

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

July, 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 7

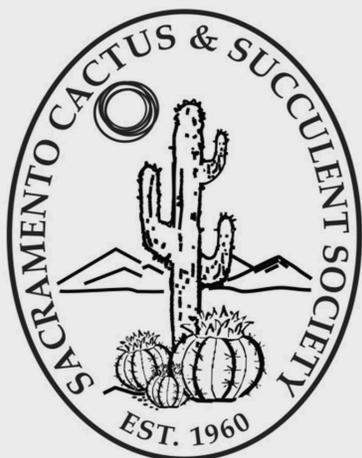
Announcements

July Meeting:

July 28th, 2025
6:15pm -9:15pm
Shepard Garden & Art
Center

Doors open at 6:15 for
plant sales and
fellowship.
Program begins at 7
PM.

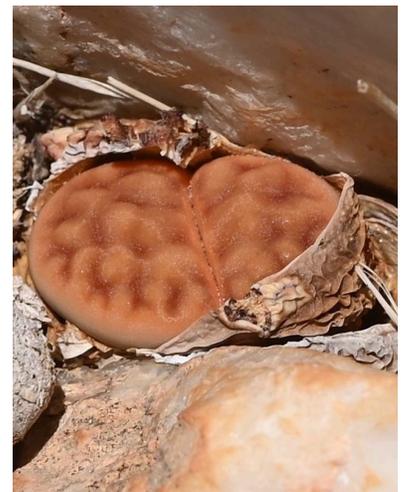
Open to the public.
No admission fee.
Free parking.
Refreshments served



July Program

In Search Of (Formerly) Lost Lithops Species

A species is discovered, described, published, and seeds (and later plants) are distributed to botanical gardens and growers, yet within a few decades the species is lost. Surprisingly, this appears to happen frequently. The genus *Lithops* has multiple examples in which a valid species is never seen again, claimed to have never existed, or synonymized out of existence. For example, *Lithops opalina* was discovered in 1922, synonymized with another species in 1946, and then in 1973 said to have never existed as a species in nature and instead claimed to be a cultivar that was bred in the late 1950s and early 1960s. To finalize this transformation from species to man-made cultivar *Lithops opalina* was "officially" declared as a cultivar in 2013 -- as if *Lithops opalina* had never existed in nature.



July Program

To spice up the story of botanical malpractice, someone found a "new" species in the 1960s that was described to look mostly like *Lithops opalina*, and it was named *Lithops eberlanzii* var. *aiaisensis*. Luckily, the 1922 discoverer of *Lithops opalina*, Kurt Dinter, gave detailed descriptions of his research trips to what is now Namibia, and with some sleuthing we could recreate his trip through the southern Namibian desert. We found *Lithops opalina* exactly at the location where Dinter said he found and collected them, and we restored the taxon as *Lithops eberlanzii* var. *opalina*. By doing so, ironically, we relegated *aiaisensis* to synonymy. Since then we followed up by "rediscovering" *Lithops summitatum*, which had been subjected to a similar fate as *L. opalina*. By now we are convinced that there are about a dozen or so original species that were "lost" because of botanical malpractice, and we are working to get them back one at a time, including *Lithops halenbergensis*, the story of which is currently awaiting the Editor's approval for publication in *Haseltonia*.

Following his retirement from paid research in physics Peter has switched to unpaid research in botany. Since the end of 2020 Peter has been spending about 9 weeks per year in Namibia searching for *Lithops*, although recently he also ventured to the Canaries. 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

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Bill McCabe

Vice-President/Program Chair:
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David Roberts
Ex Officio: Mariel Dennis

