

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

February 2017

Volume 58, II

February Program

SEDUM: AMAZING STONECROPS

Our speaker for the February meeting will be J.D. Wikert. J.D. is a fisheries biologist involved in research and restoration of rivers to support salmon and other native anadromous fish. In his spare time, he cultivates way too many locally-hardy succulents. He has been active in the succulent hobby for over a dozen years, switching over from orchids when he moved back to California from Florida.

His presentation is titled: "Sedum: Amazing Stonecrops." J.D. will share more information than you need to know about members of this genus. The presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation, as well as showing photos of many of the more readily available species, hybrids, and cultivars.



You might have seen J.D. speak in previous meetings about Stapeliads, Dudleya, Gasteria, Senecio, Adromischus, and Haworthia, and this talk will follow a similar format. Members are encouraged to bring their own Sedums for show and tell.

J.D. will bring the raffle plants, and have plants for sale, so be sure to bring your cash.

May Show Alert!

Yes, just around the corner is our Annual May Show and Sale! Mark your calendars for the weekend Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 5, 6 and 7, 2017. There are still many opportunities to volunteer: Publicity, Hospitality, Security, Shadowbox and Plant Hotel Chairs are still needed. Let Keith Taylor know if you are available for one of these positions. Lots of fun, meet more of your fellow club members and enjoy a lively weekend.

—Show Committee

Field Trips and Upcoming Events

On Saturday, March 18th, join members and friends at Poot's House of Cactus for a special tour of the greenhouses that are not normally open to the public. Meet at Poot's House of Cactus, 17229 E Hwy 120, Ripon, CA 95366. Phone number (209) 599-7241 or visit their website at pootscactusnursery.com for directions. Please wear your SCSS badge so we can tell who is with our group. There is no cost to attend. Members may wish to arrange carpools. The nursery opens at 9:00 and they recommend shoppers may want to start their purchases before the tour at 10:00 to avoid lines later. *(The pictures below are of Poot's.)*

After the tour and shopping at the nursery, we'll meet for lunch in the area (pay your own way) and then go on to the home of member Elton Roberts to get a tour of his green houses. Directions to Mr. Roberts' home will be given out at lunch. It should be a great day!



At our Monday, March 27th meeting, local floral designer Cheryl Keech will demonstrate how to design a succulent wreath and wall hanging. Basic materials will be provided (wreath forms or frames, moss and soil) so you can make your own. You will need to provide plant material. Please bring cuttings from your garden or be prepared to buy plants at the meeting to make your design if you wish to participate. You might also want to bring a bottle of Eileen's Clear Tacky Glue gel, clippers or scissors (for cuttings). We will also have plants for our monthly drawing from the trip to Poots' Cactus Farm, which can be used in your designs if you are a winner.

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: February 27

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

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



Membership Roster

The SCSS membership roster for 2017 will be distributed in March, another benefit of being a member. Please let Oanh Vu know if you have any changes of address/phone/email address, or if you noticed any errors in the 2016 roster.

January Mini-Show Winners

VARIEGATED CACTUS

First: Michelle Egan — *Astrophytum miiostigma* var.

AGAVE

First: Troy and Hal — *Agave Potatorum* 'Cubic'

Second: Michelle Egan — *Agave desmettiana*

Third: Jerry Friis — *Agave victoria-reginae* variegata 'aureo marginata' & Gene Wiggins — species not specified

Honorable Mentions: Linda Roye — *Agave potatorum* 'Cubic', Carolyn Allen — *Agave minima* variegata, & Victor Rosario — *Agave Xylocantha*

May Show Chairs

Director: Keith Taylor

Publicity: TBD

Registration: Ellen

Staging: Show Committee

Judges: JoEllen Arnold

Clerks: JoEllen Arnold

Awards: Marilyn Vilas and Steve Goodman

Security: TBD

Refreshments: Stephanie Reali

Treasurer: Greg Lang

Plant Sales: 1. Greg Lang 2. TBD

Plant Hotel: TBD

Membership: Oanh Vu

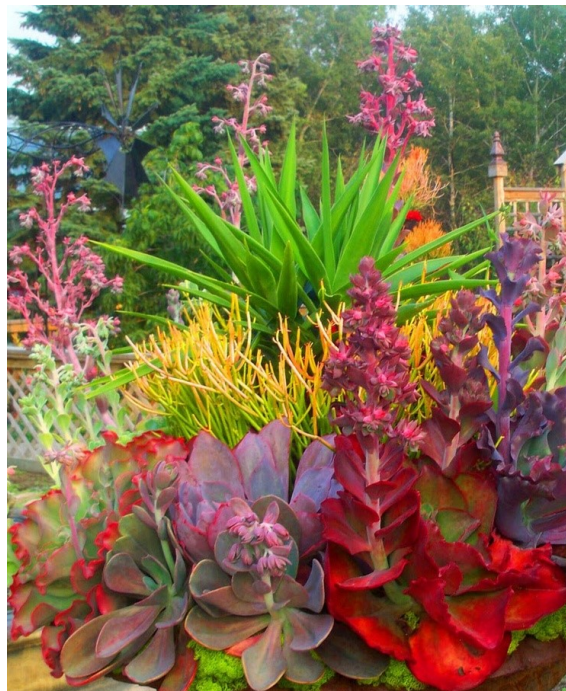
Hospitality: TBD

Shadow Boxes: Michelle Egan

Graphics: Erica, Lou, Mara

Schedule/Flier: Jackie, Marilyn, Gerhard

Plant Propagation: Trish and Dick Bruga



February Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: ALOE

Aloes are one of the best succulents for both landscape use and growing in pots. Over 450 species of Aloe have been described with diverse forms and sizes. The genus includes small grass-like herbs and stemless succulent rosettes a few inches tall to larger species with stout 60ft trunks, occupying the ecological niche of trees. Aloes, with a waxy surface to their succulent leaves, are well-adapted to harsh climates with infrequent precipitation. They can flower many times with clusters of yellow, orange or red tubular flowers, angled downwards on a simple or branched inflorescence.

Most have leaves with marginal teeth that often are very sharp, though some have miniscule, harmless teeth and some even have none (rare). Some have leaves with many thorns on them (just like the marginal teeth, but called thorns if not along the leaf margins) either only when young, or sometimes for the life of the plant. Aloe leaves can be a variety of amazing colors, though green or blue-green are the most common. Many are spotted, speckled, striped, or blotchy.



CACTUS: PARODIA (NOTOCACTUS)



Species currently and historically included in the genus Parodia are very popular in cultivation. Many of them are easy to grow, have intriguing stems and spines and flower easily with brightly-colored flowers. This in combination with their relatively small size ensure that nearly all cactus growers will have some representative of this group, while advanced hobbyists may grow many of the various species and subspecies. Plants in this genus are globose or short cylinders that may be solitary or forming clumps. Stems are typically ribbed, but may also be strongly tuberculate.

Spines may be thin and few or dense and stiff. Flowers in all species arise from fuzzy buds, typically with bristles, at the apex. Flowers are cup-shaped and point straight up. In general, the plants that have been affiliated with other genera as mentioned above, have yellow flowers between 1 and 2 inches in diameter. The more strict Parodia species often have orange to red flowers, which may be only 1/4 inch or so in size. However, this is hardly a hard and fast rule, and there are exceptions in both cases. The stigma on all species is pronounced and is often a highly contrasting color with long lobes, which can be useful for identification. Fruits are fuzzy, sometimes spiny and usually dry, clinging fast to the plant long after the small black seeds begin to spill out. In the wild, this genus occurs in Eastern South America, covering a wide range of habitats and locations.