



March
2026

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MEETING DATES: Sunday March 8
at the South Coast Botanic Garden at
1:00pm.

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

APRIL SHOW AND SALE: This year we have a different schedule for times. We will start set-up on Thursday, April 9 from 12:00-5:45 pm and Friday, April 10, from 9:00am-1:00pm. The Show and Sale runs from Friday, April 10 1:00-5:00pm through Saturday, April 11 9:00-4:00pm at the Palos Verdes Art Center. Please see the volunteer jobs available on page 10 of this Newsletter. You may sign up at the upcoming meeting or directly with Terri Straub.

Please get **PLANTS** ready to sell at the Society Sales Table. We make most of our income from selling plants that members donate. This pays for our speaker programs and rent for meetings.

VIDEO: We are asking all members to promote our show. We have an online video at: <https://youtu.be/QZdP7WL-7yU> which you can share with your friends or fellow succulent gardeners. Share the promotions on the Facebook or Instagram pages, or distribute postcards which will be available at our next meeting.

THE MINI-SHOW: Plants for March are Cacti: *Echinocactus*, *Homalocephala* and *Kroenleinia* and Succulents: *Cissus*, *Cyphostemma*, and *Dorstenia*.

PRESENTATION: Adam Baker will share his experiences growing *Astrophytum* and will bring plants to sell. His hybrids are interesting and his expertise with this genus will be appreciated.

I hope to see you there.

Maria Capaldo

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

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

PRESENTATION



Adam Baker
"The Wonderful
World of
Astrophytum"



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



Follow us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram,
https://www.instagram.com/_sccss_/

In This Issue

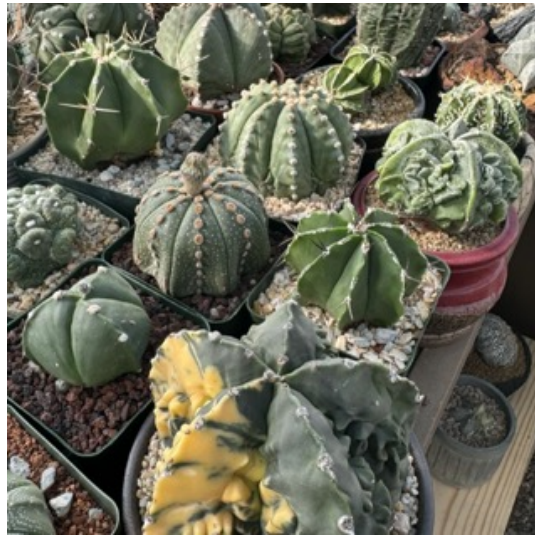
Speaker of the Month	2
Mini-Show Plants of the Month	3-6
Mini-Show February Winners	7
Mini-Show Calendar/Rules	8
Mini-Show Standings	9
Member Photos	9
Show and Sale Volunteer jobs	10
Membership Application	11
Events/Board of Directors	12

Presentation: “The Wonderful World of *Astrophytum*”



Growing *Astrophytum*

Adam will be discussing this amazing genus and will answer questions you may have specific to *Astrophytum*. He will share his experiences through the years and how he tackled challenges in his own microclimate. In addition to the slide presentation, he will bring some plants from his collection and will have some plants to sell!



More *Astrophytum*!



Adam has *Astrophytum* plants of different form, variety, and cultivars that he cares for in his greenhouse. In addition to that, over the past few years, he began pollinating and harvesting seeds from his own plants crossing specific species to form some wonderful hybrids and varieties. Adam grows *Astrophytum* from seed and has learned a lot about care, climate conditions, pest control, and death while growing this genus of cacti. Adam still considers himself an amateur and is constantly humbled by many in the world of cacti and succulents, specifically *Astrophytum*. He is known as @bakersuccs on Instagram. His website is bakersuccs.com and always enjoys geek-ing out over plants!

2026

March

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Echinocactus horzonthalonius**Echinocactus platyacanthus**Echinocactus platyacanthus**Echinocactus platyacanthus**Echinocactus horzonthalonius****Echinocactus, Homalocephala and Kroenleinia***

The plants in this group need maximum direct sunlight, extremely well-draining soil, and infrequent watering. Allow soil to dry before watering. These plants are all summer growers so fertilize once a month in the spring/summer growth period and water less during the winter when the plants are dormant.

