



# Thorny Issues

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 55, #6

## Agaves: Living Sculptures ♦ Monday, June 23rd—7pm



Our next club meeting on June 23rd at 7 pm will be all about Agaves. Uniquely beautiful and useful plants, Agaves are at home in a variety of landscaping schemes and combine well with other perennials that make do with little water. However, many gardeners know very little about these “woody lilies” from Central and South America. This month’s presenter, Greg Starr from Tucson, AZ, will shed light on these very special plants. In his presentation entitled “Agaves: Living Sculptures,” Greg will talk about his 20+ year passion for Agaves and how

they can serve as a focal point in a modern drought-tolerant landscape. Greg is a leading proponent of xeriscaping in the American Southwest. He owns and operates Starr Nursery, which specializes in agaves, cactus, and xeric shrubs. He has traveled extensively in agave country, both in Mexico and the United States, to study and photograph agaves in their habitats. Greg’s most recent book is *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers* (Timber Press, 2012).

Greg will bring plants from his nursery, including a large selection of agaves, and he will sell & sign his book and provide the raffle table. Be sure to bring your wallet ☺.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about this very special presentation. It would be great if we had a great turnout since Greg will come all the way from Tucson just for us!

And if you have time before the club meeting, please join us at 5 p.m. at Mel’s Diner at 3000 J St for an early dinner with Greg.

– Gerhard Bock, Vice President and Program Chair

## President’s Message

Not much to say, just a reminder that the room reservations need to be made by July 18th for the Club Trip to the 2014 Intercity Show & Huntington Gardens.

**Start date:** 8/8/14 (Friday) and **End date:** 8/10/14 (Sunday)

**Last day to book by:** 7/18/14 – Marriott hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

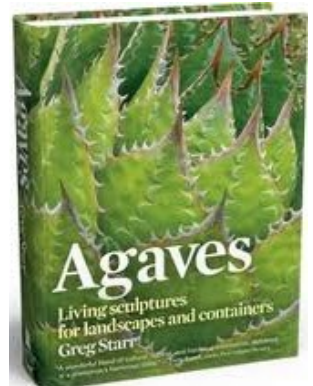
**Courtyard Los Angeles Pasadena/Monrovia**, for 109.00 USD per night

[Book your group rate: Sacramento Succulent and Cactus Society >>](#) or call Tara [626-531-8002](tel:626-531-8002)

– Keith Taylor

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Greg’s book can be found in our library

### 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 — Opuntia/Pereskia

*Opuntia* is a very large genus of cacti, varying in size from 2 inches tall (5 cm) miniature plants to 100 feet tall (30 m) trees. They are native from Canada, to Chile and Argentina. The genus has been split several times, but there doesn't seem to be a consensus yet on the best way to do that. The name *Opuntia* comes from the name of a Greek city, *Opus*, where, according to Theophrastus, an edible plant grew which could be propagated by



*Opuntia ovata*

rooting its leaves. All *Opuntias* not only have normal spines, but they also have thin barbed spines barely visible, named glochids. These can get stuck in your skin and be very irritating. In

some species, they are particularly light and can become airborne when the *Opuntia* is moved. Wetting the plant before handling it might be a good prevention. *Opuntias* often have large, colorful flowers. The fruit (prickly pears) is also large and generally edible.



*Opuntia basilaris*

*Pereskia* is a genus of about 16 species of primitive cacti originating from Mexico to Brazil. Very primitive cactus, they have leaves and are generally not considered succulent. They are



*Pereskia grandifolia*

deciduous shrubs, small trees, or even climbers. The genus is named after Nicolas-Claude Fabri de Peiresc, a 16th-century French botanist, which also has been given its own subfamily Pereskioideae, which consists of this one genus. Several species will take some frost. Most species will burn out in the hot sun if they don't have afternoon shade in summer. Large flowers bloom in summer, followed by a berry-like fruit.

