



## Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

TODAY'S EDITOR:  
**SCOTT BURKHOLDER**

### SHOW PLANTS

Are you watering and  
maintaining all your  
winter-growing plants?

[Club News!](#)

[March's  
South Africa  
Symposium](#)

[April's Meeting](#)

[Plus Photos!](#)

March 2024, Vol 28 No. 3

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



David Ferguson presenting his talk  
Scott Burkholder Photo

## UPCOMING MEETING

**Date:** Sunday, March 17th, 2024

**Time:** 1:00 pm

**Location:** Sturm Family Auditorium  
Freyer Newman Center  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
1007 N York St  
Denver, CO 80206

**Symposium:** "Out of Africa" with:  
Adam Harrower,  
Steven Brack, &  
Karel Du Toit

**Details:**

The Out of Africa Symposium features three experts on the plants of South Africa. Tickets are required as space is limited!

# SUCCULENT BITS

## **March's Meeting!**

The "Out of Africa" symposium is on Sunday the 17th, featuring three experts on South African botany.

[Click here to register!](#)

**See You There!**

## **April's Meeting!**

April's meeting is Tuesday, April 9th, 7pm, at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds. This will give everyone a chance to check out the Fairgrounds BEFORE the Show and Sale. And you bet we'll all discuss the Show and Sale, too.

**Save the Date!**



Do you have shelf after shelf of South African Plants? - Scott Burkholder Photo



I bet you do! Come to the Out of Africa Symposium! - Scott Burkholder Photo

## **2024 Show and Sale Flyers!**

The Show and Sale flyers are here and they need to be distributed! Please grab a bunch at the symposium to drop off at your local garden center!

And keep a handful with you for your friends, family, and anyone else who loves cactus and succulents!

## **Selling Member Plants at the 2024 Show and Sale?**

Are you interested in, or planning to, sell your plants at this year's show and sale? Text or email Scott to arrange for space & bar codes!

# EX AFRICA SEMPER ALIQUID NOVI

## *"There are no end of wonders out of Africa"*

I have seen this Latin phrase attributed to Pliny the Elder, but anyone who's been lucky enough to visit, you will agree. South Africa in particular holds the LION'S share of succulents we grow in our homes and gardens (if we quietly ignore cacti, agaves and American Crassulaceae). South Africa boasts around 10% of the world's Flora, and 40% of all plant species in Africa. South African plants have had an enormous impact on Denver Botanic Gardens' plant collections and truly helped launch Plant Select. Hardy ice plants (*Delosperma*) were practically invented in Denver - and more and more South African succulents (other Mesembs - but also Anacampseros, Crassula, Euphorbia, Othonna, Oxalis, and MORE) have joined their ranks.

We are extremely fortunate to have three of the world's leading authorities on South African plants present in a symposium co-sponsored by DBG, RMC-NARGS, and the CCSS. This will be a unique occasion not to be missed!

***The Symposium is THIS Sunday, March 17th, Get a Ticket!***

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Growing up on a small family farm in Wisconsin I became interested in horticulture at a young age, grew plants as a kid to enter in the local county fair. While in college studying physics after seeing some cacti and succulents at a friend's house on the windowsill, I went to the library to find some books on these strange plants. I started reading these books and found the plants just fascinating. I used interlibrary loan to borrow hard to get books and a big world opened. In some of these books various clubs and Societies were mentioned, so I wrote away to join a few and then found seed lists from the groups.

I started to grow cacti and succulents from seed and acquired a few plants back in 1970. Soon was on the hunt for seed lists, and what was amazed me was to get seeds with a Latin name and the geographic source. Then

I read a series of articles in a British journal about the travel adventures of an English tourist that visited New Mexico. At this point I was interested in seed growing and the idea of moving to New Mexico to start a nursery really took hold. I wanted a life working with seeds. My wife accepted this weird idea instead of becoming a physics teacher, and we moved to NM in the spring of 1973. After 3 years of working on the project we started Mesa Garden in 1976.

Since 1973 we have taken many trips to collect seeds to grow stock plants for the nursery, it has been a great life of desert camping, hiking and seeing plants in nature. After 41 years of running the nursery we sold it to a couple that were employees and are busier than ever in retirement.

**Steve Brack**



**Adam Harrower** is Senior Botanical Horticulturist; he curates the conservatory and xerophytic plant collections at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens. Prior to taking on his current challenging job, he was Arborist who oversaw the unique and extensive Kirstenbosch tree collections, and truth be said, his knowledge of herbaceous, shrubby - all plants of South Africa really - is second to none.



In addition to his extensive fieldwork throughout South Africa resulting in the discovery of many taxa new to science, he has rediscovered many long lost species, and documented these not only with scientific specimens, but by professional quality photography, best seen in the gorgeous coffee table book **Kirstenbosch: The Most Beautiful Garden in Africa**, coauthored with Brian Huntley and published in 2012.

Adam is also an accomplished Bonsai grower - specializing in South African trees - which are wonderfully showcased in the entry courtyard of Kirstenbosch. Adam is no stranger to North America, where he has often come to visit in-laws.

This is, however, his first time lecturing in the United States.

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**Karel Du Toit** has served 37 years as a detective in the South African Police Department, overseeing as Captain the Springbok Stock Theft and Endangered Species Unit in the northern Cape where millions of rare plants as well as animals have been under enormous pressure from poachers. Karel has arrested dozens of poachers and confiscated over a million stolen plants.

He has unparalleled knowledge of the flora and folkways of South Africa. As a well known and highly respected officer of the law, he commands the respect of landowners who allow him access to some of the most biodiverse land on the continent - access few are allowed due to the depredations of poachers. He has been leading tours to these remote places for several decades, and has recently retired from police work in order to expand his tour company, Pillansii Tours.

Karel is also an extraordinary photographer.

Those who have traveled with Karel are impressed not only with his extraordinary knowledge of plants, people and places, but by his sensitivity to those he guides. His good humor, sense of fun and attention to detail are second to none. His passion for South Africa is infectious!

This is Karel's first visit to North America.



# 2024 COLORADO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

February 13th - CCSS Monthly Meeting at Denver Botanic Gardens

March 17th - The South African Plant Symposium

April 27th & 28th - CCSS & RMC-NARGS Plant Show and Sale

## JOIN THE CONVERSATION:



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