

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2018

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## July Program

### THE SECRETS OF GROWING QUALITY CACTI AND OTHER SUCCULENTS

Woody Minnich will be returning to our Sacramento Club for the July Presentation. The topic of his talk will be “The Secrets of Growing Quality Cacti and Succulents.” He will discuss the factors influencing how successful we are in growing cactus and succulents, including temperature, water uptake, soil and root system, orientation to the sun, elevation, and plant enemies. Woody will enrich his presentation with his many years of experience traveling to see how cacti and succulents plants grow in their habitats. Come on down to the July meeting to increase your expertise in these areas to help you grow glorious cacti and succulents!



### ABOUT OUR SPEAKER



Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950s. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody’s show quality plants were often considered standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles in various journals, and his photography is featured in many books including *The Copiapoa* by Schulz, *The Mammillaria Handbook* by Pilbeam, *The Cactus Lexicon* by Hunt and Charles and many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book *The Xerophile*. This book specializes in what the authors call the “Obsessed Field Workers” from around the world.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art, and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of ten C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



## July Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: ECHEVERIA

Echeverias are arguably the most popular succulent and among the most easily identified. When most people think of a succulent, they envision the rosette of the colorful Echeverias. They are a Western hemisphere succulent native to mountainous areas from Argentina north to Mexico with one species, the *E. strictiflora* (Desert Savior) extending into Texas. Echeveria is a very large genus within the stonecrop family Crassulaceae with over 150 known species. Since they are so easily cross-pollinated by man or animals, especially hummingbirds, there are tens of thousands of varieties. Echeverias are easily propagated by leaf cuttings or offsets, and by seed if they are not hybrids. Echeveria rosettes generally appear two leaf types—pointed and frilly. Among the most popular ornamental garden plants, Echeverias are often found in clusters and sometimes called hens and chicks like similar *Sempervivums* with which they are often confused. They are usually drought-resistant, but regular deep watering and fertilizing is recommended. Most tolerate shade and frost and lose their lower leaves in winter and, after a few years, must be re-rooted.



*Echeveria strictiflora bustamante*



*Echeveria "Lady Aquarius"*



*Echeveria "Black Prince"*

### CACTUS: REBUTIA AND SULCOREBUTIA

Rebutias and Sulcorebutias are Cactaceae genera native to the Bolivian and Argentine Andes highlands and are closely related to *Echinopsis* and *Lobivia*. There is an ongoing debate about the difference between these two overlapping genera but there are no known hybrids.

Generally small, colorful globular cacti, they are well known for their brightly colorful flowers that bloom in the late spring and are relatively large in relation to their globules. The globules can be individual or are often found in clusters. They are winter dormant and flower from April through June depending on the weather. The numerous flowers vary from purple and red through orange to yellow. Rebutias are easy to grow as each plant generates a high volume of seeds. Both genera are cold tolerant if they are kept relatively dry but can be attractive to spider mites.



*Rebutia steinmanni var. christinae*



*Sulcorebutia rauschii*

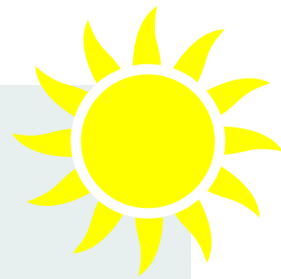


*Rebutia arenacaea*

## Sunshine Corner

Sunshine Corner: If you missed Dennis Ragasa's booming voice last month, be assured he will be back this month. Dennis has been recovering from eye surgery. We look forward to his spirited number calling for door prizes in July and future months!!

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair



## World's Oldest Trees Die

Matabeleland, Zimbabwe – Eight of Africa's 13 oldest baobabs trees have abruptly died over the past 12 years, and researchers believe that climate change may be to blame. Baobabs can live for up to 3,000 years and are known as the “tree of life” because they produce nutritious fruit even during the dry season. With massive trunks and spindly branches, the trees look like they've been uprooted and placed upside down. A new study has found that baobabs are dying off across Southern Africa in unprecedented numbers. Among those that perished is Panke, a baobab in Zimbabwe that was estimated to be about 2,450 years old, with an 84-foot-wide trunk. “It is definitely shocking and dramatic to experience during our lifetime the demise of so many trees with millennial ages,” said study co-author Adrian Patrut of Romania's Babes-Bolyai University. Excerpted from ‘The Week’, June 22, 2018, p.9. Note: Marilyn Vilas saw and photographed this tree during her Zimbabwe safari trip in July 1999.

