



February 2026 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEETING DATES: We have dates for the scheduled meetings for the first part of 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, February 8 11:00am-2:00pm at the Hesse Community Park

Sunday, March 8 1:00-3:30pm at the South Coast Botanic Garden

April Show and Sale: Friday, April 10, 1:00-5:00pm and Saturday, April 11 9:00am-4:00pm at the Palos Verdes Art Center.

Sunday, May 17 1:00-3:00pm at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

THE MINI-SHOW: Plants for February are Cacti: Epiphytic Cacti and Succulents: *Aloe* and new genera(see article on page 5-6.)

PRESENTATION: We had a change in speaker arrangements so Woody Minnich will talk on Pachypodiums at our February meeting. Woody is a knowledgeable and entertaining speaker and I know you will enjoy his presentation. He will bring plants from his nursery just in time to buy a plant for your Valentine or special friend!

Join the fun!

Maria Capaldo

Happy Valentine's Day!



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

February 8, 2026 11:00am-2:00pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd Rancho
Palos Verdes, CA 90275

PRESENTATION



Woody Minnich
"Pachypodiums, In the
Field, Garden, and
Greenhouse"



To learn more, go to
<https://southcoastcss.org>



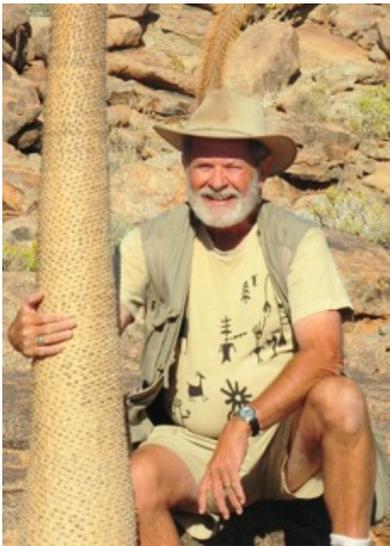
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Presentation: "Pachypodiums, In the Field, Garden, and Greenhouse"*Pachypodium gaeyi**Pachypodium brevicaule*Woody with a *Pachypodium*

The genus *Pachypodium* is one of the most popular of all caudiciform genera. Pachypodiums are all old-world plants, coming mainly from Namibia, South Africa and Madagascar. The genus *Pachypodium* means having a short, thick or often succulent stem appearing like a platform. From this platform, or thick stem, the branches appear and are apically attached to this fat or caudiciform base. Once appearing above the caudex (base), the branches stay thin and often radiate outward in multiple numbers. Pachypodiums are also recognized by the morphology of their flower, fruit and seed. Along with the Pachypodiums, there are many other genera that develop a large swollen base, but they often branch from the base or side or top of the caudex. These other large water storing caudiciforms, are frequently found growing side by side with many of the Pachys.

BIO: Woody was about 5 years old when his dad introduced him to the cacti of the Mojave Desert. Soon after came the start of his own cactus garden, and a coveted collection of rare potted specimens. He joined the Los Angeles, the San Gabriel, and the Long Beach Cactus and Succulent Societies, and over the last 55 years has been active in society leadership roles, (President, V. P., Show Chair, Newsletter Editor, Program Chair, Conservation Chair, Plant of the Month, etc.). Woody was a full-time teacher of Graphic Arts, Photography and Silkscreen at Antelope Valley High School in Lancaster, CA. From this desert community, he expanded his interest and exploration from the rare and sometimes endangered species of cacti of the Southwest United States, to travels to Baja California and mainland Mexico, where he explored and later discovered Mammillaria species. After working his way through South America, he made many trips to discover the endemic plants of Africa, Madagascar, and the Arabian Peninsula, resulting in over 128 major field trips around the world. During the 55 years of growing and studying all of these plants, he shared his experiences through his photography and in publications. He started his nursery (Cactus Data Plants) in 1975, and after numerous years as a grower and a field worker, he learned how important the nursery trade is to help in the conservation and protection of so many of our favorite species.

His favorite byproduct of numerous years of teaching and learning is sharing the many wonderful experiences he has enjoyed. The photography you will see and the stories told will make you a true lover of these plants, animals and their habitats.

2026

February

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Disocactus phyllanthoides**Disocactus anguliger**Epiphyllum 'Acapulco Sunset'**Epiphyllum**Hatiora salicornoides**Epiphyllum hookeri subsp. guatemalense**Disocactus*

Epiphytic cacti have a place in every collection. They are easy to grow, requiring remarkably little in the way of care, in general have few spines, and many reward the grower with either a spectacular show of flowers, or a year round display of gracefully curving foliage.

