

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June, 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 6

## Announcements

### June Meeting:

June 23rd, 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



## June Program

### Evolving Interests Of An Expert Novice

It has been a few years since Barry talked to our society. He is a little unpredictable regarding exactly what he will talk about (“talent” can be so difficult sometimes!) but he says he’s going to talk about his current favorite passion—Echinopsis hybrids.

He will describe just why he loves these, and why you should too. He’ll also talk about how you can take a small Echinopsis bud—even an unrooted one—and turn it into a glorious plant that will make your collection a crowd pleaser. And even more, he’s going to go into detail about best practices for grafting. After all, any cactus grower should know at least the basics of grafting, because it can be an effective way to guard against the loss of a beloved plant.



## June Program

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Finally, he will describe some of the challenges and successes of breeding your own plant. You could...if you wanted...create a unique plant that never existed on the planet before. Imagine that!

All that said, Barry will no doubt touch on a few other things on his mind...for example, some major changes that have gone on in *Astrophytum* cultivation during the last few years, and also something he just recently learned about selling plants in California...that EVERYONE selling plants should know about. It's The Law.

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 (Rocklin). 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 15 years. 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.



## Board and Committee Chairs

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**President:**  
*Bill McCabe*

**Vice-President/Program Chair:**  
*Theresa Roberts*

**Secretary:** *Gerhard Bock*

**Treasurer:** *Greg Lang*

**Board of Directors:**  
*Carole Hada,*  
*Tina Micheal Ruse*  
*Amie Frisch*  
*David Roberts*  
*Ex Officio: Steve Goodman*

**CSSA Affiliate:**  
*Gerhard Bock*

**Librarian:**  
*George Krigas*

**Membership/Roster:**  
*Charlotte Tipton*

**Mini Show:**  
*Linda Partmann*

**Newsletter:**  
*Eve Milan*

**Drawing Tickets:**  
*Cindy Morales*

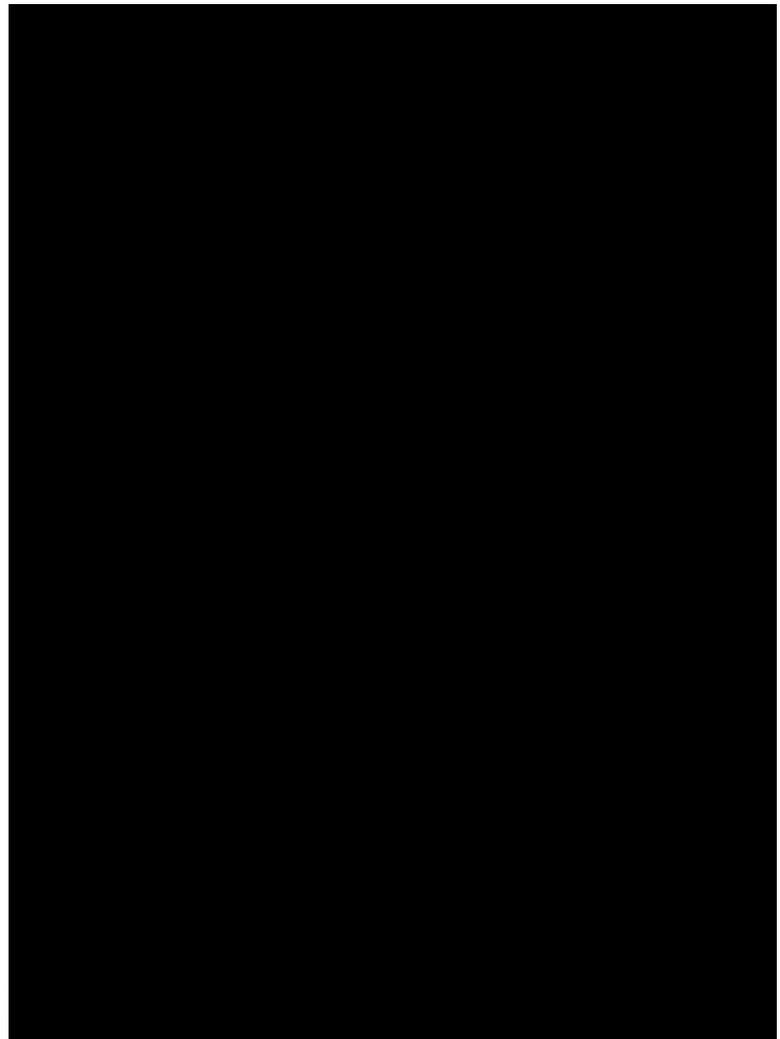
**Refreshments:**  
*Michele Swanberg & Elaine Thomas*

