



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 54, #4

Staging for May Show ♦ April 22nd, 7pm



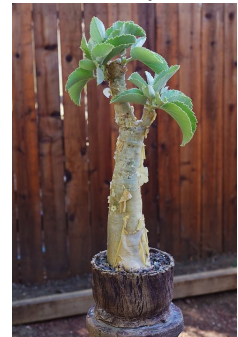
SCSS President Keith Taylor is our presenter at the April 22nd meeting. Keith has been growing succulents for more than 20 years and his favorites are “fat plants,” Caudiciforms. Keith will demonstrate how to stage plants for presentation – From root/stem pruning, soil, to pots, topdressing and accent rocks. Keith will also bring in staged plants from his own collection. This is one meeting you won't want to miss. Have your questions and concerns ready!

Reminders: Don't forget money to buy tickets for our great plant raffle. Have a plant not doing well or don't what it is? Earn a free raffle ticket just for bringing it in and talking or asking questions about it. AND last but not least: Come to the April meeting and volunteer to help at the SCSS Plant Show & Sale on May 4th and 5th. This is your Clubs only fund raiser; come support it. **BOXES, We Need BOXES, Bring in Boxes, for our Plant Sale Purchases.**

– Sandy Waters, Vice President and Program Chair

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Cyphostemma currori
(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

President's Message

This month's raffle plants are something special! I traveled to *Succulent Gardens* in Castroville and picked out some nice specimens and larger than typically offered at the raffle ... some Show ready! So have your tickets ready. Also, I have pots still unclaimed, if you want me to bring them to the next meeting contact me at caudex.one@gmail.com

The chair positions are full for the May Show, but we still need volunteers? Please contact me (Show Chair) if you are interested.

– Keith Taylor

Cactus — Rebutia/Sulcorebutia

After the recent incorporation of the genera *Aylostera*, *Mediolobivia*, *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, and *Weingartia* into the genus *Rebutia*, there are now around 60 species of cactus native to the eastern side of the Andes Mountains in Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are generally small globular cacti, 4 inches in diameter or generally less (10 cm). Many species form large clusters. The genus *Rebutia* is named after P. Rebut, French cactus dealer and expert from the 19th century.



Rebutia krainziana

Rebutias bloom easily and have relatively large daytime flowers. Flowers are generally yellow to red, although some species have white ones. They come from the lower part of the stem.



Rebutia fabrisii aureiflora

Optimal growing conditions vary. Here the old names are quite useful since they give some ideas of what to expect. All the species need a gritty, well drained, slightly acidic cactus soil. They also need strong light, although generally not too much direct sunlight. They need good watering in summer, but you should allow the soil mixture to dry out between watering.



Sulcorebutia arenacea

Many *Mediolobivia* grow large tap roots and are best suited to a deeper than normal pot and gritty cactus compost. The plants from the original

genus *Rebutia* are fairly cold resistant and will take some frost. The *Sulcorebutia* on the other hand are generally less cold resistant. The *Weingartia* are less rot-prone than other species, and are the least frost resistant.

Rebutia are propagated by seed or offsets. The seeds should be less than 12 months old.

Succulent — Agave

There are several hundreds species of *Agave*. They have been popular in many Mediterranean gardens in Europe



Agave americana 'Variegata'

since they were brought back from the Americas by the Spaniards and Portuguese in the 17th century, and before that they were cultivated for centuries by the native American population for fibers, food and drinks.

Now they are very useful plants in desert gardens. If your climate is warm enough, you will most certainly find several species for your garden that will be very tough, will thrive with



Agave potatorum 'Cameron Blue'

much additional water, and will be a source of enjoyment for many years.

Agaves are succulent rosettes, often clumping, occasionally on short trunks. They generally have a sharp spine at the end of their leaves, and for this reason

should be away from paths. Each rosette blooms after many years (generally at least 8). The blooming rosette uses all its energy to produce the giant towering bloom,



Agave neomexicana

and seeds. When it has finished blooming, in almost all the species, the rosette dries out.

Some species produce a large quantity of new plants on the flower stem (bulbils). These can be detached and planted. *Agaves* can take full sun. Let

them dry out fairly well between waterings. Plant in any soil, as long as it is well draining. Some species are known by the name century plant.

