



January 2025 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



President's message

It was fun to see members enjoying the Holiday Party (see photos on page 8.) Thanks to those who came early and helped with set-up and decorated. There was also great help for the clean-up! Thanks to all !!!!

Meeting Dates: There are some dates unavailable at the Botanic Garden Auditorium this year so here are the dates and locations of our meetings for the first six months:

- January 12: South Coast Botanic Garden
- February 9: Hesse Park, Mc Taggart Hall
- March 9: Hesse Park, Mc Taggart Hall
- April 5-6: Show and Sale: PV Art Center
- May 18: South Coast Botanic Garden
- June 8: South Coast Botanic Garden

Pot up your plants! Please work on re-potting some plants for the April Show & Sale (April 5-6, 2025,) in a 3-inch pot or larger for our Society sale table.

Society Dues: Our fiscal year starts in January so please renew your membership for \$20. See the membership form on our website at <https://southcoastcss.org/join/> (click on the link that says membership form). You can either fill in the information here then print or we will have forms at the meeting for you to complete. You may mail it in or pay in person at the next meeting.

Mini-Show Plants for January: Single headed *Mammillaria* and *Cochemiea*; *Pelargonium*, *Sarcocaulon*, and *Tylecodon*. It will be an interesting group of plants, so please bring some to show!

Our speaker for this month, Ernesto Sandoval, will give us a presentation on "A Natural History of Baja California" with his photographic journey. Ernesto is such an enjoyable speaker, I look forward to his presentation and to seeing all of you there!

Maria Capaldo

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

January 12, 2025 1:00-4:00pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

PRESENTATION



Ernesto Sandoval
"A Natural History of Baja California:
A Photographic Journey"



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



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Speaker of the Month

Ernesto Sandoval

PRESENTATION FOR JANUARY

A Natural History of Baja California: A Photographic Journey



Ernesto has traveled to the Baja California Peninsula over 15 times since 1995, over Winter and Spring Breaks. As a photographer, this is one of his favorite lectures because he's amassed a visually-enticing collection of photographs from one of his favorite deserts. Boojum, cardon, and other cacti such as the creeping devil and velvet cactus, elephant trees (*Bursera*), *Agave*, and *Dudleya* are featured along with succulents such as *Pedilanthus macropcarus*. This particular version of the Sonoran Desert features visually-stunning landscapes such as the Cataviña boulder field along with a few fog belts where *Tillandsia recurvata*, ball moss, can be seen growing on succulents and Montevideo Canyon with a Cardon Forest. As always, he'll throw in tidbits of horticultural information. He hopes you'll be inspired to visit what is probably the most lush desert in the world!



Biography:

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to 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 and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to various Western Garden Clubs throughout the year, particularly to 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.



When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "Because that's how you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, and now as a Graduate Student getting his Masters (maybe a PhD??) in Horticulture and Agronomy at UC Davis.

January
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

This month's Mini-Show Plant of The Month Cactus in the cactus category is *Mammillaria* and *Cochemiea*, single headed, regardless of the size. Some examples that are generally known as 'single headed' can remain as solitary plants their whole lives, while others will only clump later in life. If your plant currently has one head, you are welcome to enter it onto the Mini-Show.

In 2021, as a result of molecular phylogenetic studies of the "mammilloid clade," some *Mammillaria* were reclassified as *Cochemiea*.

Mammillaria consists of around 300 species. Most are native to Mexico, some are native from Southwestern USA, Caribbean, Central America, or even a couple in northern South America. In their range you can find *Mammillaria* from sea level to high elevations. They also vary in size from miniature at one inch in diameter (2.5 cm) to columnar types one foot tall (30 cm).

The name *Mammillaria* comes from the Latin for "nipple", because the areoles (structures carrying the spines) are carried by nipple like-structures instead of being organized in ribs like many other cacti. Another significant difference is that the flowers do not come from the areoles, but from the area at the juncture of two tubercles. As could be expected from so many species, their growing requirements are quite varied. Many species are easy and fast to grow and bloom while young, which is why they are very popular. Some are quite hardy while others will rot easily if kept too cold. All of them require excellent drainage. This is more easily accomplished by using a good cactus soil mixture and using a shallow pot.

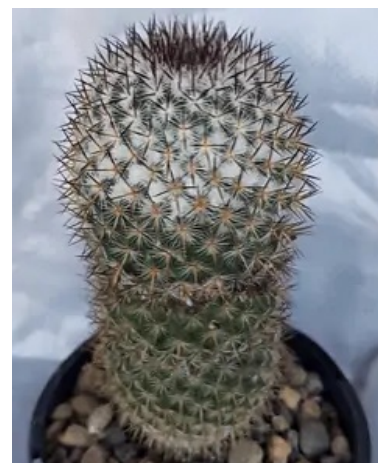
In general, *Mammillaria* bloom easily, but many species need a rest period in winter during which they are kept cool in order to bloom. Furthermore, flowers form a ring on tissue grown the previous growing season, so it is important to get them to grow every year, which means regular watering and fertilizing during their growing period.



