

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2019

Volume 60, VII

July Program

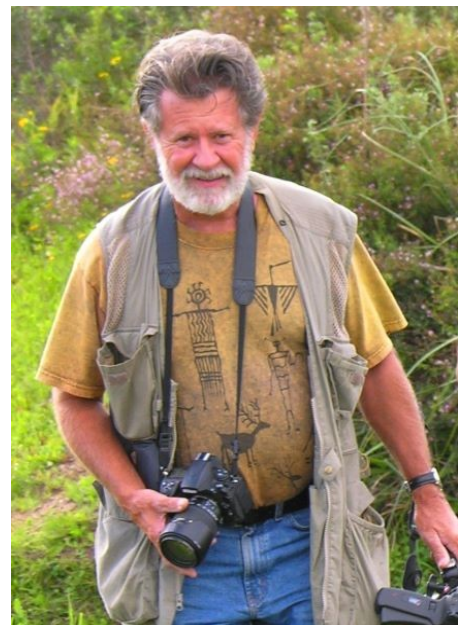
20 YEARS IN THE ATACAMA, LAND OF THE COPIAPOAS



Woody Minnich will be the speaker for the July meeting. His presentation is titled *20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapoas*. The Atacama Desert is the driest place on earth and is located in the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile. This area is mainly watered by amazing fogs, the “Camanchacas.” The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved—the Copiapoa. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old. The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs.

There are many different Copiapoa species ranging from small quarter-sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. He has visited Chile numerous times over the last 20+ years and has become familiar with most of the representatives of this genus growing in habitat. In this presentation, Woody will taxonomically introduce you to most of the Copiapoa species. Along with the Copiapoa, other genera including the Neochilenias, Neoporterias, Erioseyce, Eulychnias, Trichocereus, and other Chilean succulents will also be presented. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

Woody will also share details of an adventure from August 2018, in which he led a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Woody says, “Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom seen places of Chile. We travelled on very bad roads, the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver, and camped out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions. No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you’ll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region, the Atacama.”



July Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: GASTERIAS, HAWORTHIAS AND ASTROLOBAS



Gasterias are recognizable from their thick, hard, succulent "tongue-shaped" leaves. Their inflorescence is also unique, with their curved, stomach-shaped flowers, which hang from inclined racemes. With a few exceptions Gasterias are native to South Africa. It is difficult to say how many species of Gasteria there are because they easily interbreed with each other and with related genera Haworthia and Aloe.

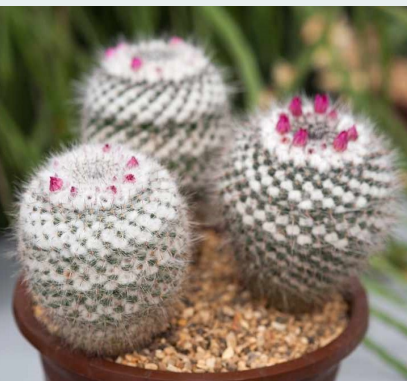
Haworthia is a large genus of small succulent plants endemic to Southern Africa (Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa). The genus is within the family Asphodelaceae, subfamily Asphodeloideae. Haworthias generally grow in small rosettes with hard or soft leaves. Flowers are grown in long racemes with insignificant blooms. Haworthias are related to Gasterias and Aloes and much cross-breeding occurs.



Astrolobas are native to the drier inland areas of South Africa. They are very closely related to the genus Haworthia but are distinguished by their flowers being regular and not double-tipped. The flowers are small and white, and appear clustered on slender racemes. They bear very regular, sharp, triangular, succulent leaves along their symmetrical columnar stems. They are slow growing and multi-stemmed, and their longer stems tend to sprawl in their rocky natural habitat.

CACTUS: MAMMILLARIA

Mammillaria is one of the largest genera in the cactus family (Cactaceae), with currently 200 known species and varieties recognized. Most of the Mammillarias are native to Mexico, but some come from the southwest United States, the Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras. The common name "pincushion cactus" is used to describe them. The distinctive feature of the genus is the possession of an areole split into two clearly separated parts, one occurring at the apex of the tubercle, the other at its base. The apex part is spine bearing, and the base part is always spineless, but usually bears some bristles or wool. The base part of the areole bears the flowers and fruits, and is a branching point. The apex part of the areole does not carry flowers, but in certain conditions can function as a branching point as well.



The plants are usually small, globose to elongated, the stems from 1 cm to 20 cm in diameter and from 1 cm to 40 cm tall, clearly tuberculate, solitary to clumping forming mounds of up to 100 heads and with radial symmetry. Tubercles can be conical, cylindrical, pyramidal or round. The roots are fibrous, fleshy or tuberous. The flowers are funnel-shaped and range from 7 mm to 40 mm and more in length and in diameter, from white and greenish to yellow, pink and red in color.



