

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2019

Volume 60, I

January Program

THE CARE AND CULTIVATION OF CACTI

During winter many of the garden chores for cacti and succulents are at a minimum. This is a good time to focus on increasing knowledge and skill, learning how to care for them so you can have your plants looking their best. Bill Munkacsy will be speaking on the Care and Cultivation of Cacti with New Updates. Bill grows and sells special cacti under the business name Plantaseca. You can find him on the internet and selling at our annual show, to which he brings a dazzling variety of blooming cactus. Bill has been a collector since the 1970s and has characterized himself as a “serious collector” since 1995. Bill will discuss several aspects of growing cacti, including how to be successful with more difficult species. He will talk about specific climate and temperature needs, watering needs, sunlight, fertilizer, growing medium, seed propagation, and potting and up-potting. This will be a comprehensive program to help you produce those beauties we enthusiasts dream about.



January Board Meeting

There will be a Board meeting at Shanghai Garden at 5:30 PM prior to the January meeting. Board members should attend along with Committee chairs who may need to request funding. The meeting is open to all members, but anyone wishing to attend and have dinner must RSVP to Mariel Dennis by the weekend before the meeting.

News & Notes

Volunteer Opportunities for Our Garden at the Shepard Garden & Arts Center

Mariel Dennis will be starting a monthly signup list for a member to volunteer to do the maintenance on our part of the new garden at the Shepard Center. The work is to pull weeds and remove dead leaves as well as to inspect the plants for insects, damage, or loss and report these to Mariel so we can arrange for replacement of the plants. We expect the monthly effort to be about 1-2 hours.

Affiliate Corner

Our national society, Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) is holding their 2019 Biennial Convention in our backyard this year: San Luis Obispo! This is a mere 5-hour drive from Sacramento (down I-5, head west at Kettleman City, turn south at Paso Robles and keep on Hwy 101 until you reach SLO). This area is lovely – excellent climate for cacti and succulents, great plant nurseries to visit, wineries, and the coast a mere 20 minutes away. The flier is preliminary with more info to come. Go to the CSSA website cactusandsucculentsociety.org for updates. Copies of the most current flier will be available at the January meeting. —Marilynn Vilas, Affiliate Representative

January Mini-Show

SUCCULENT: AEONIUM

Aeonium is a genus of about 35 species of succulent, subtropical plants in the family *Crassulaceae*. While most of them are native to the Canary Islands, some are found in Madeira, Morocco, and in East Africa (for example in the Semien Mountains of Ethiopia).

They produce succulent rosettes of waxy leaves, generally at the end of naked stems. Depending on the plant, and the species, the leaves can have attractive variegations. Each rosette dies after blooming and setting seeds. In some species, since the plants do not produce any offsets or side rosettes, it will die completely after blooming. They go into a summer dormancy when it gets hot in the late summer, and stay that way until the weather cools off in the fall, when they start to grow again. Many beautifully colored and variegated cultivars are available.



CACTUS: MONSTROSE/CRESTED CACTUS

The title says it all for this month's cactus entry. Any genus is fair game as long as it is crested or monstrose. Plants can be on their own roots or grafted as long as they fit the category. These plants are available everywhere so we should see a lot of entries (hopefully).



New Mini-Show Rules

For the first three months of 2019 we have some new mini show rules which will hopefully promote more participation. New in 2019 you may enter up to two plants in the cactus category and two plants in the succulent category. We will continue the gift certificate for the top winning cactus and the top winning succulent each month. In addition you are also encouraged to bring in ONE plant for the Brag Table. It can be any species of cactus or succulent that

- you are especially proud of
- is in bloom
- you need help identifying

Library Acquires New Books in 2018

Thanks to the generosity of our club's Board of Directors, the library has acquired 8 new books to become part of our permanent collection:

Hot Color, Dry Garden by Nan Sterman. This book provides a joyful, color-filled way to exuberantly garden in low-water conditions. Garden expert Nan Sterman highlights inspiring examples of brilliant gardens filled with water-smart plants. You'll find information about designing for color using plants, architecture, and accessories, along with a plant directory that features drought-tolerant plants that dazzle.

