



# Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 54, #10

## 2nd Step of DIY Project: Glazing ♦ Monday—October 28th, 7:00 PM

There will be no guest speaker this month because October's meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the three step DIY project we began in July. Everyone enjoyed the sometimes difficult job we had in creating a different type of pot. A big Thank You to our Club President, Keith Taylor, for firing the pots. And now our pots are ready for you to glaze or stain anyway you want. The Club will provide supplies. Remember to bring hair dryers & newspapers. Don't worry if you are new to this process because most Club members were here last year and will be available to assist if you need help. Keith will take the glazed 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 a meeting in early 2014. Then we will finish the three step DIY project by planting our pots and showing off our completed project. Last year's potting night was so much fun; it is definitely something you will not want to miss!

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 extra money for the raffle. Keith always gets us such special plants and there just might be the perfect one for your new pot! This is your Club, let me know if there is anything new you would like to include at our meetings, or if you have any new ideas. Election of Officers is in November, there are no difficult jobs. Don't hesitate to volunteer for any of the positions. Club Members are always here to help if you just ask. In other words: Get involved with your club, it's fun and you learn a lot!

Heads-Up for our November 25<sup>th</sup> meeting: Our Speaker will be Aimee who is from a great nursery just up the hill in Loomis. If anyone has been to the High Hand Nursery you'll know what I'm talking about. Aimee has a great full color multiple page handout and will be furnishing our raffle plants and have plants for sale.

*Sandy Waters, Vice President and Program Chair*



Pottery by Kitoi

## President's Message

**Just a quick note:** Things that will be needed for the glaze workshop at the next meeting are—shallow boxes, newspaper and your creativity. Also those of you that made black pottery I found a glaze that will work if you would like to highlight your creation.

— Keith Taylor

### Inside this issue:

Mini Show – October	2
Dates & Details	3/5
2014 Membership	3
2013 Succulent Extravaganza	3/5
Traveling Prez	5
Calendar – November	6



2013 Succulent Extravaganza

### 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

## Cactus — Ariocarpus

*Ariocarpus* is a small genus of Mexican rock cactus (one species is found in Texas). They have curious rock-like forms and textures, and blend very well

with the soil and rocks in their native habitat. They have no spines and the rock-like texture has the side effect to reflect the heat of the sun and give them some insulation in summer.

They also have a strong turnip-like root that, according to some authors, is able to contract during drought, and somewhat pull them closer to the ground. All this camouflage has not protected them from cactus hunters, and their slow growth has made them less able to react fast enough to the changes in habitat brought by agriculture and ranching. They are all endangered and protected in their habitats. In cultivation they are extremely slow to grow, they need summer heat, and a good drainage. They are propagated by seeds. The seedlings are often grafted on other species to increase the speed at which it grows. *Ariocarpus retusus* is the largest of the genus, it is also one of the easier and faster to grow. It might still take 8 years to go from seeds to flowering size. It takes one year or more just to show the typical rosette shape.



*Ariocarpus trigonus*



*Ariocarpus retusus*



*Ariocarpus bravoanus*

## Succulent — Crassula

*Crassula* is a large genus of succulent plants containing many species, including the popular jade plant, *Crassula ovata*. They are native to many parts of the globe, but



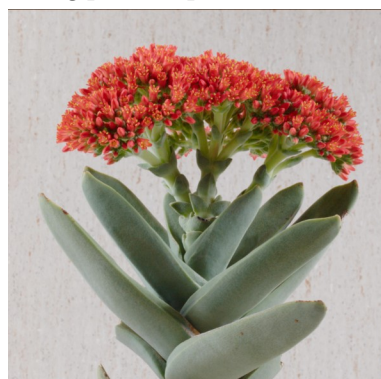
*Crassula ovata gollum*

cultivated varieties are almost exclusively from the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Crassulas are usually propagated by stem or leaf cuttings. Crassulas prefer bright light but will tolerate less.

Give them heavy soil with good drainage (some pieces of broken up brick in the bottom of the pot help), cool night temperatures and good air circulation. Drench and let dry. Even if you wait until there is a slight shriveling of the leaves before watering, they will come right back. Overwatering and sitting in water can cause root rot. Under watering is less dangerous than overwatering. Crassulas reproduce very easily from leaf and stem cuttings. Roots form more successfully if the cuttings are allowed to dry a week or more before being potted up. To make a leaf cutting, select a plump, healthy, mature leaf. Remove it from the stem with a gentle sideways pull. Place it somewhere that is warm and dry until the roots start to appear. Then pot it up. Most cultivated forms will tolerate some small degree of frost, but extremes of cold or heat will cause them to lose foliage and die.



*Crassula capitella*



*Crassula falcata*

## DATES & DETAILS —

### ➤ 2014 MEMBERSHIP

Greetings SC&SS 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](http://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 2014 SC&SS Roster which will be published shortly after. Please contact me if you have any questions/concerns.

