



Colorado
Cactus &
Succulent
Society

YOUR 2025 EDITOR:
SCOTT BURKHOLDER

MONTHLY PLANT SHOW

The Monthly Plant Show
is back!

Cactus - *Stenocactus* &
Echinofossulocactus

Succulent - *Haworthia*

Detail are in the newsletter.

[Mini Plant Show!](#)

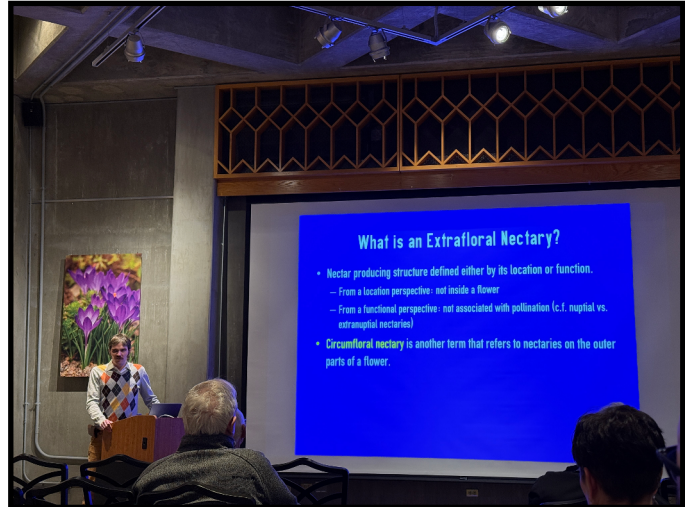
[Superbloom
Presentation](#)

[Don Campbell](#)

[Plus Photos
and More!](#)

February 2025, Vol 29 No. 2

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



Jackson Burkholder presenting his
"Behind the Scenes" Look at a Masters Thesis
Scott Burkholder Photo

UPCOMING MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 18th, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Denver Botanic Gardens - Gates Hall

Presentation: Superbloom Trifecta!

Presenter: Panayoti Kelaidis

Details:

Most gardeners are aware that South Africa contains extraordinary plant diversity: approximately a tenth of the World's vascular plant flora grows natively in South Africa.

In 2022 heavy winter rains resulted in a fantastic display of annuals, bulbs, perennials and succulents we call a "Super bloom"...I was so smitten that I returned in 2023 and again in 2024...just a few months ago. Each year seemed to outdo the previous one. I can convey a taste of it in my presentation!

SUCCULENT BITS

March Meeting

March's meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 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!

Panayoti Kelaidis



Cheiridopsis namaquensis & PK

Panayoti Kelaidis Photo

It's been quite a while since I've had a chance to read and admire Panayoti's full resume (the kids call it a C.V.) so I included it in this newsletter.

We are fortunate to have him at the DBG, in our club, and presenting at the February meeting!

2025 PLANT SHOW & SALE

- 1) Start collecting beer flats -
Check at the local liquor stores, and just about any small boxes are fine!
- 2) Get those plants ready for to show -
It'll be time to start prepping them for action, and don't forget to find some boxes for transporting them.
- 3) Prepare to volunteer -
There's plenty to do!

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!!

Notes from the Potting Bench

The April Show and Sale is fast approaching. Scott Burkholder will post a Sign-Up Genius volunteer form soon so start thinking how you can help us with the show and sale. We are planning to have more vendors this year and hope to expand the show area.

It's also not too early to start preparing your plants for the show, making sure you wake them up from their winter sleep and perhaps putting them into new, beautiful pots.

Hopefully, we can schedule some field trips and garden tours in late May and early June. We haven't had a field trip outside of the Denver metro area for a while. If you have an idea for a field trip or garden tour locations, contact one of our board members.

We are also looking for members to consider serving on the board. If you are interested in any of the positions, contact a current board member. This is one way to contribute your talents and ideas to making the CCSS a great society!

Randy Tatroe
CCSS President

A splash of color from warmer days:
Neoporteria coimasensis
Scott Burkholder Photo



"Superbloom Trifecta!" - Panayoti Kelaidis

Superbloom Trifecta!

