

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2019

Volume 60, III

## March Program

### ALL CACTI ARE SUCCULENTS BUT NOT ALL SUCCULENTS ARE CACTI...OR DECIPHERING THE NAME GAME



The May Show is upon us and potential exhibitors are perusing our show schedule, attempting to place their award-winning plants in the correct classes. But wait, how are the classes organized, and why? What are “Other Succulents,” and what is the difference between them and “Cacti”? Why are there six different Aloe genera when there used to be only one? Are there succulent grasses? Spines vs. thorns? Is there a missing link between the Cacti family and other succulents? Why do we care? Marilyn Vilas will hopefully answer these questions and more during her program on the ever-changing field of plant classification, with an emphasis on succulent plants. She will aid your understanding of the groupings and relationships between these plants. This will not be Botany 101, but an interactive program, encouraging questions and comments. See you there!

### ABOUT OUR SPEAKER

Marilynn Vilas has been a member of our club since 1978 (OMG! 41 years!) and has held numerous positions including President, Show Chair, and National Affiliate. Over the years, she has judged various shows including NorCal, San Jose, Oakland, Stockton and ours.

## May Show and Sale Information

Our annual show and sale will be May 4 and 5. Publicity flyers and show schedules will be available at upcoming meetings. Registration slips will also be available for you eager beavers!

**Help support the annual show and sale.** Help post our flyers in your neighborhoods and share the details with your friends on social media. Please note that the times have changed on Saturday; both the show area inside the Center and the patio sales area will open at 10 AM and stay open until 6 PM.

**Enter your plants!** Let us see your beauties. To learn how to prepare them for the show, come to the April meeting.

**Setup on Friday (May 3).** For those entering plants in the show or setting up one of the shadow boxes: the Center closes promptly at 7 PM Friday night, so no one will be allowed to enter in the last few minutes or if they have many entries. If you volunteer for setup on Friday, you get a sneak peek at the sale plants too! If you need help with identification, we have experts standing by on Friday to assist.

**Volunteers Needed.** We need volunteers throughout the show weekend and we have many different jobs, so we can use everyone at any skill level for as much time as you can spare. Please see Carole Hada, our volunteer coordinator, to sign up.

**Boxes Needed.** We also need BOXES, so please save and bring boxes for people to use as they select their purchases.

## March Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: CRASSULA



Crassula is a genus of succulent plants containing about 200 accepted species, including the popular jade plant (*Crassula ovata*). They are native to many parts of the globe, but cultivated varieties originate almost exclusively from species from the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Crassulas are usually propagated by stem or leaf cuttings. Most cultivated forms will tolerate some small degree of frost, but extremes of cold or heat will cause them to lose foliage and die. Size will vary with species and variety, from shrubs several feet tall to tiny specimens of a couple of inches. Growing conditions will play a large factor in how large they grow, as well as how quickly. Since they do not need pruning or shaping, Crassula plants will continue to grow. Flowering usually occurs in the spring and summer with some flowers being quite showy, while others are rather insignificant.

### CACTUS: ECHINOPSIS, ECHINOCEREUS, AND ECHINOCACTUS

Echinopsis, Echinocereus and Echinocactus are three genera of cacti whose names begin with the common “echinos,” which is Greek for hedgehog. Echinopsis is a large genus native to South America, sometimes known as hedgehog cactus, sea-urchin cactus, or Easter lily cactus. The 128 species range from large and treelike types to small globose cacti. The name derives from (echinos) hedgehog, and (opsis) appearance, a reference to these plants’ dense coverings of spines. Echinopsis is distinguished from Echinocactus by the length of the flower tube, from Echinocereus by the form and size of their stems, and from both in the position on the stem occupied by the flowers. They are remarkable for the great size, length of tube, and beauty of their flowers, which, borne upon generally small and dumpy stems, appear much larger and more attractive than would be expected.

Members of Echinocactus are commonly known as barrel cacti. They usually have heavy spination and relatively small flowers. The fruits are copiously woolly. Perhaps the best known species is the golden barrel (*Echinocactus grusonii*) from Mexico, an easy-to-grow and widely cultivated plant.

Echinocereus is a genus of ribbed, usually small to medium-sized cylindrical cacti, comprising about 70 species native to the southern United States and Mexico in very sunny rocky places. Usually the flowers are large and the fruit edible. The name comes from the Ancient Greek (echinos) and the Latin cereus meaning “candle.” They are also sometimes known as hedgehog cacti. All Echinocereus are small plants that are quite suitable for growing in pots and greenhouses. The stems of this genus are more often than not under a foot in height and perhaps 2 or 3 inches in diameter. Some are slightly bigger, some smaller. In the wild, some species may form large mounds of many hundreds of stems, but this takes many years and these same species are still quite manageable in cultivation. There is a wide variety of spination that includes some of the most fierce and dramatic spines covering the plant stem so that it is not even visible. Most have moderately sized spines evenly distributed, some have very colorful spines even in alternating patterns. Some have pectinate (comb-like) spines and some are nearly spineless. The spines are arranged on ribs. Echinocereus have some of the most brilliant flowers of the cactus family. They range in color from electric-pink to deep scarlet to translucent browns and greens and even bright yellow. In the wild, Echinocereus range from as far north as South Dakota, USA and south through most of Mexico and exist in a wide range of habitats.



