

Prickly News

South Coast
Cactus & Succulent Society



August 2025

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter



President's message

The hotter weather is here and it is time to think about protecting your plants from the summer sun.

Because many of us live by the cool coast, we don't need to adapt

too much to summer conditions. But there are always plants that really don't want to get the blazing sun on them all summer day. So watch your plants and see what isn't tolerating conditions well.

You can move plants to a shadier place in your garden, cover the plants with a sun shade, position sensitive small plants between larger ones for shade or use an umbrella. If the plant is in a plastic pot, you can insulate it by putting the whole pot in a terracotta container with good drainage. This will keep it cool. Remember that top dressing (especially a lighter color one) will keep the plants cooler. Make sure your soil is well aerated. If it needs re-potting and you don't have time, break up the soil with a chopstick or similar instrument. Don't over-water dormant plants or plants that seem to be withering in summer. *Aloe* and *Aeonium* will shut down in the heat, and over watering them will cause rot.

Next Meeting: August 10: 1:00-4:00pm South Coast Botanic Garden, presentation will start at 1:30 pm. Tom Mc Coy is our special guest and will present his experiences exploring Aloes in Saudi Arabia. Tom is a leading expert on Aloes so bring any questions, or plants to the meeting.

Mini-Show Plants are *Epithelantha*, *Frailea*, *Aztekium*, *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*.

I look forward to seeing you there and hope you bring some plants for the Mini-Show.

Maria Capaldo

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting

August 10, 2025 1:00-4:00pm

South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd.

Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

PRESENTATION



Tom McCoy:
"The Aloes of Saudi
Arabia"



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<https://southcoastcss.org>



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August
2025

Speaker of the Month

Tom McCoy

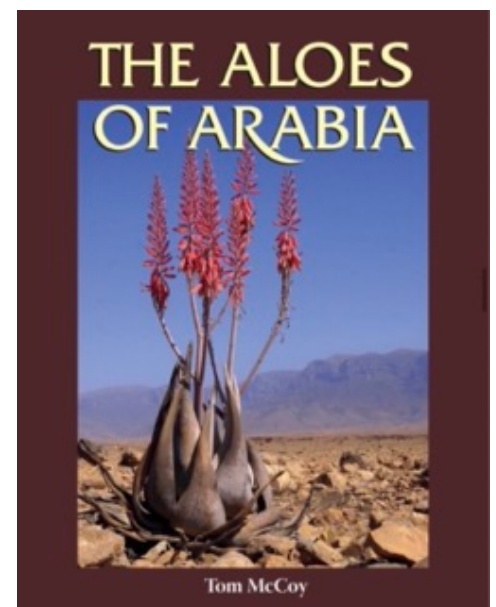
PRESENTATION FOR AUGUST

"ALOES OF SAUDI ARABIA"



Tom's presentation will be on the Aloes native to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his personal experiences with them. He has been researching and visiting Aloes in Saudi Arabia for almost 35 years and during that time had the good fortune to discover and describe several species new to science.

Tom has been fascinated by natural history since an early age. His childhood pursuits of collecting fossils, seashells, reptiles, birds, and plants eventually narrowed to a deep focus on botany, particularly the genus *Aloe*. This passion has driven him to explore diverse regions, including Asia, the Americas, Africa, Arabia, and Madagascar. A leading authority on *Aloe*, Tom has authored or co-authored numerous publications and described approximately 50 new *Aloe* taxa from Africa, Madagascar, and Arabia. He is also the curator of the world largest fully-documented living *Aloe* collection in California, complemented by a study collection at his Arabian home.



August
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month: Cactus

*Epithelantha micromeris**Epithelantha spinosior*
subsp. *spinosior*

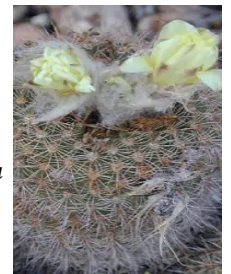
Epithelantha (button cactus) is a genus of cactus that is native to northeastern Mexico, and in an area from western Texas to Arizona. *Epithelantha* has a small number of species. The name *Epithelantha* refers to the flower position near the apex of the tubercles.

