

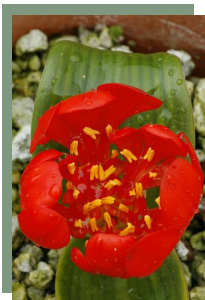


Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 55, #2

South African Bulbs ♦ Monday, February 24, 7 pm



The program at our next club meeting on Monday, February 24 at 7 pm will be about South African bulbs. Ernesto Sandoval, director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, will be talking about his experience growing South African bulbs in the Sacramento area. Come see pretty pictures of these photogenic plants and learn about their diversity in both foliage and flower as well as their horticultural needs. A lot of succulent lovers collect South African bulbs. After this program, you may join their ranks!

Don't forget your wallet because Ernesto will be bringing bulbs and other succulent beauties to purchase. The proceeds benefit the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. Nerine, Lachenallia, Albuca, Cyrtanthus and an assortment of other bulbs including a few California natives will be available. Nearly all of these species are suitable for and tested in Northern California! He'll also bring less common succulents from South Africa and elsewhere such as *Pseudolithos migiurtinus*, *Pseudolithos cubiformis*, *Dorstenia gigas*, *Dendrosicyos socotrana*, *Euphorbia*, a variety of *Haworthia* and some hardy cycads. Sounds like quite a smorgasbord! Ernesto and his students at the Botanical Conservatory grow fantastic plants, and their prices are very reasonable. Don't miss this unique opportunity!

— Gerhard Bock, Program Chair



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President's Message

Field Trip update – It was brought to my attention that some would like to go for a 2 night stay in SoCal. The proposed itinerary for 2 days would be the Intercity Show on Saturday & a visit to the Huntington Botanical Gardens on Sunday. If we go for one night it would be just the show & sale on Saturday. We would leave Sacramento at 10am Friday August 8th, arrive at hotel 5pm. Board bus 7:30 Saturday morning and depart Show at 5pm. Check out Sunday at 7:30 and depart for Huntington & leave for home at 2pm.

I have reserved a block of rooms at the Marriott Courtyard in Monrovia. Regularly priced at \$179, it would cost each member \$109 per night. The Club is covering the cost of transportation. One day costs \$3000 and a 2day excursion is \$3700. Bus capacity is 47 and we have 30 occupants so far. 20 from Sacramento and 10 from Carmichael.

I will need to reserve the bus soon, so please let me know your thoughts regarding a one or two day trip.

— Keith Taylor

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 — Cereus (any type)

Cereus is a genus of cactus. The term *cereus* is also used to describe cacti with very elongated bodies, including columnar growth cacti and epiphytic cacti.

Cereus is from the Greek and Latin meaning "torch."

Cereus genera include:

Armatoocereus,
Arthrocareus,
Cephalocereus,
Echinocereus,
Haageocereus,
Hylocereus,
Jasminocereus,
Leptocereus,
Micranthocereus, *Pachycereus*, *Peniocereus*, *Oreocereus*,
Pilosocereus, *Pygmaeocereus*, *Rauhocereus*, *Selenicereus*,
Stenocereus,

Weberbauerocereus, and
Trichocereus. *Cereus* is

a group of mostly large quick growing columnar cacti widespread in South America and also the West Indies. With white or slightly reddish flowers, that are large and nocturnal. *Cereus* species are distinguished by style

remaining attached to the fruit for some time after the perianth has become detached.

Fruit are oblong, fairly large, and hairless. The genus *Cereus* is one of the oldest cactus genera, and the circumscription varies depending on the authority.



Echinocereus triglochidiatus



Jasminocereus galapagensis



Haageocereus pseudomelanostele

Succulent — Mesembs

The Mesembryanthemaceae form a major and unique component of southern Africa's arid land flora. Succulent leaves, bright shiny-petaled flowers and hygrochastic



Pleiospilos nelii

fruit (capsules open when it rains) characterize the group. Mesembs are extremely diverse, particularly so in the Succulent Karoo Region, although they have a strong presence in the Fynbos. Some of the more primitive groups are almost entirely confined to Fynbos, suggesting that the Fynbos Biome may have acted as a mesic refuge for the semi-succulent members of this group. Mesembs are the subjects of a