June Mini-Show Results

CACTUS– COLUMNAR CACTUS

1st (tie): George Krigas, *Thelocactus hastifer*

1st (tie): Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Pilocereus azureus*

2nd: Rudy Aguilar, *Trichocereus pachanoi*

3rd: Elizabeth Tiedemann, *Cleistocereus strausii*

SUCCULENT– ECHEVERIA

1st: Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Echeveria harmsii*

2nd: Shawnee Giles, *Sempervivum “Rubicon”*

3rd: Kris McAninch, *E. “Pink Frills”*

Panel Volunteers Needed for August Meeting

The August program will highlight club member’s knowledge, expertise, and love related to cactus and succulents. A panel presentation format will be used. Each participant will be asked to speak for 10-12 minutes on a focused topic of their choice. Your talk could be organized around a particular genus or species or theme (winter growers, miniatures, cactus flowers, etc.) or some other idea you propose. Here are the guidelines to help you prepare a brief talk to engage other club members and to make the panel presentations a cohesive whole:

- Photos or actual specimens related to your topic
- Brief description of your topic (plant group, theme)
- What draws you to your topic or theme
- Sacramento area culture information related to the plants included in your topic
- Resources for obtaining plant material or other items related to your topic

Inclusion in the program will be on a first-come basis. Please contact Theresa Roberts at robertst@csus.edu to volunteer. Theresa Roberts is available to help you prepare your presentation if you are interested but a little unsure how to go about it. We used a panel presentation last year and received very good feedback on it. It was a lot for fun for panel participants and the audience.

Prepare for the August Mini-Show!

The mini-show categories for the month of August are pretty simple. They are a MIXED SUCCULENT BOWL and a MIXED CACTUS BOWL. The container does not have to be a bowl. Any type of container will do. The only stipulation is that the planter must contain at least 3 different types of plants; all succulents or all cacti. DO NOT mix cacti and succulents together. This one should be fun. Let your creative juices run wild!

Upcoming Mini-Shows for 2019

Month	Succulent	Cactus
August	Mixed succulent bowl	Mixed cactus bowl
October	Asclepiads, Huernia, Stapelia, Caralluma and other types	Any globular cactus
November	Any variegated	Any variegated

Upcoming Events

June 30 - September 1. Annual Sculpture Show at Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Stay posted for a possible club field trip to this show.

News & Notes

CSS of America 2019 Biennial Convention

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America 2019 Biennial Convention is being held as you read this newsletter, July 17-20, in San Luis Obispo, California. I am attending as your club representative to the national society. I am taking our new promotional postcards and business cards (see accompanying article) to distribute. Hopefully I will bring back lots of new ideas, contacts and, mostly, plants! See previous newsletter for more information about the convention. —Marilynn Vilas



Lifetime Membership

There's still time to pay your membership dues for 2019. We have a new option this year: \$100.00 for a Lifetime Membership. If you've already paid for 2019 and would like to take advantage of the Lifetime Membership, please pay the difference of what you have already paid. Find the form on our web site www.sacramentocss.com under the Membership heading. Make your check to SCSS for Annual or Lifetime membership.

Shepard Garden and Arts Center CHAT Newsletter

The Shepard Garden and Arts CHAT newsletter is available online at <https://srvd.org/category/shepard/>. You can bookmark this link to access upcoming and back issues of the newsletter.

Country Store Reminder!

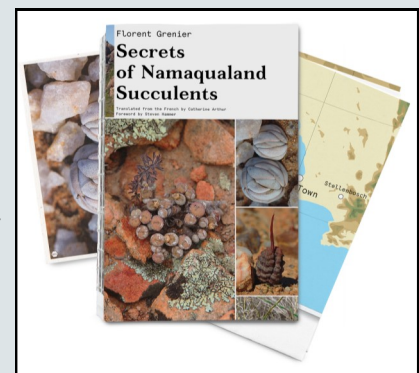
September's program (just two months away) is the much-anticipated Country Store. Start now to organize your donations of plants, produce, sweets, and Silent Auction goodies. This is a fundraiser for the club to support our activities so let's be generous. There will be more info at the August meeting and in next month's newsletter.

