

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2016

Volume 57, XI

## November Program

### WINTER GROWING SUCCULENTS

Keith Taylor will discuss succulents that are summer dormant or winter growers, talking about care, exposures, and extremes. Most think winter is an off season when it comes to cactus and succulents, and expanding your knowledge of these plants will encourage you to grow something of interest year-round. Keith will also bring in specimens from his collection to share, and he will have pottery available for purchase.

### ABOUT OUR SPEAKER, KEITH TAYLOR

Keith Taylor began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991 after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. "I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk." The *Cyphostemma* he saw is also the first succulent he purchased and is still in his collection of more than 800 plants. Keith prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants. He grows them hard, meaning limited water, little to no feeding and hot sun to give them the look of collected plants.

His favorites include *Cyphostemma*, *Fockea*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Pachycormus*, *Tylecodon*, *Othonna*, *Pelargonium*, *Mesembryanthemum* and *Euphorbia*. Roughly 5% of his collection is tuberous rooted cacti, *Lophophora*, *Peniocereus*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Mammillaria*, *Leuchtenbergia* and *Ariocarpus*.

In 2008, Keith began creating pots to show off his plants. He believes the pot should compliment, not distract. The main focus should be the succulent. If the pot is too ornate, colorful, or shiny, it draws your eye toward the pot rather than the succulent. Proportion also plays a role. The container needs to be the right width and depth to look balanced. For example, if the succulent is placed in the center of the container surrounded by colorful stones, it will look artificial and awkward. Rocks and topdressing add to complete the presentation. His pottery is sought after by C&S collectors as well as bonsai artists due to the natural look of the containers.

Keith has always had the "eye" for what looked good. Whether it's in his profession as a pedorthist (design and manufacture of footwear for medical purposes), photographer, cook, or potter. Has also served as President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Sacramento for seven years.

Keith sells his work at C&S clubs and shows, bonsai clubs, online through Facebook, Instagram, and his website. He accepts custom orders and ships worldwide.



Pottery by Kitoi

*Aeonium simsii*

### To contact Keith

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kitoi/>

Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kitoi/>

Website <http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com/>

Mail 2401 Waterman Blvd Ste 4a Fairfield, CA 94534

Phone 1-707-290-0627

*See inside for more of Keith's beautiful pottery and plants.*

## November Mini-Show

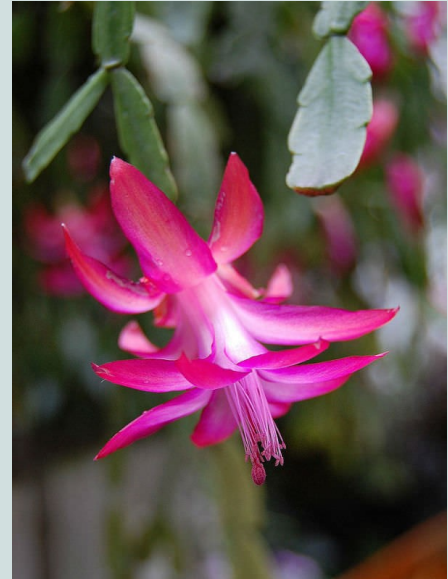
### CACTUS: SCHLUMBERGERA/ZYGOCACTUS

Schlumbergera were named by botanist Charles Lemaire in 1838 to honor cactus collector Frederic Schlumberger (1823-1893). They are more commonly known as Zygocactus, Thanksgiving cactus, or Christmas cactus. The latter two names are due to the time of their blooming period. Other names include Crab cactus and holiday cactus. Schlumbergera are not to be confused with the Easter cactus, which is a *Hattoria*, or the desert Christmas cactus *Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*.

It is a small genus consisting of only six different species. The natural growing habitat is in trees and rocks on the southeastern coastal mountains of Brazil. Shade and high humidity are preferred for their growing conditions, and they grow similarly to other epiphytes. They only use the tree as a means of support and are not parasitic.

