



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 54, #1

PIZZA, for you — PRIZES, for your Winter Growing Plants Monday, January 28th — Sharp!!

Happy New Year SCSS members and welcome to a very cold 2013!

I hope everyone is ready for what I hope will be a good year for us all. January's Program focus is on Winter Growing Plants. It's important to know which plants are Winter Growers and how to care for them. Our President, Keith Taylor, purchased 'Winter Growers' from the *Great Petaluma Desert* nursery for January's plant raffle and will discuss their care as well as answer any of your questions.

Everyone is asked to bring in one favorite Winter Grower for which they will be entered in a 'special prize drawing.' This is in addition to receiving one raffle ticket for each plant you bring in. Plus to make our meeting warm and cozy we will start the meeting with pizza/salad/drinks.

In regards to the Pizza, it's very important for you to let me know if you will be having Pizza with us and if so what kind so I get the right kind and amount.

Please get me your name and the name(s) of whoever you are ordering Pizza for, plus the following information no later than Friday, January 25th.

1. What kind of pizza you want AND 2. What you want to drink

I prefer you email the information to me at: [REDACTED] [but a call is fine]

Remember our 'Cactus/Succulent Corner' — this is the perfect meeting to bring in a Winter Grower you are having a problem with, questions about, or want to show off. AND it is a perfectly good meeting for you to bring extra money to for the plant raffle especially since we are feeding you dinner!

— Sandy Waters, Program Chair [REDACTED]

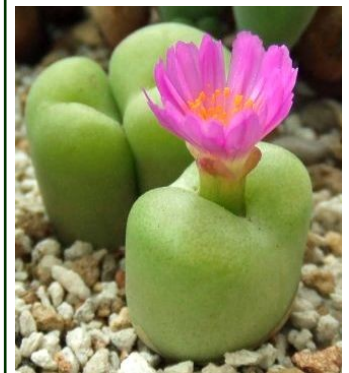
President's Message

Well, here we are. Another year with me as president and thinking, "What can I do to stimulate more interest?" I kinda knew another term was ahead of me; so toward the end of last year I started talking to members to find out what they we're interested in. Got lots of great input. This year we are going back to the basics, each month we will cover topics geared toward the beginner as well as advanced growers. A few topics covered in the coming months will be general C&S care, potting and soil mixes, staging and root pruning, & more pottery. These will be discussions with 'hands on demonstrations,' so be prepared to bring in your plants along with questions and tips to share with others. This is your Club — with more participation the better it is for everyone! If anyone has any suggestions feel free contact me by email, phone or at the meetings.

— Keith Taylor

Inside this issue:

Mini Show — January	2
Mini-Show Winners	2
Dates & Details	3/5
Field Trip — Feb 2 nd	3
Calendar — February	6



Conophytum uvaeforme
(Winter growing genus)

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 — Mammillaria

There are around 300 species of *Mammillarias*. Most are native to Mexico, some are native from southwestern USA, Caribbean, Central America, or even a couple in northern South America. In their range you can find *Mammillarias* from sea level to high elevations. They also vary in size from miniature 1" in diameter, to columnar types 1' tall. The name *Mammillaria* comes from the Latin for "nipple", because the areolas (structures carrying the spines) are carried by nipple like structures instead of being organized in ribs like many other cacti. Another significant difference is that the flowers are not coming from the areola, but from the area at the juncture of 2 tubercles. As could be expected from so many species, their growing requirements are quite varied. Many species are easy and fast to grow and to get to bloom while young, this is why they are very popular. Some are quite hardy while others will rot easily if kept too cold. All of them require excellent drainage. This is more easily accomplished by using a good cactus soil mixture, and a shallow pot. In general the *Mammillarias* bloom easily, but many species need a rest period in winter during which they are kept cool in order to bloom. Furthermore flowers form a ring on tissue grown the previous growing season, so it is important to get them to grow every year, which means regular watering and fertilizing during their growing period.



Mammillaria bocasana

Succulent — Aloe

Aloe, also written *Aloë*, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. The most common and well known of these is *Aloe vera*, or "true aloe." The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa's Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands of Africa. The APG II system (2003) placed the genus in the family Asphodelaceae. In the past it has also been assigned to families Aloaceae and Liliaceae or lily family. Members of the closely allied genera *Gasteria*, *Haworthia* and *Kniphofia*, which have a similar mode of growth, are also popularly known as aloes. Note that the plant sometimes called American aloe (*Agave americana*) belongs to Agavaceae, a different family. Most *Aloe* species have a rosette of large, thick, fleshy leaves. The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. *Aloe* flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems. Many species of *Aloe* appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched stem from which the fleshy leaves spring. They vary in color from grey to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some *Aloes* native to South Africa are arborescent (characteristics of a tree; treelike). *Aloe* species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many *Aloe* species are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents. *Aloe vera* is used both internally and externally on humans, and is claimed to have some medicinal effects, which have been supported by scientific and medical research.



