



2nd Step of DIY Project: Glazing — Monday, October 22

There will be no guest speaker again this month. October's meeting will be the second of the three step DIY project we began in August. Everyone enjoyed the sometimes difficult job we had in creating our pots!!



Our handmade pots from the August DIY event being loaded into Keith's kiln for firing.

A big Thank You to our Club President, Keith Taylor, who fired the pots. Your creations have been fired and are ready to stain, glaze or both. The Club will provide supplies. We could use hair dryers again & newspapers. Again, don't worry if you have never glazed anything before, knowledgeable Club members will be available to assist you if you need any help. Keith will again take the pots home to be fired. **NOTE:** If

you made a pot it is very important for you to attend this month's meeting [or your pot will not be glazed]. The pots will be returned to you at either our February or March meeting. This is where we will finish the three step DIY project by planting our pots and showing off our completed project.

Remember our 'Cactus/Succulent Corner' 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. Also, Election of Officers is right around the corner, actually in November. There are no difficult jobs. Please don't hesitate to volunteer for any of the positions. Members are always here to help if you just ask. In other words – Get involved with the Club, it's fun and you learn a lot!

Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Plants 'n Pots
Succulent Gardens
(courtesy, Gerhard Bock)

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

Cactus — Melocactus/Discocactus

The genus **Melocactus** includes around 40 cacti from Mexico, the West Indies, and northern South America. Many of these species are endangered, and plants in cultivation are almost always

grown from seeds. They are slow-growing, often difficult to grow. They are globular plants, generally solitary, except if the growing tip has been damaged. When they are mature, the body stops growing and produces a crown on its apex named cephalium. This densely spined area is where the flowers and fruit will be produced. The cephalium can keep on growing for many years, and in some species can exceed the height of the body itself. The striking difference between the body and the cephalium, reminds of a cap, hence the name Turk's Cap Cacti given to many specimen in this genus. The botanical name comes from the Latin for 'melon cacti.'



Melocactus azureus

Most Melocactus have specialized requirements that make them tricky to grow. They are rot prone and should be grown in shallow containers with a well-draining soil mixture. In summer water and feed regularly. In winter, decrease the watering, but still they need regular water. De-ionized water or distilled water is better. Some direct sun light is necessary, but in the hot desert of Arizona, they burn easily. To insure optimum growth, it is a good idea to repot them in the spring every 2-3 years.

The Melocactus flowers are generally a shade of pink or red. They come in abundance from spring to fall depending on the species. They are followed by fleshy fruit.



Discocactus araneispinus

Discocactus contains a dozen species of tropical cacti. Most species grow in rock outcrops in the tropical forests, and are endangered in their natural habitat. Mature Discocactus stop growing, and instead divert their energy into growing a cephalium. The cephalium is a specialized flowering head,

generally covered with fibers. Discocactus blooms in summer, on and off. The flowers are generally white and open in late afternoon until the following morning. Many species have fragrant flowers. Discocactus are tropical species, and should be kept warm in winter. Many species are extremely difficult to keep on their own roots and are generally grafted. The grafted plants are less cold sensitive, but none has any frost tolerance.

Succulent — Agave

There are several hundred species of Agave. They have been popular in many Mediterranean gardens in Europe since they were brought back from the Americas by the Spaniards and Portuguese in the 17th century, and before that they were cultivated for centuries by the native

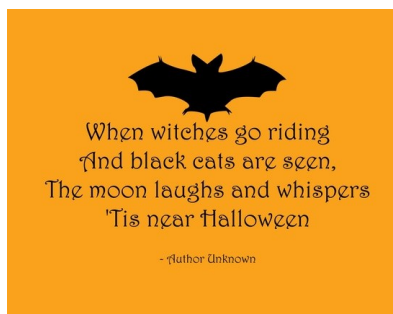


Agave montana

American population for fibers, food and drinks. Nowadays they are very useful plants in desert gardens. If your climate is warm enough, you will most certainly find several species for your garden that will be very tough, will thrive without much additional

water, and will be a source of enjoyment for many years. Agaves are succulent rosettes, often clumping, occasionally on short trunks. They generally have a sharp spine at the end of their leaves, and for this reason should be away from paths. Each rosette blooms after many years (generally at least 8). The blooming rosette uses all its energy to produce the giant towering bloom, and seeds. When it has finished blooming, in almost all the species, the rosette dries out. Some species produce a large quantity of new plants on the flower stem (bulbils). These can be detached and planted.

Thought for the Month



When witches go riding
And black cats are seen,
The moon laughs and whispers
'Tis near Halloween

- Author Unknown



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.

Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Tom Burlando
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

➤ 2013 MEMBERSHIP

Greetings SCSS Members,

This is a reminder that Membership fees are collected annually, are payable November 1st, and no later than December 31st. The fees are \$15.00 for individuals, and \$20.00 for families (two or more persons). Please send your fees along with the membership renewal form included with this newsletter to me at the address on the form. (The form is also available at the SCSS Website at www.sacramentocss.org/membership.html). Membership fees must be received no later than January 16th in order for you to continue to receive the newsletter and to ensure that your information will be included in the new SCSS Roster which will be published shortly after. Please contact me if you have any questions/concerns.

Thanks in advance for your prompt renewals,
George R. Avery, SCSS Membership Chair
[REDACTED]

➤ SC&SS WEBSITE

Our new web-master, Gerhard Bock has truly performed a miracle. You must go to the Club's website www.sacramentocss.org and see how he has transformed it. Beautiful to say the least. On behalf of the entire Club's membership please accept our sincerest Thank You, Gerhard!!

Editor's Note – for those reading this on the Internet you may click on the address link and go directly to our website, if you are reading from a paper copy you will need to access by typing the address into your browser)

➤ COUNTRY STORE REPORT

Thanks to the generous donations of Club members, the Club earned \$411 (\$233 tickets, \$178 Silent Auction) at the Country Store event last month. Everyone went home with goodies and had a good time! We extend our Thank You to – ticket sellers & buyers, ticket callers, donators (bakers, pickers of produce, plants, garden accessories, & special planters), and Silent Auction bidders. We couldn't have done it without you!!

➤ FIELD TRIP – 10/20, REMINDER

Don't forget the field trip to the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in

Walnut Creek on October 20th. You must go to the Ruth Bancroft Garden's website (<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>), then click on Events, then go to the October calendar, and click the link for the Fruit Tasting Tour to pay for the tour to reserve a spot (Tickets are \$18 + \$3.33 fee). Even members pay this time. After you do that, if you'd like to carpool or let me know you're going, email me at [REDACTED]. The group has also been invited by William & Karla Munkacsy, to tour through the *Plantaseca* greenhouses at their home in Alamo. They bring fabulous plants every year to our Show & Sale in May. For more info please contact Martha Bleshman, Field Trip Chair.

➤ 2012 SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA

On September 28 and 29, Succulent Gardens, one of



Entrance to Succulent Gardens

Northern California's premier succulent growers and wholesalers, held their 2nd Succulent Extravaganza at their growing grounds in Castroville. Having attended the first Extravaganza in 2011, I knew that the 2012 event

was going to be a blast – and it was!

Succulent Gardens is located just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean outside of Castroville, CA, the self-proclaimed Artichoke Capital of the World. The climate of the Central California coast is any gardener's dream. The thermometer rarely climbs much above 85°F and it rarely freezes. Many succulents love that kind of weather, as is evidenced by the exuberant plantings on the nursery grounds. When I left Davis at 1 pm on Friday, it was 90°F. I arrived in Castroville at 4 pm and was greeted by high fog and cool, damp air – lovely!



Potted Echeverias and other succulents

I wasn't able to attend any of the presentations on Friday, but I made it in time for the free barbecue from 4-6 pm on Friday. I met up with a bunch of fellow succulent aficionados, including SCSS member Candy Suter, and we had a great time talking shop. We reconvened later in the evening at the Comfort Inn in Marina where many of the attendees were staying, and I was happy to have a long

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

chat with Debra Lee Baldwin, the author of *Designing with Succulents*, *Succulent Container Gardens* and the upcoming *Succulents Simplified*. She is as warm and charming as she is knowledgeable.

The first activity on Saturday morning was a nursery tour led by Brian Kemble, curator of the [Ruth Bancroft Garden](#) in Walnut Creek. Brian is a world-renowned succulent expert and drew quite crowd. He started with the basics —



Brian Kemble at entrance kiosk



Debra Lee Baldwin and yours truly (photo by [Candy Suter](#)). Debra is wearing Laura Balaoro's hat decorated with live succulents.

What are succulents? Where do they grow? What are their basic requirements? — and then progressed to talk about specific genera and species as we walked around the nursery grounds.

After Brian's nursery walk, it was time for the first presentation of the day. [Debra Lee Baldwin](#) spoke about "Companion Plants for Succulents." Debra's talk struck a chord; in my own experience, succulents shine even more when paired with non-succulent plants. The photos Debra used in her presentation can be viewed and downloaded from [this Picasa album](#).

Next up was Los Altos-based garden designer [Rebecca Sweet](#), co-author of *Garden Up!* Entitled "Harmony in the Garden — Incorporating Succulents into Everyday Gardens," Rebecca's talk was a great complement to Debra's. Using actual design projects as examples, Rebecca showed us ways to add succulents to existing plantings and to solve specific problems common in many gardens. This was the first time I'd heard Rebecca speak, and she was engaging, witty and energetic.



