

# Philadelphia Cactus & Succulent Society

| 2026 OCTOBER |                    |         |           |          |        |                 |
|--------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| Sunday       | Monday             | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday        |
| 27           | 28                 | 29      | 30        | 1        | 2      | 3               |
| 4            | 5                  | 6       | 7         | 8        | 9      | 10              |
| 11           | 12<br>Columbus Day | 13      | 14        | 15       | 16     | 17              |
| 18           | 19                 | 20      | 21        | 22       | 23     | 24              |
| 25           | 26                 | 27      | 28        | 29       | 30     | 31<br>Halloween |

## October Meeting

We apologize for the confusion regarding our September meeting. Without exception, we always meet on the second Sunday of the month. Except when we make an exception, which is never more than 5 out of 10 meetings per year :)

Returning for our October program will be Paul Carlberg from Massachusetts who will speak on Gasterias. A fascinating genus of succulents native to South Africa, Gasterias are often overshadowed by more famous relatives. Gasterias are wonderfully diverse, beautifully patterned and surprisingly adaptable.

Paul's talk will introduce the natural history and distinctive characteristics of Gasterias with emphasis on habitat, growth forms and remarkable leaf markings. Paul plans to bring species from his personal collection for display.

As in the past Paul will bring a small but diverse assortment of plants from his collection that will be available for sale.

Paul Carlberg is a resident of Groton, Massachusetts. has been a horticultural enthusiast for over 50 years. Paul is a founding member of the MA Cactus and Succulent Society having served as president of that group. He has also served as president of the Hobby Greenhouse Society of MA, the New England Bromeliad Society and Trustee of the Worcester County Horticultural Society. Paul has been engaged for many years as an amateur horticultural judge participating in shows in Boston, Worcester, Newport, Connecticut and Philadelphia. He maintains a personal collection of plants covering a wide range of species, and his talks to our club are always a treat.

### In this newsletter

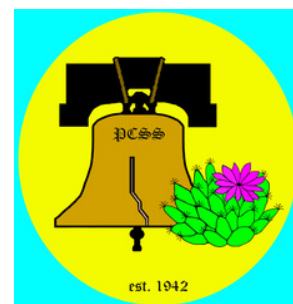
October Meeting

Renew Your Membership!

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Plant of the Month



## September Recap

Our September meeting featured a lively presentation that introduced some of your board members and their collections and other interests. This is something we would like to open to the general membership as well. Please get in touch if you would like to do a short presentation on your collection.

Congrats to Lee Garner who won the POTM Best In Show!

The raffle table was packed with plants including several from the collection of John Sandone who is downsizing. Thanks to John for his generous donation of nice plants in beautiful planters.



## Renew Your Membership!

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30. If you joined at the 2026 Phila. Flower Show, a special offer extended your membership through June 30, 2027. Most members needed to renew this past July.

We can accept credit cards in person at club meetings and other events, along with cash and checks. Or, to renew your membership by mail for the 2026-27 season, send a \$20 check, payable to PCSS, to our Treasurer:

Renee Thompson,  
Phila. Cactus & Succulent Society  
69 Tanglewood Drive  
Milford, DE 19963



## Join Us For a Meeting

Our meetings are held at Cathedral Village, 600 E Cathedral Rd, Philadelphia, 19128.

When entering the property, follow the green signs to the right, indicating the route for VISITORS.

We meet in the auditorium known as Cathedral Hall; the entrance is underneath the canopy labeled "Main Entrance." Look for our NEW NEON SIGN in the window on the left.

Set-up, POTM plant entry, snacks and social hour starts at 11, which is when you should plan to be there. The meeting starts promptly at noon. Typically our meeting is over by 2 pm.

Non-members can join us for a free meeting, to determine whether they want to join, so feel free to bring a friend.



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## June Recap

Our June meeting was our biennial election of officers. Because all of the incumbent officers were running unopposed, the Elections Committee opted for a voice vote, and the officers were unanimously re-elected:

Paul Wesolowski: President  
Timothy Day: Vice-President  
Renee Thompson: Treasurer  
Fanny Warren: Associate Treasurer  
Chrissy Day: Affiliate Representative  
Paul Wesolowski: Secretary

Feel free to reach out to any officer at a meeting, or between meetings.

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### Over the Summer

On July 9, quite a few PCSS members visited the greenhouses at Swarthmore College, including the small, but noble, collection of cactus and succulent plants.

