

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August, 2024 | Volume 83, Issue V

Announcements

August Meeting:

August 26th, 2024
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

WINTER-RAINFALL ALOES

The genus Aloe is a large one, with many species found on the African continent, as well as on the Arabian Peninsula to the north, and on the island of Madagascar to the east. Within this large area is one region with a Mediterranean climate, much like that of California, with dry summers and winter rains. This region covers the western part of South Africa (including Namaqualand, famous for its many succulents) and the southwestern corner of Namibia. It is not surprising that many of the Aloe species found here are ones which do well in California gardens, given the climatic similarity. Examples include Aloe distans, Aloe brevifolia and Aloe glauca. But there are plenty of rarities, too, not often seen in gardens here. This talk is an in-depth look at the Aloe species found here, with many photos of plants in habitat.



August Program

Brian Kemble is the Vice-President of the Institute for Aloe Studies (located in Oakland), as well as the VP of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Soc. and the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. He has been growing aloes since the 1970's, and has been to Africa and to Madagascar many times to see them in habitat. His photos of aloes appear in several books: Guide to the Aloes of South Africa, Aloes, the Definitive Guide, and Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World.



Country Store

COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!!



MONDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

ARE YOU READY FOR THE COUNTRY STORE?

Do you want more plants? Do you have too many plants and want to get rid of some? We collect cacti and succulents—it's what we do! But we are often conflicted between the need to reduce and the desire to add to our collections. Welcome to the Country Store where we can help you with both of those issues!

It's time for Club members to start gathering donations of cacti, succulents, pots, and cacti and succulent themed items (books, clothing, pictures, etc.) to bring to our annual Country Store on Monday September 23, 2024. If you don't have any extra plants, how about baking some sweet treats like cookies, brownies or cupcakes? A drawing will be held for donated items with tickets at only .50 each. There will be a silent auction where you can get great deals on higher valued cacti and succulents and other cacti and succulent related items.

This is one of the great perks of being a Club member. We can add several new plants, inexpensively, that have been generously donated by other Club members. And on that note: To be successful, we need your donations! Please start setting aside the items you would like to donate. We will have more details at the August meeting.

New members: If you are unable to attend the August meeting, but have questions, feel free to call or text Bill McCabe at 916-225-5974.

Board and Committee Chairs

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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

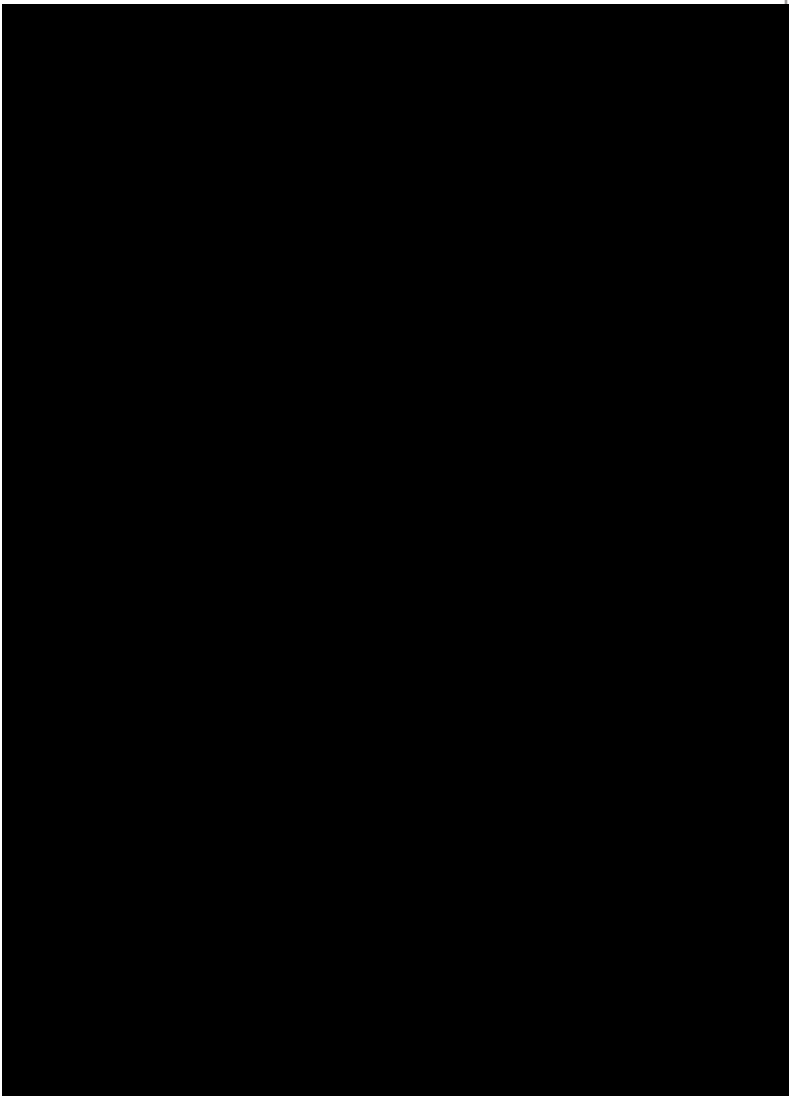
Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

