

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2016

Volume 57, VI

June Program

WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT BATS?

What do you know about bats? Bats live on all continents except Antarctica and are as tiny as a species that weighs less than a penny and as large as the Asian flying foxes with six foot wing spans. We know our local bats are experts at eating insects; bats in other habitats are vital pollinators of many plants, from the baobab to cactus and other succulents. Bats are the most important “foresters” in tropical regions, reseeding the forest as they fly. They eat things you’ve never dreamed they could! If we are lucky, three live local bat ambassadors will be shared at this presentation, which covers the incredible diversity of bats worldwide.

As well as having been a member of this club for 10 years, JoEllen Arnold taught for 30 years with a particular passion for introducing her students to the natural world. She met her first bat face to face in 1997 at a workshop about bats in Yosemite. Since that life-changing encounter, she has become a “missionary for bats,” taking courses in bat conservation in the Sierra Nevada and Arizona, and traveling to meet more species in Texas, Africa, Central America, and Europe. Her mission is to open people’s hearts and minds to these beneficial creatures that are in grave danger of extinction in many parts of the world, including the United States.



© Merlin D. Tuttle

Geoffroy's tailless bat (*Anoura geoffroy*) pollinating Old Man's Beard Cactus in the Ecuadorian Andes. Photo credit Merlin D. Tuttle.

Punctured Thumb Award

Well, it's that time of year again when the Punctured Thumb is awarded. Obviously, this refers to all of us removing those darn spines from whatever finger they have punctured. Somehow, thumb works best in this case. The premise of the award is to acknowledge a member(s) who has contributed much time, effort, sweat, blood and tears to the club. Each year someone new receives this, and it is a surprise to the recipient. Come to the June meeting to see who is surprised, embarrassed and speechless when fellow members bestow this coveted prize. Never a dull moment!

—Your Club Board



FYI: The updated SCSS Constitution and Bylaws are included with this newsletter.

Field Trip to the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

On May 14, about 20 members and friends of the Society met at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory for our second field trip of the year. Director Ernesto Sandoval gave a private tour of the cactus and succulent collections in and around the greenhouses and offered many personal insights into the growing of the large collection used by the university. There were some amazing plants and some that the University is quite proud of compared to other collections at public institutions.

Following the greenhouse visit, Ernesto led the group on a short walking tour of some campus areas that had been landscaped using cactus and succulents from around the world. It was very inspiring and fun to see what the students have been working on in some of the teaching gardens. Ernesto then hand-selected a number of plants available for purchase to club members after we had the chance to see them growing in the landscape as well as the greenhouses.



SCSS Members and Friends at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
Photo by Gerhard Bock



Aloe buhrii
Photo by Gerhard Bock

It was an exciting day on campus, since over at the main arboretum area the University was also hosting one of its public plant sale days. A quick check showed lots of beautiful succulents as well as many native and other drought tolerant plants. The university has more public sale dates coming up in the fall, and many of the cactus and succulents propagated by Ernesto and the team should be available then.

I hope that no one got lost going to the public sale and was unable to find the Conservatory. Next time, I'll do a better job of getting out the directions!

—*Mariel Dennis, SCSS Vice President and Program Chair*

Upcoming Programs & Mini-Shows

Month	Program	Succulent	Cactus
July	Woody Minnich, New Discoveries in Northern Mexico	Any Crested	Opuntia
August	Green Roofs (Speaker TBD)	Pachypodium	Ferocactus
September	SCSS Country Store	No mini show	No mini show
October	J.D. Wikert, How About Haworthias?	Tylecodon/Crassula	Echinopsis
November	Keith Taylor, Winter Growers	Any Grafted	Schlumbergera (Zygocactus)
December	Holiday Potluck Dinner (no regular meeting)	No mini show	No mini show

May Mini-Show Winners

CACTUS

1st: *Sulcorebutia crispata*, Michelle Egan

SUCCULENT

1st: *Euphorbia milii imperatae* var. "Pink Peppermint," Michelle Egan

June Mini-Show

CACTUS: MAMMILLARIA



Mammillaria microcarpa

Over 250 species are known within the Mammillaria genus, making it one of the largest in the cactus family. Mammillaria derive their name from the Latin meaning "nipple" due to the tubercles that are the distinctive feature of this genus (causing them to be called "nipple cactus"). Other common names include pincushion cactus, globe cactus, and fishhook cactus. Mammillaria are easy to grow and make a very good plant for novice growers. They have small flowers, ranging in color from white to greenish yellow and shades of pinks to red when blooming in spring to summer.

Most Mammillaria require bright light and can winter well to temperatures down to 45 degrees. They should be kept dry between waterings in spring and summer and left dry when resting in fall and winter months. Forms vary from very spiny types like *M. hahniana* "Old Lady," *M. elongata* "Golden Stars," and *M. perzedlarosa* "Fishhook" to ones that look soft and feathery, such as *M. plumosa* "Feather cactus." Mammillaria can be found in the United States, the Caribbean, Colombia, Honduras, and Venezuela.