Echinocactus: a genus of cacti in the subfamily Cactoideae indigenous to the Southwestern United States and Mexico. The generic name derives from the Ancient Greek *εχινος* (echinos), meaning hedgehog and cactus. *Echinocactus*, *Ferocactus*, and *Kroenleinia* are the three genera of barrel cactus. Members of the genus usually have an overall barrel shape with well-defined ribs and heavy spination. They develop a dense, fuzzy wool at the apex which gives rise to the flowers in mature plants. Propagation is by seed.

Historically, the name *Echinocactus* has included many hundreds of species. Taxonomists, and most recently DNA analysis, has redefined the genus. According to the World Checklist of Vascular Plants (WCV) in January 2026 the genus *Echinocactus* contains two species *Echinocactus horzonthalonius* and *Echinocactus platyacanthus*, two subspecies *Echinocactus horzonthalonius* subsp. *australis* and *Echinocactus horzonthalonius* subsp. *horzonthalonius*, and one hybrid *Echinocactus* × *diabolicus* which is a cross between the two main species.

Homalocephala: a genus of barrel cacti from arid regions of the Southwestern United States and Northern Mexico. The genus, grouped with *Echinocactus* and *Astrophytum*, was first described in 1922 by Britton & Rose but now only seems to contain species moved from the genus *Echinocactus* as a result of a molecular phylogenetic study by Vargas & Bárcenas (et al) in 2018.

The genus (as of January 2026) consists of *Homalocephala parryi*, *Homalocephala polycephala*, *Homalocephala polycephala* subsp. *polycephala*, *Homalocephala polycephala* subsp. *xeranthemoides*, and *Homalocephala texensis*.

Homalocephala texensis is commonly known as the Texas star cactus, horse crippler, devil's pincushion, or candy cactus.

2026

March

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Homalocephala parryi**Homalocephala polycephala**Homalocephala texensis**Homalocephala texensis*

Kroenleinia: perhaps the best known species is the “golden barrel” from Mexico, which has been found to have a DNA pattern that is probably derived from hybrids between *Echinocactus* and *Ferocactus*. To correct this, *Echinocactus grusonii* has been moved to its own genus, and the accepted name has become *Kroenleinia grusonii*. It is an easy-to-grow and widely cultivated plant. Varieties include *albispinus* (white or nearly white spines), *brevispinus* or *inermis* (mutant with short spines.) Though common in the houseplant and landscape industry, *grusonii* has become very rare in habitat.

*Kroenleinia grusonii**Kroenleinia grusonii*

Cissus*, *Cyphostemma*, and *Dorstenia*Cissus quadrangularis**Cissus subaphylla**Cissus tiliacea**Cissus cactiformis**Cissus tiliacea*

Cissus is a genus of approximately 350 species of lianas (woody vines) in the grape family (Vitaceae). They have a cosmopolitan distribution, though the majority are to be found in the tropics. Some of the uses are listed below.

Medicinal: *Cissus quadrangularis* has been evaluated for potential medical uses. As a source of carotenoids, triterpenoids and ascorbic acid the extracts may have potential for medical effects, including “gastroprotective activity” and benefits in terms of “lipid metabolism and oxidative stress.” *Cissus quinquangularis* was used by the Maasai people of Kenya to relieve some of the symptoms of malaria.

Ornamental: *Cissus antarctica*, *Cissus alata* and *Cissus incisa* are cultivated as garden plants, depending on the area of the world. Succulent members of the genus such as *Cissus quadrangularis* are also found in the nursery trade but tend to be frost tender and are thus not widely cultivated.

Ecology: *Cissus* species are used as food plants by the larvae of some Lepidoptera species including *Hypercompe eridanus* and *Hypercompe icasia*.

Taxonomy: The generic name is derived from the Greek word κισσος (kissos), meaning “ivy.” In the 1980s the genus was split according to some details of the flower. The large caudiciform species were moved to the new genus *Cyphostemma*. The genus name was established by Carl Linnaeus who used species epithets that are adjectives with feminine grammatical gender in Latin (e.g., *C. trifoliata* L.). This matches the pattern of feminine gender that names of trees ending in -us in Latin have, although other plant names ending in -us are usually masculine.

Cyphostemma is a member of the Vitaceae or grape family. The members of this genus span the range of extremely easy to grow plants to real challenges. Most of the species will grow large given time, good root room, lots of fertilizer, and water during the growing season.

Most *Cyphostemma* will set fruit. In almost all cases, the fruit is toxic to humans and most pets, although freely eaten by birds. The seeds in the fruit are ripe when the fruit turns color (usually red).

The key to success with these plants is to pay attention to the native habitat. *Cyphostemma juttae*, common in many collections, comes from South Africa. It takes some frost with no damage, and grows in the ground in Southern California, putting on bulk and character in just a few years.

