

# Thorny Issues

Next Meeting  
April 27th

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

APRIL 2015 | Volume 56, IV



**APRIL PROGRAM  
ALL ABOUT THE MAY SHOW!  
May 2nd-3rd**

## APRIL PROGRAM

This month's program on Monday, April 27th is 'All About the May Show!!' Available will be the May Show Schedule, Publicity Fliers and Registration Slips. Marilyn Vilas will start by reviewing the Show Schedule. She will give a brief talk on how to prepare your show plants. Then, all the Show Chairs will talk about their responsibilities and ask for volunteers. Meeting will be interactive so bring your questions!

– Marilyn Vilas

## HINTS FOR THE SHOW AND SALE

Start saving flats or boxes for the Sales area. Bring on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Schedules and registration forms will be available at the April meeting and on set-up day. If you work on Friday, the club feeds you lunch. Saturday is a club-sponsored lunch and Sunday is a potluck. Lastly, please do not water or apply pesticides to your plants the last week before the show. We want dry, nice smelling plants!! Further info: see Keith Taylor or the people listed to the right.

## HELP THE SHOW BE A SUCCESS! Sign Up to Volunteer at the April Meeting

The May show is fast approaching and we need volunteers to make the event successful. There are plenty of positions available for every activity level and the co-chair seat is still open. Just a few hours of help can go a long way. If you are interested or have questions please contact me. – Keith Taylor

We need your help at the membership table! Due to a work obligation, I'm relying on volunteers to staff the membership table. You can sign up for a 2-3 hour time period. Please email me at [gingermartin@mac.com](mailto:gingermartin@mac.com) to sign up. – Ginger Martin

Sales area – Steve Goodman

Plant Hotel – Mike Price

Hospitality – Linda Roye

Membership – Susan Ballenger

Clerks - JoEllen Arnold

Refreshments – Jane Dickey

Set-up & Tear-down – show

up on Fri or Sun afternoon



## March Succulent and Cactus Mini Show Winners

### SUCCULENT: CRASSULA

- 1st: *Crassula hemisphaerica*, Keith Taylor  
2nd: *Crassula perforata variegata*, Mackenzie Pitts  
3rd: *Crassula ovata* 'Gollum', Carolyn Allen  
HM: *Crassula ovata* 'Hobbit', Steve Goodman  
HM: *Crassula capitella* 'Red Pagoda', Michelle Egan

### CACTUS: FIERCELY SPINED

- 1st: *Ferocactus wislizeni*, Bill Hagbery  
2nd: *Tephrocactus aoracanthus*, Michelle Egan  
3rd: *Grusonia bradtiana*, Mary Schuett  
HM: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* 'Moon Cactus', Mackenzie Pitts  
HM: *Cereus sp.*, Steve Goodman



## UPCOMING APRIL SUCCULENT AND CACTUS SHOW Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock

### Succulent • Agave

There are several hundred species of *Agave*. They have been popular in many Mediterranean gardens in Europe 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 native American populations for fiber, food and drinks. Now they are very popular for use 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 without 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, 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 watering. Plant in any well draining soil. Some species are known by the name "century plant" because of the length of time it takes them to flower.



*Agave Mitis* 'multicolor'

### Cactus • Echinopsis

*Echinopsis* is a large genus of cactus native to South America, sometimes known as hedgehog cactus, sea-urchin cactus or Easter lily cactus. One small species, *E. chamaecereus*, is known as the peanut cactus. The 128 species range from large and treelike types to small globose cacti. The name derives from *echinos* (hedgehog or sea urchin), and *opsis* (appearance) — a reference to the dense spine coverings of these plants. *Echinopsis* is distinguished from *Echinocactus* by the length of the flower tube, from *Cereus* by the form and size of their stems, and from both in the position on the stem occupied by the flowers. They are known for the great size, length of tube, and beauty of their flowers. They are generally borne on small and dumpy stems, and appear much larger and more attractive than would be expected. None of the species need to be grafted to grow freely and remain healthy, as the stems are all robust enough and of sufficient size to take care of themselves. The only danger is in keeping the plants too moist in winter, for although a little water now and again keeps the stems fresh and green, it deprives them of that rest which is essential to the development of their large, beautiful flowers in summer. They grow only in situations where the soil is sandy or gravelly, or on the sides of hills in the crevices of rocks.



