



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 53, #8

DIY, Clay Pinch Pots — Monday, August 27th, 7pm

There will be no guest speaker this month. We have something special planned over a couple of months: each member will make, glaze, and plant their very own homemade pot. Instead of the regular program presentation our Club President, Keith Taylor is bringing one pound of clay for each member to make their own pot. Don't worry if you have never done anything like this before, knowledgeable Club members will be available to assist you if you need any help. Members will pack up their pot at the end of the meeting and Keith will take them to be fired. The pots will be returned at the October meeting at which time members will glaze their pots and Keith will again take them to be fired. In early 2013 there will be a meeting when we will ask each member to bring in the completed project – "Your hand-made pot containing a plant." Additional clay will be available for members to purchase at \$5/pound.



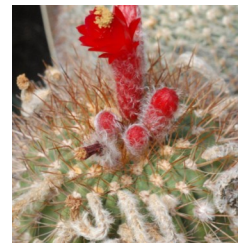
Remember our 'Cactus/Succulent Corner' so please bring in plants you have problems with, questions about, or you just want to show off. You receive one raffle ticket for each plant you bring to the meeting. Also remember to bring a little extra money for the raffle. Keith always gets us such special plants and there just might be the perfect one for your new pot!

Remember, this is your Club. Please let me know if there is anything new you would like to include at our meetings, or if you have any new ideas.

– Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Arequipa hempeliana
Courtesy Elton Roberts

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

- Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm
- Location: Shepard Garden & Arts Center in Sacramento.
- 3330 McKinley Blvd
- Center's phone number — 916/808-8800
- No official meeting in December
- The public is warmly invited to attend meetings

President's Message

Let's talk about the pottery workshop DIY for this month's meeting. The Club will supply each member with 1-lb of clay, either white or red. If you would like to make more than what is provided, it will be available for \$5 per pound. One pound of clay will make one large pot or 3 small ones. Please bring in newspaper and shallow boxes so I can get all the works of art to my place safely. Some items to bring with you; hand towel, rolling pin, hair dryer (too speed up the process), apple coring tool (for drainage holes), rocks, chopsticks, canvas or anything to add texture to the clay. If you would like to mold your clay around or into something bring that too. It could be a bowl, cup, garbage can or baking dish, just use your imagination.

Once the pots are dry I will fire them and bring them back in October to stain or glaze, and again the Club will provide the supplies. Once your containers are complete we will have another workshop on how to stage a plant from your collection and make it Show ready.

– Keith Taylor

Cactus — Echinopsis

Echinopsis is a large genus of cacti native to South America, sometimes known as hedgehog cacti, sea-urchin cactus or Easter lily cactus. One small species, *E. chamaecereus*, is known as the peanut cactus. The 128

species range from large & tree-like types to small globose cacti. The name derives from *echinos* hedgehog or sea urchin, 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 *Cereus* 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. *Echinopsis* species are native to South America (Argentina, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay). They grow only in situations where the soil is sandy or gravelly, or on the sides of hills in the crevices of rocks. Species like the Chilean *Echinopsis cristata* and its Mexican relatives thrive if potted in light loam, with a little leaf mold and a few nodules of limestone. The limestone keeps the soil open; it is important that the soil should be well drained. In winter, water must be given very sparingly. In spring, the plants should receive the full warmth of the sun; and during hot weather, they will be benefited by frequent spraying overhead, which should be done in the evening. The soil should never be saturated, as the soft fibrous roots will rot if kept wet for any length of time.



Echinopsis huascha
(Red Torch Cactus)

Succulent — Lithops/Faucaria/Conophytum

Lithops is a genus containing stone-looking succulents from South Africa. They are stone shaped, 2" to 4" in diameter with a fissure across the middle. The nomenclature of *Lithops* are generally based on the book *Lithops-Flowering Stones* by D. T. Cole. Cultivate the *Lithops* in a larger pot than seems needed, their root system is pretty large. Use water sparsely in summer, too much water will make them split. In winter, water is taken away from the old leaves, while a new set of



Lithops dorothea

leaves is growing. They will take a very small amount of frost. The large flower comes out of the fissure. *Faucaria* was



Faucaria felina

subjected to an extensive revision by Groen & Van Der Maesen in 1999.

The 30 or so recognized species were reduced to only 6. The very variable *Faucaria felina* absorbing most of the species. *Faucarias* form clumps of stem-less rosettes. The species are collectively known as 'Tiger Jaws'.

This refers to the spiny looking edges of the leaves. The name *Faucaria* comes from the Latin for 'jaws.' They need good drainage but with a little shade they will do just fine even with extreme heat. Most species will take a small amount of frost. The plants are light green, turning purple in



Conophytum subfenestratum

the event of strong sunshine. Golden yellow flowers appear from August in the center of the rosette. *Conophytum* is a genus of South African and Namibian succulent plants that belong to the Aizoaceae family. The name is derived from the Latin "conus" (cone) & Greek "phytum" (plant). *Conophytum* are tiny plants with succulent leaves ranging from 1/4" to 2" in length. These leaves are partially or entirely fused along their centers.