Agyroderma crateriforme

huge trade in 'curiosity plants' among succulent collectors. They display features not seen elsewhere in the plant kingdom. The combination of minutism, mimicry and extreme succulence accounts for much of the variation in form and bizarre shapes that add to their appeal. Mesembs are annual to perennial succulents, ranging from minute to compact and tufted to prostrate to decumbent; herbs, dwarf shrubs, sub-shrubs or shrubs, they are rarely spiny. Mesembs comprise 127 genera and about 1 700 species,



Glottiphyllum longum

and account for 63% of southern Africa's succulent flora, and almost 10% of South Africa's Flora. The family Mesembryanthemaceae is comparable in size to the New World Cactaceae, also an arid area specialist group. Mesembs occur mostly

in the southwestern parts of the African continent, The original name given to mesembs was

Mesembrianthemum this name was chosen to describe the opening of flowers at noon.

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ ROSTER UPDATE

Bobbie Handen's birthday (February 16th) was left off of the February calendar in the January issue. So here is wishing her a wonderful birthday & our records have been updated for future reference!

— Editor, Mara Aditajs

➤ 2013 MINI-SHOW WINNERS

The points have been totaled and the winners were announced at the January meeting by the Mini-Show Chair, Ellen Ragasa. Points are earned as follows: 1st=4points, 2nd=3 points, 3rd=2 points, and H.M.=1 point. So as you can see just bringing a plant to the Mini-Show already earns you 1 point! Congratulations!!

1st — Michelle Egan

2nd — Keith Taylor

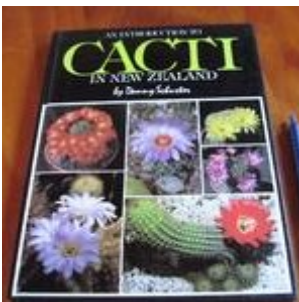
3rd — Mary Schuett

H.M. — Bill Hagbery

— Ellen Ragasa, Mini-Show Chair

➤ LIBRARY ACQUIRES TWO NEW BOOKS

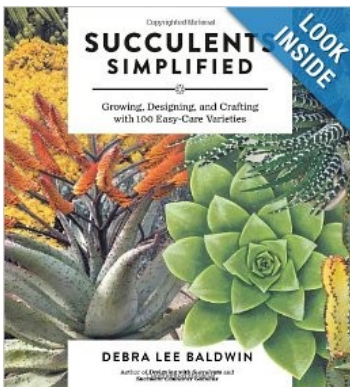
Our Club's library has recently acquired two new books through the generosity of our members:



An Introduction to Cacti in New Zealand by Danny Schuster.

This book includes a comprehensive discussion of cacti that grow in New Zealand. Superb color reproductions of specimens along with habitat and plant descriptions is the central approach by the author.

The author also feels that hobbyists should be able to raise cacti from seed and includes specific commentary by genera on this subject. Many thanks to Marilyn Vilas for this book donation.



Succulents Simplified by Debra Lee Baldwin.

We are almost all familiar with this author and her modern treatment and display of succulents and succulent container gardens. This text offers a detailed guide to growing, designing, and crafting succulents using 100 easy-care succulent varieties.

And as a bonus the author has designed three DVDs directly associated with the book. They are "Succulent Landscapes" with 370 color photos", "Succulents in Containers" with 400 photos and "Designing with Succulents Plant Palette" with 350 photos. Many thanks to Trish and Dick Bruga for this book and DVD donation.

Both books (and DVDs) will be available for your review and to check out at the February meeting.

— George Krigas, Librarian

➤ ALOES ON THE UC DAVIS CAMPUS

Many aloes on the UC Davis Campus are in full bloom now. Now is the time to visit—UC Davis is only 20 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Check out [this post](#) on my blog [LINK TO <http://goo.gl/pkp1Ba>] for information on where to go.

Here are some of the species that are at or near their peak—



Aloe africana



Aloe ferox and Aloe marlothii



Aloe arborescens

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)



Aloe hereroensis



Aloe melanacantha



Aloe microstigma

All of these aloes are growing outside with no protection so they're good choices for our area.

The best time to visit the UC Davis campus is on the weekends; parking is free on Saturday and Sunday.

— Gerhard Bock, www.succulentsandmore.com

➤ HARDINESS OF VARIEGATED AGAVES

One of the real disappointments for us have been the lack of winter hardiness of the variegated Agaves. The white tissue in the agave leaf appears to produce less sugars than the blue part of the leaf, causing it to become injured at a higher



temperature than normal. Once the white tissue is damaged, the damage spreads to the normally fine blue part of the leaf. This is a variegated leaf *Agave ovatifolia* taken today with damage already evident on the white tissue. We have some yellow variegated Agaves that don't seem to have the same problem.