SUCCULENT: EUPHORBIA

Euphorbia includes over 2,000 different types within the genus. Their habitat ranges from North and South America, South Africa, and Madagascar to India. Their forms vary in size and shape, from round and smooth (for example, *E. obesa* "Baseball plant") to large, tree-like forms such as *E. royleana*, which reaches heights up to 25 feet tall, flowering types such as *E. pulcherrima*, known as the common "Poinsettia," to very spiny types such as *E. milii* "Crown of Thorns." It is believed by some that *E. milii* was the plant used to make the crown of thorns for Christ. Legend also has it that the Jews brought it from Israel to Kerala, a region in India.

All Euphorbias have a sticky, milky white, latex-type sap. Depending on the species, the sap can be poisonous. When the poisonous sap comes in contact with skin, its toxicity can cause a reaction ranging from benign, mild irritation to severe burning and blistering. Blindness can occur if the sap comes with contact with eyes.

Flowers of most Euphorbias are small, insignificant berry-like forms. Some are surrounded by a cup-shaped inflorescence called a cyathium. The Poinsettia has brightly colored large leaves that people mistake for petals around the actual small yellow, berry-like flowers in the center of these leaf clusters. Depending on the variety of Euphorbia, they can be a very good houseplant on a sunny windowsill, a potted plant outdoors, or a living fence.



Euphorbia milii "Crown of Thorns"

Upcoming Events

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE – JULY 1-3

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 51st Annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale will be held July 1, 2, and 3 at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. For information call (626) 405-2100 or (818) 368-6914. The event is open to the public with paid admission or membership to the Huntington.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY WORKSHOP – JULY 10

The UC Botanical Garden is sponsoring a workshop titled "Hardy Australian Plants for your Home Garden" from 10 AM to 12 PM on Sunday, July 10. From UC Botanical Garden's web site: "California has a Mediterranean climate, with cool wet winters and warm dry summers. The Australian flora makes for exceptionally beautiful and well suited plants for our Bay Area Gardens. The UC Botanical Garden is honored to host Nurserywoman Jo O'Connell of Australian Native Plants in Ventura for a morning workshop on particularly hardy plants for your home gardens. You'll learn about plants that are hardy, drought tolerant, cut flower producing and bird attracting. There will be an exclusive sale of hand selected Australian plants for purchase following the program with expert guidance on selection for your home." Please RSVP to Mariel Dennis by July 3. Registration is \$20, \$15 for UC Botanical Garden members. Register online at botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu, by calling (510) 664-9841 or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu. Directions to UC Botanical Garden are provided below. Parking is \$1/hr.

From Interstate 80

Take University Avenue Exit toward the hills until it dead ends at Oxford Street
Turn Left on Oxford Street and travel to the Second Stoplight
Turn Right on Hearst Avenue and travel to the Third Stoplight
Turn Right on Gayley/La Loma Road and travel to the First Stop Sign
Turn Left on Stadium Rim Way and travel to the Second Stop Sign
Turn Left on Centennial Drive (Garden address is 200 Centennial Drive)
The Garden entrance is 3/4 mile up Centennial Drive on the Right at a Stoplight
The Parking lot entrance is just past the stoplight on the Left hand side

From Walnut Creek

Take Fish Ranch Rd. Exit from Highway 24
Follow signs towards Tilden Park, until you reach a stop sign at the top.
Turn Right on Grizzly Peak Blvd
Turn Left on Centennial Dr.
(Look for sign to Lawrence Hall of Science and U.C. Botanical Garden)
Go about 3/4 mile to the Botanical Garden, past the Lawrence Hall of Science.
The Parking lot entrance is on right-hand side, just before Garden entrance on the left.

Meeting Details

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM.

Next meeting: June 27

Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816

center phone: (916) 808-8800 | www.sacramentocss.org

SACRAMENTO CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Founded March 1960

CONSTITUTION

Adopted – April 25, 1960

Revised – August 22, 1983

Revised – November 22, 1999

Revised – October 24, 2011

Revised – March 01~~xx~~, 2016

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this Society shall be **Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society**, a non-profit organization and herein known as the Society ('Society').

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Society is to promote interest in the conservation and study of Cacti and the Other Succulents, to encourage horticultural and scientific study of them and to assist in educational activities to spread the interest in Cacti and the Other Succulents.

