

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July, 2022 | Volume 64, Issue VII

Announcements

July Meeting:

This month's meeting will be on July 25th at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

As our meetings continue through the summer and into fall, we need suggestions for speakers going forward. Please contact Mariel Dennis or Theresa Roberts if you have anyone in mind.

Magnetic SCSS name

badges are available for \$11.50, prepaid. Contact Carole Hada at the meeting or send a check payable to:

Carole Hada
4239 Arnold Way
Mather, CA 95655

Open Garden

On Saturday August 27 from 10am-1pm, Mariel Dennis will host an Open Garden at her home. The address is 11842 Sandy Knoll Ct., Rancho Cordova CA 95742

July Program

J.D. Wikert Talks Watering

Our speaker for this month's meeting will be J.D. Wikert. J.D. is a fisheries biologist working on restoration of river habitats for salmon and steelhead in California's Central Valley.

He has been propagating succulents seriously for about two decades. His presentation is titled: *How often should I water my succulent plant?* This is a very common question asked by new hobbyists, with a surprisingly complicated answer. J.D. will discuss most or all of the things you should consider when watering your succulents.



You might have seen J.D. speak in previous meetings about *Aloe*, *Adromischus*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia*, *Sedum*, *Senecio*, and *Stapeliads* and this talk will follow a similar format.

J.D. will bring some succulent plants for sale, so be sure to bring a little cash and a box to carry them.

Member's Corner: Elaine Thomas



Hi, I am Elaine Thomas, and I am addicted to succulents and cactus, the more unusual the better. This all started about a decade ago when I visited my brother who had re-landscaped his Santa Barbara yard to be more drought tolerant. I was so impressed and inspired with the variety of plant colors, shapes, and textures, I came home with several cuttings and pups from his many *Aloes*, *Agaves*, *Sedums*, *Aeoniums*, *Harworthia* and *Echeverias* and slowly started to transform parts of our outdoor space.



Initially, I put them in pots because I could easily relocate a plant if it needed a different environment. With my growing plant collection, I needed more pots, so I decided to return to a previous hobby of ceramics and started making planters and pots.



Epiphyllum oxypetalum
Queen of the Night

My first succulent was given to me many years ago, but I had no idea what kind of plant it was. I was intrigued by the leaves that grow from the previous one without a main stem, which turned out to be an *Epiphyllum*. I placed it on my front porch that only had a couple of hours of direct morning sun. It grew larger but not fuller. After moving it to a sunnier location, it really took off. Last year I noticed a bud that looked as if he would bloom soon. A couple of days later the bud was very droopy and I couldn't understand how I had

missed seeing it bloom. I then discovered it was a Queen of the Night, *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*. This year I vowed I would not miss witnessing this plant bloom. After discovering a very healthy-looking bud, I stalked the plant nightly until I was finally rewarded with view of a beautiful white flower. I think it was worth the effort!

Several years ago, Michele Swanburg asked me if I wanted to attend a club meeting specializing in succulents and cactus that she had recently joined. I agreed to attend and of course at that first meeting I returned home with numerous fun plants that I had never seen before. I have learned so much by attending the meetings and talking with new and old friends who are passionate about their plants and gardening. Every year I look forward to the annual SCSS show and sale where I purchase most of my new plants. It is exciting to discover what unique and unusual specimens I can find which are usually not available at the local nurseries.

My most rare and expensive plant came from a garden/nursery in Santa Barbara called "Aloes in Wonderland". The owner, Jeff Chemnick, obviously has a lot of Aloes, which are mostly mature

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Annual Country Store

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Annual Show & Plant Sale

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2022 Mini-Show Categories

Month	Cactus	Succulent
July	Gymnocalycium	Haworthia
August	Crests/Monstrose/ Variegates	Crests/Monstrose/ Variegates
September	Auction.....	
October	Ariocarpus	Stapeliads
November	Show us your favorite cactus	Show us your favorite succulent
December	Holiday Party.....	Awards presented to highest scores



Garden Pavilion

at the Tri-County Home & Garden Show
August 19, 20 & 21, 2022
 The New Roebbelen Center!

New in our Garden Pavilion!
 Master Gardeners of Placer County
 CA Master Beekeeper Program
 American Bonsai Assoc. of Sacramento
 American Fuschia Society of Sacramento

Garden Seminar Series featuring:
 - Master Gardeners of Placer County
 - CA Master Beekeeper Program
 - Marlene Simon, UC Horticulturist,
 "The Plant Lady" on Good Day Sacramento
 - Pollinator Posse

Don't miss out! Benefits of participating...

Complimentary Booth Space!

You receive a complimentary 10x10 space indoors with a 500 watt electrical outlet with pipe and drape, tables and chairs. 10x20's and 10x30's are also available!

