

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March, 2024 Volume 78, Issue V

Announcements

March Meeting:

March 25th, 2024
6:15pm -9:15pm
Shepard Garden
& Art Center

Doors open at 6:15 for
plant sales and
fellowship. Program
begins at 7 PM.

Open to the public.
No admission fee.
Free parking.
Refreshments served.

March Program

**ERNESTO SANDOVAL :
PROPAGATION OF SUCCULENTS FROM SEED:
TRICKS AND TECHNIQUES**

Ernesto, when he was still at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, experimented with various techniques for propagating succulents from seed.

He wants to share these techniques, tips, and tricks for better seed germination. If you haven't tried growing from seed or if you are looking for ways to increase your success rate perhaps, Ernesto thinks you'll appreciate this visual tour of seed propagation of plants such Welwitschia, Aloes, Cacti, Dorstenia, Othonna, Mesembs and more.



March Program

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions and answers to why plants grow and look the way 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 and passions of others as well as his own. Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, particularly gardeners, understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he 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 over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.



Prez Corner

Despite the recent wind and rain my aloes are looking fabulous in full bloom along with other spring flowers in my garden.

If you didn't get a chance to check out the Perennial Plant Club's spring market last weekend at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, don't miss this weekend's Spring Sale on Saturday and Sunday. SCSS will be there with a couple of our members selling rare cactus and succulent plants and handmade ceramic pottery. Other clubs that meet at SGAC will be there along with some great sellers. Please stop by!

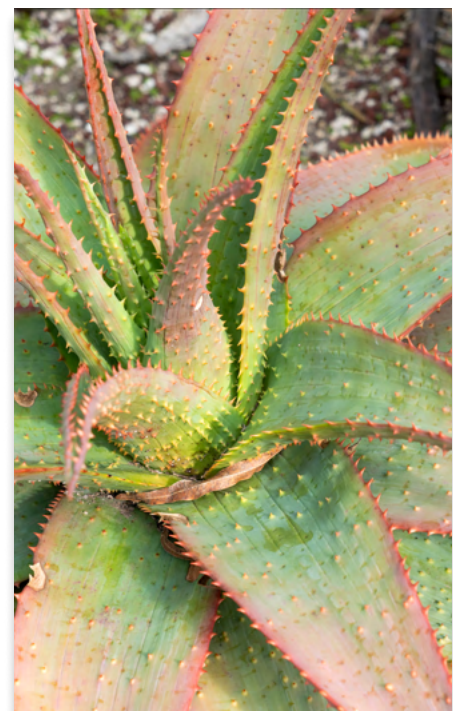
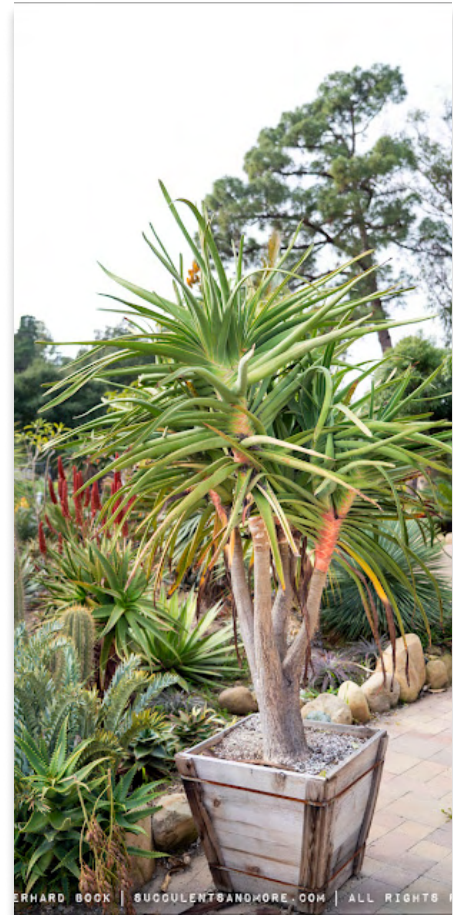
We're starting plans for several field trips so stay tuned for announcements. On April 20th, we'll meet up at Poots House of Cactus in Ripon. Be there by 8:30 AM for a private tour of the greenhouses followed by shopping with our club discount if you want to purchase plants, pots or soil. We may also visit Elton Roberts' garden for sales (TBD) followed by lunch in the area.