Section 2. This Society is not organized, nor shall it be operated for pecuniary gain or profit, and it does not contemplate the distribution of gains, profits or dividends to the members thereof or to any individuals. The property, assets, profits or net income of this Society are irrevocably dedicated to educational, scientific, literary and charitable purposes and no part of the profits or net income of the Society shall inure to the benefit of any director, officer, or member thereof or to any private individual.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, members, including officers and directors, that provide services for the Society may be reimbursed at the same rate as may be made to others who render services to the Society, as shall be determined

appropriate by the Board of Directors or established in the budget and recorded in regular meeting minutes and/or the financial records of the Society. Upon the dissolution or winding up of this Society, the assets of this Society remaining after payment of, or provision for payment of, all debts and liabilities of this Society shall be distributed to a non-profit corporation, qualified for exemption from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as now in effect or subsequently amended.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

All persons interested in Cacti and the Other Succulents shall be eligible for membership in the Society. There shall be two classes of membership: individual (one vote) and family (two votes). All elections shall be by voice or show of hands of the membership present at regularly scheduled meetings.

ARTICLE IV: DUES

Dues shall be revised annually by the Board; said recommendations shall be published in the newsletter. Dues shall be fixed by the membership, upon recommendations by the Board of Directors. Dues shall become payable as of November and shall be delinquent December 31.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS AND GOVERNMENT

The Officers of this Society shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, three elected Directors plus the immediate Past President who shall serve as a Director. These Officers shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Society. They shall be empowered to act for the Society in any emergency.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE 1: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all general, Board and Executive Board meetings of the Society and perform all duties usually pertaining to said

office. He/She shall be empowered to appoint such standing and special committees as occasion may demand. Upon completion of his/her term of office as President, he/she shall automatically serve as Director.

Section 2. In the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall perform all the duties of the President. In the absence of both, any officer or director shall call the meeting to order and preside until the election of a chairman pro-tem, which ~~should take place immediately~~ shall be the first order of business.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep and record the minutes of all proceedings. He/She shall perform all such other duties as this office may require. In the absence of the Secretary, any Officer or Director shall take the minutes.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive and keep an accurate record of all dues and other funds of the Society and pay out such funds only upon properly recorded motion. All expenditures and receipts shall be reported at the next regular meeting of the Society and he/she shall make a complete annual report of receipts and disbursements. The books shall be audited at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 5. The general supervision and control of the affairs of this Society and the execution of its purposes shall be vested in the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. All Officers and three Directors shall be elected for a term of one year at the November meeting of the Society and shall assume office at the close of that meeting for the following calendar year.

Section 2. Upon resignation of any officer or if the office becomes vacant for any other reason, the President shall appoint some member to fill the office temporarily and order the Newsletter Editor to send notice of a special election to be held at the next regular meeting, when the vacancy shall be filled.

Section 3. After three successive absences from regular meetings without excuse, an office shall be declared vacant and shall be filled as provided in Section 2.

ARTICLE 3: MEETINGS

Section 1. There shall be a regular meeting of the Society on the fourth Monday of each month, except December. In the event an alternate date must be established, it shall be published in the newsletter of the Society for the month preceding the month in which the change shall occur.

Section 2. Five members shall constitute a quorum within the Board of Directors. Reasonable notification of any Board meeting, including an emergency Board meeting, ~~s~~ must be given all Board members. Board meetings shall be open to all members except for Executive Board meetings. Reasonable notification of any Executive Board meetings must be given to all board members; attendance at Executive Board meetings is limited to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4: AMENDMENTS

An amendment of the Constitution or By-Laws shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership present at a regularly scheduled general meeting. At the next succeeding meeting after such motion for change has been made and after a copy of the amendment has appeared in the newsletter, a vote will be taken on the change or amendment.

ARTICLE 5: BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Section 1. Each year, the Board of Directors shall present a budget for the upcoming year to the membership by publishing it in the January-Society newsletter. At the January-next regular meeting, the treasurer shall express his views on the adequacy of the budget in light of funds on hand and anticipated revenues for the coming year. After discussion, the President shall call for a vote on the proposed budget. A majority vote of those present shall be required for approval of the budget.

Section 2. At the beginning of each year the Board of Directors shall establish the budget for meeting programs and other special events; including customary speaker honoraria and reimbursement for mileage, travel and other incidental expenses. Budget for plants that will be prizes in drawings at the regular meetings will also be established and may be provided by the planned speaker or other member. The annual plant show and sale shall also be budgeted. The Treasurer may reimburse expenses not to exceed \$150.00 if required for the operation of the Society and included within the budget; however any non-budgeted expense that exceeds \$150.00 shall require advance approval of the Board of Directors. No more than \$50.00 of the Society's money shall be spent except as allowed by the budget without approval of For any non-budgeted expense of \$500 or more, approval is required by a majority of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting. ~~Before such a vote can be taken, a notice of the proposed expenditure must be published in the newsletter at two weeks before the meetings at which the vote will be taken. Any member may request to view the financial records of the Society which shall be made available at any reasonable time for inspection.~~

Section 3. The President and Treasurer shall file any required financial statements or other documents required of non-profit associations by the California Secretary of State's office or any taxing authorities and shall advise the Society each year upon completion of required filings.

ARTICLE 6: ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to cover ~~and any~~ provision not incorporated herein.