

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2018

Volume 59, X

October Program

THE ABCS OF GROWING ARIOCARPUS CACTUS

Elton Roberts is the featured speaker for the October meeting. His topic will be The ABCs of Growing Ariocarpus Cactus. Ariocarpus are known as rarities in the cactus world because they are slow growing and are found in habitat in only a few locations. Proper culture is the key to success with these cacti, which some consider challenging (or perhaps even demented at this time of year)! Elton has incredible credentials as a cactus man—credentials grown out of field work, growing, observation, and the study of the identifying features of different genus and varieties of cactus. He has published articles on an extraordinary variety of cactus topics in national and international journals. Those articles are recognized for their meticulous detail in describing the characteristics of and growth of cacti.

Nursery owners and hobbyists alike come to Elton because he can identify just about any cactus, even when it is not in flower. While some of us may be “newbies” to the hobby, Elton recalls that his love of cacti got its start when he was a “newbie” of about six years old. He remembers somebody giving him a stick of aeonium that flourished after he planted it, and that was the start. He began seriously collecting cacti when he was about 20 years old and could buy a 2-inch pot of some cactus treasure for ten cents. So if you already love ariocarpus, come share the love. If ariocarpus is a new genus for you, come to the meeting and you just may fall in love.



Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: October 22

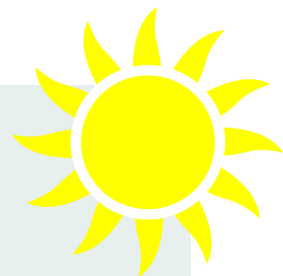
Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816

center phone: (916) 808-8800 | www.sacramentoccss.com

Sunshine Corner

Sunshine Corner has had a busy month! The club received the sad news of Joel Parker's passing. There were no services. A condolence card was sent to his family. We will miss Joel and his energetic participation in the club. Carole Hada had a surgery early in the month and will undergo foot surgery. She hopes to be back, participating, even on a scooter. Hope she has a license for that scooter! Steve Goodman has back surgery this month. We need him to have a full recovery as he is a mainstay of our club's endeavors. Good luck to both Carole and Steve!

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair



October Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: BROMELIADS

As a family, bromeliads started out as tropical or subtropical plants in jungles and forested areas. As conditions changed or competition became too fierce, some of them began to adapt to life in arid environments. While typical tropical bromeliads have small to non-existent root systems and store water in tanks formed by their rosettes or in leaf scales, succulent bromeliads usually have vigorous roots and have lost the typical water storage facilities.

Most are armed with teeth along the leaves, sometimes to a vicious degree. Habitats range from Mexico and Central America (Hechtia and Puya) to South America, where the majority come from. Common succulent bromeliads in cultivation are Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Hechtia, Orthophytum and Puya.



Cryptanthus

CACTUS: GLOBULAR CACTI



Gymnocalycium

Globular cacti is very general category. Examples of genera are Gymnocalycium, Notocactus, Parodia, Thelocactus, Melocactus, Mammillaria, Echinopsis, Echinocactus, and the list goes on. While some of these plants may elongate as they age, they do not display the columnar growth characteristics of Cereus-type plants or the trailing style of a rat-tail cactus. If you have a cactus that is globular or somewhat globular in shape, it qualifies for this category. Bring it to the Mini Show and let the membership decide which is the best!

Upcoming Events

GARDEN TOUR: KEITH TAYLOR

October 27, 12-3pm. Keith Taylor will open his home garden in Escalon to members on October 27. You can count on seeing many caudiciform plants grown in various states, both natural and modified. You will see many of the specimens that have been winners in cactus and succulent shows when they are just “relaxing at home.” And then, of course, there will be Keith's private cache of the pots that he makes himself. Please contact Keith for the address.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

November 3-4. The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society will hold their annual show and sale at the LA County Arboretum, 310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA. Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm. For more information, please contact Manny Rivera at 626-780-6957.



News & Notes

Shepard Garden & Arts Center Re-Beautification Project

Mariel Dennis and Greg Lang will be moving quickly to get our project plan approved to install a new succulent garden on the north east perimeter of the SGAC. We need volunteers for a couple of hours on Saturday, November 3 from 11am - 2pm to help finish preparing the beds by removing any remaining weeds. Bring your tools and wear your wellies, because we are going to wet the area to make it easier to pull weeds. Later that week we will have a delivery of soil and boulders, so will need more help on Saturday, November 10 starting at 11am to get the planting mounds shaped and boulders placed. Anyone who has plants to donate can bring them that day. We are looking for plants that have some size and will not get lost in the space. Once we see what we have from donations, we will purchase more plants and schedule an additional planting day. We welcome all helpers, but mark the tools you bring. Hope to see you there. Lunch will be provided for volunteers on work days.

Membership Renewal and Contact Information Update

With membership renewal coming up, now is a great time to check the roster and confirm your contact information. We especially recommend you make sure your email address is correct, since we are relying on email more than ever to share upcoming events and club announcements between newsletters. Please take a few minutes to make sure your contact information is correct and your newsletter preferences are up to date when you renew your membership. (You can receive the newsletter in either electronic or printed format.) We are seeking to reduce our mailing costs. If you are able and willing to change to receiving the newsletter electronically, please let us know. You can update your contact information or newsletter preferences by contacting Carole Hada, our Membership Chair at akacejay@comcast.net or 916-803-0109.

2019 Elections

We will have elections for our Society coming up. At the October meeting, we will discuss the positions and duties and seek nominations. Then in November, we announce the candidates and hold elections. Winners are announced at the December holiday potluck and begin service in January. Please consider volunteering for a position or serving on the Board. If you do not want to hold office but can help out, then volunteer to be on a committee and help share the tasks. You will meet great people, and it is a lot of fun!

Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange

In December, our meeting date changes to Monday, December 17. Bring a dish to share as we look back at this past year and ahead to the next. Soft drinks will be provided. Come a little early if you can to help decorate the room for a holiday scene. Bring a gift for the gift exchange. It can be a gag gift or have a garden theme. Last year we had lots of fun deciding whether to choose a wrapped gift or steal one that had already been opened. No speaker, mini show, or plant sales in December. Please come for the fun!

Country Store Earnings

The Country Store grossed \$599.50. Thanks to all who volunteered their time, plants, or other goods and to all who bought tickets and joined in the fun!

