



Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

YOUR 2026 EDITOR:
SCOTT BURKHOLDER

May 2026, Vol 30 No. 2d

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



At the 2026 Show & Sale
Scott Burkholder Selfie

MONTHLY PLANT SHOW

Monthly Plant Show Plants
Seed-Grown Plants!
Hybrid Mesembs!

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 26th, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Denver Botanic Gardens - Gates Hall
Presentation: The Hybrid Mind
Presenter: Russell Wagner
Details:

Having explored large swaths of the succulent smorgasbord — Russell has grown euphorbias, haworthias, cacti, succulent daisies, pelargoniums, crassulas, succulents of the Canary Islands, and many other groups — his steadfast focus remains winter-active South African succulents: the compact mesembs (living stones), spiral- and prostrate-leaved bulbs (Gethyllis, Massonia), Tylecodon, and Adromischus. In recent years, hybrid work has come to occupy a great deal of his thinking/feeling about plants, and several hybrid lines — some successful, others less so — have materialized in his collection. A tour of Russell's greenhouses, is a dizzying barrage of shapes, textures, and colors seen nowhere else.

[Mini Plant Show!](#)

[RMC Garden Tours](#)

[Conventions and
Conferences Galore!](#)

[And a Lost Mug!](#)

SUCCULENT BITS

Show and Sale Thank Yous

Randy sends out a giant **Thank You** to all the volunteers who helped at the Show and Sale. I'll add to that, plus a **thank you** to the vendors, the Jeffco staff, and everyone who brought a plant to the Plant Show!

Scott

Conventions & Conferences

The Summer Plant Conferences and Convention season is starting! We listed several here, including the Mid-States Conference and the Cactus & Succulent Society of America Show and Sale here. If you have not been to one, we can heartily recommend it!



Plant Judging in Action!
Scott Burkholder Photo

NARGS-RMCGARDENTOURS

The Rock Garden Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society is hosting a garden tour in May and we've been invited!

For more information, including tour times, and maps, please check out their website.

[RMC-NARGS Website](#)

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!!

Did you lose a Stanley 32oz mug at the Show and Sale?

If you can identify the sticker on the back of the mug, then it's yours!

Contact Scott Burkholder

Notes From the Potting Bench

By all measures, the 2026 Show and Sale was a huge success. Because RMC-NARGS held a separate sale this year, there was plenty of room for new vendors, wider aisles and a bigger show space. The Clover system worked well, and there were never more than 20 people in line waiting to check out.

Total sales: \$162,193 (an increase of \$32,622 or 20% over last year).

Total paid entries: 2,238 (an increase of 358 or 16% over last year).

New members: 35.

The same great food trucks came and there was an added surprise – a Lucha Libre wrestling event was held in an adjoining building – lots of noise!

Special thanks to volunteers (in alphabetical order) who went above and beyond their responsibilities – volunteering all three days. If I do not mention someone, please forgive me as I tried to make notes.

Sandi Bagley, Sharon Bolton, Scott Burkholder, Sylvia Dorsky, Mike Dorsky, Pat Dunahay, Kritika Dwivedi, Richard Earle, Pedro Galvez, Tu Li, Ta Li, Neal Lundquist, Adrian Saunders, Sandy Tran

Thank you to all of the other volunteers who helped out, without you, the Show and Sale could not happen. Everything went smoothly – only a couple of minor problems – because all of you are experienced and can solve problems at the moment.

We moved to a new storage locker, only five minutes from the fairgrounds – making it easier, saving a lot of time for everyone, and saving money.

Elections for the 2027 Board are coming soon, so if you want to serve on the board, let one of the current board members know so we can get you on the ballot. CCSS is a great group and we need new people to implement creative and valuable programs for the future.

Randy

"The Hybrid Mind" - Russell Wagner

"Russell is an Oakland-based succulent hybridizer specialized in winter-active succulent and bulbs. He has served as editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal and published a book on mesembs with Steven Hammer (with more to come!). The gathering should prove an apt merger of two forces in the succulent plant world: our society, and Russell himself, both founded in the same year.

Having explored large swaths of the succulent smorgasbord — Russell has grown euphorbias, haworthias, cacti, succulent daisies, pelargoniums, crassulas, succulents of the Canary Islands, and many other groups — his steadfast focus remains winter-active South African succulents: the compact mesembs (living stones), spiral- and prostrate-leaved bulbs (Gethyllis, Massonia), Tylecodon, and Adromischus. In recent years, hybrid work has come to occupy a great deal of his thinking/feeling about plants, and several hybrid lines — some successful, others less so — have materialized in his collection. A tour of Russell's greenhouses, which member Panayoti Kalaidis experienced at the height of the recent winter growing season, is a dizzying barrage of shapes, textures, and colors seen nowhere else.