CSSA Affiliate:
Gerhard Bock

Librarian:
George Krigas

Membership/Roster:
Charlotte Tipton

Mini Show:
Linda Partmann

Newsletter:
Eve Milan

Drawing Tickets:
Cindy Morales

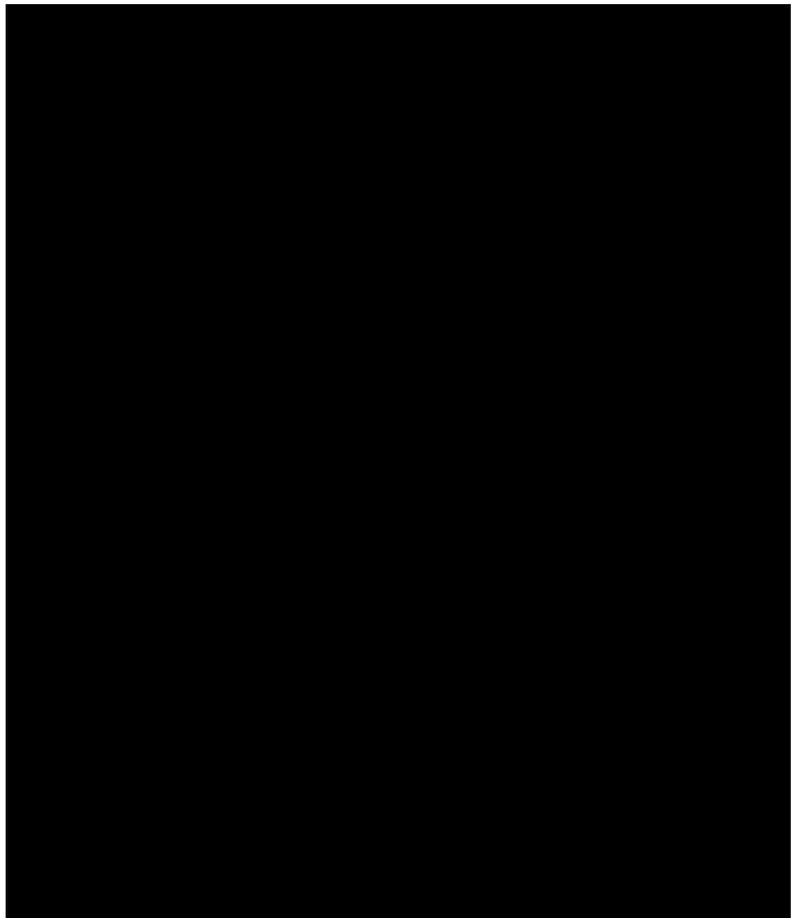
Refreshments:
Michele Swanberg & Elaine
Thomas

Annual Country Store:
Bill McCabe

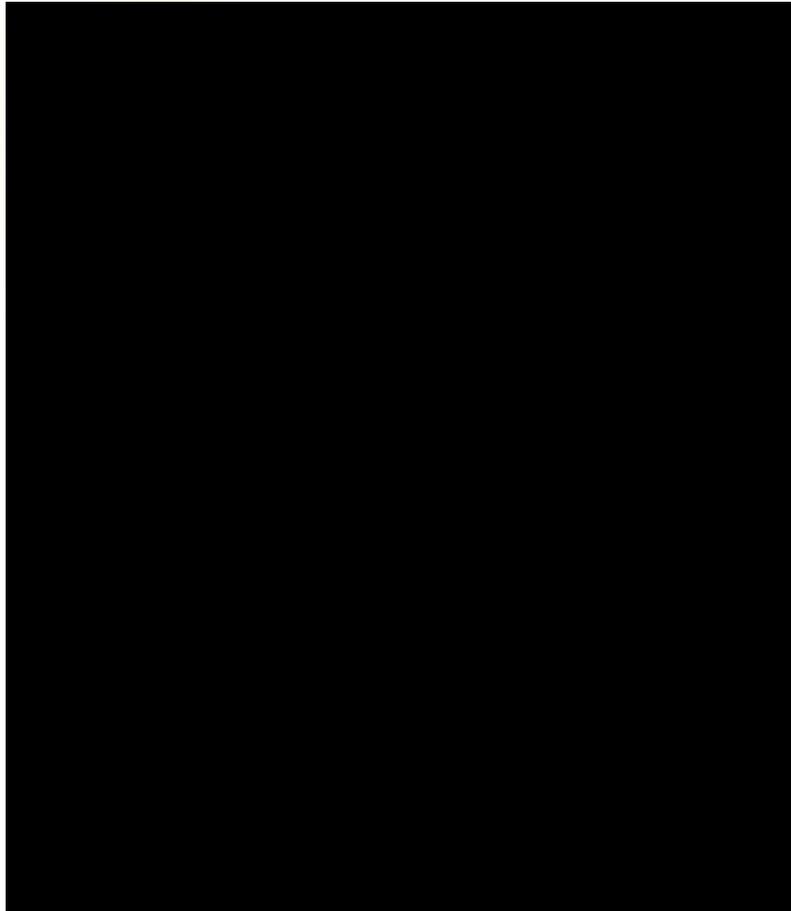
Sunshine Corner:
Cherry Dulaney

Webmaster:
Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:
Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor
Co-chairs



Sunshine Corner



2025 Mini Show Schedule

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Spiral Cactus	Aeonium
February	Cylindropuntia	Haworthia
March	Ferocactus	Gasteria
April	Coryphantha	Euphorbia
May	Catered Dinner – No Mini Show	
June	Aporocactus	Adenium
July	Rebutia	Echeveria
August	Ariocarpus	Senecio
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Pediocactus	Pachyphytum
November	Mammalaria	Crassula
December	Holiday Party – No Mini Show	

Our three categories are cactus, succulents and dish gardens. Remember, for cactus and succulent categories, an entry should just be one plant (or plant with its pups). If there are several plantings in a pot (even of the same species), that is a dish garden. A dish garden can have several plants of the same species, or a mix of species. Dish gardens can also have playful elements, such as fairy gardens, etc.

