



Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 55, #7

Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places



Our next meeting is on **Monday, July 28th at 7pm.** This month's speaker is a perennial club favorite and needs no introduction – Woody Minnich. (If you don't know who Woody is, [click here](#) to read a brief bio.)

Entitled "Madagascar: the Plants, People and Places," Woody's presentation will take us to one of the most spectacular places on earth where the plants, people and animals are as unusual as anywhere in the world. About the size of Texas, Madagascar is home to an estimated 6,400 species of plants and animals. You will see and hear about many of the succulent plants we find so special. Woody will also talk about Madagascar's fascinating people, the Malagasy, with their

intriguing heritage from the Malaysian, Arabian and African regions. [Click here](#) to read more about this presentation.

Woody will also provide the plants for our raffle table and bring a large selection of succulents for sale. Be sure to have your wallet with you!

Prior to the meeting, the club will take Woody to dinner at Mel's Diner, 3000 J Street. If you're free, why not join us? This would be a great opportunity to chat with Woody or pick his brains. He's a walking encyclopedia!

– Gerhard Bock,
Vice President & Program Chair



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Lemurs are a clade of strepsirrhine primates endemic to the island of Madagascar. The word "lemur" derives from the word lemures from Roman mythology and was first used to describe a slender loris due to its nocturnal habits and slow pace, but was later applied to the primates on Madagascar.

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 — Rebutia/Sulcorebutia

After the recent incorporation of the genera *Aylostera*, *Mediolobivia*, *Rebutia*, *Sulcorebutia*, and *Weingartia* into the genus *Rebutia*, there are now around 60 species of

cactus native to the eastern side of the Andes Mountains in Bolivia and Northern Argentina. They are generally small globular cacti, 4 inches in diameter or generally less (10 cm). Many species form large clusters.



Rebutia (Sulcorebutia) arenacea

The genus *Rebutia* is named after P. Rebut, French cactus dealer and expert from the 19th century. *Rebutias* bloom easily and have relatively large daytime flowers. Flowers are generally yellow to red, although some species have white ones. They

come from the lower part of the stem. Optimal growing conditions vary.

Here the old names are quite useful since they give some ideas of what to expect. All the species need a gritty, well drained, slightly acidic cactus soil.



Sulcorebutia purpurea

All the species need a gritty, well drained, slightly acidic cactus soil.

They also need strong light, although generally not too much direct sunlight. They need good watering in summer, but you should allow the soil mixture to dry out between watering. Many *Mediolobivia* grow large tap roots and are best suited to a deeper than normal pot and gritty cactus compost. The plants from the original genus *Rebutia* are fairly cold resistant and will take some frost.

The *Sulcorebutia* on the other hand are generally less cold resistant. The *Weingartia* are less rot-prone than other species, and are the least frost resistant. *Rebutia* are



Sulcorebutia steinbachii v. tintinensis

propagated by seed or offsets. The seeds should be less than 12 months old.

Succulent — Haworthia/Gasteria

Haworthia is a large genus of succulents from South Africa. They are characterized by a small 2-lipped white flowers. They are all rosette shaped succulents, although



Haworthia retusa

some have rather grassy leaves. Some can add leaves until they are somewhat columnar, while other remain as flat rosettes. Some have translucent 'windows' at the end of their leaves, and some of the

photosynthesis occurs inside the leaf that is filled with a translucent jelly. The nomenclature of *Haworthia* is continuously changing, fueled by how different clones of the same plant can look as a function of their growing conditions, and also fueled by the ease with which many species interbreed. *Haworthia* need light shade to shade to grow well. They like a regular watering in summer and they should be kept drier in winter. There are many variations in their watering needs depending if they are originally coming from an area with rains in summer or in winter. Incorrect watering often results in the plant losing its roots. The plant doesn't look very healthy and feels loose when touched. The plant should be removed from its soil. The roots should be cleaned, and then the plant needs to be set in a pot with new soil. *Haworthias* will not take frost, but most species will survive. Propagation for many species is done easily by separating offsets, for others that offset slowly or not at all, seeds are the way. Leaf cuttings are possible for some of the species (generally with thick leaves).



Gasteria carinata

Gasteria contains about 20 species of South African succulents related to the *Aloes*. The flowers have a characteristic shape, and their shape is very important in the classification of *Gasterias*. The name

Gasteria comes from the Latin for 'stomach', and refers to the shape of the flower. When trying to identify a *Gasteria*, it is important to notice that juvenile *Gasterias* have very different shapes and colors from the adult specimens.

