

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2018

Volume 59, VIII

August Program

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT POT MAKING WORKSHOP

Time to get your creativity flowing with an opportunity to bring to life your very own cactus or succulent pot at the August meeting! This pot is sure to become a treasured one. Club member Keith Taylor will lead a pot making workshop for club members. If you don't know Keith, he is the one who makes those gnarly pots that are given as prizes for winners at the May show. We have seen several show winners displayed in pots made at a previous pot-making workshop. The fun of talking with other club members as you work to create your treasure is an added bonus for many. Keith will provide inspiration, instruction, and the clay for pots, and he will take them to be fired. The raffle prizes this month will be ten small pots made by Keith. Please bring paper or plastic to cover your workspace as well as tools and objects that you may want to use to incise, texture, or score your pot. The club will provide clay for a small pot with the opportunity to buy more clay for another pot as time and material permit.



Upcoming SCSS Event

SEPTEMBER MEETING — ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE

Country Store Reminder! September's program (just a month or so away) is the much-anticipated Country Store. Start now to organize your donations of plants, produce, sweets, and Silent Auction goodies. This is a fundraiser for the club to support our activities so let's be generous. There will be more info at the August meeting and in next month's newsletter.

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: August 27

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

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

August Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: AGAVE

Agaves are among the most frequently used ornamental plants in desert landscaping or urban xeriscapes with over 200 popular species native to the American Southwest and Mexico. Agaves are characterized by leathery leaves in rosettes, ranging in size from a few centimeters to more than 2.5 meters (8 ft.) in length. Most bear spines along the edges and the tip of the leaf, causing them to be occasionally confused with unrelated cacti. Leaves vary in color from pale green to darker greens to blue-grey and can be variegated or striped.

One of the most popular agaves in potting or landscaping is the *Agave Queen Victoria regina*. Its tight rosette of deep green, toothless, spine-tipped leaves is accented with delicate white markings, and it can blossom at a considerable age, forming a tall spike with reddish purple flowers. *A. parryi* and *A. potatorum* are examples of rosettes composed of stubbier leaves. *A. tequiliana*, also known as blue agave, is widely cultivated in Mexico for tequila production. Its nectar is also used as an artificial sweetener.



Agave attenuata



A. parryi



Powder blue *A. americana*



Epiphyllum German Empress hybrid

CACTUS: EPIPHYLLUM

Epiphyllum is a genus of 19 epiphytes in the *Cactaceae* family native to Mexico south to Central and South America. An epiphyte grows on a plant's surface and derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, water, or accumulated debris. Epiphyllums can often grow in dense rainforest foliage and, like their relatives Spanish moss and air plants, can thrive in humus without soil. "Epis," also known as "Orchid Cactus," are known for their brightly-colored large blossoms that can be 8 - 16 cm in diameter. Epiphyllum blossoms come in a variety of colors, including bright fuchsia, white, yellow, and red, and they have numerous petals. They are easily propagated and are often grown in hanging pots.

July Mini-Show Winners

SUCCULENT: ECHEVERIA

1st – Rudy Aguilar, *Echeveria gigantea* blue

2nd – Steve Goodman, *Echeveria rundelli*

3rd – No name, disqualified

Honorable Mention promoted to 3rd – Carole Hada,

Echeveria Spruce-Oliver, HM for leaf-patterned clay pot

CACTUS: REBUTIA/SULCOREBUTIA

1st – Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Rebutia arenacea*

2nd – Steve Goodman, *Sulcorebutia arenacea*

3rd – Kris McAninch, *Rebutia "Apricot Ice"*

News & Notes

SCSS Donates to Bat Conservancy Group

Last month, the board approved a donation of \$2,000 to a national bat conservancy group to grow agaves. Commercial agave growers process the agaves before they can flower or remove the flower stalks. At a cost of about a dollar per plant, the group hopes to collect \$100,000 to plant thousands of agaves, which are the main food source for many bats throughout the Southwestern United States. If you would like to know more about the program, please contact JoEllen Arnold, our local bat aficionado.

SCSS Gets New Web Site

You might have noticed that the SCSS web site was down for a while. We had technical problems with our web hosting provider in the UK. Unfortunately, they couldn't be solved so we moved on. Our new web address is <http://www.sacramentocss.com>. (Previously it was .org.) Please be sure to bookmark the new URL.

New Cactus Store in Mid-Town Sacramento

Sacramento has a new cactus store! Public Land opened earlier this summer and offers cactus (and some succulents), cactus-related art, and containers. The store is located at 2598 21st Street. Visit www.publiclandsstore.com or call for more information (916) 380-0339.

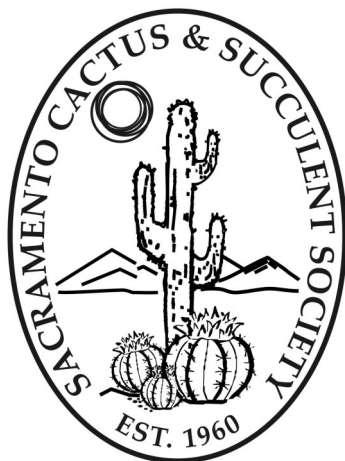
Upcoming Events

LAGUNA BEACH GARDEN CLUB MEETING

September 14, 9:30 – 11 AM. Debra Lee Baldwin will be giving a presentation on “No-Water Succulents.” The event will be held at 415 Forest Ave, Laguna Beach, CA.

24TH ANNUAL SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

Now through August 19 at the Ruth Bancroft Garden.
Regular admission rates.



Opuntia Basilaris

