

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2018

Volume 59, III

## March Program

### TANTALIZING TILLANDSIA!

The March Speaker will be Nathaniel Miller. He will be speaking about “Tantalizing Tillandsias,” those cool air plants that you see in nurseries, retail, and gift shops. The topics will include Tillandsia history, taxonomy, care, and species. There will also be a Question and Answer session.

You can check out the website for the store in Vacaville at [www.airplanthub.com](http://www.airplanthub.com), on Instagram [@airplanthub](https://www.instagram.com/airplanthub), or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/airplanthub](https://www.facebook.com/airplanthub).



## Upcoming Events

### 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](http://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](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu) or call 530-752-4880.

Look inside for more upcoming events!



## March Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: PELARGONIUM/GERANIUM

We are including both Pelargoniums and Geraniums in our March mini show. *Pelargonium* is a genus of flowering plants including about 200 perennials, succulents, and shrubs species, which are also commonly known as *geraniums*. Both genera belong to the *Geraniaceae* family that originally included all the species in one genus, *Geranium*. They were later separated into two genera in 1789. *Pelargonium* species are evergreen perennials indigenous to temperate and tropical regions of the world with most Southern African species. Often grown as popular bedding plants like *Geraniums*, they are drought and heat tolerant but can tolerate only minor frosts. The shape of the flowers offers one way of distinguishing between *Geranium* and *Pelargonium*.



*Pelargonium* "Veronica Contreras"

*Geranium* flowers have five very similar petals, and are radially symmetrical, while *Pelargonium* flowers have two upper petals and three lower different petals. Pelargoniums are divided into eight types classified mostly by leaf types, including scented-leaved and ivy-leaved.

*Geranium* is a genus of 422 species of flowering annual, biennial, and perennial plants that some of the most common and popular garden plants. They are found throughout the temperate regions of the world and the mountains of the tropics, but mostly in the eastern Mediterranean. The flowers have five petals and are colored white, pink, purple or blue. Geraniums will grow in any soil as long as it is not waterlogged. They can be propagated with cuttings in summer, by seed, or by division in autumn or spring.



*Rhipsalis crispate in flower*

### CACTUS: RHIPSALIS/MEXICAN RAT TAIL

*Rhipsalis* is the largest and most widely distributed genus of epiphytic cacti. It is found in tropical rainforests widely distributed in Central America, parts of the Caribbean, South America, and Mexico, and is the only cactus with a natural occurrence outside the Western Hemisphere. They are typically known as Mistletoe cacti and primarily have pendant shapes. Most grow in sprawling shape as the norm, so they are ideal for hanging pots. The three main stem shapes include flattened, as in the case of *crispate* (shown on left) with blossoms. The flowers are lateral or apical and are small, usually about 1 cm in diameter and whitish. The fruit are always berries; they are white, pink, red, or yellow.

Spines are missing or occur only in the juvenile stage in most species. Some have very thick stems whereas others have very thin, filiform stems like *Rhipsalis baccifera*.

*Aporocactus falgelliformis*, or Mexican Rat tail cactus, is native to Mexico. It is a trailing plant that sends out long stems with short, fine spines. The stems are green overall when young and change to beige as they age. Flowers are rare, but when they arrive, they are a glorious bright pink or magenta to red hue. Blooms are up to three inches long and tube-shaped and bloom on mature stems.



*Mexican Rat Tail*

## Upcoming Events, cont.

### RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN EVENTS

- Saturday, March 17, 10 AM - 11 AM Problem Solving with Australian Native Plants. \$20, \$15 Members.
- Saturday, March 17, 11 AM - 12:30 PM DIY Succulent Terrarium. \$49, \$44 Members.
- Friday, March 23, 11 AM - 12 PM Tour of the Curators' Greenhouse. \$15, \$10 Members.
- Saturday, March 24, 9 AM - 11 AM RBG Exclusive Experience: Mangini Ranch Hike. \$50.
- Saturday, April 7, 10 AM - 11 AM All About Air Plants. \$25, \$20 Members.
- Wednesday, April 11, 18 and 25, 10 AM - 1 PM. Spring Watercolor in the Garden (3-part series). \$80, \$70 Members.
- Saturday April 14, 10 AM - 11:30 AM & April 21, 7:30 AM - 10 AM. Intro to Birdwatching (2-part series). \$35, \$30 Members.
- Saturday, April 21, 8 AM - 9:30 AM. Garden Mandala. \$25, \$20 Members.
- Saturday, April 21, 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM. Evening Garden Photography. \$20, \$15 Members.
- Saturday, April 28, 10 AM - 11 AM. DIY Serene Succulents. \$40, \$35 Members.

Visit the Ruth Bancroft Garden web site for details on each event, including registration.

### SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 46TH ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE

April 7-8, 9 AM - 4 PM. South Coast Botanic Garden. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula, 90274.

