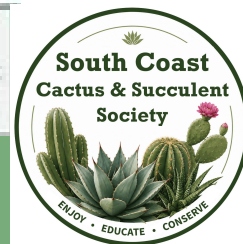


Prickly News

September
2026

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



MEETINGS: We have the following meeting dates and locations:

Peninsula Library-Community Room

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

Zamperini Field Torrance Municipal Airport

Sunday October 11, 1:00-4:00pm

Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park

Sunday November 8, 1:00-4:00pm

Holiday Pot Luck - PV Art Center

Saturday December 12, 1:00-3:00pm

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: September is the month we start looking for those who are willing to serve on the Board of the Society. We need at least two people to be able to canvas members to serve. Please be willing to help! Contact me at minniecap@icloud.com

MINI-SHOW: Come show off your *Parodia* and *Notocactus* and *Sedum*, *Pachyphytum*, *Sempervivum* and *Graptosedum* at the Mini-Show this month.

PRESENTER: Sandy Masuo of the Huntington will be presenting "Succulents: A Botanical History Tour" at our meeting. Because the Library is not open until 1:00pm, we will start the presentation at 2:30 with a social time at 2:00pm.

I hope to see you there.
Maria Capaldo

Echinopsis (=Lobivia draxleriana) hybrid
by Debra Galliani



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

September 13, 2026 2:00pm-4:00pm

Peninsula Center Library -

Community Room

701 Silver Spur Rd

Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Presentation



Sandy Masuo
"Succulents: A
Botanical History
Tour"



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



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PRESENTATION: “Succulents: A Botanical History Tour”



People have long been fascinated with succulents. These unusual plants figure prominently in the Indigenous cultures of their natural ranges, and as trade and transportation developed from the 16th through 19th centuries, they were transported to other regions as curiosities and collectables. Thanks to the evolution of printed books, we can trace the rising interest in these plants as documented in noteworthy plant collections of the past. A complement to The Huntington’s renowned Desert Collections, this trip through time highlights some of the remarkable plants from The Huntington’s Library collections.



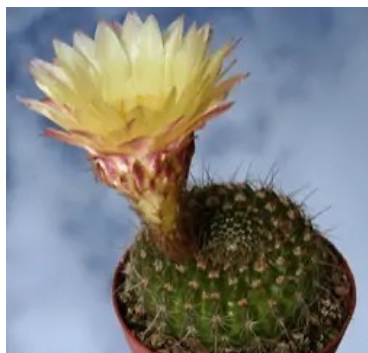
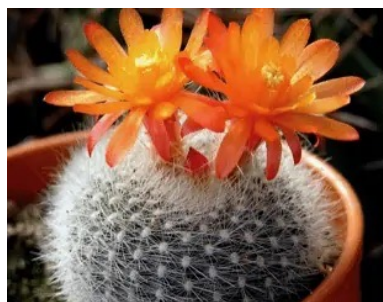
Biography:



Sandy Masuo is an editor, educator, author, and conservationist on a mission to enlighten and to inspire wonder in the world around us. She currently serves as the botanical content specialist at The Huntington. Prior to that she was the associate editor in the Los Angeles Zoo publications division for 18 years. Before her zoo tenure, she enjoyed a 15-year adventure as staff editor for a number of music magazines and a freelance contributor to various publications, including the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Boston Phoenix*. She has served on the boards of the Southern California Horticultural Society and the Association of Zoological Horticulture. In 2016, she published her debut novel (as Rosana DuMas). *Unnatural Selection: Life and Death on the Paper Trail* is the story of a horticulturist/detective investigating the dubious death of a zoo docent. Sandy teaches fiction and business writing as well as a variety of classes from succulent gardening to bird watching at local community colleges. She holds a BA from Brown University and an Ed. M from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

September 2026

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Parodia concinna**Parodia haselbergii**Parodia magnifica**Parodia crassigibba**Parodia schumanniana**Parodia mueller-melchersii**Parodia horstii**Parodia mueller-melchersii**Parodia leninghausii*

Parodia is a genus of flowering plants in the cactus family Cactaceae, native to the uplands of Argentina and Bolivia. The genus is named after Domingo Parodi, one of the early investigators of the flora of Paraguay. In 1986, some 50 species many of which were transferred from *Eriocactus*, *Notocactus* and *Wigginsia* were assigned to be *Parodia*. Then in 2010, molecular studies deemed that *Parodia* and *Notocactus* had separate evolutionary patterns. So, many references have changed the nomenclature back to include *Notocactus*, *Erioccephala*, *Parodia* and *Wigginsia* as a *Notocactus* tribe. Molecular studies are still being performed on specific taxa and further changes are expected. *Parodia* range from small globose plants to one meter (three feet) tall columnar cacti. They may have defined ribs or divided into tubercles. Spines are straight, curved or hooked. Typically, the apex is depressed, with single flowers at or near the crown with yellow stigma and woolly floral tubes. Some species produce offsets at the base. They are popular in cultivation. Some should be grown indoors where temperatures fall below 10 °C (50 °F). However, some species like *P. microsperma* can withstand heavy nocturnal frosts during winter.