Aloe ferox

Mini Show Winners — NOVEMBER, 2012

Cactus — Ariocarpus	
1 st	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i> , Penny Newell
2 nd	<i>Ariocarpus fissuratus</i> , Michelle Egan
3 rd	<i>Ariocarpus trigonus</i> , Mary Schuett
Succulent — Any "Variegate"	
1 st	<i>Haworthia variegata</i> "aurea," Penny Newell
2 nd	<i>Agave lophantha</i> 'quadricolor,' Mary Schuett
3 rd	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> 'Streaker,' Bobbie Handon
HM	<i>Agave applanata variegata</i> , Bobbie Handon
HM	<i>Crassula ovata variegata</i> , Jane & JJ Dickey
HM	<i>Gasteria</i> sp., Bobbie Handon
HM	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata</i> , Dennis Ragasa
HM	<i>Sansevieria trifasciata variegata</i> "Bird's nest," Michelle Egan

Thought for the Month

"Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year."

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



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

Jane & JJ Dickey

[REDACTED]

Linden & Ryan Feil

[REDACTED]

Karen S. Ingalls

[REDACTED]

Krista Kunert

[REDACTED]

Carol Moreland

[REDACTED]

➤ ROSTER UPDATES

Heath, Rosemary & Ted have a new email address —

[REDACTED]

Theo Goodwin has a new email address —

[REDACTED]

✓ Please check your personal listing. If any of it is incorrect please notify the Membership Chair, George Avery to have it updated.

➤ 2013 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Happy New Year SCSS Members,

Thanks to all of you who have renewed membership. Sadly, as of January 1st, only approximately 45% have renewed. Remember that Membership fees are collected annually, and due no later than December 31st. The fees are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$20.00 for families (two or more persons). If you have not done so, please promptly send your fees along with the membership renewal form included with this newsletter to me at the address on the form. (The form is also available at the SCSS Website at www.sacramentocss.org/membership.html).

Membership fees must be received no later than January 16th in order for you to continue to receive the newsletter

and to ensure that your information will be included in the new SCSS Roster which will be published shortly after. Please contact me if you have any questions/concerns.

Thanks in advance for your prompt renewals,
— *George Avery, SCSS Membership Chair*

➤ OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2013

The votes have been cast & tallied — here are the results:

PRESIDENT — Keith Taylor

VICE PRESIDENT — Sandy Waters

SECRETARY — Sue Ballinger

TREASURER — Greg Lang

BOARD OF DIRECTORS — Gerhard Bock, Beverly Clairfield, Karen Dines, and Ken Dines

Congratulations & our Thanks for your service!

— *Michelle Egan, Nomination Committee*

➤ FIELD TRIP — SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND



We are going to tour the UC Davis greenhouses the morning of Saturday, February 2 courtesy of our illustrious member, Barry Rice. Lunch after at Cafe *Bernardo* in Davis. We will meet at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center @8:50 am. If you want to carpool from Sacramento, please email or call Martha Bleshman to RSVP and for more details [REDACTED]

— *Martha Bleshman, Field Trip Chair*

➤ NEWSLETTER EMAIL OPTION

Let's be green — Save a Tree. Just a gentle reminder to choose the "Email option" to receive your monthly newsletter. Delivery is quick & easy and if you misplace or don't receive it I can rapidly replace it via the internet. Several benefits of the email version — it's in color for those plants that we all love, any of the links will automatically send you to that particular reference, and best of all it will reduce that paper clutter that we all have. We have done well switching over to a digital newsletter, as of now the emailers outnumber the USPS mailers by 2 to 1. Let's keep going. Choose the email option on your membership form or notify me. Thanks, in advance!

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

— Mara Aditajs, Newsletter Editor

➤ OF SUCCULENT WREATHS AND CUTTINGS

Courtesy, Debra Lee Baldwin ([Gardening Gone Wild](#))

I'm often asked to recommend sources of succulent cuttings for wreaths, topiaries and other projects. Unfortunately, most online sources sell cuttings for around \$1/apiece, which means a wreath — not counting its moss-packed wire donut — may cost \$100 to make. But pre-made wreaths available this time of year not only cost much less, they're also a great source of cuttings. [Garden Life](#) offers wreaths similar to those shown here for \$30 plus shipping. Another good mail-order supplier of seasonal wreaths as well as assorted cuttings — including a mix of highly desirable echeveria, sedum and sempervivum rosettes for vertical gardens — is Robin Stockwell's [Succulent Gardens](#).



As yet, it's not possible to request exactly which succulents a wreath consists of, but typically they're colorful. The Garden Life one above, for example, is comprised of red-tipped jade, silvery-blue echeverias and blue *Senecio mandraliscae*.



