



October 2025 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



President's message

OUR MEETING for September will be at the Hesse Community Park facility and will start at 11:00am. Help with set-up and take-down would be appreciated starting at 10:am.

ELECTIONS: We will present an opportunity for members to nominate themselves for any position on the Board and to serve on committees for 2026. We are looking for a new CGCI (California Garden Club Inc.) liaison as well as anyone interested in serving on any positions in the Society. Our website has a description of responsibilities of each position at our Operating Procedures tab.

MEETINGS: Please save the dates for our other meetings this year. Check our website for addresses if you are unfamiliar with the location. If you know other members who don't have access to emails, please inform them of our meeting sites.

Sunday, November 9 at 1-4:00 pm at the Zamperini Field (Torrance Airport), 1301 Airport Dr., Torrance.

Holiday Pot Luck: **Saturday**, December 13, 12 noon for set-up at Palos Verdes Art Center.

OCTOBER SPEAKER: Al Klein of Botanic Wonders will be speaking on "Growing Euphorbias." Although this is a broad topic, there are some consistencies to consider when collecting the genus.

THE MINI-SHOW: Plants for October are Cactus: *Turbinocarpus* and Succulents: *Adromischus*.

I hope to see you there!
Maria Capaldo

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

October 12 11:00am-2:00pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

PRESENTATION



Al Klein
"Growing
Euphorbias"



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<https://southcoastcss.org>

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"Growing Euphorbias"

The family of Euphorbiaceae is large and diverse. It is estimated that there are in excess of 5000 species from around the world. Of this group there are hundreds of succulent Euphorbias, many of which originate from Africa and Madagascar. However other Euphorbias originate from other countries like the common Poinsettia which is from Mexico. All Euphorbias have a white milky sap which can burn the skin. Always wash your hands after handling Euphorbias! Euphorbias come in all shapes and sizes which make them a collectors dream.

Most *Euphorbia* plants have flowers that produce three seeds per pod. After the seed pod ripens and dries, it eventually pops and shoots the seeds into the air landing where they may. Many growers will wrap seed pods in netting to capture the seeds.

Since there are so many different species of *Euphorbia* and originating from so many different environments, it is difficult to summarize their care. There are however some basic cultural practices that can be applied to most species. Most Euphorbias prefer partial to full sun. Even plants that grow in full sun in their natural environment will enjoy some shade. All my plants receive some shade during the day, and most are under 30-50 percent shade, with occasional direct sun during sometime of the day. As for soil, I prefer to use a well drained mix of 50% inorganic material such as pumice and 50% organic material such as a commercial potting mix. Some species may require more inorganics, which you will learn from research and growing experience. During summer months I water once or twice a week depending on weather and species. Euphorbias like food! Feed you plants regularly! I feed once a week with water soluble fertilizer that contains all major and micro nutrients. If your plants have yellow leaves with dark veins you are missing a micro nutrient such as iron. Increase the feeding to correct the problem. Euphorbias can be grown from cuttings or seeds easily. When taking cuttings wear gloves since the white sap can burn your skin. Take cuttings at a joint, and make a clean cut with a knife or pruner. A jagged cut can lead to infection and death to your plant. Another fun way to start plants is from seed. Plant seeds in a well drained mix. They will germinate in about one to two weeks. They are fun to grow, and will gain size quickly.



Al Klein's lifelong passion for the natural world began during his childhood growing up in Chicago. Frequent visits to the Field Museum of Natural History and a deep interest in the natural sciences inspired his early hobbies, which included growing exotic plants like cacti and collecting fossils, minerals, and insects.

At the age of 17, Al moved to California and discovered his true calling in horticulture. He attended California State Polytechnic University in Pomona and earned a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture, with an emphasis in landscape design and retail nursery management.

After graduation, Al joined Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar, where he was promoted to Nursery Manager within a year. He soon had the opportunity to help open a new nursery and gift shop in Escondido called Canterbury Gardens and Gifts, where his leadership and expertise quickly led to a partnership in the business. Al retired from Canterbury Gardens after 35 years of service.

Today, he is fully dedicated to running his own nursery business, Botanic Wonders, which specializes in the growing and selling of rare and exotic plants, including unique succulents, cacti, and cycads.

Turbinicarpus is a small (but growing) genus of small plants from Northeastern and Central Mexico. It is one of several closely related genera, *Neolloydia*, *Gymnocactus*, and *Strombocactus* being the ones most frequently mentioned. In many books, some of the plants listed below will appear as either *Neolloydia* or *Gymnocactus*. The exact relation of these genera is still being worked out and the disagreements between botanists are substantial. New species have been discovered and named in the past decade; seeds and plants of these are just becoming available.

All of the *Turbinicarpus* species are worth growing. They are all small, most full sized in collections at an inch or two. A few will clump readily, and make impressive show specimens, as shown below, but still remain manageable. A collection of all the species and varieties could easily fit on a table top.