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ SUNSHINE CORNER

The Society has received a thank you note from Jeanne Lemkuil, quote: “Dear Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society, Thank you very much for your donation to the Sacrament Garden & Arts Center in memory of my mom, Pearl Lemkuil. And also many thanks for the plaque in her honor as well. It was very nice of you to do this and your efforts are greatly appreciated. Mom dearly loved her cactus and succulents and always enjoyed the club – the activities, presentations, show and the members. Thanks again, Jeanne Lemkuil.” Speaking for the entire club, Pearl is missed. Jeanne’s card with a copy of Pearl’s Memorial Service bulletin will be available at the next meeting.

– Marilyn Vilas, Sunshine Chair

➤ 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 and Houseplant Tables. Staying indoors and cleaning closets? Save your extraneous cacti/succulent themed items for the Silent Auction. All this happens at the September meeting!

– Marilyn Vilas, Chair

➤ GREG STARR’S AGAVE PRESENTATION

On Monday (6/23), agave expert extraordinaire [Greg Starr](#) gave a presentation entitled “Agaves as Living Sculptures” at the [Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society](#) (SCSS). Greg had traveled all the way from Tucson, AZ especially for this talk, and I was thrilled to see so many people show up – not just club members, but new faces as well. There’s no better validation for a speaker than a large turnout, and we certainly had that.



Before the start of Greg’s presentation there was ample time to admire – and buy! – the plants he had brought. It goes without saying that Greg brought a good selection of agaves, including some rarities like the much sought-after and stunningly beautiful [Agave victoria-reginae](#) ‘Snow Queen’ and an [Agave petrophila](#), which I managed to

appropriate. But he also brought a variety of cactus, including *Astrophytum*, *Ferocactus* and *Echinocereus*. Greg’s talk focused on a dozen select species (*Agave bovicornuta*, [gentryi](#), *montana*, *multifilifera*, [ovatifolia](#), *parryi*, [schidigera](#), *striata*, *stricta*, *victoria-reginae* and *zebra*) to illustrate the range of sizes, shapes and textures that exist in the agave kingdom. In breathtaking photos he took us to Mexico – the epicenter of all things agave – and described some of his adventures photographing agaves in habitat. When Greg got to *Agave zebra* (he presented the species in alphabetical order) I knew that he was almost done, but I could easily have listened to him talk for another hour. In addition to being a veritable fount of knowledge, he also has a wicked sense of humor, and he had the audience in stitches more than once. I can’t recall the last time I enjoyed a plant-oriented presentation more. I hope we will have a chance to welcome Greg back to Sacramento soon for another exciting talk on agaves.

– Courtesy, [Succulent and More](#) (June 25, 2014), Gerhard Bock

Mini Show Winners — June, 2014

Cactus — Opuntia/Pereskia

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1 st | <i>Opuntia strobiliformis</i> , Michelle Egan |
| 2 nd | <i>Pereskia aculeata</i> ‘Tricolor,’ Marilyn Vilas |
| 3 rd | <i>Opuntia</i> sp., George Avery |

Succulent — Senecio/Kleinia

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 st | <i>Senecio tropaeolifolius</i> , Keith Taylor |
| 2 nd | <i>Senecio articulatus</i> , Steve Goodman |
| 2 nd | <i>Kleinia semperviva</i> , Marilyn Vilas |
| 3 rd | <i>Senecio angulatus</i> , Michelle Egan |

Thought for the Month

“If you have a plant and a garden,
you have everything you need.”

– Marcus Tullius Cicero



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.



Agave victoriae-reginae
'Snow Queen'

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, Monday, July 28

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

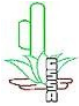


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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Click on the 3 links below to go directly to our website, Facebook, or the CSSA website

www.sacramentocss.org



AUGUST, 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		<p>© 2014 Gerhard Bock www.succulentsandmore.com</p> <p>I don't know what Greg was demonstrating to SCSS member Oksun Avery in the photo above, but it must have involved a very large agave! (Courtesy, Gerhard Bock)</p>		1	2	
3	4		7	8	9	
10	11		14	15	16	
17	18		21	22	23	
24	25 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm		28	29	30	
31						