



Colorado
Cactus &
Succulent
Society

YOUR ONCE AND FUTURE EDITOR:
SCOTT BURKHOLDER

SHOW PLANTS

Are your summer-growing
Show Plants all tucked
in for the winter?

[Club News!](#)

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Meeting!](#)

[October's Awards
And Elections!](#)

[Plus Photos!](#)

November 2023, Vol 27 No. 4

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



Woody Minnich at the Podium
Scott Burkholder Photo

UPCOMING TOUR

Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Sturm Auditorium
Denver Botanic Gardens
1007 N York St
Denver, CO 80206

Presentation: Grace Johnson "A Tour of
Six Gardens"

Details:

Grace Johnson will present both her exploration of six botanical gardens and the latest news from the Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum.

SUCCULENT BITS

November Meeting!

November's meeting is currently scheduled for the 7 pm, on Wednesday the 15th, in the Strum Family Auditorium, at the Denver Botanic Gardens.

Save that Date!

Club Service Awards -

- David Landes
- Sharon Bolton
- Seth Weisbrook

Mary Ann Heacock Award -

- Devra and Michael Roll

We want to recognize them for their service to the Club!



A rescue Lithops in full flower
Scott Burkholder Photo

Member Contribution:

We always ask for contributions to the newsletter, and this month Andrew Doolen came through for us.

Andrew is a potter, and a vendor in the annual Show and Sale, and wrote about the 2023 CSSA Convention.

Thank You Andrew!

November Meeting!

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Save that Date!

Late-Breaking Election News!

We just learned that our Jackson Burkholder has been re-elected to another four-year term on the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Board of Directors! Along with CSSA President Rod Haenni we have two representatives in the national organization!

NOTES FROM THE RE-POTTING BENCH

My thanks to everyone who made the trip west to the Mount Vernon Canyon Club. We had a wonderful meal, Woody Minnich gave a great presentation, plus we had awards and elections!

MVCC is known for both their food and the view, and we enjoyed both of them. I need to thank Ken Ray, from RMC-NARGS, who got us through the front door.

Adrian Saunders, our treasurer, confirmed that we have enough in the bank to run our club for another year. And probably past that. Thank You, Adrian!

The result of our elections are:

President: Randy Tatroe (and I'll help him as President Emeritus)

Vice Presidents: Panayoti Kelaidis and Jackson Burkholder

Show & Sale Chairman: Me and David Landes

Newsletter: Me Again

Member-at-Large" Pedro Galvez

Steve Harley is our current Membership Lead, and Courtney Cowgill is our current secretary, and we will ask them to stay on for another shift.

We started an Awards Committee, and we handed out our first set of awards:

Outstanding Contribution to Our Club: David Landes, Sharon Bolton,
and Seth Weisbrook

Mary Ann Heacock Award: Devra and Michael Roll

Honorary Lifetime Membership: Me!!

. . . And I wasn't even on the Awards Committee.

We concluded with Woody Minnich presenting "South Africa, Richtersveld, Land of the Halfmens". I particularly liked wit, as Woody showed one of my favorite plants, a *Fenestraria rhopalophylla*, in habitat!

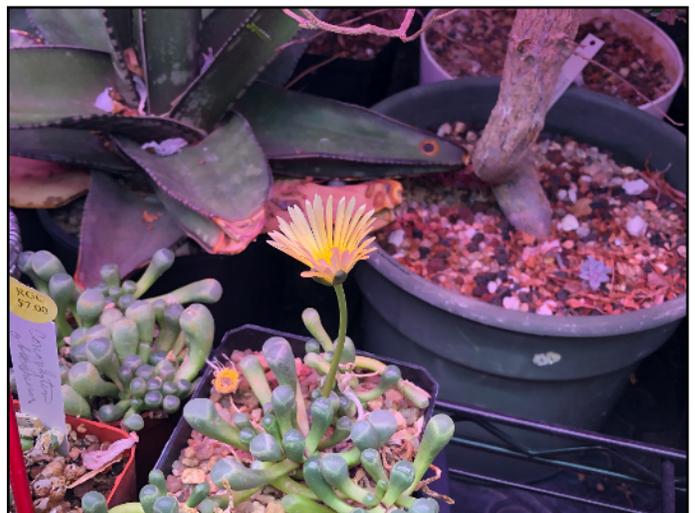
Thanks!

Scott Burkholder

2024 President Emeritus

seisnoir@comcast.net

My *Fenestraria rhopalophylla* >>



NOVEMBER'S PRESENTATION: A SIX-GARDEN TOUR

After graduating college with a degree in Environmental Science, Grace Johnson worked in ornamental public horticulture for 10 years. Prior to maintaining the prairie gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Farms, Grace worked in the Whitmire Wildflower Garden at Missouri Botanical Garden's Shaw Nature Reserve where she gardened exclusively with native plants and assisted with prairie restoration.

In addition to native plant and water-wise horticulture, Grace has experience in traditional Victorian horticulture, aquatic gardening, seed collection, and propagation. Grace currently maintains the prairie gardens, Plant Select Demonstration Garden, un-irrigated cactus collection, and historic iris collection at Chatfield Farms and serves as Assistant Manager to the Horticulture Team. Grace has a passion for ecological and sustainable gardening and hopes to continue creating landscapes that encourage plant diversity and provide habitat for pollinators.