Our March meeting will cover information to participate in our upcoming annual Show and Sale to be held May 3-5th at SGAC. We'll also have a demonstration of plant staging that is useful any time, as well as for those who will share their plants with our guests at the Show. Also, copies of the Show program will be available. Please attend and get involved in our biggest event of the year!

Stay tuned for more event details.

Happy Gardening!

Maribel Dennis



Board and Committee Chairs

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Maribel Dennis

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Theresa Roberts

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Membership/Roster:

Carole Hada

Mini Show:

Linda Partmann

Newsletter:

Eve Milan

Drawing Tickets:

Cindy Morales

Refreshments:

Michele Swanberg & Elaine

Thomas

Annual Country Store:

Bill McCabe

Sunshine Corner:

Cherry DuLaney

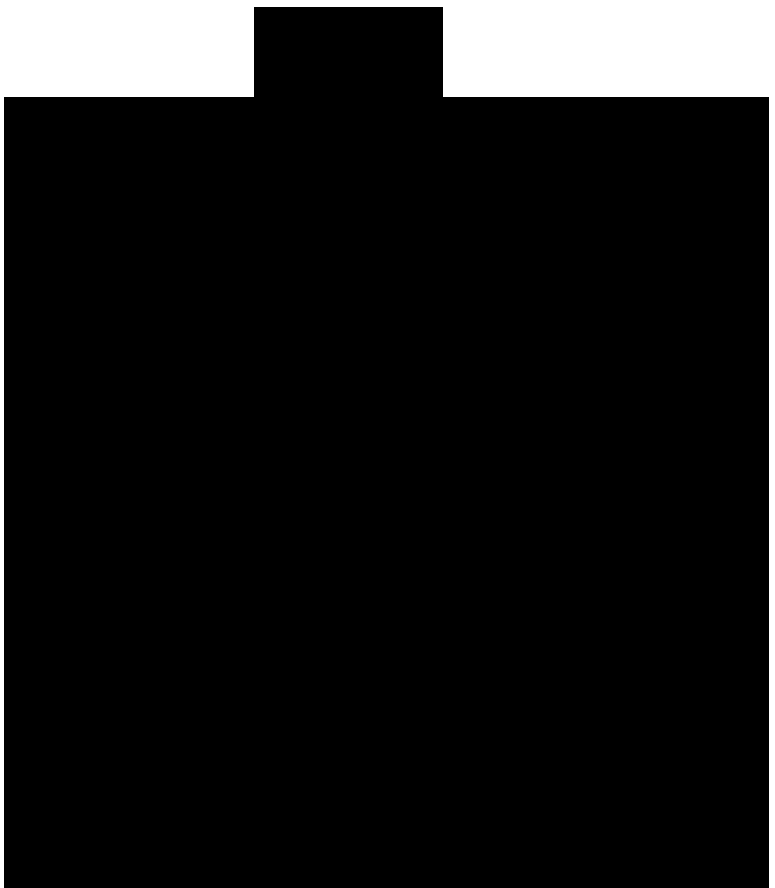
Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

Maribel Dennis/Keith Taylor

Co-chairs



Sunshine Corner



I'm happy to report no new Sunshine cards were needed this past month. But if you know of someone who could use a cheery note, please send me an email message at cdaf182@gmail.com, using "Sunshine" in the Subject line.

Wishing everyone a happy coming spring,
Cherry DuLaney

2024 Mini Show Schedule

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Spiral Cactus	Aeonium
February	Opuntia	Crassula
March	Mammillaria	Gasteria
April	Parodia	Euphorbia
May	Gymnocalycium	Agave
June	Astrophytum	Lithops
July	Rebutia	Echeveria
August	Ariocarpus	Kalanchoe
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Stapelia	Sansevieria
November	Schlumbergera	Sedum
December	Holiday Party – No Mini Show	



Mammillaria tayloriorum



Mammillaria parkinsonii



Gasteria excelsa



Mammillaria gracilis



Gasteria pillansii



Gasteria polita

March Mini Show

For March the selected cactus variety is Mammillaria and succulent, Gasteria! I know you have them, let's bring them in. We had a very nice turnout at the February meeting of mini-show participants! Would love to see more dish gardens!! Remember if you are participating to try and have your plant on the table by 6:30 pm at the latest. Voting closes at 7 pm sharp, before the speaker is introduced.