Most gardeners are aware that South Africa contains extraordinary plant diversity: approximately a tenth of the World's vascular plant flora grows natively in South Africa. The South and Western parts of the Cape are especially rich in succulents (and bulbs!) however this area was subjected to great drought stress for most of this Millennium. Until 2022, that is, when heavy winter rains resulted in a fantastic display of annuals, bulbs, perennials and succulents we call a "Super bloom"...I was so smitten that I returned in 2023 and again in 2024...just a few months ago. Each year seemed to outdo the previous one. Seeing is believing, the technicolor audacity of Namaqualand super bloom must be seen to be believed! I hope I can convey a taste of it in my presentation!



PK with *Dimorphotheca pluvialis*
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo

Panayoti Kelaidis

Panayoti Kelaidis is a plant explorer, gardener and designer associated with Denver Botanic Gardens (DBG). He's introduced hundreds of plants to cultivation from the Southwest, and also South Africa and Eurasia--many marketed by Plant Select, which he helped found. He has designed plantings for DBG and public and private gardens throughout Colorado.

His private garden has been featured many times by the Garden Conservancy, where he serves as Rocky Mountain ambassador.



Superbloom!
Springbok to Van Rhynsdorp ZA
Panayoti Kelaidis Photo

Panayoti Kelaidis - *The rest of the Story!*

Panayoti Kelaidis is a plant explorer, gardener and public garden administrator associated with Denver Botanic Gardens where he is now Director of Outreach. He began his career at DBG in 1980 as curator of the Rock Alpine Garden, where he designed and oversaw the initial plantings of this extensive garden. Garden Design Magazine has rated this garden as the best public rock garden in North America. He has designed plantings for many of the gardens at DBG, as well as being part of the design team at Centennial garden and has designed the Watersmart knot gardens at Denver's Civic Center as part of Denver Mayor Hickenlooper's Water Conservation initiative.

He has introduced hundreds of native ornamentals from throughout the Western United States to general horticulture. He has taken five collecting trips to South Africa researching the high mountain and steppe flora there, as well as travels to the Andes, the Himalaya (Pakistan, Sikkim, Tibet and China), as well as travels throughout much of Europe, Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Kazakhstan) the Caucasus and Turkey. Perhaps the best known of Panayoti's introductions are the many showy hardy ice plants: several dozen of these are now available at garden centers across America and in other parts of the world.

In addition to introducing a host of exotic plants to general horticulture, Panayoti has been a champion Western native plants. He was the second secretary of the Colorado Native Plant Society, and past president of the American Penstemon Society. He has explored the Western mountains from Alaska to southern Mexico, collecting seeds of more than a thousand kinds of Western American wild plants for Denver Botanic Gardens' collections and for research and study.

Panayoti has been party to the discovery of a number of species of plants new to science. In 1980 he pressed the first specimens of a lady's tress orchid in Golden that was subsequently to be named *Spiranthes diluvialis* by Charles Sheviak. In 1987 John Lavranos sent Panayoti an Aizoaceae he collected on Komsberg Pass in South Africa which Panayoti subsequently shared with John Trager at the Huntington Botanical Garden, and finally Steve Hammer. This taxon was finally recognized as *Delosperma sphalmanthoides* by Hammer. In March of 1996 Panayoti and Jim Archibald collected a specimen of an undetermined *Moraea* on Mount-aux-Sources, Orange Free State, South Africa which Peter Goldblatt determined to be a new species (*Moraea vigilans*). Several more of his south African collections are undergoing evaluation as likely new species to be published in the coming years.

Panayoti takes particular pride in sharing the plants and information he accrues through many channels: he has lectured in nearly 150 cities in nine countries, and has been featured in dozens of television, newspaper and magazine pieces.

He has been inducted in 2000 to the Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Growers Hall of Fame. In 2004 he received the Boulder History Museum's 60 Year Living History award, in 2003 by being inducted into the Garden Club of America as Member-at-Large, in 2002 he received the National Garden Clubs Medal of Honor and in 2000 he received the Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College. He has received three of the North American Rock Garden Society's awards over the last two decades. In 2009 he received the Liberty Hyde Bailey award of the American Horticultural Society.

