



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 53, #3

ALL ABOUT THE MAY SHOW!!

Monday, March 26th, 7pm

This month's program is 'All About the May Show!!' The March program will help members prepare for the May Show and Sale. Marilyn Vilas will discuss the show schedule, fliers, and answer questions. Time permitting Marilyn will demonstrate preparing a plant with the show in mind, she may also bring examples of plants in categories that have had little competition in past years. Available will be the May Show Schedule, Publicity Fliers and Registration Slips. Marilyn will start by reviewing the Show Schedule. She will give a brief talk on how to prepare your plants for show. Then, all the Show Chairs will talk about their responsibilities and ask for volunteers to help the Show Committee put on the Show & Plant Sale. Volunteers will earn credits (Showbucks) to use toward plant purchases. The meeting will be interactive so bring your questions!

I can't stress strongly enough – The SACRAMENTO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY (SCSS) is YOUR club. SCSS will be successful only if members are involved. Paying dues makes you a member, BUT for the club to flourish and succeed you need to be an active member. When the Show Chairs ask for volunteers: Raise your hand and add your name on their sign up forms.

– Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Mammillaria goldii

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



BEST SUCCULENT – NOVICE
Agave bovicornuta
JoEllen Arnold (2011)

COME
LEARN
INQUIRE
AND THIS
COULD BE YOU!!



BEST SUCCULENT – JUNIOR
Gasteria sp.
Emma Knoesen (2011)

Cactus — “Any Miniature”

Are miniature cacti just younger plants or do they have their own name or classification?

Succulent plant species that remain small at maturity even in nature and not by cultivation (as Bonsai). Miniatures may be preferable for many because of space or weight issues. They are a wide range of very interesting plants. The primary key to successful cultivation of miniature succulent plants consists of watering at correct intervals and/or during proper seasons. Keep plants much drier when they are dormant and during cold weather. Miniature plants should be moderately pot bound. Roots typically seek heat and aeration as well as moisture. The pot bound condition is preferable because with an over-potted (pot too large for plant) plant, the soil can remain cold and wet for extended periods. Also, be careful not to set containers in a saucer or on another surface that fails to drain sufficiently. A quarter of an inch of sitting water in a saucer will not affect larger plants, but it can drown a miniature. This is how rot happens.



Mammillaria hernandezii



Cintia knizeii



Frailea castanea

Succulent — Caudiciform Euphorbias

What is a caudiciform? This is any plant that forms a caudex, or a fat, succulent base/trunk/root. They are also referred to as 'Fat Plants, or Fat-bottomed Plants.' Those with thick, fat stems/trunks & with few branches are called 'Pachycauls'. This swollen root or stem is used for water or food storage, allowing the plant long periods of survival without water or other forms of nutrition. Not all caudiciforms fit easily into the category of cactus and succulents, but most do – Euphorbia, cycads & other succulents.



Euphorbia caput-medusae



This member of the Euphorbiaceae family was described by Carl

Linnaeus in 1753. It is found in the western part of South Africa's Cape Province. It grows in sandy soils and does fine in any well drained mix. The stem can grow to 15cm in diameter, the whole plant up to one meter in diameter. The flowers are crème colored or reddish. It might be a winter grower, but can be grown in summer. Common names include – Medusa's Head & Medusahoved

Mini Show Winners — February, 2012

Cactus — Rebutia/Sulcorebutia	
1 st	<i>Sulcorebutia mentosa crest</i> , Penny Newell
2 nd	<i>Rebutia heliosa ssp. theresae</i> KK 1925, Michelle Egan
3 rd	<i>Sulcorebutia candida</i> , Mary Schuett
Succulent — Sansevieria	
1 st	<i>Sansevieria fischeri</i> , Dennis Ragasa
2 nd	"Sam Twist", Penny Newell
3 rd	<i>Sansevieria gracilis</i> , Michelle Egan

Thought for the Month

*May your pockets be heavy and your heart be light,
May good luck pursue you each morning and night.*



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

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marilyn Lawson

Carolyn Silva

The 2012 SCSS Roster has been sent to all current members. You should have received either a hard copy in the USPS mail or an email file depending on which preference you expressed. If you have not received a copy, or received it in the wrong format, please contact me. Please notify me of any errors. Many thanks to all of you who renewed on time and did not cause me to have to send an email or USPS reminder. Thanks also to those of you who chose to receive the Roster by email. You saved the club \$3.37 per copy for the hard copy edition.