Maribel Dennis/Keith Taylor

Co-chairs



Sunshine Corner



Our friend Marilyn Vilas received TWO Sunshine cards this past month: one as she prepared for open heart surgery, and another to wish her a smooth recovery after its success. Happy healing, Marilyn! If anyone knows of someone who could use a cheery or uplifting note, please email me at cdaf182@gmail.com, using "Sunshine" in the Subject line.

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Spiral Cactus	Aeonium
February	Opuntia	Crassula
March	Mammillaria	Gasteria
April	Parodia	Euphorbia
May	no mini show	no mini show
June	Astrophytum	Lithops
July	Rebutia	Echeveria
August	Ariocarpus	Kalanchoe
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Stapelia	Sansevieria
November	Schlumbergera	Sedum
December	Holiday Party – No Mini Show	

For August the selected cactus variety is Ariocarpus and succulent, Kalanchoe! I know you have them, let's bring them in. And don't forget your dish gardens! Remember for the Mini Show presentation, it is a single plant (or a plant with its pups). Several plants of the same species will be a dish garden. A dish garden can be multiple plants of a single genus, or mixed genres! .



KALANCHOE BLOSSFELDIANA



ARIOCARPUS BRAVOANUS

Mini Show



ARIOCARPUS KOTSCHOUBEYANUS

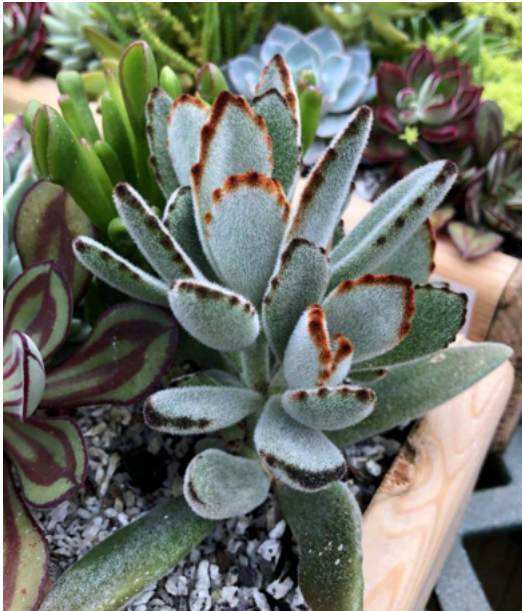


ARIOCARPUS FISSURATUS

Ariocarpus: Nearly all, if not all, cacti enthusiasts have great admiration for the genus, Ariocarpus. The rugged stone-like appearance and geophytic, subterranean bodies of these plants are not only unique among cacti, but quite unique among plants. In addition, it is well-known that they are very slow growing and so when enthusiasts see a large plant, they can truly appreciate the achievement, whether it was grown in cultivation or in habitat. That said, plants in habitat appear much different than those in cultivation. In habitat, the star-shaped rosettes are often flat against the ground and may be mostly buried beneath the soil with large taproots underneath. Extreme conditions keep these plants looking almost dead. In cultivation, on the other hand, admiring growers create ideal conditions for these plants and they are often grown into plump little mounds of green tubercles. Atypical of cacti, Ariocarpus do not have spines (except when they are seedlings). The flowers come out of the center of the plant and most are pinkish-red or white, but can be yellow. Fruits are non-descript and typically are just dried up material surrounding little black seeds. Ariocarpus are denizens of the Chihuahuan desert of Mexico and South Texas.

Ariocarpus species are very slow-growing. 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 seeds are black and pear-shaped.

