



GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -

Since 1959



OPEN GATES - NOVEMBER, 2025

NEXT MEETING: November 14, 2025 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM

2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew

Greetings Gates!

I hope you are all having a wonderful Fall! Our November meeting is our last true "meeting" of 2025, since December will be our annual holiday party. During our next meeting we will have the opportunity to vote on Gates leadership and Board of Directors' positions. Please remember that it is one ballot per household membership. To ensure your vote counts, please arrive on time for the meeting.

Leadership is already planning the details for this year's holiday party. So that we can ensure we have the appropriate amount of food and tables/ chairs, please RSVP at the November meeting. We will have both a sign-up sheet for attendance and potluck.

This month's mini-show is our final one of 2025. This is your last chance to score some additional mini-show points to rank as one of our top-point holders. We will be awarding the top ten highest-point members.

Finally, I would like to thank the members for really stepping it up regarding our breaktime kitchen treats. You all have been graciously building community and joy through food!

See you all Friday, Nov. 14. Doors open at 6PM.

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew



MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER - Al Klein

Speaker Biography: Al Klein of Botanic Wonders

Al Klein's lifelong passion for the natural world began during his childhood growing up in Chicago. Frequent visits to the Field Museum of Natural History and a deep interest in the natural sciences inspired his early hobbies, which included growing exotic plants like cacti and collecting fossils, minerals, and insects.

At the age of 17, Al moved to California and discovered his true calling in horticulture. Captivated by the diversity and beauty of California's flora, he began working at South Shores Nursery in San Clemente while attending California State Polytechnic University in Pomona. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Ornamental Horticulture, with an emphasis in landscape design and retail nursery management.

After graduation, Al joined Roger's Gardens in Corona del Mar, where he was promoted to Nursery Manager within a year. He soon had the opportunity to help open a new nursery and gift shop in Escondido called Canterbury Gardens and Gifts. His leadership and expertise quickly led to a partnership in the business. Al recently retired from Canterbury Gardens after 35 years of service.

Today, he is fully dedicated to running his own nursery business, Botanic Wonders. This venture is the culmination of his lifelong passion. Botanic Wonders specializes in the growing and selling of rare and exotic plants, including unique succulents, cacti, and cycads.



Program Description: Growing Euphorbia

The family of Euphorbiaceae is large and diverse. It is estimated that there are in excess of 5000 species from around the world. Of this group there are hundreds of succulent Euphorbias. Many of the succulent Euphorbias originate from Africa and Madagascar. However, many Euphorbias originate from other countries like the common Poinsettia which is from Mexico. All Euphorbias have a white milky sap which can burn the skin. Always wash your hands after handling Euphorbias! I make it a habit to always wash my hands after being in the nursery regardless of what plants I have handled. Euphorbias come in all shapes and sizes... which make them a collector's dream. I remember my first Euphorbia, *E. obesa*, the "Baseball Euphorbia." I thought it was the coolest plant I ever saw. Another of my favorites is *E. bupleurifolia*, which looks like a mini pineapple.



Most Euphorbia plants have flowers that produce three seeds per pod. After the seed pod ripens and dries, it eventually pops and shoots the seeds into the air landing where they may. Many growers will wrap seed pods in netting to capture the seeds. Some other favorites of mine are the Madagascar species that can look like mini palm trees. Many have beautiful lush green leaves. There are so many forms, you will be sure to find something that will strike your fancy, from forms that resemble cacti, to others that look like a rosette with many “arms” radiating from the center. You will never get bored looking for new species to grow!

Since there are so many different species of Euphorbia and originating from so many different environments, it is difficult to summarize their care. There are however some basic cultural practices that can be applied to most species. Most Euphorbias prefer part to full sun. Even plants that grow in full sun in their natural environment will enjoy some shade. All my plants receive some shade during the day, and most are under 30-50 percent shade, with occasional direct sun during sometime of the day. As for soil, I prefer to use a well-drained mix of 50% inorganic material such as pumice and 50% organic material such as a commercial potting mix. Some species may require more inorganics, which you will learn from research and growing experience. During summer months I water once or twice a week depending on weather and species. Euphorbias like food! Feed your plants regularly! I feed once a week with water soluble fertilizer that contains all major and micronutrients. If your plants have yellow leaves with dark veins, you are missing a micronutrient such as iron. Increase the feeding to correct the problem. Euphorbias can be grown from cuttings or seeds easily. When taking cuttings wear gloves since the white sap can burn your skin. Take cuttings at the joint and make a clean cut with a knife or pruner. A jagged cut can lead to infection and death to your plant. Another fun way to start plants is from seed. Plant seeds in a well-drained mix. They will germinate in about one to two weeks. They are fun to grow and will gain size quickly.