On a sadder note, in response to my reminder notices I received a message on my answering machine that Warren Steinman who according to my records had been a member since 1999, and lived at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had passed away. The person who called left no other information. My greatest sympathy to his family and friends.

—George Avery, SCSS Membership Chair

➤ APRIL FIELD TRIP NEWS

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the April 14th Davis field trip has been cancelled.

Martha Bleshman, Field Trip Chair

➤ SHOWBUCKS

We need volunteers for the Sacramento Show and Sale. We are giving *Showbucks* for your services Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You turn them in at the cash registers for plants. You will get \$2.00 per hour. You must check in with Ron Harris before you start work and when you finish to get your *Showbucks*. You can turn them in *Showbucks* Saturday and Sunday by 3:00 pm. Looking forward to seeing you!!

Ron Harris, Showbucks Chair

➤ THE WEST'S BEST CACTUS

(AAA – Via, March/April 2012)

“You don’t have to love spines to see what’s glorious about the West’s strangest plants. Here’s where to find

cacti this spring.” — WEIRD & WONDERFUL



SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK (Tucson, Arizona)

Twenty-five cactus species live in this 91,000-acre park. But the saguaro is king. The country’s largest cactus is beloved for its anthropomorphic arms: raised skyward in surrender, outstretched like a priest’s

welcoming the flock to Mass, or crossed like those of the Scarecrow giving directions. Its trumpet-shaped flowers bloom late April through June on the arms’ tips, as if the cactus were proffering bouquets. Up to 1.8 million live in the national park; many more populate nearby Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. (520) 733-5158, nps.gov/sagu.



ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK (Eastern San Diego County, California)

Although the park’s famed wildflowers need the right mix of water, wind, sun, and heat, its 18 cactus species are less fickle. Even after a winter with too little rain to fill a teacup, cacti can produce showy displays. Blooms arrive later than those of annuals – April is a good bet. Look for fishhook cacti wearing bridesmaids’ wreaths of yellow flowers or a prickly pear with magenta flowers. (760) 767-5311, parks.ca.gov/?page_id=638



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK (Twentynine Palms, California)

This desert park is popular for its peculiarities: the twisted limbs of the Joshua tree, granite boulders as big as houses and rounded like ice cubes, and a chest-high cactus that looks like a huggable stuffed animal. Don’t

be fooled. The teddy bear cholla – one of 14 cacti here – wears barbed spines that seem to leap out and impale passersby. “We pull a lot of them out with pliers,” says ranger Pat Pilcher. (760) 367-5500, nps.gov/jotr



DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN (Phoenix, Arizona)

With 50 cultivated acres, the garden holds a spectacular array of 1,300 kinds of cactus, centered on plants of the Southwest and unusual species. Check out the Galápagos prickly pear, which appears to grow whiskered Ping-Pong paddles. Walk the trails to discover early uses for the cactus and visit “galleries” where cacti pose as *objets d’art*. (480) 941-1225, dbg.org



FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date - Monday, March 26th, 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



APRIL, 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 [Redacted]	4 [Redacted]	5 [Redacted]	6 HAPPY PASSOVER	7 Capital City African Violet Plant Show & Sale, 10 - 4
8 Capital City African Violet Plant Show & Sale, 11 - 3	<p><i>Mammillaria goldii</i> is a plant that can bloom many times – in cultivation (in full bloom at top) ♦ all courtesy Elton Roberts</p>			12	13	14 American Bonsai Association Sale, 10 - 4
15 American Bonsai Association Sale, 10 - 4				19 [Redacted]	20	21 Sacramento Iris Show, 10 - 4
22 Sacramento Iris Show, 10 - 4				26	27	28 Sacramento Rose Show, 10 - 4
29 [Redacted] Sacramento Rose Show, 10 - 4	30	> APRIL 23rd Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm				