

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

February 2018

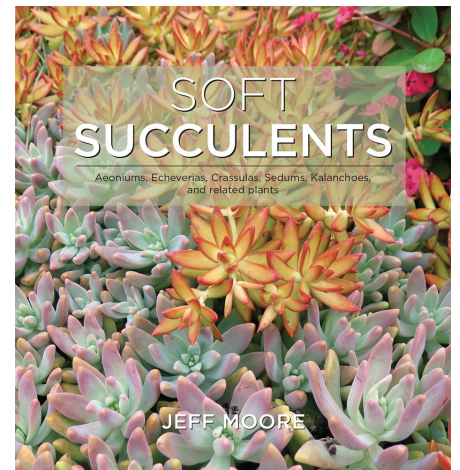
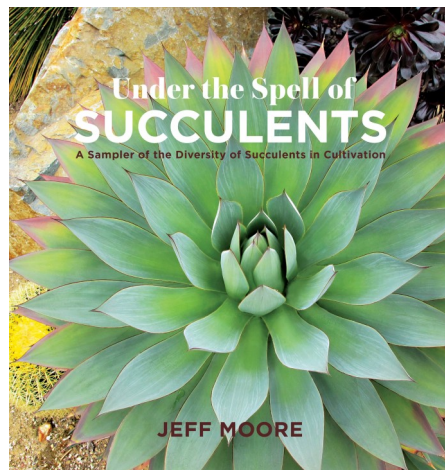
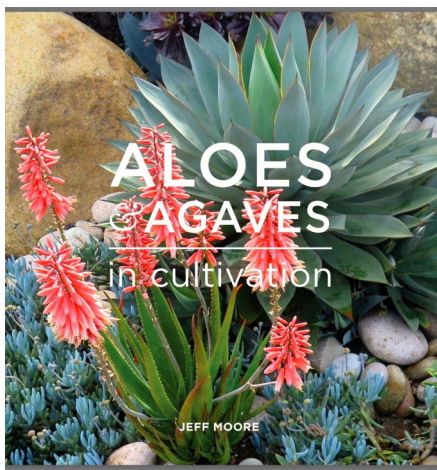
Volume 59, II

February Program

UNDER THE SPELL OF SUCCULENTS

Jeff Moore, owner and operator of Solana Succulents in Solana Beach, will be speaking to us at the February meeting. Jeff's talk will follow his first book, focusing on how we engage with succulents—growers, collectors, landscaping, container gardening, specialty niches like crests, variegated, bonsai, etc. The interludes between chapters highlight the primary categories or genera of succulents, including aeoniums, aloes, cacti, and euphorbias. Jeff will bring books and plants to sell.

Jeff Moore has owned and operated Solana Succulents in Solana Beach for 25 years, have recently jumped into the succulent book and traveling speaker business as well. He is married with two sons, one working in San Francisco and the other attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.



May Show & Sale Preparations

The May Show and Sale is the club's biggest fundraiser for the year. Volunteers are needed to make the show and sale a success, including chairs for the following areas: Publicity, Hospitality, Security, Shadowbox and Plant Hotel. There will be a planning meeting on Monday, February 19, at 6:00 PM at Shanghai Garden Restaurant, 800 Alhambra Blvd. Members who are interested in assisting with the show and sale are invited to attend.

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: February 26

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

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

Upcoming Events

SOFT SUCCULENTS AUTHOR TALK WITH JEFF MOORE

Saturday, February 24, 10 AM - 12 PM at University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley. Join author and nursery owner Jeff Moore to hear from his latest book: *Soft Succulents*, a 300-page, 1000+ image look at all of the soft succulents that are so popular now—aeoniums, echeverias, dudleyas, crassulas, sedums, kalanchoes and more. His book and the talk will focus on plants in cultivation rather than habitat, with cultural tips and insights from a nursery owner with over 25 years of experience. Following the book talk, Jeff will lead visitors on a succulent tour through the collection at UCBG. Registration required: \$20, \$15 Members

SAVE THE DATE—UC DAVIS SALE

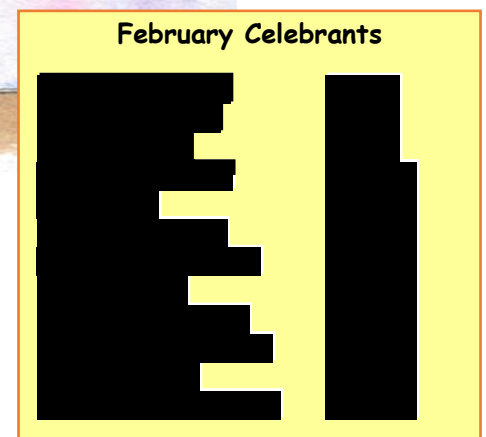
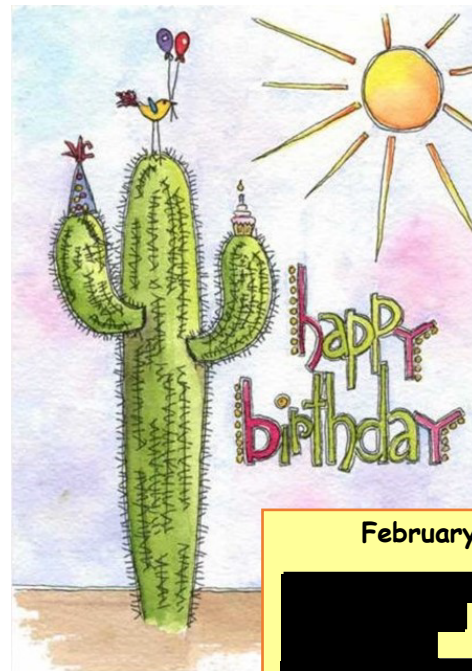
Friday, March 9 — Hold the date for possible as yet unannounced parking lot sale at UC DAVIS.