DATES & DETAILS —

Mini Show Winners — March, 2013

Cactus — Notocactus	
1 st	<i>Euphorbia/Sempervivum/Tephrocactus</i> planter, Michelle Egan
2 nd	<i>Crassulaceae</i> planter, Keith Taylor
Succulent — Planter/Dish Garden	
1 st	<i>Notocactus scopa crest</i> , Penny Newell
2 nd	<i>Notocactus magnificus</i> , Kathy Rose
3 rd	<i>Notocactus (Parodia) rudibueneckeri</i> , Michelle Egan
HM	<i>Notocactus (Parodia) ottonis</i> , Mary Schuett

➤ NEW MEMBERS

Marina Mill & Millie Bachofer [SEE ROSTER]

Carolyn Silva has renewed her membership, but was too late to be included in the 2013 Roster. [SEE ROSTER-2012]

➤ VOLUNTEER POSITION AVAILABLE

SCSS Members,

After 5 years as the Club Membership Chair, I would like to turn the duties over to another member. The duties involve receiving new and renewing membership forms at the monthly meetings, at the Annual Show and Sale, and at the end of the year when memberships expire. You will also be responsible to provide the information needed for the Annual Roster to the person who is responsible for producing it. The Chair is also responsible for recruiting volunteers to staff the membership table at the Annual Show and Sale. The duties are all outlined in the Position Manual which I will provide. I will also provide the new chair with all of the hard copy and computer files which I have used. I use Microsoft Word (word processing) and, Excel (spreadsheet where the membership data is kept). If you are interested, please contact me. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to do a little more to support the Club.

George Avery, SCSS Membership Chair [SEE ROSTER]

➤ MAY SHOW ALERT!!

Just two weeks away!! Sign up at the meeting for various committees and do your part to support the Club. Staging on Friday and Take Down on Sunday afternoon: See

Keith Taylor. Clerks on Saturday morning: See JoEllen Arnold. Plant Sales on Friday, Saturday and Sunday: See Dennis or Ellen Ragasa. Plant Hotel on all three days: See Keith Smith. Membership on Saturday and Sunday: See George or Oksun Avery. Hospitality on Saturday and Sunday: See Jane or JJ Dickey. Remember: a few hours of volunteering will earn you lunch on Friday/Saturday and Show Bucks!!

Remember to bring flats/boxes for the Plant Sales – Friday, Saturday and Sunday! Lunch is provided for volunteers on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is pot-luck. 'Tis a fun weekend for all!
– Show Committee

➤ SAN FRANCISCO FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

On March 22nd I went to the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in San Mateo, CA. It ran from March 20-24th. What an incredible event! Stunning display gardens from all over, food demonstrations and you could shop from over 200 green exhibitors in the plant market! And this year just about everyone is on the succulent band wagon! So many types and varieties to choose from. It really made your head spin!



The theme was “Gardens Make The World Go Round.” So the display gardens had different countries in mind when designing. The most stunning display was from *Succulent Gardens* and it was the largest succulent spinning globe in the world. Robin Stockwell, owner of *Succulent*

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

Gardens located in Castroville, CA, has been working on this project for over 2 years. It included over 30,000 succulents and weighs over a ton. It was planted in eight sections and put together at the show. The cuttings have been planted and rooting since September of last year. It certainly was a sight to behold!



And I can't forget the seminars and DIY demonstrations. From Green Roof Gardening, Growing Food in Pots to Succulent Maintenance. There was something for everyone. I attended Succulent Maintenance with Robin Stockwell from *Succulent Gardens* and Succulents Simplified with Debra Lee Baldwin. Debra (I am pictured with Debra on the right) is the author of best selling books *Designing with Succulents* and *Succulent Container Gardens*. Her new book coming out in June is entitled *Succulents*



Simplified. Debra's book launch will coincide with a new event hosted by Waterwise Botanicals called "Succulent Celebration." The dates are June 7th and 8th. I will be doing a blog post on this soon.

Next year everyone should try to make a point of going to the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. You won't be disappointed. And don't forget the upcoming Succulent Celebration on June 7th and 8th. There will be potting demonstrations, tours, book launch and incredible succulents. For more information check on my blog at www.sweetstuffsassysucculents.com.

– Candice Suter, *Sweet Stuff's Sassy Succulents*

➤ DIY – HOW TO MAKE A SUCCULENT SEMPERVIVUM FRAME

At the 2012 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show I did a demonstration on vertical gardening. One of the things I demonstrated was how to make a succulent photo frame. As promised, here are the step-by-step instructions for those of you who weren't able to make it to the show...



