



STICKY ISSUE

STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2018

MEETINGS: Fourth Thursday each month, 7:00 p.m.

* Unless otherwise noted

WHERE: San Joaquin County Building
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton, California

***NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 25th, 2018

PRE-MEETING DINNER: Denny's Restaurant
Arch Road location 5:30 p.m.



STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
C/O BRIAN POOT
5617 ANADA COURT
SALIDA, CA 95368



THIS MONTHS MEETING: Russell Wagner - Canary Island Flora in Two Extremes

Our speakers for the October meeting will be **Russell Wagner**. Russell Wagner, mesemb specialist, publisher, and succulent explorer, went back the Canary Islands twice this year. Two previous trips saw him walking the hills of Tenerife, Grand Canaria, and La Palma. This time, he went to extremes, spending four days in Fuerteventura, a large, volcanic island of extraordinary beauty in the dry eastern end of the archipelago, and a few months later returned to La Gomera, a round green island respondent with succulent plant life, as well as relict laurel forests, quaint villages, and excellent food. Rarely visited, and sparsely populated, but with excellent roads and well-marked trails, the island is paradise for succulent-lovers and solitude seekers.

Russell will share his beautiful photography, humor, and enthusiasm for travel and plants, Spain, it's cuisine, architecture, and scenery, as well as giving us a deep-dive look at the island's rarest succulents. Fuerteventura, for example, has an endemic spiny euphorbia known from one small valley, while La gomera hosts at least six species of Aeonium known only to that island, as well as numerous monanthes (tiny rosette succulents that crave water and perfect drainage, and this rarely grown outside of coastal zones), giant perennial sow thistles, bronze fennels, tree members of the morning glory family, and many other island oddities.

Russell will also be this month's featured grower, selling samples of his seed-grown mesembs, cacti, bulbs, and other winter-rainfall rarities from his greenhouse in Oakland. Russell grows some of the oddest, rarest, and most collectible succulents in northern California, so this talk is not to be missed!

*** Russell Wagner or the Poot's will provide the raffle table this month.**

***Reminder to Susan Tanis (drinks), & Shirley Tunick (snacks) this is your month to bring refreshments.**

***Reminder that we need someone to volunteer to be the greeter this month.**



Aeonium subplanum

2019 CLUB BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS:

President: **Greg Severi**

Vice President: **Brian Poot**

Treasurer: **Roelyn Poot**

Secretary: **Angela Severi**

Board Members: **Lesley Slayter, Bill Poot & Dawn Dalyce**

It is that time of year again that we need to nominate people to be on the board. If anyone would like to put their name in for the board please let one of the current board members know. If you would like to know what a job in tales please check with a board member. We will be voting to approve the slate of officers & board members for 2019 at the October meeting. Thank you!

PLANT PROTECTION!

There is a chill in the air in the early mornings which is a reminder that we all need to be thinking of how we are going to protect our winter sensitive plants. October is the best time to be moving potted plants onto the patio, close to the house. The plants in the ground can be covered with burlap, old bed sheets or old towels. There also is a frost cloth that can be purchased if you would like. If you are not sure about some of your plants, take a picture and bring it along to the club meeting. You can ask Bill or Brian Poot or Barb Coelho for advice. May your plants have a safe winter!

by Jessica Walliser

Succulents are currently among the most popular garden plants, especially for trend-conscious young gardeners. It's understandable why these plants are adorning so many windowsills, porches and patios these days. They're drought-tolerant and incredibly low-maintenance. Plus, the unique appearance of many succulent varieties makes them a real conversation starter. Succulents are a category of plants with thick, succulent leaves that hold a lot of water. Old-fashioned varieties you may already be familiar with include jade plants, kalanchoes, hens and chicks, and even aloe vera plants. But, there are now hundreds of different succulent plants available at your local garden center, with a huge diversity of plant forms, leaf colors and growth habits. Some of the most popular types of succulents include: Agave, Crassula, Dudleya, Echeveria, Sedum, Haworthia and Sempervivum species.



If you grew any type of succulents in your garden or in patio containers this year, it's time to think about how to overwinter them. If the varieties you selected are fully winter hardy here in Western Pennsylvania, the plants can be left outdoors all winter long. Hardy hens and chicks fit into this category. But, the vast majority of succulent plants sold in garden centers these days are not hardy in our gardening zone. Couple that with the expense of these plants, and you'll probably want to find a way to overwinter them so you can enjoy them in next year's garden, too. There are three basic ways you can overwinter succulent plants.