If you are participating in the Mini Show, please plan on arriving on time to get your plant set up and give the members time to vote! Voting is over at 7 pm when the speaker starts. Winners are announced after the speaker. We had great participation so far this year—keep it up! This month's featured entries are ones we all have so it should be a great Mini Show! At this time of year some of the mini show plants might be in full bloom.



Rebutia marsoneri

July Mini Show

Rebutia is a genus of flowering plants in the family Cactaceae, native to Bolivia and Argentina. The limits of the genus have varied widely, depending on whether genera such as *Aylostera* and *Weingartia* are included or treated separately. As of December 2024, Plants of the World Online accepted only three species of *Rebutia*. A very large number of plants that have been treated in cultivation as species of *Rebutia* are now generally regarded as varieties, forms or synonyms of a much smaller number of species, or have been transferred to other genera. Plants treated as *Rebutia* are generally small, colorful cacti, globular in form, which freely produce flowers that are relatively large in relation to the body. They have no distinctive ribs, but do have regularly arranged small tubercles. They are considered fairly easy to grow and they may produce large quantities of seeds that germinate freely around the parent plant.

Care Indoors, a south-facing window is ideal as it provides ample light. If grown outdoors, they should receive several hours of direct sunlight daily. In extremely hot climates, some light afternoon shade may be beneficial to prevent sunburn. Soil: *Rebutia* needs well-draining soil, typical for cacti.



Aporocactus Flagelliformis



Rebutia Wessneriana

July Mini Show

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.

Echeveria plants are evergreen. Flowers on short stalks (cymes) arise from compact rosettes of succulent fleshy, often brightly coloured leaves.[2] Species are polycarpic, meaning that they may flower and set seed many times over the course of their lifetimes. Often, numerous offsets are produced, and are commonly known as "hen and chicks", which can also refer to other genera, such as Sempervivum, that are significantly different from Echeveria.

Many species of Echeveria serve important environmental roles, such as those of host plants for butterflies. For example, the butterfly *Callophrys xami* uses several species of Echeveria, such as *Echeveria gibbiflora*, as suitable host plants. Even more, these plants are integral to the oviposition process of *C. xami* and some other butterfly species as well.

Care: Echeverias are relatively low-maintenance succulents that thrive with bright light, well-draining soil, and infrequent watering. They need plenty of sunlight, ideally direct sunlight for at least 4-6 hours a day, but can also tolerate partial shade, especially during intense afternoon sun.



Echeveria pink diamond



Echeveria pink diamond



Echeveria Harmsii

HEADS UP: THE COUNTRY STORE IS COMING TO OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING



Country Store in Septemeber:

Every year the Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society members donate, plants, pots, books and misc. cactus themed stuff to be given out during a drawing at our September meeting. All members who attend can buy as many drawing tickets as they like. It's time to start getting your donations ready. Last year we had 5 tables of succulents donated, a table of pots, a table of cacti and a table of assorted cactus themed merchandise. Oh, and don't forget the silent auction where you get to bid on some great cacti, succulents, pots etc. Details to come at the July and August meetings and in the next two newsletters.



FAIR OAKS HARVEST DAY

Our Sacramento Club has been coming to the Fair Oaks Harvest Day for several years. This year the event (put on by the UC Master Gardeners of Sac County) will be held on Saturday August 2, 8 AM-2 PM at the Fair Oaks Horticultural Center. The event is loaded with speakers and opportunities for all types of plant lovers to increase their plant knowledge. Several vendors will be there selling a wide variety of plants and there will be food trucks.

The purpose of these events for us is to attempt to recruit new members to our Club where we can share our knowledge of cacti & succulents. The plants of Cassidy Roberts-Yee and the pots of Eric Bailey will attract people to our table. Once there we can talk about our Club with anyone who is interested.

<https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-sacramento-county/harvest-day>



TRI-COUNTY HOME & GARDEN SHOW

Once again, the Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society will be participating in the TRI-COUNTY HOME & GARDEN SHOW in Roseville. The Tri-County Show will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, August 15,16,17 from 10 AM-5 PM each day. We will have a Membership table, as well as Cassidy (Radiant Cactus) and Lesley & Jerry (L & J Plants) selling plants to represent our Club. There are always an incredible number of vendor booths to investigate. Check out the link below and click on "Attendees" for more information.

This is always a great event for recruiting new members for our Club! We will need a several volunteers for this 3 day event. Members who volunteer for 4 hours or longer will receive a free parking pass and free admission. Please contact Bill McCabe at the July meeting or at 8mcca8e@sbcglobal.net or 916-225-5974 if you wish to volunteer. <https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-sacramento-county/harvest-day>