September 2026

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Parodia mammulosa*

The genus ***Notocactus***, may be found to be synonymous with *Parodia* in some references. The original distinguishing characteristic was the red stigmas in the flowers of *Notocactus*, also with woolly floral tubes. The areoles are woolly as well. *Notocactus* are South American cacti, with the center of the genus in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, throughout the eastern side of the Andes. They are slow-growing, need re-potting every 2-3 years. They enjoy full sun. If watering *Notocactus* in the winter, avoid fertilization or weak growth may result. Some of the more tropical species need protection from colder weather to prevent scarring, but most will take normal Southern California winters without protection. All the species are easy to grow from seed. Seed is available for nearly all the species and from many localities. Fresh seed germinates readily and can grow to a show quality plant in just a few years. Vegetative propagation of the clustering types is easy as well. Cuttings taken during the late spring and early summer root readily and show new growth before the season is over.

*Parodia ottonis**Parodia oxycostata**Parodia buiningii**Parodia concinna**Parodia x erubescens**Parodia nivosa**Parodia scopa**Parodia tenuicylindrica*

September 2026

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

NOTE: The Mini-Show has a policy of only allowing one plant per pot. However the rule will be relaxed for this month's succulents. Both *Sedum* and *Pachyphytum* have the ability to grow new plants from leaves that drop in the pot. In addition they have the ability to root when a stem leans and touches the soil surface. *Sempervivum* have a tendency to produce multiple rosettes that appear connected to the mother. These habits make it hard to define what is a single plant.

*Sedum adolphii*

Sedum is a wonderful genus. It contains miniatures from the Italian Alps, ground covers from Japan, tree-like specimens from Mexico, *Echeveria* impostors and little weedy things from all over. Most are easily grown, many are tolerant of extreme cold, and are as much a part of the rock gardening and alpine plant communities as they are the cactus and succulent world. There are few plants that can withstand out-and-out abuse better than some of the small ground-hugging *Sedum*.

Many of the smaller *Sedum* make excellent ground cover. These plants are often available in flats or six-packs at nurseries that specialize in landscape plants. They are not often seen in small pots, although they make excellent pot specimens, accents for a dish garden or drapes for hanging planters. When well staged, many are trophy table competitors at all of our local shows.

Sedum is one of the genera of Crassulaceae, with over 400 species. The plants are mostly northern hemisphere plants, with significant endemic groups in East Asia, North America and Europe/West Asia. There are about 120 Mexican Sedums. In general, *Sedum* can be identified by opposite leaves and five-pointed flowers; however, there are numerous exceptions here as well.

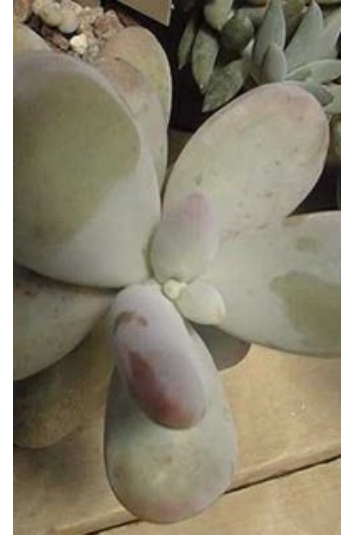
Sedums are apparently in active evolution, with many "near Sedums" in very closely related genera. The genus as a whole is still poorly studied and explored. *Sedum booleanum* from Nuevo León is one of the smallest-leaved interesting species. This is a recently described species, first appearing in 1996. The leaves are opposite, forming a neat, white, cruciform head when viewed from above. It branches freely and is easily grown. This plant is just coming into cultivation, and is still hard to find.

All of the woody species want excellent drainage, with nearly pure pumice providing the best growth conditions, as long as they are kept fertilized and frequently watered in the summer months..

