

# Thorny Issues

next meeting 11.24.2014

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society NOVEMBER 2014 | Volume 55, XI



ELECTIONS!  
DIY PUMPKIN SUCCULENTS  
POTTERY WITH KEITH  
NOVEMBER MINI SHOW

Sweetstuff



Pottery by Kitoi

## *An exciting November Program!* **POTTERY WITH KEITH TAYLOR**

*T*he fun continues with our October/November pottery program. Last month, members got to test out their creative juices and create wonderful clay pots, which will make lovely homes to future cactus and succulents!

This month we will glaze and stain the creations we made in October. Glaze and stains will be provided, as well as brushes, sponges and gloves. Keith will bring boxes and newspapers. Please bring a hair dryer. At a future club meeting (either January or February) we will plant the pots we've made. Stay tuned. Check out Keith's creations at: [potterybykitoi.weebly.com](http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com)

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
POTLUCK PARTY!  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH**

Come celebrate with us at the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Christmas party! The fun starts at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm for setup) The club will provide the turkey. Please bring your favorite side dish, salad or dessert to share. If you wish to participate in the great gift exchange, please bring a gift (not more than \$15) and share in the festivities! Happy Holidays!

# UPCOMING NOVEMBER CACTUS & SUCCULENT MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Marilynn Vilas

## Cactus • Schlumbergia (Christmas Cactus)

These plants, also known as “Epiphany cacti”, “Easter cacti”, or just “Holiday cacti”, are hybrids between *Zygocactus truncatus* and *Schlumbergia* species. Growers have been hybridizing these cacti since the Victorian era. Each consists of a series of flat stem segments with branching at segment joints. There are fine hairs at the top of each segment with are vestigial spines. The parental species are epiphytes from the South American rainforests that grow on trees in pockets where organic material accumulates. These hybrids enjoy a richer potting mixture and need more water than most other cacti. One can use peat-base mixtures or even the bark mixtures used by orchid growers. With the latter, one must water even more often. In late summer, let the plants rest with little water and no fertilizer, placing in diffused bright light. Bud production is affected by day length and temperature.



From Gerhard Bock's Blog: *Euphorbia x martinii* close-up. The chartreuse colored “petals” are actually bracts, not part of the flower. The true flowers are the tiny star-like structures you can see toward the top of this stalk.

## Succulent • Euphorbia and Jatropha

Euphorbia is a genus of flowering plants belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae. Consisting of over 2000 species, Euphorbia is the fourth largest genus of flowering plants. Members of the family and genus are commonly referred to as spurges. First described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753, the family is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas but also in temperate zones worldwide. The botanical name is derived from Euphorbus, the Greek physician of King Juba II of Numidia (52-50BCE – 23AD). The plants are annual or perennial herbs, woody shrubs or trees all with a caustic, poisonous milky sap or latex. All members of the Euphorbiaceae have unisexual flowers. In Euphorbia, these are greatly reduced and grouped into pseudanthia called cyathia. The most common ‘euphorb’ is the greatly hybridized Christmas poinsettia. Jatropha is member of the Euphorbiaceae. Its name is derived from the Greek words meaning ‘physician’ and ‘nutrition’, hence the common name ‘physic nut’. Most are native to the Americas. Plants produce separate male and female flowers and contain compounds that are highly toxic. Uses of specific Jatrophas range from basket making, red dyes, tanning leather, animal feed (if detoxified) and biodiesel. In some areas of the world, plants are invasive. We prize the caudiciform types such as *J. capensis*, *J. cathartica*, *J. cuneata* and others.

**OCTOBER  
MINI SHOW WINNERS!**

### Succulent: Bromeliads

1st *Dyckia* sp, Mary Schuett  
2nd *Dyckia* sp, Michelle Egan

### Cactus: Ferocactus/Leuchtenbergia

1st *Ferocactus latispinus*, Michelle Egan  
2nd *Leuchtenbergia monstrose*, Mary Schuett

