



## January 2026 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



### President's message

My wishes in 2026 for you are a year filled with gardens that give you respite and peace and plants that give you pleasure. I thank all of you who continue to come to meetings.

**THANK YOU!** To all those who helped set up and take down the Holiday Pot Luck-my deep gratitude. We had good food, great comraderie and fun! Go to our Facebook page to see photos of the event.

### MEETING SAVE THE DATES:

Please mark your 2026 calendars for the scheduled meetings 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.

**January 11** will be at the Hesse Community Park facility and will start at 11:00am. Help with set-up and take-down would be appreciated starting at 10:00am.

**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-Saturday, April 11 at the Palos Verdes Art Center.

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

**THE MINI-SHOW:** Plants for January are Cactus: *Mammillaria* straight spine (clumping) and Succulents: *Haworthia*, *Haworthiopsis*, *Astroloba*, and *Tulista*.

**PRESENTATION:** Gary Duke will speak on "Bolivia in Bloom." Cacti at their most beautiful should be a wonderful show.

I hope to see you there!  
Maria Capaldo

## South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

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

### PRESENTATION



Gary Duke  
"Bolivia in Bloom"



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



Follow us on Facebook



Follow us on Instagram,  
[https://www.instagram.com/\\_sccss\\_/](https://www.instagram.com/_sccss_/)

### In This Issue

Speaker of the Month	2
Mini-Show Plants of the Month	3-6
Mini-Show Standings 2025	6
Mini-Show Calendar/Rules	7
Membership Application	8
Plant of the Year	9
Member Photos	10
Events/Board of Directors	11

**Presentation: "Bolivia in Bloom"**



Gary has selected those photos that show cacti, bromeliads and wildflowers in bloom in the Bolivian spring. His three-week tour with Guillermo Rivera circled the Altoplano with a side trip down into the eastern lowlands around Santa Cruz. He has photos of numerous species of *Cleistocactus*, *Echinopsis*, *Lobivia*, *Weingartia*, *Rebutia*, and *Sulcorebutia* almost all in flower. Sit back and see how beautiful they are in nature



Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents for over 50 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman.

Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years.

Gary is a past member of the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He is also past President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Cactus Society. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. One can view some plants in his collection on his Instagram site: garyduke53. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout Southern California, including being invited to speak at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and at the Denver Cactus and Succulent Society.

Gary has traveled to Aruba, Peru, Baja Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, Brazil and Chile to see cacti and succulents in habitat.



***Mammillaria* straight spine (clumping)**

***Mammillaria*** is one of the larger genera in the cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail-size solitary globulars, some straight-spined, and some clumped and heavily-spined with hooks. However, some of the most attractive are the straight-spined clusters, which is the category for this month's entries.

A *Mammillaria* is often one of the first cacti that a beginning grower buys. They are still available at local home centers and discount stores. A credit to the toughness of these plants, is that many survive for years in spite of all sorts of abuse and neglect. Many inexpensive purchases at local chain stores have been grown on to become show plants, as the quality of the plant matures with the skill and experience of the grower. In part because they are so generous with flowers and seeds, and the seeds germinate so readily, many rare species end up in unlikely places like home centers, supermarkets, and hardware stores. It's worth keeping an eye out for unusual specimens, but beware of names found on discount store plants.

The secrets to good growth are a continual supply of water and fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect-free growing environment. Many people starve and under water their plants, in attempt to avoid rot. Most *Mammillaria* will take quite a bit of water and fertilizer when in growth. The main growth period is the late spring (middle of April through July.) When summer heat really appears growth slows for a time, picking up again when the weather cools, before stopping around Thanksgiving. Almost all *Mammillaria* will do just fine in Southern California, with little or no winter protection, as long as they are potted in a freely-draining potting mix.

The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (*Mammillaria*'s worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life of the plant. Immediate treatment is required, with a thorough washing, and spraying with an insecticide. A less toxic solution is to soak the entire plant in soapy water overnight followed by a good rinse with water from a hose.

*Mammillaria geminispina**Mammillaria compressa**Mammillaria perbella**Mammillaria haageana*

***Haworthia*, *Haworthiopsis*, *Astroloba*, *Tulista***

[Ed: Some members of the genus *Haworthia* have been renamed as *Haworthiopsis* or *Tulista*. Plants with either name will be accepted in the Mini-Show.]

**Haworthia Family: *Asphodelaceae***

The *Haworthia* group are native to South Africa, and grow in a winter-rainfall, Mediterranean environment not very different from Southern California. Most are easily grown, preferring some shade and growing mostly in the winter and spring. Many will grow year-round, if given sufficient water. The species are variable, perennial succulent plants displaying a wide range of shapes, sizes, colors and textures. Their beautiful leaf shapes and colors make them a desirable plant for the collector. The plants may be few-to many-leaved, and either be stemless (with their rosettes and cryptic stems sunken below ground level) or stemmed with the leaves compactly arranged around the elongated stem. In some species the plants are solitary and rarely if ever offset, whereas other species proliferate from the base to form dense clumps. In some species the plants also spread by sending out underground stolons, with offsets emerging a short distance away. The roots of the species vary from being filiform [thread-like] to swollen and thickened fusiform [tapered at both ends] roots which aid in retaining moisture.