Mini Show



KALANCHOE TOMENTOSA



KALANCHOE FEDTSCHENKOI VARIEGATA

Kalanchoe: If you want some amazing succulent to mix and match with your other flowering plants, then Kalanchoe is the perfect choice for you! They come in many beautiful variations and colors that will surely brighten any living space.

Furthermore, caring for Kalanchoe is very simple, making them ideal for both expert and novice gardeners.

Kalanchoe Plant has very low needs when it comes to watering. Giving them too much water will lead the plant to drown. On top of that, they have sensitive leaves, which can easily get rot when wet even for a small drop of water.

With that in mind, we highly recommended using the "Bottom Watering" method whenever you water your Kalanchoe Plant. Usage of this technique should help you avoid getting their leaves wet by accident, and at the same time, ensures that they'll get just a sufficient amount of water for them to stay happy and healthy.

You can also water your Kalanchoe Plant the traditional way, which is from above. Just ensure not to let its leaves come into contact with the water. In case you accidentally splash some water into its leaves, quickly get a tissue and carefully wipe it. Do not forget to throw out any excess water from the saucer.

Just like with most succulents, Kalanchoe plants need at least 6 hours of sunlight to thrive and develop a beautiful reddish outline. But again, they have sensitive leaves, so exposing them to too much light will lead this plant to get sunburned and prevent it from blooming. Instead, find a spot where this plant will be protected from the scorching sun in the afternoon, like a sunny window indoors or a shady and cool area outdoors.

Tricounty Home Show puts an emphasis on gardening



The Tri-County Home & garden event returns to Roseville's Roebbelen Center! What better way to spend a summer afternoon than shop for plants in air-conditioned comfort? Or take a garden workshop? Or admire winning flower arrangements? Or talk to garden clubs?

At the Tri-County Home & Garden Show, you can do all that – and much more. Serving Sacramento, Placer and El Dorado counties, this huge (and growing) event returns to Roseville's Roebbelen Center for a three-day run, starting Friday, Aug. 18. Patrons can find scores of vendors for all sorts of home and garden projects.

What sets this new show apart is its emphasis on gardening. A dozen local garden clubs and organizations will take part in the show's Garden Pavilion, offering free advice and information about their specialties.

Among those participating are: UCCE Master Gardeners of Placer County, Nevada County Bonsai Club, Sacramento Area Beekeepers Association, American Begonia Society's Sacramento Branch, Sacramento Orchid Society, Sacramento Floral Design Guild, Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society, Sacramento Chrysanthemum Society, Delta Gesneriad and African Violet Society, American Fuchsia Society's Sacramento Branch, Sacramento Iris Society and Sierra Foothills Iris Society.

Tricounty Home Show puts an emphasis on gardening

Several local vendors will be featured in the event's Garden Market, offering a wide assortment of plants, tools, supplies and decorations. The Plant Bar will host 11 make-and-take projects, free for attendees. Among the projects: Create a mini herb garden, DIY succulents wagon and container planting with spring bulbs. Free kid gardening workshops will be available, too. Find the full schedule here: <https://tri-countyhomegardenshow.com/theplantbar>.

Another highlight: Local professional florists will compete Friday morning in a judged design competition for cash prizes. Their arrangements will be on view throughout the show; the public can vote for the "Consumer Choice Award."

Besides showcasing plenty of conventional contractors and remodelers, the Tri-County show also spotlights small structures with a "Tiny Home Expo." Roebblen Center is located at 700 Event Center Drive, Roseville. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

General admission is \$10; senior tickets are \$5. Ticket fees added online; online discounts available [here](#). Children age 12 and under admitted free. Parking is \$10.

For details and tickets: <https://tri-countyhomegardenshow.com/>.



Sacramento Digs Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, August 14 - 6 p.m.
Master Gardeners at the Yolo County Fair

Wednesday, August 14 - 9 a.m.
All About Berries

Thursday, August 15 - noon
Master Gardeners at the Yolo County Fair

Friday, August 16 - 10 a.m.
Tri County Home & Garden Show

Friday, August 16 - noon
Master Gardeners at the Yolo County Fair

Friday, August 16 - 9 a.m.
Open Garden at Sherwood Demonstration Garden

Saturday, August 17 - 10 a.m.
Tri County Home & Garden Show

Saturday, August 17 - noon
Master Gardeners at the Yolo County Fair

Saturday, August 17 - 9 a.m.
Open Garden at Sherwood Demonstration Garden

Sunday, August 18 - 10 a.m.
Tri County Home & Garden Show