*Echinopsis korethroides*



# May 2nd-3rd SCSS Sale and Show!

A few photos (courtesy Gerhard Bock) from previous sales and shows. Get ready for another great show!



## CACTUS IN ART AND SCULPTURE - SHADOWBOXES!

The shadowbox category theme this year is "Cactus in art and sculpture". It is open to all members. All one has to do is make a display in one of the shadowboxes located inside the Garden and Art Center. There will be a People's Choice award on Saturday the day of the show. There will be \$25.00 cash awarded to the shadowbox that received the most votes from the public attending the show that day. I will be available for help with any questions regarding how to make a shadowbox display. There are 3 spaces left available to enter in this category. A sign-up sheet will be available at the next two meetings or one can call me.

—Michelle Egan (916) 424-5233, Shadowbox chairman





# SAVE WATER! Plant Drought Tolerant Succulents!



photo courtesy Gerhard Bock

“With California facing one of the most severe droughts on record, Governor Brown declared a drought State of Emergency in January and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages. The state has continued to lead the way to make sure California is able to cope with an unprecedented drought.” <http://ca.gov/drought/>

What better time to change your garden into a drought tolerant one? Come to our May 2nd-3rd succulent sale to stock up!

## GET YOUR GREEN THUMBS READY! NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SUCCULENT SHOWS

April 18 -19: Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale  
San Juan Batista Community Hall, 10 San Jose Street, San Juan Batista  
Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM & Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

**May 2 - 3: Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Show & Sale**  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95816  
Saturday 9 AM – 5 PM & Sunday 9 AM – 4 PM

June TBA: San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society 2015 Sale & Show  
San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco CA 94122  
Saturday & Sunday 9 AM – 5 PM

2015 CSSA Biennial Convention

June 14-19: Plan a trip to Southern California to partake in the Cactus & Succulent Society of America Biennial Convention! For more information and online registration at <http://cssa2015.com>

## SCSS MEMBERSHIP

Thank you succulent enthusiasts for renewing your membership! New guests are invited to join! Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
SCSS (Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society)

MAIL TO: Ginger Martin,  
9199 Locust St.,  
Elk Grove CA 95624  
Questions: 916-685-1032 or  
[gingermartin@mac.com](mailto:gingermartin@mac.com)

## SCSS NAME BADGES

Any member who never has had a badge is welcome to purchase a new redesigned badge for \$10.00. Sign up with Michelle Egan at the next meeting or call at (916) 424-5233.

## Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

[www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

For publication submissions email:  
[succulentcrazy@gmail.com](mailto:succulentcrazy@gmail.com) by the 8th of the month

### Next Meeting Monday, April 27th

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00PM at Shepard Garden & Arts Center 3330 McKinley Blvd Sacramento, CA 95816  
center phone: (916) 808-8800  
*parking available around the back of the building*



SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

# 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CACTUS & Succulent SHOW

- ◆ *Free Admission*
- ◆ *Free Parking*
- ◆ *Plant Seminars*
- ◆ *Plants Sale open  
both days*
- ◆ *Free Plant each day  
to the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 Guests*



*Echinocactus corynodes*

## Location

SHEPARD GARDEN &  
ARTS CENTER  
3330 MCKINLEY BLVD  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95816  
  
(916) 808-8800

## MAY 2 & 3, 2015

**SATURDAY MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**9 AM — 5 PM (PLANT SALE)**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**10 AM — 5PM (EXHIBITION)**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**9 AM — 4 PM**

[www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

