Philadelphia Cactus & Succulent Society

NOVEMBER 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

November Meeting

Our November 15 meeting will be a slide show with highlights of the 2025 CSSA Convention in San Diego, and a look towards the CSSA Convention in Tucson, May 19-24, 2027.

The program will be presented by our President, Paul Wesolowski. Paul has been a member of PCSS since 1994, and in 1995 he attended his first CSSA Convention, in Tucson. Paul has been Chairman of PCSS's Philadelphia Flower Show Committee since 1999. Paul was elected PCSS President in June 2024, and re-elected in 2026.



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October Recap

Our October meeting featured yet another interesting presentation from Paul Carlberg of the Massachusetts club, this one on the under-apprectated genus, Gasteria. He brought a number of interesting plants to illustrate his talk, and also brought several flats of assorted plants for sale.

Between renewals and new members, our membership now stands at 100 members, and 45 people attended the meeting.

It rained on the meeting date, making it a perfect day to unveil our new neon sign (photo below, right) which now marks the entrance to our meeting room.



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 2:30 pm.

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





Upcoming Events

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 provide ham and turkey, and ask members to provide appetizers, side dishes, beverages and desserts. We will once again have our plant pollyanna, BUT WITH A TWIST! **Instead of bringing your own purchased plant to exchange, bring a well-groomed $20 bill. Those who participate will have their name entered on our Spectacular Prize Wheel, and when your name is called, you can choose either a plant which we have purchased at a discount, or a different $20 bill.** Everyone can participate! The sign-up is here: **https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084FABA822ABFF2-66592572-2026#/**

January 10, 2027: Irene Cassidy will give a short presentation on preparing to enter the PHS Flower Show. Also, Robert Gorelick will join us to talk about growing winter hardy cactus plants outside. He has been doing this for decades, and will have lots of practical tips.

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, 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 11, 2027: Our meeting is the traditional second Sunday of the month. This is a change from the original schedule.

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.



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 2026 - 2027 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.

NOVEMBER, 2026 POTM CATEGORIES

Class	*Theme*	*Examples / Ideas*
Cactus	**Epiphytic Group** subfamily Cactoideae, tribes Hylocereae, Rhipsalideae	Rhipsalis, Schlumbergia
Succulents (Cycle B)	**Aloaceae 2** Gasteria only; **PLUS**: plants of bigeneric origin from any plant family	Gasteria; xGasteraloe, xGasterhaworthia, xAlworthia, xMangave, xAporophyllum, xGraptoveria, xSedeveria, xGraptophytum, xGraptosedum, xTacisedum, xTaciveria, xTacipetalum, xCremnosedum, xCremneria, xCremnopetalum, etc.
Special Category	**Hanging Plants**	The exhibitor must provide a pot or other workable form of staging to properly display their plant.

2027 PCSS Shirts

Wearing a PCSS -branded shirt not only shows your club spirit, it also advertises our club and helps us to recruit new members. When attending events run by other clubs, or the CSSA convention, it's a great was to introduce yourself, and to be instantly recognized as a member of PCSS.

These shirts are machine washable and can be customized with your first name. They are made to order, and will be available for a limited time only.



Vertical Stripe blue button front, Cuban collar

MEMBER NAME FOR SHIRT FRONT: _____

OPTIONS: Select fit

For Men | For Women

SIZE: Select Size

S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL

5XL | 6XL | 7XL | 8XL

POCKET OPTION: The default is no pocket, but one can be added if you insist

Chest Pocket | No Pocket

MATERIAL: Select material

Premium Cotton | Soft Polyester

$53.00 $35.00



Vertical Stripe pink button front, Cuban collar

MEMBER NAME FOR SHIRT FRONT: _____

OPTIONS: Select fit

For Men | For Women

SIZE: Select Size

S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL

5XL | 6XL | 7XL | 8XL

POCKET OPTION: The default is no pocket, but one can be added if you insist

Chest Pocket | No Pocket

MATERIAL: Select material

Premium Cotton | Soft Polyester

$53.00 $35.00



Vertical Stripe pink polo style

MEMBER NAME FOR SHIRT FRONT: _____

OPTIONS: Select fit

For Men | For Women

SIZE: Select Size

S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL

5XL | 6XL | 7XL | 8XL

POCKET OPTION: The default is no pocket, but one can be added if you insist

Chest Pocket | No Pocket

MATERIAL:

Pique (95% polyester and 5% spandex)

$40



Vertical Stripe blue polo style

MEMBER NAME FOR SHIRT FRONT: _____

OPTIONS: Select fit

For Men | For Women

SIZE: Select Size

S | M | L | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL

5XL | 6XL | 7XL | 8XL

POCKET OPTION: The default is no pocket, but one can be added if you insist

Chest Pocket | No Pocket

MATERIAL:

Pique (95% polyester and 5% spandex)

$40

For each of the four shirts shown on these two pages, specify the Style, a first name for the shirt front, the Fit (for Men or for Women], the Size (they run true to size, but if you like a loose fit, order one size up) and for button-up shirts, the fabric (premium cotton or polyester.) A chest pocket is available, but we don't recommend one because it can interfere with the club's logo.

Field Trip to Richmond, VA

On October 24, PCSS members were invited to join the Chesapeake Cactus and Succulent Society on a special tour of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia. Members drove themselves to Columbia, MD and were then chauffeured via passenger van. Many thanks to their President, Stan Vornovitsky for planning a flawless trip. CCSS members will judge at the 2027 Philadelphia Flower Show, and we look forward to working with their members in the future, for the mutual benefit of both clubs.







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.

PHILADELPHIA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY	philadelphia.cactus@gmail.com
www.philacactus.org	https://www.facebook.com/groups/202733996526503

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