## Succulent — Senecio/Kleinia

*Senecio* includes over 1000 species from all over the



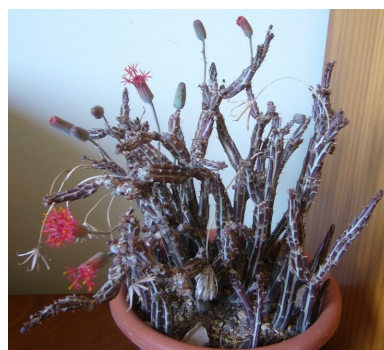
*Senecio mandraliscae*

world. A large number of these species are common perennial or annual weeds, but some are succulent and caudiciforms from tropical and subtropical areas. A number

of succulent relatives have now been moved to the genus *Kleinia*. The flowers of *Senecio* are arranged in clusters at the top of the plants; they vary in color from white and yellow, to red and purple. Most succulent species tolerate no frost.



*Senecio scaposus*



*Kleinia stapeliiformis*

*Kleinia* is a genus of flowering plants in the Asteraceae family. It is a genus of about 40 species that were previously included in the genus *Senecio*. They were separated in the 1980s based on microscopic differences in the flower structures. This change is still

somewhat controversial, although supported by most botanists specialized in the group. Many *Kleinia* are winter growers.



*Kleinia fulgens*

Book your room NOW for the **fabulous**

# ***Intercity Succulent Show***

**August 9 & 10, 2014 ♦ LA Arboretum**

**FREE ride to & from Los Angeles**

A room at the Marriott for only \$109 a night\*\*

[Book your group rate: Sacramento Succulent and Cactus Society >>](#)

Let us know when you're all set  
bleshie2@gmail.com (Martha Bleshman)  
caudex.one@gmail.com (Keith Taylor)

**\*\* the Marriott has given us a July 17th deadline  
to reserve a room at the group rate**

➤ **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Sean Barry  
Sandra Denny  
Catherine Dunwoody  
Jerry Friis  
Joseph, Lyn  
Lillie Kramer  
Sally Murchison  
Karla & Philip, Tom & Charlotte Nemeth  
Victor H. Rosario  
Tony & Denise Simpson  
Devyn & Tracy Stanger  
Sharon Wentz

➤ **SUNSHINE CORNER**

Dick Bruga, our propagator extraordinaire, was recently hospitalized with severe pneumonia. He is home and recuperating for 6-8 weeks. The Club has sent a get-well card and, if you wish to send a cheery card, his address is in last year's roster. Remember to notify me if any Sunshine needs to be sent. My address can be found in last year's roster.

— Marilyn Vilas, *Sunshine Chair*

➤ **IN MEMORIUM—JOEL HORNSTEIN**

Joel Hornstein passed away on May 24, 2014. Born in Brooklyn, New York on October 2, 1935.



Joel is survived by his wife, Linda; and daughter Eileen; brother Martin Hornstein and wife Shelia; son-in-law Jim Peifer and grandson Scott. Joel is also survived by several nieces and nephews he loved dearly. Joel was preceded in death by his parents

Maurice and Helen Hornstein.

Joel spent time in the Army as a Biological Sciences Assistant and was honorably discharged in 1964. He graduated from New York University and San Jose State and then went to work at Sonoma Co. Health Dept. He received his masters in Public Health Lab while later attending UNC. He worked in Atlanta Georgia for two years before moving back to California where he worked for 29 years as Sutter Co. Director of Public Health Lab until his retirement in 2000.

Joel loved to travel with his wife, photography, painting, and raising Orchids. His true love was always bird watching. He was a member of Chico and Sacramento

## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

Orchid Societies, many bird clubs, and the Public Health Lab Association.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to American Heart Association or the Redwood Regional Orthenology in Sonoma County. Joel was loved by all and will be greatly missed. Services will be held on July 11th—1 pm, at Twin Cities Chapel, 715 Shasta Street., Yuba City, Ca. 95991, (530)673-4630. All are welcome.

