

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July 2020

Volume 63, vii

President's Corner

After a spring hiatus resulting from the corona virus blues, as we pass mid-Summer and the Independence holiday I'm pleased to update you on some new activity for our Society. I want to thank George Krigas and any others who live near the Shepard Center who have helped keeping our garden maintained while we have not been meeting there. A small group of Board members met on July 13 on a Zoom call to discuss resuming an active schedule of events for the remainder of the year and they are highlighted here:

- We will resume our member meetings — on Zoom — at 7 PM on Monday, July 27th. The call will be set up about 10 minutes early to give everyone time to join the meeting. It is a good idea to download the free version at www.Zoom.com to your computer ahead of time. Put the meeting hyperlink on your calendar and join the call. Even if you don't have a camera on your computer you can still call in and join by phone. For Zoom details, see the box advertising the July regular meeting at right. The format will be a "show and tell" so everyone can participate. Feel free to select a plant from either of our "mini-show" categories that are profiled in this newsletter or any other interesting succulent and talk about it a bit. This is a great way to take a short video of your garden and highlight some specimens that may be too large to bring to a regular meeting. Please keep any videos under 5 minutes so everyone can share.
- On Monday, July 6th, our Membership Chair Carole Hada and I visited the Rancho Cordova garden of Norm Klein of the Carmichael Club. Look for some photos of his garden in this newsletter.
- We are also scheduling more home garden tours over the next few months (about one a month) including to my home in Rancho Cordova, Gerhard Bock's home in Davis, Steve Goodman's home, and Norm Klein's home in Rancho Cordova. We are working out the dates and will send out a separate schedule. The same pandemic safety protocols will apply (small groups and masks are required). Look for a separate notice for the date and details.
- Our August 24th meeting will also be held on Zoom. Details will be sent out closer to the meeting. We are looking for a speaker or suggestions for topics so let me

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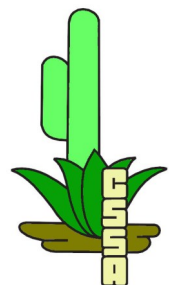
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Zoom Meeting

[Link to Zoom meeting](#)

Or if you have your own Zoom app:

Meeting ID: 838 7567 4747
Passcode: 568464



[CSSA](#)

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know if you have ideas.

- The annual September County Store fundraiser event will not be held as we expect we will continue virtual meetings indefinitely. We are looking for a speaker at our usual date/time (Monday, Sept. 28 at 7 PM).
- We had hoped to reschedule the 60th Annual Show and Sale from May to the weekend of October 24-25 but the volunteers have agreed that the space at the Shepard Center makes it difficult to maintain the quality of our event in a much reduced footprint to maintain physical distancing for safety. Instead, we will focus on planning for the first weekend in May of 2021 and will reassess early in the new year whether it will be feasible. Therefore, we hope to have a regular member meeting on Monday, October 26th. Topic to be determined. We are contacting our usual sale vendors to see if we could instead host an online sale event for club members only and will advise of the details when available.
- Monday, November 23 is Thanksgiving week so we're not sure if we will reschedule or cancel and will decide closer to the event.
- Monday, December 28 is the 4th Monday, so we are considering rescheduling to either the 14th or 21st. We hope to be able to do our annual holiday dinner at the Shepard Center and maintain appropriate distancing and food safety with some different approaches to dining (catered instead of potluck). Details will be finalized closer to the event.

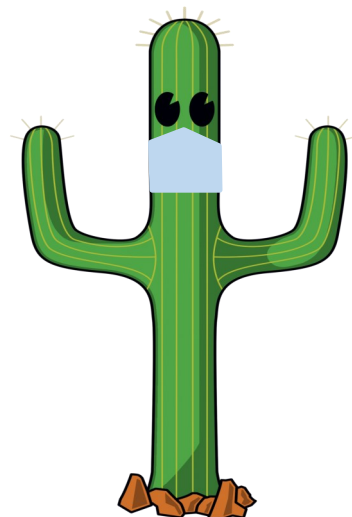
I also have some mixed and sad news to report:

- One of our Board of Directors and Newsletter Editor, Kris McAninch (Ryan's mom) has had to step down from her active role for a bit. Ian Dennis has graciously agreed to help with the newsletter in the interim. However, if anyone would like to take on the newsletter editor role, we would welcome that. Please contact me at president@sacramentocss.com

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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



Mini Show by Steve Goodman



Agave is a genus of monocots native to the hot and arid regions of the Americas, although some Agave species are also native to tropical areas of South America. The genus Agave is primarily known for its succulent and xerophytic species that typically form large rosettes of strong, fleshy leaves. Plants in this genus may be considered perennial, because they require several to many years to mature and flower. However, most Agave species are more accurately described as monocarpic rosettes or multi-annuals, since each individual rosette flowers only once and then dies. The succulent leaves of most Agave species have sharp marginal teeth, an extremely sharp terminal spine, and are very fibrous inside. The stout stem is usually extremely short, which may make the plant appear as though it is stemless.

