



Succulent Scoop
Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society
GSSA Affiliate

May 2026 Volume 11 Number 5

Mission Statement:

The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Web: ConejoCSS.com

Wednesday May 6th - Doors Open 6:00 - Meeting Starts 7:00

NOTE! ROOM CHANGE FOR MAY MEETING California Lutheran University

Swenson Center for Social and Behavioral Sciences 141 Faculty Street

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 (see map on page 3)

Bio: Thomas Baker-Rabe

Head grower and co-owner of Plant Shop 805, a nursery and retail shop based in Ventura, California.

Arch Rock Aloes is his specialty Aloe project, growing hard to find Aloe species as well as original hybrids. Formerly the cactus and succulent gardener at Montecito's landmark botanical garden Lotusland, he is a charter member of the Ventura Botanical Garden and a member of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society. Thomas has traveled to South Africa, Peru, Brazil, and throughout the western United States to learn about various desert tropical species. He offers workshops to share his expertise with gardeners and plant lovers in Ventura County and beyond.

Talk Description: A talk on novel Aloe hybrids- Explore known Aloe hybrids from around the world, learn how to hybridize interesting aloes, and see some of our favorite hybrids from our nursery.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE May 2026

Remember the saying "April Showers Bring May Flowers"? That usually didn't pertain to California, but somehow, we have had two April sales where it has rained.

What a stressful week of changing weather reports. I have never seen them change so often, sometimes hourly. It drove me crazy all week worrying about the sale.

Quite a few of the vendors called me during the week asking if we planned on cancelling.

I told them to check the hourly forecast instead of the daily which only shows the percentage of rain for the day. The hourly said it was going to stop raining at 6:30 in the morning and it stopped raining at 6:30 in the morning.

It turned out to be a breezy, cool pleasant day. The sale turned out well and all the vendors seemed happy with their sales.

We are having a busy spring. First the trip to Taft Gardens in Ojai (I was on a buying trip to buy plants for the sale and could not attend). I hear it was very successful, a lot of people showed up and everyone had a great time.

Now there is the garden tour to Jim and Roxie Esterle's house in Encino. I had heard fabulous things about their garden and can't wait to see it. They will also be selling plants that day for our members. They save plants for our event instead of selling at our sale, so they should have a great selection.

Don't forget to R.S.V.P. to Lisa (See page 5) so we know how many to expect. We won't be having a meeting before then.

I'm sure Lisa has more adventures up her sleeve to come.

The months of May and June our regular meeting room is not available.
See map on Page 3 for the Swenson meeting room location for May.

In June we decided to go dark, so no meeting in June this year. We usually go dark one month out of the year, but it is usually January because it falls too close to the new year, or July because it falls too close to the 4th. This year our June speaker cancelled, and we don't have our regular room, I have relatives coming into town that day and wouldn't be there so it will be our dark month.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on May 2nd, and at the May meeting.

Linda Holub

President CCSS



Meeting Room for May Meeting! 141 Faculty Street, Thousand Oaks

THOUSAND OAKS CAMPUS 2025-2026

FACILITIES

Swensen Center (CRPD)	104a
Swensen Center	112
Swensen Center	103
Swensen Center	105
Swensen Center	103
Swensen Center	103
Swensen Center	106
Swensen Center	28
Swensen Center	109
Swensen Center	113
Swensen Center	104
Swensen Center	103
Swensen Center	102

FACILITIES

Swensen Center	6
Swensen Center	21a
Swensen Center	31a
Swensen Center	31
Swensen Center	31

RECREATION SPACES

Swensen Center	2a
Swensen Center	53
Swensen Center	47b
Swensen Center	48
Swensen Center	50
Swensen Center	47c
Swensen Center	43b
Swensen Center	43
Swensen Center	98
Swensen Center	43a
Swensen Center	80
Swensen Center	43c
Swensen Center	49
Swensen Center	111
Swensen Center	19
Swensen Center	103z
Swensen Center	14c
Swensen Center	114