Russell Wagner
Russell Wagner Photo

Which, if we're honest, is not a unique situation: plant collections are always varied, daunting, and chaotic reflections of the mind of the grower.

Russell grows his plants from seed, having discovered early on the frugal economy, taxonomic depth, and morphological variety (even within a single species) that growing from seed allows. Thirty years on, his greenhouse is a living testament to his many interests, a smattering of this and that in a sea of specializations.

In this month's talk Russell will attempt a kaleidoscopic presentation of the plants he grows, highlighting the variation that can be found within species, and the unexpected results that arise when you cross species together. The work he will describe is something any grower can achieve, but the fascinating fact is that any two people, starting with the same source material, will create hybridization results — indeed any horticultural result — entirely distinct from one another. This is the hybrid mind: the intersection of chance, desire, personal aesthetic, and will that makes every collection as unique as each plant (and human) within it.

In addition to showing a few slides, Russell would like members to bring in their own seed-grown plants and hybrid succulents so we can have a sort of extended show-and-tell discussion about how we think and feel about bringing new life(forms) into the world—and deciding, in the largesse of seedraising, what gets to live and what will be tossed into the compost bin."

Program description provided by the speaker.

Awards, Trophies and Ribbons from the 2026 Show & Sale

Hello,

Now that we've had time to wind down after the Show and Sale madness, I've compiled a list of winners from the 2026 Show. But, before we get to the winners, I want to thank everyone who showed a plant, we had a little over 200 entries this year! The quality of plants was remarkable in both divisions, y'all really showed up for the show :) I'd also like to thank all the volunteers who helped keep everything running smoothly, you all really are the MVPs, the show couldn't have gone on without you!! I'm super excited to see what next year's will look like!

Sincerely,

Pedro Galvez

Show Chairsperson

Traveling Trophy Ribbons: These ribbons have trophies associated with them. Winners in these categories will have their names added to the trophy but do not keep the trophy.

Best of Show - Justin Ruiz - Tephrocactus articulatus

Best Succulent - Brandon Johnson - Conophytum uviforme ssp. Francisci

Best Haworthia - Russell LoPresti - Haworthia sp.

Best Mammillaria - Brandon Johnson - Mammillaria crucigera

Best Colorado Native - Sharon Bolton - Echinocereus triglochidiatus

Best Cactus Novice - Sandi Bagley - Cereus cv. 'Yoke Num Chote'

Special Ribbons: These ribbons are awarded to plants chosen by the judges in their categories. These ribbons do not have a traveling trophy associated with them.

Best Succulent Novice - Brandon Johnson - Conophytum uviforme ssp. Francisci

Best Cactus Open - Justin Ruiz - Tephrocactus articulatus

Best Succulent Open - Tate Grabiell - Pachypodium rosulatum

Best Caudiciform - Tate Grabiell - Pachypodium rosulatum

Plant of Advanced Age - Michelle Franke - Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

Awards, Trophies and Ribbons (con't)

Judge's Choice Ribbons: These ribbons are awarded to one plant per judge, based on the judge's favorite plant in the whole show.

Judge's Choice (Woody Minnich) - Justin Ruiz - *Crassula deceptor*

Judge's Choice (Kelly Grummons)- Garrett Schroeder - *Oeceoclades perrieri*

Judge's Choice (Scott Preusser) - Brandon Johnson - *Gymnocalycium eurypleurum*
cv. "Japan Clone"

Judge's Choice (Ray Jergensen) - Tate Grabiell - *Copiapoa krainziana*

Judge's Choice (Gary Davis) - Tate Grabiell - *Hohenbergia* sp. 357

Judge's Choice (Tate Grabiell) - Brandon Johnson - *Conophytum uviforme* ssp. Francisci

Sweepstakes Ribbons: This ribbon will be given to the show entrant whose plants earned the greatest number of points in each division.

Sweepstakes Open - Tate Grabiell

Sweepstakes Novice - Brandon Johnson

People's Choice Ribbon: This ribbon is awarded to the plant that garnered the most votes during the show.

People's Choice- Sandy Bagley - *Senecio stapeliiformis* f. cristata

CCSS Monthly Plant Show - Pedro Galvez

We have a special request for this month's Monthly Plant Show!

Our presenter, Russell Wagner, would like us to bring either plants grown from seed or hybrid mesembs. This will dovetail nicely with his presentation, and we are pleased to do this.

So, please take a quick look at your collection, and pick out a winner!

Thanks!