Succulent Plants of the World by Fred Dortort. It can be difficult to come by reliable information on the origins, cultural needs, and correct identity of the diverse and fascinating plants known as succulents. This is a comprehensive guide to more than 2,000 succulents in which each entry includes information on the plant's native habitat, its cultivation requirements, and its horticultural potential.

Dry Gardens; High Style For Low Water Gardens by Daniel Nolan. Acclaimed landscape designer Daniel Nolan showcases the best of desert gardenscapes that have become synonymous with luxury minimalism and presents techniques that will inspire readers to transform available space into their own modern dry garden. Hot days, cool nights, dry air, a blazing sun—California's Mediterranean climate is not what you think of when you hear "lush garden," but leading garden designers Nolan and his peers have revolutionized this genre with their artful designs.

Field Guide to Succulents in Southern Africa by Gideon Smith et al. Southern Africa is the natural home of the richest and most diverse succulent flora in the world. These plants come in all shapes and sizes, from trees, such as the baobab at more than 20 meters tall, to miniature soil huggers, just a few millimeters high, which mimic their pebble-desert surroundings. This user-friendly field guide features more than 700 southern African succulents, focusing on the most interesting and commonly encountered species. More than just an ID guide for plant lovers, this book will inspire gardeners and landscapers in search of low-maintenance, water-wise solutions for cultivation.

Cacti of the Desert Southwest by Meg Quinn. This wonderfully well-organized book is specific to cacti of the American Southwest and is very practical as a field guide when travelling through our Southwestern deserts. Large, full-color photography coupled with specific information on range/distribution of each species makes identification a snap.

Christmas Cacti by A. J. McMillan. Information on the true Christmas Cacti and the genus *Schlumbergia* and its hybrids. *Christmas Cacti* is packed with 120 color photos. The text includes background on the Christmas Cacti and species descriptions, cultivation information and lists of varieties. This text is a valuable resource for those interested in these popular epiphytic cacti.

Melocactus Care and Cultivation by George Thompson. This guide on Genus *Melocactus* depicts these plants both in the wild and in cultivation. It includes tips on cultivation and a long list of collection numbers with field data. The quality of pictures in this book make it a must for even the most generic succulent plant collectors.

A Desert Illuminated by John P. Schaefer. With an unprecedented look at the extraordinary flowers of the Sonoran Desert cacti, this unique book combines natural history and art in ways that evoke both an intellectual and aesthetic reaction in the reader. The book radiates through its art and illuminates through its words, inspiring a deep response to an often-unnoticed beauty in the desert.

—George Krigas, Librarian

November Mini-Show Results



SUCCULENT

1st place: *Sedum 'Pork and Beans,'* Theresa Roberts

2nd place: *S. pachyclados,* Ryan McAninch

3rd place: *S. 'Little Missy,'* Kris McAninch

CACTUS

1st place: *Epiphyllum 'Maxi,'* Diana Aguayo

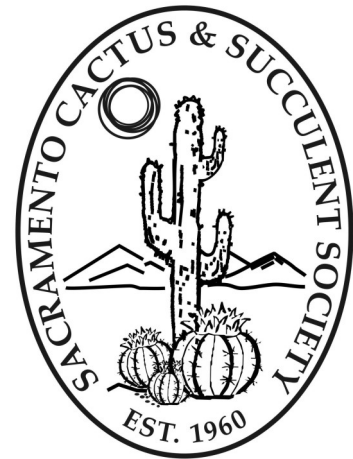
2nd place: Christmas cactus, Ryan McAninch

3rd place: Easter cactus, Kris McAninch



WELCOME New Members

*Iris Beussen
Jennifer Bodoh
Scott Fike
Nancy Gall
Angel Rodriguez
Lori Taste*



More News and Notes

Quiet Please...

The club membership is growing, the meeting space is more full than ever, and our acoustics are challenging. So we are asking all members to help create a quiet atmosphere to ensure that all have the best possible opportunity to participate and hear club business and speakers. Thanks to all for your help!

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: January 28

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

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