## Upcoming Board Meeting

There will be a board meeting prior to the July meeting at Shanghai Gardens on Alhambra Blvd. The meeting will begin at 5:30 PM. Topics for discussion include sponsoring a succulent garden at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center and contributing to a campaign to plant agaves in the Southwest to nurture bats. All are welcome.



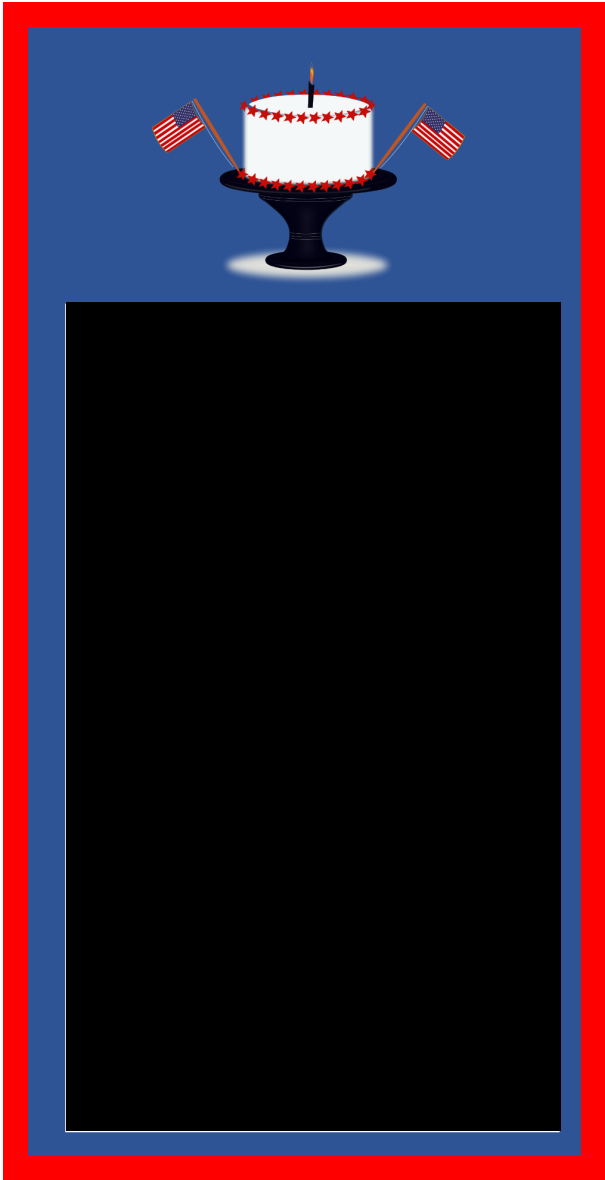
## June Mini-Show Winners

### SUCCULENT: GASTERIA/GASTERALOES, HAWORTHIAS

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Place – Marilyn Vilas, *Gasteria madagascariensis monstrose*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Elaine Thomas, *Gasteraloe “Green Ice”*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Troy Fajerson, *Gasteraloe “Green Ice”*

### CACTUS: MAMMILLARIA

- 1st Place – Penny Newell, *Mammillaria giesekei*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place -- Keith Taylor, *Mammillaria “Fred”*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Ryan McAninch, *Mammillaria gracilis*



## Upcoming Events

### LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB MEETING

September 14, 9:30 – 11 AM. Debra Lee Baldwin will be giving a presentation on “No-Water Succulents.” The event will be held at 415 Forest Ave, Laguna Beach, CA.

### SUCCULENTS & SAUVIGNON: DIY DISH GARDEN

July 21, 6:00 - 7:00 PM Fee \$60, \$50 Members. Ruth Bancroft Garden.

### 24TH ANNUAL SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

Now through August 19 at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Regular admission rates.



### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: July 23

Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816  
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