

# CHESAPEAKE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

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### FIRST QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

The Chesapeake Cactus & Succulent Society (CCSS) is proud to share highlights from our first quarter, celebrating community, education, and an incredible kickoff event that brought plant lovers together from across the region.

### Holiday Show & Sale

Our Holiday Show & Sale at the Harriet Tubman Cultural Center in Columbia, Maryland was a great success, welcoming attendees from Maryland, D.C., Virginia, and beyond.

### Show Plants Spotlight

One of the highlights of the quarter was our stunning show plants, which demonstrated the artistry, patience, and horticultural skill of our members. From beautifully grown living stones to sculptural cacti and rare succulents, these specimens exemplify what can be achieved through shared knowledge and passion.

### What's Next?

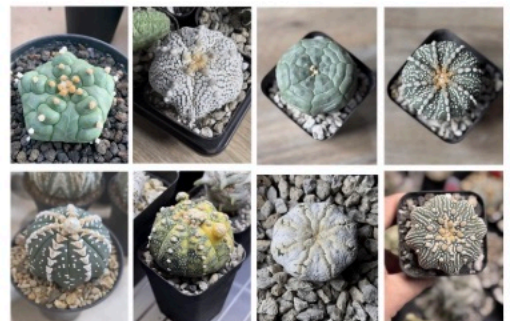
Looking ahead, CCSS will continue building momentum through expanded community outreach and a strong slate of educational programs, shows, sales, and member events. We're excited to increase visibility, welcome new plant enthusiasts, and grow together.



### GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER

Fostering a welcoming, educational environment remains at the heart of CCSS. During the first quarter, members enjoyed two engaging presentations led by our society's leadership:

- **Cactus and Succulent Care Tips and Propagation**— presented by CCSS President Stan Vornovitsky, offering an accessible and informative introduction to cactus biology and identification.
- **Between the Ribs: exploring the genus *Astrophytum*** — presented by Vice President Brian Oliver, exploring this distinctive and highly sought-after genus with insights for both new and experienced growers.



**WE ARE A PROUD AFFILIATE OF THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**

## MANAGING CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS IN SMALL SPACES

In January, our CCSS member panel, in conjunction with CCSS chapters in New York City, took a deep dive into practical strategies for managing thriving plant collections in tight living spaces. From modular shelving systems and vertical setups to energy-efficient LED grow lights on timers, the group shared smart ways to maximize light and square footage. Watering strategies varied, but panelists agreed that soil composition is critical—many favoring a pumice-forward mix (75–80% mineral) to reduce overwatering risks and maintain healthy root activity, even during dormancy. Thoughtful pest management—including systemic and topical treatments—along with airflow, heat control, and winter adjustments were also highlighted as essential components of indoor success.

Additional tips included grouping plants with similar needs, tracking plant lineages and care routines, using a mix of plastic and terracotta pots depending on growth stage, and creating standardized systems that others can follow if you're away.

The discussion reinforced that with intentional design, proper lighting, and consistent routines, even the smallest spaces can support vibrant, healthy collections.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Monthly Meeting—First Sunday each month
  - Harriet Tubman Cultural Center—Columbia
- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Spring Show & Sale
- NYC Horticultural Trip

## WANT TO BECOME A MEMBER?

The Chesapeake Cactus & Succulent Society brings together plant lovers from Maryland, Washington, D.C., Virginia, and beyond who share a passion for cacti and other succulent plants. As a nonprofit educational organization, CCSS is dedicated to promoting the cultivation, appreciation, and conservation of these remarkable plants.

Whether you're just starting your plant journey or you're an experienced grower, CCSS offers a welcoming, inclusive community with something for everyone. Members enjoy engaging presentations, hands-on workshops, plant sales, swaps, and opportunities to connect with fellow enthusiasts who love learning and growing together.

### Meet Our Board

- President: Stan Vornovitsky, Ph.D.
- Vice President: Brian Oliver
- Treasurer: Melissa Hunley
- Directors: Cal Medrano, Edward Pinzon, and Michelle Vonn

Join CCSS today:

<https://chesapeakecactus.org>

Click: "Become a Member"

**Grow your knowledge. Grow your collection.  
Grow your community.**