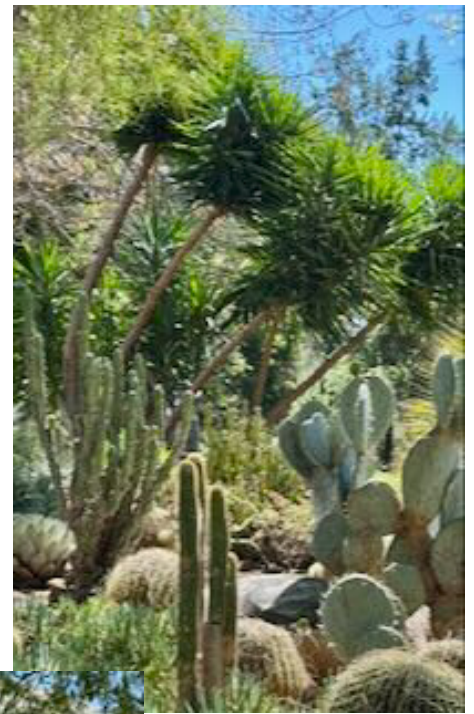


Swensen Center
141 Faculty Street
Building #18 on this map



Taft Garden
Field Trip

Taft Gardens
and Nature
Preserve
Ojai



Another great CCSS Spring Plant Sale April 12, 2026!

Thank you for attending and extra thanks to our great volunteers!

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." — Henry Ford



New this year!

Club shirts which sold well.

Silent auction did good but need to place higher minimum bids and bid increments of \$5 or \$10.



Garden Tour and Plant Sale at Roxie and Jim Esterle's Home

Please join us, as we enjoy Roxie and Jim Esterle's amazing garden. We have heard nothing but great feedback about Roxie & Jim's garden. Be ready to do some shopping, as we get to purchase plants at their Garden Plant sale!

Date: Saturday May 2nd

Time: 10:00 am

Location: 4530 Densmore Ave, Encino

**RSVP TEXT to Lisa no later than April 28th -
805-402-4619**

Street Parking. Please try and carpool.



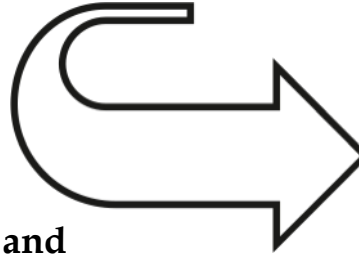
Refreshments 2026

Based on the last names of our members, May refreshments is **H, I, J**.
 If your **last name starts with H or I or J**, please bring in refreshments to share at the meeting.
 Coffee is generously donated by Terry Wilson and water is provided by the club.

You don't have to only bring snacks on your month.

You can bring refreshments any additional months you wish.

Thank You!



**Volunteers, suggestions and
 comments are always welcome!**

**NOTE! We will not be
 having a June
 Meeting. See Linda's
 Message on page 2**

WHO TO CONTACT?

Below is listed Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society's current Officers and Board members.

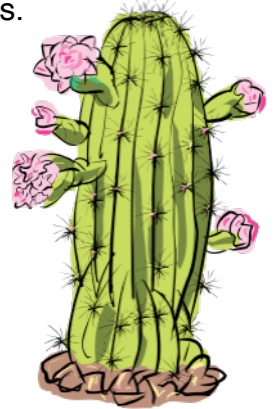
All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

Come up to us at a meeting, call or email.

Club email is ConejoCSS@hotmail.com.

President Linda Holub - cactuscougar@icloud.com 805-501-0761

Vice-President Robyn Sakadjian - weiss.robyn.m@gmail.com



CCSS 2026 Officers

President

Linda Holub

Treasurer

Chris Gailey

Director II, Education

Terry Wilson

Website

Tim Alvord

1st VP, Programs

Robyn Sakadjian

Secretary

Alex Holub

Scoop Editor

Ann Hopkinson

Librarian

Glen Smith

2nd VP, POM & Education

Kyle Williams

Director I, Membership

Glen Smith

Hospitality

Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

Propagation

Terry Wilson

3rd VP, Special Events

Lisa Gailey

Assistant to Director I

Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator

Gerry Caruso

Event Publicity

Lisa Gailey

Plant of the Month 2026



NOTE: There will be no POM Show in December so everyone can enjoy the Holiday Party and we can have more time for gift exchange and auction.

