

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June, 2024 | Volume 81, Issue V

Announcements

June Meeting:

June 24th, 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.



June Program

EVERYTHING YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT GYMNOCALYCIUM CACTII

Our speaker this month is J.D. Wikert. He will present the cactus genus *Gymnocalycium*.

J.D. is a fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in California's Central Valley and lives in Lodi, California. Previously, he worked in Florida sampling fish and doing lake restoration. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 150 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards.



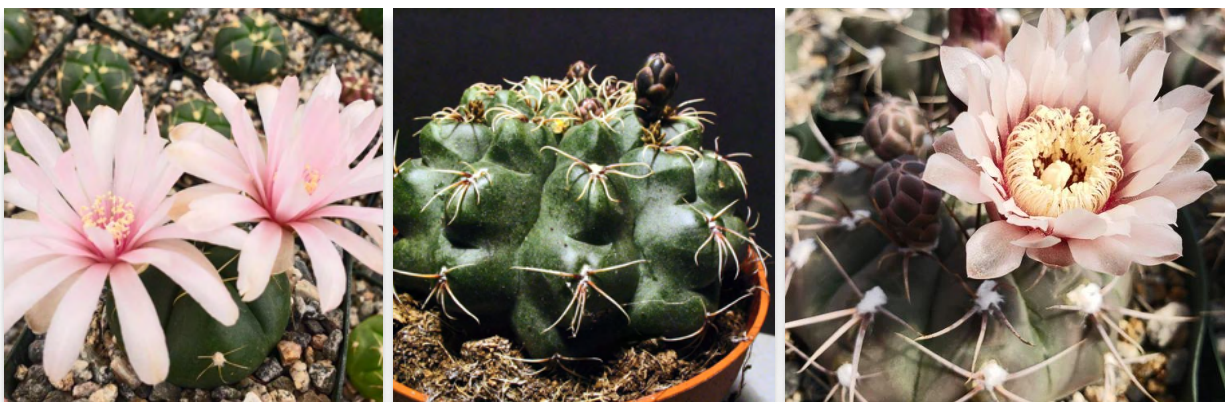
June Program

J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for around 20 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies, and just finished a three year stint as president for the Stockton Club.

J.D. will provide a broad overview of the cactus genus *Gymnocalycium*. The presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of many of the more readily available species. Be ready to answer when J.D. asks where in the world do you find *Gymnocalycium* in their natural habitat.

You might have seen J.D. speak in a previous meeting about *Haworthia* a few years ago. He also has presentations on *Adromischus*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Sedum*, *Senecio*, *Stapeliads*, a general Succulent Overview, watering succulents, and a succulent quiz.

J.D. will bring plants to sell at the meeting. He can take cash or Venmo.



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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

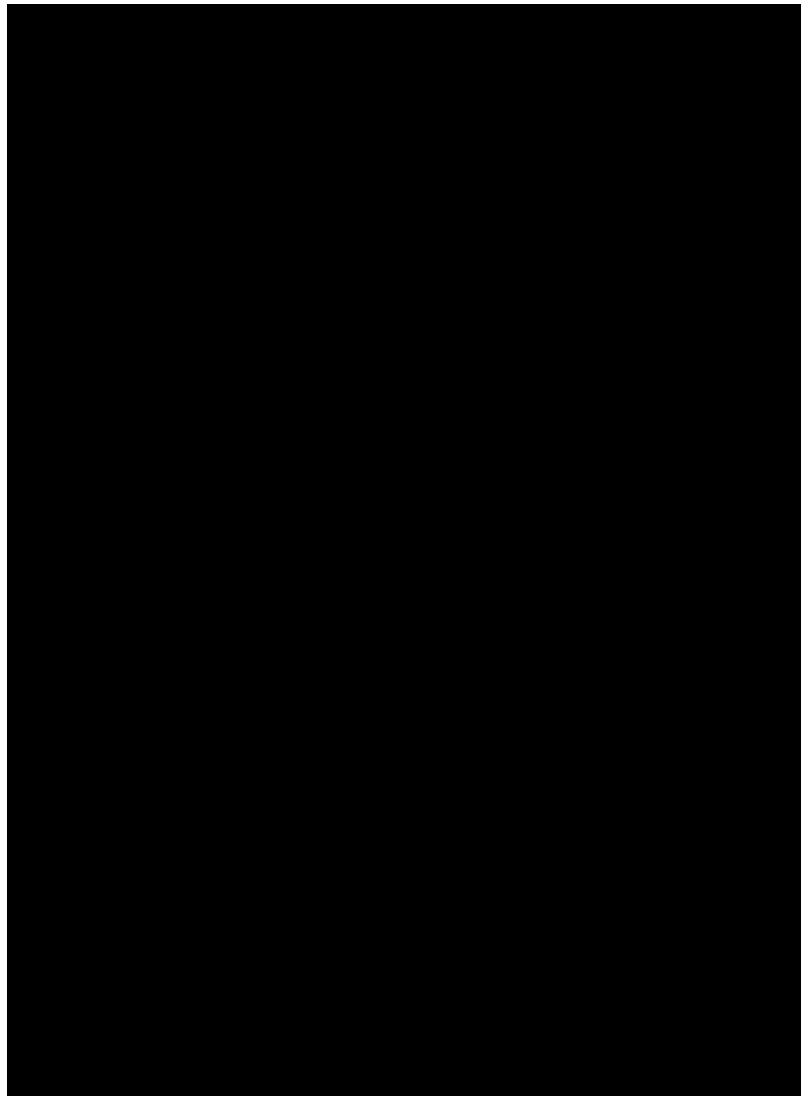
Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