# FESTIVE DIY PUMPKIN SUCCULENTS DECOR!

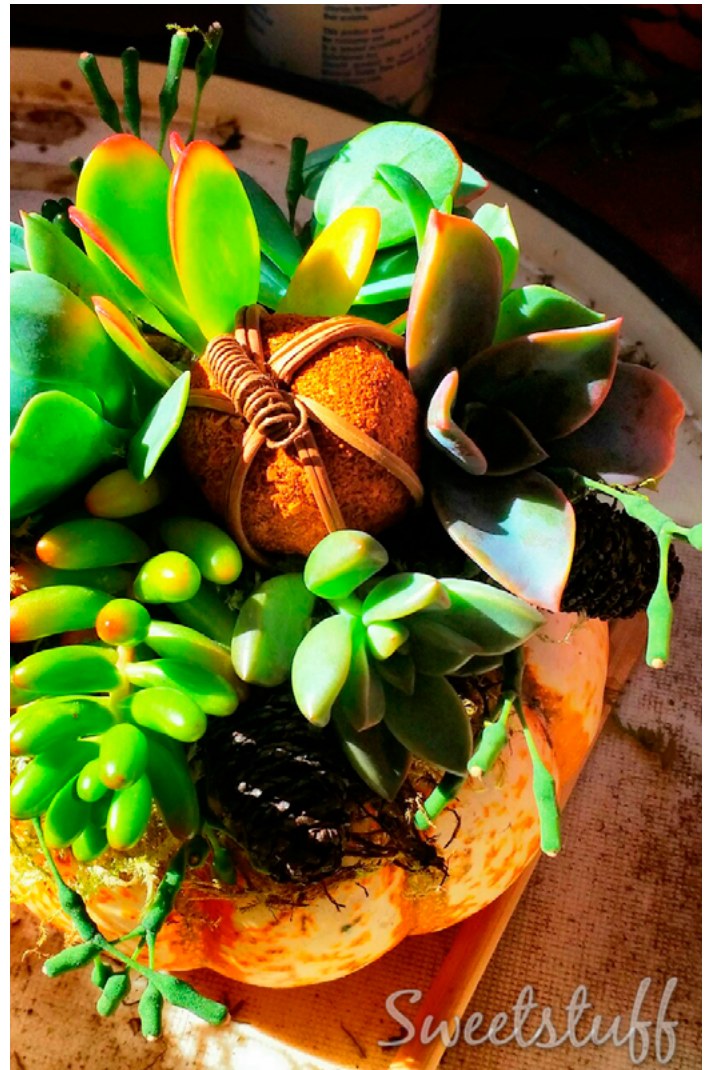
Story and photo by Candice Suter

If you came to the last meeting you probably saw the Succulent pumpkins I had on display. I recently wrote an article in the Sacramento Bee Connect section on how to make these yourself. Then [Good Day Sacramento](#) contacted me to do a live segment on their show. What a blast that was. It aired Live on October 27th. I got to show everyone something they could do with pumpkins and succulents.

They look fabulous on your table or anywhere you want a splash of color and holiday spirit. And they can last for months. I don't carve out the pumpkin and add dirt. They wouldn't last very long if I did that. I glue moss on the top of the pumpkins and then actually glue cuttings on top of the moss. The succulents will start growing right in the moss.

Care of your creation is pretty easy. I keep mine on my front porch when not using inside the house. Spray the top so the moss gets wet once a week. Do not place in hot sun or let freeze. When the pumpkin starts to rot scrape the plants off the top and plant. They will already have roots!

If you don't want to make your own I would be happy to help you out. I try to incorporate a large variety of succulents in the arrangements. Contact me at [sweetstuff1957@gmail.com](mailto:sweetstuff1957@gmail.com). Large pumpkins (which take over an hour to make) are \$50.00. Smaller pumpkins are \$15.00. Harvest or Christmas whatever you want. Please visit my [Facebook page](#) and blog at [Sweetstuff's Sassy Succulents](#).



## Don't Forget Your Badge!

New S.C.S.S. name badges have finally been redesigned and approved by the board! All S.C.S.S. members must turn in their old badge in order to receive a new one. A new replacement will be issued **FREE OF CHARGE**. Please bring your old badges to the monthly meeting so a new one can be ordered. This was a decision passed by the board and is a one-time only replacement. The current green and white badge with the capitol and cactus logo can no longer be worn due to a possible copyright dispute. Any member who never has had a badge is welcome to purchase a new redesigned badge for \$10.00. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November Meeting. Sign up with Michelle Egan at the next meeting or call at (916) 424-5233.



## NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

The Nomination Committee has put forth this slate of nominees:

Keith Taylor - President  
Gerhard Bock - Vice President  
Susan Ballinger - Secretary  
Greg Lang - Treasurer



Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
[www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

For publication submissions email:  
[succulentcrazy@gmail.com](mailto:succulentcrazy@gmail.com) by the 8th of the month

## MEETING DETAILS

### Next Meeting Monday, November 24th

The Sacramento Cactus  
and Succulent Society meets the  
4th Monday of each month at 7:00PM  
Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
center phone: (916) 808-8800

*No official meeting in December  
parking available around the back of the building*

## Don't Forget to RENEW Your Membership!

Check out the included membership form!

Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year. Dues are payable November 1st and delinquent as of December 31st. Please don't forget to renew! Dues go to the SCSS programs, newsletters and activities.

## Mr. Prickly Pear's

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"When the trees their summer splendor  
Change to raiment red and gold,  
When the summer moon turns mellow,  
And the nights are getting cold;  
When the squirrels hide their acorns,  
And the woodchucks disappear;  
Then we know that it is autumn,  
Loveliest season of the year."  
-Carol L. Riser, Autumn*



**Some inspirations for your holiday decor!**