Thanks in advance for your prompt renewals,  
Ginger Martin, SC&SS Membership Chair

### ➤ 2014 OFFICERS SLATE

The following is the proposed slate of 2014 Officers to be voted upon by the membership at the November meeting.

- ◆ President  
J.D. Wikert  
Keith Taylor
- ◆ Vice-President  
Gerhard Bock
- ◆ Secretary  
Susan Ballenger (returning)
- ◆ Treasurer  
Greg Lang (returning)

– Michelle Egan, Nominating Committee



### ➤ COUNTRY STORE REPORT

Thanks to the generous donations of Club members, the Club earned \$527 (\$341 tickets, \$186 Silent Auction) at the Country Store. Everyone went home with goodies and had a good time. Special thanks to all that donated anything from plants to food to pots to Silent Auction items. Thanks to the ticket callers. Thanks to Mara and her workmate (Sheri Romero) who made the *Sam's Sweet Shoppe* banner. And special kudos to Jane and JJ Dickey for organizing the Williams estate table. Till next year!!

– Marilynn Vilas, Country Store Chair

### ➤ AFFILIATE NEWS

[Below is a notice from the national society, Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA)]

ATTENTION NURSERYMEN: The CSSA Education Committee is developing instructional materials to

distribute to Affiliate Clubs to assist them in conducting workshops on cacti and succulents for young people. Our intent is to start building tomorrow's cactus and succulents hobbyist community. We are looking for nurseries that might be willing to offer quality discounts of small plants for such workshops. By agreeing to participate in this program you are in no way obligated to provide any specific quantities or types of plants - your level of participation is purely voluntary and on a case by case basis. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Eric Driskill, Chair, CSSA Education Committee at [ericdriskill@gmail.com](mailto:ericdriskill@gmail.com). Your willingness to contribute to the education of our youth and promotion of the cactus and succulent hobby is greatly appreciated.

– Marilynn Vilas, CSSA Affiliate Representative

### ➤ 2013 SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA



On September 27th and 28th, Succulent Gardens, Northern California's premier grower of succulents, held their 3<sup>RD</sup> annual Succulent Extravaganza at their growing grounds in Castroville. I had attended the first and second Succulent Extravaganzas and wasn't going to miss out on what has become one of the most anticipated events among succulent enthusiasts from all over California.



Last year's event was attended by several thousand people. I don't know what this year's numbers were, but it seemed to me there were slightly fewer visitors. The greenhouses weren't as crowded and the line at the cash registers wasn't as long. But that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of those



attending. This is one event where you don't have to hold back because you are among people who are most likely just as crazy as you are.

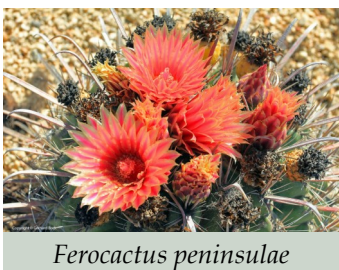
## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

Aside from the social aspect, the one thing I was most looking forward to seeing was the famous Succulent Globe. Designed by Robin Stockwell, owner of Succulent Gardens, it had been the centerpiece of the 2013 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Be sure to [read this article](#) for all the details on this amazing creation made up of 30,000 (!) succulent cuttings.

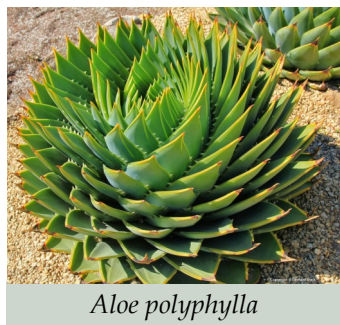


*These are some of the members of the [Succulent Fanatics](#) group on Facebook. I would have attended the 2013 Succulent Extravaganza no matter what, but being able to visit with old friends and finally meeting fellow enthusiasts whom I'd known through Facebook was the icing on the cake. (In the photo above, the guy in the dark red shirt is Robin Stockwell, the owner of Succulent Gardens and creator of the Globe.)*

But the grounds and the retail greenhouse are just one part of Succulent Extravaganza. Just as awesome are the presentations and walks. On Friday, I attended Tony Krock's talk on coring agaves; it was so groundbreaking for me that I will write a separate post about it for *Thorny Issues*.



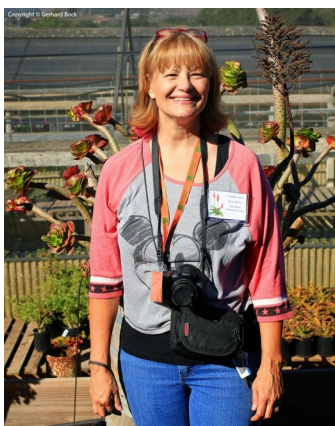
*Ferocactus peninsulae*



*Aloe polyphylla*

Another talk I attended was "The Succulent Landscape: Who, how, and Why" by Tom Jesch, owner of [Waterwise Botanicals](#) in Escondido, CA. He introduced a number of succulents that work well in landscaping applications but what I found most useful was his advice on amending your native soil: Don't. Instead of filling a planting hole with amended soil, simply use your native soil and make a mound. This

seems to fly in the face of what so many other experts say, but it's worked great in Tony's nursery where their soil is — guess what? — clay.



