

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2019

Volume 62, IX

## November Program

### ERNESTO SANDOVAL 20 PLUS YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHING SUCCULENTS IN THE SONORAN DESERT

Ernesto is the Manager and Curator at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. Many of his travels to the Sonoran Desert have included UC Davis students. He is an excellent photographer. His information on travel tips may help inspire you to make a trip there yourself! It is one of the more accessible places to go see interesting succulents as they grow in their natural habitat. Ernesto's lovely presentation style is always enjoyed greatly by our club members. Hope to see you at the meeting!



## November Mini Show

### SUCCULENT: ANY VARIGATED SUCCULENT

Fairly easy this month. Any variegated succulent!



### CACTUS: ANY VARIGATED CACTUS

Just as simple as the succulents. Any variegated cactus!



## October Mini Show Winners

### SUCCULENTS: STAPELIADS

1st Place: Kienan Parr *Huernia* "Speckled Jim"

### CACTUS: GLOBULAR CACTI

1st Place: Dennis Ragasa *Mammillaria geminispina*

2nd Place: Karen Correll *Ferocactus latispinus*

3rd Place: Ryan McAninch *Notocactus scopa*

## Remaining Mini-Shows for 2019

### DECEMBER MINI-SHOW

There will be no Mini-Show in December.



## Upcoming Events

**Garden Work Day at Shepard Garden and Arts Center.** November 23rd. Please come for a few hours between 10am and 1pm, weather permitting. If you can help with some weeding and bring any new plants to donate. Lunch will be provided. Bring your own garden tools. NOTE: The major work to relocate the plants under the camellias was done in September. Mariel with the help of her handyman Steve and a garden center volunteer did the work at SGAC's volunteer day on 9/24.

**2020 Membership Dues.** Membership dues for the SCSS are \$15 per person or \$20 per family for one calendar year. Lifetime memberships are now available for a one-time payment of \$100. Dues are payable November 1st and are considered delinquent as of December 31st.

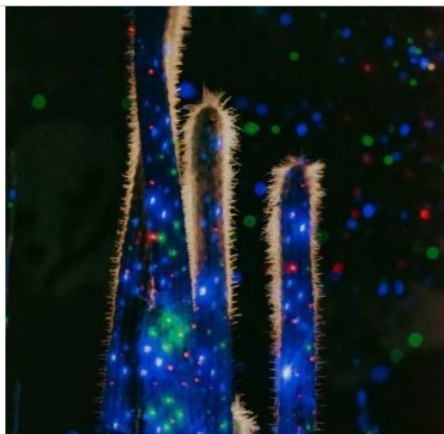
See Carole Hada for more information or you can download the membership forms on the website at [www.sacramentocss.com/membership](http://www.sacramentocss.com/membership)

### **San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale January 11-12, 2020**

If you are inclined to drive or fly, southern California is host to some large cactus and succulent shows with an abundance of amazing & large specimens. LA County Arboretum 310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA. Saturday and Sunday the 11th and 12th from 9am to 4pm. For more information contact Manny Rivera (626)780-6957.

### **Garden of d'Lights**

The Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek has a spectacular new holiday light show that will "glow your mind!" Using specially programmed laser, spot and LED lights, the Garden is coming alive at night! Guests of all ages will be surprised and delighted as they wander meandering paths and revel in the magical colorful sculptures created by all the illuminated cacti, succulents and trees. Garden of d'Lights is a must see this holiday season. Open Friday-Sunday evenings from November 30th-December 29th. Sessions are from 5:30pm-7pm and 7:30 pm-9pm. Tickets for Adults (16 & up) are \$25 and Children (4-15) are \$15. Children 3 and under are free. For more details and tickets please go to [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/lights2019](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/lights2019)



## Notes from the Shepard Garden & Arts Center

### **HEADS UP! PARKING ALERT!**

Sacramento is to end free, unrestricted parking around the perimeter of McKinley Park to three hours, seven days a week. If park goers stay longer, they can move their car to another street. If the council approves the change, it will take 2-3 weeks to install signage. Warnings will be issued for two weeks, then \$47.50 tickets. Restrictions will be on McKinley and Alhambra Blvds., G, H, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Sts., and Park Way, directly surrounding the park. (Excerpted from Sac Bee, Sat. Oct. 12, 2019, p. 3A.) Note: Article did not state hours during the day.

This will affect our May Show weekend.

## Elections for the 2020 Board and Committee Chairs:

Nominations for the 2020 Board and committee chairs were opened at the October meeting. Below are the nominations to date. Nominations remain open and will close at the November meeting followed by elections by voice vote. Any member may nominate themselves or another member provided that the member being nominated consents nomination. You may email additional nominations including any consent to be nominated to Mariel Dennis at [chair@saccss.com](mailto:chair@saccss.com) no later than Sunday before the meeting; nominations on Monday should be made at the meeting as Mariel will not be able to get the email in time.