Mammillaria is one of the largest genera in the cactus family, with currently 200 known species and varieties recognized. Most of the mammillaria are native to Mexico, but some come from the southwest United States, the Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala and Honduras. With nearly 200 recognized species, the genus Mammillaria is one of the largest of the cactus family. For the most part, these species are globose or ball-shaped plants which grow either solitary or in clumps. Some clumps may reach over 3 feet (1m) with many stems. Few species grow much over around 6-8 inches in height by 4-6 inches in diameter. All have nipple-like tubercles with dimorphic areoles on the ends. Spines may be stiff and stout, few or many, bristle-like, hair-like, pectinate (comb-like), and come in a wide range of colors. In the axils, that is between the tubercles, there may be wool or bristles or both or neither. Flowers come from second-year growth in these axils and often form a ring around the stem. In many species the flowers are small and pink at less than half-an-inch in diameter. Some are small and yellow or white, while a few species have showy flowers which stand on long floral tubes above the plant. In many cases, the petals will feature a darker midstripe. The fruits are typically red, tube-like structures resembling little candies and are edible. To describe so many different species in such general terms does not do justice to this genus.

Gasteria is a genus of succulent plants that are native to South Africa and Namibia. The word "gasteria" comes from Greek and means "stomach." Gasteria is a genus of relatively rare, aloe-like succulents. They are known for their beautiful very striking tongue-like leaves that can vary in size from small and compact leaves to long and tongue like. This adorable plant is great for beginners and does well indoors. Gasteria thrives both as an indoor plant and in the outdoor garden if these main care requirements are met.

1. Choose a spot that gets plenty of light but not direct sunlight.

- 2. Bring indoor potted gasteria outdoors and place in light shade for the summer.
- 3. Provide shelter from rainfall as these plants don't react well to direct water on leaves.
- 4 Plant in conditions that drain well as good drainage is key to this plant's health.

Linda Partmann

SEEKING VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

**OUR GIANT MAY SALE IS COMING SOON!
SAVE THE DATES---MAY 3,4,5**

Our annual giant cactus and succulent sale and show is now less than two months away. We are planning on building on the success of former shows. However, our success depends on you, our members, coming out in droves to help with many tasks. But first, THE PERKS!

#1 FIRST CHOICE... You can start buying cacti and succulents BEFORE the public can! On Friday May 3, the members only sale is at 12 PM-1 PM. The public sale is 1PM-5PM.

#2 We feed you. Volunteers will be fed lunch on all days that they volunteer!

These things alone should bring you running. But wait...

#3 Get the satisfaction of knowing that you participated in helping continue all the great things our club does. Such as speakers, field trips, plant exchanges and drawings, the demonstration garden and much more.

And if that wasn't enough....

#4 Meet new folks from our club and the vendors.

Joining in is as simple as 1-2-3!

1. Sign up at our March meeting. We will be going around with a sign up sheet.
2. Pick a day(s) and times you can work. We will have time slots and tasks to consider. You can volunteer for a short or longer time period. You can volunteer on one, two or all 3 days.
3. SHOW UP! Just show up and have a good time. And don't forget to buy a few plants. Can't make the meeting? Email Dave Roberts at roblands94@gmail.com. Can't email? Call or text Dave at 916-416-9368. Please leave your phone and email. Put "SCSS volunteer" in the subject line.

For those of you who are into the details of opportunities to volunteer. Tasks are generally easy. The hospitality/food area, the Plant Hotel, Cashier, Cashier assistant (think grocery bagger, but with boxes and cacti and succulents), at the entrance and exit to the Shepard Center, helping to setup or take down tables and popup tents., and more. Help us promote the event. Help by posting our flyers in your neighborhoods and share the details with your friends on social media.

