



## August 2024 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



### President's message

Summer is here and it's time to protect those sun sensitive plants by positioning them in the shade, and using sun protection like shade cloth or screens.

It's also a good time to fertilize your plants, either with your regular watering (don't forget to acidify!) or with granules in the soil.

Our meetings at the South Coast Botanic Garden have been doing well, but some dates in the future are not available to us, so please check each month before a meeting to be sure of the location.

I am still scouting out a meeting place for October and will keep the membership informed via the Website and the Newsletter.

This month Peter Walkowiak returns with a great talk on soil and fertilizer. Peter's plants are award winning and I'm sure we will benefit from his experience.

Please bring your plants to the Mini-Show; there's many plants included in this month's genera. Cactus: *Echinopsis*, *Soehrencia*, *Lobivia* and *Chamaecereus*.

Succulent: *Stapeliads* (includes *Stapelia*, *Huernia*, *Orbea*, *Hoodia*, *Caralluma*, and *Pseudolithos*).

I hope to see you there!

Maria Capaldo

There are still a few sizes of T-shirts available for sale at \$12 each.



## South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

August 11, 2024 1:00-4:00pm  
South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

### PRESENTATION



Peter Walkowiak  
"Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents"



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<https://.southcoastcss.org>



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# Speaker of the Month

# Peter Walkowiak

## PRESENTER FOR AUGUST



Peter graduated in 1985 from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He worked as manager, production manager and section manager for three wholesale nurseries for 14 years. Peter then ran a landscaping business for another 14 years, the last five years of which he specialized in succulent landscapes. He started collecting succulents while at Cal Poly and his collection now numbers in the thousands. Along the way Peter started propagating plants from seed and thus the seed was sown for the nursery that he now owns and runs for the last fifteen years. He has been fascinated with plants in general since he was five and interest in succulent plants really got going in college, in 1981-82. By the time he graduated, his collection had reached 200 and many are still alive. This collection has grown to more than 2,000 currently. The collection consists of cacti, Euphorbias and caudiciforms.

Peter is the past president of the Palomar CSS and was on the board of the San Diego CSS. He was on the Board of Directors of the CSSA for the last ten years and served as the nominations chair and convention sales chair. He was show chair for Palomar's one and San Diego's two shows and co-chair for the Intercity Show.

The title of the August presentation is "**Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents.**" Peter provided helpful program notes as follows:

There are three ingredients for my soil mix. You can substitute other materials and those will be listed below. There are three materials to avoid; peat moss, sand and kor. Both peat moss and kor (coconut husk ) are not composted and when they do it turns to muck. Sand compacts and does not dry out or allow good air penetration.

Soil: 60% perlite #3 (substitute pumice); this should be completely wetted and mixed, do not remove fines unless excessive.

20% compost (substitute is good potting soil). I get my compost from the green recycling at the local dump, they use just greens, no manure.

20% DG (decomposed granite); use 1/8 screen to remove gravel from fines. Gravel is for top dressing and fines for the soil mix.

Preparation: Mix DG and compost together. Add this to the WET perlite and mix till blended and no white is showing from perlite. To achieve this you may need to add more water. Then the soil is ready to use. Always use moist soil and never water newly transplanted succulents.

Fertilizer: 10-30-20 Growmor water soluble fertilizer and white vinegar, two tablespoons per gallon, to achieve PH of 6.0 to 6.5

August 2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

**ECHINOPSIS, SOEHRENSIA, LOBIVIA, CHAMAECCEREUS**

The naming of cacti in these four genera can be very confusing to say the least! There used to be over 100 different species included in the genus *Echinopsis*. Studies in the 1970s and 1980s resulted in several formerly separate genera being absorbed into *Echinopsis*. Some genera were absorbed into *Echinopsis* and then accepted as a separate genus again. In October of 2023, the following genera were separated out of *Echinopsis*: *Soehrensia*, *Lobivia*, *Chamaecereus*, and others.

There is a tremendous amount of variation among the different species. The plants range from very small, flattened, globose plants to quite large, treelike giants. The main factor that ties these plants together are their very large, showy flowers. These flowers are all very similar in structure – funnel shaped, with hairy, wooly scaled floral tubes which give rise to hairy, globular fruit filled with a soft, mushy pulp. The flowers seldom last more than a single day and may be diurnal or nocturnal depending on the species. These species hybridize easily and have resulted in a tremendous number of hybrids that some cactus growers specialize in or grow exclusively. Because of their exceptional flowers, many of these species are found in garden centers and collections world wide.

