

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2020

Volume 63, viii

President's Corner

Hi All,

I hope you and your plants are doing well despite our heatwave! Our July meeting online with Zoom was lots of fun, so I hope you'll join our August 24th meeting on Zoom to listen to our former President Keith Taylor share his insights into gardening with raised beds from beginning to end. He achieves great results this way and I know you'll enjoy it.

Our "mini-show" cactus and succulents of the month are profiled in this newsletter. If you have some nice plants in these categories that you would like to share you can do that on our club Face Book page in the photos. You can even post a short video of your plants

We have two member open garden events coming up. On Saturday, August 29th, my garden will be open for viewing from 10 AM to noon. I hope you'll come by. Then on September 12th VP Theresa Roberts is opening up her garden. We'll have more open gardens coming up and details of these first two are included in this newsletter.

We won't be having our annual Company Store fundraiser in September. We're seeking a speaker and topic. We're considering a picnic at the Shepard Center where people bring a lawn chair and their own picnic dinner and we have a speaker outdoors. If that is something you would attend or if you wouldn't, please let us know. Also let us know if a weekend would be good in lieu of our regular meeting night for a picnic meeting.

Stay cool and keep gardening!

Maribel Dennis



Contents

President's Corner	1
August Zoom Meeting	1
Financial Reports	2
Sunshine	2
Open Gardens	3
From CSSA	3
Mini Show	4
Membership	5
Board & Officers	5

Zoom Meeting—August 24th 7pm (log on from 6:45pm)

Live demo: **Raised beds, from beginning to growing**. Keith will show construction and planting medium. also showing growth results

[Link to Zoom meeting](#)

Or if you have your own Zoom app:

Meeting ID: 882 2371 0972

Passcode: 118859

Financial Reports (abridged for formatting)

Profit & Loss

	<u>Jan 1 - Aug 17, 20</u>
Income	
Membership Dues	\$1,315.00
Mo. Plant Drawing Tickets	\$263.00
Total Income	\$1,578.00
Expense	
Show Flyers	\$293.94
CSSA Dues/Expenses	\$68.56
Mini Show Awards	\$156.93
Plant Table Fees - Monthly Meet	\$325.00
Refreshments-Monthly Meetings	\$85.38
Rent	-\$740.00
Program Exp - Speaker Fees	\$525.00
Storage Unit	\$1,197.00
SGAC Landscape Project	\$31.63
Door Prizes	\$50.00
Christmas Dinner	\$71.80
Meals - Board Meetings	\$295.28
Total Expense	\$2,360.52
Net Income	<u>-782.52</u>

Balance Sheet

	<u>Aug 17, 20</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Savings - Bank Of America	\$1,116.33
Checking - Bank Of America	<u>\$39,313.26</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>\$40,818.20</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$40,818.20</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
John Rink Memorial	\$150.00
Sales Tax Payable	\$1.22
Total Liabilities	\$151.22
Equity	
Member's Equity	\$15,916.10
Retained Earnings	\$25,533.40
Net Income	<u>-\$782.52</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$40,666.98</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>\$40,818.20</u>

From the Sunshine Chair, Marilyn Vilas

Sunshine Report: Hi to all and hope everyone is healthy. We all need some uplifting sunshine these days. Over the summer, cards of condolence were sent to the Aguayo and Habbestad families. We hold these families in our thoughts. If there are any other circumstances that need a bit of sunshine, let me know at my email (nedmar@omsoft.com) or telephone (530-753-7011). Stay cool and stay healthy!

