

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2017

Volume 58, VI

June Program

ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, will share his love of cacti and succulents. Ernesto is a dynamic speaker and a favorite of our group. He always has great plants for sale and for our drawing, so be sure to bring money for purchases and raffle tickets! More details will be provided closer to the meeting; please check SCSS Facebook and Meetup for additional information.

Punctured Thumb Award!

Yes, it will be awarded at the June meeting, so you have to hold your breath a bit longer to see who receives this well-earned accolade. See you at the meeting!

—the Club Board

June Mini Show

CACTUS: DISCOCACTUS

Discocactus is a [genus](#) of [tropical cacti](#). The name comes from the [ancient Greek](#) *diskos* (=disc) because of its shape. *Discocactus* plants are native to southern Brazil, eastern Bolivia, and northern Paraguay. These species are in the risk of extinction in the wild. The plants have a slightly flattened spherical shape. The [areoles](#) bear sharp spines. At the apex of the adult plants, there is a woolly [cephalium](#), white or shaded with yellow or grey. The white nocturnal flowers appear on the sides of the cephalium. The fruits are pink or red and contain black seeds.



SUCCULENT: ADENIUM

Plants of the genus *Adenium*, commonly called Karoo rose, desert rose, impala lily, Sabi star, or simply adenium, are native to tropical regions of East Africa and Arabia. They make superb collector's specimens whether maintained as dwarfs or grown into small trees. Both the swollen, twisted stems and large bright trumpet-shaped flowers are eye-catching.

See inside for a reprint of the May Show Best in Show winners, with the newsletter editor's apologies for the omission of the winners' names from last month's newsletter.

Mariel's garden: succulents, gargoyles, pottery, and a bottle tree!

ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY GERHARD BOCK, JUNE 4

This year the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society (SCSS) has started a garden tour program where members are encouraged to open their garden for other members. Yesterday I had the pleasure of visiting the garden of SCSS vice president Mariel Dennis. As you will see below, Mariel's garden is totally unique. Yes, there are succulents, but there are roses, gladiolas, butterfly bushes, geraniums, hydrangeas, fig trees, herbs, and a plethora of other plants as well. Then there's the garden art: glass ornaments, talavera pieces, head planters, and a whole lot more. And keeping watch over the front entryway are gargoyles that are unapologetically creepy. At night, the backyard is lit up by a variety of light sources--from solar lanterns with glass blocks placed in front of them for added effect to rope lights laid on top of a gravel walkway. Mariel said that people have told her the backyard looks like an alien landing strip at night. But she loves it, and that's all that matters. I couldn't agree more. It may seem like a simple and obvious statement, but all too many gardeners are focused on what others might think of their garden. That should be completely secondary. We should create the kind of garden that makes us happy. If others like it, too--that's great. If not--well, too bad for them.



The lot is wedge-shaped, with the narrowest point in the front, and the widest along the back fence. The side yards flare out and are actually larger than the area behind the house. The gravel area used to be lawn. Mariel and her husband took it out several years ago and created raised planters to compensate for the slow-draining clay soil. A series of racks against the north side of the house are home to a small portion of Mariel's potted succulents, including a nice collection of haworthias. I could have spent hours looking at all the plants. A big thank you to Mariel and her husband Ian for their hospitality! I thoroughly enjoyed my visit.



2017 BEST IN SHOW AWARDS

BEST PLANT IN SHOW	PACHYPODIUM SUCCULENTUM	PETER WALKOWIAK
BEST CACTUS ADVANCED	MELOCACTUS GLAUCESCENS	PENNY NEWELL
BEST SUCCULENT ADVANCED	PETOPENTIA NATALENSIS KK	KEITH TAYLOR
BEST CACTUS OPEN	ASTROPHYTUM DIGITOSTIGMA C-MEDUSAE	BLOSS FAMILY
BEST SUCCULENT OPEN	PACHYPODIUM SUCCULENTUM	PETER WALKOWIAK
BEST CACTUS NOVICE	TEPHROCACTUS GEOMETRICUS	OANH VU
BEST SUCCULENT NOVICE	SARCOCAULON HERRREI	JENNIFER HALEY
BEST CACTUS JUNIOR	NONE	
BEST SUCCULENT JUNIOR	NONE	
BEST CEREUS	STENOCEREUS HOLLIANUS CREST	OXSUN AVERY
BEST DISH GARDEN		PETER BEIERSDORFER
BEST PLANTER		DONNA TAYLOR
BEST OPUNTIA	PUNA CLAVARIOIDES	ELTON ROBERTS
BEST EUPHORBIA	EUPHORBIA UNISPINA	BLOSS FAMILY
BEST CAUDICIFORM	IPOMOEA PLATENSIS	PETER WALKOWIAK
BEST MINIATURE SUCCULENT	DORSTENIA SP.	PENNY NEWELL
BEST MAMMILLARIA	MAMMILLARIA MELALEUCA	PETER WALKOWIAK
BEST FEROCACTUS	NONE	
BEST ALOE	ALOE PEARSONII	PENNY NEWELL
BEST AGAVE	AGAVE KICHIOKAN MARGINATA	GEORGE AVERY
BEST CRASSULA	CRASSULA BARKLYI	PETER BEIERSDORFER
BEST ARIOCARPUS	ARIOCARPUS KOTSCHOUBEYANUS	BLOSS FAMILY
BEST GYMNOCALYCIUM	GYMNOCALYCIUM BAYRIANUM	BLOSS FAMILY
BEST HAWORTHIA	HAWORTHIA REINWARDTII	OXSUN AVERY
BEST MADAGASCAN SUCCULENT	UNCARINA ROEOESLIANA	PETER WALKOWIAK
BEST CREST (CACTUS OR SUCCULENT)	EUPHORBIA LACTEA	DENNIS RAGASA
BEST REBUTIA	REBUTIA HELIOSA	PENNY NEWELL

Awards continued on page 4

2017 BEST IN SHOW AWARDS (CONT.)

BEST CACTUS COLLECTION	NOT GIVEN	
BEST SUCCULENT COLLECTION	EUPHORBIA	
BEST MINIATURE CACTUS	MAMMILLARIA BLOSSFELDIANA	MARILYNN VILAS
BEST COPIAPOA	COPIAPOA CINEREA V. COLUMNA-ALBA	PENNY NEWELL
BEST MESEMB	DINTERANTHUS POLE-EVANSII	BLOSS FAMILY
BEST SANSEVIERIA	SANSEVIERIA PINGUICULA	JOELLEN ARNOLD
BEST VARIEGATE (CACTUS/ SUCCULENT)	AGAVE VICTORIA-REGINA ALBA	DAVID CALIBRO
BEST NOTOCACTUS	NONE	
BEST BULB	ALBUCA SPIRALIS	PETER BEIERSDORFER

Upcoming Events

FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE – SEPTEMBER 9–10

The Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society will hold their annual show and sale on September 9-10. The show and sale will be held at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District at 808 4th Street in Clovis. Saturday: 9am to 6 pm (exhibition starts at 10am), Sunday (show and sale): 9am to 4 pm. For more information, visit www.fresnocss.com.

UPCOMING MEMBER GARDEN TOURS

Stay tuned for more information on upcoming member garden tours. If you'd like to show off your garden, please contact Mariel Dennis at marield@comcast.net.

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: June 26

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