

Prickly News

South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society



September 2025 South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



President's message

PLEASE NOTE!!!! OUR MEETING

for September 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.

HUNTINGTON SYMPOSIUM: Each year the Huntington Botanical Gardens host a succulent symposium which is a day-long event and includes a sale. Speakers are from diverse locations and notable in their fields. I encourage you to take part in this event to meet others interested in the hobby, learn more about succulents and buy some unusual plants!

THE MINI-SHOW: Variegated cactus and succulents are the Plants of the Month. I look forward to some interesting and colorful plants.

SPEAKER: This month we welcome our speaker, Andrew Hankey, who hails from South Africa. He has done much work on the *Ledebouria* species and will be sharing his work in this presentation. I am eager to learn more about this species and see some new discoveries.

I hope to see you there!

Maria Capaldo



South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

September 14 11:00am-2:00pm
Fred Hesse Jr. Community Park
McTaggart Hall
29301 Hawthorne Blvd
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

PRESENTATION



Andrew Hankey
"Four New
Ledebouria
Species from the
Steenkampsberg,
Mpumalanga."



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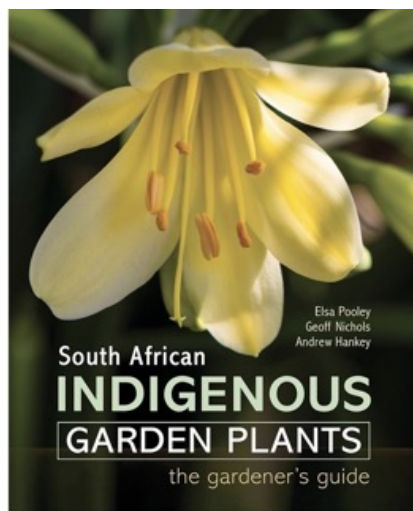
PRESENTATION FOR SEPTEMBER

"Four New *Ledebouria* Species from the Steenkampsberg, Mpumalanga."



Andrew Hankey is a botanical horticulturist with over 32 years of experience at the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), where he has played a central role in the development and management of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Garden and its surrounding nature reserve. He has published extensively on topics related to gardening, botany, and natural sciences in a range of technical, popular, and scientific journals.

Andrew is recognized as an authority on the three taxonomically complex Asparagaceae genera *Ledebouria*, *Drimiopsis*, and *Resnova*, which make up the subtribe Ledebouriinae. He has made significant contributions to the taxonomy of this group and is currently pursuing an MSc on *Drimiopsis* through the University of the Witwatersrand.



At the Walter Sisulu NBG, he leads the threatened plant project, overseeing conservation efforts for a variety of endangered plant species. Notably, he has driven efforts to study and protect the critically-endangered Albertina Sisulu Orchid (*Brachycorythis conica* subsp. *transvaalensis*) and to secure the land supporting its last viable global population.

Highly regarded in his field, Andrew is frequently invited to speak and present to a wide range of audiences.



September
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month: Cactus



Astrophytum myriostigma subsp. *myriostigma*, Variegated



Echinopsis lageniformis,
Monstrous Variegated



Leucostele terscheckii,
Variegated

This month both the Cactus and Succulents categories are variegated plants. Variegation is a mutant process. Something has gone wrong with the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. As a result of this mutation, chlorophyll is missing from some or all layers of the plant epidermis.

Variegation is known in most plant families, and variegated plants have a place in most gardens. The bright yellow and white of variegated foliage adds pattern and rhythm to many herbaceous borders. Variegated plants grow slower, and are generally smaller than non-variegated plants of the same species. A large, well-grown variegated plant of any species is truly an achievement. In succulent shows, variegates are generally separated from normal plants, and compete against other variegates to put them on an equal footing.

Cacti – Variegated forms can be found in many genera. *Gymnocalycium* are the most often seen, but some variegated columnar and *Ferocactus* are also common in cultivation. The odd variegated form appears in many seedling batches. Variegated *Turbinicarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Matucana* and *Ariocarpus* have been seen at some of the recent shows. Many of these are artificially propagated by grafts. The famous ‘Red Caps’ and ‘Yellow Caps’ are variegated *Gymnocalycium* or *Lobivia* that have no chlorophyll at all, and live only by being grafted onto a root stock.



Echinopsis, Variegated



Gymnocalycium mihanovichii,
Variegated

September
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month: Succulent

*Aeonium 'Mardi Gras'**Agave lophantha 'Quadricolor'**Echeveria x imbricata, Variegated**Agave attenuata, Variegated**Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterflies'*

Agave – There are several forms of variegated *Agave americana*. There are forms with a green center stripe and yellow edges, a yellow stripe and green edges, a green center and white edges, a white center and green edges, yellow centers and crinkled edges. Other species of Agaves have also produced variegates, with the same variety of variegation.