The stems of these plants consist of flat, leaf-like, pad-shaped segments that grow in a trailing chain; flowers form at the end of the branches of the pads. New plants can easily be propagated from these individual segments. There are two species that are cylindrical in form.

One remarkable aspect of these plants is the stunning exotic look of the flowers they produce. The elongated tubular flowers have multiple petals that create the look of a flower within a flower, with anthers that seem to reach outward. The colors of the flowers range from white, light and dark pink, magenta orange to red.



*Schlumbergera x buckleyi*

### SUCCULENT: ANY GRAFTED



Grafted succulents

The reason for grafting is to help produce new and/or rare species and cultivars and to promote rapid growth in some rare species. It is also a method that helps some weaker species have a better chance of growing on a stronger stock plant. *Hylocereus* are often used as stock plants. *Hylocereus undatus* produces the fruit known as “Dragon Fruit.” The plant to be grafted is known as the scion. Two types of grafting are the flat graft and the wedge graft. A common succulent that is often grafted is *Euphorbia lactea*. Lovely, large fan-shaped segments of the plant are grafted onto a stock plant, creating a plant that is a nice addition to anyone’s collection. They are generally easy to grow and maintain with very little care and minimal watering.

# Annual Christmas Potluck Party

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 6 PM**

Come celebrate with us at the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Christmas party! The fun starts at 6pm (doors open at 5:30pm for setup). The club will provide the turkey. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad, or dessert to share. If you wish to participate in the great gift exchange, please bring a gift (not more than \$15, wrapped or unwrapped) and share in the festivities! Happy Holidays!

## Election! Election! Election!

Our annual election Society Officers and Board Members occurs the November meeting. Below is the proposed nominated slate. Nominations from the membership will be accepted, but first please receive the approval of the nominee. See you at the meeting to vote!

### Slate of Proposed Officers and Board Members for 2017

- President: Steve Goodman
- Vice President: Mariel Dennis
- Treasurer: Greg Lang
- Secretary: Gerhard Bock
- Board of Directors: Ed Egan, Joe Samora, Hal Coburn



Albuca



## October Mini-Show Winners

### CACTUS

1st: *Echinopsis subdenudata* "Fuzzy Navel," Rudy Aguilar

2nd: *E. dominos*, Steve Goodman

3rd: *E. spachiana*, Linda Roye

### SUCCULENT

1st: *Crassula marnieriane*, Steve Goodman

2nd: *Tylecodon paniculata*, Michelle Egan

3rd: *Crassula argentea* hybrid "Red Jade Plant," Rudy Aguilar

H.M.: *Crassula* "Jade Necklace," Linda Roye



## Announcements

**Membership Renewal** Annual membership fees will be due soon. Contact Oanh Vu if you have questions about membership. The membership form is included with the newsletter this month for your convenience.

**November Raffle** Keith Taylor announced he would be bringing a very special Raffle Table for the November meeting. Seems he overbought at the San Diego Show, and we will be the recipients of his enthusiasm. Bring money!



## Cactus and Succulent Society of America 37<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention

*(From your National Affiliate)* The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is having their 2017 Biennial Convention, hosted by Central Arizona C&S Society, on July 26-31, 2017 in Tempe, AZ. More information about this can be found at the convention website <http://www.cssaconvention.com>. A Pre-Convention Tour of Northeastern Mexico has been planned and is now accepting reservations for the 11 day trip, with 9 full days in the field. Dates are July 15-25, with priority registration for convention attendees. Arrival and departure thru Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, exploring the states of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila. For more info, please go to the CSSA website <http://cssainc.org/index.php/directory/field-trips> or contact the tour operator: Jeff Chemnick of Mexico Nature Tours LLC (805-965-0895 or [jeffchemnick@cox.net](mailto:jeffchemnick@cox.net)). More info can also be found in the CSSA Journal, July/August 2016, p182-184. Affiliate Representative Marilyn Vilas



### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: November 28

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center phone: (916) 808-8800 | [www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)