Mini Show Winners — JULY, 2012

Cactus — "Fiercely Spined"

1st *Stetsonia coryne*, Mary Schuett

2nd *Mammillaria schiedeana*, Michelle Egan

Succulent — "Vining"

1st *Dioscorea macrostachya*, Keith Taylor

2nd *Cyphostemma cirrhosum*, Mary Schuett

3rd *Raphionacme flanaganii*, Michelle Egan

Thought for the Month

"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

— Will Rogers



From the Editor's Desk —

Publication Deadline — 10th of each month.

Please forward all submissions for consideration to my contact info (per your choice) found on back page.

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

[HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER]

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

➤ HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBER



It was with great pleasure that minutes before beginning his program at the July meeting when our President, Keith Taylor presented Wendell (Woody) Minnich with a certificate honoring him as a Lifetime Member of the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society on behalf of the Officers, Board of Directors, and the Membership. Woody has been a good friend to our Club over many years. And even though he & his lovely wife Kathy now live in New Mexico, they still come to visit with us, give us wonderful & informative programs, and best of all bring fabulous plants for us to buy. We are honored to now have Woody as a member – always!!

➤ COUNTY STORE IS COMING – GET READY!!

WHAT YOU SAY?! IT'S NOT UNTIL SEPTEMBER! But now is the time to start planning for the event. What is it? It's the Club's next fundraiser – a giant garage sale of plants, produce, pretty silent auction items and particularly yummy desserts. The Center is transformed into numerous 'selling' areas. You buy raffle tickets (50¢), put half in the appropriate area's canister and hope your numbers are called. We rotate around the Center all the while you are bidding for the silent auction items. So, set aside your extra tomatoes, zucchinis or green peppers that are over-growing in your garden; pickle and/or can extra jars of cucumbers, peach preserves and blackberry jam for

the produce table. As you repot plants, make extra cuttings for the cacti and other succulent tables. Have bulbs, extra pots? Bring them for the garden table. Begin saving those scrumptious recipes for the 'Sweete Shoppe' where brownies, cookies, cakes and all things sweet reign. Save the 4th Monday of September to bring all your goodies. Have questions? Ask Keith Taylor,

– Keith Taylor, County Store Chair

➤ SUCCULENTS FOR INDOORS? ~ YOU BETCHA!

Don and Laura Starr, Master Gardeners in southern California, say many succulents thrive in lower light.

Sempervivums will do well in dim light from a north facing window, by 'do well,' they mean flourish! Avoid placing them in direct sun near a window because glass will intensify the heat. In winter, move the succulents to a south facing window. In summer, your succulents will enjoy the outdoors ... allow them to acclimate in the shade before moving to morning sun and filtered all day sunshine.



Sempervivum calcareum
(courtesy, [Oasis Plant](#))

➤ THE MYTH – SUCCULENTS & FULL SUN

Don and Laura Starr, owners of the Grateful Shed and both Master Gardeners are also Myth Busters! Many think



Jim Mercer © 2003

succulents need full, south facing sun to survive ... Not! Most do well (thrive) in partial shade. Direct sun during the summer can burn the leaves of many succulent varieties.

If you don't grow your succulents in the summer under a shade cloth, give your plants an east facing exposure. Sunburned leaves remain until they drop off from age. Avoid sunburn by gently Acclimating New Plants to stronger sun – Gradually.

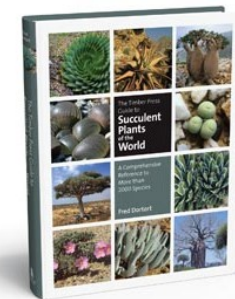
DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

➤ GREENHOUSE 'SNOW'

During the Club tour at my house, people asked me what I use on my glass greenhouse to shade plants from the sun. For years, I have used 'Snow', an agricultural product that growers sprayed on crops to prevent sunburn. In our area, one would see entire tomato fields sprayed white towards the end of summer. I use this *Diatomaceous earth* based powder, mixed with water and a "sticker" (in my case, powdered milk), then apply with a paint roller. Unfortunately, 'Snow' is no longer available. Doug Walker, a Club member, who works at the UCD Plant Science Greenhouses, tells me he now uses 'Liquid Shade' (= Kool Ray Classic Liquid Greenhouse Shading). He obtains Liquid Shade from American Horticultural Supply (<americanhort.com/shade.html#Anchor-Liquid-58438>). Kool Ray is available at many places including <growerssolution.com/page/GS/PROD/KULS>. Target Specialty Products in West Sacramento would be a local source. Both these products can be applied with a paint roller or sprayer. Thank you, Doug, for the info.