### SUPER SUCCULENT CELEBRATION 2018

#### "A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE"

March 23-24. Waterwise Botanicals. 32151 Old Hwy 395. Bonsall, 92003.



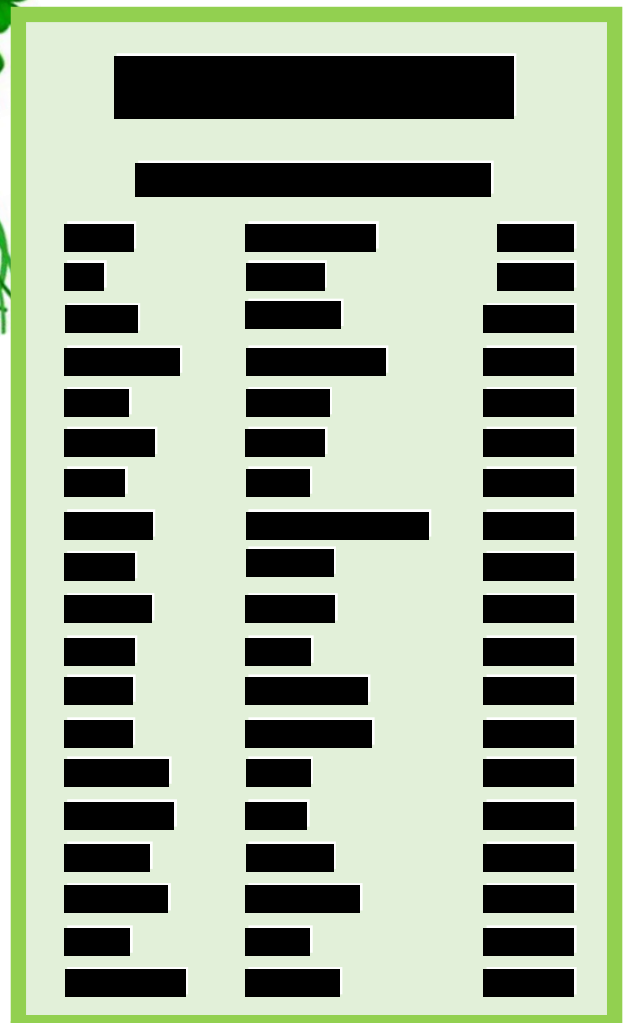
## February Mini-Show Winners

### SUCCULENT: ALOES

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Keith Taylor, *Gonialoe variegata*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Cassidy Roberts-Yee, Aloe "Delta Dawn"
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place (tie) – Steve Goodman, *Aloe arsitata* & Mariel Dennis, *Aloe aristata*
- Honorable Mention – Jerry Friis, Aloe "Lavender Star"

### CACTUS: OPUNTIA

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Opuntia bulbaspina*
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place (tie) – Kris and Ryan McAninch, *Opuntia microdasys* "Momma's Heart" & Joel Parker, *Opuntia cylindropuntia*



## Upcoming Events, cont.

### 53RD ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE | CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA HUNTINGTON LIBRARY & BOTANICAL GARDENS

Dates: Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 29, 30 & July 1, 2018

Location: The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA

The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3504

Show & Sale Hours: Sale: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Show: Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

Show Set-up: Thurs. June 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm

Enter Plants: Thurs., June 28<sup>th</sup> 1pm-8pm & Friday, June 29, 10:00am-4:00pm. Judging starts at 5:00pm Friday

Auction: Items need to be registered by 3pm, Saturday, June 30

There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per person/business marked as donation or split (70/30)

Dinner: \$15.00 Menu: Chili Buffet. Mail checks, made out to CSSA, to Bonnie Ikemura – 8400 Bleriot Ave. Los Angeles, CA, 90045; Reserve spot by Phone: 213-305-1421 or email Bonnie at [bikemura@hotmail.com](mailto:bikemura@hotmail.com). Reservations must be made by June 25, 2018.

Teardown: Sunday, July 1, 5:00pm

Be sure to pick up a Show Schedule, Index and entry tags from your CSSA Club Affiliate at your next club meeting if you are interested in entering plants in the Show or in the Auction.

All Cactus & Succulent Club members, CSSA members, vendors, volunteers or show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) AND a special CSSA/HBG pass that reads “ Annual CSSA Show Participant” to enter the HBG for free. If you are a HBG member this doesn’t apply. Please obtain a pass from your CSSA Affiliate at your club meeting or contact Barbara Hall, Show Chair before the event. We are not permitted to hand out passes at the HBG entryway.

There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year’s show, even for a couple of hours in the showroom or sales areas, hospitality (food) area, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry & setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you.

See you at the Show!

Barbara Hall

CSSA Show Chair

Email: [lbcjhall@aol.com](mailto:lbcjhall@aol.com) Phone: 818-368-6914

### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: March 26

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

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