

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2018

Volume 59, XI

## November Program

### FORMS AND FUNCTIONS OF CACTI AND SUCCULENTS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ALONG WITH OTHER DESERT DWELLERS

Ernesto Sandoval from UC Davis will be the featured speaker for November. The title of his talk is *Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents Inside and Outside along with other Desert Dwellers!*

Ernesto will be sharing his understanding of the way succulents are adapted to surviving drought in desert and other dry environments. He'll cover Biology (how they work overall), Anatomy (how they are organized on the inside), Morphology (how they are organized on the outside), and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together to make the plants adapt to their often-challenging lives).

Ernesto is a lively presenter and is very knowledgeable about Sacramento-area cactus and succulent culture. He is always one of the club favorites, so you won't want to miss his presentation!

As usual Ernesto will bring an assortment of plants, mostly hardy succulents, to offer for sale.



*Agave montana*

## News & Notes

### 2019 Elections

We will have elections for our Society coming up. At the November meeting, we will announce the candidates and hold elections. Winners are announced at the December holiday potluck and begin service in January. Please consider volunteering for a position or serving on the Board. If you do not want to hold office but can help out, then volunteer to be on a committee and help share the tasks. You will meet great people, and it is a lot of fun.

### Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange

In December, our meeting date changes to Monday, December 17. Bring a dish to share as we look back at this past year and ahead to the next. Soft drinks will be provided. Come a little early if you can to help decorate the room for a holiday scene. If you would like to participate, bring a gift for the gift exchange. Not sure what to bring? It can be a gag gift or have a garden theme. Last year we had lots of fun deciding whether to choose a wrapped gift or steal one that had already been opened. No speaker, mini show, or plant sales in December, and the gift exchange is completely optional. Please come for the fun!

## November Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: SEDUM

Sedum is a large genus of flowering plants in the family Crassulaceae, members of which are commonly known as stonecrops. The genus contains approximately 500 species found primarily in the Northern Hemisphere with some extending into the Southern Hemisphere in Africa and South America. Sedums thrive in part to full sun, are drought tolerant once established, and require little extra fertility. In form they vary from annuals to perennials, and even small shrubs depending upon the climate. Most are hardy from USDA zones 4 to 9. Sedums are succulents with fleshy leaves. The leaf colors include light green, blue-gray and reddish-bronze depending on the selection. The small flowers form in clusters in colors such as white, yellow, bronze, and pink.



### CACTUS: ZYGOCACTUS/SCHLUMBERGERA

Zygocactus or Schlumbergera is a small genus of cactus with 6-9 species found in the coastal mountains of southeastern Brazil. Plants grow on trees or rocks in habitats that are generally shady with high humidity. They can be quite different in appearance from their desert dwelling cousins. Most species of Zygocactus have stems that resemble leaf-like pads joined to one another and flowers which appear from areoles at the joints and tips of the stems. Common names for these cacti generally refer to their flowering season. In the Northern Hemisphere they are called Christmas cactus, Thanksgiving cactus, or Easter cactus. Most of the popular houseplants are cultivars of Zygocactus with flowers in white, pink, yellow, orange, red or purple.

## October Mini-Show Results

### SUCCULENT

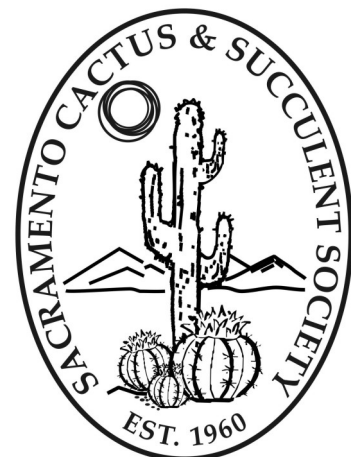
1st place: *Orthophytum gurkenii*, Mariel Dennis

### CACTUS

1st place: *Melocactus*, Penny Newell

2nd place: (tie) *Astrophytum ornatum*, Mariel Dennis and *Notocactus magnificus*, Cassidy Roberts

3rd place: (tie) *Echinocactus grusonii*, Diana Agustin and *Echinocactus grusonii*, Ellen Tiedemann



## More News & Notes

### Membership Renewal and Contact Information Update

With membership renewal coming up, now is a great time to check the roster and confirm your contact information. We especially recommend you make sure your email address is correct, since we are relying on email more than ever to share upcoming events and club announcements between newsletters. Please take a few minutes to make sure your contact information is correct and your newsletter preferences are up to date when you renew your membership. (You can receive the newsletter in either electronic or printed format.) We are seeking to reduce our mailing costs. If you are able and willing to change to receiving the newsletter electronically, please let us know. You can update your contact information or newsletter preferences by contacting Carole Hada, our Membership Chair at [akacejay@comcast.net](mailto:akacejay@comcast.net) or 916-803-0109.

## Upcoming Events

### SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE

January 12-13, 2019. The San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society will hold their annual show and sale at the LA County Arboretum, 310 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA. Saturday 9am-5pm, Sunday 9am-4pm. For more information, please contact Manny Rivera at 626-780-6957.



### Meeting Details

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM.  
Next meeting: November 26  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816  
center phone: (916) 808-8800 | [www.sacramentocss.com](http://www.sacramentocss.com)

## Update on our Donation to Bat Conservation International

Member JoEllen Arnold received the following correspondence from Bat Conservation International in response to SCSS's donation earlier this year.

batcon.org  
**BAT CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL**



Gift Amount: \$2000.00  
July 31, 2018

JoEllen M. Arnold  
Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society  
2210 C Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816

*Thank you for  
your support!  
We look forward  
to following up with  
you directly about  
your questions.*

Dear Ms. Arnold,

We are absolutely thrilled to have your recent support. Thank you for your donation! Your generosity will directly benefit BCI's conservation of bats and their habitats - an often overlooked but very important part of a healthy ecosystem.

