

next meeting 10.27.2014

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society OCTOBER 2014 | Volume 55, X



The latest  
succulent  
& cactus  
news!

OCTOBER MINI SHOW  
COUNTRY STORE REPORT  
SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA

NEW BADGES  
ELECTIONS COMING SOON!

Pottery by Kitoi



Keith inspiring a young potter. Photo from Keith Taylor.

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

Our President, Keith Taylor started making pottery in 2008 when he could not find the right sized pot for his *Cyphostemma juttae*. Ever since then he has developed a unique and beautiful style of his own. He's been featured in Bonsai magazines in the US as well as Europe, creating a demand for his unique containers with cactus, succulent and bonsai hobbyists. We're very excited to have Keith lead a pottery class for the October 27th and November 24th meetings. Members will be making and glazing their very own pottery! As in previous years, Keith will graciously provide all the supplies (clay, glazes, etc.). Each member will get one pound of clay to play with - enough to make a couple of pots. Additional clay will be available at \$5 per pound. Members should bring newspaper and a flat box for safe transport back to Keith's place as well as a hair dryer, small plastic tub (for water), pencil, rolling pin, bowls (for molding), skewers (tooth-picks), objects to add textures and your imagination. Check out Keith's creations at: [potterybykitoi.weebly.com](http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com)

## UPCOMING OCTOBER CACTUS & SUCCULENT MINI SHOW



### Cactus • Ferocactus/Leuchtenbergia

Ferocactus is a genus of large barrel-shaped cacti, mostly with large spines and small flowers. There are about 30 species in the genus. They are found in the Southwest United States and Northwest Mexico. Most are solitary heads but a few (*F. robustus* and *F. glaucescens*) form clumps. All species have stout spines, some of them especially thick and heavy and may be hooked or straight. As desert dwellers, they can cope with intense heat and some frost, in their very arid habitat. Flowers come from the top of the plant, often forming right around the apex. Flowers vary from yellow to red and are funnel shaped opening from between 1 and 2 inches in diameter. Some common species: *F. cylindraceus*, *F. echidne*. *Leuchtenbergia* are relatives of *Ferocactus* but has only one species, *L. principis*. It is native to north-central Mexico. The genus is named after Maximilian Eugen Joseph, Duke of Leuchtenberg and amateur botanist. It has a cylindrical stem that, with age, becomes corky and bare at the base. It has long, slender grayish-green tubercles with purplish-red blotches at the tips and papery spines. The plant resembles an agave. Large showy yellow flowers may be borne at the youngest tubercle tips.



*Ferocactus glaucescens* (blue barrel cactus). Photo by Gerhard Bock.



*Puya venusta*. Photo by Gerhard Bock.



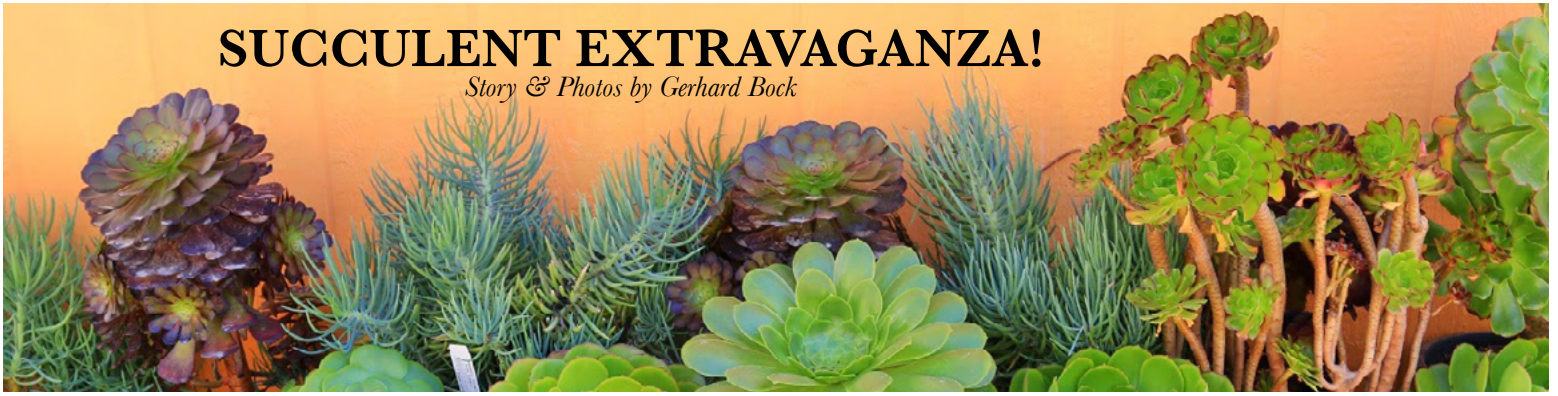
*Puya alpestris* flower. Photo by Gerhard Bock.

