



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 54, #7

DIY, Clay Coil Pots ♦ Monday—July 22, 2013, 7pm

There will be no guest speaker in July. Our regularly scheduled July speaker, Woody Minnich, is traveling in Madagascar. Woody will be our August speaker. We will make pots in July! As we did last year each member will make, glaze, and plant their handmade pot. Our Club President, Keith Taylor, is bringing one pound of clay for each member to make their own pot. Keith suggested this year we try our hand at making coil pots. Don't worry if you've never done this before; knowledgeable Club members will be available to assist you if you need any help. Members must 'scratch their name' into & pack up their pot at the end of the meeting for Keith to take to be fired. The pots will be returned at the October meeting at which time members will glaze their pots. Keith will again take them to be fired. In early 2014 we'll have a meeting where members will plant their pot and display their completed project – "Your hand-made coil pot containing a plant." Additional clay will be available for purchase at \$5/pound. Last year some members purchased extra clay to make a larger pot or more than one pot.

Don't forget our 'Cactus/Succulent Corner.' Please bring in plants you have problems with, questions about, or 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 on things to do.

– Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Hoodia rauschii hybrid
Courtesy Pars Cactus

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

It's that time of year again ... time to get your creativity on! I'll be bringing in clay so you (the members) can make coil pots. The Club will provide 1 lb. of clay. If you would like more you can purchase more for \$5 per pound. Please bring in newspaper and a flat box for safe transport back to my place. Some things to bring: hair dryer, butter tub (for water), pencil, rolling pin, bowls (for molding), skewers (toothpicks), objects to add textures and your imagination.



– Keith Taylor

Cactus — Echinopsis

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

The 128 species range from large and treelike types to small globose cacti. The name derives from *echinos* (hedgehog or sea urchin), and *opsis* (appearance) — a reference to the dense spine coverings of these plants.

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 known for the great size, length of tube, and beauty of their flowers. They are generally borne on small and dumpy stems, and appear much larger and more attractive than would be expected.

None of the species need to be grafted to grow freely and remain healthy, as the stems are all robust enough and of sufficient size to take care of themselves. The only danger is in keeping the plants too moist in winter, for although a little water now and again keeps the stems fresh and green, it deprives them of that rest which is essential to the development of their large, beautiful flowers in summer. They grow only in situations where the soil is sandy or gravelly, or on the sides of hills in the crevices of rocks.



Echinopsis huascha



Echinopsis oxygona



Echinopsis aurea v. schaeferi

Succulent — Haworthia/Gasteria

Haworthia is a genus within the family Xanthorrhoeaceae, subfamily Asphodeloideae. They are small succulent plants, typically 4cm (2 in) to 20 cm (8 in)



Haworthia attenuata

high, depending on the species, though the inflorescences of some species may exceed 40 cm (16 in). They can be solitary or clump-forming and endemic to South Africa. Most species have firm, tough leaves, usually dark green in color; others are softer, and are window plants with translucent panels through which sunlight can reach internal



Haworthia decipiens var. pringlei

photosynthetic tissues. Their flowers are small, white and very similar between species. But their leaves show wide variations even within one species. The genus *Haworthia* is named after the botanist Adrian Hardy Haworth.

Gasteria is a genus of succulent plants native to South Africa. Closely related genera include *Aloe* and



Gasteria maculata

Haworthia. The genus is named for its stomach-shaped flowers and is part of the family Xanthorrhoeaceae, subfamily Asphodeloideae. Common names include *cow-tongue cactus*, *lawyer's tongue*, *mother-in-law's tongue*, *ox-tongue*.



Gasteria glauca

Gasteria species do best grown in well-drained, sandy soils in light shade. Germination usually occurs within 8 days but may take as long as one month depending on the species.

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jessica Aron & William Garrels

➤ NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

After more than 5 years as the SCSS Membership Chair I am very happy to announce that Ginger Martin has assumed the Chair duties. Many thanks to Ginger for taking on this task! Thanks also to all members for their support during my tenure as Chair. I encourage everyone to assist Ginger in her duties. One of the ways we can do this is to promptly renew membership before it expires on December 31. Ginger's contact information is available in the 2013 Roster which all members should have.

— George Avery

➤ 2013 PUNCTURED THUMB AWARD

The recipient of this year's award was announced at the June meeting by President Keith Taylor. This individual has tirelessly served the Club in this position for many years. This particular position requires a special expertise & education that most of us just do not possess. Also, this position is critical in maintaining the "financial health" of our Club—TREASURER! A well deserved honor & acknowledgement for "The Man that Keeps Us in the Black," to Greg Lang. Our sincere thank you for all of your quiet and tedious efforts tending to the finances of the Club. It certainly is not an easy task, but Greg does it with a steady & calm hand. Congratulations to our Treasurer, Greg Lang!

— Officers & Board of Directors

➤ BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES

Due to a "clerical error" Brian Poot's birthday was not included on the July calendar in our June newsletter issue. His birthday was on July 31st. Our records have been corrected & we wish Brian a most Happy Birthday. Hope it was wonderful Brian!

— Mara Aditajs, Editor

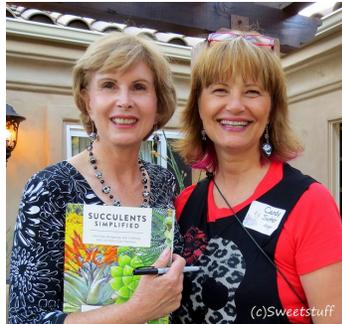
➤ COUNTRY STORE UPDATE

WOW, with the hot weather, our garden is growing like gangbusters. If you have bushels of produce and are thinking about making jams, relishes, canned tomatoes, etc., put up an extra jar or two for the Country Store Produce Table. Keep rooting those cuttings for the Cacti and Succulent Tables. Staying indoors and cleaning closets? Save your extraneous cacti/succulent themed items for the Silent Auction. All this happens at the September meeting!