Mammillaria spinosissima



Mammillaria formosa subsp. *chionocephala*



Mammillaria columbiana

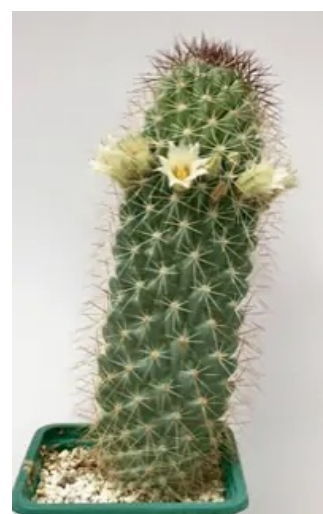
January
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Cactus

*Mammillaria herrerae**Mammillaria lloydii**Mammillaria rhodantha*
subsp. *pringlei*

Cochemiea is a genus of cactus. It had previously been synonymized with *Mammillaria*, but molecular phylogenetic studies have shown they are different and *Cochemiea* has been accepted as a separate genus. The genus *Cochemiea* has been expanded to include a large number of species previously placed in *Mammillaria*.

As of this writing there are currently 39 accepted species in the genus *Cochemiea*, only some of which are single headed. The name *Cochemiea* comes from the Cochimi Indians which used to live in Baja California where many of these cacti are found. Their habitat ranges from Southwestern and South Central United States to Mexico. All species of *Cochemiea* feature short, cylindrical stems that form small clumps of a dozen or more stems that prefer to grow in the cracks of rocks in habitat. The stems are tuberculate and heavily armed with stout spines, many featuring prominent hooked central spines. The flowers can be many different colors. In common with *Mammillaria*, the flowers are borne from the axils of the tubercles on second-year growth.

*Cochemiea albicans**Cochemiea mainiae**Cochemiea armillata*

January
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulents

Pelargonium and ***Sarcocaulon*** are two succulent genera of the Geraniaceae family. *Sarcocaulon* is native to South Africa and Namibia, and *Pelargonium* is centered there, but with outlier species appear as far away as Kenya and Yemen. Most of the succulent species come from South Africa or Namibia.

*Pelargonium*s are mostly winter growing succulents. They are dormant in the summer, and at this time some look like dead sticks. Most species are very easy to grow, if attention is paid to providing an environment very similar to their South African home. Some species, such as *P. echinatum* and *P. triste* are tolerant enough to be naturalized in the ground in Southern California when given good drainage and protected from summer watering. Many species will not go dormant if watered all summer, but the plant health and appearance both suffer.

Sarcocaulon is a small genus of about 14 species. Growing conditions for *Sarcocaulon* are identical to those for *Pelargonium*, however most require a drier summer environment for best growth.

The potting mix for *Pelargonium* and *Sarcocaulon* plants should be well drained, with only small amounts of organic matter. Fertilizer should be applied sparingly and only during good (bright and warm) growing weather. A potting mix recommended by Michael Vassar is 50% pumice, 35% washed builders sand and 15% leaf mold based planter mix. Plants growing under these conditions will stay compact, have thick leaves, and a healthy appearance. A well grown *Pelargonium* will have leaves that appear to float near thick, rugged stems. If given too much water and fertilizer, they will grow leggy, and the leaves will become soft, large and droop. Plants grown hard will be healthier and better able to survive hot summers undamaged. All *Pelargonium*s need pruning to maintain size and shape. Pinching new growth will make the plants bushy and develop good trunk structure.

Many are self fertile and seed is easily collected after flowering. Most are promiscuous, and garden hybrids are easily set if more than one species is in flower at a time. Seed collected in the spring and planted in late September to November germinates quickly, and will have an entire winter to grow before going dormant during the summer.

*Pelargonium carnosum**Sarcocaulon vanderietiae**Sarcocaulon spinosum*

January
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month Succulents

Tylecodon is a relatively new genus in the Crassulaceae family first published in 1978. In books published before this date, most plants that we know today as *Tylecodon* will appear as *Cotyledon*. They are native to South Africa and Namibia. In habitat, *Tylecodon* are generally deciduous, losing their leaves in summer while *Cotyledon* tend to be evergreen. Flowers usually appear in the late spring or early summer after losing their leaves.

Growing conditions: can tolerate direct sun but will do well in mild shade. Plants can tolerate winter rainfall, but not severe frost. Well draining soil is recommended, allowing plants to completely dry in between watering to prevent rot. Since they are winter growers, fertilizing in winter and watering less frequently in summer is recommended.

Propagation is by seed, although slow growing, and by cuttings.

Tylecodon are known to be poisonous, so it is recommended to keep them away from children, pets, and livestock. It is best to wear gloves when handling *Tylecodon*.



