

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2017

Volume 58, X

October Program

THE NEW, RARE, AND SELDOM SEEN CACTI & SUCCULENTS OF MEXICO

We are happy to announce that our guest speaker this month is Woody Minnich. Woody's presentations are a favorite of the club; this year, he will be sharing with us new, rare, and seldom seen cacti and succulents of Mexico.



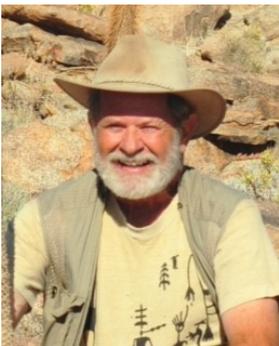
Hausteca Canyon, home of *Agave albopilosa*



Sedum robertsonianum



Echeveria lilacina



ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Woody, as he is commonly known, has been in the cactus hobby for some 47 years and has become well known for his participation and contributions. He has been awarded honorary life membership to ten clubs, as well as, a life member and Friend award with the CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) His many leadership roles include: National Show Chairman, Convention Sales Chairman, Convention Speaker coordinator, 2016 Mid-States Conference Co-chair, accredited C & S judge and writer-photographer. He has also served in almost all positions of leadership for many regional clubs and is currently the president of the new Santa Fe C & S club.

Woody is probably best recognized for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. After all, he was a celebrated secondary school teacher for 32 years, where he taught Art, Graphic Arts-Design and Architecture. He has now become a recognized international speaker and has presented at cactus and succulent events all over the world.

His involvement in the cactus and succulent world is well represented by his 45 years of field work in regions including: Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen. He often goes to remote places where few, if anyone, have ever explored and as a result of this field work, he has introduced many new taxa. Also, being a recognized grower, Cactus Data Plants since 1975, Woody has developed strong interests in both succulent plant taxonomy and the many cultivation secrets that help us to grow these unique plants.

October Mini Show

SUCCULENT: COTYLEDON



The featured succulent category for our show this month is Cotyledon. Cotyledon is a genus of succulent plants in the Crassulaceae family. Mostly from Southern Africa, they also occur throughout the drier parts of Africa as far north as the Arabian Peninsula. Members of the genus are shrublets, generally succulent, with fleshily woody, brittle stems and persistent succulent leaves.

The leaves are opposite. Leaf pairs generally are oriented at 90 degrees to their preceding and following pairs, as is common in the family Crassulaceae, but the leaf habit differs from *Tylecodon* (in which the leaves are borne in spirals and are deciduous).

The flowers are pendulous and tubular, borne at the tips of stout, rather long peduncles, mainly in short cymes.

As succulents go, *Cotyledon* certainly are rewarding garden and indoor subjects, practically independent of irrigation in all but full desert conditions, though they cannot survive poor light or bad drainage in the wet. Their main enemies are sucking bugs, such as mealy bug.

CACTUS: CORYPHANTHA AND ESCOBARIA

In the Cactus category, this month's selections are *Coryphantha* and *Escobaria*.



Coryphantha is a genus of small to middle-sized, globose or columnar cacti. The genus is native to arid parts of Central America, Mexico, through Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas and north into southwestern, central, and southeastern Montana. With its two subgenera, 57 species and 20 subspecies, it is one of the largest genera of cactus.

There are four characteristics that distinguish *Coryphantha* from other cacti.

1. Their bodies do not have ribs, just tubercles.
2. The flowers form at the top of the plant (the apex or growing end of the stem).
3. The tip (podarium) of each flowering tubercle has three parts, the spiny areole, the groove and the axil. Without the groove it is not a *Coryphantha*.
4. The seed coat (or testa) has a net-like pattern (reticulate).

More than many other cacti, the *Coryphantha* change in their appearance over their lifespan. The presence or absence of a central spine is not indicative of the genus, even in fully adult plants.

Escobaria, pincushion cactus, or foxtail cactus, is a genus of low-growing cacti that range from the southernmost parts of central and western Canada through northern Mexico, with one species in Cuba. The genus comprises about 23 species. The term "pincushion cactus" may also refer to the related *Mammillaria*.

The stems of *Escobaria* range from globose to cylindrical, and lack nectar-secreting glands; while ribs are absent, tubercles are present, tending to become corky and deciduous as they age. The flowers usually appear in spring and may have a variety of colors, while the fruits are almost always red. The seeds in this genus are notable for being deeply pitted. The cacti of this genus bear many similarities to *Coryphantha* and *Mammillaria*.



Notes from Our President

COUNTRY STORE REPORT

Our Country Store was a big success this year. We made a total of \$650. I would like to thank all of you who contributed plants, pots, edible goodies, and other items for both the drawings and the silent auction. The silent auction included many beautiful plants, pots, and miscellaneous items this year. In particular, I have to mention the fantastic cactus necktie snatched up by past President Keith Taylor. We expect to see it at future meetings, Keith! Thank you all!

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

We will be accepting nominations for 2018 club officers at the October meeting. As of now, we have nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Chair, and board members. We desperately need someone to volunteer for the job of Vice President/Program Coordinator. These nominations are not set in stone, and anyone in the club is free to volunteer for any position. It would be really nice to have some “new blood” in our officer hierarchy. See you on October 23!

Announcements

Membership Renewal Annual membership fees will be due soon. Contact Oanh Vu if you have questions about membership. The membership form is included with the newsletter next month for your convenience.

Need a badge? If you would like to get an SCSS member badge, please see Carole Hada at the next meeting or contact her via phone or email. Only \$10 for the pinned badge. We also have the option now to get magnetized badges for a few dollars more.



Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: October 23

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

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