### Succulent • Bromeliads

The Bromeliaceae (bromeliads) are a family of monocot (= grasses, bulbs) flowering plants of 3200 species native mostly to the tropical Americas. Within this family is an order that has 'inferior ovaries' with epiphytic species (Spanish moss or *Tillandsia*) and terrestrial species such as the pineapple (*Ananas*). Many bromeliads are able to store water in a structure formed by their tightly overlapping leaf bases, known as 'tank habit'. The family is diverse to include everything from Spanish moss to desert-dwelling species with the largest being *Puya raimondii* and the smallest is Spanish moss. Foliage is usually a rosette, widely patterned and colored, with different shapes from needle-thin to broad and flat, symmetrical to irregular, spiky to soft. Their inflorescences also range widely in color and size with the *Puya* being 30+ feet tall. Some even have scents. A variety of organisms live in the water of the 'tank habit' bromeliads, including salamanders, tree frogs, insects and small crabs! A recent evolved group of plants, they have adapted by forming trichomes, scales or hairs that allow them to capture water in cloud forests and reflect sunlight in desert environments. Bromeliads use CAM photosynthesis so they photosynthesize at night to prevent water loss during the day. Common bromeliad genera we usually grow: *Dyckia*, *Tillandsia*, *Billbergia*, *Hechtia*.

# SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA!

Story & Photos by Gerhard Bock



I took well over 300 pictures at the recent 2014 Succulent Extravaganza held at Succulent Gardens in Castroville, CA, and it took much longer than expected to go through them all. If you haven't been to a Succulent Extravaganza, or haven't seen my posts about previous years' events, you're in for quite a treat. Succulent Gardens is the premier succulent nursery in Northern California, growing more than 400 different varieties on three acres just a few miles from the Pacific Ocean.

For this year's Extravaganza, Succulent Gardens invited a select group of landscape designers to create demonstration gardens that focus primarily on succulents while still reflecting their own aesthetic. With few exceptions, all the plants came from Succulent Gardens' inventory.

The gardens were installed in various spots on the nursery grounds. Rob-in Stockwell, the former owner of Succulent Gardens (the new owners took over in early October), led tours of the installations that gave the designers the opportunity to talk about their work.

The gardens will be maintained by the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners, and volunteers will document and chronicle the gardens' progress over the course of the year. The 2015 Succulent Extravaganza will be built on these installations although no further details have been revealed yet.

To read more about the Succulent Extravaganza, check out Gerhard's blog [www.succulentsandmore.com/2014/10/2014-succulent-extravaganza-wrap-up.html](http://www.succulentsandmore.com/2014/10/2014-succulent-extravaganza-wrap-up.html)



*This stacked flagstone bench by Andrea Hurd was the most talked about installation and my favorite.*

## New Sacramento CSS Name Badges!

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 Oct. meeting and following meetings. Sign up with Michelle Egan at the next meeting or call at (916) 424-5233.



## Sunshine Report

It is with great sadness to convey the passing of Clara Littlefield. Clara was a long time member and unfortunately had to stop attending meetings due to health issues. She and her husband, Gene, maintained Littlefield's Cactus Nursery in Rio Vista, a gorgeous greenhouse facility with pristine specimens, both for sale and in her personal collection. Clara and Gene supported the club generously each year being plant vendors at the annual show and sale. I will always remember her for her delightful southern accent and her lovely turquoise jewelry. Our condolences to the family. - Marilyn Vilas, Sunshine Chair.

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

## MEETING DETAILS

### Next Meeting Monday, October 27th

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*

### Interested in being more involved in the SCSS?

You can volunteer to run for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or be on the nominating committee. Make your dreams of being a succulent cactus leader come true! Elections coming up in November. For more information contact Keith (707) 290-0627 or email [caudex.one@gmail.com](mailto:caudex.one@gmail.com)

### THE RECAP: Country Store Report



Photo by Gerhard Bock

Again our club members outdid themselves with generosity. Our annual club fundraiser earned \$630 (\$321 tickets, \$309 Silent Auction). Lots of great plants and other goodies went home with new owners and the club coffers were greatly enriched. Thank you to all that donated everything from plants to food to pots to Silent Auction items. Thank you to the ticket buyers and ticket callers. A special thank you to Jeanne Lemkuil for sharing her Mom's collections with us. Pearl would have enjoyed the evening. Until next year!

*-Marilynn Vilas, Country Store Chair*

### Other Newsworthy Cactus & Succulent News

Keith Taylor was the recipient of the **Punctured Thumb Award** during the August Meeting! Congratulations Keith!

Don't forget the UC Davis Fall Plant Sale is happening again on **Oct. 25th** 9am-1pm. For more information and directions go to: [arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant\\_sales\\_and\\_nursery.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant_sales_and_nursery.aspx)

**Don't Forget to  
RENEW Your  
Membership!**

Check out the included  
membership form!

*Go Green! Please consider having your  
newsletter emailed!*

## Mr. Prickly Pear's

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"The greatest gift of the  
garden is the restoration  
of the five senses."  
Hanna Ron*

Have a prickly quote? Email the editor!