Tylecodon pearsonii



Tylecodon schaeferianus



Tylecodon wallichii

2025 Mini-Show Calendar		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
January	<i>Mammillaria</i> and <i>Cochemiea</i> , single- headed	<i>Pelargonium</i> , <i>Sarcocaulon</i> , and <i>Tylecodon</i>
February	<i>Stenocactus</i> , <i>Echinofossulocactus</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> from Madagascar
March	<i>Thelocactus</i>	<i>Aeonium</i> , <i>Greenovia</i>
April	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May	Dish Garden	Dish Garden
June	<i>Rebutia</i> , <i>Aylostera</i> , <i>Sulcorebutia</i> , <i>Weingartia</i>	Mesembs (no <i>Lithops</i> or <i>Conophytums</i>)
July	<i>Matucana</i> , <i>Oroyo</i>	<i>Echeveria</i>
August	<i>Epithelantha</i> , <i>Frailea</i> , <i>Aztekium</i>	<i>Dyckia</i> , <i>Hechtia</i>
September	<i>Variiegated Cactus</i>	<i>Variiegated Succulent</i>
October	<i>Turbinocarpus</i>	<i>Adromischus</i>
November	South American columnar cactus (<i>Cleistocactus</i> , <i>Espostoa</i> , <i>Oreocereus</i> , etc.)	<i>Lithops</i> , <i>Conophytum</i>
December	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.

Plant of the Year 2025

Mammillaria perezdelarosae

Members are given one of these at the start of the year. We are to look after it and bring it back at the December 2025 meeting (the annual Holiday Party) for comparison. Judging and a small prize may be involved.

Scientific Name: *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*

Author Citation: Bravo & Scheinvar (1985)

Pronunciation: mam-mil-AR-ee-uh per-ez-del-ah-ROH-say

Synonyms: *Mammillaria bombycina* subsp. *perezdelarosae*, *Escobariopsis perezdelarosae*

Origin of Name: [*Mammillaria*] Nipple- or teat-like. [*perezdelarosae*] For Jorge A. Pérez de la Rosa, 20th century forestry engineer and secretary of the botanical institute of the University of Guadalajara.

Place of Origin: Native to Jalisco in Central Mexico at elevations from 2,000m (6,560 ft) to 2,400m (8,200 ft).

Habitat: Steep rocky mountain slopes.

Description: *Mammillaria perezdelarosea* SN|9007SN|11894 is one of the more beautiful *Mammillaria*, with smallish stems densely covered with curious bicolored spines. It combines clean, glassy white radial spines with hooked dark-brown centrals. At first it stays solitary but then offsets with time. Occasionally, plants will offset when quite young, and dense clumps of spherical bodies will result. Growth is slow to moderate, and the best plants are grown somewhat slowly to conserve the dense spination. It is closely related to *Mammillaria bombycina* SN|11894SN|9007. Flowers are darker toward the center, greenish cream or pink. Light frost protection required. Minimum of 5°C for safe growing (but hardy up to -5°C or less). High levels of light are needed to flower and for good spine development. Can be sunburned if moved from shade/greenhouse into full sun too quickly. During the spring it may be able to take full sun until the heat arrives at the end of spring. In an area that has hot afternoon sun, it may be able to take full morning sun, but requires afternoon shade or afternoon light shade. If grown correctly, it will reward the grower with generous displays of purple flowers. [Llifle]

Care: Needs regular water but do not water again until dry, as it is especially sensitive to over watering; plants should be allowed to become crowded in their pot. Keep in shallow pot. Also, it is a species that is dormant in the winter and require very little water (maybe even none) during the cold months.

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade(s): Tracheophytes, Angiosperms, Eudicots

Order: Caryophyllales

Family: Cactaceae

Subfamily: Cactoideae

Genus: *Mammillaria*

Species: *M. perezdelarosae*

Links to sources of information:

Llifle – Encyclopedia of Succulents

Plants of the World Online (POWO)

Wikipedia

World of Succulents



Photo by Jim Gardner

Holiday Pot Luck

Our 2024 Holiday Party was held in the auditorium at the South Coast Botanic Garden, with a pot luck and festive decorations. Award plants were given for the top three plants of the year 2024. The Plant of the year for 2025 was distributed and awards for the top Mini-Show winners were presented. Here are some of the highlights in photos.



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Membership Application

New and Renewing Members: You can either fill in the information on a computer then print, or print first then write in the information. Please sign after printing.

Make check payable to: SCCSS
Mail form and payment to: Bernard Johnson,
629 18th Street, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Date mm/dd/yy:

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Email Address: Phone:

Our membership year begins January 1 and ends December 31.

- \$20.00 Membership: Renewal or New Member
- Lifetime Member Honoree: No Charge
- I am a Member of CSSA – Cactus and Succulent Society of America

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
310-544-1313

ms-20220218

Date _____ Check # _____ Cash _____ Amount _____ Donation _____ Receipt _____

Upcoming Events



SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEETING

PRESENTER: Ernesto Sandoval
January 12, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC
GARDEN
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274



SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEETING

PRESENTER: Tom Glavich
February 9, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm
FRED HESSE JR. COMMUNITY PARK
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd.
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275



SOUTH COAST CACTUS
AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEETING

PRESENTER: Steven Frieze
March 9, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm
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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