The most fun activity for me was the photo walk led by SC&SS's own Candy Suter. Many of you follow her on [Facebook](#) or read her blog, [Sweetstuff's Sassy Succulents](#). Candy is one the nicest, sweetest and most enthusiastic persons you will ever meet. She had quite a crowd on Saturday morning and I'm sure most people learned something new.

After Candy's photo walk I poked around behind the propagation greenhouses and found endless rows of 1-gallon succulents happily growing in the Central California sun.



*On Saturday afternoon, garden designer [Gary Bartl](#) gave a talk on "Designing and Creating a Miniature Landscape with Succulents." Unfortunately, I missed his presentation but here are several of his incredible potted arrangements. They were packed so densely with rose quartz and all manner of succulents that you couldn't see any soil. Normally I'm not a big fan of colored rocks, but I was completely seduced by the rose quartz. Maybe I was feeling its "[nourishing flow of loving energy](#)."*

Wherever I looked, I found something new I wanted. But I was very good and restrained myself. A good thing considering I have virtually no room left for new plants unless I remove something else first.

## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

I also hung out with members of the [Succulent Fanatics](#), a very active group on Facebook. We had our own table in the retail greenhouse where members could display their



potted succulent creations. On Friday evening we had a cutting exchange at the Ramada Inn in Marina where many of us were staying and I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with so many people I'd only known from cyberspace. If you're on Facebook, I strongly encourage you to join Succulent Fanatics. You learn something new every day just from reading other people's posts.

The 2014 Succulent Extravaganza will be at the beginning of October 2014. It's not too early to make plans to attend!

— Gerhard Bock

[To see even more photos from the 2013 *Succulent Extravaganza*, go to [Gerhard's blog](#).]

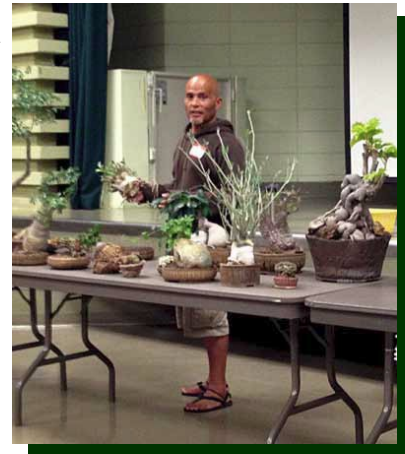
### ➤ OUR TRAVELING PREZ

[Keith Taylor presented his program "Growing & Staging Caudiciforms" for the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society's August 2013 meeting. The following are comments by Brian Kemble, SFSCS President]

It is always nice to see someone who breaks all the rules and succeeds spectacularly, as Keith Taylor does. At the August meeting he brought in some incredible show-stopping caudiciform specimens and explained his growing and potting methods. He doesn't neutralize his alkaline tap water, he never fertilizes, he re-uses his old soil when he re-pots instead of starting with fresh soil, he grows things outdoors which are not supposed to endure

the winter cold, he hacks away mercilessly at the root-stock when he re-pots so that the plant can be put into a ridiculously shallow pot – and in spite of all this he comes out with plants which win blue ribbons at shows. Nice work, Keith!

— Courtesy SFS&CS  
August & September  
2013 newsletters



*Euphorbia stellata*, before and after. This 15 year old specimen was found growing among the weeds in Keith's yard. With a little work, he turned it into a stunning show plant.

Check out Keith's blog — [Pots and Plants by Kitoi](#)

### Thought for the Month



I can smell AUTUMN dancing  
in the breeze.  
The sweet chill of PUMPKIN  
and  
crisp sunburnt LEAVES.



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



*Agave bovicornuta*  
2013 Succulent  
Extravaganza

# FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, October 28th

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

E-mail: ldybugg6@comcast.net




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)



## November, 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2 [Redacted]
3 [Redacted]	4	5 [Redacted]	6	7 [Redacted]	8 [Redacted]	9 [Redacted]
10 [Redacted]	11 [Redacted] 	12	 <div data-bbox="1237 1501 1295 1801" style="position: absolute; top: 10px; right: 10px; font-size: 8px;">           Echeveria "Rainbow" 2013 Succulent Extravaganza         </div>			16
17	18	19				23
24 [Redacted]	25 [Redacted] SC&SS Mtg—7pm	26	27	28 [Redacted]	29  HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	30