

Next Meeting  
**MONDAY**  
**November 23**

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society November 2015 | Volume 56, XI



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM POTTERY WITH KEITH TAYLOR

*A*t our next meeting on Monday, November 23 we'll continue with the pottery fun. Keith has fired the pots you made in October, and now it's time to really get creative. Keith will bring a large selection of glazes (and some stains) as well as brushes, sponges and gloves. All you need to bring is your imagination—and ideally a hair dryer so your glaze dries faster (important if you want to do multiple applications). At a future club meeting (either January or February) we will plant the pots we've made. Stay tuned for more details.

In the meantime, check out Keith's creations at [potterybykitoi.weebly.com](http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com).

Please note there is no meeting in December, instead come to our Christmas Potluck December 4th  
—Gerhard Bock, Program Chair

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS  
POTLUCK PARTY!**  
**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**  
**6PM**

Come celebrate with us at the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Christmas party! The fun starts at 6pm (doors open at 5:30pm 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, wrapped or unwrapped) and share in the festivities! Happy Holidays!

# NOVEMBER SUCCULENT AND CACTUS MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Steve Goodman. Photos by Gerhard Bock

## Succulent • ALOE

Aloe is a genus containing about four hundred species of succulent flowering plants. The most common and well known of these is probably *Aloe vera*, or “true aloe”. The genus is native to Africa, and is common in South Africa’s Cape Province, the mountains of tropical Africa, and neighboring areas such as Madagascar, the Arabian peninsula, and the islands of Africa. The Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II system (2003) placed the genus in the family *Asphodelaceae*. In the past it has also been assigned to families *Aloaceae* and *Liliaceae*, or the lily family. Members of the closely allied genera of *Gasteria*, *Haworthia* and *Kniphofia*, which have a similar mode of growth, are also sometimes popularly known as aloes. Note that the plant sometimes called *American aloe* (*Agave americana*) belongs to *Agavaceae*, a different family. Most *Aloe* species have a rosette of large, thick, fleshy leaves. The leaves are often lance-shaped with a sharp apex and a spiny margin. *Aloe* flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple



*Aloe littoralis*



Flowering *Aloe suprafoliata*

or branched leafless stems. Many species of *Aloe* appear to be stemless, with the rosette growing directly at ground level; other varieties may have a branched or unbranched stem from which the fleshy leaves spring. They vary in color from grey to bright-green and are sometimes striped or mottled. Some *Aloes* native to South Africa are arborescent (characteristics of a tree; treelike). *Aloe* species are frequently cultivated as ornamental plants both in gardens and in pots. Many *Aloe* species are highly decorative and are valued by collectors of succulents. *Aloe vera* is used both internally and externally on humans, and is claimed to have some medicinal value.



## OCTOBER SUCCULENT & CACTUS MINI SHOW WINNERS

### SUCCULENT: KALANCHOE

1st: *Kalanchoe marnieriana*, Carolyn Allen  
2nd: *Kalanchoe bryophyllum*, Rudy Aguilar  
3rd: *Kalanchoe beharensis*, Steve Goodman

### CACTUS: ASTROPHYTUM

1st: *Astrophytum ornatum*, Rudy Aguilar  
2nd: *Astrophytum 'Lotusland'*, Mary Schuett



## Cactus • MAMMILLARIA

There are around 300 species of *Mammillaria*. Most are native to Mexico, although some are native to the southwestern USA, the Caribbean, Central America, with a few in northern South America. In their range you can find *Mammillarias* from sea level to high elevations. They also vary in size from miniatures 1" in diameter, to columnar types 1' tall. The name *Mammillaria* comes from the Latin for "nipple", because the areolas (structures carrying the spines) are carried by nipple like structures called tubercles instead of being organized on ribs like many other cacti. Another significant difference from most cacti is that the flowers are not coming from the areola, but from the area at the juncture of 2 tubercles. As could be expected from so many species, their growing requirements are quite varied. Many species are easy and fast to grow and will bloom while young, this is why they are very popular. Some are quite hardy while others will rot easily if kept too cold. All of them require excellent drainage. This is more easily accomplished by using a good cactus soil mixture, and a shallow pot. In general the *Mammillarias* bloom easily, but many species need a rest period in winter during which they are kept cool in order to bloom. Furthermore flowers form a ring on tissue grown the previous growing season, so it is important to get them to grow every year, which means regular watering.



*Mammillaria spinosissima*



*Mammillaria prolifera*



*Mammillaria microhelix*



# SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**Next Meeting Monday November 23rd, 7:00pm**  
**No Meeting in December • Christmas Party Dec 4th! 6pm**

Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
3330 McKinley Blvd  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
center phone: (916) 808-8800

[www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)

For publication submissions  
email: [succulentcrazy@gmail.com](mailto:succulentcrazy@gmail.com)  
by the 5th of the month

## Don't Forget to Renew! SCSS MEMBERSHIP

We have a new membership chair! Thank you Oanh Vu for volunteering.

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.

Please fill out the membership form and mail to Oanh Vu.

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

**MAIL TO:**  
Oanh Vu  
8837 Monterey Oaks, Elk Grove CA 95758  
Any questions? email: [oanhthai@yahoo.com](mailto:oanhthai@yahoo.com)

**Vote**  
**NOVEMBER  
ELECTIONS**

The Nomination Committee has put forth this slate of nominees:

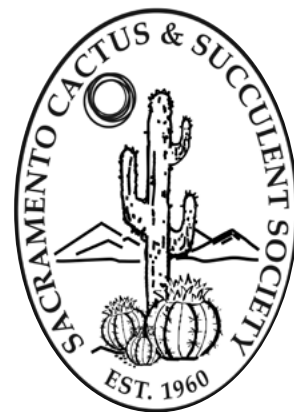
Steve Goodman - President  
Mariel Dennis - Vice President  
Gerhard Bock - Secretary  
Greg Lang - Treasurer  
Ed Egan - Board Member  
Joe Samora - Board Member



*Palo blanco.* Read more about this desert tree from [Gerhard's blog!](#)

## SCSS NAME BADGES

Any member who never has had a badge is welcome to purchase a badge for \$10.00. Sign up with Michelle Egan at the next meeting or call at (916) 424-5233.



## SCSS Membership Form

(Renewal fees are due beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, and NO later than December 31<sup>st</sup>.)  
*For accuracy, Please print clearly!*

NAME (S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ eMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDAY (month & day only): \_\_\_\_\_

Receive Newsletter by: (Select One) eMail  USPS

Membership Enrollment: NEW  RENEWAL

Membership Type: INDIVIDUAL \$15  FAMILY (2 or more) \$20

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

**MAIL TO:** Oanh Vu, 8837 Monterey Oaks, Elk Grove CA 95758

**Questions:** oanhthai@yahoo.com

<b>Chair use only:</b> Check # _____ Check \$ _____ Cash \$ _____ Date _____
--