Epiphytic cacti like a richer mix than most ground loving cacti. A frequently used potting mix includes equal parts of potting soil, bark and pumice. Good drainage in the mix is important for good growth. Regular feeding and a constant supply of moisture, particularly during the growing season, are also important. They all like moving air and do best outdoors, particularly in the summer. Many will get tip damage if left in temperatures below freezing. In a protected area, they can be left outdoors all winter and do well with our winter rains.

Epiphytic cacti are easily propagated from either cuttings or seed. Cuttings can be taken any time the plant is in active growth, spring being best, but any time during the summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the *Rhipsalis* can be planted immediately. Thicker-leafed genera should be allowed to dry for a day or two before planting. Cuttings must be placed in moist potting mix, and kept in the shade for at least a month, but best until active new growth appears. When taking cuttings, remember that the plant will have to live on the stored energy in the stem, and a large piece, within reason, is better than a small one. *Schlumbergera* (= *Zygocactus*) can be easily propagated from cuttings, but for successful rooting, two segments need to be used rather than one. Seed from many of the epiphytic cacti are hard to come by. One or two species are occasionally offered by the CSSA seed bank. For those with an interest in hybridization, many epiphytes are easily pollinated and cross pollinated both within genera and across genera. Fruit set is frequent. When the fruit turns color and hardens, it can be harvested, with the seeds removed, cleaned, and stored until the following spring.

2026

February

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Epiphyllum 'Lemon Custard'**Epiphyllum hybrid**Epiphyllum oxypetalum**Selenicereus anthonyanus**Rhipsalis baccifera**Schlumbergera truncata**Lepismium cruciforme*

Some choice genera:

Disocactus is a small genus, with flat stems. Native to Guatemala and Honduras, this species can remain small and produces beautiful flowers. It is cold sensitive. The genus has recently been expanded to include other genera.

Epiphyllum is a genus that has been the source of hundreds if not thousands of colorful hybrids. The basic night-blooming summer-blooming species have been hybridized with *Aporocactus* and *Trichocereus* to produce a dazzling array of colorful species. The first big hybridization effort took place in the 1890s, with others following in the 1920s and 1930s. Many spectacular hybrids were created, most lost during World War II. Southern California has been one of the recent hotbeds of hybridization of this species, with spectacular hybrids appearing from the backyards of some gifted plants people in San Diego, Palos Verdes and Los Angeles.

Rhipsalis is a species native to Central and South America, Tropical and West Africa, Madagascar and Sri Lanka. It is the only genus of cacti native to the Old World and Asia. The Old World populations are a separate subspecies of *R. baccifera* and differ in the number of chromosomes. This is an incredibly variable genus, with flat leafed forms, twisting thick stems, pencil thin stems, with small white flowers and small white berries. It is easy to grow, and is tolerant of Southern California outdoors conditions all year, with protection required only from the coldest nights and hot sun. Particularly good species include *R. mesembryanthoides*, which resembles the growth of the shrubby mesembs of South Africa. *R. quellebambensis* is a narrow-stemmed, frequently-branched species, resembling the splashes from a waterfall more than a plant. (It is now a subspecies of *R. baccifera*.)

Schlumbergera are the Christmas cacti, popular the world around, easily grown indoors and out. This genus has seen the work of many hybridizers and spectacular reds, whites, pinks, and mixes of the three can be found every year near the holidays.

Other great genera include *Aporocactus*, *Hattiora*, *Selenicereus*, and *Pseudorhipsalis*. There are dozens of obscure genera (many now moved into *Disocactus*) that are uncommon except among the specialist collector. They all have their charm, and an opportunity to collect any epiphytic cactus with a generic name you are unfamiliar with should never be passed up.

2026

February

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Aloe arborescens*

Aloe, is a genus containing more than four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The most common and well known of these is *Aloe vera* (= *Aloe barbadensis*) or "true aloe". The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa's Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian Peninsula, and the islands off Africa.

The APG II system (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II system)(2003) placed the genus in the family Asphodelaceae. In the past it has also been assigned to families Aloaceae and Liliaceae or lily family. Members of the closely allied genera *Gasteria*, *Haworthia* and *Kniphofia*, which have a similar mode of growth, are also popularly, but incorrectly referred to as "aloes" and are known to hybridize with aloes.

*Aloe brevifolia*, variegated

There has been a recent reclassification of the genus *Aloe*. Molecular studies suggest that not all *Aloe* species have the same evolutionary origin and hence are less closely related than previously thought. Based on those findings, some species have been separated from the genus *Aloe* and moved into a separate genus. While only a relatively small number of species are affected, they do include some very popular garden plants.

