



# Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 54, #3

## May Show How To!! ♦ Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

Ahhhh ... The Merry Month of May is just around the corner. Now is the time to start preparing for the Annual Show & Sale, which is this month's program. Marilyn Vilas will take us through the Show Schedule, dates and times of the Show weekend, how to fill out your registration form, how to prep your plants with a short critic from a judge's eye. The Show Chairs

will be there with their sign-up sheets.

Available will be Publicity Fliers, Show Schedules, and Registration Slips. Have questions? Bring your plant(s) for answers.

Audience participation is encouraged!

Marilynn has been a member of the Club since 1978. Over the years, she has been President of the Club, Show Chair and Chair of numerous committees. She has participated in every show except one since 1978, going from Novice to Advanced. If you have questions, Marilyn should have the answers! As you can see Marilyn knows her stuff. Listen to her expertise and one of the "Best" could be you!!



BEST HAWORTHIA 2012  
*Haworthia emelyae* 'Picta'  
(Marilynn Vilas)

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### Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

- Meetings are held the 4<sup>th</sup> 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

This month's raffle plants are coming from *Out of Africa*, so if you are looking for Pachypodium or Euphorbia be sure to attend the meeting and purchase a few tickets.

I wanted to talk about basic potting last month but there was too much excitement to get finished pots. So after Marilyn does her "song & dance" regarding the May Show I will cover some potting tips.

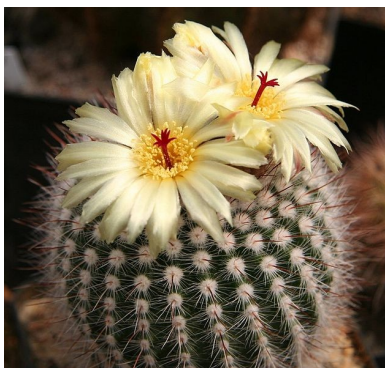
Speaking of the May Show we would appreciate volunteers. All the Chair positions are filled, so all that is needed are helpers. If interested please let me know.

– Keith Taylor



## Cactus — Notocactus

Notocactus is a genus of about 25 species of South-American cacti from low elevations of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Southern Brazil. They are grown for their spine formations, as well as for their attractive flowers. The genus name comes from the Greek for "cactus from the south." It has now been merged with Parodia. Since the name Parodia was used before Notocactus, it has precedence and all the Notocactus became Parodia. Notocactus are almost always globose, elongating as they age, some species eventually reach 3 feet (90 cm). They are often solitary, rarely offsetting, or producing stolons. Their flowers are funnel or bell shaped, yellow, or occasionally red. They come in groups of 3 or 4 at several times during the year. Each flower lasts around a week. Notocacti are found in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from mountains up to about 1000m in altitude to flat grasslands. However they are found mostly on "islands" of low rocky hills found in grasslands and forests, growing between cracks in the rocks or in the shade of larger growing plants. The soil here is well drained and has a fairly high organic content, derived from the decomposition of other plants. Due to the well drained soil, species of Notocactus are able to stand winter conditions of temperatures down to 8°C and below, together with considerable amounts of rain. In fact many of the plants found in the Brazilian states of Parana, Santa Catarina and the area north of Porto Alegre, RGdS, can be found growing in moss. These plants include members of the subgenus *Brasiliparodia* e.g., *rechensis*, *alacriportanus*, *brevihamatus* etc. The high organic content results in a soil which has an acidic pH (between 4.0 and 6.0).



*Notocactus scopia*



*Notocactus magnificus*

## Succulent — Planters/Dish Gardens

### DIVISION III — ALLIED INTEREST (CLASS 55), PLANTER

PLANTER is defined as a random grouping of cacti or other succulent plants (or a combination of both) arranged aesthetically in one container.



### DIVISION III — ALLIED INTEREST (CLASS 56), DISH GARDENS

DISH GARDEN is defined as the art of "miniaturizing" a garden of cacti and/or other succulent plants, staged proportionately, to create an imaginary natural landscape in one container with a theme.



Best Dish Garden — 2012  
"Seascape" (Marilynn Vilas)

The possibilities are endless — get creative!!

## DATES & DETAILS —

### ➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Kathy Griffin**  
**Monique Harris**

*Editor's Note* — Member's personal information will no longer be published in the newsletter, per the decision made at the Officers & Board of Directors meeting 2/25. Any reference to contact info you will see — [SEE ROSTER]

### ➤ MINI-SHOW RESULTS — FEBRUARY

## Mini Show Winners — FEBRUARY, 2013

### Cactus — Ferocactus/Leuchtenbergia

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Leuchtenbergia principis*, Keith Taylor  
2<sup>nd</sup> *Ferocactus hamatacanthus*, Michelle Egan  
3<sup>rd</sup> *Ferocactus sp.*, Mary Schuett

### Succulent — Aeonium/Echeveria/Tacitus

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Aeonium 'Cristata Sunburst'*, Michelle Egan  
2<sup>nd</sup> *Echeveria 'ice age'*, Keith Taylor  
3<sup>rd</sup> *Aeonium sedifolium*, Bill Hagbery  
HM *Tacitus bellas*, Mary Schuett

### ➤ VOLUNTEER POSITION AVAILABLE

SCSS Members,

After 5 years as the Club Membership Chair, I would like to turn the duties over to another member. The duties involve receiving new and renewing membership forms at the monthly meetings, at the Annual Show and Sale, and at the end of the year when memberships expire. You will also be responsible to provide the information needed for the Annual Roster to the person who is responsible for producing it. The Chair is also responsible for recruiting volunteers to staff the membership table at the Annual Show and Sale. The duties are all outlined in the Position Manual which I will provide. I will also provide the new chair with all of the hard copy and computer files which I have used. I use Microsoft Word (word processing) and Excel (spreadsheet where the membership data is kept). If you are interested, please contact me. This is a great opportunity for someone who wants to do a little more to support the Club.