## Upcoming Events

Apr 27. SCSS Field Trip: Spring Wildflower Walk. Join SCSS member Kris McAninch for a field trip to see the super bloom of wildflowers at Table Mountain Reserve, followed by lunch in Chico. After lunch, the group will have a guided tour and shopping at the Chico cactus garden. The group will plan to leave Sacramento around 8:30am. A public parks day pass is needed (available online or at sporting goods stores or Walmart). Please contact Kris for more information at 916-478-1199 or [sparkk3eb@yahoo.com](mailto:sparkk3eb@yahoo.com).

Apr. 6-7. South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274. Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm.

Apr. 13-14. Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. San Juan Bautista Community Hall, 10 San Jose St. San Juan Bautista, CA 95045. Saturday and Sunday 9am-4pm.

Apr. 13. The public is invited to learn about all things gardening at the 4th Annual Garden Faire from 10am to 3pm. This year, the Faire will be free for adults and children at a new location, the Maidu Community Center at 1550 Maidu Drive in Roseville. Presented by the UC Master Gardeners of Placer County, the Garden Faire will feature speakers and educational activities for children and adults.

Apr. 27-28. San Jose Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Emma Prusch Farm Park, 647 S. King Rd., San Jose, CA 95116 Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-3pm. For more information: [sjactussucculent@gmail.com](mailto:sjactussucculent@gmail.com).



### East Sac Garden Tour

Join Sacramento in celebrating the 21st Anniversary of the East Sac Garden Tour on Mother's Day weekend, May 11th and 12th. Gardens dotted throughout the Fabulous 40s will be open to public viewing. During your walking tour, you can buy locally-made crafts at the Artisan Boutique, and enjoy a lemonade, iced tea, or snack at our Sweet Stops along the way.

Don't miss this popular Sacramento Mother's Day tradition. Tickets are available online beginning the first week of April and will also be available at participating East Sacramento businesses. Visit the web site for locations and tickets: [www.eastsacgardentour.com](http://www.eastsacgardentour.com). Tickets purchased through May 9 are \$20. Tickets purchased Mother's Day weekend are \$25 and can be purchased the Will Call Booth at David Lubin Elementary (3535 M Street). Children 12 years and younger are free.

May 18-19. Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale. Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael, CA. Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 9am-3pm.

Jun 8-9. Fresno Home & Garden Show and Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Sale. Clovis Veterans Memorial,

## February Mini-Show Results

### CACTUS

1st: Annie Wolf, *Gymnocalycium friedrichii* and *Parodia magnifica* (tie)

2nd: Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Parodia magnifica*

3rd: George Krigas, *G. pflanzii*

### SUCCULENT

1st: Elaine Thomas, *Sempervivum hybrid*

2nd: Theresa Roberts, *S. 'Jade Rose'*

3rd: Steve Goodman, *S. calcareum*

### Welcome New Members

*Steve & Heather Coskie  
Glynda Bryan  
Don & Mary Ann Garcia  
Patrick Jaggard  
Nancy & Rey Mandapat  
Lisa Prestwood*

## Cold Frames as Greenhouses by Bill Munkacsy

Cold frames are cheap, effective greenhouses. This plan holds 15 plus flats and uses complete boards with minimal cutting. Length: 96 inches. Width: 61 inches total. Height: 11 inches front, 25 inches rear. Use 3 durable hinges. Mount on concrete blocks to comfortable, usable height.



## News & Notes

### Shepard Garden and Arts Center Succulent Garden

The SGAC will be providing a sign for our demonstration garden on the north side of the building (McKinley Blvd. side). We are hoping it will be in place before our annual show and sale. SGAC is also looking into acquiring shade sails to cover the outdoor patio, and hopefully those will also be installed before our show and sale. We still have opportunities for members to volunteer to check the demonstration garden and remove any debris and weeds; we are responsible for maintaining the garden, so all help is appreciated. We will be moving some of the plants out from under the camellias to make maintenance easier. There is still more room to add plants, and donations are gratefully accepted. Please contact Mariel Dennis if you wish to help.



### Lifetime Membership

There's still time to pay your membership dues for 2019. We have a new option this year: \$100.00 for a Lifetime Membership. If you've already paid for 2019 and would like to take advantage of the Lifetime Membership, please pay the difference of what you have already paid. Find the form on our web site [www.sacramentocss.com](http://www.sacramentocss.com) under the Membership heading. Make your check to SCSS for Annual or Lifetime membership.

### Shepard Garden and Arts Center CHAT Newsletter

The Shepard Garden and Arts CHAT newsletter is available online at <https://srvd.org/category/shepard/>. You can bookmark this link to access upcoming and back issues of the newsletter.

### May Show Information Available

At the March and April meetings, we will have the flier, quarter sheet fliers, schedule, and photog fliers available for the membership.

### Mini-Shows for 2019

| Month    | Succulent  | Cactus                            |
|----------|--|-----------------------------------|
| April    | Aloe, Aloeworthia, Gasteraloe                            | Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia |
| June     | Echevaria  | Any columnar type                 |
| July     | Gasteria, Haworthia, Astroloba                           | Mammillaria                       |
| August   | Mixed succulent bowl                                     | Mixed cactus bowl                 |
| October  | Asclepiads, Huernia, Stapelia, Caralluma and other types | Any globular cactus               |
| November | Any variegated   | Any variegated                    |

### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: March 25

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

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