- ❖ **Aloidendron**, now accommodates six species of tree aloes. *Aloidendron barberae* (= *Aloe barberae*, the type), *Aloidendron dichotomum* (= *Aloe dichotoma*) and *Aloidendron pillansii* (= *Aloe pillansii*).
- ❖ **Kumara**, is an old generic name dating from 1786, has been resurrected to house *Kumara plicatilis* (= *Aloe plicatilis*) and *Kumara haemanthifolia*.
- ❖ *Aloe aristata* is now its own genus of **Aristaloe** *aristata*.
- ❖ **Gonialoe** consists of three species: *Gonialoe dinteri*, *Gonialoe sladeniana* and *Gonialoe variegata*, all epithets coming from *Aloe*.
- ❖ **Aloiampelos**, named from the Greek word for climbing plant, ampelos, encompasses seven species and three varieties of rambling aloes, which now have their own genus. These include *Aloiampelos ciliaris* (= *Aloe ciliaris*, the type) and *Aloiampelos commixta* (= *Aloe commixta*), *Aloiampelos tenuior*, *Aloiampelos gracilis*, *Aloiampelos juddii*, *Aloiampelos decumbens*, and *Aloiampelos striatula*. They are typically multi-branched climbing or sprawling shrubs, with long, spindly stems and a large woody base on the ground. This genera is limited to Southern Africa.

*Aloe vera**Aloe broomii**Gonialoe variegata**Aloe polyphylla*

2026

February

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Aloe cameronii*

Most *Aloe* species have a rosette of large, thick, fleshy leaves. The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. *Aloe* flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems (inflorescences.) Many species of *Aloe* appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched stem from which the fleshy leaves spring. The leaves vary in color from gray to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some Aloes native to South Africa are arborescent.

Aloe vera (= *Aloe barbadensis*) and *Aloe ferox* are the two species known for their medicinal uses to produce the gel used in creams, emollients and soothing ointments. The gel is the clear, jelly-like inner substance. It is distinct from the toxic, yellow, bitter, "aloin" sap (latex) found just under the skin of the leaves.

Aloe species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many of them are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents.

*Aloe* 'Yellow Torch'*Aloe* 'Christmas Carol'*Aloe pictifolia**Aloe* 'Jeff Karsner'*Kumara plicatilis**Aloe dorotheae**Aloe castilloniae*

Mini-Show Winners January 2026



First-Terri Straub
Mammillaria spinosissima

OPEN CACTUS



2nd - Jim Gardner
Mammillaria haageana



2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Mammillaria spinosissima



3rd - Gary Duke
Mammillaria crucigera subsp. *tlalocii*



3rd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Mammillaria elongata

OPEN SUCCULENT



1st - Jim Gardner
Haworthiopsis coarctata



2nd - Gary Duke
Haworthia retusa



3rd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Haworthiopsis limifolia

Not photographed:

2nd - Gary Duke
Tulista pumila

3rd - Gary Duke
Haworthiopsis venosa

Mini-Show Winners January 2026



1st - Vincent Darmali
Mammillaria geminispina

INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



2nd - Anita Caplan
Mammillaria vetula



3rd - Vincent Darmali
Mammillaria species



1st - Vincent Darmali
Haworthia species

INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT



2nd - Lemono Lott
Haworthia truncata
var. *maughanii*



3rd - Lemono Lott
Haworthia truncata var.
maughanii



1st - Martha Bjerke
Haworthiopsis fasciata

NOVICE SUCCULENT



2nd - Liz Ying *Haworthia* species



3rd - Martha Bjerke
Haworthiopsis fasciata

Mini-Show Standings January 2026

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Martha Bjerke		9	9	Anita Caplan	5	3	8	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	7	4	11
Gustavo Cardenas		3	3	Vincent Darmali	8	8	16	Gary Duke	4	10	14
Liz Ying		5	5	Lemono Lott		7	7	Jim Gardner	5	6	11
				Mike Short	1	3	4	Terri Straub	8	3	11

Mini-Show Calendar 2026		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
February	Epiphytic cactus	<i>Aloe, Kumara, Gonialoe, Aristaloe, Aloidendron</i>
March	Echinocactus, Kroenleinia	<i>Cissus, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia</i>
April	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May	<i>Astrophytum</i>	<i>Agave, Manfreda</i> and hybrids
June	<i>Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> (not from Madagascar)
July	<i>Melocactus</i>	Bromeliaceae (other than <i>Dyckia, Hechtia</i>)
August	<i>Copiapoa</i>	<i>Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyria</i>
September	<i>Notocactus, Parodia</i>	<i>Sedum, Pachyphytum, Sempervivum, Graptosedum</i>
October	<i>Ariocarpus, Obregonia</i>	<i>Adenium, Adenia</i>
November	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
December	Holiday Pot-Luck	Holiday Pot-Luck
January-2027	<i>Mammillaria</i> - Hooked Spines	Caudiciform (<i>Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.</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.

