

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2019

Volume 60, VI

June Program

GROWING SUCCULENTS FROM SEED

Unlike plants propagated from cuttings or divisions, seed-grown plants exhibit a wide range of diverse traits inherent in the genetic makeup of any given species. In other words, each seed-grown plant has its own character. Among succulent growers, there is nothing more rewarding than to see a dish of seedlings growing up to become adult plants. Peter Beiersdorfer will give a hands-on demonstration on how to grow cacti and other succulents from seed. He will discuss seed and soil preparation, germination, watering, dealing with pests, and re-potting. He will bring cactus and succulent seeds adapted for different growing conditions so that everyone can try their hands in growing new plants. Much of the presentation will also be useful for keeping adult plants alive and healthy.

Peter's interest in succulents started with his grandmother's plants while living in Germany: Easter lily cacti, epiphyllums, haworthias, and sansevierias. Upon moving to Livermore more than 25 years ago, he started growing succulents in earnest. In his backyard, his collection now encompasses several thousand plant species and varieties, and he propagates plants from seeds and cuttings. As time permits, he travels to explore and photograph the succulent flora in habitat around the world, including Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Namibia, South Africa, various Caribbean Islands, and the Mediterranean Coast. He is a participant and contributor to the shows and sales of five cactus and succulents clubs in northern California, including the SCSS. He serves as the sales chair of the spring and fall sale of the Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose. Peter will bring plants for sale.



Meeting Details

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM.

Next meeting: June 24

Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816

center phone: (916) 808-8800 | www.sacramentocss.com

May Show Report

Treasurer's Report (Estimate)

Gross Sales: \$73,000
 Vendor Sales Portion: \$52,000
 Expenses: \$~7,000
 Net: ~\$14,000



Making the 60th Annual Show/Sale Even Better for 2020!

At the May potluck, we had great attendance and lots of wonderful ideas capturing what worked well and what could be improved for next year which will mark our 60th year! The 2020 show committee will begin in early 2020 planning for a bigger and better show and will review all the ideas presented at an open planning meeting (TBD). In the table below are the suggestions to be reviewed and any decisions made. Any additional suggestions may be emailed to Mariel Dennis at president@sacramentocss.org.

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	DECISION
President/Chair	Confirm show dates/hours with Center when 2020 calendar established; confirm with Judging Chair and Program Editor	
President/Chair	One Month Prior to show, Confirm show hours with center monitors and Center board of directors	
President/Chair/ Publicity Chair/ Web Master	Coordinate show dates with Carmichael club and cross-publicize events on web page and in newsletter	
Web Master	Post show dates and calendar of meetings in January for all year; update as events are announced	
Publicity	Need Publicity Chairperson identified. Social media was ok but traditional publicity by posting flyers and using local print media was not well coordinated. Farmer Fred?	
Publicity	Can we do more large banners/signs in local area and at center?	
Publicity	Early time disconnects caused confusion and unhappy customers who didn't like time change on Saturday morning	
Publicity	Contact local high schools/colleges – promote junior division	
Friday Set Up	Arrange for rental table deliveries and Shepard Center Hours	
Friday Set Up	Pick up materials from club storage locker and cover tables	
Friday Set Up	Need to set up plant sales area and measure aisle ways to ensure safety; keep free space near exit; plan layout better	
Sales	Consider moving cashiers outside the gate with secure area	
Registration	Some entries were without owners' names. This became a problem when the plant was awarded a 'Best'. Suggestion: no name, plant is disqualified or loses points	
Registration	Many entries in Div. I and II had no botanical label in the pot. This rule will be stressed in next year's show schedule.	
Registration	Some Div. III entries had non-Div. III reg tags. Again, this will be stressed next year.	
Registration	Class confusion: C1, 27 & 54 need better explanation in info sheet.	
Registration	Consider having a person to check tags for completeness before plants are placed.	
Refreshments	Great choices with food	

Annual Show/Sale Suggestions, cont.

