

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

February, 2022 | Volume 64, Issue II rev.

Announcements

February Meeting:

Jeff Moore

Monday, February 28th, 7pm

This will be our first hybrid meeting!

For members/guests who wish to attend in person, the Shepard Garden & Arts Center will open at 6:30 pm, and those present will view the Zoom meeting on the "big screen." Refreshments will be served, and copies of Jeff's book will be available for sale. Members may bring succulent cuttings/plants to share/trade; no plant sales are planned, but there WILL BE a mini-show. Note the new rules and this month's categories on pages 3 and 4.

For those who prefer to participate remotely, you can join from anywhere via Zoom (details below). The Zoom meeting will open at 6:45 pm; the presentation will start at 7:00 pm.

Click this link to join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2825002306>

Meeting ID (if prompted):
282 500 2306

February Program

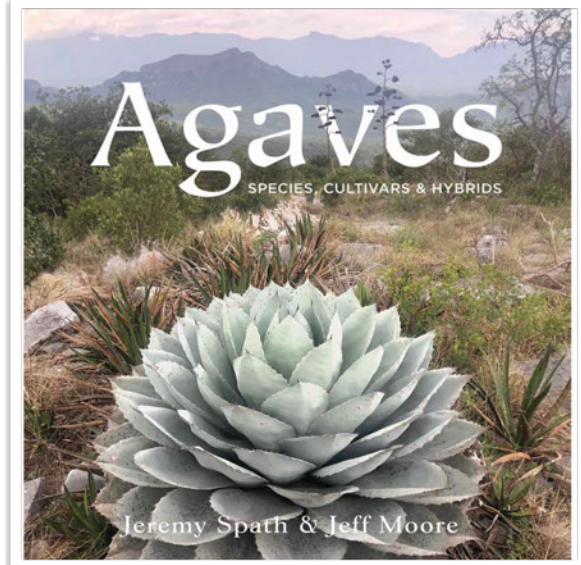
Jeff Moore

Agaves—Species, Hybrids and Cultivars takes a deep dive into the world of agaves, both cultivated and in their native habitat. Co-authored with agave expert Jeremy Spath, this 350+ page book offers over 2000 images and informative information about these stunningly beautiful and architectural plants. Cultivars and hybrids are shown and discussed as well as the majority of species.

The presentation follows the flow of the book, with most of the powerpoint images from the book itself. The majority of the species are covered, with images both in habitat (when possible) and in cultivation.

There is also a chapter on established and

new hybrids, as well as the relatively new phenomenon of mangaves. The book/talk will show examples of agaves in the landscape as well as those suitable for container culture, discusses pests/diseases as well as propagation. Although the emphasis is on agaves as ornamentals, we will also take a look at the history of agaves as commercial plants, for fiber, food, and of course the genus' most well known byproduct - tequila and mescal. From an ornamental perspective, there are some beautiful detailed images of agave spines and imprinting, as well as some of the more impressive variegated and collector forms.



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Vice-President/Program Chair

Theresa Roberts

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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

Jeff Moore (from page 1)

Most of the images were taken by the authors, but they also tried to include many beautiful photos from contributors such as Bryan Kemble, Jeff Chemnick, Tony Krock, and other knowledgeable enthusiasts.

The \$39.95 high-quality soft cover book is available for purchase at www.solanasucculents.com.

Bio for Jeff: Jeff Moore has been the proprietor of Solana Succulents since 1992. It is a small retail specialty nursery, and he carries as much of the rare and unusual as possible, along with more common and colorful succulents. The agave book will be his fifth self-published book about succulents.



New Members for February 2022

Megan and Zack Morehouse

Trish and Natalie Odenthal

Joseph and Christine Smith



Photo Gallery



Agave attenuata 'Ray of Light'
by Gerhard Bock



Aloe deltoideodonta 'Sparkler'
by Gerhard Bock

New Mini-Show Guidelines

My dream is to promote lots more participation in the mini-show. To encourage each of you to participate I am changing the format somewhat. The purpose of the mini-show is to show off your prized plants and to practice staging skills. Mini-shows can be very inspirational and gives you a chance to talk to other members, ask questions and receive helpful suggestions. You must be a member to participate and be present at the meeting.

Understanding that each of our members are at different levels of experience there will now be three divisions each month; novice, intermediate and advanced. You can pick which category you imagine yourself to be and you will stay at that level for the year.

There will be both a cactus and a succulent table. Feel free to enter 1-2 plants in each of these categories.

Novice class is for those who are completely new at showing a plant. Only the plant will be judged. The pot will not be judged and the plant may be in a plastic pot. You should have owned this plant for at least 3 months. Plants must be shown as a single specimen per pot.

Intermediate and advanced levels. You can join either category at your discretion. You will stay at that level for the year. Both the plant and the pot will be judged. You should have owned the plant for at least 6 months. Plants must be shown as a single specimen per pot.

Mini gardens. For fun we are adding another category, dish gardens. They can be as creative as you can imagine. Mini-gardens WILL NOT BE divided by novice, intermediate and advanced levels. You will vote for just one mini-garden. They must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months. You may enter 1 dish garden each month.

Each member is asked participate in the judging by dropping one bean in the cup next to the plant that you think is the best example for each experience level and category...best cactus, best succulent, best dish garden (7 votes total). Voting should be completed before the speaker begins their talk.

Members will receive one free drawing ticket for each plant entered. Mini-show winners will be announced for each category before the end of the meeting. Scoring points are as follows;

1st place: 8 2nd place: 6 3rd place: 4 honorable mention: 2

If your plant did not place: 1 point

At the end of the year high scoring individuals will be asked to move up to the next level.