BCI is leading the effort to conserve the world's 1330+ species of bats. In the coming year, your contribution will benefit important projects such as agave restoration. Our new initiative will sustainability feed endangered bats and restore their natural habitat of wild agave. As we know, a win for bats is a win for our planet, and your commitment to our programs is integral to our success. Through your commitment, you've made a difference in our conservation efforts!

We want to make sure that you know the benefit of your dollars. To receive regular updates on our progress, please go to <http://www.batcon.org/getnewsletter> to sign up for our monthly e-newsletter.

For over three decades BCI has been a leader in bat conservation worldwide, and this accomplishment would not be possible without the support of our partners and donors. Your gift is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Kenda Lovecchio*

Kenda Lovecchio  
Chief Development Officer

Bat Conservation International is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Under USA Internal Revenue Service guidelines, the estimated value of any benefits you receive, including BATS magazine, is not considered substantial; therefore, the full amount of your contribution is tax deductible.

Conserving the world's bats and their ecosystems to ensure a healthy planet.  
500 N Capital of TX Hwy., BLDG I-201 Austin, TX 78746-3450 • Phone (512) 327-9721 • Fax (512) 327-9724

# An Update from Bat Conservation International

**From:** Kenda Lovecchio

**Subject:** Thank you + follow up from BCI

**Date:** August 9, 2018 at 9:56:48 AM PDT

JoEllen:

Thank you for your recent wonderful gift on behalf of the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society. By now you should have received an acknowledgment letter regarding this gift. I shared your letter with our program staff and they were very appreciative and energized by your group's commitment to our agave work. I wanted to follow up with some answers to your questions in your letter about our partnering groups. Please see the detail below regarding our partners for this emerging program at BCI:

Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN), Patagonia, AZ. Founded by nationally renowned ecologist Dr. Ronald Pulliam, BRN is a collaborative of multiple organizations that are working to build a regional restoration-based economy in which diverse, fulfilling livelihoods support the restoration of thriving natural ecosystems and build prosperous, vibrant, healthy communities in the US – Mexico borderlands. The Executive Director, Kurt Vaughn, and Nursery Manager, A. Francesca Claverie are both U.C. Davis graduates with a background in botany and ecological restoration. BRN has the largest nursery stock of *Agave palmeri* and *A. parryi* in the Southwest and they have seeds from these and other agave (*A. murpheyi*, *A. schottii*, etc.). BRN always match seed and plants to the appropriate genetic-ecological region, and every single plant is used in restoration is cataloged in a database.

Sky Island Alliance (SIA), Tucson, AZ. SIA is an NGO that uses science, education, and advocacy to connect the binational landscapes, people, and wildlife of the Sky Islands for the benefit of all. For more than 20 years, SIA has used a well-developed network of volunteers and local scientists to carry out hundreds of ecological restoration projects across the Sky Islands (Madrean "archipelago") of the Southwest and Northern Mexico. Carianne Campbell, their Restoration Program Director, our primary contact, is the President of the SW Chapter of the Society for Ecological Restoration and an officer in the Arizona Native Plant Society.

Wendy Hodgson, Senior Research Botanist and Curator of the herbarium. Wendy's specialty is Floristics of Southwestern United States, particularly Grand Canyon region, Cactaceae and Agavaceae systematics, ethnobotany of Sonoran Desert, invasive species, and systematics of rare Southwestern plants. BCI was recently introduced to Wendy at the Marfa (TX) agave festival and is planning on inviting Wendy to serve on an informal advisory team to assist with our agave restoration efforts.

Gary Nabham, University of Arizona, Tucson. Gary is an Agricultural Ecologist, Ethnobotanist, Ecumenical Franciscan Brother, and author whose work has focused primarily on the interaction of biodiversity and cultural diversity of the arid binational Southwest. He is considered a pioneer in the local food movement and the heirloom seed saving movement. Gary has been involved in agave restoration and cultural ecology for more than 30 years. Gary will also serve on an informal advisory team to assist with our agave restoration efforts, especially in Northern New Mexico.

Coronado National Memorial (CNM), Hereford, AZ. Helen Fitting, SE Arizona NPS Biologist The Coronado National Memorial is a 4,750 acres National Park Service unit adjacent to the Mexican border on the southern flank of the Huachuca Mountains in Southeast Arizona. The CNM is home to a large colony of lesser-long-nosed bats and initiated an agave restoration program in 2013-2014. In 2018, BCI will assist CNM with the planting of 1,275 *agave palmeri* in an area previously disturbed by border security activities with a Native American crew from the Arizona Conservation Corps.

Future partners are likely to include Cuenca Los Ojos, a non-profit organization in Mexico and the United States Cuenca Los Ojos founded in the 1990s with the mission of preserving and restoring the monumental habitat of the Madrean Archipelago and protecting the vast number of species it supports, the University of Sonora, Hermosillo, Naturalia, Sonora, a non-profit civil organization founded in 1990 which promotes the conservation of ecosystems and wild species in Mexico, through outreach, environmental education and the development of activities in the field.

As our agave initiative expands its reach in the Southwest U.S. and Mexico, it is expected that we will add many additional private lands ranchers, Mexican and U.S. based community-based organization, industry groups, and academic institutions invested in protecting the bats, their habitat, an culture of the Southwest and Mexico.

We greatly appreciate your interest in our work and look forward to continuing to share our progress with you. Thank you again for your support!

All best,

-Kenda