**Annual Country Store:**  
*Bill McCabe*

**Sunshine Corner:**  
*Cherry Dulaney*

**Webmaster:**  
*Gerhard Bock*

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



### Sunshine Corner

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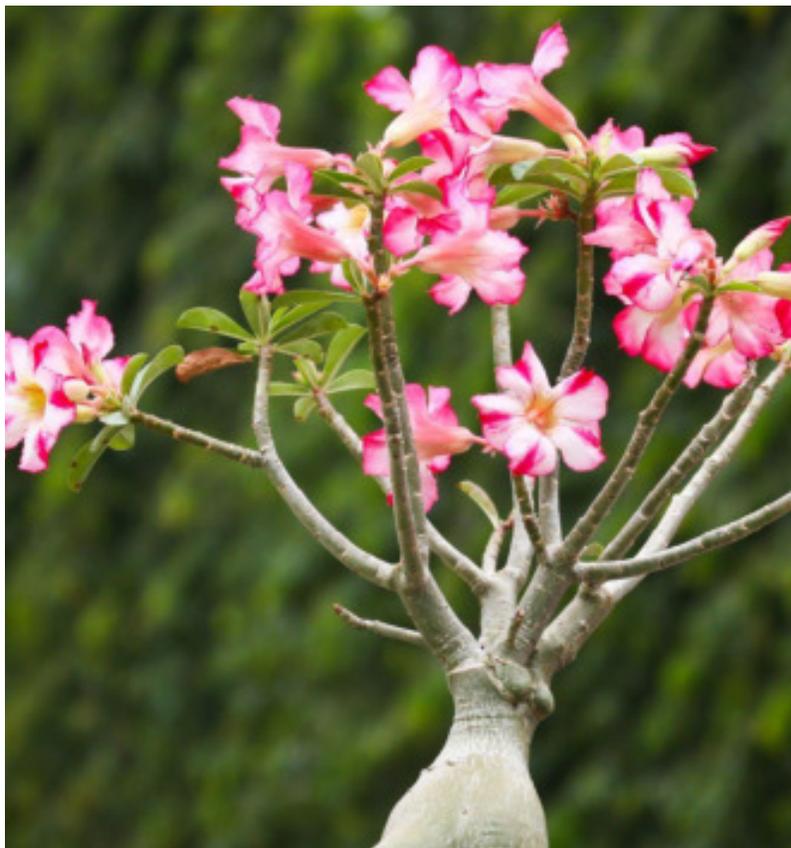
Sometimes life hands us lemons. Ron Morrison has been fighting a staph infection and was sent a Sunshine note of encouragement. Hang tough, Ron.

If you know of anyone who's going through a rough patch, a loss, or could use a cheerful note, send an email to [cdaf182@gmail.com](mailto:cdaf182@gmail.com) using Sunshine in the Subject line. Thanks, Cherry DuLaney, Sunshine Chair

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.



Adenium Arabicum

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.

July Mini Show



Aporocactus martianus



Aporocactus flagelliformis

**Aporocactus** is a genus of cacti in the tribe Hylocereeae native to Mexico. It used to be classified as a subgenus in Disocactus, but according to molecular evidence, it should be excluded from Disocactus and treated as a separate genus. It is an epiphytic genus growing on the branches of trees, but without parasitizing them. Occurs as drooping or creeping stems up to 60 cm with 6 ribs covered with many small spines.

Place your rat tail cactus in a location with bright, indirect light. - Water your cactus moderately, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings. - Use well-draining soil, such as a cactus or succulent mix. - Keep this cactus in the warm indoor temperature range of 60-80°F, and outdoors in USDA zones 10-11.



Aporocactus flagelliformis



Aporocactus flagelliformis

### July Mini Show

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**Adeniums, or Desert Rose,** are eye-catching succulents native to Africa and the Arabian Peninsula known for their vibrant, trumpet-shaped flowers. They are well-loved for their vibrant, trumpet-shaped flowers that bloom in many colors with both single and double blossoms. These plants boast a unique, thick caudex at the base, which stores water for periods of drought. Desert Rose thrives in sunny, well-draining environments, making them suitable for container gardening or as striking focal points in rock gardens. They're low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and pest-resistant, which adds to their appeal.

Desert Rose can grow outdoors in warm, dry climates that mimic its natural habitat in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. In regions within USDA hardiness zones 10–12, where temperatures remain above 50°F year-round, it can be grown outdoors as a striking landscape or patio plant. When grown outdoors, Desert Rose prefers a location with full sun, as it needs plenty of bright light to produce its vibrant flowers. However, in extremely hot climates, some afternoon shade can help prevent leaf scorch. The soil should be well-draining, as the plant is highly susceptible to root rot if it sits in waterlogged conditions. A sandy or gritty soil mix, similar to what's used for cacti and succulents, is ideal. In cooler climates where frost is a concern, Desert Rose can be placed outdoors during the warmer months but must be brought inside before temperatures drop. Frost and freezing temperatures can severely damage or kill the plant, as it is not cold-hardy.



Adenium double noble



Adenium Floribunda

Open Gardens

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# OPEN GARDEN

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**Mariel's Open Garden:**

Saturday, July 5th (10am - 1pm)

11842 Sandy Knoll Ct. Rancho Cordova, CA 95742

Celebrate the holiday weekend with patriotic decor and snacks. Even if you've been before there is always changes; new stuff and new garden art. All welcome. Parking in driveway is ok but please don't bloke the neighbors driveway.



## 58th CSSA Annual Show and Sale

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### 58th Annual CSSA Show & Sale

June 27 – 29, 2025 (10am to 5 pm)

Huntington Library & Botanical Gardens, San Marino, CA

Hundreds of award-winning specimen plants will be on view as the Cactus & Succulent Society of America presents its 58th Annual Show and Sale. Dozens of vendors will have ethically propagated rare plants for sale – many not widely available elsewhere.

This 3-day event will be held at the Huntington in San Marino. The Show & Sale is free, but advance reservations are required for the Huntington. You can [purchase tickets here](#).

For detailed info on the Show & Sale, including a vendor list, visit the [CSSA Show & Sale page](#).

