

Next Meeting
MONDAY
September 28

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society September 2015 | Volume 56, IX

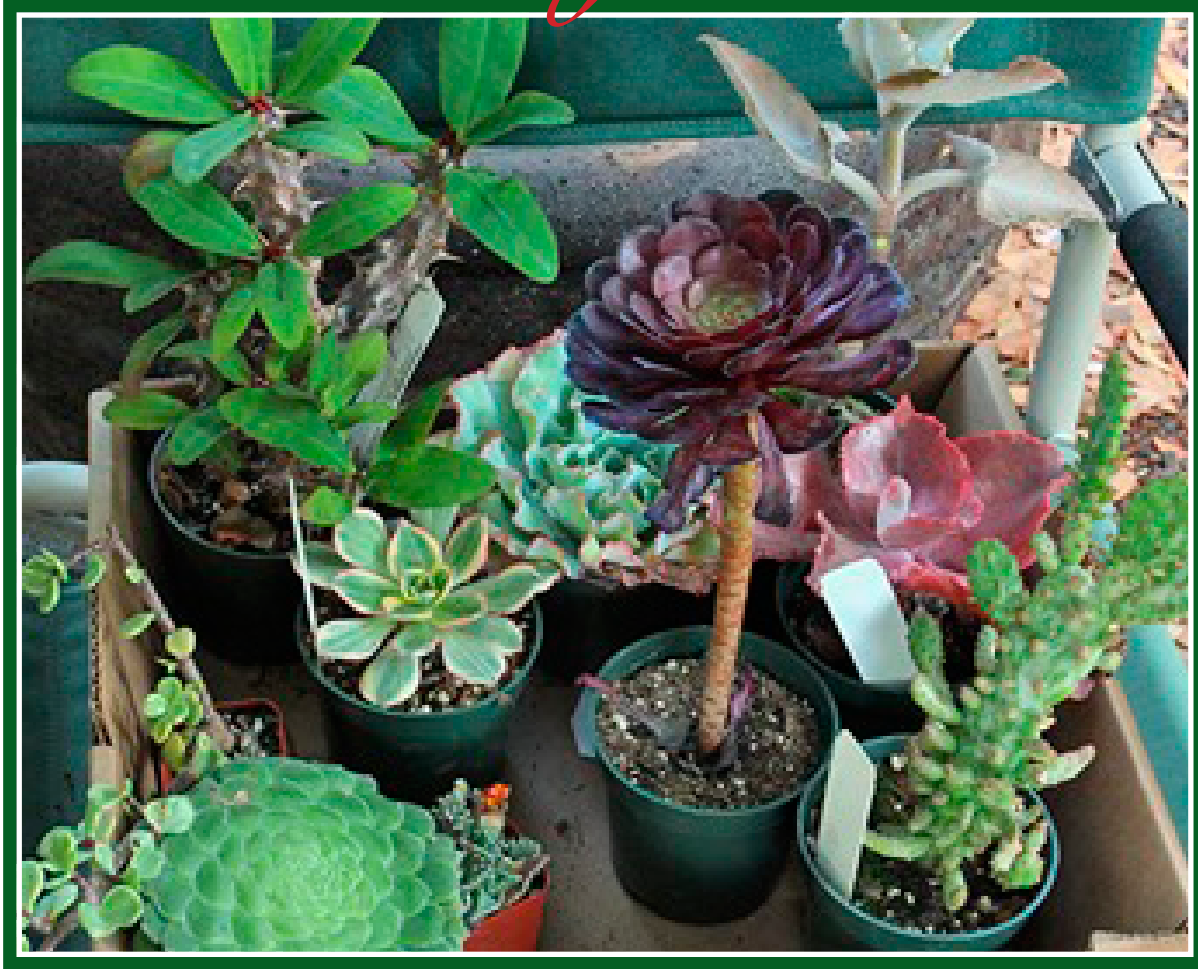


Photo by Gerhard Bock

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE - SEPTEMBER 28th

*W*e have an exciting meeting this month! Our annual Country Store is finally here! Members and welcomed guests will find a feeding frenzy of plants, food, plus a silent auction of succulent related items. Raffle tickets are 50¢. Members may donate plants to each of the following tables: Cactus, Other Succulents, and House Plants, which include non-succulent plants (i.e., bulbs, geraniums), and related items (extra pots, labels, etc.) Green thumb gardeners may donate their extra produce – tomatoes, zucchini, jars of jam, etc., to the Produce Table. Those who are working their way through Julia Child's cookbooks may donate to the Sweet Shoppe where all things must be butter-and sugar-laden. Please place your baked goods on small paper plates and cover with plastic wrap for ease of raffling. To finish off the evening is the Succulent Silent Auction where donations of Succulent related items – books, tee shirts, better plants, kitschy stuff – will be fought over by those who haven't spent all their money at the Sweet Shoppe. All proceeds go to the club's treasury for future cactus and succulent adventures. Bring your donations, bring your money, bring your appetite and bring boxes to haul home your loot. This is a non-business meeting; doors open at 6:30 and we get rolling promptly at 7:00 pm.