Epithelantha are very small cacti with globe-shaped or cylindrical stems typically up to one inch in diameter, rarely reaching two inches long. Tiny whitish spines completely cover the surface of the stem. The flowers are also tiny, growing from the tip of the stem. Fruits are bright red.

The fruit of all species is said to be edible.

*Frailea castanea**Frailea curvispina*

Frailea is a genus of globular to short cylindrical cacti native to Brazil. These species are cleistogamous, (being small inconspicuous closed self-pollinating flowers additional to and often more fruitful than showier ones on the same plant). They were first classified in the genus *Echinocactus*.

*Frailea pumila*

The genus ***Aztekium*** contains three species of small globular cactus. Discovered in 1929 by F. Ritter, in Rayones, Nuevo León, Mexico, this genus was thought to be monotypic (with *Aztekium ritteri*) until a second species (*Aztekium hintonii*) was discovered by George S. Hinton, in Galeana, Nuevo León in 1991. *Aztekium* are by far the most challenging and difficult cacti to grow. They are having extremely slow growth, probably the slowest of the entire Cactus family. They usually take several years for growth to be even noticeable. Once a specimen is established on its own roots it is no trouble to keep it, and becomes an easy plant to manage. Because of the difficulty of cultivation, *Aztekium* are often grafted to hardier stock. They need good drainage and regular water in summer. Keep nearly totally dry in winter. If grafted, the plants can take a little more water. Just remember the graft stock is also a cactus and will rot if overwatered. Provide shade from midday through the afternoon. A little morning sun is OK.

*Aztekium ritteri**Aztekium hintonii*, in flower*Aztekium ritteri*

August
2025

Mini-Show Plant of the Month: Succulent

*Dyckia beateae**Dyckia brevifolia**Dyckia maritima**Hechtia stenopetala**Hechtia texensis**Dyckia marnier-lapostollei**Dyckia dawsonii*

Dyckia is a genus of 120 terrestrial bromeliads native from Brazil and central part of South America. *Dyckia* have stiff leaves and are generally spiny. They live in rocky and/or sunny areas. Most species clump readily forming large mats. *Dyckia* have been extensively hybridized, and choice cultivars have been selected from some of the more showy species. They are a relative of the pineapple and are relatively easy to grow. They should be grown as other succulents in a well-drained soil. Good cactus soil or African violet soil is adequate. They like a lot of water in summer, and need a lot of space in their pot to accommodate their large root system. A lot of sunlight is a necessity. Flowers are generally yellow to orange and come from the side of the rosette.

Hechtia is a genus of about 50 species belonging to the Bromeliaceae family. It is related to the genera *Dyckia*, *Hechtia*, *Pitcairnia* and *Puya*. They have long, stiff, spiny-toothed leaves in dense rosettes and clusters of small white flowers.

Hechtias are terrestrial bromeliads, and they require copious amount of water and fertilizer to prosper. They are originating from dry areas of Texas thru Central America, but almost all the species are native to Mexico. Most of the species are extremely frost tender. They tend to have a large root system, and generally need to be overpotted. Hechtias are dioecious, so a male plant and a female plant are needed to produce seeds.

*Hechtia rosea*

2025-2026 Mini-Show Calendar		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Cactus</u>	<u>Succulent</u>
August	<i>Epithelantha, Frailea, Aztekium</i>	<i>Dyckia, Hechtia</i>
September	Variegated Cactus	Variegated Succulent
October	<i>Turbinicarpus</i>	<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, Cyllindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i> (not from Madagascar)
July 2026	<i>Melocactus</i>	Bromeliaceae (other than <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.

July
2025

Mini-Show Winners

Cactus



1st - Maria Capaldo
Matucana intertexta



2nd - Maria Capaldo
Matucana haynei subsp.
hystrix

OPEN

Succulent



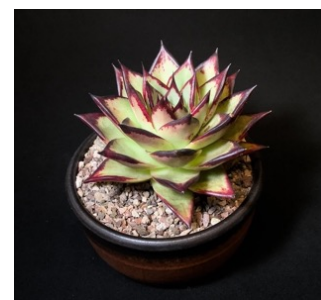
1st - Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Echeveria agavoides



2nd - Maria Capaldo
Echeveria agavoides 'Maria'



