

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August, 2023 | Volume 71, Issue IV

Announcements

August Meeting:

August 28th 2023
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.



August Program

Lithops - The Living Gems of the Desert



Lithops - The Living Gems of the Desert

Lithops are among the most varied and colorful miniature succulents. In nature, these plants thrive in sunny, mostly arid locations in southern Africa (Namibia, South Africa, Botswana). As Peter will show in his talk, searching for Lithops in the wild has been a highly rewarding adventure, and he will reveal his secrets to finding these "living gems".

By rediscovering specific plants that have been photographed before at least a decade ago, Peter demonstrates that many wild plants must be very old. Peter will show numerous photographs of Lithops in cultivation, including many brightly colored cultivars. Lithops can be successfully cultivated when grown with a few basic rules. Peter will discuss how he keeps these wonderful plants thriving here in Northern California, in the hope that those who never had or no longer have these precious gems in their collection will give them a(nother) try.

August Program



Peter retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory almost four years ago, and he spends about 2 to 3 months per year traveling, in recent years mostly to South Africa, Namibia, and Chile. At his home in Livermore, Peter propagates plants from seeds and cuttings, including mesembs and bulbs from the winter rainfall areas of Southern Africa and many cactus species from South and North America. He will bring plants for sale.

Board and Committee Chairs

President:

Maribel Dennis

Vice-President/Program Chair:

Theresa Roberts

Secretary: *Gerhard Bock*

Treasurer: *Greg Lang*

Board of Directors:

Penny Newell, Carole Hada, Tina Marie, Steve Goodman, Ex Officio Tina Micheal Ruse

CSSA Affiliate:

Maribel Dennis

Librarian:

George Krigas

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:

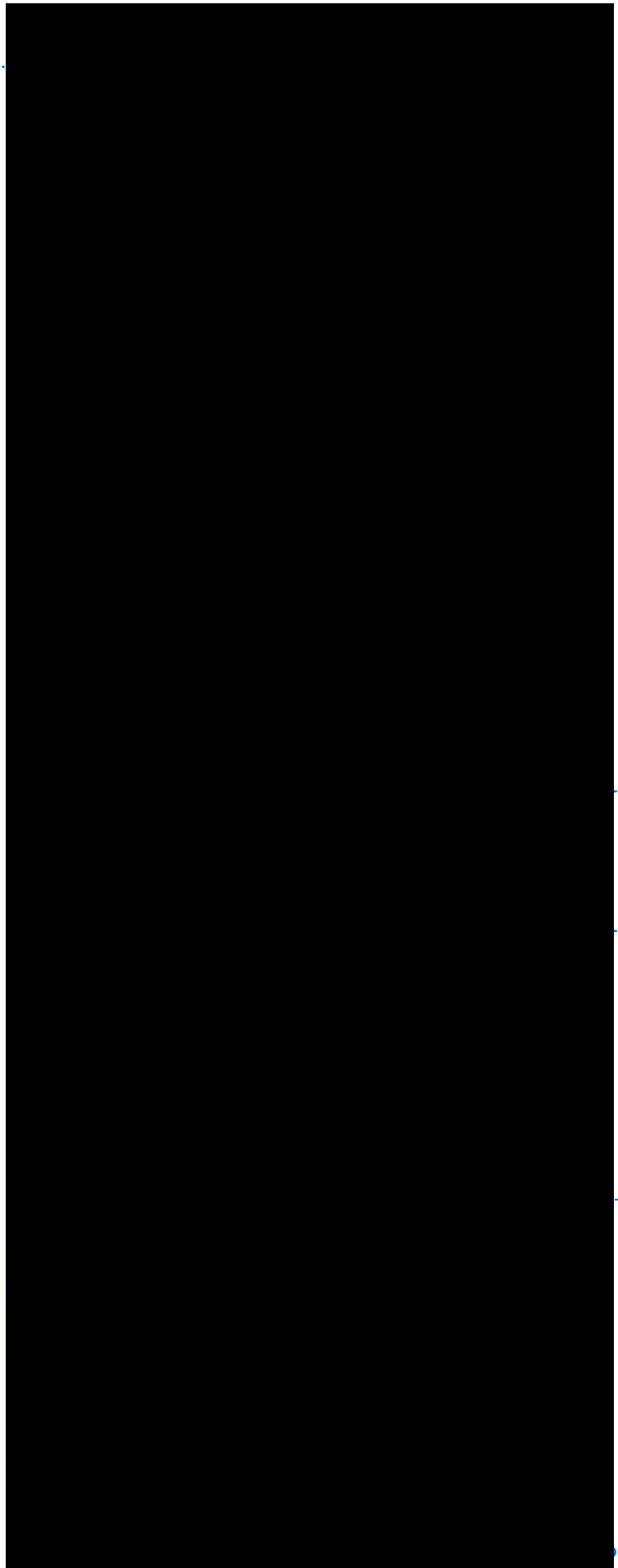
Cherry Dulaney

Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

*Maribel Dennis/Keith Taylor
Co-chairs*



2023 Mini Show Schedule

| Month | Cactus | Succulent |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| August | Notocactus, Parodia or Matucana | Echeveria |
| September | Country Store | No Mini-show |
| October | Echinopsis + Neoporteria | Tylecodon + Cotyledon |
| November | Columnar Cactus | Dudleya |
| December | Holiday Party | No Mini-show |



Echeveria Chroma



Echeveria Nodulosa



Parodia



Echeveria Elegans

August Mini Show

Well summer is in full swing. This month the mini show is featuring Notocactus, Parodia or Matucana Cactus and Echeveria Succulents. I would like to thank Elaine Thomas and Bill McCabe for handling the June and July mini shows in my absence.