These four genera are all native to South America. They thrive in desert grasslands, shrub land, and in situations where the soil is sandy or gravelly, such as the sides of hills in the crevices of rocks. They will thrive in cultivation if potted in light loam, with a little leaf mold and a few nodules of limestone. The limestone keeps the soil open; it is important that the soil be well drained.

***Echinopsis*** cacti are native to Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Paraguay. They are sometimes known as hedge hog cactus, sea urchin cactus or Easter lily cactus. As of October 2023, there are now only about 20 accepted species of *Echinopsis*. The name derives from echinos hedge hog or sea urchin, and oopsis appearance, a reference to these plants' dense coverings of spines.

*Soehrensia (=Echinopsis) bruchii**Echinopsis oxygona*

***Soehrensia*** cacti are native to northern Argentina, Bolivia, Northern Chile, Paraguay, and Peru. There are about 24 different species in this genus. The genus was established by Curt Backeberg in 1938. The genus name of *Soehrensia* is in honor of Johannes Soehrens (died 1934), who was a Dutch botanist and professor and director of the Botanical Garden in Santiago de Chile. He was an authority on cacti.

*Soehrensia (=Echinopsis) huascha*, flower*Soehrensia (=Echinopsis) spachiana*



August

2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

**Lobivia** cacti are native to Bolivia, Peru to northwestern Argentina, and northern Chile. There are about 30 different species in this genus. *Lobivia* is an anagram of Bolivia.

**Chamaecereus** cacti are native to Argentina and Bolivia. There are currently five different species in this genus. *Chamaecereus*, pronounced kam-ay-KER-ee-us or kam-ay-SER-ee-us, is from the Greek chamai (ground) and cereus (wax candle, torch).



*Chamaecereus* (=Echinopsis)  
*saltensis*



*Lobivia* (=Echinopsis) *ferox*



*Lobivia* (=Echinopsis) *pentlandii*



*Lobivia* (=Echinopsis) *cinnabarina*  
(var. *draxleriana*)



*Chamaecereus silvestrii*  
(=Echinopsis *chamaecereus*)

### LATIN LOOKUP – Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?

**bruchii** [BROO-kee-eye] Named for Dr. Carlos Bruch, 20th century cactus collector in Argentina.

**Chamaecereus** [kam-ay-KER-ee-us, kam-ay-SER-ee-us] From the Greek chamai (ground) and cereus (wax candle, torch).

**cinnabarina** [sin-uh-bar-EE-nuh, kin-uh-bar-EE-nuh] Cinnabar-red.

**Echinopsis** [ek-in-OP-sis] From the Greek echinos (sea urchin or hedgehog) and ophis (like), referring to the plant's resemblance to sea urchins.

**ferox** [FER-oks] Fierce.

**huascha** [WAS-kuh] A local vernacular name in Argentina that means 'orphan.'

**Lobivia** [low-BIV-ee-uh] Anagram of Bolivia, where the plant is native.

**oxygona** [ok-SY-goh-nuh] Sharp angled.

**silvestrii** [sil-VEST-ree-eye] Named for Filippo Silvestri, 19th century Italian entomologist and zoologist; also spelled sylvestrii.

**spachiana** [spak-ee-AY-nuh] Named for Edouard Spach, 19th century Alsatian (French) botanist.

August 2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

**Stapelia** is a genus of low-growing, spineless-stem succulent plants, predominantly from South Africa with a few from other parts of Africa. Several Asian and Latin American species were formerly included but they have all now been transferred to other genera. The flowers of certain species, most notably *Stapelia gigantea*, can reach 41 cm (16 inches) in diameter when fully open. Most *Stapelia* flowers are visibly hairy and generate the odor of rotten flesh; a notable exception is the sweetly-scented *Stapelia flavopurpurea*. Such odors serve to attract various specialist pollinators including, in the case of carrion-scented blooms, blow flies of the dipteran family *Calliphoridae*. They frequently lay eggs around the coroneae of *Stapelia* flowers, convinced by the plants' deception.

The hairy, oddly-textured and colored appearance of many *Stapelia* flowers has been claimed to resemble that of rotting meat, and this, coupled with their odor, has earned the most commonly grown members of the *Stapelia* genus the common name of carrion flowers.

