

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2017

Volume 58, 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, but expanding your knowledge of these plants may encourage you to grow something of interest year-round. Keith will also bring in specimens from his collection to share, as well as have pottery/plants available for purchase.

ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Keith Taylor began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991, which began after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttiae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. "I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk," he says. The *Cyphostemma* he saw is also the first succulent he purchased and 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 complement, 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. Also proportion 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 top dressing add to complete the presentation. His pottery is sought after by cactus and succulent collectors as well as bonsai artists due to the natural look of the containers.

Keith has always had the "eye" for what looks 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, Facebook, Instagram, and his website. He accepts custom orders and ships worldwide.

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kitoi/>
Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/kitoi/>
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November Mini Show

SUCCULENT: ADROMISCHUS

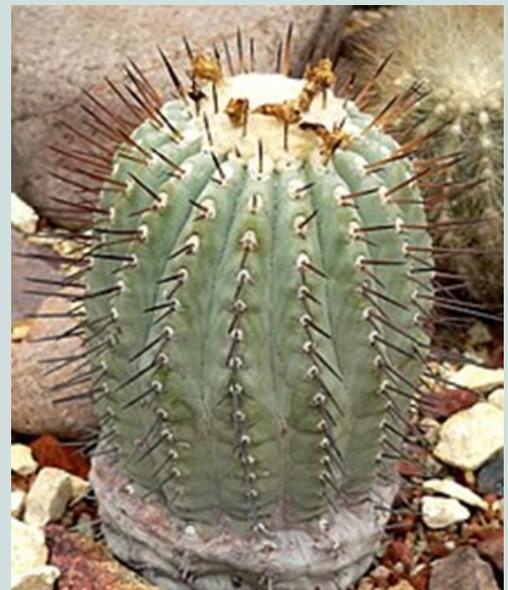


In the Succulent category, *Adromischus* is a genus of at least 28 species of small, clumping, easily propagated leaf succulents from the Crassulaceae family. *Adromischus* are endemic to southern Africa. The attractively marked and colored leaves of many species appeal to collectors but require high light levels for the different colors to be seen to full advantage. Many species are easy to grow in any free-draining gritty compost. Their compact habit allows a collection to be maintained in a small space and they grow well on any sunny window ledge or the top shelf of the greenhouse. *Adromischus* tolerate cool, frost-free conditions during the winter if kept dry. It is as well to keep water off the foliage during the winter. Mealy bugs and vine weevils can be discouraged with a systemic insecticide.

CACTUS: COPIAPOA

In the Cactus category, we have *Copiapoa*. *Copiapoa* grows in dry coastal deserts, particularly the Atacama Desert, of northern Chile. It comprises about 26 species and is a favorite among cactus growers. *Copiapoa* species are globose or globose-cylindrical plants that have well-defined ribs and a wooly apex which gives rise to the flowers, which are nearly all yellow. These flowers are funnel-shaped, mostly between 1 and 2 inches in diameter, and are quite similar from one plant to the next.

In contrast, the spines may be long and fierce or mostly absent. The roots may be fibrous or huge tubers that are larger than the portions above ground. Some plants are small individuals. Many form clumps, some imposing mounds of several feet across with hundreds of stems. Coloration is also a variable, even with in the same species from glaucous blue-green, to deep green to brown. In this way, it is easy to identify a given plant as one belonging in the genus *Copiapoa*, but it is conversely difficult to then decide its species.



October Mini-Show Winners

SUCCULENT: COTYLEDON

First: Joel Parker (*Cotyledon orbiculata* 'Oophylla')

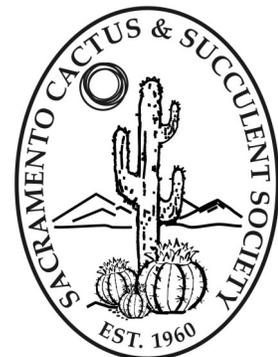
Second: Carolyn Allen (*Cotyledon orbiculata* 'Pig Ear')

Third: Victor Rosario (*Cotyledon* 'White Sprite')

CACTUS: ESCOBARIA/CORYPHANTHA

First: T. Roberts (*Escobaria sneedio*)

Second: Cassidy Roberts-Yee (*Coryphantha robustispina* v. Sheen)



Upcoming Events

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS POTLUCK PARTY – MONDAY DECEMBER 11

Come celebrate with us at the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Christmas party! The fun starts at 7 pm (doors open at 6:15 pm for setup). The club will provide the ham. 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!

2018 Club Officer Elections

We will be voting for the 2018 SC&SS club officers at the November meeting. Candidates who have volunteered at this time are:

President	Marisel Dennis
Vice President/ Program chairs	Theresa Roberts and Shawnee Giles
Treasurer	Greg Lang
Secretary	Gerhard Bock
Board of Directors	Oanh Vu, Hal Coburn and Joel Parker

If anyone else wants to throw their hat in the ring at the November meeting, please feel free to do so.

Announcements

Membership Renewal Annual membership fees will be due soon. Contact Oanh Vu if you have questions about membership. The membership form is available on our SCSS website. Dues must be received and recorded by February 28, 2018 to continue receiving the newsletter.

Vendor Membership Renewal Vendors must also renew membership in order to participate in the May show and sale.

Need a badge? If you would like to get an SCSS member badge, please see Carole Hada at the next meeting or contact her via phone or email. Only \$10 for the pinned badge. We also have the option now to get magnetized badges for a few dollars more.



Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: November 27

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

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