2026

March

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Cyphostemma juttae*

Cyphostemma seitziana, on the other hand comes from Namibia, and is much less tolerant of unprotected cold and overwatering.

Propagation is easy from cuttings and seeds. Seed of all the common and even some of the truly rare species is sometimes available through the CSSA or through some of the better South African and US seed dealers. Germination is erratic (days to months), and only one seed should be sown per pot. The seedling mix should be sterile and organic, and hold a lot of water. Scarring the seeds to allow water penetration helps. The seeds should be completely buried to provide uniform moisture. A plastic bag over the mix will help keep everything uniform. The bag should be removed as soon as any sign of green appears. The seedling leaves are large, and will rot if they touch the plastic. Softwood cuttings should be taken when active growth is occurring. Rooting does not require or even seem to benefit from hormones.

*Cyphostemma currorii**Cyphostemma cirrhosum**Cyphostemma bainesii**Dorstenia gigas*

Dorstenia is a member of the Moraceae or fig family. It is a strictly tropical genus, mainly from rain forests. A few members have become succulent and are found in the dry lands of East Africa and Socotra. Being a tropical genus, it is fairly touchy about getting cold and wet. It does best when protected from temperatures below 50 degrees. All the species appreciate reliable watering and feeding when in active growth.

One of the rarest and best known species is *Dorstenia gigas* from Socotra. This species grows on the rocky slopes of the island, with *Dendrosicyos* and *Adenium*. It gets several feet tall and has shiny, oval shaped leaves that are amongst the most beautiful in the genus. Another commonly seen species is *Dorstenia foetida*. It spreads more horizontally and is smaller than *D. gigas*. The epithet “foetida” means fetid, or rotten smelling. If you bruise the plant or crush a leaf you will quickly see the name is appropriate! There are many rarely seen species from the jungles and dry lands of Tanzania. With luck they will be in cultivation in the next few years.

*Dorstenia foetida*

Mini-Show Winners February 2026

Cactus



- 1st - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Lepismium cruciforme
- 2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Hatiora salicornoides
- 3rd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Epiphyllum

OPEN

Succulent



- 1st - Terri Straub *Aloe 'Sawtooth'*
- 2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Aloe dorotheae
- 2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Aloe brevifolia, variegated
- 3rd - Terri Straub *Aloe marlothii*

INTERMEDIATE Succulent



- 1st - Vincent Darmali
Aloe aculeata
- 2nd - Vincent Darmali
Aloe castilloniae
- 3rd - Vincent Darmali
Kumara plicatilis

NOVICE

Cactus



- 1st - Debra Galliani
Rhipsalis pilocarpa
- 2nd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas
Disocactus anguliger
- 3rd - Debra Galliani
Rhipsalis clavata

Succulent



- 1st - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas *Aloe suprafoliata*
- 2nd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas *Kumara plicatilis*
- 3rd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas *Aristaloe aristata*
- 3rd - Warren Woodrum
Aloe erinacea

Mini-Show Calendar 2026		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
March	<i>Echinocactus, Kroenleinia, Homalocephala</i>	<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, Pachyveria</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</i> , etc.)
February 2027	<i>Coryphantha, Pelecyphora (=Escobaria), Acharagma, Cochemiea, Sclerocactus</i>	<i>Gasteria</i> and hybrids

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.

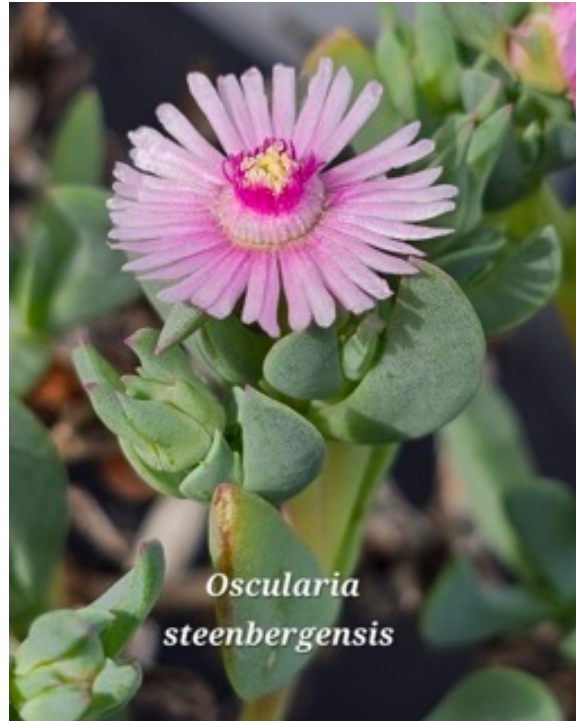
FEBRUARY MINI-SHOW STANDINGS

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Martha Bjerke		9	9	Anita Caplan	5	6	11	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	19	13	32
Gustavo Cardenas	4	15	19	Vincent Darmali	8	20	28	Gary Duke	4	10	14
Debra Galliani	8		8	Lemono Lott		7	7	Jim Gardner	5	8	13
Warren Woodrum		2	2	Mike Short	1	3	4	Terri Straub	8	12	20
Liz Ying		6	6								

