



Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

**YOUR 2025 EDITOR:
SCOTT BURKHOLDER**

MONTHLY PLANT SHOW

The Monthly Plant Show
is back!

Cactus - Mammillara
Succulent - Aloe

Detail are in the newsletter.

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The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society promotes education, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulents among our members and the larger community.



**Panayoti MC'ing the Slideshow
at the December Potluck**
Scott Burkholder Photo

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 21st, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Denver Botanic Gardens - Gates Hall

Presentation: Behind the Scenes in My Pursuit
of a Masters Degree in Botany

Presenter: Jackson Burkholder

Details:

Jackson will present both his life in cactus and his cactus extra-floral nectaries research from his Masters Degree from Texas State University.

The CCSS presented Jackson with a grant that gave him the opportunity to further his research, and contributed to his degree.

SUCCULENT BITS

February Meeting

February's meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 18th, at the Denver Botanic Gardens in Gates Hall.

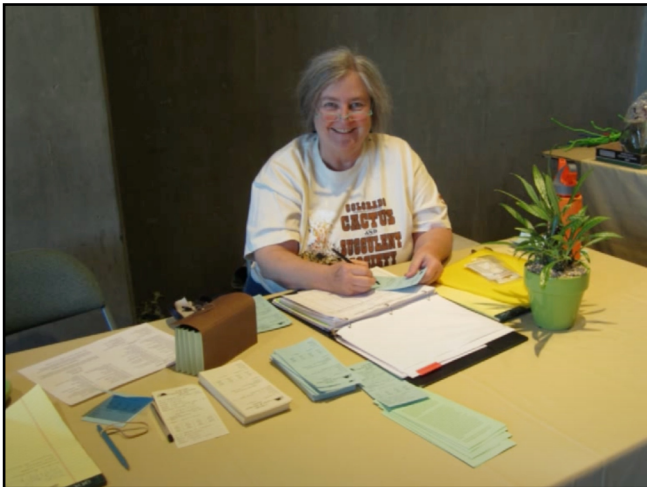
Save the Date!

Monthly Plant Show

This is a great opportunity to practice showing plants for the Big Plant Show in April!

Remember, if the weather is poor next week, and it could be, to protect your plants from the cold!

In Memorandum



Norah Otto at the 2012 Plant Show

We were sad to learn from Danielle Otto that her mother, Norah, passed away before Thanksgiving. She was a friendly face at our meetings and helped with the Show for many years.

She was also active in the African Violet Society. A card will be passed around at the January meeting for you to sign.

DECEMBER POTLUCK!

Thank You to everyone who attended the December Potluck and Member Slideshow last year!

Thank You to everyone who brought food, and everyone who brought sent in pictures for the slideshow.

We had a lot of good food, and everyone enjoyed those pictures.

If you didn't make this year, save the date for this year!!

Mailing List updates

We are in the process of updating the CCSS Member mailing list! If you know of a member that's not receiving either club emails or newsletters, please send their name and email address to Scott at seisnoir@comcast.net!

Thanks!!

Jackson Burkholder

Jackson Burkholder grew up attending Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society events which sparked his lifelong passion for desert flora. He studied horticulture at Colorado State University for his undergrad and recently graduated from Texas State University with a master's degree in biology after conducting extensive research on cactus extrafloral nectaries.

Jackson has served on the board of directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America since 2020, and has held many board positions within the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society. When he is not working on research projects, Jackson can be found in his greenhouse where he focuses on cultivating South American cacti and winter hardy North American species or at an antique mall or garage sale keeping an eye out for cameras, clocks, and art from the past.



Jackson with *Echinopsis* "Big Bertha"
Judith Burkholder Photo

Behind the Scenes in My Pursuit of a Masters Degree in Botany

For the past three years Jackson Burkholder had been conducting research on cactus extrafloral nectaries. These are structures on plants that secrete nectar, but unlike floral nectaries are not associated with flowers or pollination. In the cactus family, EFNs are very diverse, and Jackson's research focused on documenting their internal anatomical structure to better classify them. In 2021 Jackson received a grant from the CCSS to complete this research, and now that it is finally complete, he is excited to share his results with the society!

In his presentation, Jackson will first briefly cover what defines an EFN and discuss the ecological significance of these structures. Next, he will talk about his background with cacti including what inspired him to begin this project and what it is like to conduct botanical research. Finally, Jackson will explain his results and their significance in a way that will entertain both hobbyists and those who are familiar to plant anatomy.



Jackson At Work
in the Photographing Cactus
Scott Burkholder Photo

CCSS Monthly Plant Show - Pedro Galvez

The Rules:

The mini shows are a way to up member engagement and to get them excited to show their plants in the Judged Show in April.