Panayoti Kelaidis believes gardening is humanity's best way to gain an appreciation of nature and natural processes. In our increasingly urbanized and polluted world, horticulture is, perhaps, the best way to create a sustainable future for mankind and our planet.

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:

Stenocactus & Echinofossulocactus

A number of species of the genus *Stenocactus* are popular in cultivation. The plants are globose and remain relatively small making them very manageable in pots. Additionally, they grow easily and flower readily - often one of the first in a cactus collection to flower in the spring. In addition to their ball-shape, most species in this genus have unique fin-like ribs that are very numerous. This gives them a look reminiscent of undersea coral. Spines are usually present and prominent, but not to the point of obscuring the stem. Flowers arise at the apex and are often white with a wide, dark pink midstripe, but can be a plain creamy white. This genus is native to the Chihuahuan desert in Mexico

from cactiguide.com



Stenocactus multicostatus
from lifle.com

CCSS Monthly Plant Show (continued)

Haworthia

Haworthias are small succulent plants, forming rosettes of leaves from 3 cm (1.2 in) to exceptionally 30 cm (12 in) in diameter, depending on the species. These rosettes are usually stemless but in some species stems reach up to 50 cm (20 in). The inflorescences of some species may exceed 40 cm (16 in) in height. The plants can grow solitary or can be clump-forming. Many species have firm, tough, fleshy leaves, usually dark green in color, whereas others are softer and contain leaf windows with translucent panels through which sunlight can reach internal photosynthetic tissues. Their flowers are small, and generally white. Though they are very similar between species, flowers from the species in section Hexangulares generally have green striations and those from other species often have brown lines in the flowers. However, their leaves show wide variations even within one species. Additionally, when the plants are stressed (e.g. deprived of water), their colors can change to reds and purples. Depriving them of nitrogen generally results in paler leaves.

from Wikipedia.com



Haworthia cooperi truncata
from sunnysideplants.com

In Memorandum - Don Campbell

In January our friends from the **Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society** in Grand Junction informed us that Don Campbell is now tending the great cactus garden in the sky. After a couple of falls he had opted to live in an Assisted Living Home where he passed on peacefully at the age of 89.

Many of the CCSS old timers fondly remember Don, "**The Cactus Man**" as he called himself. He was a long standing member of The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society before moving to Grand Junction where he founded our sister cactus club.

Don was a skilled and successful **hobbyist cactus grower** who regularly participated in our annual Show & Sale, both as a judge several times and as competitive cactus fan. He fetched many blue ribbons, trophies and special awards. He generously shared his knowledge of cacti with all CCSS members, gave presentations and organized multiple field trips, especially on the Western slope.

I personally remember the visit to the San Rafael Swell west of Grand Junction and a field trip hunting cactus to the Uncompahgre National Forrest. Don had a great humor, always a welcoming smile and an enthusiasm for cacti that was contagious.

It was a privilege to have known The Cactus Man.

Roswitha Moehring, with contribution from Harriett Olds and Katherine McCoy

Here is Don Campbell next to a
Ferocactus wislizenii in the Ironwood National
Monument, in August of 2017, right after the Cactus &
Succulent Society of America Conference in Tucson.

Katherine McCoy Photo



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Vice-Presidents, Programs
KelaidiP@botanicgardens.org
PrecisionCactus@gmail.com

PEDRO GALVEZ

Member at Large
pgalvez9114@gmail.com

SCOTT BURKHOLDER & DAVID LANDES

Show and Sale (Co-Chairs)
seisnoir#comcast.net
negusdawit@hotmail.com

SCOTT BURKHOLDER

Newsletter, Etc
seisnoir@comcast.net

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS:

February 18th, 2025 - Monthly meeting at the Denver Botanic Gardens

March 11th, 2025 - Monthly meeting at the Denver Botanic Gardens

April 26th & 27th, 2025 - Lead Pipe Locked Date for the 2025 Plant Show & Sale

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