

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2020

Volume 63, I

Next Meeting: Monday, January 27th

January Program

SUCCULENT POACHING: DUDLEYA CONSERVATION AND CULTIVATION

We are excited to announce that Stephen McCabe, emeritus Director of Research, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, will be the speaker for the January meeting. The topic for his talk is **Succulent Poaching: Dudleya Conservation and Cultivation**. Please join us for what will be an interesting cactus and succulent CSI.

Up until a few years ago, *Dudleya*, also known as liveforevers, was a fairly obscure group of plants. However, after a craze in Asia for Echeveria 'Ebony' wore



off, suddenly *Dudleya* became the hot ticket. The speaker for this month's talk will talk about massive *Dudleya* poaching along the California coast, law enforcement successes, and conservation efforts that have hopefully started to help the plants recover. He will also offer tips on how to grow the succulents.



Stephen McCabe worked in Yosemite for a couple of seasons, started studying *Dudleya* in grad school, and then worked at the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum for 30 years. His hobby of rock climbing has come in handy in accessing some of the species in the group he studies. He has published widely on a variety of subjects. Some of the publications were in Madroño, the Cactus and Succulent Journal, Fine Gardening, the Jepson Manual second edition, Systematic Botany, the American Alpine Journal, and in Rock Garden Quarterly.

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES

THE 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR THE SCSS ARE DUE NOW!

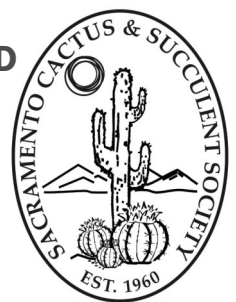
The Membership dues are \$15 per person or \$20 per family for one calendar year. Lifetime memberships are also available for a one-time payment of \$100. Please see Carole Hada for more information at the next meeting or you can download the membership forms on the website at www.sacramentocss.com/membership or mail them to:

Carole Hada
4239 Arnold Way
Mather, CA 95655

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

We are in seek of one or two club members to join the SCSS Constitution Committee. These members would work with several Board Members to review the clubs rules and constitution and propose any changes that may be needed. This position will be discussed and decided upon at the January meeting.

Please reach out to Mariel for more information at president@sacramentocss.com.



January Mini Show

CACTUS: MAMMILLARIA

Mammillaria is one of the largest genera in the cactus family, 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" refers to this.



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. 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.



SUCCULENT: CAUDICIFORM (BEAUCARNIA, CALIBANUS, DIOSCOREA, FOCKEA)

Caudiciform plants, also known as 'Fat Plants', are a grouping of many totally unrelated plants all having a fat, short, swollen stem-trunk. Caudiciform plants are found in many families, including the passion vine family, the grape family, the euphorbia family, the dogbane family and the baobab family. In nature, these fat-stemmed plants can attain enormous size.



Most of these plants grow during the hot summer months and are dormant during the winter, so they adapt well to moving indoors during the winter. Most caudiciform plants are propagated by cuttings, adapt well to pot culture and are easy to grow. To keep the size of the plant somewhat in check and lessen the possibility of overwatering, keep the pot size of caudiciform plants relatively small for the size of the plant.



Mini Show Categories for 2020

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Mammillaria	Caudiciform (Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea)
February	Eriogyne, Neoporteria, Neochilenia	Crassula
March	Lobivia, Echinopsis	Dudleya, Cotyledon, Tylecodon
April	Columnar cactus such as any Cereus, Cleistocactus, etc.	Senecio
June	Gymnocalycium	Kalanchoe
July	Echinocereus	Agave, Manfreda, Mangava
August	Astrophytum, Ariocarpus, Obregonia	Euphorbia
October	Any Opuntia type	Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Pachyveria, Pachyphytum, Graptosedum, Sedeveria, etc.
November	Parodia, Notocactus	Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, Pseudolithos

*****THERE WILL BE NO MINI SHOWS IN MAY, SEPTEMBER OR DECEMBER*****

President's Corner

While the new decade officially starts in 2021, 2020 is the start of another “Roaring 20’s” and the new Board have a wonderful year planned. While many gardeners are taking time this winter to enjoy reviewing their mail for new plant catalogues and emails showing wonderful new plants, I want to thank all the officers, committee chairpersons and volunteers who helped last year. A special thank you goes to Dennis and Ellen Ragasa who provided our door prize plants for many years and have stepped down. Thanks also to Chere’ Peterson and Cassidy Roberts-Yee who volunteered to step in to provide the door prize plants for this new year.