(Courtesy Plant Delights Nursery, Inc. — Raleigh, NC)

➤ DIY WALL GARDEN FAVORS

We're approaching the end of our DIY wedding favor series, but I guarantee you will love our last picks as much as the first ones.

These vertical terrarium wedding favors make great gifts because they don't take any room, and are extremely easy to maintain. Who wouldn't want to bring a little bit of the outdoors to their home or office?

Supplies:

- Gravel (can be found at any pet store in the aquarium section)
- Air plants, cactus or succulents (you will need a small amount of potting soil if not using air plants)
- Moss
- spray paint
- magnetic metal tins (IKEA, Grundtal container-\$7.99/3 pack or you just need to slap magnetic tape on the back!)
- Dremel tool
- painter's tape
- E6000 glue



Directions:

Cover your tins with painter's tape before you begin spray painting the inside of them. Spray tins with 3-4 light coats until they have are opaque in solid white. While your tins are drying, remove the acrylic top from all lids by putting a small amount of pressure with your hands to pop them

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

off. Measure the diameter and mark a line with a permanent marker. Using the diamond cutter tip of your Dremel tool, slice all acrylic lids in halves (you can also try different shapes or drill holes). Lightly sand the edges using a sander tip of your Dremel tool. Place acrylic tops



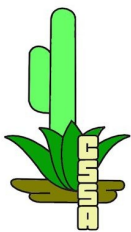
back in the metal frame of the caps and glue both pieces. We also recommend dabbing the edges of the tins with a q-tip with glue to seal the lids to prevent the weight from the gravel popping out of the containers. It took one wall terrarium to splash

gravel all over the floor for us to figure that out. Once your tins are dry from spray paint, remove tape and wash tins with water and soap. Close all tins, now with open front lids. Add gravel, misty moss and air plants. If you prefer building a closed terrarium and skipping cutting the lids, you will need activated charcoal, which can be found in the aquarium section at any pet store. Air plants won't work well in closed containers, so you may want to switch to ferns and small leafy plants.

— (Courtesy, [Ruffled](#) blog)

➤ CSSA LOGO

Have you ever wondered who designed this CSSA logo? The CSSA logo that we are so familiar with was designed by Bob McClurkin, a member of the Sunset Succulent Society based in Santa Monica, California. Well, here he is —



Courtesy, 1991 Sunset © Laurel Woodley 2013 All rights reserved — via CSSA



Bob McClurkin

➤ CACTI CUPCAKE CUTENESS!

Click below to check out a tutorial for these delectable edible house plants. And they won't hurt, except for maybe the calories!

[House Plant Cupcakes](#)



Mini Show Winners — January, 2014

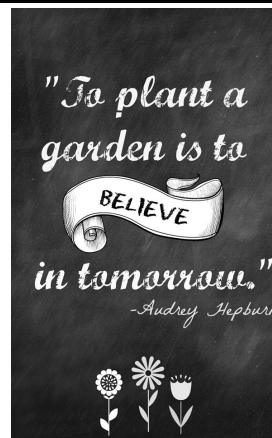
Cactus — Mammillaria

- 1st *Mammillaria geselae*, Penny Newell
- 2nd *Mammillaria perezdelarosae*, Michelle Egan
- 3rd *Mammillaria fragilis*, Marilyn Lawson
- HM *Mammillaria sp.*, Bobbie Handen
- HM *Mammillaria schwarzii*, Mary Schuett

Succulent — South African, Winter Blooming Bulbs

- 1st *Haemanthus coccineus*, Penny Newell
- 2nd *Cyclamen persicum 'Victoria'*, Michelle Egan
- 3rd *Scilla/Ledebouria pauciflora*, Mary Schuett

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



FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, February 24th

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor



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



MARCH, 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
2	3 [Redacted]	4				
9 Time to Spring Ahead	10	11				
16	17 	18 [Redacted]	19	20 The First Day Of Spring	21	22 SGAC Spring Sale/10am-4pm
23 SGAC Spring Sale/10am-4pm	24 – SC&SS mtg [Redacted]	25 [Redacted]	26	27 [Redacted]	28	29
30 [Redacted]	31 [Redacted]					

All photos of African Bulbs in this issue are courtesy of Ernesto Sandoval