In the Heat of the Night: No, not a movie or television series but what we are experiencing now. Yikes! It was 86° at 8 am this morning! It has been a hot summer, even by our standards but what to do about watering your succulents in this extreme heat? The advice below is from personal experience in Davis; where you live may alter the circumstances. I have a glass greenhouse that is whitewashed in the summer to lower the internal temperature and prevent my plants from sunburn. Even so, temperatures will be 120-130°. I water every 10 days to two weeks on average and this seems to work – the plants survive. During the past week(s), I have watered weekly and more, especially the smaller pots. Nighttime temperatures do not cool the greenhouse as usual so more water is needed. Also, I have many potted plants outside in various locations around the yard. Many are automatically water via our sprinkler system but some require hand watering. I have a potted indicator plant, Pereskia aculeata variegata that is a leafy vine-like cactus. When its leaves begin to droop, I know it is time to water the other potted plants. All this depends on placement (direct sun? shade?), exposure (north or west facing?), morning or afternoon sun? etc. Get to know your plants and their specific needs. Whatever you do, do not move plants into the direct afternoon sun during this time – fried plants are not pretty. Good luck and happy planting!

Open Garden Invitations

August 29th, 10am—noon, at the home of Mariel Dennis—11842 Sandy Knoll Ct, Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

September 12th, 6 - 8:30 pm, at the home of Theresa Roberts—8548 Sunset Ave., Fair Oaks, CA 95628

All members are warmly invited to attend these safe get togethers. So bring your mask (required) and come on down to see old friends (and perhaps even make some new ones).

Mariel's garden contains a varied mix of cactus and soft succulents with collections of aloes, agaves/mangaves, euphorbia, haworthias and gasterias. If you come early enough, you may be able to park in either of her driveways, or you may have to park on Silver Water Way (around the corner) as parking is limited in the court. Entry is through either of the side gates.

Theresa has a California Native Garden that used to be lawn. A small greenhouse houses exotic, rare, and common aloe, euphorbia, astrophytum, ariocarpus, turbinicarpus, mesembs and more. There are many conophytums in the collection. Garden art abounds. There is plenty of outdoor space and seating for safe social distancing. Parking is a little tricky, you can come down the long drive and see if there is space and if not there is street parking out on Sunset Avenue with a little off street area across the street to the east of the property. There will be a dedicated handicapped parking spot up close to the house for anyone who needs it.

From CSSA

Hello folks,

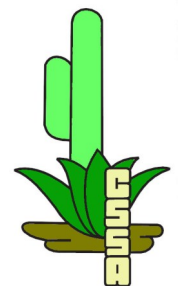
Join us Saturday, August 22 at 10:00 a.m. PDT for the 8th in a series of webinars featuring Cactus and Succulent experts from around the world.

Stephen McCabe presents [Cliff hangers and Flatlanders: Dudleya on the Edge](#)

Stephen McCabe has been studying and growing Dudleya for over 30 years and has been growing other succulents since he was a child. He is the Emeritus Director of Research for the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum and is currently a researcher at the UC Santa Cruz Environmental Studies Department and a private consultant. His interests are in the classification, evolution, ecology, and conservation of Dudleya and other plants. His hobbies include rock climbing and hybridizing similar species to each other within the following genera: Dudleya, Gasteria, and California monkey flowers.

Program: *Cliff hangers and Flatlanders: Dudleya on the Edge.*

These succulent beauties grow on the west coast from Oregon to the tip of Baja California in a wide range of habitats and microclimates. They face challenges hanging on to cliffs, being trampled on mesas, and lasting through the summer dry season. Development, fires, poaching, and climate change present additional threats. Like many succulents, they grow in somewhat extreme places.



We hope to see you!

Gunnar Eisel, Executive Director

To register for the webinar in advance Click [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email.

Mini Show by Steve Goodman



Astrophytum asterias

Astrophytum is a genus of cactus with 6 species. They are native to Mexico and southern Texas. *Astrophytum* usually grow individually with spherical to columnar green shoots and reach heights of up to 1.5 meters. The stems are often densely covered with fine white tufts of hair, but sometimes they are completely bald. There are four to ten (rarely three) very noticeable ribs that are not divided into cusps. The large areoles stand close together, but do not merge. The spike is variable. Thorns may be present or may be missing entirely. The funnel-shaped, large flowers are yellow or yellow with a red throat. They appear at the top of the shoots and open during the day. The pericarpel is covered with pointed scales. The cap-shaped seeds have a diameter of up to 2.5 millimeters with a brownish black seed coat which is almost smooth. The edge is rolled towards the sunken hilum.