They usually start to flower in the early spring via thin wiry inflorescences, but in cultivation flowering is variable and will continue into the summer. The flowers are small and usually off-white, with some species showing a greenish to grey stripe. The dried inflorescences may be picked off by holding the stem firmly.

***Haworthia***, in general, are tolerant of almost any potting mix, and success has been reported with everything from straight pumice to potting soil-pumice or perlite mixes, to plain potting soil, and even garden soil. They like light fertilization when growing; any balanced fertilizer will do. An application of time-release fertilizer in late winter will improve growth from late winter and early spring rains. When repotting, it's important to inspect the roots for mealy bugs, and for old, dried brown or hollow roots, which are often the source of infection or rot. These should be removed back to healthy tissue.

Intergeneric hybrids occur with *Haworthia* and *Haworthiopsis* and the genus is compatible with *Aloe*, *Gasteria* and *Astroloba*.

*Haworthia bayeri**Haworthia magnifica**Haworthia cymbiformis**Haworthia retusa**Haworthia emelyae* var. *comptoniana**Haworthia truncata*

***Haworthia, Haworthiopsis, Astroloba, Tulista******Haworthiopsis***

The *Haworthiopsis* species may be distinguished from the species retained in *Haworthia*, which tend to have softer leaves, while *Haworthiopsis* generally have harder and tougher leaves with a thicker epidermis, occasionally also having leaf fibres. The exceptions include *Haworthiopsis tessellata*, *H. koelmaniorum*, and *H. bruynsii*. Floral and seed morphology (structure and form) distinguishes these from *Haworthia*.

Species included in the *Haworthiopsis* genus:

Section attenuate: attenuata

Section Haworthiopsis: coarctata, fasciata, glauca, longiana, and reinwardtii

Section Limifoliae: limifolia

Section Koelmaniorum: koelmaniorum

Section Tesellate: granulata, tessellata, venosa, and wooleyi



*Haworthiopsis* (=Haworthia)  
*coarctata* var. *tenuis*



*Haworthiopsis* (=Haworthia)  
*fasciata*



*Haworthiopsis limifolia*

***Astroloba***

It should come as no surprise that the genus *Astroloba* is closely related to *Haworthia* since they also inhabit South Africa and look similar to the columnar *Haworthia*, but are separated by the fact that their flower has star-like petals. There is evidence of at least one natural hybrid: *A. muricata* x *H. pumila*. (*Haworthia for the Collector*, Rudolph Shulz, 2009)

Cultivation is similar to *Haworthia*, although perhaps slightly drier. Many *Astroloba* are slow to grow and to offset. They take very little frost, and need a good drainage.



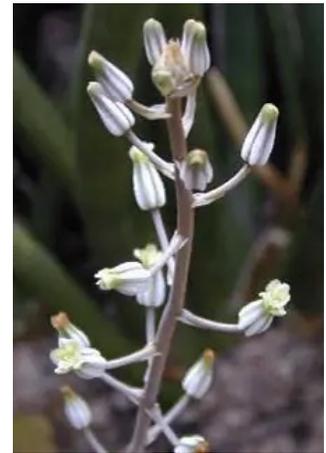
*Astroloba herrei*



*Astroloba spiralis*



*Astroloba corrugata* 'Aspera'



*Astroloba* flowers

2026

January

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

*Haworthia, Haworthiopsis, Astroloba, Tulista****Tulista***

This acaulescent [stemless] genus, is closely related to *Astroloba* and behaves similarly in its ability to accept pollen from other Aloe-like genera. Four species have been identified (*T. pumila*, *marginata*, *minor*, and *kingiana*). They are characterized by a large size (relative to other Haworthias), by their stemless rosette growth form, and by their distinctive flowers with robust peduncles. It has been observed in nature that *Astroloba* hybrids produce plentiful seedlings with whichever of the parent genera is present.