A handful of species are commonly cultivated as pot plants and are even used as rockery plants in countries where the climate permits. *Stapelia* are good container plants and can grow well under full sun and light to moderate watering. They should be planted in well-drained compost as the stems are prone to rotting if kept moist for long.

*Stapelia grandiflora**Stapelia grandiflora**Stapelia gigantea**Stapelia schinzii*

The genus **Huernia** consists of stem succulents from Eastern and Southern Africa, first described as a genus in 1810. The flowers are five-lobed, usually somewhat more funnel- or bell-shaped than in the genus *Stapelia*, and often striped vividly in contrasting colors or tones, some glossy, others matte and wrinkled depending on the species concerned. To pollinate, the flowers attract flies by emitting a scent similar to that of carrion. The genus is considered close to the genera *Stapelia* and *Hoodia*. The name is in honor of Justin Heurnius (1587–1652,) a Dutch missionary who is reputed to have been the first collector of South African cape plants. His name was actually misspelled by the collector.

Various species of *Huernia* are considered famine food by the inhabitants of Konso in southern Ethiopia. The local inhabitants, who call the native species of this genus baqibaqa indiscriminately, eat it with prepared balls of sorghum; they note that baqibaqa tastes relatively good and has no unpleasant side-effects when boiled and consumed. As a result, local farmers encouraged it to grow on stone walls forming the terraces, where it does not compete with other crops.

Phylogenetic studies have shown the genus to be monophyletic, and most closely related to the *Tavaresia* genus, and to a widespread branch of stapeliads comprising the genera *Orbea*, *Piarranthus* and *Stapelia*.

*Huernia aspera**Huernia thuretii**Huernia piersii*



August

2024

## Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulent

**Orbea** is a genus of flowering plants of the family *Apocynaceae*, first described as a genus in 1812. It is native to Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. As of 2023, there are about 57 different species of *Orbea*.

*Orbea* are leafless, glabrous, succulent perennials that form compact to diffuse clumps. They branch from the base and often arise from rhizomatous rootstocks. The stems are erect to prostrate and sometimes exhibit a creeping nature. The four-angled stems are usually prominently sharp-toothed with a soft tip. The coloring of the stems is purple-blotchy against various shades of green backgrounds. The flowers are starfish-like with striking markings.

The genus *Orbea* is one of the easier groups of Stapeliads to grow successfully.

*Orbea baldratii**Orbea caudata**Orbea lutea*

**Hoodia** are stem succulents, described as "cactiform" because of their remarkable similarity to the unrelated cactus family. They have a branching, shrub-like form, and the largest species (*Hoodia parviflora*) can grow to the size of a tree — over two meters (6 ft 7 in) in height.

Flowers appear in large numbers, always near the tops of the stems. Those of larger-flowered species (such as *Hoodia gordonii*) are often a papery pink-tan color and plate-shaped, with an unpleasant smell to attract their fly pollinators. The smaller, darker flowers of some species have a far stronger and more unpleasant smell than the larger flowers.

*Hoodia gordonii*

### LATIN LOOKUP – Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?

**baldratii** [bald-RAH-tee-eye] For 20th century Italian plant collector Isaia Baldrati.

**caudata** [kaw-DAH-tuh] With a tail.

**gigantea** [jy-GAN-tee-uh, gy-GAN-tee-uh] Large, gigantic.

**gordonii** [GOHR-duhn] Named for British botanist George Gordon.

**grandiflora** [gran-dih-FLOR-uh] With large flowers.

**Hoodia** [HOOD-ee-uh] Named for Van Hood, a succulent grower.

**Huernia** [hew-ERN-ee-uh] Named for Justus Heurnius, 17th century Dutch missionary and botanist.

**lutea** [LOO-tee-uh] Yellow.

**Orbea** [ORB-ee-uh] From the Latin orbis, circular shape or disc.

**piersii** [PEERS-ee-eye] For 20th century South African government surveyor, C. P. Piers.

**quinta** [KWIN-tuh] Fifth; in reference to the fifth variety.

**schinzii** [SHINZ-ee-eye] For 20th century Swiss botanist Dr. Hans Schinz.

**Stapelia** [sta-PEL-ee-uh] Named for Johannes Bodaeus van Stapel, 17th century Dutch botanist and physician.

**striata** [stree-AH-tuh] Striped or fluted.

**variegata** [var-ee-GAY-tuh] Variegated.

July

2024

Mini-Show July Winners

Open

Cactus



1st-Gary Duke *Ferocactus wislizeni*

2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo - *Ferocactus latispinus*

