

next meeting 1.26.2015

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society JANUARY 2015 | Volume 56, I

ALOE TO ALOIAMPELOS  
JANUARY MINI SHOW  
2015 OFFICERS • MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGED

## NEW YEAR, NEW SUCCULENTS

### *An exciting January Program!*

The next Club meeting is on Monday, January 26, at 7:00 pm. Our speaker will be Ernesto Sandoval, the Director of the Botanical Conservatory at UC Davis. Ernesto's presentation last year was a big hit, and I'm glad to have him back for our next meeting.

His talk will be on propagation of succulents at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He'll give an overview of the methods used at the Conservatory to propagate succulents and then talk about techniques for better seed germination (sexual propagation) and methods of vegetative propagation (asexual), including stem cuttings, leaf cuttings, grafting and other techniques. I'm sure even more seasoned members will be able to learn a trick or two.

Ernesto will also bring a variety of plants for sale. The Botanical Conservatory grows a wide range of interesting plants, succulent and non-succulent alike, and Ernesto will sell them at very reasonable prices. He'll also provide the plants for the raffle table, so be sure to bring you wallet!

-Gerhard Bock, Vice President and Program Chair



**Welcome Ernesto Sandoval!**

## THE SCSS 2015 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Looking forward to a great new year with our newly elected officers!  
The S.C.S.S. greatly appreciates their time and dedication to the society.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Keith Taylor, Gerhard Bock,  
Michelle Egan, Ed Egan, Steve Goodman & Greg Lang

### **OFFICERS:**

Keith Taylor - President  
Gerhard Bock - Vice President  
Susan Ballenger - Secretary  
Greg Lang - Treasurer

# Upcoming January Succulent and Cactus Show

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock



*Echinocereus triglochidiatus subsp. otacanthus*

## Cactus • Echinocereus

*Echinocereus* is a genus of ribbed, usually small to medium-sized cylindrical cacti, comprising about 70 species native to the southern United States and Mexico, growing in very sunny rocky places. Usually the flowers are large and showy and the fruit edible. The stems of this genus are generally under a foot in height and 2 or 3 inches in diameter. In habitat over time they may form mounds of many hundreds of stems. Spination ranges from quite fierce to moderate to pectinate (comb-like) to nearly spineless. There can be a tremendous amount of variation within species which can make identification quite tricky in some instances. The name *Echinocereus* comes from the Greek (echinos), meaning “hedgehog,” and the Latin (cereus) meaning “candle.” They are sometimes known as hedgehog cacti.

## Succulent • Pelargonium / Sarcocaulon

*Pelargonium* and *Sarcocaulon* both belong to the geranium family. The genus *Pelargonium* includes about 200 species of perennials, succulents and shrubs. They were originally included in the genus *Geranium* but later split off into their own genus. The succulent *Pelargoniums* are evergreen stemmed perennials indigenous to Southern Africa, and are drought and heat tolerant. Members of the genus *Sarcocaulon*, more recently known as *Monsonia*, are spiny, fleshy shrublets with delicate white, yellow, salmon-pink or pink flowers, confined to South Africa and Namibia. Many are covered with a thick waxy bark which is quite flammable, giving rise to the common name “Bushman’s candle”. The name *Sarcocaulon* itself alludes to the Greek words for fleshy, sarkos, and stems, caulon. In general both of these species like to grow in bright light and should be considered cold intolerant.



*Pelargonium cordatum*

### 2015 Mini Show Schedule



	SUCCULENT	CACTUS
January	Pelargonium / Sarcocaulon	Echinocereus
February	Tylocodon	Gymnocalycium
March	Crassula	Fiercely spined
April	Agave	Echinopsis
May	Any grafted	Any grafted
June	Stapelia	Rebutia / Sulcorebutia
July	Pachypodium	Ferocactus
August	Haworthia / Gasteria	Ariocarpus
September	Kalanchoe	Astrophytum
October	Any crested / monstrose	Any crested / monstrose
November	Aloe	Mammillaria

#### Succulent: *Eurphorbia/Jatropha*

- 1st *Euphorbia millii imperatae* 'Pink Peppermint' Michelle Egan
- 2nd *Jatropha sp.* Dennis Ragasa
- 3rd *Euphorbia unispina* Steve Goodman