MEMBER PHOTOS



Pilosocereus glaucescens by Nancy Sams



Oscularia steenbergensis

Photos by Laurel Woodley



Mammillaria perezdelarosae



Curio rowleyanus

SHOW AND SALE VOLUNTEER JOBS FOR 2026

Dear Society Members: This is a general list of job descriptions for the upcoming Show and Sale, April 10-11, 2026. Our sale is successful only with your participation. Please read this over to find a job you would like to do. We welcome all to sign up for shifts:

Thursday Set Up 12:00pm - 5:45pm or any portion thereof

Friday Set Up 9:00am - 1:00pm

Friday 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Saturday 9:00 am - 12:30pm or 12:30pm - 4:00pm. Two-hour shifts are also available. For information or to sign up for a time slot contact Terri Straub:

. Email: terristraub@me.com

. Text: 424-445-9222 . Call: 424-445-9222

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY SET UP

Arrive Thursday, April 9 from 12:00 - 1:00pm or anytime thereafter to help arrange the tables, put up signs, assist with labeling and pricing of Sale Table plants. Make sure plants are pest free. General helping of show organizing, including unloading plants from cars.

Friday April 10, from 9:00am - 1:00pm continue any set up jobs still remaining.

SOCIETY SALE TABLE: These are plants Society members have donated.

The table needs to be set up with tablecloths and plants labelled with plant tags by Friday afternoon. (All are provided by the Society.)

Members can bring in their plants starting Thursday afternoon and continuing Friday morning. During the Sale on Friday and Saturday keep plants arranged neatly on the table. Keep an eye on the plants, answer general questions about the plants and keep the tables looking nice.

SIGN SET UP AND TAKE DOWN

We have real estate type signs for our event that need to be placed strategically before the sale each day and brought it at the end of each day.

CASHIERS

Check out buyers by scanning the barcodes on the merchandise. Only those with approval for Square use are able to do this function.

CASHIER ASSISTANT

Assists the cashier by arranging plants for scanning, helping customer pack plants in boxes for transport.

HOSPITALITY/MEMBERSHIP/T-SHIRTS

Volunteers will help with new memberships or sell T-shirts. answer general questions and direct guests to features of the event.

PRESALE PLANT HOLDING AREA

These volunteers will help watch that buyers only take their plants and not pick and choose from other people's plants in the holding area. Can be a sitting job.

CLEAN UP

At 4:00pm Saturday we close the Show and Sale. We need volunteers to help take down signs, clean off tables, sweep and general clean up.

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 _____

Upcoming Events

Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society
Spring Sale 2026

Friday, March 6 Noon-6pm
 Saturday, March 7 9am-5pm
Anaheim United Methodist Church
 1000 S. State College Blvd.
 Anaheim, CA

For Information call
 657-549-0702



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING
PRESENTER: Adam Baker
"Wonderful World of *Astrophytum*"
March 8, 2026 1:00pm-4:00pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW AND SALE

Palos Verdes Art Center
 5504 Crestridge Rd.
 Rancho Palos Verdes, Ca

Friday, April 10 1:00-5:00pm
Saturday, April 11 9:00-4:00PM

For more information and to learn more



2026 Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President
 Maria Capaldo
Vice-President
 Liz Ying
Treasurer
 Debra Bushweit Galliani
Secretary
 Nancy Sams
At-Large Board Members
 Teresa Nicoletto
 Linda O'Hara

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Show and Sale
 Terri Straub
Programs Chair
 M.A.Bjarkman
Finance Chair
 Jim Hanna
Mini-Show Coordinator
 Terri Straub

Communications

Chair: Mike Short
 Webmaster: Mike Short
 Newsletter: Maria Capaldo
 Publicity: Ann Nye
 Facebook: Laurel Woodley
 Instagram: Nancy Sams

Membership Chair

Sally Fasteau
Speaker Coordinator
 M.A.Bjarkman
Liaisons
 CGCI: Debra Bushweit Galliani
 CSSA: M.A. Bjarkman

