

Prickly News



June
2026

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We have the following meeting dates and locations set at the **Hesse Community Park**.

Sunday June 14 1:00-4:00 pm

Sunday July 12 1:00-4:00 pm

Sunday August 9 1:00-4:00pm

Peninsula Library, Sunday September 13
2:00-4:00pm

NEW LOGO: Thanks to Nancy Sams and Mike Short for developing a new logo. This will be used on our Website, Newsletter and on social media. I hope you like it.

CSSA SHOW AND SALE: Information on attendance, free admission, volunteering is on page 11.

THE MINI-SHOW: Plants for June are Opuntiodes which include all from South and North America. The succulent category will be *Euphorbia* that are not from Madagascar. Both of these are large categories and should be interesting shows.

PRESENTATION: We are fortunate to have Ernesto Sandoval joining us from UC Davis to speak about African Bulb propagation and cultivation. Ernesto always is fun, interesting and informative.

I hope to see you there!

Maria Capaldo



Euphorbia virgata/Euphorbia esula (leafy spurge) from Uzbekistan. Photo submitted by Anita Caplan

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

June 14, 2026 1:00pm-4:00pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd Rancho
Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Presentation



Ernesto Sandoval
"Propagation and
Cultivation of South
African Bulbs"



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



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Presentation: "Propagation and Cultivation of South African Bulbs"*Ornithogalum*

Ernesto Sandoval has grown South African bulbs and geophytes for many years, both professionally and privately. He will share some of his experiences with this beautiful and diverse set of plants, emphasizing propagation and cultivation. Mostly, through the use of gorgeous photos, he wants to convince us to grow more of these fascinating plants in our gardens with little effort (free winter rainfall) to bring a little more color into our gardens during the winter months!

He'll have bulbs and other succulents available for sale!

*Nerine undulata* (Pink)Biography:

Ernesto Sandoval has been pondering and seeking answers to the question of why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages, from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to various western garden clubs and succulent clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences and passions of others and his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, particularly gardeners, understand why and how plants do what they do.

Ernesto holds a degree from UC Davis in Botany and progressed in his work from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He is now a graduate student getting his Masters (actually skipping to a PhD) in Horticulture and Agronomy at UC Davis with a focus on the propagation and cultivation of drought adapted plants.

*Opuntia microdasys**Opuntia monacantha**Opuntia polyacantha**Opuntia aciculata*

Opuntia is a genus in the cactus family, Cactaceae.

Opuntia typically grow with flat, rounded cladodes (also called platyclades) armed with two kinds of spines; large, smooth, fixed spines and small, hairlike prickles called glochids, that easily penetrate skin and detach from the plant. Many types of *Opuntia* grow into dense, tangled structures.

Like all true cactus species, *Opuntia* are native only to the Americas, but they have been introduced to other parts of the globe. *Opuntia* are found in abundance in Mexico, especially in the central and western regions, and in the Caribbean islands (West Indies). In the United States, *Opuntia* are native to many areas of the arid Western United States, including the lower elevations of the Rocky Mountains, where species such as *Opuntia phaeacantha* and *Opuntia polyacantha* become dominant, and especially in the desert Southwest. *Opuntia* is also native to the dry sandhills and sand dunes of the East Coast from Florida to Connecticut/Long Island (*Opuntia humifusa*). Further north, *Opuntia* occurs in isolated areas from the southern Great Lakes to southern Ontario. *O. humifusa* is also a prominent feature of the flora at Illinois Beach State Park, in Winthrop Harbor, Illinois, north of Chicago, and of Indiana Dunes State Park southeast of Chicago.

Opuntia littoralis is found locally, a coastal plant found on bluff areas in Palos Verdes and extends to the coastal Baja Peninsula.

In the Galapagos Islands, six different species are found: *O. echios*, *O. galapageia*, *O. helleri*, *O. insularis*, *O. saxicola*, and *O. megasperma*. These species are divided into 14 different varieties; most of these are confined to one or a few islands. For this reason, they have been described as “an excellent example of adaptive radiation.” On the whole, islands with tall, trunked varieties have giant tortoises, and islands lacking tortoises have low or prostrate forms of *Opuntia*.