NOVEMBER 2025 - MINI-SHOW (Final MS for 2025)

Cactus: Schlumbergera

Succulent: “Trailing” Senecios

Schlumbergera

Common Names: Christmas Cactus, Crab Cactus, Thanksgiving Cactus, Holiday Cactus

Previously known as: *Epiphyllanthus*, *Pseudozygocactus*, *Zygocactus*

The holiday cactus is a genus of succulent plants in the cactus family (Cactaceae) that are native to Southeast Brazil and are technically epiphytes that grows in humid rainforests—a very different habitat from the “typical” cacti of Mexico and the Desert Southwest. This genus includes the Christmas and Thanksgiving cactus. It has fleshy stems, showy flowers and grows well as a houseplant, preferring moisture but adapting to a variety of home environments. One plant can live for over a hundred years, so a well-cared for specimen will brighten your living space for decades to come. The genus name, *Schlumbergera*, honors the Belgian horticulturist, Frederick Schlumberger.

This genus of cactus thrives in bright, indirect sunlight, but they are intolerant to direct sun. Periods of lower light in the fall will encourage winter blooms. They are day-length sensitive, initiating flowers as day lengths and seasons change. Consequently, they bloom more reliably when grown away from artificial light sources. The soil should be moist, well drained potting mix including sand or perlite to encourage adequate drainage. Water the plant about every 1 to 2 weeks or when the soil is nearly dried out. They also benefit from high humidity and prefer temperatures between 70- and 80-degrees Fahrenheit during their growing season. The secret to good flower production is bright light, night temperatures between 55 to 65 degrees Fahrenheit, and uninterrupted nights of at least 13 hours from mid-September until mid-November. If your plant does not flower, chances are, it is getting artificial light when it needs total darkness. They may be propagated by stem or root cuttings.



This genus of cacti has an upright, pendulous, or trailing habit. They have connecting green, glossy, flat, leaf-like pads or stem segments that are spineless. They are also serrated on each side with clusters of soft bristles at the end of each segment. The flowers are 3 inches long, tubular-shaped, and are available in a variety of colors including shades of red, pink, or white. They typically bloom in November and December. The flowers may also produce fleshy fruits.

Cultivated *Schlumbergera* cacti are often confused with species now placed in the genus *Rhipsalidopsis*, and species have been moved back and forth between the two genera. The Easter cactus is now called *Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri*. The taxonomy of these cacti is still somewhat unsettled, and the species may be listed under synonymous names in catalogs, books and websites.

The plants in this genus are low-maintenance and are the perfect indoor ornamental during the holiday season. The showy, vibrant flowers will add color to your home when planted in containers or hanging baskets.



Schlumbergera russelliana (Christmas cactus)

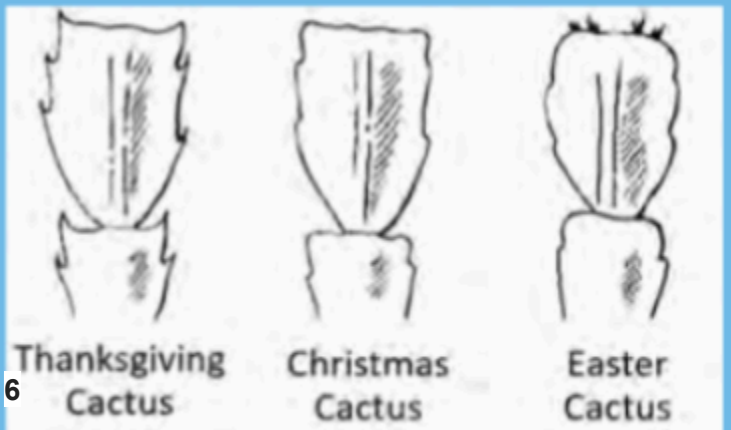


Schlumbergera truncata (Thanksgiving cactus)



Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri (Easter cactus)

Holiday Cacti ID





Schlumbergera truncata, Thanksgiving cacti (left), have pointed teeth along their margins. Another common name for this plant, crab claw cacti, helps in identifying it. This is a true species that blooms from November to February, though they can bloom randomly any time.

Schlumbergera ×buckleyii, Christmas cacti (center) have smooth, scalloped stems. The true Christmas cactus is a hybrid known for its magenta-pink to red blossoms from late November to February.

Rhipsalidopsis gaertneri, Easter cacti (right) have rounded margins with tufts of soft spines at the areoles. The red-hued, star shaped flowers bloom in early to mid spring.

‘Senecio’ by Tom Glavich

Senecio is a genus in the Compositae family a distinction that it shares with such common plants as sunflowers, *Asters*, and dandelions. *Senecio* is a very large and cosmopolitan genus, with species in most of the tropical and sub-tropical regions of the world.