Maribel Dennis/Keith Taylor

Co-chairs



Sunshine Corner



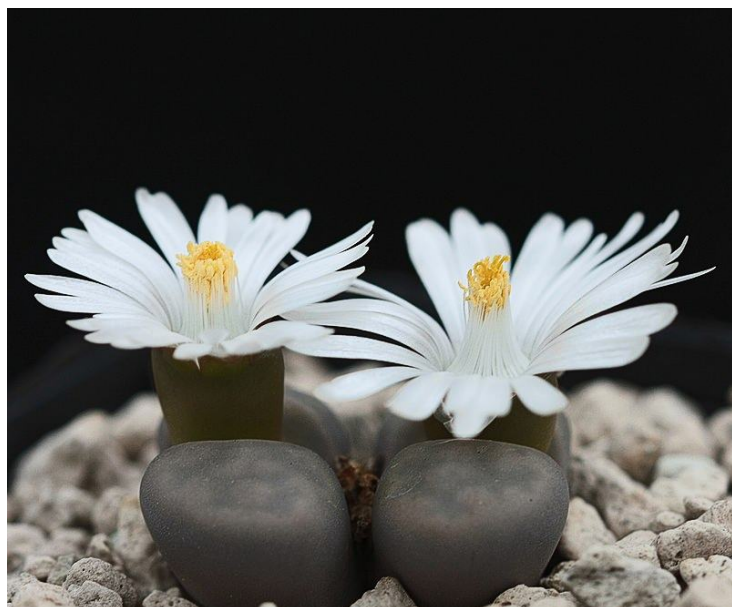
Jill Fay received Sunshine card last month after I learned she needed stitches due to a fall as she was leaving our annual plant sale. Ouch! Jill, hope you are much better now. If you know of someone who could use a cheery or uplifting note, please email me at cdaf182@gmail.com, using Sunshine in the Subject line.

2024 Mini Show Schedule

June Mini Show

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 June the selected cactus variety is Astrophytum and succulent, Lithops! 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!



Lithops karasmontana 'Opalina'



Lithops karasmontana

June Mini Show



L. karasmontana var. *lericheana*

The species of the genus *Astrophytum* usually grow individually with spherical to columnar green shoots and reach heights of up to 1.5 meters. The shoots are often densely covered with fine white tufts of hair, but sometimes they are completely bald. There are four to ten (rarely three) very noticeable ribs that are not divided into cusps. The large areoles stand close together, but do not merge. The spike is variable. Spines may be present or may be missing entirely.

The funnel-shaped, large flowers are yellow or yellow with a red throat. They appear at the top of the shoots and open during the day. The pericarpel is covered with pointed scales. The cap-shaped seeds have a diameter of up to 2.5 millimeters with a brownish black seed coat which is almost smooth. The edge is rolled towards the sunken hilum.

Lithops -.Lithops is a genus of succulent plants in the ice plant family, Aizoaceae. Members of the genus are native to southern Africa. The name is derived from the Ancient Greek words λίθος (líthos) 'stone' and ὄψ (óps) 'face', referring to the stone-like appearance of the plants. They avoid being eaten by blending in with surrounding rocks and are often known as pebble plants or living stones. Lithops is both the genus name and the common name. The formation of the name from the Ancient Greek -ops means that even a single plant is called a Lithops.



Astrophytum ornatum



Astrophytum ornatum

June Mini Show



Individual Lithops plants consist of one or more pairs of bulbous, almost fused leaves opposite each other and hardly any stem. The slit between the leaves contains the meristem and produces flowers and new leaves. The leaves of Lithops are mostly buried below the surface of the soil, with a partially or completely translucent top surface known as a leaf window which allows light to enter the interior of the leaves for photosynthesis.

During winter a new leaf pair, or occasionally more than one, grows inside the existing fused leaf pair. In spring the old leaf pair parts to reveal the new leaves and the old leaves will then dry up. Lithops leaves may shrink and disappear below ground level during drought. Yellow or white flowers emerge from the fissure between the leaves after the new leaf pair fully matures, one per leaf pair. This is usually in autumn, but can be before the summer solstice in *L. pseudotruncatella* and after the winter solstice in *L. optica*. The flowers are often sweetly scented.

See you at the June meeting with
your Mini Show plants!!

Linda Partmann

New Additions To Our Cactus Club Garden

We have recently received new additions to our club's McKinley Park garden. Club member Marilyn Vilas donated two mature Sago palms (*Cycas revoluta*). They were placed in the ground immediately adjacent to our garden in a setting on either side of a permanent park bench. Also, thanks to a telephone tip to our club's president, we learned of the availability of a grouping of *Echinocactus grusonii*. We appreciate the intervention of club member Kyle Johnson who was able to save this grouping of 6 mature specimens and deliver them to our garden. All plants were in the ground by the end of May. Many thanks to all who helped in these garden improvements.



Pics from our Big Sale



Open gardens

Amie Frisch will be holding an open house on June 22nd from 9a - 3pm.

The address is
6131 Chrysler Cir
Garden Valley, CA 95633



She is located up in the hills about an hour from Sacramento. People are welcome to explore her greenhouse of rare succulents, and she will be selling a few plants too. Gerhard recently visited and wrote a blog post. Here is the link - <https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2024/04/a-succulent-nursery-in-gold-country.html?m=1>

CSSA Show and Sale