### BOARD MEMBERS:

**President:** Mariel Dennis

**Vice President/Programs:** Theresa Roberts

**Secretary:** Gerhard Bock

**Treasure:** Greg Lang

**Web Master:** Gerhard Bock

**Past President:** Steve Goodman

### 3 Elected Directors:

-Kris McAninch

-Sherie Peterson

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

**Membership:** Carole Hada

**Newsletter Editor:** Kris McAninch

**Mini-Show:** Steve Goodman

**Refreshments:** Michelle Schwanberg

**Librarian:** George Krigas

**Drawing Ticket Sales:** Cindy Murrell  
Sherie Peterson

**Sunshine Committee:** Marilynn Vilas (TBD)

**National Club Affiliate:** Marilynn Vilas (TBD)

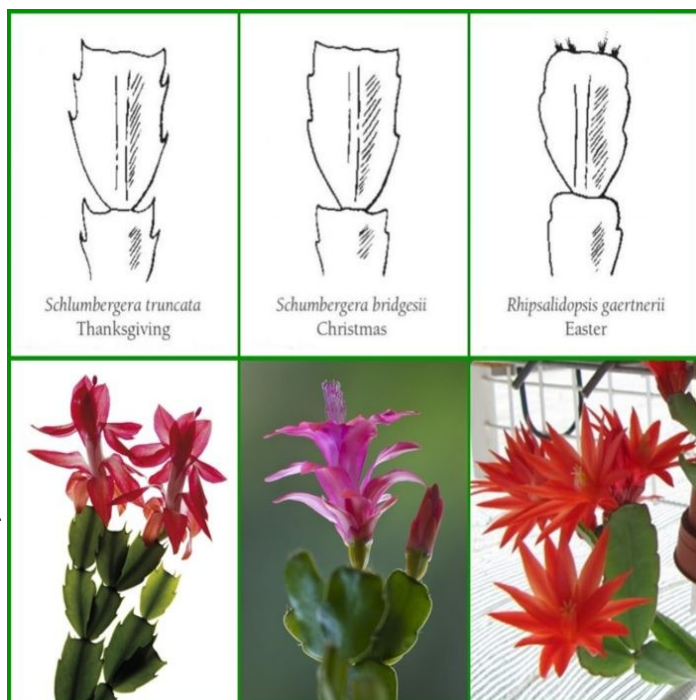
\*\*We are still in need of at least 1 more person interested in being on the Board as a Director. If you have any interest in holding any Board positions or Committee positions please contact Mariel as soon as possible or mention it at the beginning of the November meeting.\*\*



## Identifying your Holiday Cactus

Around the holidays, we often see blooming plants that are members of the cactus family. There are 3 species of cacti known as Holiday Cacti. The main difference between the Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter Cactus is their time of bloom. As their common names suggest, a Thanksgiving Cactus can bloom in late fall, one month before the Christmas Cactus. The Easter Cactus starts producing flower buds in February. There is a difference found in the shape of their leaves too. The Thanksgiving Cactus has very pointed and claw shaped projections on the edges of the leaf. The Christmas Cactus has leaf projections that are more scalloped or tear drop shaped. The Easter Cactus has very rounded edges which are centralized on the leaf.

Excerpt taken from "Is It a Thanksgiving, Christmas or Easter Cactus?" *World of Succulents*, 1 Dec. 2018, <https://worldofsucculents.com/thanksgiving-christmas-easter-cactus/>.



## December Meeting Event!

Our December Annual Holiday Potluck and white elephant gift exchange will take place on **Monday, December 16th** instead of the usual 4th Monday which falls on Christmas week. Please bring a dish to share. Doors open at 6:30 to decorate and set up, dinner starts at 7. Tableware is provided. The gift exchange is always a lot of fun!



**November New Members:**  
**Guinevere Cameron**



## Grilled Cactus Paddles (Nopales)

Nopales are the paddles of opuntia (prickly pear) cactus, commonly found in Mexico. They are a common vegetable in Mexico, and taste a little like green beans. They are a great addition to grilled meat dishes or tasty on their own.

Cook time: 10 minutes      Serves 3-4

-6-8 nopales      -1 tablespoon olive oil

-1/4 teaspoon salt      -pepper to taste

- 1) Using a sharp knife, hold the nopales by its stem and scrape off its spines. Then hold it on the other side and scrape down its stem until you get to the soft part. Rinse and pat dry.
- 2) Brush oil onto the nopales, and sprinkle on the salt and pepper, Grill on direct, medium heat and flip once it is slightly charred, about 2 minutes. Grill for another two minutes—you'll know they are ready when they are soft and dark green. Slice and serve.



## Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: November 25th

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