Opuntia are the most cold-tolerant of the lowland cacti, extending into Western and Southern Canada; one subspecies, *O. fragilis* var. *fragilis*, has been found growing along the Beatton River in Central British Columbia, southwest of Cecil Lake. *Opuntia* also produce a fruit, commonly eaten in Mexico, known as tuna; it also is used to make aguas frescas. The fruit can be red, wine-red, green, or yellow-orange.

Charles Darwin was the first to note that these cacti have thigmotactic anthers: when the anthers are touched, they curl over, depositing their pollen. This movement can be seen by gently poking the anthers of an open *Opuntia* flower. The same trait has evolved convergently in other cacti (e.g. *Lophophora*).

*Opuntia basilaris**Opuntia macrocentra*



Opuntia stenopetala



Opuntia stricta

Opuntia (cont'd)

The first introduction of *Opuntia* into Australia are ascribed to Governor Philip and the earliest colonists in 1788. Brought from Brazil to Sydney, prickly pear grew in Sydney, New South Wales, where they were rediscovered in a farmer’s garden in 1839. They appear to have spread from New South Wales and caused great ecological damage in the eastern states. They are also found in the Mediterranean region of Northern Africa, especially in Tunisia, where they grow all over the countryside, and arid Southern Europe, especially on Malta, where they grow all over the islands, in the south-east of Spain, and can be found in enormous numbers in parts of South Africa, where it was introduced from South America.

The most common culinary species is the Indian fig *Opuntia* (*O. ficus-indica*). Most culinary uses of the term “prickly pear” refer to this species. Prickly pears are also known as tuna (fruit) or nopal (paddle, plural nopales) from the Nahuatl word nōpalli for the pads, or nostle, from the Nahuatl word nōchtli for the fruit; or paddle cactus.



Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa

Cylindropuntia is a genus of cacti (family Cactaceae), containing species commonly known as chollas, native to Northern Mexico and the Southwestern United States. They are known for their barbed spines that tenaciously attach to skin, fur, and clothing. Stands of cholla are called cholla gardens. Individuals within these colonies often exhibit the same DNA, as they were formerly tubercles of an original plant.

Cylindropuntia was formerly treated as a subgenus of *Opuntia*, but have now been separated based on their cylindrical stems (*Opuntia* species have flattened stems) and the presence of papery epidermal sheaths on the spines (*Opuntia* has no sheaths). A few species of mat- or clump-forming opuntioid cacti are currently placed in the genus *Grusonia*. Collectively, opuntias, chollas, and related plants are sometimes called opuntiads. The roughly 35 species of *Cylindropuntia* are native to the Southwestern and South Central United States, Mexico, and the West Indies. The Flora of North America recognizes 22 species. Some species have been introduced to South America (Chile, Ecuador, Peru) and South Africa.



Cylindropuntia hystrix



Cylindropuntia alcahes



Cylindropuntia bigelovii



Cylindropuntia arbuscula



Cylindropuntia caribaea



Austrocylindropuntia pachypus



Austrocylindropuntia vestita



Austrocylindropuntia subulata



Austrocylindropuntia floccosa

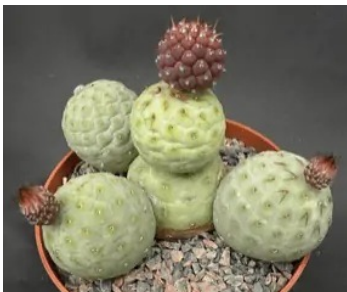
Austrocylindropuntia is a genus of cacti. There are 11 recognized species, native to South America. They have tuberous roots and cylindrical stems. Some species have persistent cylindrical leaves. The prefix “austro” means southern and so this is the South American version of *Cylindropuntia*.



