

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2015 | Volume 56, VIII

Next Meeting
MONDAY
August 24



Adromischus cristatus v. clavifolius; [Photo source](#)

AUGUST PROGRAM GUEST SPEAKER JD Wikert

The next meeting will be on Monday, August 24th, at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be the club's very own J.D. Wikert. His presentation is entitled "Amazing Adromischus" as he is a fan of alliteration. J.D. will discuss various aspects of members of this genus. You are probably familiar with some species of Adromischus even though you may not know their names. J.D.'s presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation. He will also show photos of many of the more readily available species.

You might have seen J.D. speak in previous meetings about stapeliads, dudleyas, gasterias, or sedums, and this talk will follow a similar format.

J.D. will have plants for sale so be sure to bring your cash.

—Gerhard Bock, Vice President & Program Chair



Adromischus triflorus; [Photo source](#)

AUGUST SUCCULENT AND CACTUS MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock

Succulent • HAWORTHIA - GASTERIA

Haworthia is a genus within the family *Xanthorrhoeaceae*, subfamily *Asphodeloideae*. They are small succulent plants, typically 4cm (2 in) to 20 cm (8 in) high, depending on the species, though the inflorescences of some species may exceed 40 cm (16 in). They can be solitary or clump-forming and are endemic to South Africa. Most species have firm, tough leaves, usually dark green in color; others are softer, and are window plants with translucent panels through which sunlight can reach internal photosynthetic tissues. Their flowers are small, white and very similar between species, but their leaves show wide variations even within one species. The genus *Haworthia* is named after the botanist Adrian Hardy Haworth.



Haworthia cymbiformis



Gasteria liliputana

Gasteria is also a genus within the family *Xanthorrhoeaceae*, subfamily *Asphodeloideae*. Like *Haworthia* they are native to South Africa. They are closely related to both *Aloes* and *Haworthias*. The genus is named for its stomach-shaped flowers. Common names include cow-tongue, lawyer's tongue, mother-in-law's tongue or ox-tongue. Both *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* species do best when grown in well-drained, sandy soils in light shade. Seed germination usually occurs within 8 days but may take as long as one month depending on the species.

JULY SUCCULENT & CACTUS MINI SHOW WINNERS

SUCCULENT: PACHYPODIUM

- 1st: *Pachypodium bispinosum*, Keith Taylor
- 2nd: *Pachypodium namaquanum*, Michelle Egan
- 3rd^(T): *Pachypodium rosulatum* f. *Mandritsara*, Steve Goodman
- 3rd^(T): *Pachypodium geayi*, Linda Roye

CACTUS: FEROCACTUS

- 1st: *Ferocactus latispinus*, Steve Goodman
- 2nd: *Ferocactus viridescens*, Michelle Egan
- 3rd: *Ferocactus latispinus*, Mary Schuett



Cactus • ARIOCARPUS

Ariocarpus is a small genus of Mexican rock cactus (one species is found in Texas). They have curious rock-like forms and textures, and blend very well with the soil and rocks in their native habitat. They have no spines and the rock like texture has the side effect of reflecting the heat of the sun and giving them some insulation in summer. They also have a strong turnip-like root that, according to some authors, is able to contract during drought, and somewhat pull them closer to the ground. All this camouflage has not protected them from cactus hunters, and their slow growth has made them less able to react fast enough to the changes in habitat brought by agriculture and ranching. They are all endangered and protected in their



Ariocarpus retusus



Ariocarpus scapharostrus

habitats. In cultivation they are extremely slow to grow; they need summer heat, and good drainage. They are propagated by seeds. The seedlings are often grafted on other species to increase the speed at which they grow. Because of their tuberous root system they are quite sensitive to soil conditions, preferring sharply draining loam based soils with minimal humus. Care should be taken to avoid overwatering, allowing the soil to dry out completely between watering. Plants require water only during periods of summer growth and should be kept perfectly dry overwinter, with a minimum temperature of 12 °C, although certain species can cope with considerably cooler conditions. One possibility for the origin of the name comes from the ancient Greek “aria” (an oak type) and “carpos” (=fruit) because of the resemblance of the fruit of the two genera. Another possibility is the work Scheidweiler did on the tree *Sorbus aria* at the time he described the genus *Ariocarpus*. He might have meant the fruits of *Ariocarpus* plants look like the fruits of *Sorbus aria*.

