

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2017

Volume 58, VII

July Program

DR. CARLOS SANCHEZ: CUBAN CACTI AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Dr. Carlos Sanchez will be our guest speaker on Cuban Cacti and Some Endangered Species. Dr. Sanchez is currently a visiting professor from the University of Havana, Cuba, and Curator of the Cuban National Botanical Garden. While he is visiting the United States, his journey is facilitated by UC Berkeley and other garden clubs in Northern California. We are lucky to be able to get Dr. Sanchez to share with us on his busy lecture tour.

SCSS will be hosting Dr. Sanchez for dinner at Shanghai Garden restaurant (at the corner of H Street and Alhambra) at 5:30 PM prior to the meeting. Members and guests are welcome to join us for a no-host dinner and then proceed to the Shepard Garden and Arts Center when doors open at 6:30 PM. The meeting begins at 7:00 PM. Please RSVP for dinner by Sunday, July 23 to Mariel Dennis (marield@comcast.net).

July Mini Show

CACTUS: EPITHELANTHA



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 two species, [Epithelantha micromeris](#) and [Epithelantha bokei](#). 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 and are said to be edible.

SUCCULENT: ANACAMPSEROS & AVONIA

Anacampseros is a genus consisting of a several species of small perennial succulent plants native to South Africa. The botanical name is an ancient one for herbs supposed to restore lost love. All form basal rosettes of smooth or hairy leaves in dense mats and develop a small caudex with age. White filamentous hairs are present along the stems. The wheel-shaped flowers vary from white to purple. The plants are self-fertile and produce seeds in a cup of upright filaments. They are dormant in winter.

Avonia is reserved for the species with tiny leaves hidden by papery stipules that form a protective layer along the stems. These bright white scales reflect a portion of the solar radiation and protect the leaves from the noon-day sun. The small, solitary, greenish-white flowers are produced on the tips of the stems. The roots form a small caudex.



Upcoming Events

JULY 29 FIELD TRIP — RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN “SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN”

Meet SCSS Members at 8:30 AM at the Shepard Garden and Art Center to carpool to Walnut Creek to see the 23rd Annual Sculpture in the Garden. Meet at the Gardens just before they open at 10:00 AM and SCSS will sponsor admission for members; guests pay their own way. (Adult admission is \$10; Seniors 65+ are \$8). At this time, we have not worked out details for a behind the scenes tour but one may be available. The Garden is handicapped accessible, but the pathways are not paved. Wear sensible shoes. There is seating scattered throughout the Garden, including wooden benches and chairs and several sets of café tables. Ruth Bancroft Garden is located at 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, CA 94598. For additional details or to print directions, visit <http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org> NOTE: For those who might wish to go another time, this event ends August 13th.

AUGUST MEETING — MAGICAL MINIATURE GARDENS

Join us at the August 28th meeting when Jennifer Khal, the co-owner of The Secret Garden in Elk Grove, demonstrates how to make a miniature garden with succulents. Whether your idea of a miniature garden is simple, has an Asian feel, or you're picturing a fairy garden, you can make whatever pleases you. Basic supplies will be furnished for about 2 dozen members to make a small garden with some furnished plants. Additional plants and accessories will be available for sale (and drawing prizes) or you can bring your own (cuttings are always useful and you can trade with others). Join us as we make our own magical miniature gardens that you can take home with you. Please bring some basic supplies such as small pruners/ scissors, and a small trowel or spoon. If you prefer a special soil mixture, bring your own.

SEPTEMBER MEETING — ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE

Start gathering donations of books, plants, pottery and all things succulent or gardening-related to bring to our annual country store on September 25th. You can also bring home-baked goods, home grown produce or other plants. It's our second biggest fundraiser, so please give generously! Shop at the silent auction or pick up other treasures you didn't know you needed.

SEPTEMBER SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP

Mariel is making plans for an SCSS field trip to Succulent Garden's 7th Annual Succulent Extravaganza on Friday, September 29 and Saturday, September 30, in Castroville, CA (near Monterey). We'll travel Thursday night with dinner at a stop along the way; the festivities start early Friday morning. The event closes at 4 daily, followed by a group dinner on Friday. Plan for 2 overnight stays (this can be a little pricey). Let Mariel know if you wish to attend with the group and if you will be sharing a room or need a single room so that she can make hotel reservations in the area now. Please also advise if you prefer to drive/carpool or would pay for a bus in addition to the other fees (admission, hotel – food is on your own, as are any plants you buy!). *Please RSVP with expression of interest/commitment by August 1 to Mariel Dennis.* Not sure you want to go? Here's what you'd be missing...an amazing lineup of tours, workshops, and lectures for you led by Succulent Gardens professionals and creative types from around the United States. In no particular order, presenting this year will be:

- Robin Stockwell, Founder of Succulent Gardens
- Debra Lee Baldwin, Author and 'Queen of Succulents'
- Brian Kemble, Curator at The Ruth Bancroft Garden
- Janet Sluis, Sunset Western Garden Collection
- Ryan Penn and Walker Young of the Ruth Bancroft Garden
- Aaron Ryan, General Manager of Succulent Gardens
- Dylan Toms, Production Manager of Succulent Gardens
- Kristin Scheidt, Propagation Manager of Succulent Gardens
- Laura Balaoro and the Succulent Fanatics
- Brian & Mary Merrell, Living Creations
- The Monterey Bay Master Gardeners and more!

[Learn more about our speakers and presenters](https://sgplants.com/pages/2017-succulent-extravaganza-schedule) and for more details on the event, and a schedule, see <https://sgplants.com/pages/2017-succulent-extravaganza-schedule>

****Bring your own wagon so you can shop 'til you drop!****

Upcoming Events, continued

SEPTEMBER AT ANNIE'S ANNUALS' FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Members who wish to carpool to this event can meet at the Shepard Center on Saturday, September 30 at 8:30 am to drive to Annie's for their Fall Extravaganza, which runs from 10:00 – 5:00. This is posted for your information for members and guests if you are not going to the Succulent Extravaganza in Castroville. Admission fees are members' responsibilities. For more information, visit www.anniesannuals.com

FEBRUARY 2018 SPEAKER LOOKING FOR A LOCAL HOST

Jeff Sessions, author and owner of Solana Succulents in the San Diego area, will be in Northern California to speak to several garden groups including SCSS for our February 2018 meeting. If you have a guest house or guest room available for a few days, please let Mariel know as this will help us defray expenses for Jeff's visit and lecture.

June Mini Show Results

Unfortunately, there were few entries for the June show. I would like to encourage all of our members to enter. For each plant you bring in, you receive a ticket for the drawing. You must have owned the plant for three months prior to entering it, so you still have time to acquire plants for the October, November, and December shows. Also, be sure to properly identify your plant as to genus and species and do a little research if you are unsure.

—Linda Roye, Mini Show Chair

Winners for the June show are as follows:

Adenium

First place: Michelle Egan for Adenium obesum in bloom

Second place: Linda Roye for Adenium arabica

Discocactus

First place: Linda Roye (by default)



Meeting Details

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM.

Next meeting: July 24

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
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