Astrophytum myriostigma

Ariocarpus is a small genus of succulent, subtropical plants of the family Cactaceae. They come from limestone hills of Rio Grande in the south of Texas (*Ariocarpus fissuratus*) and also the north and the center of Mexico (all other species including *A. fissuratus* forms know as *A.loydii* and *A. fissuratus* var. *intermedius*) with strong sunshine exposures. *Ariocarpus* species are very slow growing and are endangered and quite rare in the wild. 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 colour, from white or yellow to pink, purple or magenta. The plant contains bitter and toxic alkaloids such as hordenine. These protect the plant against consumption by herbivores.

Ariocarpus fissuratus



Ariocarpus retusus



Obregonia, the artichoke cactus, is a genus of cacti with a single species, *Obregonia denegrii*. The species is endemic to the state of Tamaulipas in Mexico. The genus *Obregonia* is named after Álvaro Obregón, while the species is named after Ramon P. De Negri, who was the Minister of Agriculture of Mexico when the cacti was first described by Alfred Frec in 1923. This rare species resembles an inverted green pine cone with a woolly center. It grows slowly in culture and requires little water. It benefits from full sun and is multiplied by seed. It is very slow growing.

Obregonia denegrii



Euphorbia is a very large and diverse genus of flowering plants in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae). "Euphorbia" is sometimes used in ordinary English to collectively refer to all members of Euphorbiaceae (in deference to the type genus), not just to members of the genus. Some euphorbias are commercially widely available, such as poinsettias at Christmas. Some are commonly cultivated as ornamentals, or collected and highly valued for the aesthetic appearance of their unique floral structures, such as the crown of thorns plant (*Euphorbia milii*). Euphorbias from the deserts of Southern Africa and Madagascar have evolved physical characteristics and forms similar to cacti of North and South America, so they (along with various other kinds of plants) are often incorrectly referred to as cacti. Some are used as ornamentals

Euphorbia ingens



(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

in landscaping, because of beautiful or striking overall forms, and drought and heat tolerance. Euphorbias range from tiny annual plants to large and long-lived trees. The genus has over or about 2,000 members, making it one of the largest genera of flowering plants. The plants share the feature of having a poisonous, milky, white, latex-like sap, and unusual and unique floral structures. The genus may be described by properties of its members' gene sequences, or by the shape and form of its heads of flowers. When viewed as a whole, the head of flowers looks like a single flower (a pseudanthium). It has a unique kind of pseudanthium, called a cyathium, where each flower in the head is reduced to its barest essential part

Euphorbia millii



Euphorbia obesa



needed for sexual reproduction. The individual flowers are either male or female, with the male flowers reduced to only the stamen, and the females to the pistil. These flowers have no sepals, petals, or other parts that are typical of flowers in other kinds of plants. Structures supporting the flower head and other structures underneath have evolved to attract pollinators with nectar, and with shapes and colors that function in a way petals and other flower parts do in other flowers. Euphorbia species are among the plant taxa most commonly confused with cacti, especially the stem succulents.

Membership

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

2020 Board of Directors

President	Mariel Dennis	President@sacramentocss.com
Vice President	Theresa Roberts	VP@sacramentocss.com
Secretary	Gerhart Bock	webmaster@sacramentocss.com
Treasurer	Greg Lang	gmlcpa@aol.com
Past President	Steve Goodman	
Webmaster	Gerhart Bock	webmaster@sacramentocss.com
Membership	Carole Hada	membership@sacramentocss.com
Newsletter	Ian Dennis	newsletter@sacramentocss.com
Librarian	George Krigas	
National Assoc. Affiliate	Marilynn Vilas	
Refreshments	Michelle Schwanberg	
Mini Show	Shawnee Giles & Steve Goodman	
Drawing Ticket Sales	Cindy Murrel & Chere' Peterson	
	Kris McAninch	
	Penny Newell	