Awards, Trophies and Ribbons (con't)



Best Cactus Novice
Cereus cv. 'Yoke Num Chote'
 Sandi Bagley



Best Haworthia
Haoworthia sp.
 Russell LaPresti



Best Colorado Native
Echinocereus triglochidiatus
 Sharon Bolton



Best of Show
Tephrocactus articulatus
 Justin Ruiz

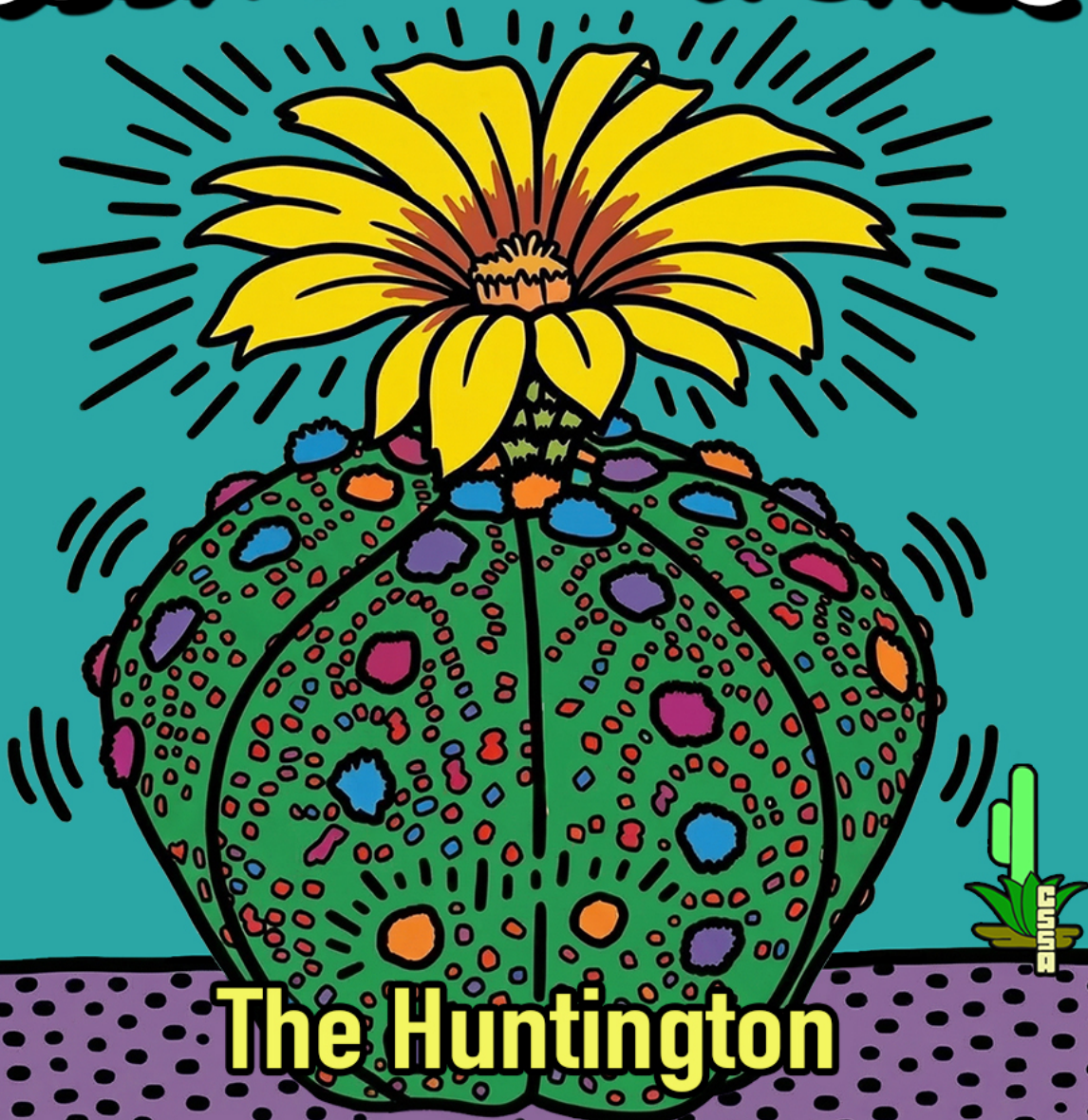


Best Mammillaria
Mammillaria crucigera
 Brandon Johnson



Best Succulent
Conophytum uviforme
ssp. Francisci
 Brandon Johnson

59TH ANNUAL
CSSA SHOW & SALE



The Huntington

June 12-14, 2026 | 10am-5pm daily

Huntington.org reservation required. CSSASHOW.COM

Join the Cactus & Succulent Society of America!

Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society Members get a DISCOUNT when joining or renewing the national CSSA

As a valued CSSA Affiliate, CCSS – Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society now has access to the new CSSA Supporting Membership benefit—just \$10/year (regularly \$20) for our members.

Below are the specific details for the CCSS:

[*Click here for the Direct Discount Link \(Recommended\):*](#)

Your Club's Discount Code:

Colorado-Affiliate-Partner-Discount

How Club Members Can Sign Up:

Option 1: Using the Direct Link (easiest method)

- Share your club's unique link with members.
- When they click it, the discount will be automatically applied at checkout.

Option 2: Entering the Discount Code at Checkout

- Members can also go to the CSSA Supporting Membership page and proceed to checkout.
- At checkout, they will see an "Enter Discount Code" link.
- Once clicked, they can enter your club's unique code and press Apply Discount.
- The discount will be applied, and the total will update to \$10.

For Current CSSA Supporting Members:

- Members who already have a Supporting Membership should log into their existing account first.
- Once logged in, they can use the discount link during checkout to renew at the \$10 rate.

Cactus & Succulent Society of America Member Benefits!

What Members Receive with a \$10 Supporting Membership

To The Point digital e-newsletter (quarterly)

Notifications of CSSA monthly webinars

Access to purchase seeds from the CSSA Seed Depot

**A meaningful way to support CSSA's mission in
conservation, research, & education**

19TH BIENNIAL MIDSTATES CACTUS & SUCCULENT CONFERENCE



Michelle Cloud-Hughes

June 26, 27 and 28

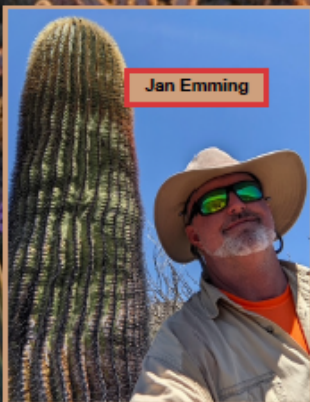
Registration is Now Open

**Fantastic Speakers
Great Plants**

**At The San Antonio
Garden Center**



Kipp Lee



Jan Emming



Woody Minnich



Jimmy Black

<https://midstatescactusandsucculentconference.ludus.com/select.php>

Register Here



Conference Theme: 'The Deserts of North America'

Conference Includes: Speaker Presentations,

Educational Display Showcase,

Vendor Plant Sales, Plant Auction,

BBQ Dinner & Reception on Friday,

Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday,

Lunch on Saturday, Open House on Sunday, July 28

More Info Here



11th Independent Plant Breeders Conference

11th Independent Plant Breeders Conference

November 16 - 18, 2026

Conference Details

Where: Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, 10901 Old Cutler Road, Miami, Florida 33156

Registration Cost: \$110

Purpose: As demand for new crops in the American market skyrockets, independent plant breeders are a key source for new plant introductions. This conference will yield quality partnerships necessary for making new plant introductions lucrative for the independent plant breeder. This conference provides a proven arena for independent plant breeders to

Learn the expectations of their business partners

Understand the decisions necessary for patenting new introductions

Network with other independent plant breeders, and

Turn their passion for plant breeding into a commercial reality.

Consider sponsoring this event.

Learn about the 2026 IPBC Sponsorship Opportunities.

Tentative Schedule:

Monday, 11/16 - Morning tours of Silver Vase Orchids, UF/IFAS TREC, and Costa Farms with lunch

Evening welcome reception and dinner at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden

Tuesday, 11/17 - Full day of speakers and networking with lunch

Student Poster Presentations with mixer

Wednesday, 11/18 - Half day of speakers and networking with lunch

Enjoy Miami or depart in the evening

Want more information? Please contact Dr. Xingbo Wu at xingbo.wu@ufl.edu

[Register Here](#)

I don't know anything about this conference, but compared to the unsolicited material we receive for the newsletter on a weekly basis, this seems like something someone here might consider attending!

- Scott

2026 COLORADO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

May 26th, 2026 - Monthly Meeting: Wagner on Mesembs

May 30th, 2026 - NARGS-RMC May Garden Tour

June 12 - 14, 2026 - CSSA Show & Sale, San Marino, California

June 26 - 28, 2026 - Mid-States Conference - San Antonio, Texas

November 16 - 18, 2026 - Plant Breeding Conference - Miami, Florida

JOIN THE CONVERSATION:



<https://www.facebook.com/CoCSS>

<https://www.instagram.com/coloradocactus/>

<http://www.coloradocactus.org/>