The wreath on the left has a different kind of *Echeveria*, pink sedeveria and jade. And the one on the right — blue echeverias, jade, lavender-pink graptopetalums and *Sedum rubrotinctum* 'Pork and Beans' (which will redden if

given more sun). Keep your wreath about as moist as a wrung-out sponge. If you hang it, water from the top because that part will dry out first. If the wreath does go dry, the succulents likely will be OK (by definition, these are plants that store water in fleshy leaves in order to withstand drought) but their roots may desiccate. To rehydrate a wreath, fill a clean trash can lid with water and soak the wreath in it.

If you live where temperatures drop below freezing, overwinter the wreath indoors near a sunny window or beneath grow lights that stay on at least six hours a day. You won't see much growth during the plants' winter dormancy, but come spring, they'll take off — especially if you pull the wreath apart, plant the cuttings in fast-draining soil, and feed with a dilute solution of balanced (30-30-30 fertilizer) twice monthly until midsummer. Come fall, you'll likely have enough plant material for a lovely new wreath plus a second to give away.

If you know of other reasonably-priced sources (i.e. 30 cents or less per cutting), please email me, and I'll put them on the Links page of [my website](#).

Mail-order retailers please take note: There's a demand for sources that let purchasers specify the types — or colors, shapes and textures — of the succulent cuttings they order (rather than receiving a random assortment).

➤ DIY — EASY TO MAKE SEED WREATH



This easy-to-make seed wreath is sure to be a hit with your feathered friends, especially during these cold winter months.

BIRDSEED WREATH

1/2 cup warm water
1 package (1/4-ounce) unflavored gelatin
3 tablespoons light corn syrup
3/4 cup flour
4 cups birdseed
Nonstick cooking spray

POUR water into gelatin and stir until dissolved.

WHISK in corn syrup and flour, and stir into a smooth, thick paste.

ADD seeds and stir until they are well-coated to keep the

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

wreath from falling apart (this is the sticky part).

COAT a Bundt pan with cooking spray. Using a spatula, press the seed mix into the pan until well-packed and even.

LET sit overnight.

REMOVE from mold by turning upside down on a plate when the wreath is hard and the edible “glue” has turned white.

ADD a ribbon and hang from a tree.

NOTE: This bird treat is best left outside during cooler weather, as warmer temperatures can soften the gelatin, and the wreath may fall apart.

(Courtesy, Nancy Erdman — *Phoenix Home & Garden*, December 2012)

➤ 2013 ANNUAL SHOW & PLANT SALE

Yes, it's coming and we must start getting ready to put on another fabulous Show! Keith Taylor will again be the Show Chair. So, mark your calendars for our 53rd Annual Show, May 3-5. Set up date — Friday, May 3rd; Show and Sale — Saturday & Sunday, May 4th & 5th. There is lots to be done to make this event a success, so please think seriously how you can volunteer to help! Chair positions include Plant Sale, Plant Hotel, Shadow Boxes, Set-up, Judges, Clerks, Awards, Registration, Publicity, Refreshments, Treasurer, Membership, \$ShowBucs\$, Hospitality, Graphic Design, Ambassadors, Security, and Clean-up. There are lots of opportunities to help on any of these committees. Remember also that there are plenty of experienced members that are always available to help

you with any questions you might have. [REDACTED]

FLATS — The Plant Sale area needs cardboard flats. Flats are used by our customers to carry the plants they want to purchase. It helps facilitate more sales when our customers can easily carry their selections while looking and buy even more plants to fill the flats. Many, many of them are needed to keep sales going!! COSTCO is a great source of flats. Please start collecting now!

More Show info to come. Also, start getting your plants ready to show.

— Keith Taylor, Show Chair

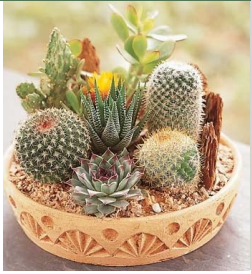
➤ PLANTERS & DISH GARDENS

The Show Committee is considering dropping these categories from the Annual Show Exhibition. If this is your *forte* then you need to seriously consider putting together some fabulous planters & dish gardens to show this year. Here are some ideas to spark your creativity —



Mini Show Selections — 2013

	CACTUS	SUCCULENT
JANUARY	Mammillaria	Aloe
FEBRUARY	Ferocactus/Leuchtenbergia	Aeonium/Echeveria/Tacitus
MARCH	Notocactus	Planters/Dishgardens
APRIL	Rebutia/Sulcorebutia	Agave
MAY	Show Winner and/or Favorite	Show Winner and/or Favorite
JUNE	Crest/Monstrose	Crest/Monstrose
JULY	Echinopsis	Haworthia/Gasteria
AUGUST	Astrophytum/Digitostigma	Euphorbia
OCTOBER	Ariocarpus	Crassula
NOVEMBER	Schlumbergia (Christmas Cacti)	Tylecodon/Sarcocaulon



Planter Idea

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, January 28th - 7pm

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aduitajs, Editor

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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



FEBRUARY, 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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	17	18 	19 ██████████ ██████████	20 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	21	
24	25 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm	26	27	28	<p>'Semps' in a tea cup (courtesy Debra Lee Baldwin)</p>	