The rules for judging are similar to the criteria of the actual show except we're not as critical. This is a great opportunity to offer any tips and critiques on plants entered to give members an idea of what a show plant should embody. Usually the mini shows are judged by the speaker or special guest. We have entry cards similar to the ones for the show.

Entries will be award points based on what "ribbon" they get. 3 for blue, 2 for red, 1 for yellow. Those points will be counted and will be added to each members tally toward prizes that will be awarded at the end of the year. Prizes TBD.

I think it would be a good idea to always include the rules and prize with the announced genre for the month. Also mention arriving a little earlier to fill out the show cards, max entries 3 per category (cactus/succulent).

This month's categories are mammillaria and aloe.

Mammillaria

Mammillaria is one of the largest genera in the cactus family, with currently 200 known species and varieties recognized. Most of the mammillarias are native to Mexico, but can be found from the Southwestern United States, the Caribbean all the way to Venezuela. The common name for this genus is the "pincushion cactus". A readily accessible cactus, they make for great beginner plant and will put on quite a show when blooming.

Aloe

Aloe, is a genus of over 500 species of succulent plants that are native to Africa, Madagascar, and the Arabian Peninsula. Aloe vera in particular are known for their medicinal properties, and are used in a variety of health and cosmetic products. This diverse genus has members that grow into huge trees to miniscule varieties only growing to a couple inches wide. This plant family is relatively easy going, with some species able to tolerate lower light levels making them another great plant for beginners and skilled plant parents.

Tylecodones - Sumo Wrestlers of the Succulent world

I have been extraordinarily lucky to have visited Western South Africa the last three early springs there (or late winter: August-September). That's the time of year of Super Bloom where countless miles of desert and steppe in the Karoo and Fynbos ecosystems are carpeted with colorful annuals and succulents in blooms. The eye-blasting colors of rain-daisies, of all manner of bulbs, Mesembs and even Euphorbias are such that one can almost be blinded to the complex grace of stem and form which is what we really love in our succulents (however lovely the flowers—they usually don't last more than a few days or weeks at the most—but those wonderful chubby forms are there all the time—usually that is (a few succulents disappear in drought—as do most bulbs).

Even with all the late winter Kaleidoscope of color and commotion, one can't help but notice certain plants standing up (and standing out) here and there across the veldt. These are succulents for sure, with crassula like leaves only they form miniature trees—almost like bonsai—often with a hefty trunk several inches in diameter. The genus *Tylecodon* is allied to *Crassula*—with distinct floral morphology and plant form that distinguish them. The great South African botanist Ernst van Jaarsveld (who has spoken to our chapter) and Daryl Koutnik have even written a monograph on *Cotyledon and Tylecodon* that's out of print—but still sold on used book sites (not cheap).

If you're lucky to have gone to the fabulous Southern California Cactus and Succulent shows you will often see large specimens of *Tylecodon paniculatus* (primarily) making spectacular bonsai in pots, with rugged trunks and compact heads of oval leaves. This may be the commonest and largest *Tylecodon* in the wild—which I've seen and admired on a wide spectrum of habitats and locales. In South Africa farmers often dig these up and plant them near their homes because of their beauty. I should have mentioned that there are really two kinds of *Tylecodon*—big honkers like *paniculatus*, *wallichii*, *reticulatus*—which can become quite massive over time. And there are a tremendous number of teeny tiny species that are totally different in their impact. Perhaps we'll feature those in another article!

Here you will see a gallery (with the names appended) of the larger *Tylecodons*—which often tower over the landscapes where they occur. Although I have visited South Africa ten times, I have never been there in November and December when most *Tylecodons* bloom: from pictures I can see they have attractive flowers. I hope I will see them in bloom one day. But honestly, this is one succulent you would grow for its form and shape alone. Just looking at the pictures I took practically transport me back to those fantastic landscapes which are what I hope Heaven looks like. Assuming I end up there, that is!

- Panayoti Kelaidis

All - PK gifted us with a bunch of Tylecodon pictures! I have selected a few to present here, and can hardly wait to hear the stories behind them... Scott

TYLECODON PHOTOS!



Tylecodon paniculatus
n Matjiesfontein Tankwa karoo
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon paniculatus
Poortjieskloofdam
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon wallichii
Langeberg foothills
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon wallichii
n Matjiesfontein Tankwa karoo
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo

TYLECODON PHOTOS!



Tylecodon reticulatus
Laingsburg
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon reticulatus
Sutherland to Gannaga
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon buckholzianus
Richtersveld
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo



Tylecodon hallii
Vioolsdrif sw ZA
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

January 2025 - Monthly Member Meeting

February 2025 - February 18th at the Denver Botanic Gardens

April 26th & 27th, 2025 - Ironclad Date for Next Year's Show and Sale

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