	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
January	<i>Ferocactus & Echinocactus</i>	<i>Haworthia</i>
February	<i>Echinocereus</i>	<i>Mesembs</i>
March	<i>Astrophytum</i>	<i>Tylecodon</i>
April	<i>Gymnocalycium</i>	<i>Aloe</i>
<u>May</u>	<u><i>Copiapoa</i></u>	<u><i>Adenia</i></u>
June	<i>Eriosyee</i>	<i>Pachypodium</i>
July	<i>Parodia</i>	<i>Adenium</i>
August	<i>Mammillaria</i>	<i>Curcubitaceae</i>
September	<i>Variegates</i>	<i>Variegates</i>
October	<i>Echinopsis</i>	<i>Agave</i>
November	<i>Crested/Monstrose</i>	<i>Crested/Monstrose</i>

Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is to introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion of the culture, care and display of these plants. We encourage members to share their plants with the other members of CCSS.

POM Submissions

Members may submit up to (3) three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulent). Plants entered in the intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice Division may be newly acquired plants.

POM Divisions

Novice: 0-25 Total points **Intermediate:** 26-100 Total Points **Advanced:** >100 Total points

When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

POM Judging Criteria

Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria.

Condition (health, form, damage) – 50%

Maturity and Size – 25%

Staging (artistic composition – container, stonework, etc) – 20%

Nomenclature (proper plant identification) – 5%

Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

POM Judging

1st Place – 6 points 2nd Place – 3 points 3rd Place – 2 points

All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We encourage all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

May 2026 Cactus of the Month - Copiapoa

Copiapoa

Copiapoa is a genus of spectacular cacti from the Atacama Desert along the north coast of Chile. *Copiapoa* were first collected in the 1840s, and described as *Echinocactus*, then the home to any of the more or less globular cacti. The genus *Copiapoa* was named by Britton and Rose in 1922 in their great work *The Cactaceae*. The name derives from Chilean province of Copiapo, home of many of the species. Currently 26 species of *Copiapoa* are generally recognized. Species of this genus are relatively small, though they can form large clumps. The largest species rarely surpass three feet in height, while the smallest species, *C. laui*, rivals *Blossfeldia* for the title of world's smallest cactus.



Copiapoa laui



The habitat of *Copiapoa* is incredibly dry, even by desert standards. They occur in the Atacama, the world's driest desert.

The average rainfall in the region is 1mm/year (0.04 inches). Many areas get rainfall only once every four years and some weather stations have never recorded a single drop of rain! Interestingly *Copiapoa* thrives in these extreme conditions to the extent that the genus peters out at the northern and southern ends of its range because these areas are where rainfall starts to become more regular and predictable.

How can any plant, even a cactus, survive in a climate where years can go by without rain? They do it by living off the fog that regularly covers the coastal regions of northern Chile. Anyone living in coastal California in June knows this gloomy fog all too well. Surely, we've all noticed our plants,

and pretty much any outside surface, covered in moisture condensed from the fog on overcast mornings. Without this fog, even *Copiapoa* could not survive in the Atacama Desert.

Copiapoa live along the coast and through the river valleys cut through the coastal mountains. The hills and valleys of Northern Chile are still not well explored from a botanical point of view. When these areas have been explored new species have been found, and it is likely more will be found in the future.

Given these extremely dry conditions, one would expect cultivation to be difficult in our comparatively wet Southern California winters. Fortunately, this is not so, and *Copiapoa* are relatively easy to grow. They respond happily to the same potting mix, watering, and fertilization as most cacti. When given favorable growing conditions these plants develop many times faster than they would in their native habitat. Some species can even be grown in the open ground in the Los Angeles area, as long as the soil is well drained. They do tend to grow slower than some other cacti of similar size.