Online access to form is at: <https://southcoastcss.org/join/>

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Membership Application

Make check payable to: **South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society**

Mail form and payment to: **Sally Fasteau**
30728 Rue de la Pierre
Date _____ **Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**

Name: _____

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

_____ New Member \$25 Please Print and fill in all information.

_____ Renewal Member \$25 For renewals, only complete info that has changed.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

The above information will be included in our Membership Directory (for use by members only). If you wish to exclude any of the above information from the Directory, please indicate your exclusions here.

Do not publish my _____ email _____ phone _____ address

SCCSS is a 501 3C organization. In addition to your dues you may make an optional charitable donation to support our philanthropic endeavors as well as the operating expenses of the organization. If you choose to do so, please indicate the amount _____. You will receive a donation receipt. Thank you.

I agree to have my information published in the Membership Directory with noted exceptions.

Signature Date _____

Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair
sallyfasteau@cox.net
310-867-9693 m.

11/16/2025

-----below information is for office use only-----

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Amount _____ Donation Receipt _____

Welcome _____ Master _____ Dir. _____ Address _____ Badge _____ Sign in _____ Plant _____

MEMBER PHOTOS



Dudleya pulverulenta by Mike Short

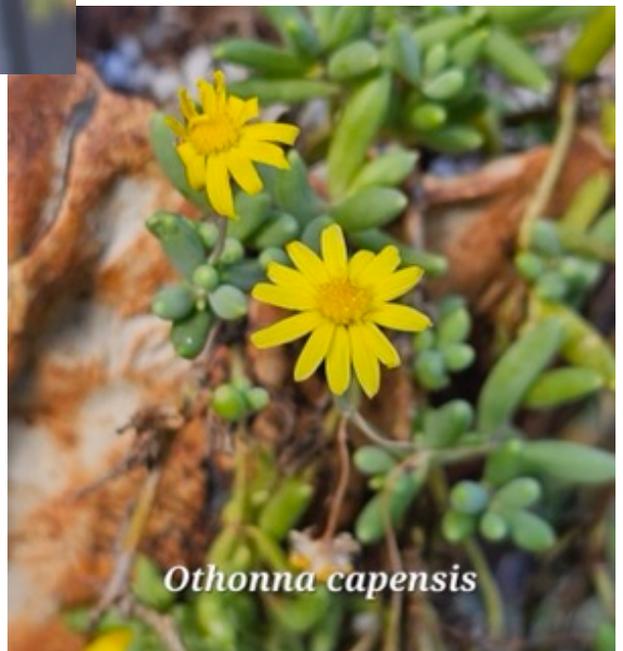
Photos by Laurel Woodley



Pelargonium lobatum



Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi
'Variegated'



Othonna capensis

Upcoming Events

The Duke of Long Beach invites you to a Huge Plant and Handcrafted Pottery Sale

Save the Date

Saturday, Feb 7, 2025

4660 Rio Ave, Long Beach, CA 90805

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

(Can also enter from back of Johnny Reb's parking lot)

Some of the Vendors:

@port_town_pottery

@potterybypatrice

@East Los Succulents

@rojassucculents

@myfriendroze_d.d.succulents

Great opportunity to find a unique gift, rare plant, or pot



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Woody Minnich
"Pachypodiums"

February 8, 2026 11:00am-2:00 pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Adam Baker

"Wonderful World of
Astrophytums"

March 8, 2026 1:00pm-4:00pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

For more information and to learn more



2026 Board of Directors

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Liz Ying

Treasurer

Debra Bushweit Galliani

Secretary

Nancy Sams

At-Large Board Members

Teresa Nicoletto

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Terri Straub

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Finance Chair

Jim Hanna

Mini-Show Coordinator

Terri Straub

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Instagram: Nancy Sams

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Sally Fasteau

Speaker Coordinator

M.A. Bjarkman

Liaisons:

CGCI: Debra Bushweit Galliani

CSSA: M.A. Bjarkman