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	DECISION
Refreshments	Need more volunteers and help with clean up?	
Refreshments	Need coffee and donuts on Friday morning	
Judging	Judging for Juniors/Novice, Div. I and Div. II went very smoothly. The bottleneck is Div. III (Allied Interests). This comes at the end of the other judging so a couple of things are happening: Judges are getting tired after 2+ hours and out-of-town judges are not familiar with the Div. III categories – not easy to familiarize judges in a short amount of time. Suggestion: As the Junior/Novice judges finish early, are local and are familiar with Div. III categories, have them judge Div. III. The tiebreaker judge could be included, having three judges. With this extra responsibility, Junior/Novice judges should have their honorarium increased. Another idea is to have these same judges also do the collections.	
Judging	Need different criteria for Division III – adherence to category description, condition of plants and creativity of presentation	
Judging	Can we get judging done Friday night so show can open at 9 AM on Saturday same as sales area?	NO
Judging	Some rosettes not awarded; should we reduce the number?	
Judging	Consider judging Div. III first (annex)	Well received
Judging	People's choice awards - stickers	
Awards	Keith's procedure for awarding pots was great – letting the Best of Show winner pick first. Need to devise method to alert all 'Best' winners so everyone gets their pot.	
Awards	Would like to add an inter-category award or sweepstakes to encourage more entries. Need to have a way to track winners (modify registration tag).	
Awards	If someone enters 3 or more plants into a category and wins 1st, 2nd and 3rd ribbons they receive either a prize (\$10 voucher for plant purchase or small pot for example)	
Awards	Should we rethink Junior awards? With limited entries should they be eligible for multiple "best of" awards or a special set of awards?	Keep as is.
Show Area Clean up	Usually the morning of judging, spare hands police the area, removing and placing the left-overs from set-up and staging in the back room, away from the public view. We need to do this to avoid a messy look.	
Traffic Flow	Entry through show area on Saturday morning did not result in many people stopping to see the show entries. Consider letting directly into sale area in morning only or open air curtain in morning only and no demos in morning.	
Traffic Flow	Keeping the air curtain closed did help with sound during demonstrations but suggest we do it differently	
Traffic Flow	Need better crowd control to limit flow on Saturday morning for safety inside sales area. Need to post signs.	
Traffic Flow	Put demos by bathrooms and move plants into fireplace area	
Membership	Put a membership table outside in morning of first day and let members in one hour early; move table inside after lunch	Good
Membership	Good hand outs	

Annual Show/Sale Suggestions, cont.

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	DECISION
Volunteers	Volunteer coordinator is critical role; need to get sign ups early and call to remind folks	
Volunteers	Saturday morning needs extra security volunteers for crowd control	
Volunteers	Need blank name tags for volunteers who don't have club badges	
Volunteers	Good turn out – Friday morning needed help for set up; Sunday afternoon needs help	
Volunteers	Need sign?	
Hours	Vendors objected to change in Saturday hours. Open on Saturday at 8 AM for members only (if vendors still setting up is not a problem) and 9 AM for the public to 5 pm. Keep Sunday hours the same (9-4); Show opens at 10 AM Saturday.	
Hours	Have sales open at 9 AM. Have members only sale Sat. morning (7-9?) with option to join at the door.	
Signage	Need better signs for sale area/show area	
Sales	Can we sell water/tea/soda? Do we need special permits?	
Sales	Could we arrange for a food truck to be on site during the show for the public?	Tried before unsuccessful
Sales	Vendor buttons???	
Sales	Have vendors help with cash registers	
Sales	Consider vests for volunteers – bright colors	
Shadow Boxes	5 Shadow Boxes and 2 no shows; one unclaimed so 2 remaining folks did all five and split the honorarium.	
Shadow Boxes	Discontinue?	No
Shadow Boxes	Do we provide an honorarium to participants to help defray cost? Show gift certificate?	
Shadow Boxes	Reinstitute popular voting through Sunday noon? Prizes?	Consider award of a Keith pot to first.
Shadow Boxes	Have open theme so people have easier time using their plants. Allow teams with splitting \$25. Have signups and info sheets earlier in year for maximum time to prepare. Allow people to do more than one and share money.	Start publicizing in February
Shadow Boxes	Consider different prizes vs. gift certificate	
Security	Need more exit signs/better signage	
Security	Checking receipts is important and getting cashiers to count items;	
Security	Explain need for head count to get folks to use entrance avoided controversy; same for checking receipts	
Security	Use stanchions to direct paid folks outside	
Security	Suggest stamping receipt so can't be reused	
Plant Hotel	Need to purchase tickets/markers in advance	
Plant Hotel	Need a big sign to designate plant hotel. Need to post a notice with policy about not storing paid plants; no storage overnight? Cut off time Sunday	
Plant Hotel	Need screen to secure plants from grabbing	

Annual Show/Sale Suggestions, cont.