Tephrocactus articulatus



Tephrocactus articulatus
var. *strobiliformis*



Tephrocactus geometricus



Tephrocactus articulatus
f. *papyracanthus*



Tephrocactus articulatus f.
papyracanthus



Tephrocactus articulatus var.
diadematus

Tephrocactus is a small genus in the subfamily Opuntioideae which is endemic to Argentina. Like other members of this group, *Tephrocactus* does have glochids, however, they are uniquely sunken into the areoles in this genus. Spines may be long, dense and needle-like or thin and papery or absent. The stems grow in very distinct segments, but unlike the flat-pads found on the genus *Opuntia*, the segments of *Tephrocactus* are round. This can be either in short cylinders, egg shaped, or even spherical. These segments typically grow in a slightly zig-zagged stack. Flowers are white in most species or pinkish, sometimes yellow, and in one case red.

Some species in this genus are very popular in cultivation. Grown for their alien-looking stems and dramatic spines. Flowers are less common in cultivation as the segments often detach with the slightest touch. Plants that are only a couple segments high tend not to flower. As such, a flowering *Tephrocactus* is a special delight to the hobbyist.



Euphorbia brunellii



Euphorbia knuthii



Euphorbia decepta



Euphorbia fortuita



Euphorbia caput-medusae



Euphorbia procumbens



Euphorbia stellata subsp.
micracantha



Euphorbia flanaganii

Euphorbia (not from Madagascar) is our category for June. *Euphorbia* is one of the largest of the succulent plant families. The genus *Euphorbia* is found throughout the tropics and semi tropics around the world, with some members of the family growing well into temperate regions. The succulent species are largely African and Madagascan, although there are some interesting and rarely seen species from the Americas. Given the size of the African continent, and the distribution of interesting *Euphorbias* from the northernmost parts to the tip of the Cape, it is hard to make any sort of generalization on cultivation.

When buying a *Euphorbia* it is a good idea to find out where it comes from. Species native to the South Africa or Namibia are generally fairly easy to grow. Their natural environment is not that different from Southern California. It is best to ascertain whether they come from a winter or summer rainfall area, and treat them accordingly. Most are summer growers but there are exceptions.

The sap of many *Euphorbias* is toxic and an irritant. Care needs to be taken when handling the plant and eye protection should be worn when cutting into the plants, particularly in the spring when sap is sometimes under pressure. Careful attention to washing up after working on *Euphorbias* will avoid most problems.

Guide to potting: For big caudexes, pot them in a bigger pot and keep the caudex buried for growth. Feed with a dilute fertilizer. Always wait at least two or three weeks before pruning a recently repotted *Euphorbia*. Any well-draining soil with more than one-half pumice or perlite is recommended.



Euphorbia obesa

Euphorbia gymnocalycioides found in Ethiopia and Somalia is a good example of a tropical species. Relatively difficult on its own roots, it is usually seen as a grafted plant.

Euphorbia procumbens is a good example of a medusoid from the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Coming from an environment very similar to Southern California it is easy to grow, requiring only some protection from winter rains, and doing best in a very open potting mix

Euphorbia stellata, also from the Eastern Cape is a great example of a caudiciform *Euphorbia*. One of the easiest to grow, it makes an impressive specimen from cuttings in just a few years.

From the Western Cape in a summer rainfall area is found *Euphorbia susannae*, a great example of a stem succulent *Euphorbia*.



Euphorbia poissonii



Euphorbia susannae



Euphorbia unispina



Euphorbia stellata
subsp. *stellata*

Partial list of Euphorbia not from Madagascar

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| atropurpurea | mammilaris |
| ammak | meloformis |
| balsamifera | multifolia |
| bupleurifolia | obesa |
| dendroides | polygona |
| esculenta | pseudocactus |
| flanaganii | purpurea |
| fruticosa | resinifera |
| globosa | ritchiei spiralis |
| grantii | trigona |
| horrida | tuberosa tirucalli |
| ingens | xantii |
| lactea | |
| lindenii | |

Mini-Show Winners May 2026

Cactus



- 1st - Phyllis DeCrescenzo *Astrophytum ornatum*
- 2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo *Astrophytum ornatum*
- 3rd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo *Astrophytum myriostigma*

No cactus entries



- 1st - Liz Ying *Astrophytum myriostigma* 'Fukuryu'
- 2nd - Liz Ying *Astrophytum*
- 3rd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas *Astrophytum*