3rd - Gary Duke - *Leuchtenbergia principis*

Succulent



1st - Phyllis DeCrescenzo - *Kalanchoe tomentosa*

2nd - Phyllis DeCrescenzo - *Kalanchoe beharensis*

3rd - Maria Capaldo - *Kalanchoe rhombopilosa*

Intermediate



1st - Bernard Johnson - *Leuchtenbergia principis*

2nd - Terri Straub - *Ferocactus tiburonensis*

3rd - Terri Straub - *Ferocactus alamosanus*

3rd - Terri Straub - *Ferocactus pottsii*



1st - Mike Short - *Kalanchoe marmorata*

2nd - Mike Short - *Kalanchoe orgyalis*

3rd - Terri Straub - *Kalanchoe katapifa* 'Tarantula'

July

2024

Mini-Show July Winners

Novice

Cactus



1st - Vince Darmali - *Ferocactus hamatacanthus*

2nd - Martin Dorsey - *Leuchtenbergia principis*

3rd - Vince Darmali - *X Ferobergia (Leuchtenbergia principis × Ferocactus)*

Succulent



1st - Vince Darmali - *Kalanchoe longiflora*

2nd - Martha Bjerke - *Kalanchoe orgyalis*

Mini-Show Standings July, 2024

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Martha Bjerke		14	14	Anita Caplan	2	14	16	Maria Capaldo	23	28	51
Vince Darmali	8	6	14	Bonnie Ikemura		4	4	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	32	43	75
Martin Dorsey	41	42	83	Bernard Johnson	26	26	52	Gary Duke	47	19	66
Braulio Mena	7	13	20	Mike Short	2	36	38	Sally Fasteau	4	1	5
Shane Mullen	4		4	Terri Straub	61	25	86	Jim Gardner		31	31
John Nisewaner		6	6					Jim Hanna		5	5
Linda Ohara		12	12					Laurel Woodley	1	4	5
Joe Tillotson	2	1	3								
Liz Ying	12	1	13								



<b>2024-2025 Mini-Show Calendar</b>		
<b><u>Month</u></b>	<b><u>Cactus</u></b>	<b><u>Succulent</u></b>
<b>August</b>	<i>Echinopsis, Soehrensia, Lobivia, and Chamaecereus</i>	<i>Stapeliads (Huernia, Stapelia, Orbea, etc.)</i>
<b>September</b>	<i>Discocactus, Uebelmania</i>	<i>Sansevieria, Dracaena</i>
<b>October</b>	Miniature (3inch or less)	Miniature (3inch or less)
<b>November</b>	North American Columnar Cacti ( <i>Saguaro, Cereus, etc.</i> )	<i>Senecio, Caputia, Curio, Kleinia</i> and hybrids
<b>December</b>	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck
<b>January 2025</b>	<i>Mammillaria</i> and <i>Cochemiea</i> , single-headed	<i>Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon, and Tylecodon</i>
<b>February 2025</b>	<i>Stenocactus, Echinofossulocactus</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> from Madagascar
<b>March 2025</b>	<i>Thelocactus</i>	<i>Aeonium, Greenovia</i>
<b>April 2025</b>	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
<b>May 2025</b>	Dish Garden	Dish Garden
<b>June 2025</b>	<i>Matucana, Oroyo</i>	<i>Echeveria</i>
<b>July 2025</b>	<i>Epithelantha, Frailea, Aztekium</i>	<i>Dyckia, Hechtia</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.

# Upcoming Events



## SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

**PRESENTER: PETER WALKOWIAK**  
**AUGUST 11, 2024 1:00-4:00 pm**  
**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN**  
**Frances Young Hall**  
**26300 Crenshaw Blvd.**  
**Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274**

## BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE



SHOW and SALE 10:00 am-4:00pm

## Orchid Show and Sale

September 7 & 8 Hours 10 am to 4 pm  
 Location: Palos Verdes Art Center  
 5504 Crestridge Road Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

See award winning orchids on display  
 Buy direct from commercial nurseries and growers  
 Visit the Palos Verdes Art Center Gallery  
 Participate in the hourly raffle (with your paid admission)

Admission: \$5.00 Adults Children under 12: Free  
 Free Parking

More information:  
[southbayorchidsociety.com/Show](http://southbayorchidsociety.com/Show)

For more information and to learn more



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