Copiapoa are easily propagated by pup separation or division of clumps. Seed is available from the CSSA seed bank, and most cactus seed nurseries. These seeds germinate quickly in the spring. They should be started in a moist potting mix and moved to drier media after germination. They do very well in a mineral potting mix with almost no organic matter.



Copiapoa hypogaea

April 2026 Succulent of the Month - Adenia

Succulent of the Month: *Adenia*

This month we are looking at *Adenia*, a very interesting genus of caudiciform plants from Africa, Madagascar, and Southeast Asia. If you see this name and say "I know that plant, it's the Desert Rose!", sorry, you'd be wrong. That is *Adenium*, which is totally unrelated. *Adenia* forms a fat somewhat lumpy base with numerous branches that are actually stiff vines. It may seem odd to say the plant has stiff branches but is a vine, but that's what we have here! At this point it is worth mentioning that *Adenia* is in the Passifloraceae, or Passion Flower family. Passion Flowers are tropical vines that climb over everything. So, imagine in the distant past a tropical vine that over many generations spread out from the tropics into drier, more arid regions, eventually reaching the desert. In evolutionary terms, you'd need to change from a lush tropical plant to one that has adapted to xeric conditions. A good way to do this is to start storing water in your base. This leads to the fat bases we see today. Keeping lush green leaves isn't a good idea either. So (in most cases) you'll find that *Adenia* has small leaves. Along the way the soft vines stiffened up, becoming more branch like but still keeping some elements of a vine. In particular the branches are long and straight and grow indefinitely. These branches also have tendrils which grab on to other plants. Even in the desert that can be useful, as it can grab onto nearby shrubs to keep the stems upright and therefore more exposed to the sun.



Adenia glauca



Adenia pechuelii

Adenia consists of approximately 100 species, yet only around 10 or so are regularly seen in cultivation. Some, like *A. glauca* and *A. spinosa* are easy, fast growing plants that can go from a small plant to one with a caudex a foot in diameter within a few years. In our region we can grow those plants in the ground, and mature specimens can be over 3 feet diameter. I don't mean a 100-year-old plant in Africa, but plants less than 20 years old right here in Southern California! To achieve this rapid growth be sure to water plants regularly during the warmer months. These plants don't like drying out completely and in the summer may need nearly as much water as a regular, non-succulent, plant. Those are the easiest and best species to start with, but as your interest in these plants grow you may start to notice species like *A. globosa* and *A. pechuelii*, which are extremely unusual and attractive, but extremely slow growing and expensive to obtain.

Adenia aren't especially prone to pests and disease but can get the standards like mealybugs and spider mites. There is one unique pest to be aware of however. The Gulf Fritillary is a common orange butterfly seen commonly in the summer. The caterpillars are generally known to eat *Passiflora* vines exclusively. If you look them up online that's what you'll see everyone say. Remember when I said *Adenia* was a close relative of *Passiflora*? Well, these butterflies know this too! They will fly around a cactus and succulent collection, landing only on *Adenia* to lay their eggs. Soon after orange and black caterpillars hatch and systematically eat all the leaves but touch no other plants. The best control is to pick the caterpillars off the plants when you see them. The most useful pesticide is a BT spray, which contains toxic bacteria that the caterpillars eat.



Adenia stylosa

**CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PLANT OF THE MONTH
(April 2026)**

Cactus - Gymnocalycium

Novice:

1st	<i>Gymnocalycium mihanovichii</i> 'Inermis' Cristata	Frank de Greef
2nd	<i>Gymnocalycium mihanovichii</i>	Frank de Greef
3rd	<i>Gymnocalycium baldianum</i>	Judy Hoover

Intermediate:

No Entries

Advanced:

1st	<i>Gymnocalycium sp.</i>	Linda Holub
2nd	<i>Gymnocalycium pflanzii</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Gymnocalycium sp.</i>	Linda Holub

Succulents- Aloe

Novice:

1st	<i>Aloe compressa</i>	Ann Powers
2nd	<i>Aloe x 'Christmas Carol'</i>	Judy Hoover

Intermediate:

1st	<i>Aloe nobilis variegata</i>	Tom Horan
2nd	<i>Aloe pluridens</i>	Tom Horan

Advanced:

1st	<i>Aloe ramossissima</i>	Chris Biehl
2nd	<i>Aloe castilloniae</i>	Ann Hopkinson
3rd	<i>Aristaloe aristata</i>	Ann Hopkinson

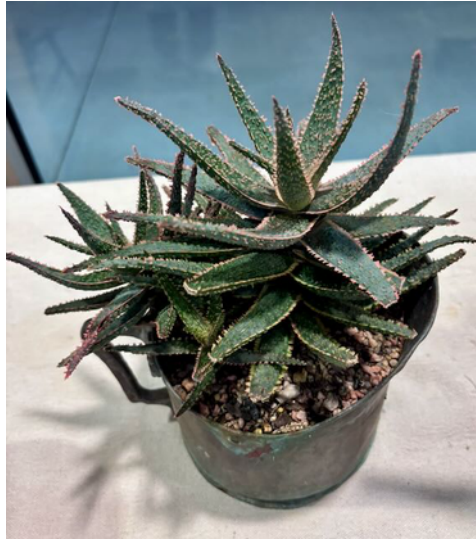
For the April plant of the month displays there were 5 Novice, 2 Intermediate, and 17 Advanced entries for a total of 24 plants. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated

POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and

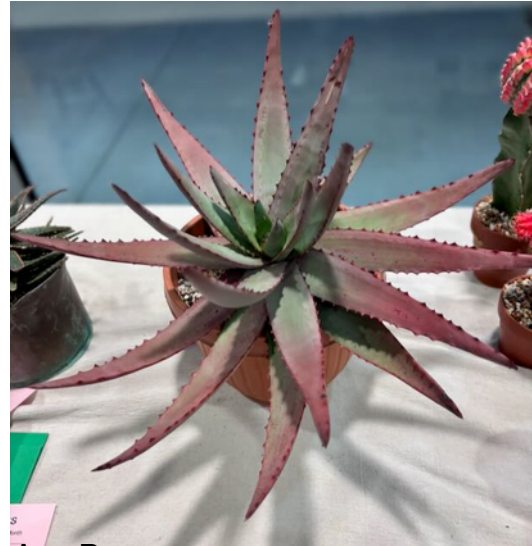
April 2026 POM WINNERS Succulent - Aloe



Tom Horan
2nd Place Intermediate
Aloe pluridens



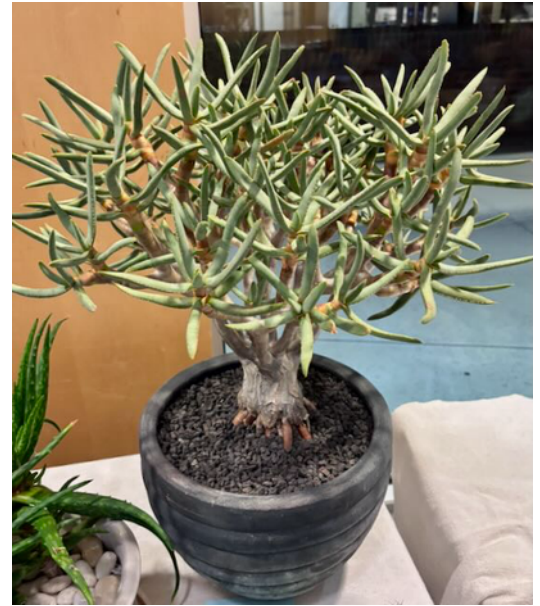
Judy Hoover
2nd Place Novice
Aloe x 'Christmas Carol'



