

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October, 2022 | Volume 64, Issue X

Announcements

October Meeting:

This month's meeting will be on October 24th at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.

We have been having some wonderful **mini-shows!** A big thank you to those who have brought plants. For the succulent plants this month we wanted to widen the choices of what could be included to encourage you to participate (see below). Don't forget the mini garden category too. Also remember, you can always bring a show-and-tell plant from any cactus or succulent family.

Stapeliad family

Duvalia, Echidnopsis, Edithcolea, Frerea, Hoodia, Huernia, Huerniopsis, Piaranthus, Pachycymbium, Quaqua,, Stapelia, Orbea, Tavaresia

Aizoaceae family

Cheiridopsis, Conophytum, Dactylopis, Faucaria, Fenestraria, Frithia, Glottiphyllum, Lapidaria, Lithops, Nananthus, Pleisopilos, Titanopsis

October Program

Barry Rice: Adventures of an Expert Novice



Barry Rice is, by profession, an astrobiologist who has his Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Arizona, and is a tenured professor at Sierra College. He is also an expert in carnivorous plants, having written two books, many scientific papers, and long-term editor of the most prominent carnivorous plant journal on Earth.

His experience with cactus horticulture really only spans the last decade.

However, he jumped into

the field with vigor and passion. A scientist by profession and heart, he has optimized many aspects of cactus growing in the blast furnace of the Central Valley. While he has grown cacti from many genera, he specializes in named *Echinopsis* cultivars but also any really peculiar genera and species that catch his eye.

For the last decade, Barry has been learning the “best way” to grow plants in the Central Valley. In his talk, he'll describe first the mechanics of what he has found works best for him, in terms of growing plants as best he can, meeting their needs, while also staying within the reasonable confines of a busy schedule. Soil mixes, fertilizers, and climate management will be mentioned. After an intro to cultivation, Barry will focus on cacti from the beginning of the alphabet: *Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, and Aztekium*.

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Vice-President/Program Chair

Theresa Roberts

Secretary *Gerhard Bock*

Treasurer *Greg Lang*

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CSSA Affiliate

Mariel Dennis

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Librarian

George Krigas

Membership/Roster

Carole Hada

Mini Show

Shawnee Giles-Clarke

Newsletter

Shawnee Giles-Clarke & Bruce Clarke

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

2022 Mini-Show Categories

Month	Cactus	Succulent
October	Ariocarpus	Stapeliads
November	Show us your favorite cactus	Show us your favorite succulent
December	Holiday Party.....	Awards presented to highest scores

Ariocarpus trigonus

By Elton Roberts



Ariocarpus trigonus

Photo by Elton Roberts

I suppose that some plants get different names because of the differing shades of flower color. Another thing is the length of the tubercles. Like *A. trigonus v. elongatus* a form with tubercles that are a bit narrower and maybe a bit longer or does it just look that way. One of my plants has tubercles that curve over toward the center of the plant. I am surprised that someone didn't think to name it *A. trigonus recurvus*. It is a really nice-looking plant. All the plants are, but they are *Ariocarpus trigonus*. If someone is going to get by with calling a plant variety *longatus* then I should be able to name mine *A. trigonus v. aureiflora* for the yellow flower. Add to that *A. trigonus v. albiflora* and *v. intermedia* for the plant that has the cream-colored flower. There, we have the names sorted out so now we can enjoy the plants and the flowers and use the right name, so we know just what plant is being referred to.



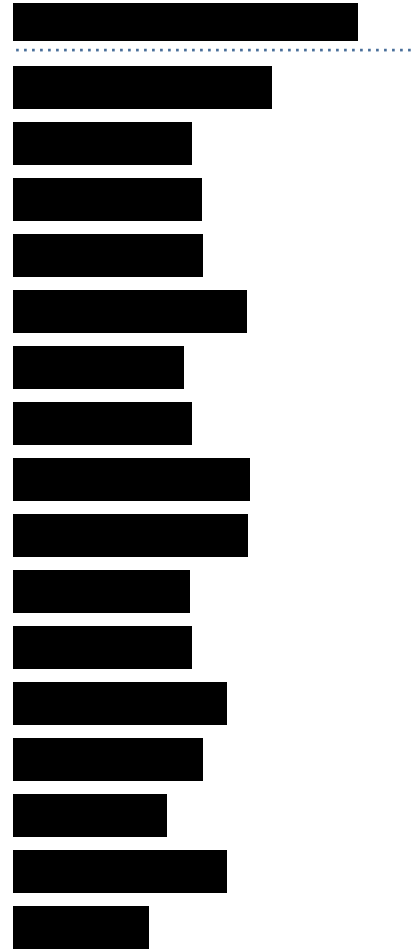
Ariocarpus trigonus yellow flower

Photo by Elton Roberts

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Stapeliad Blossoms for Inspiration





Ariocarpus trigonus (continued from p. 2)

The plants are up to 30 cm across and 7 to 8 cm tall. Like the other *Ariocarpus*, people have tendencies to over feed this plant also. So, you can have plants with really fat tubercles and those with really dehydrated tubercles. So, as a result you can have several descriptions of the tubercles from fat and not too long to real skinny and extra long. Even in habitat the plants can have a different look in drought years compared to years of more than normal rainfall.

I do not allow my plants to fall much below about 33°F. As with all *Ariocarpus* use a fast draining soil with no peat, sphagnum moss or peatmoss. Keep the plants dry over the winter and do not water too early in the spring. Wait for the weather to warm some before the first watering. The first few waterings should be rather light. Feed the plants also but do not over feed them and make them look like a distorted balloon.

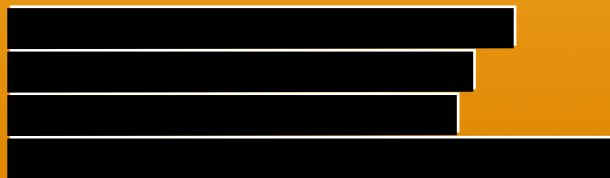


Sunshine Corner

Hi, all. Many of our new members may not know that we have a Sunshine Chair. Sometimes we all need something to brighten our day. When I learn someone is going through a hard time, I mail cards of condolence and/or care to members and/or their families. If you send me a note sharing the name and circumstance of someone who could use a cheerful note, I will happily mail one out. Please email me at cdaf182@gmail.com if you know of anyone who could use a lift due to surgery, loss of life or fur-friend, illness, etc.

Cherry DuLaney, your friendly SCSS Sunshine Chair

This month cards were sent to:



September Meeting Country Store!

The Country Store last month was a big success. There were lots of people and LOTS of plants and baked goods. There were two packed tables for silent auction items. Revenue for the club was \$640. A big thank you to all who volunteered and of course those who purchased tickets and silent auction items as well.

