

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

January, 2022

| Volume 64, Issue I

## Announcements

### January Zoom Meeting:

Monday, Jan. 24th, 7pm.

To join the Zoom meeting, go [to this link](#). If you're asked for a meeting ID or passcode, please enter:

**Meeting ID:** 831 1708 8204

**Passcode:** 337113

### 2022 Membership Dues are Due!

The club roster is now being updated to include only paid members going forward.

**Call to Volunteers!** Like any club, the SCSS relies on volunteers to make things work. **We need you** to help the SCSS come out of the pandemic stronger than ever. If you're able to give some of your time, please contact [Carol](#), our membership chair, or [Mariel](#), our president.

Please reserve some time to help out during our big sale in May (May 6-8). Members volunteering for the sale get to shop first!

**Meetings for 2022:** We will get back to in-person meetings at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center as soon as possible. Check our website and FaceBook page for updates.

## January Zoom Program

### Ernesto Sandoval

**Ernesto Sandoval**, Manager, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, College of Bio Sci Greenhouses, will be speaking on **Feeding Succulents: How Fertilizer, Water pH and Soil Can and Should Be Adjusted!**



Perhaps you've heard that pH is important for plants? Ernesto will summarize why you want your plants to receive slightly acidic water and various ways you can adjust it for your succulents. How is this similar and different than fertilizing "regular" plants? Ernesto will discuss all of this plus the importance of "soils"/container media and the details of how you can maximize the root potential for your plants!

**About Ernesto:** He has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way that they do for nearly 40 years. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and from amateur to professional gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When Ernesto was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director/Manager over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

Ernesto has immersed himself in the world of horticultural biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents! Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in a more understandable method of communication!

## SCSS Officers for 2022

President

*Mariel Dennis*

Vice-President/Program Chair

*Theresa Roberts*

Secretary

*Gerhard Bock*

Treasurer

*Greg Lang*

Board of Directors

*Penny Newell, Carole Hada, Keith*

*Taylor, Steve Goodman, Ex Officio*

CSSA Affiliate

*Marilynn Vilas*

Guest Book/Door Prize

*Cassidy Roberts-Yee &*

*Chere Peterson*

Librarian

*George Krigas*

Membership/Roster

*Carole Hada*

Mini Show

*Shawnee Giles*

Newsletter

*Shawnee Giles*

Drawing Tickets

*Cindy Morales*

Refreshments

*Michele Swanberg & Elaine*

*Thomas*

Annual Country Store

*Holly Maxwell*

Sunshine

*Cherry Dulaney*

Webmaster

*Gerhard Bock*

Annual Show & Plant Sale

*Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor*

*Co-chairs*

## Mini-Show for the Next In-Person Meeting (TBA)

A **bulb** is an underground, modified stem that develops in some flowering plants. Its purpose is to store food and water for the plant through a cold or dry season. Many popular flowers like Tulips, Narcissus, Amaryllis, etc. fall under the category of bulbs. Although all bulbs are essentially the same morphologically some of the more common ones that are entered into succulent shows are *Boophane*, *Scilla*, *Ledbouria*, *Drimia*, *Drimiopsis*, *Haemanthus* and some others. You would've however been perfectly within your rights to enter a Daffodil or Amaryllis or Tulip and had it given the same consideration as a succulent.



**Ariocarpus** is a small genus of succulent, subtropical plants of the family *Cactaceae*. *Ariocarpus* are endemic to southern Texas and the northern and the central parts of Mexico. There are seven species within the genus: *A. agavoides*, *A. bravoanus*, *A. fissuratus*, *A. kotschoubeyanus*, *A. retusus*, *A. scaphirostris* and



*A. trigonis*. *Ariocarpus* are endangered and quite rare in the wild. *Ariocarpus* species are very slow-growing. Plants have thick tuberous tap-roots, and are solitary or form small clusters of stems. The stems have tubercles (as is normal in cacti), but unusually these are triangular and in some species may resemble leaves. The areoles, when present, vary in appearance from grooves on the upper surface to round pads near the tips. Spines are only present in seedlings (except occasionally in *Ariocarpus agavoides*). The funnel-shaped flowers are borne on a woolly structure at the apex. They vary in color, from white or yellow to pink, purple or magenta. The seeds are black and pear-shaped. The plants contains bitter and toxic alkaloids such as hordenine. These protect the plant against consumption by herbivores.

## New Members for January 2022

[Redacted member names]

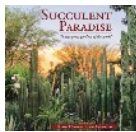


## January Birthdays

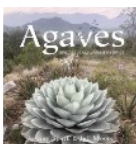
[Redacted birthday names]

## New Library Books

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



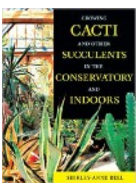
**Succulent Paradise** by Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiredo. In *this book* the reader is taken on a verbal and visual tour of exceptional succulent gardens. This book features 12 of the world's top succulent gardens on three continents. Stunning photography captures the spirit of each garden. Accurate species identification makes this more than just another gardening book.



**Agaves, Species, Cultivars and Hybrids** by Jeremy Spath and Jeff Moore. A richly illustrated and informative deep dive into the world of agaves, this book is targeted for agave enthusiasts and plant lovers in general. Stunning photos capture the beauty and fierceness of these sculptural succulents. The book has comprehensive cultivation info and plant IDs.



**The Genus Fouquieria** by Robert Scott. This is the first book dealing specifically with this unique group of desert succulents which includes the boojum tree and the ocotillo. Each of the eleven known species is described, including numerous full-color habitat photos, close-ups of flowers and other details. The text is concise and useful for plant collectors or anyone interested in the desert flora of the Americas. Our copy is autographed by the author.



**Growing Cacti and Other Succulents in the Conservatory and Indoors** by Shirley-Ann Bell. In this new book the author reveals the immense possibilities in the centrally-heated home of today for displaying cacti and other succulents without the once obligatory greenhouse. A directory introduces 165 featured plants, divided into three sections by hardiness.



**Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation** by Jeff Moore. *Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation* is a comprehensive look at aloes and agaves as ornamental plants for Mediterranean landscapes. Over 1000 beautiful images of these sculptural plants are provided. This book is about how we work with these plants outside of their native habitat, with suggestions from Jeff Moore, a nursery owner with over 30 years of experience.