It was especially enjoyable for many of us to see Susan Gisser, who has been a member of the club since 1954.



## Over the Summer

On August 8, Bob Sparrow once again hosted PCSS at his farm in Nazareth, PA. Between Bob's own plants for sale, our club's auction, and a club raffle, everybody when home with more plants than they needed!



On August 23, Paul Wesolowski and James Winter attended the New York Cactus and Succulent Society's plant sale in Long Island City. Mengchum Li and family also attended, but they arrived after the photo was taken.

Shown is the Society's table, but there were also several independent vendors, as well as a unique plant competition.



## Upcoming Events

November 15, 2026: monthly meeting featuring a talk about the 2025 CSSA Convention in San Diego, CA.

December 13, 2026: Our annual Holiday Party. Come celebrate with us, and be amazed at our display of cactus-themed Christmas and Hanukkah decorations. We will once again have our plant pollyanna.

January 10, 2027: monthly meeting featuring a talk on preparing to enter the PHS Flower Show.

February 7, 2027: Our meeting will be on the FIRST Sunday of the month due to a scheduling conflict at Cathedral Village.

March 7, 2027: Our meeting will be on the FIRST Sunday of the month because the Philadelphia Flower Show is later than it has been in the past, and Easter is at the end of the month.

March 8 - 11, 2027 is Flower Show set-up. Contact Paul Wesolowski or Janet Wong if you want to assist in setting up the club's exhibit.

March 12, 2027 is the Flower Show Preview, and the show runs March 13 - 21. Teardown is Sunday night March 21, the first night of Passover.

April 10 - 11, 2027: The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society hosts their annual Plant Show and Sale. A dozen PCSS members agree that it's worth the trip to Bristol, CT.

April 18, 2027: Our meeting is the THIRD Sunday of the month because some members prefer to stay in CT for the second day of their show and sale.

May 16, 2027: Our May meeting is typically the THIRD Sunday of the month, to avoid a conflict with Mother's Day.

May 18 - 23, 2027: The CSSA Convention will be held in Tucson, Arizona and promises to be lots of fun. PCSS will be offering incentives to members who attend.

June 13, 2027: Our annual Picnic, which is hopefully a chance to socialize and meet other members. Those who attended the convention may show off some of their purchases.

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## Plant of the Month

All PCSS members are invited to submit four entries to be judged for Plant of the Month at each meeting.

Plants must match a monthly category, have one species per planting unless specified otherwise, and have no visible infestations. All pots are permitted, though judges may comment on unappealing plastic pots.

Not following the rules, or leaving your name off of the POTM entry form can lead to reduction of ribbon to Honorable Mention or to disqualification.

Impress the judges by providing the correct botanical/ scientific name for each entry and use decorative soil dressing or planters that enhance the entry's beauty!

The more you participate, the more you will learn what the judges are looking for.

Here is the 2025/2026 POTM Point system

Entering - 1  
 Honorable Mention - 2  
 3rd Place - 3  
 2nd Place - 4  
 1st Place - 5  
 Best in Show - +5 (10 total)

There will be an award at the May auction for the three contestants with the most cumulative points.

## OCTOBER, 2026 POTM CATEGORIES

| <i>Class</i>         | <i>Theme</i>                                                             | <i>Examples / Ideas</i>                                                                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cactus               | <b>Echinocactus II Group</b> (subfamily Cactoideae, tribe Echinocacteae) | Echinocactus, Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia, Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus), Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Aztekium |
| Succulents (Cycle B) | <b>Aloaceae 2</b> Haworthia sensu-lato                                   | Haworthia, Haworthiopsis and Tulista only                                                                    |
| Special Category     | <b>Caudiciforms and Bonsai</b>                                           | We will separate the entries into the major two groups and subdivide from there.                             |



Lee Garner's rosette winning  
*Pachypodium Saundersii*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CACTUS & SUCCULENT**  
**SOCIETY of AMERICA**  
**2027 BIENNIAL CONVENTION**



**MAY 19-24, 2027, TUCSON, ARIZONA**

This will be well worth the trip, so start planning now! The saguaros will be blooming, there will be countless opportunities to buy unusual plants, great speakers, and a chance to meet new friends in the hobby. Next September, Paul Wesolowski will present a slide show on his trip to the 2025 convention in San Diego.



PHILADELPHIA  
CACTUS & SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY

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