3rd - Maria Capaldo
Echeveria agavoides



3rd - Maria Capaldo
Echeveria agavoides 'Ebony'

Intermediate

No entries



1st - Mike Short
Echeveria cante

July
2025

Mini-Show Winners

Cactus

Novice

Succulent



1st-Vince Darmali

Matucana aurantiaca subsp. *polzii*

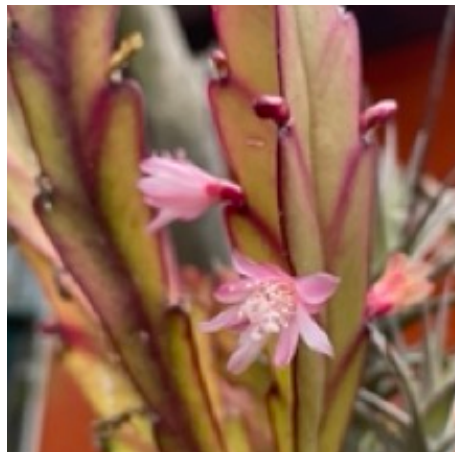
No entries

Mini Show Standings July 2025

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Totals
Julie Biggs		6	6	Anita Caplan	10	13	23	Maria Capaldo	40	32	72
M. A. Bjarkman	6		6	Martin Dorsey	5	14	19	Phyllis DeCrescenzo	39	46	85
Martha Bjerke		10	10	Sally Fasteau		3	3	Gary Duke	16	5	21
Bob Caplan		2	2	Bonnie Ikemura	5	14	19	Jim Gardner		23	23
Vince Darmali	22		22	Jackie Johnson	2	3	5	Jim Hanna		5	5
Lupe Hulett		1	1	Lemono Lott		8	8	Laurel Woodley		25	25
Shane Mullen	5	8	13	Mike Short	1	18	19				
George Unrine		1	1	Terri Straub	42	25	67				
Judy Unrine		4	4								
Liz Ying	11	19	30								

Member Photos

What's in Your Garden?

*Echinopsis* by Maria Capaldo*Lepismium crusiforme* by Debra Galliani*Aloe distans* by Debra Galliani

CSSA Show Member Trophy Winners

The CSSA Show and Sale was held June 27-29, 2025. Many of our members came to volunteer or just shop for unusual plants. The Show was judged and the best of a category was picked to be on the Trophy Table. The following members were chosen.



Best Stapeliad
Hoodia Gordonii by
Lemono Lott



Best Rebutia
Aylostera albopectinata by
Gary Duke



Best Aloe
Aloe dorotheae by
Maria Capaldo

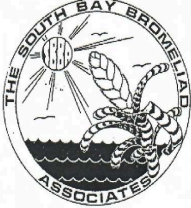


Best Gasteria
Gasteria batesiana 'Barborton' by
Maria Capaldo

Upcoming Events

BROMELIAD SHOW & SALE

PRESENTED BY



SHOW and SALES 10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Questions: call Ted Johnson 310-850-2824



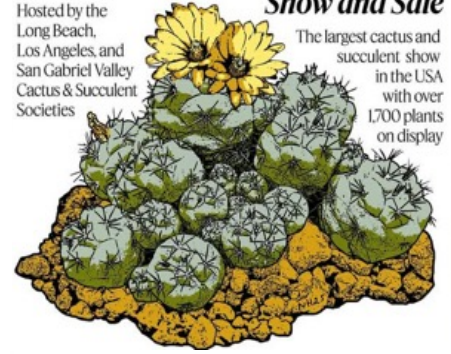
SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

PRESENTER: Tom McCoy
"The Aloes of Saudi Arabia"
August 10, 2025 1:00-4:00 pm
SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

39th Annual *Inter-City* Aug 15-17 2025 Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale

Hosted by the
Long Beach,
Los Angeles, and
San Gabriel Valley
Cactus & Succulent
Societies

The largest cactus and
succulent show
in the USA
with over
1,700 plants
on display



August 15th, 2025
Sale 8AM-5PM
August 16th & 17th, 2025
Show & Sale 8AM-5PM

Los Angeles County Arboretum
www.intercityshow.com

Instagram: @intercityshow

Facebook Group: intercityshow

For more information and to learn more



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