Manfreda was a genus of flowering plants in the family Asparagaceae, subfamily Agavoideae. Along with Polianthes, members are commonly called tuberose. The generic name honours 14th-century Italian writer Manfredus de Monte Imperiale. All species are now placed in Agave. Like other species of Agave, former Manfreda species have rosettes of leaves branching from a very short stem, and flowers at the end of a long stalk. The flowers are tubular and whitish, yellow, green, or brownish, with lengthy stamens.

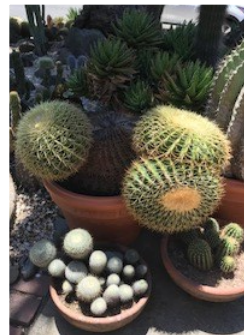
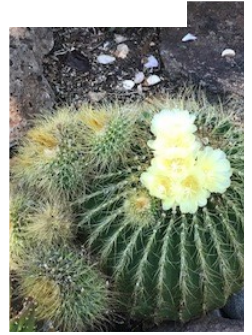
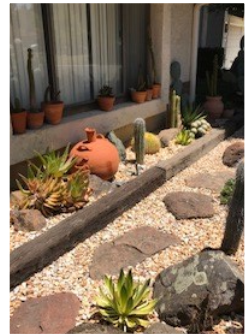


Mangave is an intergeneric hybrid derived from crosses of two North American genera, Agave and Manfreda. Mangave flowers in June and July, producing brown flowers. Mangave inherit the drought-resisting traits of both parent plants. They can resist high temperatures and direct sunlight, but prefer shade. The plant can survive below freezing temperatures, but can become damaged if the temperature drops below -6 degrees Celsius. The first known Mangaves were wild bred but now there are many manmade cultivars available.

Echinocereus is a genus of ribbed, usually small to medium-sized, cylindrical cacti, comprising about 70 species native to the southern United States and Mexico in very sunny, rocky places. Usually the flowers are large and the fruit edible. The name comes from the Ancient Greek (echinos), meaning "hedgehog", and the Latin cereus meaning "candle". They are sometimes known as hedgehog cacti, a term also used for the Pediocactus and Echinopsis. Echinocereus spp. are bushy and globular with tight spines, which are often colorful and decorative. The flowers last slightly longer than those of other cacti. Echinocereus spp. are often easier to cultivate than many other cacti. They need light soil, a sunny exposure, and a fresh and dry winter to flower. They grow better in soil slightly richer than other cacti. In the wild, several of the species are cold hardy, tolerating temperatures as low as -23°C, but only in dry conditions.



Photographs of Norm Klein's garden



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- I'm sad to report the passing of member Diana Aguayo of Rio Linda. Diana was a big help at our last annual show where she and Shere' Peterson decorated all of the shadow boxes in the small meeting room which were greatly enjoyed by our guests. Her family, with the help of Rudy Aguilar, allowed us and the Carmichael club to take most of her succulents to share with members and benefit SCSS. Many of these will be given out to visitors to my home garden tour or may be drawing prizes once we resume meetings in person.
- On another sad note, Steve Habbestad, my friend and handyman for more than a dozen years and one of the workers to help install our demonstration garden at the Shepard Center, also passed away suddenly on July 12th. If you visit my garden you will get a chance to see his work over many years making my garden what it is today. Before the pandemic, we planned to hire Steve to do some periodic maintenance on the Shepard Center succulent garden which will now need help from our members to continue to maintain.
- While I'm glad that neither Diana or Steve passed as a result of COVID-19, they will be missed. Our Sunshine Chairperson Marilyn Vilas has sent sympathy cards to the families on behalf of SCSS.

We are open to suggestions for topics or speakers for any of the above dates. Please feel free to send me a note with any suggestions for how we can stay connected while remaining physically distant and remember to check our Facebook page and website for updated information and copies of the newsletter.

Happy gardening, Mariel

2020 Board of Directors

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Vice President	Theresa Roberts	VP@sacramentocss.com
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