TOPIC	RECOMMENDATION	DECISION
Cash Register Lines	Cannot have sales lines go into building. Need to plan vendor tables and sales lines. Consider use of stanchions.	
Cash Register Lines	Need paddles for next in line to direct traffic	
Cash Register Lines	Need extra register Saturday morning?	
Cash Register Lines	Clothespins to limit crowds? 200 to hand out as folks enter and collect as they leave before letting in more	
Demonstrations	Publicize them better	
Demonstrations	Need a microphone	
Demonstrations	No demo on Saturday morning due to excessive crowds/noise.	
Demonstrations	Keep the session on award winning plants and make all the others about succulent basics but do a planter demo (combination of current programs); use club handouts	
Demonstrations	Keep fairy garden class	
Monday following show	Need to arrange for someone to be present for rental tables pickup (reminder to coordinate with SGAC)	
Center Issues	No one was assigned to keep trash cans empty	Mariel to address with SGAC Board
Center Issues	SGAC T-Shirt sales was a problem because some visitors wanted to purchase shirts but center monitor was not prepared to take money or answer questions	Mariel to address with SGAC Board
Center Issues	Need bathrooms monitored; AC on in morning	Mariel to address with SGAC Board
Center Issues	Men's room needs dispenser fixed or added dispensers	Mariel to address with SGAC Board
Center Issues	Mark grass as off limits for parking	Mariel to address with SGAC Board
Club	Clean up display garden before show – get sign ups	

Upcoming Events

June 23, 10am - 2pm. You are invited to see Mariel Dennis' garden on Saturday, June 23 anytime between 10 AM and 2 PM.

Address: 11842 Sandy Knoll Ct., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742. Please contact Mariel at 916-357-5880 if you have any questions.

Directions from Sacramento:

Take Hwy 50 East and Exit at Zinfandel. Turn Right onto Zinfandel. Turn left at the light onto International Drive (past the shopping center where Lowe's is. Panera Bread is on the corner) Turn right at the light onto Sunrise Blvd. Turn left at the light onto Chrysanthy Blvd. into the Anatolia subdivision. Turn left at the stop sign onto Anatolia Blvd. Take the first right turn onto Slate Falls. Take the second left onto Silver Water. Sandy Knoll is on your right. Mariel's house is the single story home at the back of the cul-de-sac. You may park in either driveway or on the street but please don't block the neighbors' driveways. You may have to park on Silver Water but it is a short walk.

June 30 - September 1. Annual Sculpture Show at Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Stay posted for a possible club field trip to this show.

Please see the two flyers included with the newsletter for the Annual CSSA Show and Sale at Huntington Gardens at the end of June as well as the 2019 CSSA Biennial Convention in San Luis Obispo, CA July 17-20.

June Mini-Show



CACTUS: COLUMNAR

June's mini -show category for cacti is "Columnar." Although the first thing that would come to many people's minds would be plants like the Saguaro or members of the *Cereus* genus, for the purposes of this mini-show, if you have a cactus of any genus that is taller than it is wide and is upright then we will consider it columnar. Bring it in and let the people decide. It should be interesting to see what we have in the mini-show!

SUCCULENT: ECHEVERIA

Echeveria is a large genus of flowering plants in the stonecrop family native to the semi-desert regions of Mexico, Central America, and northwestern South America. They are one of the most popular succulents thanks to their charming rosettes with gorgeous water-storing leaves. Echeveria come in a variety of beautiful colors and usually produce stunning flowers. They are super easy to care for, grow quickly, and can tolerate drought. The genus was erected by A. P. de Candolle in 1828, and it is named after the 18th century Mexican botanical artist Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy.



As of June 2018, the genus consists of about 150 species. Plants may be evergreen or deciduous. Flowers on short stalks (cymes) arise from compact rosettes of succulent fleshy, often brightly colored leaves. 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.

