

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

June 2018

Volume 59, VI

## June Program

### CLUB MEMBER PANEL

The June program will feature the first of our club member panel presentations. Five club member volunteers will speak on topics of their choice related to cacti and succulents. Each panel member will speak for 12 minutes and will bring pictures, plants, or some other “regalia” related to their presentation. We hope you can make to this first venture of a new format that showcases the knowledge and passion of our very own members!

The presentations will cover an interesting and diverse set of topics:

Shawnee Giles: All About Senecios

Keith Taylor: Root Pruning How-to

Cassidy Roberts-Yee: Cactus Flowers and Fruit

Gerhard Bock: All about Agaves

Theresa Roberts: Conophytum: Jewels from South Africa

*Root pruning photo below by Keith Taylor.*



## Club News

SCSS has been invited to create a small cactus and succulent garden at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center this fall. The board will have a meeting prior to the July meeting to discuss and approve the project. If it is approved, we will be seeking volunteers to put the garden in this fall. More details to follow after the board meeting.

## Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: June 25

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

center phone: (916) 808-8800 | [www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

## June Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: GASTERIA/GASTERALOES

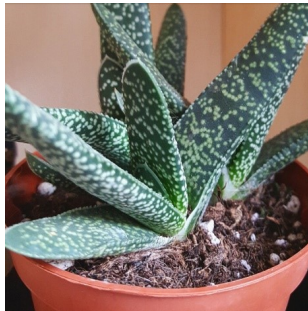
Gasteria is a popular, hardy indoor or outdoor succulent native to South Africa and the far southwest corner of Namibia. They are 16 known Gasteria species and thousands of hybrid varieties with leaves ranging from an inch to over a foot in length. The thick, hard, succulent “tongue-shaped” leaves are usually flat-shaped, growing in linear arrays with waxy, often attractive variegated bands or with a warty texture. Leaves are prone to unsightly black spots caused by humidity condensation.

Their inflorescence is also unique, with their abundant pink and red bell-shaped flowers appearing in spring and early summer. Grown ideally in well-drained, sandy soils in light shade, Gasterias can all be propagated by offsets and cuttings with leaf cuttings easily rooted. Gasteraloes are Gasteria and Aloe hybrids.

Gasteraloe hybrids are typically stemless or almost stemless and have usually spotted or marked toothless leaves forming compact rosettes. The attractive “Green Ice” variety is a favorite.



*Gasteria batesiana*



*Gasteria pillansii*



*Gasteraloe “Green Ice”*

### CACTUS: MAMMILLARIA

One of the largest cactus genera is Mammillaria with over 200 known species. Their distinctive feature is an areole split into two clearly separated parts, one occurring at the tubercle apex, the other at its base. The apex part is spine bearing, and the base part is always spineless, but usually bears some bristles or wool. The base part of the areole bears the flowers and fruits, and is a branching point while the apex part does not carry flowers.

The plants are usually globose and small although some species are elongated. They have stems from 1 cm to 20 cm in diameter and from 1 cm to 40 cm tall. Mammillaria have solitary to clumping forming mounds of up to 100 heads and with radial symmetry. Tubercles can be conical, cylindrical, pyramidal, or round with vibrant colorful flowers. The flowers are funnel-shaped and range from 7 mm to 40 mm or more in length and diameter; the flowers are colored white and greenish to yellow, pink, or red. The flowers often grow in a ring at the tubercle tip. Several species are threatened with extinction at least in the wild, due to habitat destruction and especially over-collecting for the pot plant trade.



Example of a Mammillaria floral ring



*Mammillaria elongate*, “Lady Finger” cactus



## Sunshine Corner

Ed Egan, (Michelle’s husband), just had triple by-pass surgery. The surgery went well and he is recovering nicely at his brother’s residence for two weeks. If you wish to send a card, please send to Ed Egan, c/o David Egan, 2523 McGregor Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. Later correspondence can be sent to Ed’s home address, 454 Windward Way, Sacramento CA 95831.

Trish Bruga, of our propagating team, had surgery on June 14 and is recovering at home. Well wishes may be sent to her home address of 34545 Creeksedge Rd, Davis, CA 95616. Cards for speedy recovery from the club have been sent to both Ed and Trish.

We noticed that Oksun and George Avery have not been at meetings, nor were their gorgeous plants at the May Show. They are good, just taking some time off from their plant hobby. They say ‘Hi!’ to all the members!

Please let me know of any member that needs a cheer. My email/phone number are in the roster.

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair

## Upcoming Events

### MEMBER GARDEN TOUR

June 30, 10 AM. All SCSS members are invited to my garden tour at 335 33rd Street in Sacramento (95816), which is very near the park Center where we hold our monthly meetings. Since my street only has parking by permit, I would recommend parking in the Center parking lot and walking down 33rd Street to my home. The inspiration for my garden was a visit to the garden of Frida Kahlo in Coyoacan, Mexico several years ago. As in the Kahlo garden, you will find brightly colored walls as a backdrop to an assortment of cacti, succulents, aloes, agaves and many Mediterranean type plants (palms, olive trees, banana trees, etc.) and some annual color spots in pots scattered throughout. I look forward to seeing you on June 30. —Greg Lang

### SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION DINNER AND PRESENTATION

June 20, 5 – 8 PM. Debra Lee Baldwin will be giving an all new presentation on “Designing with Succulents.” Location: Room 101, Casa del Prado, 1650 El Prado, Balboa Park. Debra’s presentation is free. A luau dinner will be held before the presentation. Dinner is \$25 and requires reservations. For more information, visit Debra’s web site. <https://debraleebaldwin.com/events/san-diego-floral-association/>.

### 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.

