

SACXS FACTS

August 2019

www.sacxs.org

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President's Message: *Dog Days of Summer*

I took a road trip to Big Bend last month. I wanted to hike a bit, relive some of my camping adventures, and experience the Chihuahuan Desert. *Desert indeed!* The heat had already ramped up. Most of the park services were closed. Rangers at the Visitor's Center told me: "We don't get too many visitors in the summer". Yes, the temperature on the desert floor was well over 120 degrees. Life there is well-adapted to the absence of water. I was not. Whew. I'll return in the cooler months.

Back home in Kendall County, this summer has been anything but average. Daytime temperatures have been typically hot. The sun's rays are capable of causing damage and distress to our potted plants. Caudiciforms require some shading. Watering the plants help, but don't solve the problem. We have a drought situation in our county that has wrought havoc on the wildlife. Nocturnals looking for food and water have been seen any time of the day. We lost one of our pets to mountain lion predation.

We are already well into the *Dog Days* of August. Where did the summer go? For that matter, where did the year go? Yet, there is still much more to come before the year is complete. I think you are in for a treat for the August program. Mandy Bulmer, our program director and first VP, has arranged for a Trans-World presentation by a gentlemen from Australia. See details on our meeting information page.

In addition, the **TACSS 2019 Fall Seminar** will be here before you know it. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 5th**. We have a full line-up of speakers, plant vendors, a pottery vendor, a live plant auction, and other activities. Whether this will be your first time to attend a TACSS Fall Seminar, or you are a seasoned veteran, I believe you will have a good experience. Please make plans to attend, and spend a day learning about the plants and succulents of our state.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the general meeting this month as well as at the TACSS 2019 Fall Seminar in October.

Jimmy Black, SACXS President



SACXSFACTS Editor: Ann Black

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August Meeting Information



Cerriscapades

A Wonder Down Under

Join us for an exclusive evening with
a succulent enthusiast from:
MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA



Chuck Cerrillos from Melbourne, Australia, will share his passion for gardening with succulents. Chuck is the curator of an amazing *Echeveria* collection as well as many other beautiful succulents. His planting endeavours are the subject of a popular YouTube Channel “Let’s Plant”. Although his horticultural zone is warmer than what we have in San Antonio, the local climate in Australia has remarkable similarities. Chuck will discuss tips for gardening success in the summer and winter. If you haven’t seen his *Echeveria* gardens, you can check him out at: www.cerriscapades.com or his YouTube channel “Let’s Plant”.

We will connect to Australia via satellite...



10AM AEST



7PM CST

Meeting Date and Schedule

The Next General Club Meeting will be
Wednesday, August 21 at the San Antonio Garden Center.
Social Hour begins at 6:30pm. Meeting will begin at 7:15pm.
Featured Plant Vendor: David Feller from "A Bug's Home"

August Meeting
Auction Plant Assignments

Lauren Garza
Sherie Gee
Sage Gibson
Lizzy Gladstone
Alex Gonzalez

Social Media and Important Links

Find us at:

Web: <https://www.sacxs.org/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/sacxs.org/>

Facebook Group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/2007058919615873/?source_id=578645718878226

Instagram: SACXS

Text sacxs to 56512 for 2019 Upcoming Programs and Events





TACSS Fall Seminar Update

The Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies 2019 Fall Seminar is rapidly approaching!! The Seminar is scheduled for Saturday, October 5th at the San Antonio Garden Center, and SACXS is the host society. Sunday October 6th is devoted to Garden Tours at Paul's Desert and Mandy Bulmer's home.

The Seminar is an all day event. The Garden Center doors will open at 8:00 AM for on site registration and plant sales. Lectures will begin at 8:45 AM and continue around until ~ 2:30 PM with a break for lunch. The theme is "Our Texas Heritage". Our speakers will address topics on Texas native cacti and succulents. You will be able to purchase plants and pottery during all hours of the seminar. As always, there will be a Grand Champion Succulent and Cactus competition. This year we will hold a competition at the SACXS September meeting to determine whose plants will be chosen to represent our club at the Seminar.

A new attraction at the Seminar will be the "Identify This" contest, which will be a test of your skill in recognizing Texas native plants in bloom. A prize will be available to the winner. Also, as in years past, there will be a rare plant auction. Attendees are asked to bring an auction plant with a value of ~\$30 or more. When deciding what to bring, please ask yourself, "would I bid on this plant"? The auction is the main revenue generator for TACSS.

We have arranged for the Benjie's Munch Food Truck to cater lunch on the Garden Center premises. Attendees will be able to purchase lunch items. Refreshments will be provided at other times during the seminar.

Initial notices have already gone out on email and social media. The Seminar is free and open to the general public. We are using Eventbrite for Seminar registration and ask that you register for the meeting as soon as possible. This allows us to have an accurate head count leading up to the Seminar. We encourage everyone to attend to give a good showing of Club

support for the Seminar and for TACSS. We are already experiencing a lot of interest , so make sure you sign up.