KEEP YOUR PLANTS PROTECTED FROM THE HEAT AND SUN

Gardening Tips: How is your cactus and succulent garden growing in these hot, dry days? Plants in the heat of the afternoon western sun may need to be shielded with some shade cloth, especially if recently planted. Many fleshy leaved succulents (Echeverias, Aloes, Crassulas, etc.) may develop burn spots on their leaves. Barrel cacti may also show a ‘yellow’ area that indicates sun damage. Nothing can be done about this but let the plant outgrow the damage. Gasterias and some Aloes will turn reddish brown with too much sun but regain their green if removed from the sun. This red brown is a pigment that protects the plant from further burning. Some growers desire this as it makes for a more colorful plant. With the longer, hotter days, the greenhouse temperature will rise to over 120° so I water more often than in the cooler spring/fall. I water the outdoor potted plants about once a week or ten days, depending upon the day temperatures. Everyone has their own microclimate, soil, and sun/shade conditions so do what works best for you. Keep cool! –Marilynn Vilas

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Next Meeting Monday August 24th, 7:00pm

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For publication submissions email:
succulentcrazy@gmail.com by the 5th of the month

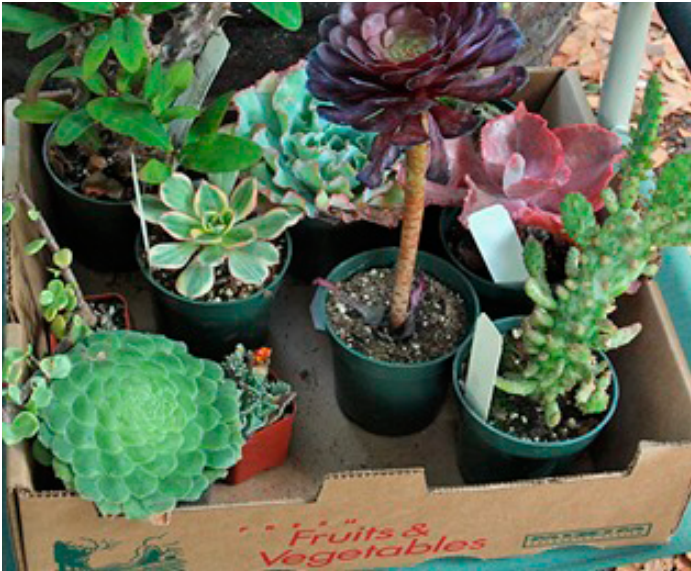


Photo by Gerhard Bock

ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE COMING SEPTEMBER!

Country Store! It is just one month away (and a couple of weeks). Are you planning ahead? Have you cleaned that closet with all the C & S tshotkes for the Silent Auction? Are you canning and making jam for the Produce table? Scanning the latest Martha Stewart magazine for recipes for the Sweet Shoppe? And potting up those cuttings? Well, let's get busy! This is a enormous raffle fundraiser for the club and supports activities such as the Christmas party. More detailed info next month.

—Marilynn Vilas, Chair

SUNSHINE REPORT

Sunshine Corner: Happy News! Did you notice a change in our newsletter editor's name last month? Jackie was married at the end of June. The wedding had succulent party favors and centerpieces which held up great in the hot weather. We send Best Wishes and Congratulations to the Bride and Groom. The Club sends wishes for Many Happy Years to Come.



Since the pots had no drainage, misting the plants helped to keep them nice and happy (without overwatering). Thanks Michelle Egan for the tip! -Jackie

SCSS MEMBERSHIP

Thank you succulent enthusiasts for renewing your membership! New guests are invited to join! Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
SCSS (Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society)

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