– Marilyn Vilas

➤ SC&SS LIBRARY NEWS



The Timber Press Guide To Succulent Plants Of The World

Our Club's Library includes almost 160 books on succulents and cacti. One popular volume in our collection is entitled The Timber Press Guide To Succulent Plants Of The World. This comprehensive reference book covers more than 2000 species of succulents.

Rather than covering every known species in any single family or category it provides a broad overview of the range of succulent plant species that are likely to interest enthusiasts. This book will expand the knowledge base for the beginner and will also make interesting reading for the most experienced collector. The discussion of individual plants includes information on the plant's native habitat and its cultivation requirements.

Published in 2011, the first two chapters consist of an overview of where succulents are found and how they live. The remaining chapters consist of engaging and richly illustrated descriptions of both familiar species as well as less common plants. For those of you who attended our Club's July meeting you will recall the featured lecture by Woody Minnich on cacti and succulents of Namibia. He spoke about huge *Cyclophoranthus* down to very hard to spot *Lithops*. The

Timber Press Guide To Succulent Plants Of The World offers details on these succulents plus many more and includes a significant series of high quality succulent photos that are well suited for this reference book.

I will have The Timber Press Guide To Succulent Plants Of The World as well as other books from the Club's Library on the library table at the August meeting. All books are available for a 30 day check-out period.

– George Krigas, Librarian

➤ DIY – HOW TO MAKE HYPERTUFA POTS



Fine Gardening (1998)
Michelle Gervais

Hypertufa looks like stone but weighs less and takes whatever shape you want. Containers made from hypertufa are wonderful for displaying rock-garden plants or succulents. Over time, the hypertufa ages gracefully, collecting a patina of mosses and lichens. In this article you will find the recipe and instructions for making hypertufa. The process to mold containers is much simpler than

the usual box-in-box method that sandwiches hypertufa and some metal mesh in a frame. Instead, simply pack hypertufa around an overturned plastic pot or planter. And because it's so easy to work with, hypertufa can be molded into many sizes and shapes.

Supplies

- mixing tub
- container for measuring
- peat moss
- perlite
- Portland cement
- concrete reinforcing fibers (optional)
- dust mask (not an option)
- rubber gloves (not an option, cement is toxic to skin)
- trowel
- plastic drop cloth
- plastic container for a mold
- wire brush

The recipe

- 1 part Portland cement
- 1 1/2 parts sphagnum peat moss
- 1 1/2 parts perlite

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

To add strength, add a small handful of fibermesh, a synthetic concrete reinforcing fiber, to each batch, which is easier to work with than sheets of wire mesh embedded in the hypertufa. You can find fibermesh at masonry-supply stores or online. (optional, depending on the size)

Five easy steps

Step 1 – Measure and mix the peat moss, perlite, cement, and a small handful of reinforcing fibers in your tub. You'll kick up plenty of dust at this stage, so be sure to wear your dust mask.

Add the water while stirring with your trowel. Test the consistency frequently, as it's much easier to add water than it is to readjust the dry ingredients. When a squeezed handful retains its shape and doesn't release more than a few drops of water, the mix is ready.



Step 2 – Mold the mixture around the chosen object, which has been placed upside down on the plastic drop cloth. Avoid objects with a pronounced lip since it would make the object difficult to remove from the finished container.

Pack the mixture up around the sides of the object, tamping it down firmly to bond the hyper-tufa to itself and to avoid a crumbly texture. A 1- to 2-inch layer on all sides will create strong walls.

Flatten the intended bottom of the completely covered object for stability, and shape the sides to a desired form. Then poke your finger through the bottom to create a drainage hole.

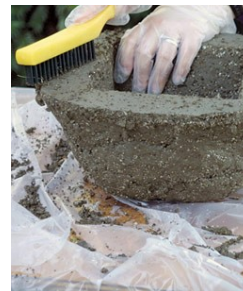


Step 3 – Wrap the container in the plastic sheeting, and place it in a shady spot for about a day to let it harden.



Step 4 – Remove the wrapping after the hyper-tufa has had a day to harden. The mixture will be firm but still soft enough to work with. Turn the container over, and remove the mold.

Brush the sharp edges and the smooth top, if desired, to give a rougher, more natural look to the container.



Step 5 – Rewrap your container, and place it in a shady place for another two days. Then unwrap it, and soak it with a hose periodically over the period of a few weeks to leach out the residual lime from the cement, which would harm plants.



Design Tip – To dress up your container, place ever-green sprigs or thick leaves around the rim of the mold before you start building the sides of your container. Lift them gently from the rim when you remove the mold.





Arequipa hempheliana
Courtesy Elton Roberts

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, August 27th - 7pm

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Click on the 3 links below to go directly to our website, Facebook, or the CSSA website

www.sacramentocss.org



SEPTEMBER, 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
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23/30 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████	24 ██████████ ██████████ SC&SS-Country Store, <u>6:30pm</u>	25 ██████████ ██████████	26 ██████████ ██████████	27	28	29 ██████████ ██████████ ██████████