*Sedum burrito**Sedum* × *rubrotinctum*
'Aurora'*Sedum lucidum**Sedum australe**Sedum morganianum**Sedum allantoides*

September 2026

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Pachyphytum bracteosum**Pachyphytum compactum**Pachyphytum glutinicaule**Pachyphytum oviferum*

Pachyphytum is a genus containing about a dozen of Mexican species of succulents related to *Echeveria*. The main attraction of these species are the softly colored leaves, generally covered with a powdery bloom. The genus name *Pachyphytum* comes from the Greek for ‘thick leaves’.

The flowers are small, not very interesting. They are followed by tiny seed pods. The *Pachyphytum* are generally propagated by leaf cuttings.

Pachyphytum tend to be more resistant to extreme temperature than *Echeveria*, they can generally bear 20°F (-7°C) for short periods, and tend to be more heat resistant.

Sempervivum is a genus of about 40 species of flowering plants in the Crassulaceae family. Common names include liveforever and hen and chicks, a name shared with plants of other genera as well. They are succulent perennials forming mats composed of tufted leaves in rosettes. In favorable conditions they spread rapidly via offsets, and several species are valued in cultivation as groundcover for dry, sunny locations.

Sempervivum exist from Morocco to Iran, through the mountains of Iberia, the Alps, Carpathians, Balkan mountains, Turkey, the Armenian mountains, in the northeastern part of the Sahara Desert, and the Caucasus. Their ability to store water in their thick leaves allows them to live on sunny rocks and stony places in the mountain, subalpine and alpine belts. Most are hardy to US zone 4, and will handle warm climates to about zone 8.

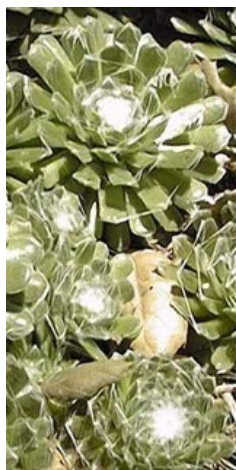
The name *Sempervivum* has its origin in the Latin *semper* (“always”) and *vivus* (“living”), because this perennial plant keeps its leaves in winter and is very resistant to difficult conditions of growth. The common name “houseleek” is believed to stem from the traditional practice of growing plants on the roofs of houses to ward off fire and lightning strikes.

Sempervivum grow as tufts of perennial but monocarpic rosettes. Each rosette propagates asexually by lateral rosettes (offsets, “hen and chicks”), by splitting of the rosette or sexually by tiny seeds.

Typically, each plant grows for several years before flowering. Their hermaphrodite flowers have first a male stage. Then the stamens curve themselves and spread away from the carpels at the center of the flower, so self-pollination is rather difficult. The color of the flowers is reddish, yellowish, pinkish, or (seldom) whitish. After flowering, the plant dies, usually leaving many offsets it has produced during its life.

September 2026

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent



Sempervivum arachnoideum
'Cebennense'



Sempervivum 'Pruhonice'



Sempervivum 'Maytime'

× ***Graptosedum*** is a popular hybrid succulent genus created by crossing *Graptopetalum* and *Sedum*. Known for stunning pastel or bronze rosettes, they are hardy, drought-tolerant plants thriving in bright sun and gritty, fast-draining soil. Popular varieties include 'California Sunset', 'Alpenglow', and 'Francesco Baldi'. Colors range from peachy-pink and orange, to bronze, red, and plum, to blue-gray and lavender-pink. Colors often change with the seasons. Flowers are star-shaped, with five petals, yellow or white depending on the hybrid, arising from a narrow stalk. Orange or red speckles can sometimes be seen near the center of the flower.

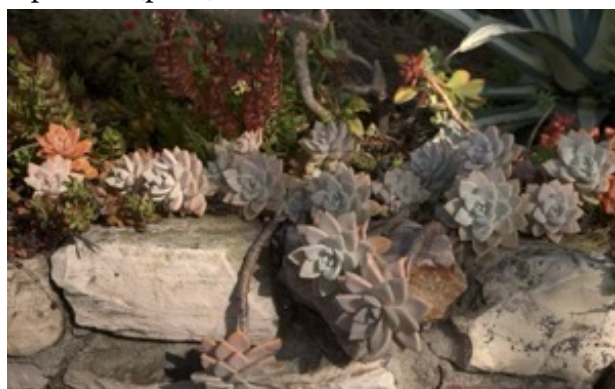
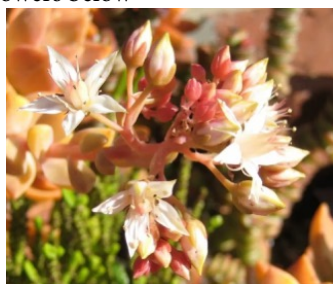
They require 4 to 6 hours of bright sunlight daily. Water deeply only when the soil is completely dry. They thrive in temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit and should be protected from heavy frosts.

