
CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO

P.O. Box 21357

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<http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org>

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to interest in, preservation of, and education about cacti and succulents from all over the world. We are an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (to receive a personal copy of its Journal you must become an individual member of the national society).

As a member of CSSNM, you have access to the Society library, an extensive collection of information about almost any subject having to do with cacti or succulents. The library, for security reasons, is maintained in space rented by the Society. You may call the librarian to request books about a subject, which he/she will have available at the next meeting. Copies of the listing of books and materials contained in the library are available to members. (The Society also has a selection of educational handouts available to the public as well as to members.)

The Society sponsors an annual show and sale every spring, usually the second weekend in April. You are encouraged to enter plants for the juried show. If you have never won a best-of-show award, you may place an "N" on your entry tag, as you are eligible for the Novice award. An educational handout is available on presenting plants for show. Sale plants are provided by vendors, both local and out of state, offering new and exciting plants. Members may also sell plants at the sale (check for details). A second opportunity to show plants is at an educational exhibit held in the Fall.

Names of Plants: Some new members may find our use of botanical names rather than "common" names for our plants, somewhat daunting. There are very good reasons for this practice. For instance, "Pincushion Cactus" won't do the job when there are already over 600 named species of *Mammillaria*, many of which are in the collections of members, and more are being named all the time. Even in New Mexico there are several species, so that a single term is only confusing. "Hens and Chickens" is a name applied to more than one genus, let alone species. If you happen to have bought a *Sempervivum* and put it outside in Albuquerque, you're all right, but if instead, it was an *Echeveria*—they look very much alike—it will die at the first winter frost. Learning the true names really isn't as difficult as it appears, and will let you learn the real habitats of the plants, which can make them much more interesting and easier to grow.

Field Collection: Society field trips are for the purpose of observation rather than for collecting plants. Our general policy is to discourage field collection for several reasons. First, it is illegal to collect plants on public lands. Second, many of the plants formerly so plentiful, are becoming scarce through loss of habitat as well as collection; if we continue to take plants from the wild, there will be none left for our children. Even if collected with permission from private land, plants from habitat often, if not usually, die unless the collector is very careful (and knowledgeable) about position, soil, time of year, and amount of rainfall. Even with ideal conditions, many are lost. The Society does have arrangements to be called to major building sites, so that plants can be rescued from the bulldozers. Otherwise, consider growing your own from seed – available for all the local plants.

Again, welcome to the Society. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings – the third Friday of the month at the Albuquerque Garden Center; 10120 Lomas, NE. Following the business meeting, we have an entertaining educational program. There are often free plants and cuttings available, donated by members. And, of course, we'll be happy to answer any questions about cacti and succulents.