In habitat, *Turbinicarpus* usually grow under nurse plants, generally shrubs that offer some protection from the worst of the mid-day sun. *Turbinicarpus* have large tuberous roots, which are their primary food and water storage source in times of drought. Over much of their habitat, rain falls during the summer, and growth is most rapid during this period. They can take lots of heat.

Turbinicarpus are fairly easy to grow, if attention is paid to their life cycle. They are dormant in winter, from November through mid March. As they begin growth, watering has to start slowly. If too much water and fertilizer is given at once, it's possible to burst the skin of the plant. Once growth is going (April and after) water freely. During very hot weather in the summer, the plants sometimes go dormant again for a short period. Attention has to be paid to watering again.

If a head splits, all is not lost. The entire head can be removed, and the top of the tuberous root left half an inch above the soil. It will usually start two or three new heads. Removing a head is also a great way for vegetative propagation. *Turbinicarpus* can be raised from seed. They are slow for the first year, but reasonable size plants can be grown in a year or two, and flowers the size of the plant will appear by the second year. Producing clumps as shown below will take quite a bit longer.



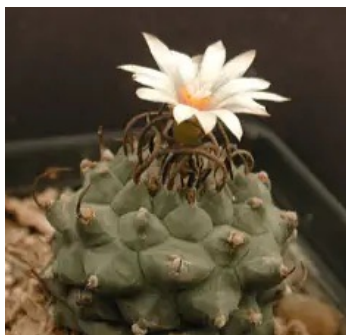
Turbinicarpus alonsoi



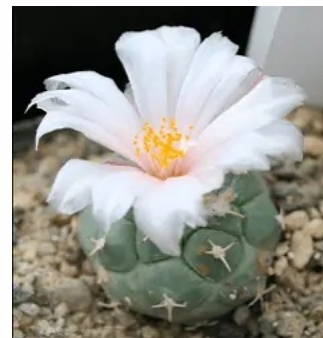
Turbinicarpus saueri subsp.
knuthianus



Turbinicarpus swoboda



Turbinicarpus schmiedickeanus



Turbinicarpus lophophoroides

Adromischus is a genus in the family Crassulaceae and consists of at least 28 species of small clumping leaf succulents from South Africa. Some natural hybrids are known. Several of these species are quite popular and can be found pretty easily in the cactus and succulent section of most nurseries and garden centers. The name comes from the Greek: adros (thick or stout) and mischos (stalk), referring to the short pedicels.

The attractively marked and colored leaves of many species appeal to collectors but require high light levels for the different colors to be seen to full advantage. In shade most species adopt a similar green color. As the plants age, some elongate losing leaves lower down their thickened stems. Opinions vary as to the merits of mature plants compared with smaller ones.

Adromischus flowers are generally small, with a greenish-white tube and pink or reddish corolla and produce sufficient nectar towards the end of the growing season.

Cultivation: Many species are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost. Their compact habit allows a collection to be maintained in a small space and they grow well on any sunny window ledge or the top shelf of the greenhouse. *Adromischus* tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is as well to keep water off the foliage during the winter. Mealy bugs and vine weevils can be discouraged with a systemic insecticide.

Many species can be propagated from a single leaf, which should be placed against the side of the pot so that the stem end is just touching the compost. Some species drop their leaves easily and although each leaf will form a new plant it can be a challenge to grow a large specimen. In other cases, leaves for propagation must be carefully detached with a sharp knife.



Adromischus cristatus



Adromischus marianiae



Adromischus phillipsiae



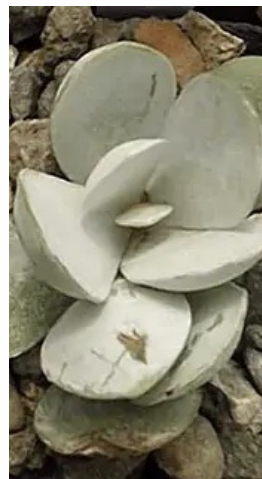
Adromischus kitchingii



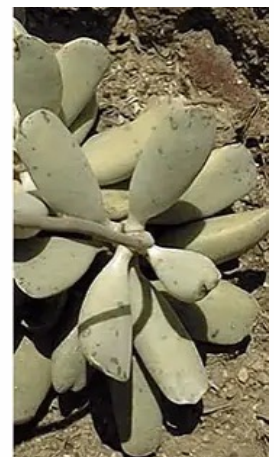
Adromischus filicaulis subsp.
filicaulis



Adromischus marianiae
'Dick Hulett'



Adromischus leucophyllus



Adromischus triflorus

September
2025

Mini-Show Winners

OPEN CACTUS



1st - Gary Duke *Ferocactus wislizeni*



2nd - Phyllis De Crescenzo
Opuntia monacantha



3rd - Gary Duke
Myrtillocactus geometrizans, crested

OPEN SUCCULENT



1st - Laurel Woodley
Euphorbia milii 'Fireworks'