What You'll Need:

- Sempervivum cuttings
- Shadowbox-style photo frame (I bought this small one at the dollar store)
- Cactus potting soil
- Sphagnum moss
- Staple gun
- Gloves



First things first. Don't be an idiot (like me) and forget your gloves. That is, unless you enjoy scraping your precious little fingers on chicken wire.

Now down to the actual work. You start by stapling a piece of chicken wire that is a little larger than your frame to the inside of the frame. This will make a nice front face for your frame.

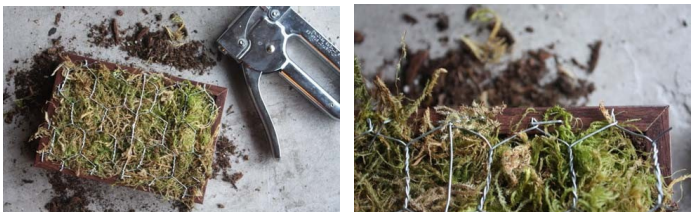
DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)



Next you make a little sandwich. Not one you'd want to eat, but your Sempervivums will enjoy it. Layer sphagnum moss down on the inside of your frame, right on top of the chicken wire you just stapled.



Then pack in as much of the cactus potting mix as you can. Layer another bit of sphagnum moss down. The moss is preventing the soil from falling out, but still allows water to drain away. Finally, staple a second piece of chicken wire (this one should be slightly smaller than your frame) to the back.

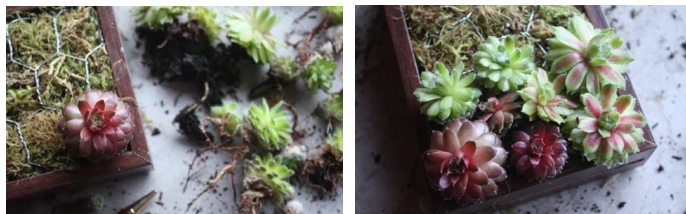


Now you're ready for the fun part. Collect your Sempervivum cuttings. Since Sempervivums make so many little offsets, it is easy to just clip a few off (enough to fill your frame) without even taking the mother plant out of the pot. Be sure to leave a little bit of the umbilical cord on the cutting, as this will help you stick your plant into the frame and keep it there until roots form.



As Sempervivums grow, they often create a shaggy layer of dead leaves at their base. Gently pull those off so that you can get the plant flush with the chicken wire/photo frame. The photo on the left is the before and the right is the after.

Using a pen or some other similar shaped object, poke a little hole into the sphagnum moss and put the Sempervivums umbilical cord into the hole. I found that gently twisting the plant back and forth helped it get situated.



Continue to fill in with more plants until you've completed your frame. Let it lay flat for two weeks so that the roots can develop before hanging it upright.

— (Courtesy of Fern , [Life on the Balcony](#))

➤ SHADOW BOX — AVAILABLE

Just one more entry is needed in the shadowbox category of this year's show. This year's shadowbox theme is "Show Some Spine". The chairman for this category will provide all the help and information that one needs to do his/her entry. Be daring — Be creative. Use your imagination—anything goes. The best one is decided strictly by a "People's Choice" vote. The winner will receive a \$25.00 cash award. For information regarding entry please contact Michelle Egan, Shadow Box, Chair. For contact information [SEE ROSTER].

➤ SFSCS 2013 SALE & SHOW

The San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society will hold their annual Sale & Show on June 8th and 9th in the San Francisco County Fair Building (Golden Gate Park), 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco. The Show hours are 9 am to 5 pm both days. It would be a great field trip! For more details — [SFSCS 2013 SHOW](#)

Thought for the Month

"Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he is not; a sense of humor to console him for what he is."

— Francis Bacon



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.

E-mail: ldybugg6@comcast.net

Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs



Jatropha aff. Cinerea
(Keith Taylor)

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, April 22nd

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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



MAY, 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 SC&SS SHOW SET-UP ♦ 11-7	4 [REDACTED] SC&SS – SHOW & SALE, 10-5
5 SACRAMENTO C&S ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, 10-4	6 [REDACTED]	7	8	9	10	11
12 	13	14	15 [REDACTED]	16	17	18 Carmichael Cactus Society Show
19 Carmichael Cactus Society Show	20 [REDACTED]	21	22 [REDACTED]	23	24	25
26	27 AWARDS POTLUCK – 7 PM  [REDACTED]	28	29	30	31	