*(Published in Appeal Democrat – May, 30th)*

### ➤ SUNSHINE CORNER, PART 2

Again it is with great sadness that we must say good-bye to another member. As seen in the obituary above, Joel Hornstein has passed away. Joel and his wife Linda have been SC&SS members for several years. They were both very helpful in setting up our May Show & Sale this year and frequented meetings even though they traveled from Yuba City. Our sincere condolences go to Linda & their family. A sympathy card has been sent to the family.

*– Marilyn Vilas, Sunshine Chair*

### ➤ COUNTRY STORE 2014

Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Country Store will be held Monday, September 22, at the usual meeting date and time. This is our fundraiser as all materials are donated. It is structured like a giant raffle with different stations: Cacti, Other Succulents, House Plants, Garden and Produce, Silent Auction and Sam's Sweet Shoppe. Everyone purchases tickets and deposits the stub in the canister at the station of choice. Then numbers are called and winning members select the plants/items they want. Now is the time to start planning for your donation(s): Extra zucchini plants for that bread; extra cuttings/pups for the Succulent/Cacti tables; dividing plants in the garden? Save some for the club; cleaning out that garage or closet? Throw C&S related items in a box for the Silent Auction; save and make those cookie/sweet bread recipes for the Sweet Shoppe. More on this as the summer continues.

*– Marilyn Vilas, Chair*

### ➤ CACTUS BLOOMING APP

Quite a while ago, I started taking photos of my blooming cactus plants, mostly to keep track of them, but also to stretch out the all-too-short time enjoyment time. I later started emailing the photos to people along with a description of the plant. Several Club members get these photos and seem to like them.

One of my sons recently designed a free app for these photos. If you install it, the background image on your

phone or tablet will always be a lovely cactus bloom that changes automatically every day or two. I'd like to invite anyone who's interested to give it a try. Since it doesn't cost anything, you have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

The only bad thing is that the app only works on Android phones and tablets, not on iPhones and iPads. You have to install two programs, both free. The first is a generic program called Muzei that runs wallpaper programs. You can get it by going to [www.muzei.co](http://www.muzei.co) and following the directions there. To get the actual Cactus of the Day app, you go to [app.cactusoftheday.com](http://app.cactusoftheday.com).

If you have trouble installing either one, you can ask any teenager for help. Or you can give me a call or send me an email. My contact information is in the club roster.

If you'd just like to see what the photos look like, you can see a few of them at my website



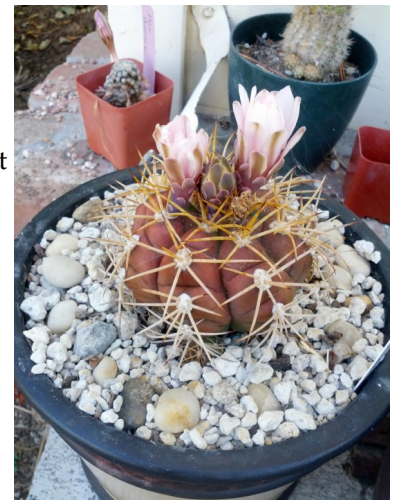
Left—*Micranthocereus densiflorus*  
Right—*Pyrrhocactus andreanus*

[www.cactusoftheday.com](http://www.cactusoftheday.com). You might even recognize some of the plants from club meetings. (Yes, Ron, one of them is a raffle plant that you donated to the club.) I'd also be happy to put anyone who just wants to see the photos on my email mailing list. Just contact me at [cobordism@gmail.com](mailto:cobordism@gmail.com).

*– Tom Flynn*

### ➤ JJ'S BLOOM' CACTUS

When JJ Dickey entered this plant in the May Show the blooms were just buds. So he wanted to share his winning plant in full blossom with us. Congratulations JJ on a terrific plant!! JJ was awarded BEST CACTUS JUNIOR, for his *Gymnocalycium chiquitanum*.



## DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

### ➤ MORE BLOOMING PLANTS



Look what's blooming in Greg Luteff's garden! Aren't those gorgeous blossoms? As Greg said, "I love this time of year. It is the pay-off for all of cactophiles — all of these fabulous plants in bloom for us to enjoy!" Thanks for sharing with us Greg.

### ➤ EVEN MORE BLOOMING PLANTS

My son Nicholas bought this lovely little *Gymnocalycium* a year ago at a retail outlet not specializing specifically in cactus & succulent plants. He bought it because he saw a "blossom" and was thrilled. When he showed it to me I told him that the "blossom" was in reality a glued on strawflower. What a



horrible thing to do! Well, Nicholas and his family moved to Iowa not long after and left his plant in my care. I very gently removed the hot-glued strawflower, transplanted it to a new pot, and hoped for the best. A year later it produced two very real blossoms, proving that there is life after hot-glue!

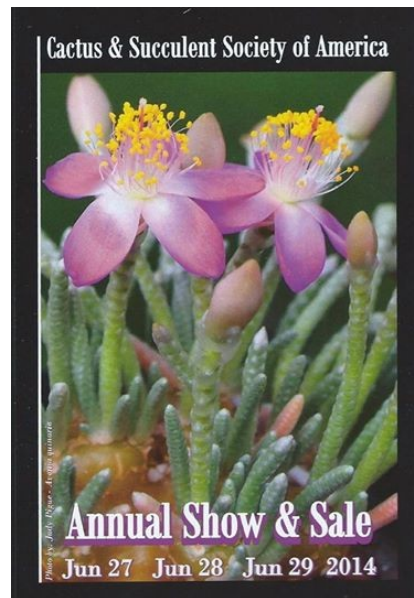
— Mara Aditajs

### ➤ 49TH CSSA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

49th CSSA Annual Show and Sale — JUNE 27-29, 2014  
Huntington Botanical Gardens  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

Free admission for CSSA Members and C&S Society members to the show and sale only (not the Huntington main garden and library) NOTE — C&S Club members: You must wear your club name tag and special sticker issued by the HBG. Early-Bird Plant Sale: Friday, 10:30 – 4:30 p.m. Show & Sale: Sat. 10:30 to 4:30, Sun. 10:30 to 4:00

Hundreds of award-winning plants will be on view as the Cactus and Succulent Society of America presents its 49th annual show and sale. Rare specimens from around the world will be showcased, including plants native to Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Botswana, Madagascar, and the Middle East. The juried competition will also include categories for photography, paintings, crafts, and dish gardens. Plants and related items will be available for sale both days, with an early-bird plant sale Friday, noon–4:30 p.m. Friends' Hall.



## Mini Show Winners — May, 2014

### Cactus — Your Favorite

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Ariocarpus agavoides*, Keith Taylor  
2<sup>nd</sup> *Ferocactus sp.*, Mary Schuett

### Succulent — Your Favorite

- 1<sup>st</sup> *Aloinopsis rubrolineata*, Keith Taylor  
2<sup>nd</sup> *Agave potatorum crest*, Mary Schuett

Thought for the Month

"I was just sittin' here  
enjoyin' the company.  
Plants got a lot to say, if  
you take the time to listen."  
~Eeyore



### 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



2013 CSSA – Best in Show

# FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, June 23rd  
 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)



## JULY, 2014

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 [Redacted]	4 [Redacted] 	5
6 [Redacted]	7	8	9	10	11	12 [Redacted]
13 [Redacted]	14	15 [Redacted]	16 [Redacted]	17	18 Deadline to make hotel reservations for trip to Intercity Show & Gardens August 8-10	19 [Redacted]
20 [Redacted]	21 [Redacted]	22	23	24 [Redacted]	25	26
27 [Redacted]	28 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm	29	30	31 [Redacted]		