All of the Compositae are distinguished by a flowerhead that appears to be a single large flower, but is really a cluster of many smaller flowers (florets) protected (and advertised to passing pollinators) by colorful bracts. The flowers of *Senecio* show obvious resemblance to dandelions and sunflowers. The seeds are held in loose clusters and scattered by the wind, just as with dandelions.

Senecio are generally easy to grow, requiring only modest attention to growing periods, and tolerant of some out of season watering. Most species are winter growers, losing their leaves in the heat of summer and leafing out again in early autumn.

Seed is occasionally available and germinates readily. It's best planted in mid-autumn with maximum growth and development of water storage tissue possible before the first summer. Propagation from cuttings is also easy. Production of a typical caudex for



species with long, thin branches is best done by burying and rooting a branch while still attached to the mother plant.

Show-worthy *Senecios*:

Senecio cedrorum is a species from Madagascar. It has vertical leaves, looking somewhat like the pads of a small *Opuntia*. The leaves are a glabrous blue, with darker green veins.

Senecio fulgens is from South Africa, near Durban. It has sprawling stems.

Senecio laticipes, shown below, is an easily grown species with thick succulent stems. It is easily propagated.

Senecio rowleyanus has the common name, “String of Pearls”, and is a well-known house plant. The leaves are globose, hanging on long prostrate stems. It’s often used as a hanging plant.

Senecio saginata is one of several *Senecio* that were once in the genus *Kleinia*, which has since been absorbed into *Senecio*. This species shows convergent evolution, with a body form similar to some of the cylindrical *Opuntia*. The body is a medium green, with darker green patterns that look as if they were spines drawn on with ink. *Senecio saginata* is native to Oman. Most of the similar species (*S. pendulus*, *S. desfliersii*) are native to Western Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Senecio scaposus, is from Cape Province, South Africa, and has long cylindrical leaves, with patterned patches of a waxy light blue on a light green background.

Senecio sempervivus, has leaves that resemble a *Sempervivum*, as its name implies, but the stems holding the Sempervivum-like leaves come from a knobby white caudex. A red shaving brush flower rises above the leaves on a long stem.

Senecio tropaeolifolius quickly forms a medium sized caudex (really a rhizome, or fleshy root). The vine-like stems can be kept trimmed back to show the caudex. It has interesting pentagonal leaves, with sharp corners. It’s one of the most sculptural of all the *Senecios*.



Senecio peregrinus



Senecio oxyriifolius



Senecio laticipes



Senecio herreianus



Senecio rowleyanus

***Remember: You must be up-to-date on your membership dues to be eligible to compete in the monthly mini-show. See Elias prior to submitting your plants to ensure you are current on membership.**

2025

Cactus

Succulent

January	White Spined Mammillaria	Aeonium, Sedum, Sempervivum
February	Rebutia, Sulco, Weingartia	Rosette (smaller than 10" diam)
March	CA, NV, AZ Natives	Pelargonium, Monsonia
April	Gymnocalycium	Succulent Bromeliad
May	Cancelled	Cancelled
June	Echinopsis	Stem Succulent Euphorbias
July	Copiapoa	Dorstenia, Ficus
August	North American Columnars	Lithops
September	Opuntiadeae	Stapelia, Huernia
October	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead
November	Schlumbergera	"Trailing" Senecios



TENTATIVE 2025 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(Version# 5 - updated! - Subject to Change based on updates from the below clubs)

NOV. 22: LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY SALE & AUCTION

Sun. 10am-4pm Collectors Live Auction 12pm Info. www.lacactus.com
One Generation, 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA

ODDS AND ENDS

Odds & Ends: If you would like to post yard sales or any other updates/information that you believe would be of interest (pictures, plant sales, yard sales that include plants, events, etc) to our club members via this newsletter, please email me at GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com or call/text 303-986-6313 or see me at the General Meeting.

Should you wish your cacti and succulent garden to be featured as a "Member Garden of the Month" in our newsletter, please contact Jeff (per above)

GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2025

We welcome your comments, suggestions, or questions. You can reach out to any of the following board members by phone or send an email to gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com

President/ Newsletter	Jeff Loew	330-986-6313
Vice President/ Rescue Chair	Kim Urman	909-222-3326
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Oceguela	909-935-6218
Treasurer	Camille Gelston	909-645-0975
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909-875-3607
Board Member/ Librarian	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
Board Member	Tom Perez	951-205-5548
Board Member	Karen Roholt	951-897-2220
Past President	Phuc Huynh	909-910-9195
Mini Show Chair/Judge	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
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