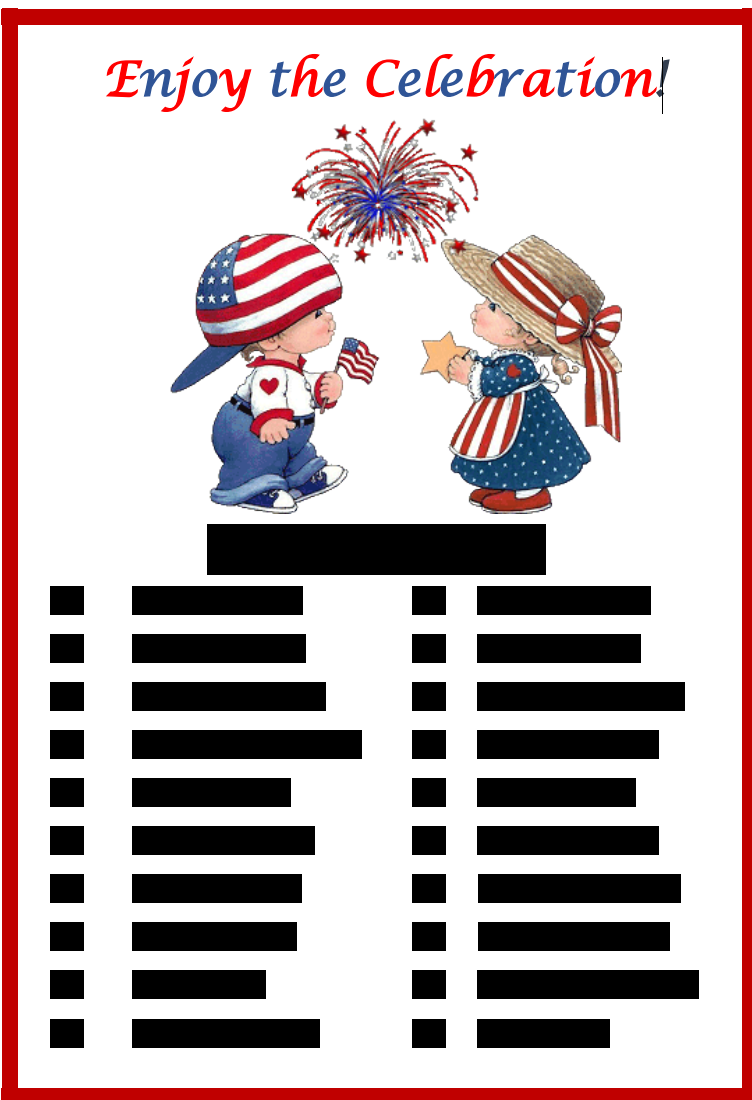
Club News and Notes

Call for Panel Volunteers for the August Monthly Meeting

The August program will highlight club member's knowledge, expertise, and love related to cactus and succulents. A panel presentation format will be used. Each participant will be asked to speak for 10-12 minutes on a focused topic of their choice. Your talk could be organized around a particular genus or species or theme (winter growers, miniatures, cactus flowers, etc.) or some other idea you propose. Here are the guidelines to help you prepare a brief talk to engage other club members and to make the panel presentations a cohesive whole:

- Photos or actual specimens related to your topic
- Brief description of your topic (plant group, theme)
- What draws you to your topic or theme
- Sacramento area culture information related to the plants included in your topic
- Resources for obtaining plant material or other items related to your topic

Inclusion in the program will be on a first-come basis. Please contact Theresa Roberts at robertst@csus.edu to volunteer. Theresa Roberts is available to help you prepare your presentation if you are interested but a little unsure how to go about it. We used a panel presentation last year and received very good feedback on it. It was a lot for fun for panel participants and the audience.



Cactus and Succulent Demonstration Garden at the Shepard Center

There is a new sign with our club name by the new cactus and succulent garden we installed on the northeast corner of the Center grounds outside the patio fenced area. Center monitors and the Board have passed along many compliments from visitors to the Center and McKinley Park neighbors for the new garden design. However, maintenance of the new garden is also our responsibility and we need everyone's help to keep it looking great. Please stop by to pull a few weeds or blow/rake leaves away from the plants when you can. Volunteers are needed for this service and it just takes a few minutes if done regularly. We also still have room if you want to donate any additional plants. Your help is very appreciated.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The SCSS is looking for a new editor to take over (or co-edit) the monthly newsletter. If you're interested, please contact Stephanie at newsletter@sacramentocss.com. The newsletter is our primary communication with the club each month, and the editor gathers content from our board members and chairs (but doesn't have to write anything!) It is currently prepared in Microsoft Publisher but could be moved into any publication tool. Sounds too difficult? It's not! If you can use Microsoft Word, you have the skills to put together our newsletter.