Announcements

USPS Mailing no longer available

At the last Board meeting it was decided that the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society's newsletter, Thorny Issues, will no longer be mailed to individual addresses via United States Postal Service due to the copying and mailing costs of \$7.50-9.00 per envelope per month. If you receive the newsletter via USPS, you can still view it on the Society's website, www.sacramentocss.com or have it delivered to your personal computer by informing either Carole Hada or Eve Milan of your email address. The newsletter is usually available by the 18th of the month. Questions? See Carole Hada.

What Happened to my favorite plant?

The lumpers and splitters, better known as taxonomists, are at it again. As of now, numerous cactus genera have been eliminated, put into another genera and/or re-named. Below are the changes made to this year's cactus plant classification list: Digitostigma is now Astrophytum. Buiningia is now Coleocephalocereus. Encephalocarpus is now Pelecyphora. Hamatocactus is now Ferocactus. Neolloydia has been move to various genera. Mammillopsis and Solisia are all Mammillaria. Submitted by "Perplexed!"

Save the date!

Norm Klein's Open Garden
11139 Mace River Court, Rancho Cordova
June 8, 10am - 1pm

Norm is a legend in the Sacramento cactus community. For 40 years, he's been building one of the largest cactus collections in Sacramento, and on Saturday, June 8 you'll have the opportunity to see it yourself. Norm will open his garden for SCSS from 10 am to 1 pm. For a sneak peek, check out [this blog post](#) that SCSS secretary Gerhard Bock wrote about Norm's last open garden in 2022. Since then, Norm has added a 10-foot euphorbia with a gazillion arms.

Contact person:
Carole Hada akacejay@comcast.net

Missing Opuntia Argentina

Last month someone mistakenly took Rudy's Opuntia Argentina from the mini show. It was a Opuntia argentina "Brazilian Prickly Pear" in a very cool cream-colored bumpy pot. If you took Rubys plant home by mistake, please give him a call!

Rudy J. Aguilar
(916) 508-1869

South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society show and sale

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024

Hours: 9am - 4 pm

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

FREE admission and parking



Aeonium 'Sunburst'

Success with Succulents

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society
Annual Show & Sale

April 13 and 14, 2024
Hours: 9am - 4pm

Palos Verdes Art Center
5504 Crestridge Road
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
90275

Information: southcoastcss.org
or Call: 310-346-6206



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- Showing plants in an artistic venue
- Art Center galleries and gift shop open

UC Davis Arboretum hosts first spring plant sale of 2024



This month is a wonderful time to add water-wise perennials, shrubs, trees and native plants to our landscapes. The weather is warming and so is the soil, which is moist and soft due to recent rain. That also makes this the perfect week for a plant sale!

On Saturday, March 9, the UC Davis Arboretum's Teaching Nursery starts its spring cycle of plant sales with its annual Spring Members Appreciation Sale. From 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., members of Friends of the Arboretum get the run of the 1-acre nursery and first pick of the arboretum's spring selections – plus a 10% discount. Not a member? No problem! Join in advance online or at the gate and get a new member gift (\$10 coupon for the sale) as well as the discount. Split sales (with the first hour reserved for members only) will be held April 7 and 27. The spring clearance sale is set for May 11. Hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for each sale. Shop our 1-acre nursery to find an incredible selection of attractive, low-water plants perfect for our region," says the arboretum staff. By choosing to shop with us, not only will you bring home beautiful plants that help support a sustainable environment, your purchases play a vital role in supporting the growth and care of our gardens, student environmental leadership opportunities, and free public programs. Discover the joys of gardening with plants that help heal our environment while nurturing our community! Volunteers are still needed to staff the sales. The nursery seeks customer assistants, cashiers, plant counters and other volunteers to help these events run as smoothly as possible. Find the forms to sign up here: <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-sales>. That same link also leads to downloadable inventory lists of the hundreds of varieties that will be available as well as many photos. The inventory lists are invaluable tools to get the most out of these sales. Take it from our experience: Research plants before you shop, and compile a list with the plant locations. Bring a wagon or rolling cart if you have one: Often early in the sale there's a waiting list for the nursery wagons.

The Arboretum Teaching Nursery is located at 1046 Garrod Drive, Davis, on the UC Davis campus near the small animal veterinary hospital. Parking is available in the adjoining lots. Student volunteers stationed on corners can direct visitors to parking areas.

Details and directions: <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/>.