Prickly News

October 2026

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Meetings: We have the following meeting dates and locations:
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: Many thanks to Lisa Toler for volunteering to find candidates for elected Board members. We will present the slate when she is done and have a vote at our November meeting.

Mini-Show: Our Mini-Show Plants of the month are Cactus: *Ariocarpus, Obregonia,* Succulent: *Adenium, Adenia.*

Vendors: If you want to sell at our next meeting, please let me know since it is a smaller room and I want to be sure we have space.

Next meeting: We have the airport space where we need to set up our own tables and chairs. Please arrive by noon if you are able to help with that.

Presentation: Kelly Griffin who has taken multiple trips to Australia will be presenting some new sights from "down under". Kelly is always informative and entertaining, and from the photos submitted (page two,) this will be a fascinating program

I hope to see you there.
Maria Capaldo

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

October 11, 2026 1:00pm-3:30pm
Zamperini Field
Torrance Municipal Airport
3301 Airport Drive
Torrance, California

Presentation



Kelly Griffin
"Australia: Succulents, Flora and Fauna"

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SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Kelly Griffin: "Australia: Succulents, Flora and Fauna"



Kelly has made three trips to Australia in three consecutive years with this last trip the most logistically challenging. Travelling with Attila Kapitany and later joined by his wife, Denise, he covered more that 1000 miles of the country.

Australia is a big country and, in spite of the perceptions, it is neither flat nor boring. There are many mountains, ravines and canyons. Also, surprisingly, quite a few succulents and xeric plants too.











Biography:

Kelly Griffin is a plant hybridizer for Altman Specialty Plants located in Vista, Ca. He has a penchant for finding and photographing succulent plant habitats in general all over the world.

Lately he has an interest in the mostly California genus of *Dudleya*. Looking for Dudleyas in the field has been a constant passion for him over four decades. He co-authored a book on Dudleyas published two years ago.

Written by Tom Glavich

October 2026 Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus



Ariocarpus bravoanus



Ariocarpus fissuratus



Ariocarpus fissuratus



Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus

Ariocarpus is one of the treasures of the world of cacti. This genus, from Central to Northern Mexico and Southern Texas, has some of the most spectacular species of the entire family. Some succulent growers, who otherwise avoid cacti, make this genus their sole exception. There are collectors who collect nothing but *Ariocarpus* and have hundreds of plants in their collections. There is no denying that this single genus has generated a world-wide cult of devotees.

Ariocarpus are no more difficult to grow than many other Central Mexican genera. All of the species and all of the varieties are readily available and nearly all are affordable. This genera is well within the range of even beginning novice growers. Field collected specimens are occasionally available, are much more expensive, and are much harder to grow. Recently collected specimens are now almost always illegally obtained.

Ariocarpus has had important ethno-botanical uses. The tubercles contain a sticky mucilage, which was often used as glue to mend broken pots. *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus* was boiled and used as a cure for rheumatism and several species were used as 'false peyote' in religious ceremonies.

Cultivation is not difficult, when the home environment of these plants is considered. They grow in mineral soils with very little organic matter. They all have large tuberous roots. They grow in areas that are very hot in the summer and that have summer rainfall. If they are protected from excess organic matter, particularly peat, and watered heavily only in hot weather, (but lightly throughout the summer growing season) good growth will result. They need protection from winter rains.

There are six species, several varieties, and a near infinite set of cultivars.



Ariocarpus retusus



Ariocarpus trigonus



Ariocarpus scaphirostrus

Submitted by Jim Tanner

October 2026 Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus



Obregonia denegrii

Obregonia, the artichoke cactus, is a genus of cacti with a single species, *Obregonia denegrii*. The species is endemic to the state of Tamaulipas in Mexico. It is an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List Endangered species.

The genus *Obregonia* is named after Álvaro Obregón, while the species is named after Ramon P. De Negri, who was the Minister of Agriculture of Mexico when the cacti was first described by Alfred Frec in 1923.

Description

This rare species resembles an inverted green pine cone with a woolly center. *Obregonia* is among the most famous of all cacti for is unique artichoke-shaped stem. It is the only representative of its monospecific genus and is related to *Ariocarpus*. It grows almost always as a solitary plant leveled with the ground, with the sunk and woolly apex. It is considered an intermediate form between *Ariocarpus* and *Lophophora*. It grows slowly in culture and requires little water. It has a thick taproot and benefits from full sun and is multiplied by seed. It is very slow growing.

Uses

The Nahuatl Indians call the plant peyotl, and it is said to have hallucinogenic alkaloids. It is one of the closest living relatives of the genus *Lophophora*.



Obregonia denegrii



Obregonia denegrii



Obregonia denegrii flower

Written by Tom Glavich and edited by Maria Capaldo

October 2026 Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent



Adenium boehmianum

Adenium is a member of the Apocynaceae and a relative of *Pachypodium*, *Oleander*, and *Vinca*. The Apocynaceae is home to many showy flowering plants used for ornamental and medicinal purposes. *Oleander* is a staple of much of Southern California Gardening; *Vinca* is grown over the world.

Adenium are native to Africa and the Saudi Arabian Peninsula. They are easy to grow, requiring only good fertilizer, lots of water when in growth, and protection from cold and damp when dormant. When leaves drop or temperatures drop into the mid-40s the plants go dormant. Watering has to be done much more carefully and fertilization should stop. Some growers place their plants in their garages in late fall to force dormancy and protect them from cold and damp. In the summer they should be given plenty of water and lots of room in the pot for root growth. They need a fast-draining potting mix. Many successful growers use a potting mix that is mostly or all pumice.