CLUB FIELD TRIP TO POOT'S CACTUS NURSERY

Saturday, April 14, 2018, Ripon. Tour of the Poot's private greenhouse with rarities and show plants and plant buying opportunity. Poot's will pay the 7.75% tax. Find more information at www.pootscactusnursery.com.

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM PLANT SALES

Saturdays, April 7, April 29, May 12, 9AM- 1PM. These sales have an amazing variety of waterwise, California native, South African bulb and succulent plants. Many hard-to-find varieties are available. Find more information at arboretum.ucdavis.edu or call (530) 752-4880.



February Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: ALOE

The common Aloe genus contains over 500 species of flowering succulent plants. Aloes are native to southeastern Southern Africa and its range includes South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe and Madagascar. The Aloe genus is placed in the family *Asphodelaceae*, and in the past it has also been recently reclassified into its current six genera: *Aloidendron*, *Kumara*, *Aloiampelos*, *Aloe*, *Aristaloe*, and *Gonialoe*.

The sweet Aloe nectar in flower attracts birds, butterflies and bees. Most Aloe species have a rosette of thick, fleshy leaves with tubular flowers in clusters of inflorescence. Some South African aloes grow very large and are arborescent, or tree-like. A typical Aloe is the popular and widespread *Aloe arborescens*.

Aloe karasbergensis with its mauve tinged, blue-grey color and veined leaves is a particularly beautiful variant of *Aloe stricta* named for Karasberg mountain in Namibia west of the Orange River. It grows in including rocky outcrops and exposed ridges.



A. arborescens at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden, Cape Town



Aloe karasbergensis

CACTUS: OPUNTIA/PERESKIA



Flowering Texas Prickly Pear,
Opuntia engelmannii

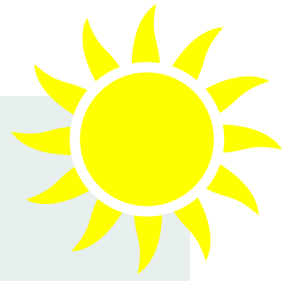
Opuntia is a Western Hemisphere genus within the Cactaceae family found as far west as the Galapagos Islands, as far south as Tierra Del Fuego and as far north as Canada which has been extensively transplanted to Europe, Australia, Asia, and Africa. *Opuntia* has become so culturally embedded in specific countries it appears on the coat of arms of both Malta and Mexico and the cholla blossom is the New Mexico state flower. There are over 250 *Opuntia* species with thousands of varieties but basically fall into two major types, the padded or paddle type and the *Cylindropuntia* or segmented type. A good example of *Cylindropuntia* is the common cholla.

Pereskia is a genus of 17 tropical species and varieties of cacti that do not look much like other types of cacti, having substantial leaves and thin stems. They originate from the region between Brazil and Mexico and are commonly found on Caribbean islands.

Members of this genus are usually referred to as lemon vines, rose or leaf cacti. Species of *Pereskia* generally resemble other types of plants, such as roses. *Pereskia* is the only cactus genus that has persistent non-succulent leaves. It is believed that the ancestor of all cacti resembled *Pereskia*.



Pereskia grandiflora in flower



January Mini-Show Winners

SUCCULENT: COTYLEDON/TYLECODON

- 1st Place – Joel Parker, Myrtillocactus geometrizans
- 2nd Place – Cassidy Roberts, Cotyledon oviata v. ‘White Sprite’
- 3rd Place – Steve Goodman, Tylecodon buchholzianus
- Honorable Mention – Crystal McAninda, Cotyledon species

CACTUS: MONSTROSE OR CRESTED CACTUS

- 1st Place – Cassidy Roberts, Mammillaria bocasana v. ‘Fred’
- 2nd Place – Joel Parker, Tylecodon species

Sunshine Corner

At the January Board meeting it was approved to have Michelle Egan’s name engraved on one of the nameplates for the Garden and Arts Center Memorial Plaque. This has been done, and the nameplate will be attached at the February meeting.

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair

Affiliate News

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA, our national affiliation) has made some changes to its published journal. While the page count will remain the same, the journal will only be published quarterly rather than six times a year. This allows for more pages per journal so longer articles can be published in one piece, rather than in parts. Subscription rates remain the same. CSSA members will now receive new issues in March, June, September, and December. Our society’s library receives the CSSA Journal and it is available for loan. In addition, CSSA is looking at ways to expand its role in research and conservation and at ways to provide more to membership and affiliate societies (our club is an affiliate). Feedback and suggestions to CSSA is welcome. Contact Marilynn Vilas if you have any questions, suggestions, etc.

Membership

Membership Renewal Annual membership fees were due in November/December. Contact Carole Hada, Membership Chair, if you have questions about membership. Please note that if you initiated membership in October, November, or December 2017, you are paid through 2018. The membership form is included with this month’s newsletter.

Membership Roster The SCSS membership roster for 2018 will be distributed in March, another benefit of being a member. Please let Carole Hada know if you have any changes of address/phone/email address, or if you noticed any errors in the 2017 roster.

Community Request for Assistance

The West Sacramento Chapter of Future Farmers of America at River City High School has reached out to us for help. They want to learn to propagate succulent cuttings to create 22 center pieces for their annual retirement dinner in May. The FFA Advisor may attend our next meeting, so if you can donate cuttings or young rooted plants, they would appreciate it. They are particularly seeking graptopetalum, echeveria, sedum, senecio and aeoniums as well as other non-thorny succulents.