Ann Powers
1st Place Novice
Aloe compressa



Tom Horan
1st Place Intermediate
Aloe nobilis variegata



Chris Biehl
1st Place Advanced
Aloe ramosissima



Ann Hopkinson
3rd Place Advanced
Aristaloe aristata



Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Aloe castilloniae



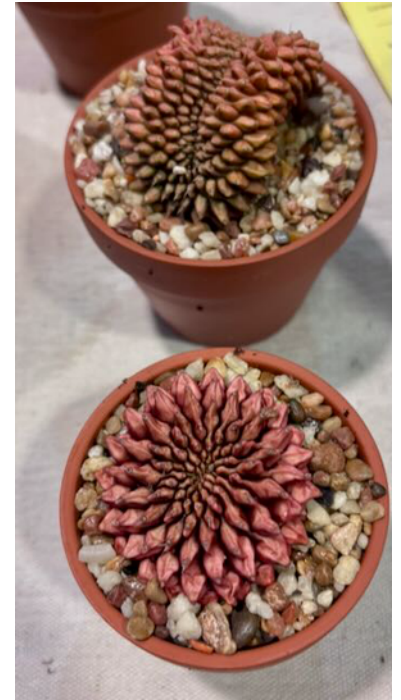
April 2026 POM WINNERS Cactus - Gymnocalycium



Judy Hoover
3rd Place Novice
Gymnocalycium baldianum



Frank de Greef
2nd Place Novice
Gymnocalycium mihanovichii



Frank de Greef
1st Place Novice
Gymnocalycium mihanovichii
'Inermis' Cristata



Linda Holub
3rd Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium sp.



Ann Hopkinson
2nd Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium pflanzii



Linda Holub
1st Place Advanced
Gymnocalycium sp.



59TH ANNUAL
CSSA SHOW & SALE
GROWING THE FUTURE

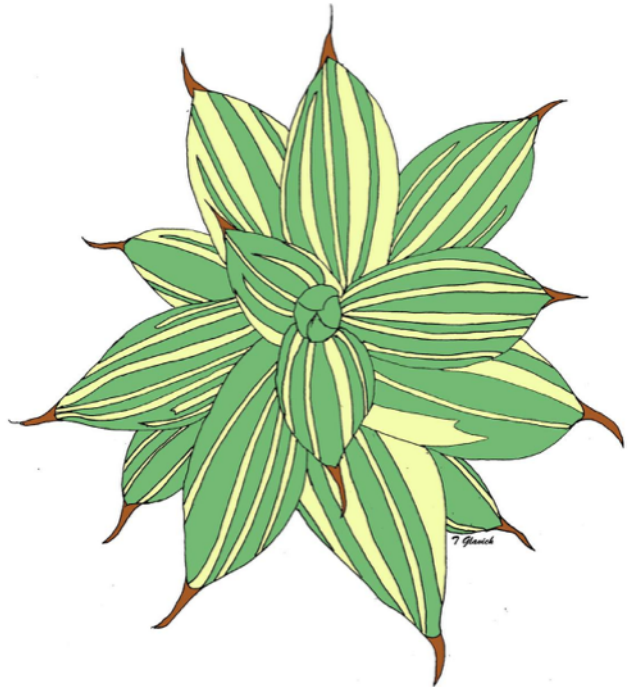
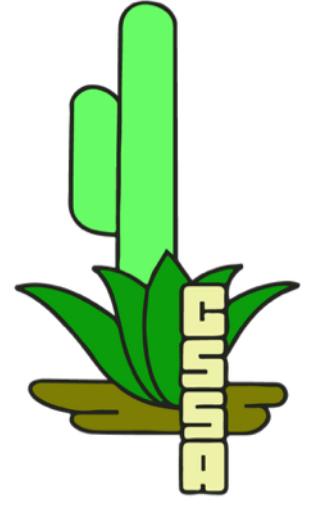


The Huntington

1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino, CA
Huntington.org reservation required

June 12-14, 2026
10am-5pm daily

© CACTUSANDSUCCULENTSOCIETY | CSSASHOW.COM



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



MAY 19-24, 2027, TUCSON, ARIZONA