High Points Succulents, Open: Gunnar Eisel

**SWEEPSTAKES WINNER: JULIE MAO**



**Point Summary**



**Top Five Winning Points**

## 2026 SGVCSS WINTER SHOW TOP FIVE

### CACTUS:

	TOP 5 NOVICE	TOP 5 ADVANCED	TOP 5 OPEN
1	Liz Wagner	1 Julie Mao	1 Desert Creations
2	Lauren Vargas	2 Mary Jo Mateer	2 Dave/Eileen Tufenkian
3	Mike Pearson	3 Glenn Murray	3 Tom Glavich
4	Jonathan Zhu	4 Angela Clubb	4 Gunnar Eisel
5	Steve/Dolores Cameron	5 Travis Martin	5 East Los Succulents

### SUCCULENT:

	TOP 5 NOVICE	TOP 5 ADVANCED	TOP 5 OPEN
1	Mike Pearson	1 Mary Jo Mateer	1 Gunnar Eisel
2	Cathy Tosetti	2 Barbara Hall	2 Matt Maggio
3	Tom Blanton	3 Nick Renteria	3 Tom Glavich
4	Jonathan Zhu	4 Julie Mao	4 Jim Smith
5	Lynn Mcilwain	5 Betty Farfan	5 Manny Rivera

### TOTAL POINTS:

	TOP 5 NOVICE	TOP 5 ADVANCED	TOP 5 OPEN
1	Mike Pearson	1 Julie Mao	1 Gunnar Eisel
2	Liz Wagner	2 Mary Jo Mateer	2 David/Eileen Tufenkian
3	Jonathan Zhu	3 Barbara Hall	3 Tom Glavich
4	Lauren Vargas	4 Angela Clubb	4 Matt Maggio
5	Cathy Tosetti	5 Betty Farfan	5 Desert Creations

### OVERALL:

	TOP 5 CACTUS	TOP 5 SUCCULENT	TOP 5 TOTAL POINTS
1	Julie Mao	1 Mary Jo Mateer	1 Julie Mao
2	Liz Wagner	2 Mike Pearson	2 Mary Jo Mateer
3	Mary Jo Mateer	3 Barbara Hall	3 Mike Pearson
4	Lauren Vargas	4 Nick Renteria	4 Liz Wagner
5	Mike Pearson	5 Julie Mao	5 Jonathan Zhu

**HUGE SALE**  
**HANNA'S SUCCULENTS**  
POTTERY, ROCKS & THOUSANDS OF SUCCULENTS  
AT UNBEATABLE PRICES.



6019 PEPPERWOOD AVENUE LAKEWOOD, CA 90712  
APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup> & 26<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY 9A-3P SUNDAY 9A-2P



<b>Snack Schedule</b>	
<b>April</b>	<b>M-P</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Q-T</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>U-Z</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>A-D</b>
<b>August</b>	<b>E-H</b>
<b>September</b>	<b>I-L</b>
<b>October</b>	<b>M-P</b>
<b>November</b>	<b>Q-T</b>

## CACTI AND SUCCULENTS OF THE MONTH: Seed Grown By Exhibitor

This month's Cactus and Succulent Plant of the Month features plants grown from seed by the exhibitor. It is open to anything from pots of seedlings started at one of our workshops to mature specimens grown from commercial or collected seed over many years. Whether your plants are just beginning to establish or have developed into well-formed, show-quality specimens, this is an opportunity to highlight the full journey from seed to plant.

We encourage entries that demonstrate careful cultivation, patience, and attention to detail. Uniformity in a pot of seedlings, healthy root development, compact growth, and good overall presentation are all qualities that will be appreciated. This category is not limited to any particular genus or type, so cacti, caudiciforms, mesembs, and other succulents are all welcome.

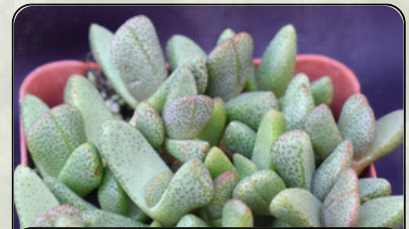
Here are a few examples to give you an idea of what can be entered.

Our **Spring Seed Workshop** is Wednesday, April 15, in the Palm Classroom of the Arboretum at 7:30 PM.

They are always our best-attended workshops:  
You supply the enthusiasm, we supply the rest!



*Gymnocalycium meregallii*  
Seedlings from 2025



*Pleiospilos simulans*  
Seedlings from 2025



*Ferocactus fordii*  
Seedling from Feb. 2024



*Adenium arabicum*  
Seedling from Feb. 2024

## Growing Cacti and Succulents from Seed

Growing cacti and succulents from seed is easy and incredibly interesting. Once you've done it a few times, you will be growing from seed as often as you can.

The steps are simple.

The ingredients needed are:

- Seeds
  - Labels
  - Pots
  - Plastic lunch bags
  - Potting mix (we use Miracle-Gro Seed Starting Mix)
  - Perlite or pumice
  - Water
  - Small top dressing (we use roofing gravel or horticultural sand for the workshops)
- 
- Mix the seed starting mix and perlite (one part seed starting mix, two parts perlite).
  - Soak the mix until thoroughly wet and let it drain.
- 
- Fill out the labels.
- 
- Pour the seeds into the middle of the pot.
- 
- Add a light coating of top dressing.
- 
- Place the pot in a plastic bag and keep it in bright light, but not direct sun.
- 
- Germination time can range from a few days to a year or more, depending on the genus and species. Check on it every few days.

I leave cacti in their bags for two or three months. Lithops and related genera (mesembs) stay in the bag for about a month after germination. These plants need a less humid environment and moving air to grow well. Other succulents should be left until they are clearly growing, but removed before any leaves are long enough to touch the plastic.

For our seed workshops, we take care to make sure the seed starting mix bags are sealed and hole-free when we bring them to the meeting. This removes the need for sterilization of the mix. We use 2¼-inch pots and soak the mix in tap water. The mix drains as the seeds are prepared and labels are printed.

When I'm working at home, I use one part Miracle-Gro seed starting mix and two parts pumice. I dry sterilize the mix in pots, then soak and drain the pots following the procedure above. I start the seeds under lights in my garage.

- Tom Glavich



[Step-by-Step Visual Guide](#)  
to seed growing.

# 2026 C&S AND EPI EVENT CALENDAR



**APRIL 12:**  
**Conejo C&S Society Spring Sale**  
 9am–4pm  
 558 N. Ventu Park Rd.,  
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91320  
 Info: [www.conejocss.com](http://www.conejocss.com)  
[conejocss@hotmail.com](mailto:conejocss@hotmail.com)



**APRIL 25:**  
**Palomar C&S Society Spring Festival**  
 Saturday 11am–3pm  
 Cactus and succulent sales  
 and free workshops  
 Park Ave. Community Center  
 210 E. Park Ave., Escondido, CA  
<https://www.palomarcactus.org/>



**APRIL 26:**  
**Huntington Spring Plant Sale**  
 (Reservations Required)  
 10am–5pm  
 Huntington Botanical Gardens  
 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA  
 Info: [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org)  
 626-405-3571



**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)  
 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



[Year at a Glance](#)

## 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	Medusoid Euphorbia
Apr	Seed Grown	Spring Seed
May	Cactus Staged as Mini Succulent Staged as Mini	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

Time to Join Us 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

## 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, 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)