Bring your cuttings or pups to the Country Store!

SEPTEMBER SUCCULENT AND CACTUS MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock

Succulent • KALANCHOE

Kalanchoe is a large genus of succulents in the family *Crassulaceae* and has a very wide distribution area: all of Africa south of the Sahara desert, Madagascar, islands of the Indian Ocean, India and Malaysia. Most of the species interesting to collectors are coming from Madagascar or South Africa. These species are generally sub-shrubs with succulent leaves. The genera *Bryophyllum* and *Kitchingia* are generally now included in *Kalanchoe*. Contrary to other members of the family *Crassulaceae* that have flower parts in multiples of 5, *Kalanchoe* flowers have 4 connected petals forming a tube, 4 sepals, 4 carpels,



Kalanchoe luciae 'Fantastic'



Kalanchoe 'Fang'

and 8 stamens. They should be planted in well drained soil and care should be taken to avoid searing afternoon sun. A number of species can take temperatures close to freezing for short times, but none will really tolerate any frost. The species that have pubescent (fuzzy) leaves can generally tolerate Phoenix-type intense heat without trouble particularly if kept in light shade. The species with smooth leaves are a little less tolerant, but fare generally better than most other *Crassulaceae* in such hot conditions. In general, *Kalanchoe* do better with bright shade, although some species are comfortable with some direct sun, while others tolerate shade.

AUGUST SUCCULENT & CACTUS MINI SHOW WINNERS

SUCCULENT: HAWORTHIA / GASTERIA

- 1st^(T): *Haworthia parksiana*, Keith Taylor
- 1st^(T): *Haworthia limifolia variegata*, Michelle Egan
- 2nd^(T): *Gasteria armstrongii x batesiana*, Steve Goodman
- 2nd^(T): *Haworthia emelyae v. comptoniana*, Mystery Person
- 3rd^(T): *Haworthia viscosa*, Martha Bleshman
- 3rd^(T): *Haworthia limifolia*, Mary Schuett
- HM: *Gasteria* "Ice", Jerry Friis
- HM: *Haworthia maughanii*, JoEllen Arnold

CACTUS: ARICARPUS

- 1st: *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, Keith Taylor
- 2nd: *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, Mary Schuett
- 3rd: *Ariocarpus retusus*, Michelle Egan
- HM: *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, Steve Goodman



Cactus • ASTROPHYTUM

The genus *Astrophytum* is comprised of 4 species of globose to short cylindrical cacti and one sprawling, octopus-like member. The first four were discovered between the years 1828 and 1845. Two of these are spineless and two have prominent spines. While each species is quite distinct they all feature a star-shaped appearance when viewed from above. Hence the name *Astrophytum*, which means star plant. *Astrophytum* species have been frequently compared to marine life, in particular *Astrophytum asterias* for its striking similarity to sea urchins. The fifth member of this group was newly discovered in 2001. *Astrophytum caput-madusae* is quite distinct from the other members of the genus and actually very distinct from all other cacti genera as well. Hence, many enthusiasts feel it should be part of its own genus and consider it to be the sole species in the genus *Digitostigma*. The name *Digitostigma* describes the long digit-like tubercles that grow something like an octopus. Despite the noticeable differences, all 5 species including *caput-madusae* feature a sort of flocking of white trichomes (or



Astrophytum ornatum



bumps) on the epidermis, although in cultivation some forms are bred for their lack of flocking. Plants in this genus also all have yellow flowers with fuzzy floral tubes. Some have a red-centered flower, all are radially symmetric and eventually turn into dry, fuzzy seed pods bearing relatively large, black seeds that are among the easiest to germinate. The four original *Astrophytum* members have been extremely popular in cultivation and numerous exotic hybrids have been created that accentuate various features such as amount of flocking, number of ribs, lack of spines, etc. With the uniqueness of *Astrophytum caput-madusae* coupled with its late discovery, it is currently one of the most sought after cactus species by collectors world-wide. And in that sense, it fits in quite well with the other *Astrophytum* species. *Astrophytum* is a Chihuahuan desert native occurring in north/central Mexico and southern Texas.

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Next Meeting Monday September 28th, 7:00pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95816
center phone: (916) 808-8800

www.sacramentocss.org



For publication submissions email:
succulentcrazy@gmail.com by the 5th of the month

FRIENDS OF THE
UC DAVIS



ARBORETUM AND
PUBLIC GARDEN

PLANT SALES

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF
Arboretum All-Stars

For 10 years UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars have provided California with a foundation for creating attractive, easy-care landscapes that save water. We're celebrating this fall with a large selection of Arboretum All-Stars, California natives, and other regionally-appropriate plants sure to make your yard shine!

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

Saturday

OCTOBER 10

9 - 11 AM MEMBERS ONLY 11 AM - 1 PM PUBLIC SALE

Saturday

OCTOBER 24

9 AM - 1 PM
PUBLIC SALE

Saturday

NOVEMBER 14

9 AM - 1 PM
CLEARANCE SALE!

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.