

MEETING DATE
changed to APRIL 6TH

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society | MARCH 2015 | Volume 56, III



SPECIAL MARCH PROGRAM for MONDAY, APRIL 6th

Our March meeting will be a week late, on Monday, April 6 at 7 p.m. We will have a very special guest: Greg Starr, one world's leading authorities on agaves. His presentation last June broke attendance records for the SCSS, and we hope to have a full house once again.

Greg will take us on a journey to the rich cactus and succulent flora of east-central Mexico. Naturally the focus will be on those amazing agaves of which he is so fond, but there will also be a vast variety of small to large, intriguing cacti and other notable plants such as Dasylirion, Nolina and Yucca. Greg has made many trips to this region that is overflowing with interesting succulent plants and has compiled an itinerary that will knock your socks off. Greg has spent the past 29 years studying agaves, cacti and flowering trees and shrubs of the Chihuahuan Desert Region and will share some of the fabulous plants found in the unparalleled region of Mexico. Greg will have plants and books for sale, including his own book *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers*, and the just published *Field Guide to the Cacti and other Succulents of Arizona*.

If you have time before the meeting, come to Mel's Diner (3000 J St) at 5:30 pm to have dinner with Greg, his wife Carol and me. This will be a great opportunity to pick Greg's brain and ask him that question you've always wanted to ask! (The club is treating Greg and his wife to dinner; you'll pay for your own.)

—Gerhard Bock, Vice President & Program Chair



**WELCOME
GREG STARR!**

February Succulent and Cactus Mini Show Winners

Succulent: *Tylecodon*

1st: *Tylecodon paniculatus*, Keith Taylor
2nd: *Tylecodon buchholzianus*, Steve Goodman
3rd: *Tylecodon species*, Mary Schuett

Cactus: *Gymnocalycium*

1st *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, Mary Schuett
2nd *Gymnocalycium vatteri*, Michelle Egan
2nd *Gymnocalycium spegazzinii*, Steve Goodman



UPCOMING MARCH SUCCULENT AND CACTUS SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock

Succulent • *Crassula*

The genus *Crassula* includes around 200 species of succulent plants, ranging in size from less than an inch in height to 6 foot shrubs. *Crassulas* are distributed throughout the world although the majority that interest succulent collectors are from South Africa. Few of these are truly hardy. The best known species is probably *Crassula ovata*, the popular jade plant. *Crassulas* are usually propagated by stem or leaf cuttings. Most cultivated forms will tolerate some small degree of frost, but extremes of cold or heat will cause them to lose foliage and die. Many attractive dwarf forms are available to the collector. Some species are monocarpic and die after flowering, just as the plant achieves perfection. Numerous attractive hybrid *Crassulas* have been created. One of the most popular is *C. mesembryanthemoides* x *C. falcata*, "Morgan's Beauty". *Crassula* "Buddah's Temple" is a hybrid between *C. perfoliata* v. *falcata* x *C. pyramidalis*.



Crassula ovata

Cactus • Fiercely Spined!

This category is self-explanatory. Search your collection of cactus and pick the plant with the longest, the nastiest, the gnarliest spines. It doesn't have to be pretty. It doesn't have to be well potted. We're not talking show quality here. You don't even have to know what it is. All we want to see is the excessive armor that these plants will come up with to protect themselves from the world around them. This should be a fun category. I hope to see a lot of plants.



Ferocactus wislizeni

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



Boophane disticha

FIELD TRIP TO UC DAVIS BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

Our first 2014 field trip will be on Saturday, April 4, at 10 a.m. We will visit the Botanical Conservatory at UC Davis. We get to tour the greenhouses where Ernesto Sandoval and his team propagate so many fantastic plants. Parking is available right next to the greenhouses, and it's free on weekends (driving directions can be found at the Botanical Conservatory web site: <http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/conservatory/maps.html>). In addition to a tour of the greenhouses, we will also get a chance to buy plants at great prices so bring you wallet! If you haven't signed up already, please email me at musatopia+scss@gmail.com. I'll get in touch with everybody a week before the field trip so you can arrange car pools if desired.

In the meantime, check out my blog post about our field trip in February 2013. It'll give you an idea of what to expect: <http://bit.ly/1yE8pb3>

—Gerhard Bock, Vice President & Program Chair

MAY SHOW ALERT! Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Sale coming MAY 2nd & 3rd

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 Steve Goodman. Plant Hotel on all three days: See Mike Price. Membership on Saturday and Sunday: See Susan Ballenger. Refreshments all three days: See Jane and JJ Dickey. Hospitality on Saturday and Sunday: See Linda Roye. Remember: a few hours of volunteering and the club feeds you on Friday and Saturday. Sunday is the potluck. Start collecting flats and boxes for the Plant Sales and bring to April 27th meeting for storage. NEW! NEW! NEW! There will be five (5) new award ribbons this year: Best Notocactus, Best Copiapoa, Best Mesemb, Best Sansevieria and Best Variegata (cactus or other succulent). The rest of awards remain the same. Available at both April meetings will be publicity fliers and registration forms. —Your Show Committee



EXPANDED RETAIL NURSERY AT THE RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

The Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek recently opened their newly enlarged retail nursery. Now there is at least twice as much space for plants! Their selection of succulents as well as perennials and shrubs from California and the southern hemisphere is unique in Northern California. Nursery manager Troy McGregor and his staff do a fantastic job bringing in both popular and unusual plants, and their inventory changes constantly. The nursery (and the garden) is open Tue-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To see what's waiting for you, check out my blog post from the grand opening on February 21: <http://bit.ly/1AML2vT> —Gerhard Bock, Vice President & Program Chair

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society
Sacramento, CA 95816
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For publication submissions email:
succulentcrazy@gmail.com by the 8th of the month

MEETING DETAILS

Next Meeting Monday, April 6th

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

GET YOUR GREEN THUMBS READY! NORTHERN CALIFORNIA SUCCULENT SHOWS

April 11: Ruth Bancroft Garden Spring Opening & Plant Sale
Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598
Saturday 9 AM – 11 AM (Members' pre-sale and auction) 11AM–3PM (Public sale)

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 2015 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 - Claremont, California

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

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.