Photo Gallery



Top: *Hechtia* 'Silver Star'
 Bottom: *Hechtia* 'Oaxaca Sunset'
 by Gerhard Bock



Agave albopilosa by Gerhard Bock



Agave nickelsiae by Gerhard Bock

2022 Mini-Show Categories

Month	Cactus	Succulent
February	Opuntia	Aloe
March	Notocactus/Parodia	Euphorbia
April	Rebutia/Aylostera/ Sulcorebutia	Bromeliacea
May	No Mini-Show	Spring Sale
June	Mammillaria	Agave
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

New Features for Newsletter!

Member's Corner: This month begins a regular article featuring a club member interview. The featured club member this month is Gerhard Bock, longtime member, Club Secretary and Webmaster. If you are interested in being interviewed for this feature, please contact Shawnee Giles (newsletter@sacramentocss.com).

Photo Gallery: Starting this month, a member photo gallery will be included in the newsletter. We feel that during the ongoing pandemic, it is the best way for members to show off their plants, but it could also be continued when in-person meetings resume. To kick things off this month we are featuring the work of Gerhard Bock who was generous enough to offer his photography in support of the Member's Corner feature. Thank you, Gerhard!

Call for submissions: Please submit your gallery photos to Bruce Clarke (b.clarke@icloud.com) for consideration. The photos should be as high-quality as possible and include plant identification.

Member's Corner: Gerhard Bock



Are you mostly a cactus or a succulent person?

Mostly succulents. I don't have a greenhouse, so the bulk of my plants are in the ground. In the cactus family, I love barrel cactus (*Ferocactus*, *Echinocactus*, etc.) and *Echinocereus*.

What is your favorite plant family?

Agaves and aloes.

What piqued your interest in these plants?

In agaves, their symmetry and architectural presence. In aloes, the fact that many of them flower in the winter when there's little else going on in the garden.

Have you traveled out of the country to see plants in habitat?

Only to the Southwestern U.S. and once to Central Mexico. I hope to explore more of Mexico soon.

Favorite places to shop for plants?

Succulent nurseries in Southern California (Solana Succulents is a favorite), and private growers (like Jeremy Spath for agaves). Also, cactus and succulent society plant sales, and trading plants with fellow collectors.

Where do you live and garden?

In Davis. We seem to have a microclimate that is a bit warmer in the winter than Sacramento so I've been able to grow plants that aren't really supposed to survive here.

My garden is small, mostly in front of the house along the sidewalks (we're on a corner lot), but it's jam-packed. I believe in cram-scaping, i.e. more is more. I'm an active gardener and don't hesitate to (re)move plants that don't live up to my expectations or that I'm fallen out of love with. I know this sounds ruthless, but every gardener deserves a garden they're happy with.

I also write a blog, Succulents and More*, where I chronicle the evolution of my own garden as well as visits to other gardens, public and private. I've learned so

*www.succulentsandmore.com

much from seeing other people's gardens and hearing about their successes and failures, and I want to share that with the readers of my blog. Being excited about plants and inspired by what others do are the fuel that keep us going.

What are your favorite public gardens to visit nearby?

My two favorite places are the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek and the UC Botanical Garden in Berkeley. Both places are world-class and full of wonderful plants. With its smaller scale and its exceptional landscape design, the Ruth Bancroft Garden is an endless source of awe and inspiration for me. Even though I visit regularly, I find something new every time I go. If you haven't been, you owe it to yourself to make the drive. It's less than 90 minutes from Sacramento. As a bonus, they also have a superb nursery.



Show Calendar

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

March 4-6

San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Show and Sale

Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

April 23-24

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

Portuguese Community Hall
124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville

April 23-24

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale

Palos Verdes Art Center,
5504 Crestridge Road,
Rancho Palos Verdes
Info: 310-346-6206

May 7-8

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show and Sale

Shepard Garden and Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento

May 21-22

Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale

Carmichael Park Clubhouse
5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael

May 28-29

Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Nipomo High School
525 N Thompson Ave., Nipomo

President's Corner

Greetings, Members!

Despite the cold nights, spring flowers and aloe blooms say that spring is just about to begin. We will be planning some field trips in the coming months to visit nurseries for those that wish to get out and about.

- In March, we'll be working on a visit to the Ruth Bancroft Garden and trying to arrange a behind-the-scenes tour.
- In April, we'll be working on coordinating a trip south to Poot's Cactus in Ripon when the cactus should be in bloom - you definitely won't want to miss it.
- Be sure to attend the April 25th meeting when we'll be picking plants to exhibit at our annual show and sale that will be the weekend of May 6-8.
- May 6-8, Annual Exhibition and Sale. Please clear your schedule so you can help us put on a great event!
- Finally, later this summer, we're looking for someone to help coordinate a group trip to the Los Angeles Inner City Cactus and Succulent Show - the biggest on the west coast and a chance to enjoy the Huntington gardens.

More details will be published in upcoming newsletters and discussed at meetings so let's hope that as a region, we can keep up with COVID-19 so that events don't have to be postponed. However, the safety of our members is the most important thing.

Be Well and Happy Gardening,
Marisel Dennis

2022 Spring Sale
Saturday, March 5, 10AM-4PM
Sunday, March 6, 10AM-3PM

Please come!
Jewelry, plants, crafts,
flowers, antiques, art,
food, and much more

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
www.SGAAC.org