There is either one variable species, *Adenium obesum* with six subspecies, or six species, depending on your choice of reference. In either case, the species or subspecies are closely related and hybridize readily with each other. The care for all is the same, with *Adenium socotranum* being more cold sensitive than the others.

Adenium hybrids and cultivars are created for showy caudexes, great flowers, or some combination of the two. There are groups of hybridizers producing great flowers and terrific caudexes in Tucson, Florida, India, and Thailand. The golden age of *Adenium* hybridization is just starting.



Adenium oleifolium



Adenium multiflorum



Adenium obesum 'Black'



Adenium swazicum



Adenium obesum



Adenium obesum

Written by Tom Glavich and edited by Maria Capaldo

October 2026 Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent



Adenia aculeata

Adenia, a plant entirely unrelated to *Adenium*, is a member of the *Passiflora* or passion flower family (Passifloraceae.) The centers of diversity are in Madagascar, eastern and western tropical Africa, and Southeast Asia.

All *Adenia* are perennial plants, but there are many different forms, including herbs, vines, shrubs, and trees. Many are succulents and some are pachycauls. Some have fibrous root systems and some have tubers. Most of the collectable Adenias have large bases that support climbing stems or branches. In habitat they are often found in brush, with the branches scrambling up through brush, or alternately growing in a open area, entirely covered by a sprawling mass of live and dead stems.

In cultivation, the sprawling stems are regularly pruned to keep the plant good looking in a pot (as well as transportable). All of the *Adenia* are cold sensitive, particularly when young, and should never be exposed to cold and damp.

Although some *Adenia* are used for medicinal purposes, many are toxic. Some toxins are just in the stems or leaves and some even in the caudex. So gloves are recommended when handling this plant.



Adenia pechuelii



Adenia digitata



Adenia globosa



Adenia glauca



Adenia cissampeloides



Adenia spinosa

Submitted by Terri Straub, Photos by Laurel Woodley

Mini-Show Winners September 2026

Cactus



1st - Maria Capaldo
Parodia Scopa



3rd - Maria Capaldo
Parodia lenninghausii



3rd - Gary Duke
Parodia crassigibba

Open



2nd - Maria Capaldo
Parodia magnifica



2nd - Terri Straub
Parodia nivosa



3rd - Terri Straub
Parodia mammulosa

Succulent



1st - Maria Capaldo
Sedum clavatum



2nd - Terri Straub
Sedum adolphi



3rd - Terri Straub
Sedum dendroideum



3rd - Terri Straub
x *Graptosedum*
'Autumn Sunset'

Submitted by Terri Straub, Photos by Laurel Woodley

Mini-Show Winners September 2026

Intermediate
No entries

Cactus



1st - Chris Schavwecker
Parodia magnifica

Novice



2nd - Chris Schavwecker
Parodia microsperma



3rd - Chris Schavwecker
Parodia lenninghausii

Succulent



1st - Chris Schavwecker
Pachyphytum oviferum

Mini-Show Standings September 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	44	33	77
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	14	10	24
Anna Salas		1	1	Jackie Johnson		12	12	Jim Gardner	16	33	49
Chris Schavwecker	22	6	28	Lemono Lott		17	17	Jim Hanna		5	5
Warren Woodrum	6	2	8	Mike Short	7	20	27	Terri Straub	37	41	78
Liz Ying	11	10	21					Laurel Woodley		11	11

Mini-Show Calendar 2026-2027		
Month	**Cactus**	**Succulent**
OCTOBER	*Ariocarpus, Obregonia*	*Adenium, Adenia*
NOVEMBER	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
DECEMBER	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck
JANUARY	*Mammillaria, Cochemiea*-hooked spines	Caudiciform *(Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea)* except *Pachypodium*
FEBRUARY	*Eriosyce*	*Gasteria* and hybrids
MARCH	*Echinocereus*	*Dudleya, Cotyledon*
APRIL	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
MAY	*Coryphantha, Pelecyphora, Acharagma,Sclerocactus*	*Crassula*
JUNE	*Gymnocalysium*	*Pachypodium, Hoya*
JULY	*Ferrocactus, Leuchtenbergia*	*Kalenchoe*
AUGUST	*Echinopsis*	Stapeliads *(Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea,* etc.*)*
SEPTEMBER	*Discocactus, Uebelmania*	*Dracaena (=Sansevieria)*

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



Echinopsis



Kalanchoe rotundifolia

Photos by Maria Capaldo



Leuchtenbergia principis



Opuntia flower



Trichocereus 'Engenhan' by Debra Galliani

Upcoming Events



Long Beach Cactus Club
Sale and Auction
October 4, 2026, 11:00am-3:00pm
Auction: 1:00pm
Women's Club of Bellflower
9402 Oak St.
Bellflower, California



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Kelly Griffin: "Australia: Succulents, Flora and Fauna"
Sunday October 11, 1:00-4:00pm

Zamperini Field
Torrance Municipal Airport
3301 Airport Drive
Torrance, California

For more information and to learn more

2026 Board of Directors and tasked positions

OFFICERS:

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Maria Capaldo

Vice-President
Liz Ying

Treasurer
Debra Bushweit Galliani

Secretary
Nancy Sams

At-Large Board Members
Gustavo Cardenas
Teresa Nicolello
Linda O'Hara

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Show and Sale
Terri Straub

Programs Chair
M.A. Bjarkman

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

Liaisons:
CSSA: M.A. Bjarkman
CGCI: Debra Galliani