Open

Succulent



- 1st - Jim Gardner x *Mangave*
- 2nd - Jim Gardner *Agave Utahensis* subsp. *eborispina*
- 3rd - Maria Capaldo *Agave* 'Blue Flame' striated

Intermediate



- 1st - Sally Fasteau *Agave filifera*

Novice



- 1st - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas *Agave* 'White Rhino'
- 2nd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas - x *Mangave* 'Praying Hands'
- 3rd - Debra Galliani - x *Mangave*

2026-27 Mini-Show Calendar

<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
June	<i>Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocyllindropuntia</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> (not from Madagascar)
July	Melocactus	Bromeliaceae (other than Dyckia, Hechtia)
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, Cochemiea</i> hooked spines	Caudiciform (<i>Beaucarnia, Dioscorea, Fockea</i> , etc.) except <i>Pachypodium</i>
February 2027	<i>Eriosyce</i>	<i>Gasteria</i> and hybrids
March 2027	<i>Echinocereus</i>	<i>Dudleya, Cotyledon</i>
April 2027	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May 2027	<i>Coryphantha, Pelecyphora, Acharagma, Sclerocactus</i>	<i>Crassula</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.

Mini-Show Standings May 2026

Novice Class			Intermediate Class			Open Class		
Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Martha Bjerke		9	Anita Caplan	5	6	Maria Capaldo	5	8
Gustavo Cardenas	8	27	Vincent Darmali	8	20	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	38	21
Debra Galliani	10	4	Sally Fasteau		6	Gary Duke	10	10
Anna Salas		1	Lemono Lott		17	Jim Gardner	14	33
Warren Woodrum	6	2	Mike Short	1	3	Jim Hanna		5
Liz Ying	11	10				Terri Straub	13	17
						Laurel Woodley		5

Member Photos



Weingartia purpurea (= *Sulcorebutia santiaginiensis*) by Maria Capaldo



Echeveria flower by Debra Galliani

Photos by Laurel Woodley



Aporophyllum
'Oakleigh Conquest'



Mammillaria
uberiformis

CSSA Show and Sale

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
59th ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
AT THE HUNTINGTON

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 12 – 14, 2026

Location: The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA
The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3571

Sale and Show: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Show set-up: Wednesday, June 10 9:00am - 1:00pm

Enter plants: Wednesday, June 10 1:00pm - 6:00pm & Thursday, June 11 9:00am - 4:00pm. Judging starts at 5:00pm Thursday

Dinner: Saturday, June 13 at 6:00pm, \$35 dinner. Menu: Mediterranean-style buffet provided by Bon Appétit. Contact Barbara Hall by cell phone 818-429-6914 or email lbcjhall@aol.com for reservation information. Reservations must be made by June 5.

Auction: Saturday, June 13 at 7:00pm. Items need to be registered by 9:00am, Friday June 12. There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: two items per person/business marked as donation or split (70/30)

Tear down: Sunday, June 14 5:00pm

- Show Schedules & Indexes will be available online through the website at www.cssashow.com. Entry tags will be available at many of the local clubs and at the show. Nick Renteria can mail entry tags upon request.
- All Vendors, Volunteers or Show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) and a HBG wrist band each day they participate. These will be distributed by the Show Chair each day. Please go directly to the Botanical Center and not through the front entrance.
- For those NOT participating, special passes for this event will no longer be distributed ahead of time. Information regarding complimentary entry for CSSA & affiliate club members have been sent to all members. At this time, entry to the HBG is by advance online reservation on Fridays and weekends, no walk-ins. Stay tuned for updates!
- There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year's show, in the showroom or sales areas, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry and for setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you. See you at the Show!

Nick Renteria

Phone: 323-428-2215 (cell)

CSSA Annual Show Chair

Email: Nick_Renteria@yahoo.com

Upcoming Events



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Ernesto Sandoval
**"Propagation and Cultivation of
 South African Bulbs"**
June 14, 2026 1:00pm-4:00pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

[For more information and to learn more](#)

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Mini-Show Coordinator

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