#### Cactus: *Schlumbergia*

- 1st *Schlumbergera sp.*, Michelle Egan

**NOVEMBER SHOW WINNERS**



# What's in a Name?

From Aloe to Aloampelos, Aloidendron, Aristaloe, Gonialoe, Kumara

Story and photos by Gerhard Bock

Taxonomists, scientists describing, naming and classifying organisms, love change. They are constantly assigning and reassigning plants (and animals) based on the latest research findings. The first new genus is *Aloampelos*. It consists of the rambling aloes, shrubby plants characterized by thin, slender stems that are often too weak to stand on their own and therefore require other plants for support. The most commonly grown rambling aloe are *Aloe ciliaris* (now *Aloampelos ciliaris*) and *Aloe striatula* (now *Aloampelos striatula*), the latter being one of the most cold-tolerant of all aloes (hardy to 15°F).

The second new genus is *Aloidendron*. It consists of the tree aloes: *Aloidendron barberae*, *Aloidendron dichotomum*, *Aloidendron eminens*, *Aloidendron pillansii*, *Aloidendron ramosissimum* and *Aloidendron tongaense*.

The third new genus is *Aristaloe*. It's monotypic, meaning it consists of only one species: *Aristaloe aristata*. I've always thought that this plant doesn't really look like an aloe. It looks more like a large haworthia, and indeed parallel



*Aloe dichotoma*, now *Aloidendron dichotomum*



*Aloe plicatilis*, now *Kumara plicatilis*

attempts have been made to move it, together with a few haworthia species, to yet another new genus, *Tulista*. Manning et al., however, propose the genus *Aristaloe*, and that's what I'm going with for my purposes.

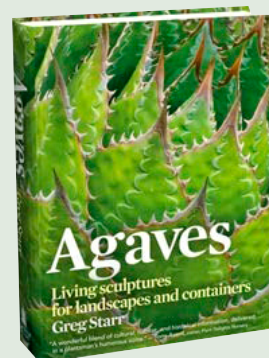
The fourth new genus is *Gonialoe*. It consists of three species, only one of which is common in horticulture: *Gonialoe variegata*, the partridge breast or tiger aloe. It's a very popular plant in California, and easily found in nurseries, including big box stores.

The fifth new genus is *Kumara*. This genus was first introduced in 1786, then abandoned, and now resurrected to include two very distinctive aloes: the fan aloe (*Aloe plicatilis*, now *Kumara plicatilis*), a very popular small tree aloe, and the rare and stunning *Aloe haemanthifolia* (now *Kumara haemanthifolia*). [See Gerhard's complete blog for more pictures and the complete posting.](#)

## March Meeting Date Moved to April 6th

Agave expert Greg Starr, whose program last summer drew the largest crowd in recent memory, will be back on Monday, April 6th. He is the author of the Timber Press book *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers* and one of the country's leading experts on agaves. To accommodate Greg's schedule, we're moving the March meeting from Monday, March 23rd to **Monday, April 6th**. The April meeting will be on its regular night, Monday, April 27th. Please make a note of this in your calendar so you won't show up on March 23rd just to find the Garden and Arts Center empty.

-Gerhard Bock



Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
[www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

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

## MEETING DETAILS

### Next Meeting Monday, January 26th

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

*parking available around the back of the building*

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

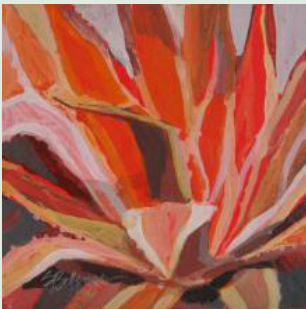
This could be your last issue! Fees go towards the newsletter, great cactus and succulent programs and meetings. Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year.

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)



## CACTUS & SUCCULENT ART SHOW!

Featuring  
**Susan Ballenger**

Our club member, Susan Ballenger, has her paintings on display at the Fe Gallery, 1100 65th Street, Sacramento, until February 5th. Go see her lovely cactus and succulents in acrylic. Best times Mon-Fri 8:30-4:00 pm. Call ahead as they may be closed for lunch.

*-Marilynn Vilas*



## NEW SCSS NAME BADGES

New S.C.S.S. name badges have been redesigned. All S.C.S.S. members must turn in their old badge in order to receive a new one. A new replacement will be issued **FREE OF CHARGE**.

Please bring your old badges to the monthly meeting so a new one can be ordered. 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.