*George Avery, SCSS Membership Chair* [SEE ROSTER]

### ➤ SUNSHINE CHAIR

Marilynn Vilas has volunteered to be the Club's Sunshine Chair. Please convey news of a member's illness to her at either her email or telephone [SEE ROSTER] She will send a cheery card!

### ➤ MAKING POTS, THE CONCLUSION

At the August 2012 club meeting, we tried our hands at making clay pots. Keith, our Club President and an expert potter, brought in all the required materials and provided handholding for those who had never done pottery before. At our October meeting, we glazed our pots, and last month it was finally time for the grand reveal.

Considering that most members had never made a pot before, the results were great. Most people went for a free-form look; nobody attempted to make a "perfect" pot. Here are some examples:



My two pots turned out better than I had expected. I'm very happy with the rustic look I achieved. (see below)





## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)



*Gasteria liliputana*  
by Marilyn Lawson



*Agave utahensis*  
by Mara Aditajs

The main activity at the February meeting was to plant our newly finished pots. Members were asked to bring a special plant, potting soil, and top dressing. The plants I brought for my pots included a *Euphorbia decaryi* var. *spirosticha* I'd won at an SCSA raffle last year and a *Dyckia fosteriana* hybrid from last fall's [Ruth Bancroft Garden plant sale](#).



LEFT: *Euphorbia decaryi* var. *spirosticha*  
RIGHT: *Dyckia fosteriana* hybrid

And here are my finished pots:



Unidentified *Dudleya* species in a very shallow dish  
by J.D. Wikert

Candy Suter of [Sweetstuff's Sassy Succulents](#) created an impressive succulent arrangement with off-the-shelf succulents from Lowes. I think it would easily sell for \$50 at an upscale urban nursery!

Here are a few other pots I really liked:



Many happy members  
adding a plant to their  
special pot!





## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)



This was such a fun project, we will do again this year. At the August meeting we will form the pots, at the October meeting we will glaze them, and at the February 2014 meeting we will plant them.

See you potters in August!

For more photos of fully planted pots, please visit Candy Suter's blog at <http://www.sweetstuffssassysucculents.com>

– Gerhard Bock, Webmaster

### ➤ HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Installing a cell phone tower, somewhere in Arizona.



### ➤ "THERE'S NO BUSINESS LIKE SHOW BUSINESS"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS—

FRIDAY — MAY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2013

Center opens 8 am for set-up

Plants accepted 11 am to 7 pm — Doors closed promptly!

**SATURDAY — MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2013 (ANNUAL SHOW)**

Judging begins at 7:30 am

Plant Sale 9 am-5 pm — Exhibition/Show 10 am-5 pm

**SUNDAY — MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2013**

ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE — 9 am—4 pm

**ALL EXHIBITORS/VENDORS MUST PICK-UP THEIR PLANTS AND/OR EXHIBITS BETWEEN 4 PM AND 5 PM ON SUNDAY**

Keep saving flats/boxes for the Plant Sales area. You may bring them on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. They will be needed on every one of those days. We need lots!!

Plant Sales — Dennis & Ellen Ragasa are sending out a call for register help. We have two registers that will need cashiers + helpers and there are times when those two registers are backed up with customers. They will have sign up sheets at the March meeting. You may also contact them directly. [SEE ROSTER]

Schedules and Registration forms will be available at the April meeting and on set-up day. Or you may contact Ellen Ragasa, Registration Chair [SEE ROSTER]

If you work on Friday, the Club feeds you lunch.

Saturday is a Club-sponsored lunch and Sunday is potluck. So if you volunteer you will get Show Bucks to buy plants AND you will get fed—Great Deal!!

Show time is fast approaching and we need volunteers for the Sacramento C&S Show and Sale. We are giving Showbucks for your services (Friday, Saturday and Sunday. You turn them in at the cash register when you purchase plants. You will get \$2.00 per hour!

Michelle Egan is Shadow Box Chair, contact her to reserve a box available for your creation. [SEE ROSTER]

## 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](mailto:ldybugg6@comcast.net)**

Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs



Mosaic Succulent Planter

# FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, March 25th

## SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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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](http://www.sacramentocss.org)



# APRIL ♦ 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 [REDACTED]	5	6 CCAVS's African Violet Show & Plant Sale 1-4pm
7 CCAVS's African Violet Show & Plant Sale 11-3pm	8	9	10	11		
14	15 [REDACTED]	16	17	18		
21	22 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm	23	24	25 [REDACTED]		
28 [REDACTED]	29 [REDACTED]	30				

Broken Pot Succulent Arrangement by Sheila Sheddon