1. Overwinter succulents as houseplants. The majority of succulents perform quite well on a sunny windowsill inside. The trick to overwintering succulents as houseplants is to greatly limit the frequency of watering. Many succulents will actually rot if they're kept too wet, so water succulents spending the winter indoors as houseplants only once every six to eight weeks. Be careful to keep the foliage dry as you water. You'll also want to keep the plants in a room that's neither too hot or too cold. Avoid cold drafts and forced air registers.

2. Overwinter succulents in semi-dormancy. Though succulents don't shift into complete dormancy, it's possible to force them into a semi-dormancy by completely restricting water, greatly reducing light levels, and keeping them in an area with temperatures just above freezing. This is how I overwinter the 50 or so succulents and cacti I grow outdoors in my garden during the summer. When the nighttime temperatures start to drop into the low 50s, I move my succulent pots into our attached, but unheated, garage.

We have two small windows in the garage. I line the pots along the sides of the garage and completely ignore them all winter long. I do not water or fertilize the plants. They shift into a semi-dormant state where no active growth occurs. When we have a warm day in mid- to late-March, I take the pots outside and water them lightly, being careful to keep the foliage dry. Then, once the pots have drained, I move them back into the garage until the danger of frost has passed in mid-May when they go back up onto my patio.

3. Overwinter succulents as cuttings. Another way to see your succulent plants through the winter safely is to take cuttings of them. Most succulents are easy to propagate via leaf cuttings. To do this, fill a bunch of clean, plastic pots with a coarse, cacti-specific potting soil. Cut a single leaf off of the mother plant with a sharp knife and dip the cut end of the leaf into rooting hormone (available at local garden centers or online retailers), and then insert the cut end of the leaf down into the pot of soil by a half-inch or so. Do not cover the pot or leaf cutting, but do water it in at planting time and then whenever the soil is completely dry.

Within a few weeks, a new plantlet will form at the base of the cut leaf. The original leaf will eventually die, leaving just the new plant behind. Take many cuttings if you'd like to expand your succulent collection through the winter months. Be sure to keep your succulent cuttings on a sunny windowsill, but out of direct sunlight. Another option is to put them under grow lights for 18-20 hours per day. Taking leaf cuttings is very simple with succulents, as long as you don't overwater them.

PLANT STUDY: by Elton Roberts

Escobaria sneedii ssp. *leei*

Escobaria leei is a small plant that is quite popular. I think I have sold more *E. leei* over the years as just about any other single plant. I have had as many as 75 plants at one time and in less than a year they all will be gone. It is a small-headed plant with heads no more than about 1.5 cm in diameter. That is until the head is preparing to bloom then it grows taller and also larger in diameter. I see that Anderson did not grow the plants, as he does not seem to know that the plants can throw heads a lot larger than the dimensions he says. I suppose he could be giving the dimensions of plants in habitat. I deal with plants in cultivation as that is what most of you will ever see. I doubt that very many of you will ever go to the Guadalupe Mountains of New Mexico and climb around to see *E. leei* in person. What I try to give is an over all picture of the plants in cultivation. As I have not been to the habitat either I do not know if the plants get to the size Anderson says. That is 2.5 cm to 7.5 cm tall and 1.2 to 2.5 cm in diameter. In the photos the heads are only 1.5 cm in diameter until the plant prepares a head to bloom. At that time the head grows taller as can be seen in the photos. Also the diameter of the head increases to 3 cm as on these plants. I have a clump that is 52 cm in diameter and some of heads that bloom every year and several times a year are now 4 cm in diameter and the heads can also get to 20 cm tall as in areas of that clump. Another thing that happens as the heads prepare to bloom is that some of the spine clumps will go from the spines hugging the plant to being like a starburst. This can be seen on the heads that are getting ready to bloom or that are blooming and those that have been blooming. Even on the large clump there are still lots of the small heads that have never tried blooming.