**Register for the TACSS
Seminar on:**

www.eventbrite.com

Search:

**The Texas Association of
Cactus and Succulent
Societies 2019 Fall Seminar**

The seminar is FREE.

Register now to save your spot

As an aside, every paid member of SACXS is also a member of TACSS. Each year \$2 per member of your dues goes to TACSS for a "Society Membership". In addition, you can also become an "Associate Member" by paying \$5 per year to include up to two people per household. An Associate Membership includes direct mailing of all TACSS correspondence. This includes the TACSS Newsletter which is published at least twice a year.

Our Texas Natives...



Candelilla

Euphorbia antisyphilitica

(Candle wax plant)

Description: A Chihuahuan Desert Plant with narrow, waxy stems, growing upright to about 2 ft tall/ 3 ft wide in clusters on the desert floor.

Origin: New Mexico, Mexico, West Texas,

Flower: Tiny pink flower with a red center. Reminds me of an Orchid, but not much larger than a BB .

Blooms appear on the upper part of the stem.

Flowers in spring and summer.

Cultivation: This plant likes full sun, but can tolerate a little shade. It can survive minus 10` F weather when dry. Plant in slightly alkaline soil. It is extremely drought tolerant.

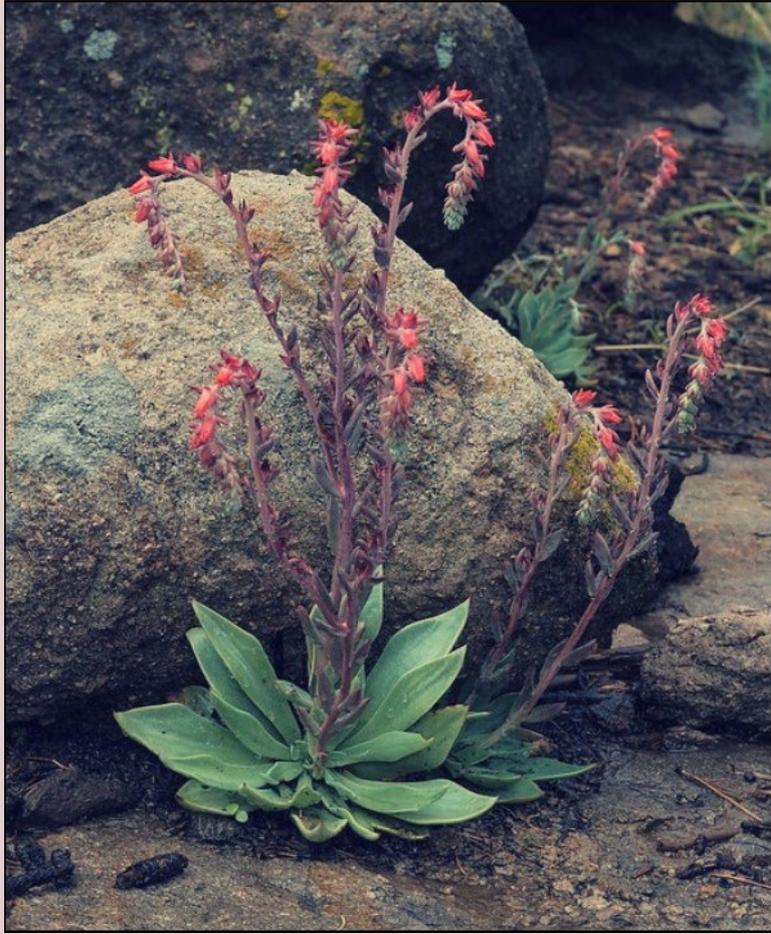
Ethnobotany: The Indians used the sap as treatment for lesions. This plant has a great survival story, In the early days it was hunted to almost extinction for the fine wax it produces when boiled over an open fire. Today, on some ranches, remains of these old fire pits may still be found. The plants at these heritage locations grow so densely that one has great difficulty walking through the plant colonies. In the early 1900's, this was one of the best wax on the market. I use it on my wood saws and tools to prevent rust. Now it is grown commercially.

This is a must in your garden.

By Claude Townsend



Our Texas Natives...



Desert Savior

Echeveria strictiflora

Crassulaceae (Stonecrop Family)

Synonym(s): *Cotyledon strictiflora*

Description:

Rosette-forming, medium-sized perennial succulent with broad, spatulate, fleshy leaves. Leaf tips are red. Flowers are scarlet and borne closely to the stem. Flower stems are racemes that are single or occasionally forked and grow up to 40 cm in length.

This is the only native Echeveria endemic to Texas.

Distribution:

Mexico (Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon), USA (Texas)

Seeds: very fine, somewhat elongated, brown.

Cultivation:

This succulent can grow in full sun, but prefers a little shade in arid regions. Requires good drainage to grow well.



Photo Credits: Jim Fowler, Naturalist & Photographer.

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