From left to right: Laura Balaoro, [Candy Suter](#), Noreen Fenton, [Debra Lee Baldwin](#), Robin Kozloff

After these two talks it was time for me to explore the nursery and sales areas. Succulent Gardens has extensive in-ground plantings of aeoniums, agaves and other succulents. The long raised beds filled with rows of *Aloe polyphylla* on one side and *Agave 'Blue Flame'* and *Agave*

'Blue Glow' on the other are stunning.

The sales area was packed with potted succulents of all sizes, ranging from 2 inches to 5 gallons. There were rows upon



Agave 'Blue Flame' (top row) and *Agave 'Blue Glow'* (bottom row)

rows and flats upon flats of echeverias, crassulas, aloes, agaves, sedums, sempervivums, etc. etc. — temptation wherever you looked! Needless to say the plants were in perfect condition, and there were some rarities, too. My purchases included a variegated flapjack plant (*Kalanchoe luciae 'Fantastic'*), a new *Agave bracteosa* hybrid called 'Mateo' (actually, a cross between *Agave bracteosa* and *Agave lophantha*) and several aeoniums in 1 gallon containers, priced at \$10 each.



Aloe polyphylla

While Succulent Gardens is primarily a wholesale grower, they are open to the public. The next time you find yourself in the Santa Cruz/Watsonville/Monterey area, do swing by their growing grounds just up the road from the PG&E power plant in Moss Landing. And be sure to mark your 2013 calendar for the 3rd annual Extravaganza, to be held the last Friday and Saturday of September.

For more photos, please [visit my blog](#).

Gerhard Bock — <http://www.bambooandmore.info>

➤ JACK-O-LANTERN~ A TUTORIAL

If you know me, you know that I just love pumpkins and gourds and so many wonderful things that come with fall. I love to bring the outdoors in and then I was inspired. I always love to carve pumpkins with the family and get creative. This is my own twist on the traditional Jack-O-Lantern.



DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

Supply List

A small lantern~found this one at HomeGoods tea light

A few assorted succulents
Moss

A large gourd/Cinderella pumpkin at least 18" across

A plastic 8 inch pot

Soil for succulents

A sharp knife

Sharpie pen



Assembly

Invert the plastic pot over the center of the top of the pumpkin (left) and trace around the circumference with the Sharpie pen. Cut around the pen marking and remove the lid of the pumpkin (right). Set the lid aside and scrape out the guts and set empty



pumpkin aside.

Check to see that the plastic pot fits inside the pumpkin (lower right). It should be snug but removable. You may need to trim off a bit of the top of the plastic pot. After trimming, if needed, discard the top of the pot and tape around the cut edge with duct tape to help give more support. Remove the plastic pot from the pumpkin.



Plant the succulents around the edges of the plastic pot. Be sure to check to make sure there is room for your lantern as you plant the succulents hugging the edge. Add the planted pot to the pumpkin and fill in all the gaps and exposed soil with moss. Top with the lantern. Finally, you can leave out the lantern completely if you like. This is another centerpiece that I created in the same fashion filling the 8 inch plastic pot up entirely with



succulents instead!

These arrangements should last 5 days inside at room



temperature. If you are using cold hardy succulents, this centerpiece will last longer outdoors. Lightly spraying the inside of the pumpkin with bleach will help keep the pumpkin from rotting too quickly. (Courtesy of www.tillysnest.com, October 6, 2012)

➤ 'MOUNDING' – SUCCULENT ARRANGEMENTS

Let's talk about this succulent arrangement ... At the Succulent Extravaganza hosted by [Succulent Gardens](#), Debra Lee Baldwin was one of the guest speakers. She had a few things to say about 'Mounding.' Notice the height achieved in the center of this composition? It's created by a technique referred to as 'Mounding.' Add your well draining soil in the container and place your tall element in the center 'on top of the soil.' Wiggle it in a bit, so it doesn't fall out of the container. The roots will work themselves into the soil over time. Place your other plants close to one another. The plants will also 'hide' the root ball that is sitting on top of the soil. Now you know how to get that 'designer look.' ~ (Cindy from [The Succulent Perch](#))





Rows of Aeoniums
And Aloe plicatilis
(Succulent Gardens)

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, October 22nd – 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



November, 2012

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 ██████████ Chrysanthemum Show, 10-4
4 Chrysanthemum Show, 10-4	5	6	7 ██████████	8 ██████████	9 ██████████	10 Sacramento Textile Arts Show, 10-4 (also on 11th)
11 ██████████ 	 Mixed cactus bed – Succulent Gardens (courtesy, Gerhard Bock)			15	16	17
18				22 	23	24 ██████████
25 ██████████	26 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm	27	28 ██████████	29	30	