Grace recently completed a tour of SIX botanical gardens and arboretums in northern California. Her goals included gathering insight and inspiration into developing gardens herself at the Denver Botanic Gardens' Chatfield Arboretum. Snapping a bunch of great photographs was just a bonus.

Grace's presentation will also feature an update on her work at Chatfield Gardens.



Grace Johnson in Colorado
Photo Courtesy of Grace Johnson



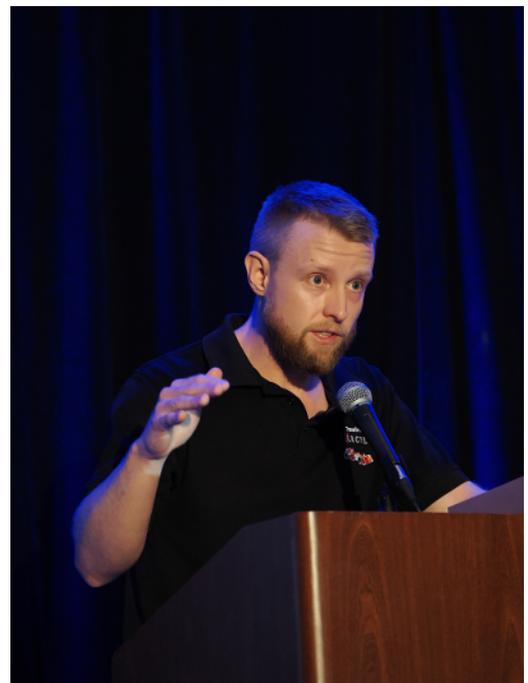
Grace Johnson in California
Photo Courtesy of Grace Johnson

A CSSA CONVENTION REVIEW – ANDREW DOOLEN

In July, I had the pleasure of attending the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 30th Biennial Convention in Colorado Springs hosted by the CCSS. The gathering proved to be a densely packed event, drawing in over 300 avid attendees from various corners of the United States. I met participants from California, Texas, Illinois, Arizona, Utah, and Michigan. Among them were also many CCSS members and others I had come to know through the CSSA's biweekly webinars conducted over Zoom the past few years.

Throughout the weekend, a diverse lineup of talks were presented in the banquet hall of the Marriott, encompassing invaluable cultivation tips from experts and captivating slideshows from botanical explorers. In an outdoor tent, there was a bustling sales area, offering hard to find succulents and seeds rarely sold in Colorado from vendors out of California, Arizona and New Mexico. I attempted to see as many talks over the event as possible but was limited, as I was also vending my pottery, *sulci pots*.

One talk that left a lasting impression on me was Stefan Burger's captivating overview of *Copiapoa*. As a seasoned habitat guide and passionate conservationist, Stefan took us on a fascinating journey through the rich array of species and remarkable phenotypic variations found within this popular South American genus. I was intrigued to learn the distinct signs of poached *Copiapoa* compared to cultivated, seed grown plants, such as the presence or lack of black pigmented cyanobacteria and the distinct sand-blasted, sun scarred epidermis and bark of plants that brave the harsh desert elements. Stefan shared a drone shot video, flying over a seemingly endless, expansive population of *C. cinerea* subs. *columna-alba* all tilting toward the sun. This was one of many breathtaking visuals of *Copiapoa* habitat that left me with a wanderlust to visit Chile someday.



Stefan Burger
Andrew Doolen Photo

A CSSA CONVENTION REVIEW CON'T

Another presentation that captivated my interest was the one by Kelly Grummons of Cold Hardy Cactus, a prominent figure within our club. Kelly shared his expertise on the art of grafting cacti, and I was thoroughly engrossed in learning about the materials and methods crucial to successful grafting. Kelly's tip about using *Opuntia fragilis* var. *denudata* as grafting stock, allows for the root stock to be hidden to give a more natural look, is a technique I'm eager to experiment with. A skilled hand in grafting could hybridize or isolate unique traits and stabilize them through multiple generations of grafting, taking a fraction of time required through conventional growth.

The live auction was an exciting experience for me, as I had never witnessed one before. Blue ribbon worthy show specimens ignited bidding wars that were thrilling to observe, even from the vantage as a spectator.

The event proved to be an enriching experience, connecting with like-minded individuals who share passion and curiosity for these captivating plants. It was great to meet succulent cultivators from around the nation and experts in their fields. I express my sincere gratitude to the CCSS for a grant that facilitated my attendance and for hosting the convention. A special thank you to the organizers, volunteers, speakers, vendors and participants that made the event possible. Without a doubt, I hope to attend the upcoming 2025 convention in California.

Andrew Doolen



Kelly Grummons
Andrew Doolen Photo

2024 OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS



David Landes helped with the CSSA Convention Bus Tours - Scott Burkholder Photo



Seth Weisbrook helped with the Show and Sale, the CSSA Convention, and made trips to the Storage Unit - Scott Burkholder Photo



Sharon Bolton has run registers and substitute treasurers for several Show and Sales.

Scott Burkholder Photo

Mary Ann Heacock Award:

Michael and Devra Roll helped manage all the volunteers at the CSSA Convention, plus Devra has been monitoring the Facebook page for the Club. We hope to present the award to them the next time they are in town!

20234 COLORADO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SCOTT BURKHOLDER

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

November 15th - CCSS Monthly Meeting at Denver Botanic Gardens

December Potluck

April 27 & 28, 2024 - CCSS & RMC-NARGS Plant Show and Sale

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:



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