Plant and flower sales!

Sell your plants, and/or display them for show. Attendees like to buy from the experts!

Educate and Recruit NEW members!

With an estimated 10,000 homeowners in attendance, the Garden Pavilion is a great way to recruit new members and to share your passion, educate and sign up new members!

Let us host your flower show!

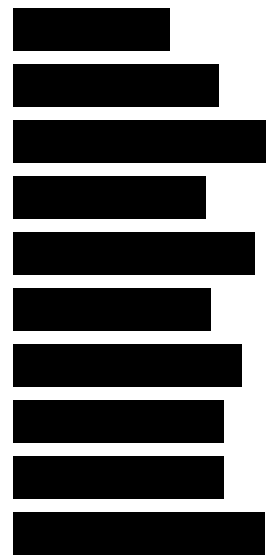
With 25 years of experience we know what it takes to have a successful flower show. We will provide all the needed space, draped tables, and space for judging. We'll also promote your show through Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Seminar Series!

Your society is also invited to participate in our gardening seminar series. We provide the stage, PA system, and projector and screen. Just let us know the title and description of your seminar, speaker's name and speaker's photo for publicity.



Call Us TODAY! 800-897-7899 | tri-countyhomegardenshow.com



Member's Corner (continued from p. 2)



Encephalartos Cleopatra

plants scattered throughout his hillside property. However, for the right price he will dig one up and find a way to get it to you. He also grows Cycads, and his favorite is the *Encephalartos Cleopatra*. I discovered these ancient species are called "dinosaur plants" because they appeared on earth about 300 million years ago during the Jurassic period. Their numbers are declining, and some species are extinct or close to it. My



Fairy Garden

plant only had three stems on it when I purchased it three years ago, I am pleased this slow growing plant is doing well with our Sacramento heat and low humidity.

Since I am drawn to unusual looking cactus plants, one of my favorite varieties is the *Orbea variegata*. The star shaped flower reminds me of a button and the shapes and colors of the stems look almost prehistoric.



Orbea variegata

A couple of years ago, I decided to branch out by creating mini gardens. The first one resembled a tree trunk for the stand and a container that I used to design a Fairy Garden using miniature items my granddaughter gave me. I have always liked miniature houses and dioramas. It has been rewarding to be able to combine three of my hobbies together to create one-of-a-kind little gardens.

Show Calendar

This list of California shows is provided by the national and local clubs and is subject to change. Before planning a trip, please verify details.

July 22-23

Orange County Cactus & Succulent Society Summer Sale
Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 S State College Blvd, Anaheim

August 5-7

36th Annual Inter-City Show & Sale
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N Baldwin Ave, Arcadia
Info: (626) 821-3222

August 19-21

Tri-County Home & Garden Show
Roebbelen Center
700 Event Center Dr, Roseville

September 3

Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium
The Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino

September 4

Long Beach Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Plant Auction
Info: (310) 845-6306

September 16-18

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale
124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville

President's Corner

Summer Continued!

As summer continues here are some reminders to attend and support events in the area:

- **Saturday, August 6th** from 8:00 AM–2:00 PM, SCSS will have an educational table at the **Sacramento County Harvest Day** at the Fair Oaks Horticulture Center in Fair Oaks, CA. The event includes speakers, demonstrations, educational tables, vendors, garden tours and food trucks. It is a well-attended free event open to the public. Attendance ranges from 1,500 to 2,000. See www.ucanr.edu/sacmg and click on Harvest Day in the orange menu bar. For the past two years this has been a virtual event due to the pandemic. This year it is back in-person and we need members to come to talk to attendees about their love of succulents and answer questions. We can have some exhibition plants too. Our member plant vendors are also invited to participate and have a booth to sell plants. If you are willing to do a seminar, let me know.
- **Friday-Sunday, August 19-21st** SCSS will have a booth at the new 2022 **Tri-County Home & Garden Show** at the new Roebbelen Center in Roseville. The event planners will provide a 10x10 booth with table for our membership information. They expect 10,000 visitors. We can bring exhibition plants, sell plants and garden items (in partnership with our member-vendors) and offer some seminars. We need confirmation from our vendors who want to join with us in selling plants from our shared space. The show planners have offered to host our annual “show” at the event if we want to do it, but we need volunteers to help organize it and we need commitments to bring plants to exhibit for judging. We need folks to help out and staff the table or if you are willing to give a talk, please let me know ASAP.
- **Monday, August 22nd meeting**—save the date. If you have suggestions for a speaker, please see if they are available for our usual “fourth Monday evening” meeting and let me or Theresa know.
- **Monday, September 26th meeting**—we haven’t decided yet if we will bring back our “country store” event or not, so if you have a preference, please let me know.

Maribel Dennis

President

president@sacramentocss.com