At our December Potluck and Gift Exchange, we discussed lessons learned from last year (what worked well and what could be improved) and we identified topics of interest for meetings and field trips this year that we will try to plan. If you have a topic/trip you’d like to see happen, please contact Theresa Roberts at robertst@csus.edu and offer to help with the planning details or to let her know of topics that are of particular interest to you.

Some of the meeting topics suggestions were:

- Grower tips to propagate plants for sale;
- Succulent care, pruning and pest control;
- Grafting plants;
- Tillandsias, bromeliads and bulbs;
- Travelogues to learn about succulents in habitat; and
- Craft topics: Making and glazing pots with Keith Taylor; making succulent wreaths; making kokedamas; painting clay pots; making a broken pot planter.

Field trips:

- Ripon area: Poots’ House of Cactus, Keith Taylor’s, Elton Roberts;
- Bay Area (choose 2 or 3 per day trip): Ruth Bancroft Garden, Dry Garden, Annie’s Perennials, UC Berkeley, Cactus Jungle, Tilden Park;
- UC Davis Arboretum and plant sales plus tour of succulent conservatory;
- Hwy 95 Succulents and Half-Moon Bay nurseries;
- Continue member home garden tours.

We look forward to growing the Society this year and trying to engage more members, including young people. All suggestions are welcome!

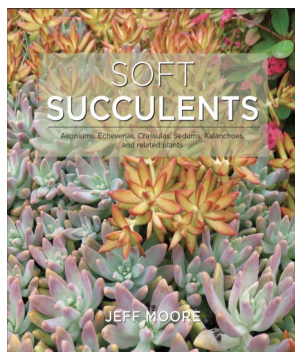
Happy Gardening,
Mariel

LIBRARY ACQUIRES NEW BOOKS

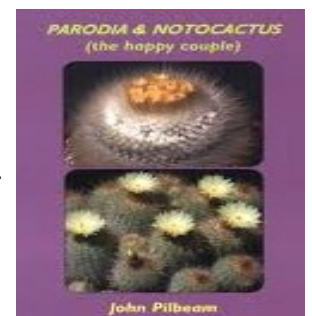
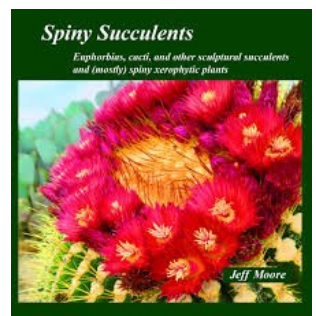
Thanks to the generosity of our club's Board of Directors, the library has acquired three new books to become part of our permanent collection:

Spiny Succulents by Jeff Moore. Euphorbias, cacti and their mostly succulent allies are some of the most architecturally appealing creatures in the plant kingdom. Nurseryman and author Jeff Moore takes you on a visually inspiring and informative tour of these dry-climate plants in cultivation with tips on care and propagation.

Soft Succulents by Jeff Moore. Soft Succulents is a 300-page, 1000+ image look at all of the soft succulents that are so popular now– Aeoniums, Echeverias, Dudleyas, Crassulas, Sedums, Kalanchoes and more. This book is about plants in cultivation rather than habitat with cultural tips and insights from a nursery owner with over 25 years of experience.



Parodia/Norocactus– The Happy Couple by John Pilbeam. Although Parodia and Notocactus are brought together in this book, author John Pilbeam has separated the two of them for a better understanding of the differing aspects of each which prompted their separate consideration for so many years.



These books will be available for your review and checkout at our January meeting.



Welcome New Members!

**BARBARA ALEXANDER
JAIME DEMPSEY**

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: January 27th

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

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, 33rd and 35th 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.