New Book: Secrets Of Namaqualand Succulents

With a flora dominated by succulents and geophytes, Namaqualand is one of our planet's richest botanical treasures. In this semi-arid region of western South Africa, an exceptionally diverse range of succulents have adapted to survive the extreme climatic conditions by ingeniously storing water in their tissues whilst geophytic plants spend the dry season buried underground. Namaqualand is home to many of the world's most popular succulents and geophytes, including *Conophytum*, *Aloe*, *Adromischus*, *Crassula*, *Pelargonium*, *Gethyllis*, *Bulbine*, *Massonia*, *Eriospermum* as well as many more astonishing and beloved genera.

Boasting more than 1,100 exclusive habitat photographs representing over 700 Namaqualand plant species, this highly accessible book is intended for a broad readership. It aims to reveal the secrets of this extraordinary flora by presenting up-to-date scientific knowledge through a series of engaging narratives, anecdotes and detailed observations. A fusion of refined photography, botanical field notes and environmental ecology, this book is a remarkable source of information and wonder for specialist collectors and natural history enthusiasts alike.

This book was written by Florent Grenier and translated by Catherine Arthur. It can be purchased online at <https://namaqualand-succulents.com> for 39€ Euros or roughly \$44.



SCSS Promotional Postcards & Business Cards Now Available

Promotional Postcards and Business Cards are now available!! Thanks to Jackie Kang Bousquin, our graphic artist member, the club now has promotional postcards and business cards for distribution. The promo-cards have our club's meeting info and the announcement of our 60th Show and Sale next May. They are blank on the back so they can be mailed easily. The business card has the meeting information only. Mariel Dennis is the contact person for these.



Business Card



Promo Card

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: July 22nd

Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816
center phone: (916) 808-8800 | www.sacramentocss.com

Shepard Garden & Art Center Annual Meeting (Agenda Excerpt)

When: Saturday, July 13, 2019

Several key topics include:

CLEANING FEE: The Shepard Garden and Art Center's Bylaws state that, "... the facility user will be responsible for cleaning tables and chairs, removing all decorations, cleaning the floor of trash and spills, sweeping the floors, and placing garbage in receptacles." A checklist will be completed for each venue, whether it is a meeting, workshop, show or sale at the Shepard. to ensure the Shepard is left clean and orderly. A \$50.00 cleaning fee will be issued if the facility is not left clean.

NEW EMPLOYEE: The Shepard has hired a new monitor, Ron Gibbons. He will be at the Shepard Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturdays. Chris Ponders will continue in his current monitor position. Sara Rothaus is substituting as the daytime monitor. If you have questions about your scheduled dates/times or set-up, please email ShepardGACinfo@att.net.

BOARD POSITIONS: Nominations for President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Budget Director, and two Director positions are being sought by the Nominating Committee. Please contact Director, Jan Goehring, at JGoehring5329@yahoo.com. The current Treasurer, Ed Schroeder, has announced he will not seek re-election when his term is completed in July 2020.

McKINLEY PARK: The Vault Project is June 2019 -June 2021. Fencing around the construction area will be in place, blocking off a section of 33rd Street between the tennis courts and the Shepard. The City construction workers will be using the Center's parking lot if nothing is scheduled. Construction hours will be between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For updates regarding this project, go to <http://www.Cityof-Sacramento.org/McKinleyWaterVault>.

FALL SALE: The Fall Sale is October 5 and 6, 2019. Kathy Norton will have applications for tables at the Annual Meeting, July 13, 2019.

CLUB SCHEDULES: At the annual meeting, Treasurer Ed Schroeder will have rental calendars for clubs to complete for the 2019-20 year. Clubs will list the dates of meeting, workshops, and shows. Payment for the year is due September 15, 2019.

Additionally, a calendar must be sent to ShepardGACinfo@att.net stating not only dates but times and set-up instructions. The length of time for meetings or workshops is billed in three-hour blocks. If the user enters the building prior to the designated time, or leaves after the designated time, an overtime charge of \$35.00 per hour, or any part of an hour, is levied. The monitors will open the doors at the time the facility is scheduled by the user.

FEE CHANGES AS OF JULY 1, 2019:

- The \$50 fee for sales tax permit validation will not be charged to clubs. It is the clubs' responsibility to display the Sales & Use Tax Permit during a sale.
- The Saturday club-rental rate will increase from \$200 to \$250 for a 7-hour day.
- An attendance credit of \$5 will be allocated to each club who has a participating representative at the monthly Board meeting (one person can only represent one club), calculated annually in June, and applied to the July annual invoice (\$50 is the maximum credit one club may earn during a fiscal year).

UPDATING CLUB CONTACTS: Club Representatives (or other officer) must complete a 2019-20 contact information form which will be available at the Annual Meeting. Clubs are asked to update this form at the annual meeting, and during the year if the contact information changes.