There are no officially-accepted species of *Graptosedum*, all are nursery produced cultivars.

× *Graptosedum* 'Ghosty' is often confused with *Graptopetalum paraguayense*. Apart from the flowers the plants are similar. The former has yellow flowers while the latter has white flowers with red markings on each petal, from the Greek graptos (painted, marked) and petalon (petal).



× *Graptosedum* 'California Sunset'
and flowers below



× *Graptosedum* 'Ghosty' and flowers below



Mini-Show Winners August 2026

Cactus



1st - Maria Capaldo
Copiapoa montana
2nd - Maria Capaldo
Copiapoa cinerea
2nd - Terri Straub
Copiapoa humilis subsp.
tenuissima
3rd - Phyllis De Crescenzo
Copiapoa humilis
3rd - Phyllis De Crescenzo
Copiapoa humilis

Open



1st - Anita Caplan *Copiapoa humilis*
2nd - Anita Caplan *Copiapoa esmeraldana*

Succulent



1st - Terri Straub
x *Graptopoveria* 'Bashful'
2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Graptopetalum amethystinum
3rd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Graptopetalum, variegated

Intermediate



1st - Mike Short
x *Graptopoveria* 'Fred Ives'
2nd - Anita Caplan
x *Pachyveria glauca* 'Little Jewel'

Novice



1st - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas
x *Pachyveria* 'Powder Puff'
2nd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas
x *Pachyveria* 'Opalina'
3rd - Gustavo and Denise Cardenas
x *Graptopoveria* 'Fred Ives'

No cactus entries

Mini-Show Calendar 2026-2027

Month	Cactus	Succulent
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	<i>Mammillaria, Cochemiea Hooked Spines</i>	Caudiciform (<i>Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea</i>) except <i>Pachypodium</i>
FEBRUARY	<i>Eriosyce</i>	<i>Gasteria</i> and hybrids
MARCH	<i>Echinocereus</i>	<i>Dudleya, Cotyledon</i>
APRIL	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
MAY	<i>Coryphantha, Pelecyphora, Acharagma, Sclerocactus</i>	<i>Crassula</i>
JUNE	<i>Gymnocalycium</i>	<i>Pachypodium, Hoya</i>
JULY	<i>Ferrocactus, Leuchtenbergia</i>	<i>Kalenchoe</i>
August	<i>Echinopsis</i>	Stapeliads (<i>Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, 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.

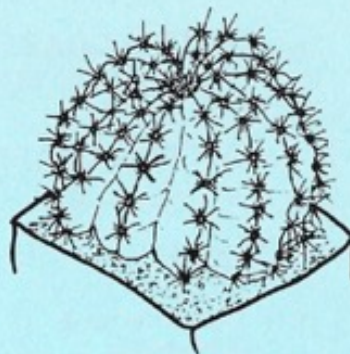
Mini-Show Standings August 2026

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Martha Bjerke		9	9	Anita Caplan	20	17	37	Maria Capaldo	32	25	57
Gustavo Cardenas	14	40	54	Vincent Darmali	14	24	38	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	50	38	88
Debra Galliani	10	18	28	Sally Fasteau	6	6	12	Gary Duke	10	10	20
Anna Salas		1	1	Jackie Johnson		12	12	Jim Gardner	16	33	49
Chris Schavwecker	10		10	Lemono Lott		17	17	Jim Hanna		5	5
Warren Woodrum	6	2	8	Mike Short	7	20	27	Terri Straub	30	33	63
Liz Ying	11	10	21					Laurel Woodley		11	11

Member Drawings from 1994 Newsletter



RAPHIA



FERROCACTUS
SCHWARTZI



SCHLUMBERGERA
'LAVENDER DOLL'



CURSONIA PANICULATA



LOPHOCEREUS SCHOTTI MONSTROSUS

All drawings by Constance Cole.

Upcoming Events



43RD ANNUAL SUCCULENT PLANTS

SYMPOSIUM-The Huntington

August 28, 2026 9:00am-5:30pm

Connect with fellow succulent enthusiasts for a dynamic day of discovery, inspiration, and rare plant offerings at The Huntington's Succulent Plants Symposium. Reservations required.



**SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING**
**PRESENTER: Sandy Masuo "Succulents:
A Botanical History Tour"**

2:00pm-4:00pm

**Peninsula Center Library -Community
Room**

701 Silver Spur Rd

Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

For more information and to learn more

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Terri Straub

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M.A. Bjarkman

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