Dracaena (= *Sansevieria*) – There are dozens of named and unnamed varieties. Look for 'Bantel's Sensation', 'Futura', 'Silver Moon', 'Silver Princess', and variegated varieties of some of the cylindrical forms. Unlike normal *Sansevierias*, these can be difficult to grow. They will not tolerate cold and wet conditions. Variegated *Sansevieria* can only be propagated through the tuber. Cuttings of the leaves will root, but will almost always revert to an non-variegated form. On the other hand, normal *Sansevierias* will often put out a variegated pup. These should be removed from the main plant and grown on their own roots to preserve the variegation.

Gasteria – The Japanese have made an art of variegated *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* cultivation. Read the 2000 Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) Journal for just a sampling of the wonderful cultivars. Miniature white species, yellow species, and the occasional pink can be found. There are dozens of variegated *Gasterias* shown at our shows, and available from all of the local vendors. Look for *Gasteria* 'Little Warty', a nice white and green species, as well as many of the yellow and green species such as the Japanese hybrid *Gasteria* 'Shozodan'.

Euphorbia – A number of variegated columnar are available, *E. ammak* being the one most often seen. There are also some cristate and monstrose forms as well.

Haworthia – 'Gray Ghost' is a variegated *Haworthia retusa*. There are several variegated *Haworthia limifolia* that look as if they were painted with mustard.

*Crassula ovata 'Tricolor'**Dracaena trifasciata
'Bantel's Sensation'*

August
2025

Mini-Show Winners

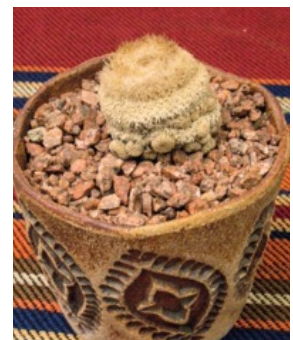
OPEN CACTUS



1st - Maria Capaldo
Frailea sp.



2nd - Phyllis De Crescenzo
Frailea pygmaea



3rd - Maria Capaldo
Epithelantha micromeris

OPEN SUCCULENT



1st - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Dyckia platyphylla



2nd - Maria Capaldo
Dyckia hybrid



2nd - Maria Capaldo
Dyckia hybrid

INTERMEDIATE CACTUS



1st - Terri Straub *Frailea* sp.



2nd - Terri Straub
Frailea schilinzkyana subsp.
schilinzkyana



3rd - Terri Straub
Frailea pumila

August
2025

Mini-Show Winners

INTERMEDIATE SUCCULENT

1st - Terri Straub *Dyckia 'Kaz'*2nd - Lemono Lott
Dyckia platyphylla3rd - Terri Straub
Hechtia epigyna

NOVICE

No entries

Mini Show Standings August 2025

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Julie Biggs		6	6	Anita Caplan	10	14	24	Maria Capaldo	49	39	88
M. A. Bjarkman	6		6	Martin Dorsey	5	14	19	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	45	54	99
Martha Bjerke		10	10	Sally Fasteau		3	3	Gary Duke	16	5	21
Bob Caplan		2	2	Bonnie Ikemura	5	15	20	Jim Gardner		23	23
Vince Darmali	22		22	Jackie Johnson	2	3	5	Jim Hanna		5	5
Lupe Hulett		1	1	Lemono Lott		12	12	Laurel Woodley		25	25
Shane Mullen	5	8	13	Mike Short	1	18	19				
George Unrine		1	1	Terri Straub	54	33	87				
Judy Unrine		4	4								
Liz Ying	11	19	30								

2025-2026 Mini-Show Calendar		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
September	<i>Variegated Cactus</i>	Variegated Succulent
October	Turbinicarpus	<i>Adromischus</i>
November	South American columnar cactus <i>Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Oreocereus</i> , etc.)	<i>Lithops, Conophytum</i>
December	Holiday Pot Luck	Holiday Pot Luck
January 2026	<i>Mammillaria</i> – straight spine (clumping)	<i>Haworthia, Astroloba, Tulista, Haworthiopsis</i> ,
February 2026	Epiphytic cactus	<i>Aloe, Kumara</i>
March 2026	<i>Echinocactus, Kroenleinia</i>	<i>Cissus, Cyphostemma, Dorstenia</i>
April 2026	Show and Sale	Show and Sale
May 2026	<i>Astrophytum</i>	<i>Agave, Manfreda</i> and hybrids
June 2026	<i>Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Cylindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> (not from Madagascar)
July 2026	<i>Melocactus</i>	Bromeliaceae (other than <i>Dyckia, Hechtia</i>)
August 2026	<i>Copiapoa</i>	<i>Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria</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.

MEMBER PHOTOS



Dove with *Cyphostemma juttae*
by Liz Ying



Selenicereus (=Hylocereus) flowers
by Anita Caplan (Dragon fruit is
not far behind!)



Aylosteria pseudominuscula (=Rebutia fulviseta)
by Maria Capaldo

What's in Your Garden?

Upcoming Events



42nd Annual Succulent Plants Symposium

August 29, 2025, 9 :00a.m.–5:30p.m.
\$100 | Registration includes lunch.
Huntington Botanical Gardens
1150 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
<https://www.huntington.org/event/42nd-annual-succulent-plants-symposium>



SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Andrew Hankey
"Four New *Ledebouria* Species..."
September 14, 2025 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



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