If you look in the NCL you will see that they have decided that *E. leei* is now nothing but an *E. sneedii*. Shows that they have not grown the plant either and they just copied most of the information from Anderson anyway. The difference in *leei* and *sneedii* is the lay of the spines; on *leei* the spines lay against the plant, actually even pointing backward toward the plant. This can be seen easiest on the 3-headed plant. On *sneedii* they point more outward like the starburst on the flowering heads on *leei*. There does not seem to be any rhyme or reason as to which heads are going to grow larger and bloom. It can be heads in the center of the clump or heads on the edge of the clump. My large clump [not shown] has many heads that have bloomed over the years and still many many small heads that have never thrown a flower. On these small heads the spines still point back toward the plant body. In the NCL the photo of *E. sneedii* ssp. *sneedii* is really *leei*, as they do not show a true *sneedii*. If you want to compare the plants look in the Preston-Mafham book *Cacti the illustrated Dictionary*, there they show *E. leei* and the true *sneedii*. *E. leei* is on page 53 and *sneedii* is on page 55. In the photos I have included a photo of the spines below the flowers so you can see the starburst effect.

The plants can take a lot of cold if kept dry over the winter. They do not like wet roots in the winter while dormant. They need a fast draining soil mix. They are another plant that hates alkaline water and will show that quite well in shrinking and dieing heads. If given alkaline water long enough you will lose the entire plant. To keep the heads compact as possible and keep really tight spines with good spine growth give as much light as possible. They seem to do just fine in a lot of heat also, they have gone through 136 degrees in one of my hot houses and not complained that I heard or saw.

MONTHLY MINI SHOW: OPEN TO ANY CLUB MEMBERS THAT WANT TO SHOW PLANTS!

The mini show, held at the general meetings, is a time when you can **bring your plants**, to compete against other members' plants. There are 10 categories: Cacti & Succulent, (Open, Advanced & Novice Divisions), Bloomers (anything in bloom, also three divisions) & Allied Interest (dish gardens or natural planters). You may bring up to 2 from each category. The forms for judging are available to take home so that you can fill them out prior to the meeting if you wish, or there will be some at the meeting as well.



The plants are judged by the members attending that meeting; whoever receives the most votes wins that months mini show & will get their name in the next newsletter. The person(s) receiving the most votes at the end of the year will receive a gift from the club.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO BRING PLANTS TO SHOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

FYI: The mini show categories are **Novice** - those with fewer than 5 years of showing in the mini-show. **Advanced** - those who have shown for more than 5 years in the mini-show & does not sell more than \$300 in plants a year. **Open** - those who sell more than \$300 in plants a year. **Also you must own the plant for at least 6 months before you can show the plant in the mini show.**

Brian Poot, Mini show coordinator

**STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Annual dues (January-December 2019)
Single Membership.....\$20.00
Family Membership.....\$25.00
Contributing.....\$35.00

Total Due\$ _____

Please Print:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Do you want the newsletter
E-mailed to you - Check 1
Yes No

Birthday (Month Required) _____

*Please mail this form, along with a check made payable to the Stockton Cactus & Succulent Society to the membership chairperson before the February general meeting to continue receiving the newsletter.

**Roelyn Poot
17229 East Hwy 120
Ripon, CA 95366**

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS

NAME: _____

Number Attending: _____ (# of Dinners)

Dinner will include: **Salad, Bread, Drink, Roast Pork, Chicken Alfredo Rotini & Ravioli w/ Meat Sauce.**

Cost: \$21.50 per person, this includes tax & tip.

The dinner will be held on **Thursday, December 13th** at 6:30 pm, arrive between 6:00 & 6:30, at Angelano's in Manteca at 1020 North Main Street – in the shopping center on the corner of Louise & Main. Take the Lathrop Rd exit off Highway 99.

Make your check payable to the Stockton Cactus & Succulent Society and mail your reservations to **Roelyn Poot at 17229 East Hwy 120, Ripon, CA 95366.**

You can also renew your membership for next year (2019) at the same time & send it in all with the same check. The membership renewal form is on the backside of this form. If you renew your membership by the Christmas dinner you will receive a free plant.

We will also be having our annual Christmas auction so be sure to bring items that are edible or of garden relation; like garden books, pots, artwork or pictures, garden gloves or clothing, tongs, birdhouses or feeders, plants, seeds, or other items garden related & also Christmas related items.

If you would like the room decorated to make it a little more Christmassy please come early and bring some decorations to put in the room.

