



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 53, #6

Gardens and Flowers of South Africa Monday — June 25th, 7pm

Our speaker for the June program is Nicki Larson a travel agent with a special interest and knowledge of the Floral Gardens of South Africa. Her presentation will cover the Gardens of most interest. Nicki recently discovered the beautiful plants of South Africa and wants to share them with us. Her slide presentation is combined with video. She has great photos of the whole country coming alive with color.



Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens
(Table Mountain, Cape Town)

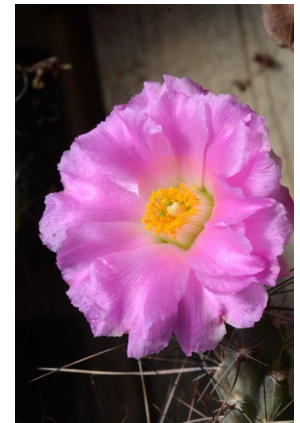
Nicki, owner of *Travel By Nicki*, has been a Travel Consultant for more than 30 years, having studied at American River and Sacramento State Colleges where she earned her Certificate of Tourism.

Members are encouraged to bring their own South African plants in for show and tell. And remember our Cactus and Succulent Care Corner, so bring any plants in you have questions or concerns about. You will receive 1 raffle ticket per each plant you bring to either topic.

– Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Micropuntia wiegandii

President's Message

It has been a busy 3 weeks. Between prepping & cooking for my parent's 50th anniversary, entertaining family from Hawaii and our son graduating from high school; C&S has been the last thing on my mind. This evening (Sunday 10th) was the 1st time I watered in 4 weeks, luckily my collection is used to this type (mis)treatment. A few burnt and desiccated plants but no deaths. Also staged a large *Dioscorea macrostachya*.

Enough about me – In May we presented the Punctured Thumb Award. It was given the over-worked, over-looked and under-appreciated Mara Aditajs! She is doing an outstanding job as newsletter editor as well as other tasks.

The Show Committee came together 30 minutes before the meeting and discussed the good, bad and ugly of the May Show. Many good ideas were brought up for implementation next year as well as altering the way we do things currently ... such as the "plant hotel." The public commented favorably on the C&S Demos which will be expanded upon.

– Keith Taylor

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

- Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm
- Location: Shepard Garden & Arts Center in Sacramento.
- 3330 McKinley Blvd
- Center's phone number — 916/808-8800
- No official meeting in December
- The public is warmly invited to attend meetings

Cactus — Ferocactus

Ferocactus, meaning "fierce or wild cactus," are always cylindrical or barrel shaped and are usually among the largest cacti of the North American deserts. All members of this genus have prominent ribs and are fiercely armed with heavy spines. In some species, one or more central spines are curved like a fishhook, accounting for the common name Fishhook Barrel Cactus. Ferocactus flowers always grow at the top of the plant. They bear no spines and only a few scales. Fruits become fleshy and often juicy when mature, but are not usually considered edible. There are a number of species of this genus, most of which grow in central Mexico and Baja, California. Four species are recognized growing in the deserts of the American Southwest. Ferocactus usually grow along desert washes, gravelly slopes and beneath desert canyon walls in all of the hot deserts of North America from the Mojave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts of southern California, southern Arizona west to Texas and south into Baja, California and central Mexico.



Ferocactus latispinus



Ferocactus pilosus

Succulent — Tree-like Succulents

Succulents can take many forms. While some stonecrops may have spreading, creeping stems, other kinds of succulents may form neat rosettes. Still others are bushy and tree-like. Many of the tall, bushy ones tend to be tender. So, they can't be grown outdoors year-round in colder climates. Aloe — Though we may think of aloes as small pot plants, there are tree-like and shrubby ones as well. *Aloe barberae* can grow to nearly 60 feet in height. The dragon



Aloe barberae

tree — *Aloe dichotoma* is also known as the quiver tree. This is another of the tree aloes. Native to South Africa, this can grow to over 30 feet tall. Club foot — *Pachypodium lamieri*. Among the most unusual succulents around, this has become a favorite house plant. It is native to Madagascar. Unlike some succulents, this plant doesn't have succulent stems or leaves in which it stores water. If the truth be known, it hardly resembles a succulent in the usual sense of the word.



Pachypodium lamerei

Ponytail palm — *Beaucarnea recurvata* has a thick, almost bulbous base in which it stores water for use during dry periods. It is also known as bottle palm. Originally native to Mexico, this plant features a tapering trunk with the foliage at the top in a fountain-like fashion. Outdoors, they can reach over 27 feet in height. The trunk can be over six feet in diameter.

Thought for the Month

"A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that 'individuality' is the key to success."

— Robert Orben



From the Editor's Desk —

Publication Deadline — 10th of each month.
Please forward all submissions for consideration to my contact info (per your choice) found on back page.

Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs

Mini Show Winners — May, 2012

Cactus — Selection	
1 st	<i>Parodia ottonis</i> , Mary Schuett
2 nd	<i>Parodia aureispina</i> , Michelle Egan
Succulent — Selection	
1 st	<i>Aloe erinacea</i> , Mary Schuett
2 nd	<i>Aloe sp. hybrid</i> , Michelle Egan

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dana Chapman, Dana & Florence Luna

Patty Shoop

➤ JUNE FIELD TRIP

Saturday, June 23rd 10am- 4pm

Meet – 10am @Shepard Garden & Arts Center to carpool or email Martha at bleshie2@gmail.com for directions to our first stop. Don't miss the opportunity to visit these 3 fabulous member gardens up close & personal!

Visit 3 terrific member collections: Oksun & George Avery (Sacramento), Trish & Dick Bruga (Davis), and Marilynn Vilas (Davis).