— Marilynn Vilas, Chair

➤ SUCCULENT CELEBRATION AT WATERWISE BOTANICALS

On June 7th and 8th I was in Southern California and attended the first annual Succulent Celebration at Waterwise Botanicals in Escondido. Approximately 2500 people attended the event each day! Over the two day event you could hear 8 speakers, attend potting workshops, buy incredible succulents and meet best selling author Debra Lee Baldwin and get a signed copy of her new book *Succulents Simplified*.



There were many booths set up at the event. One of my favorites was "The Succulent Perch," a great new business run by my friend Cindy Davison. She does the most incredible, innovative pottings. She started by making beautiful succulent-topped birdhouses and has branched into potting moss purses and other popular arrangements. Another booth I loved was



the "Madd Potter." They have two locations, one in Encinitas the other Fallbrook, CA. You can find every size and type of pottery and they had a lot for sale. I went home with a

beautiful Talavera pot and wish I had gotten more. These head pots were very popular.

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)



A lot of people came with their hats decorated with succulents. Some made succulent earrings, pendants and hair clips. Succulent Fanatics like the ones attending this event have really great imaginations!



This is Roberto the succulent Alligator. He was made by Laura Eubanks of Design for Serenity. He got a lot of attention from everyone who passed by.

During the event there were also tours to Oasis Water Efficient Gardens and a local home with the most incredible succulent landscaping I have ever seen. What a wonderful time I had and I came home with my van stuffed full of succulents.



Check out my blog post at <http://www.sweetstuffssassysucculents.com/2013/06/succulent-celebration-2013.html>. You may want to make this a destination for next year!

– Candice Suter

➤ LOOK WHAT'S BLOOMIN' @CANDICE'S HOUSE

"It was July 5th of last year that I posted the photos of my amazing blooming *Trichocereus Pachonoi* 'San Pedro'. And if you thought that was awesome wait till you see this years blooms. This past week my husband and I have been car shopping but at the same time I was watching my San Pedro. Last Friday I saw sooooo many of the fuzzy beginnings of flowers push their way out of the cactus and getting ready to open. So when I woke up Saturday I wasn't even thinking of cactus. I went downstairs and asked my husband which car we were going to look at that day. And he said, "You better look at your cactus first!" This is what I saw when I looked out the window!"



Check out more from Candice's blog post about her blooming San Pedro http://www.sweetstuffssassysucculents.com/2013_07_01_archive.html

➤ KINGS OF THE DESERT

Arizona's saguaros are prickly, magnificent, and

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

more vulnerable than you'd think.

- A saguaro cactus can live 200 years, reach 45 feet tall and weigh more than 7 tons (95 percent of it water).
- Some *Saguaros*, but not all, begin sprouting arms when they are at least 50 years old. More arms mean more fruit, and better reproductive odds.
- Symbols of the whole western United States, saguaros grow only in Arizona and a tiny sliver of California.
- In animator Chuck Jones's *Chariots of Fur*, Wile E. Coyote employs an Acme Trick-or-Treat Cactus Costume to disguise himself as a saguaro.
- By July, crimson-fleshed saguaro fruit appears: Arizona's native Tohono O'odham Nation still harvests it to make jam, jelly, and wine.



- The state flower of Arizona, saguaro flowers bloom from the end of April to June; blossoms last less than 24 hours.



- Saguaro National Park, near Tucson, contains an estimated 1.6 million of them.
- Surprisingly fragile, saguaros can die in temps below 20°.
- A 22-foot saguaro with 5 arms runs \$4000 at Roadrunner Cactus in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Saguaro National Park has "micro-chipped" many of its saguaros to prevent theft.
- For \$35, you can adopt one through Friends of Saguaro National Park.
- The rarest formation is the ornate crested saguaro; fewer than 700 exist. [SEE TOP OF PAGE 6]

– *Sunset Magazine*, April 2013

➤ THE ULTIMATE IN "UPSCALING"

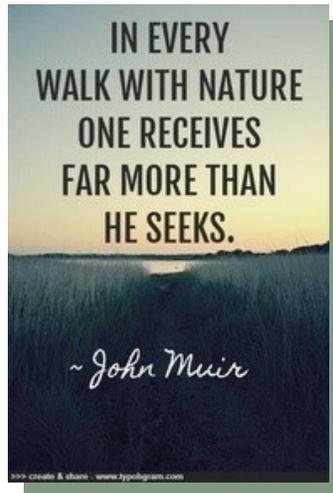
Take a close look at this once "grand piano." It now is likely the most expensive planter ever!! – *De Todo, un Poco*



Mini Show Winners — June, 2013

| Cactus — Crest/Monstrose | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 st | <i>Echinopsis cristata</i> , Bill Hagbery |
| 2 nd | <i>Opuntia cylindrica cristata</i> , Michelle Egan |
| Succulent — Crest/Monstrose | |
| 1 st | <i>Aeonium "Sunburst" cristata</i> , Michelle Egan |

Thought for the Month



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: ldybugg6@comcast.net
Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs



Crested Saguaro

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, July 22

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



August, 2013

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| 11 ██████████ ██████████ | 12 ██████████ ██████████ | 13 | 14 |  <p><i>Mammillaria theresae</i> Courtesy, Elton Roberts</p> | | 17 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | | | 24 ██████████ ██████████ |
| 25 | 26 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm | 27 | 28 | 29 ██████████ ██████████ | 30 ██████████ ██████████ | 31 ██████████ ██████████ |