

Thorny Issues

Next Meeting
MONDAY
June 22

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society June 2015 | Volume 56, VI



JoEllen by Lenore Ralston



JUNE PROGRAM

Our next meeting on Monday, June 22, will feature a special presentation by our club's own JoEllen Arnold. Join JoEllen on a small boat cruise through the Galapagos Islands, where we will visit the fascinating flora and fauna of these desert islands which lie on the equator off the coast of Ecuador. They are home to cactus species which provide food and shelter to many of the endemic species of animals on the islands, none of which are shy around humans. Expect close encounters with sea lions, marine and land iguanas, penguins and pelicans, mockingbirds, finches, albatross and boobies, and of course, the giant tortoises for which the Galapagos Islands are named. These photos are just a teaser of what you will see!

—Gerhard Bock, Program Chair

JUNE SUCCULENT AND CACTUS MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman.
Photos by Gerhard Bock

Succulent • STAPELIA / HUERNIA / HOODIA

Even though the Mini Show Master schedule says June succulent is *Stapelia* I have decided to include 2 other genera, *Hoodia* and *Huernia*. The genera of plants within the tribe *Stapeliaceae* are all to varying degrees stem succulents. Many of the species resemble cacti, though are not closely related, as an example of convergent evolution. The stems are often angular, mostly four-angled in cross-section, but in some species there are six or more, with some species of *Hoodia* having more than thirty angles. In size they vary from less than 2.5 cm/1" in length to over 2 m/6" tall. The leaves are in most species reduced to rudiments, sometimes hardened and thorn-like, arranged on bumps or tubercles on the angles. *Stapeliads* are most abundant in warm, dry climates. In Africa, there are two separate regions where *Stapeliads* have most diversified: northeast Africa, and Southern Africa. Several species are endemic to the small island of Socotra off the Horn of Africa. The Arabian Peninsula, and most specifically the country of Yemen, contain another concentration of species. Several more are found in the drier parts of Pakistan, Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Myanmar. Most *Stapeliads* use flies as pollina-



Toad cactus (*Orbea variegata*)



tors, that are attracted to odours resembling dung or rotting meat, emanating from the flowers leading to the common name of carrion flower. However, not all *Stapeliads* smell bad, or attract flies. Some species use beetles, bees, wasps, butterflies or moths as pollinators. *Stapeliad* flowers range in size from mere millimetres in species of *Echidnopsis* and *Pseudolithos* to those of *Stapelia gigantea* that can reach 40 cm/16" in diameter, and are some the largest of flowers to be found on any species of succulent.

MAY SUCCULENT & CACTUS MINI SHOW WINNERS

SUCCULENT: ANY GRAFTED

1st: *Euphorbia lactea crest*, Steve Goodman
2nd: *Euphorbia lactea crest*, Michelle Egan

CACTUS: ANY GRAFTED

1st: *Ceres species crest*, Michelle Egan
2nd: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii 'Hibotan'*, Steve Goodman



PUNCTURE THUMB AWARD

If you missed the Potluck on May 20, you missed the opportunity to see an almost speechless **Michelle Egan** as she accepted this year's Punctured Thumb Award. Congratulations, Michelle, on all your hard work for the club.

-From the club board.

Cactus • REBUTIA & SULCOREBUTIA

Rebutia and *Sulcorebutia* were long considered to be separate genera but they are now generally considered to both be in the genus *Rebutia*. There are now around 60 species of *Rebutia* and/or *Sulcorebutia* 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 less (10 cm). Many species form large clusters. 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



Rebutia krainziana



Sulcorebutia bicolor

from the lower part of the stem. Optimal growing conditions vary. In this regard 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. 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. 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 and more prone to overwatering. *Rebutia* are propagated by seed or offsets. The seeds should be less than 12 months old.



ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE COMING SEPTEMBER!

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

—Marilynn Vilas, Chair

SUNSHINE REPORT

Sunshine: Know someone in the club under the weather (Aren't we all with this heat!). Let Marilyn Vilas know so she can send a cheer-up card. She can be reached by email or telephone (see roster).

50th ANNUAL CSSA SHOW & SALE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

Friday June 26-28th.

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.

Friday, 9:00 am –4:00 p.m

Show and Sale: Sat. 10:30 am to 4:30, Sun. 10:30 to 4:00 pm

Hundreds of award-winning plants will be on view as the Cactus and Succulent Society of America presents its 50th 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, Friday, noon–4:30 p.m. Friends' Hall.



MAY SHOW SCHEDULE UPDATE

The May Show Committee would like to update and possibly redo the plant registration schedule to be more current and user-friendly. If you have any ideas and/or suggestions, please convey to Marilyn Vilas.

MONTHLY RAFFLES

For those new members! Every meeting we have a fun raffle of various cactus and succulents. Buy your tickets at the beginning of the meeting to try your chance on some great succulents to add to your growing garden!

SCSS MEMBERSHIP

Thank you succulent enthusiasts for renewing your membership! New guests are invited to join! Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
SCSS (Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society)

MAIL TO: Ginger Martin,
9199 Locust St.,
Elk Grove CA 95624
Questions: 916-685-1032 or
gingermartin@mac.com

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Next Meeting
Monday June 22, 7:00pm

Shepard Garden & Arts Center
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www.sacramentocss.org



*For publication submissions email:
succulentcrazy@gmail.com by the 5th of the month*