Bring a sack lunch to eat beneath the oaks at Bruga's (see photos above). The Club will have water and soda for you there and later beer and wine at Marilynn's.

– Martha Blesman, Field Trip Chair

➤ PUNCTURED THUMB AWARD – 2012

For those of you who missed the potluck, you also missed the announcement of this year's PTA winner! What is the Punctured Thumb Award? In the 1970's, the Club started giving a fun award to the person who brought the most plants to the Show. This morphed into the PTA, now given for meritorious service to the Club. Bob Freitas, a member who was a wonderful ceramicist, designed the current plaque. He made the clay hand and metal Ferocactus spine that denote the 'punctured thumb'. Board members and officers vote for the winner each year. This year's winner is Mara Aditajs, our newsletter editor extraordinaire! We thank Mara for the superb monthly newsletter and all the current & past accomplishments: members' name and address roster; design and printing of the May Show fliers, schedule, postcards; managing the member email list for newsletters, etc.; updating our website, and Facebook page; and especially for the tremendous support Mara gives the Club. Come to the June meeting and see the PTA for yourself.

– Your SCSS Board and Officers.

➤ PLANTS NEED A NEW HOME

The Club received a call from a lady in the Bay Area. She has a large *Agave parryi* and a large *Aloe polyphylla* which she wants to get rid of. They are both in half barrows. Her name is Grace and she can be reached by phone, [REDACTED] if anyone is interested.

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN DISPLAY AT THE 2012 SAN DIEGO COUNTY FAIR



Succulents used in a tiered arrangement for a 'waterfall effect'



Fountains planted with succulents Anyone have an old unused fountain? Great planter idea!!



Vertical Succulent Display at the 2012 San Diego County Fair...theme was "Out of This World"



Closer look at the number of succulents needed to make this large vertical succulent display. Can anyone guess how many succulents there really are?

(Photos courtesy of *The Succulent Perch*)

➤ ROSTER UPDATES

Please update your Roster for these corrections:



➤ FLEA MARKET/GARAGE SALE GARDENING

Planter pots for cactus and succulents need not adhere to the traditional clay, resin, or plastic. Be creative and think out of the box! Flea markets and garage sales can be a bountiful source of planting containers for the succulent gardener. You might be pleasantly surprised by some of

DATES & DETAILS —

the clever and imaginative “containers” that have been used to showcase succulents. Here are just a few ...



Old & rusted Craftsman Tool Box

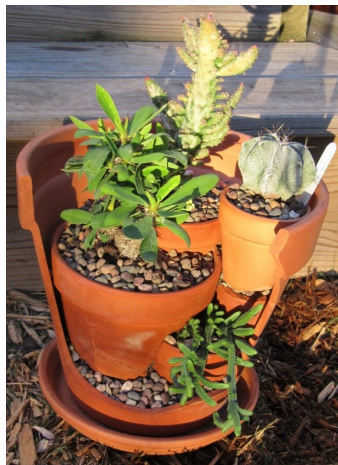


Re-purposed IKEA kitchen rack



(c) Debra Lee Baldwin

Old Flour Sifter
(Debra Lee Baldwin)



Use any broken pots you can “jigsaw” together.



Another old tool box, but painted to match some of the red in the plants.

Surprisingly, non-draining containers---like this repurposed pan---are fine for succulents. They do need more careful watering than those in a typical pot, however. Water that pools can cause roots to rot, so err on the dry side. Succulents tolerate this (being under-watered) better than other types of plants, because succulents draw on moisture stored in fleshy leaves and stems. Keep soil no wetter than a wrung-out sponge, and don't leave a non-draining container where rain or automatic irrigation will drench it. Keep the non-draining containers separate from those that do drain, to avoid accidental overwatering. (Tips & ideas courtesy Debra Lee Baldwin)



Re-purposed cooking pan to a succulent planter.
(Debra Lee Baldwin)

➤ **TAKING CARE OF YOUR SUCCULENTS**

Choosing the right succulents for your home is one thing, but keeping them alive is another. Tips to help ...

LIGHT — Succulents prefer bright light, such as found on a south-facing window. Watch the leaves for indications that the light level is correct. Some species will scorch if suddenly exposed to direct sunlight. The leaves will turn brown or white if the soft tissues are being destroyed.

TEMPERATURE — Surprisingly succulents are much more cold tolerant than we think. In the desert, where most succulents thrive, there is often a marked contrast between night and day. Ideally succulents prefer daytime temperature between 70°F and 55°F.

WATER — Succulents should be watered more frequently in the summer than the winter. The potting mix should be allowed to dry between waterings. During the winter cut watering back to once every other month. Overwatering is the single most common cause of plant failure. A succulent should never be allowed to sit in water.



Succulent container gardens are low maintenance and take up little space, perfect for the busy urban gardener.



FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date - Monday, June 25th, 7pm

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Click on the 3 links below to go directly to our website, Facebook, or the CSSA website

www.sacramentocss.org



JULY, 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 [Redacted]	4 	5 [Redacted]	6 [Redacted]	7
8 [Redacted]	9	10	11	12	13 [Redacted]	14 SG&AC Annual Board Mtg 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
15 [Redacted]	16	17	18	19	20 [Redacted]	21 [Redacted] Iris Sale 9am - 4pm
22 Iris Sale 9am-4pm	23 Sacramento C&S Mtg - 7pm	24 [Redacted]	25	26	27 [Redacted]	28 Sacramento Bromeliad & Carnivorous Plant Society Sale , 9-4
29 Sacramento Bromeliad & Carnivorous Plant Society Sale , 9-4	30	31				