*Tulista (=Haworthia) marginata**Tulista pumila (=Haworthia maxima)*

## Mini-Show Standings 2025

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Julie Biggs		6	6	Anita Caplan	18	22	40	Maria Capaldo	66	55	121
M. A. Bjarkman	6	7	13	Martin Dorsey	11	14	25	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	57	68	125
Martha Bjerke		19	19	Sally Fasteau		3	3	Gary Duke	29	15	44
Bob Caplan		2	2	Bonnie Ikemura	5	22	27	Jim Gardner		32	32
Vince Darmali	22	7	29	Jackie Johnson	2	3	5	Jim Hanna		5	5
Lupe Hulett		1	1	Lemono Lott		12	12	Laurel Woodley		35	35
Shane Mullen	5	8	13	Mike Short	7	19	26				
George Unrine		1	1	Terri Straub	66	58	124				
Judy Unrine		4	4								
Liz Ying	17	33	50								

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

### 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](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Aloe 'Sunrise'* is classified as a small hybrid Aloe a 16th generation Kelly Griffin hybrid. The plants being distributed for the Plant of the Year were offsets of a large plant that was auctioned off at the CSSA Convention in 2017. Initially all were red in color, however, some young plants morphed to a green color which is typical of this species.

This striking aloe's leaves are shades of red to green with raised orange-red ridges. Orange-colored teeth line the edges of the leaves. It can be grown in full sun to light shade. The blooms are one foot tall and this plant has deep coral flowers. The brighter the light, the more intense the plant color is. Growing 6"-12" tall, 'Sunrise' clusters make a beautiful showy plant.



Red form



Coral flowers



Green form

MEMBER PHOTOS



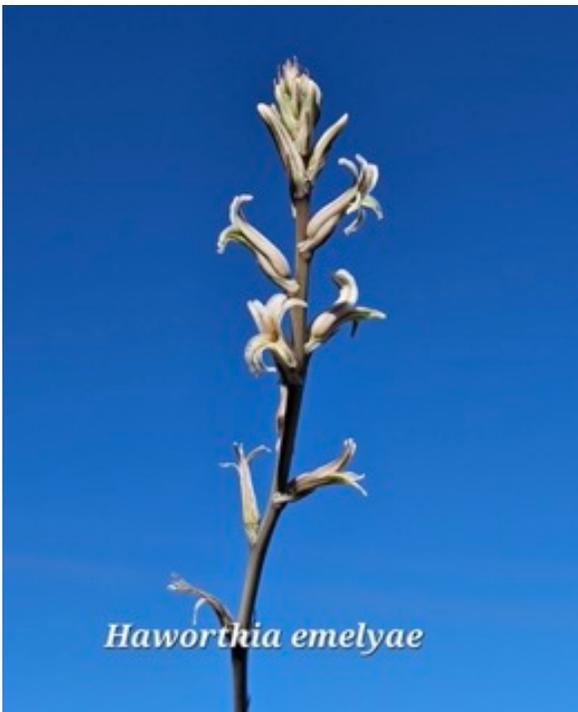
*Aloe and Agave and Morro Rock* by Anita Caplan



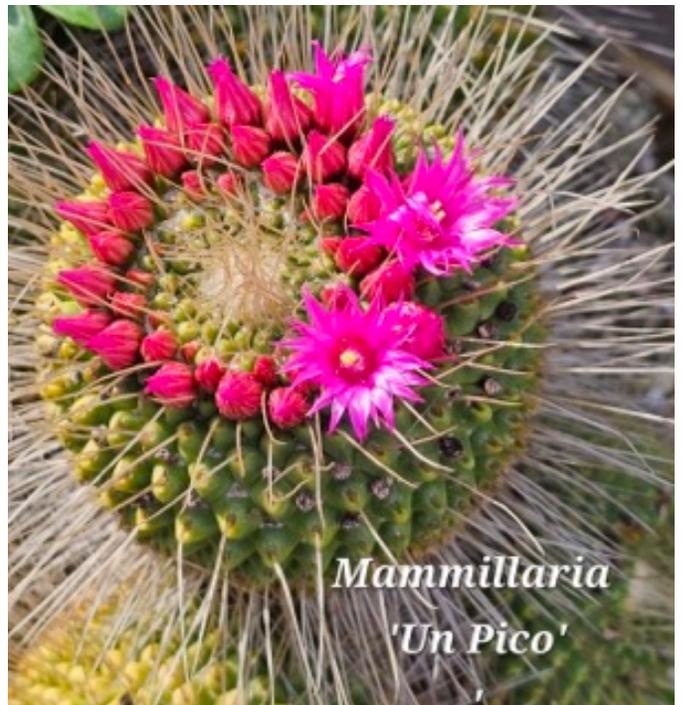
*Rhipsalis pilocarpa* by Debra Galliani



*Lithops hookeri* var. *lutea* by Maria Capaldo



*Haworthia emelyae*



*Mammillaria*  
*'Un Pico'*

Photos by Laurel Woodley

# Upcoming Events



**SOUTH COAST CACTUS  
AND SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY MEETING**

**PRESENTER: Gary Duke**  
**"Bolivia in Bloom"**  
**January 11, 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: TBA**  
**February 8, 2026 11:00am-2:00pm**  
**Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park**  
**McTaggart Hall**  
**29301 Hawthorne Blvd**  
**Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275**

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

Martin Dorsey

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