2nd - Phyllis De Crescenzo
x *Gasteraloe* 'Green Gold'



2nd - Gary Duke *Echeveria*
'Lenore Dean'



3rd - Maria Capaldo
Haworthiopsis limifolia

INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st - Martin Dorsey
Astrophytum myriostigma



2nd - Anita Caplan
Opuntia monacantha

September
2025

Mini-Show Winners

INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



1st - Terri Straub *Gasteria* 'Little Warty'



2nd - Terri Straub
Gasteria Hybrid



3rd - Anita Caplan
Aeonium 'Sunburst', crested

NOVICE CACTUS

No entries

NOVICE SUCCULENT



1st - Liz Ying *Euphorbia mammillaris*



2nd - Liz Ying *Sansevieria* 'Golden Hahnii'

Mini Show Standings September 2025

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Julie Biggs		6	6	Anita Caplan	14	18	32	Maria Capaldo	49	43	92
M. A. Bjarkman	6		6	Martin Dorsey	11	14	25	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	51	60	111
Martha Bjerke		10	10	Sally Fasteau		3	3	Gary Duke	25	11	36
Bob Caplan		2	2	Bonnie Ikemura	5	15	20	Jim Gardner		23	23
Vince Darmali	22		22	Jackie Johnson	2	3	5	Jim Hanna		5	5
Lupe Hulett		1	1	Lemono Lott		12	12	Laurel Woodley		32	32
Shane Mullen	5	8	13	Mike Short	1	19	20				
George Unrine		1	1	Terri Straub	54	44	98				
Judy Unrine		4	4								
Liz Ying	11	29	40								

2025-2026 Mini-Show Calendar		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
October	<i>Turbinicarpus</i>	<i>Adromischus</i>
November	South American columnar cactus <i>Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Oreocereus</i> , etc.)	<i>Lithops, Conophytum</i>
December	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck
January 2026	<i>Mammillaria</i> – straight spine (clumping)	<i>Haworthia, Astroloba, Tulista, Haworthiopsis</i> ,
February 2026	Epiphytic cactus	<i>Aloe, Kumara</i>
March 2026	<i>Echinocactus, Kroenleinia</i>	<i>Cissus, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia</i>
April 2026	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May 2026	<i>Astrophytum</i>	<i>Agave, Manfreda</i> and hybrids
June 2026	<i>Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cylindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> (not from Madagascar)
July 2026	<i>Melocactus</i>	Bromeliaceae (other than <i>Dyckia, Hechtia</i>)
August 2026	<i>Copiapoa</i>	<i>Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria</i>
September 2026	<i>Notocactus, Parodia</i>	<i>Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum, Graptosedum</i>

Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be Society members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-Show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity.

Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease. There are two plant categories: 'Cactus' and 'Succulents'. Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

Scoring:

First Place: 6 points

Second place: 4 points

Third place: 2 points

Placement: all entries that are not disqualified: 1 point.

An individual plant may be entered only once a year.

There are three entry classes:

'Novice,' 'Intermediate,' and 'Open.' Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the Novice class.

After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of the Society.

Novice members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards may be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories. Intermediate members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards, may be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for Novice and Intermediate and one year for Open class.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Cleistocactus winteri by Debra Galliani



Tylecodon schaeferianus by Terri Straub



Jim Gardner's *Eulophia petersii*
photo by Laurel Woodley



Kleinia petraea by Maria Capaldo

Gymnocalycium mesopotamicum
by Maria Capaldo



Upcoming Events



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Al Klein
"Growing Euphorbias"
 October 12, 2025 11:00am-2:00 pm
 Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
 McTaggart Hall
 29301 Hawthorne Blvd Rancho
 Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Long Beach Cactus Club Annual Auction 2025

OCT. 5, 1:00pm-3:30pm
For Information call
714-553-6914

Location:
Women's Club of Bellflower
9402 Oak St.
Bellflower, CA 90706



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: TBA
November 9, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm
Zamperini Field
Torrance Municipal Airport
3301 Airport Drive
Torrance, CA 90505

For more information and to learn more



2025 Board of Directors

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Terri Straub

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Bernard Johnson

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Debra Bushweit Galliani

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Vince Darmali

Martin Dorsey

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Terri Straub

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M.A. Bjarkman

Finance Chair

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Mini-Show Coordinator

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Webmaster: Mike Short

Newsletter: Maria Capaldo

Publicity: Ann Nye

Facebook: Laurel Woodley

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Membership

Chair: Sally Fasteau

Speaker Coordinators

M.A. Bjarkman

Braulio Mena

LIAISONS

CGCI: Braulio Mena

CSSA: M.A. Bjarkman