Notocactus, Parodia or Matucana Cactus:

What is a Notocactus – Parodia? Curiosity: Its name reflects its geographical area of distribution, that is further south than the one of many other cacti, which usually come from central part of the Americas. In fact, the Greek word 'nòtos' means southern.

The genus Notocactus includes about thirty species native to semi-desert grasslands, with a globular or elongated shape, small to medium-sized (the maximum height is usually about 30 cm), although some species can be more than 60-70 cm tall. In the 1980s the genus Notocactus was included in the genus Parodia, but this choice was not universally accepted. In fact, plants named as Notocactus are often found on the market nowadays.

Like other cactaceae, Notocactus also have the typical “ball” shape when young, but become more elongated when mature. They live alone or in groups and sometimes produce offshoots. Notocactus is a rather long-lived plant genus. Their stems have numerous ribs with white areoles covered with many spines, which can be either short and thin or long and thicker and also of different colours on the same plant.

The flowering season is June-July. Flowers are rather large and funnel-shaped, with narrow petals. They grow on the top of the stem after three or more years depending on the species and are quite long-lived for a cactus: they last about a week!

Parodia is a genus of flowering plants in the family Cactaceae, native to the eastern slopes of the Andes in northwestern Argentina and southwestern Bolivia and in the lowland pampas regions of northeastern Argentina, southern Brazil, eastern Paraguay, and Uruguay.



Matucana Paucicostata

What is Matucana Cactus:

Matucana is a genus of cacti, containing approximately 20 species of mostly globular plants. The genus is only known from Peru, mostly along the Marañón River. The first species was discovered near the town of Matucana and described as Echinocactus haynii by Otto in 1849.

Echeveria:

Echeveria is a large genus of flowering plants in the family Crassulaceae, native to semi-desert areas of Central America, Mexico and northwestern South America.

There are so many varieties of this plant, I have only included a few, and I am sure we all have many varieties in our gardens.

Linda Partmann

Country Store Announcement:

**Looking Ahead to September-COUNTRY STORE**

Our much-anticipated COUNTRY STORE will be on Monday, September 25. If this is your first year in the Club, do not miss the Country Store! A drawing will be held for items in the 5 categories listed below. The tickets for the Country Store drawing are only 50 cents (you can buy as many tickets as you want). This drawing is nothing like our monthly drawings. Last year we had enough cacti and succulents donated to nearly fill four tables!

We are asking all members for donations in the following five categories: 1) Cacti, 2) Other Succulents, 3) Pots (can also include garden implements, top dressing, etc.) , 4) Miscellaneous---Cacti & Succulent-themed items such as artwork, books, clothing, glassware, ornaments, etc., and 5) baked goods (cookies, pies, cakes, banana bread, brownies--no, not that kind, etc.). As always, the success of the Country Store depends on your donations. Healthy plants and good quality items are what we all want. The more stuff members bring in, the more stuff the other members get to take home. Each of the first 4 categories will have a bucket where you place your ticket. You can enter as many tickets as you want in each container/ category. If your ticket number is called, you get to pick whatever you want from that category. Instead of a drawing in the Baked Goods category, you will be able to present your 50 cent tickets to buy snacks directly.

The silent auction will have higher-value plants, or special items. Each item will have a bid sheet where you can add your name and your bid. All bids are visible, so there's opportunity for spirited competition!

The silent auction is a fantastic opportunity to buy plants for much less than retail prices.

In the September newsletter we will list the details of the Country Store---what time to bring donations, packaging of baked goods, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill McCabe at (916) 225-5974.

Tri-County Home & Garden Show



Garden pavilion

Garden Seminars, Garden Market, Flower Societies

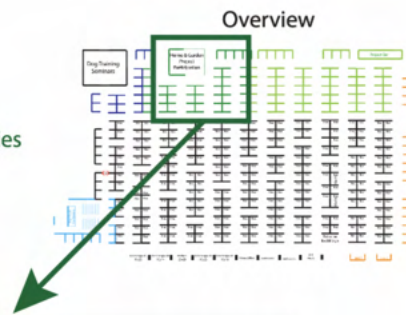
Garden Market: 10x10 Inlines \$275, Corners \$375

Garden Societies: Complimentary Space

Booths include one electrical outlet

The show is growing!

The Floor plan will grow and change with it!



We will have a booth at this show with several of our local C&S vendors selling plants and pots. We will have space in the garden center as shown on the floor plans. (#726 - #729)