

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

April 2016

Volume 57, IV

April Program

GETTING READY FOR THE MAY SHOW

Ahhhh. The Merry Month of May is just around the corner. Now is the time to start preparing for the Annual Show and Sale, which is this month's program. Marilyn Vilas will take us through the Show Schedule, dates and times of the show weekend, how to fill out your registration form, and how to prepare your plants with a short critique from a judge's eye. The Show Chairs will be there with their sign-up sheets. Publicity Fliers, Show Schedules, and Registration Slips will be available. Have questions? Bring your plant(s) for answers. Audience participation is encouraged! Marilyn has been a member of the Club since 1978. Over the years, she has been President of the Club, Show Chair, and chair of numerous committees. She has participated in every show except one since 1978, going from Novice to Advanced, and has also judged shows. If you have questions, Marilyn should have the answers!

Shadowbox Competition

Display your creativity with special cactus or succulents you want to show off! Only 5 spaces are available. Shadowboxes are judged on a peoples' choice vote at the show. The shadowbox with the most votes wins \$25. This year's theme is "Olympic Moments."

If you are interested in doing a shadowbox display for the May show, please sign up at the April meeting or call Michelle Egan at (916) 424-5233.



March Mini-Show Winners

CACTUS

1st: *Cephalocereus senilis*, Michelle Egan
2nd: *Oreocereus celsianus*, Ellen Ragasa
3rd (tie): *Oreocereus sp.*, Gene Wiggins & *Oreocereus celsianus*, Rudy Aguilar

SUCCULENT

1st: *Pseudolithos harardheranus*, Michelle Egan



Aloe ramosissima | Photo by Gerhard Bock

More information about the 56th Annual Cactus & Succulent Show inside the newsletter and at the April meeting...

May Show DOs and DON'Ts

- **DO** read the show schedule and familiarize yourself with dates and times.
- **DO** bring your plants in on Friday, May 6 as early as possible after 11 AM. All plants must be in place by 7 PM.
- **DO** sign up for at least one committee at the April meeting. Areas that always need help: Plant Sales, Plant Hotel, Hospitality, Security, Membership, and Refreshments. Chairs will be at the April meeting with their sign-up sheets. The club feeds all volunteers!
- **DO** collect and save boxes/flats for the Plant Sales. Costco, Sam's Club, grocery stores, etc., are good places to collect. Give the boxes/flats to Steve or Dennis.
- **DO** wear your name badge. Not all of us know who everyone is, and this helps break the ice. No name badge? There will be stick-on ones available.
- **DO** use white registration slips for Division III (planters, dish gardens, etc.) regardless of whether you are a novice, junior, open or advanced.
- **DON'T DON'T DON'T** water or apply pesticides to your plants the week before the show.
- **DON'T** remove any of your show plants before the Sunday 4 PM closing time.
- **DON'T** take home that beautiful rosette ribbon you win for Best in Show. The Club reuses them each year.
- **DO** take home the smaller ribbons you win.
- **DO** bring a dish to share for the Sunday potluck lunch.
- **DO** help with kitchen clean up all three days.
- **DO** vote for your favorite shadowbox.
- **DO** come to work, have fun, get to know your fellow Club members, and buy plants for next year's show. It's lots about *camaraderie* (and just a little about competition).

—Show Committee



Photo by Gerhard Bock

Announcements

Help recruit new members at the May show!

Oanh Vu is looking for volunteers for the Membership Table for both Saturday and Sunday. Please see Oanh at the April meeting to sign up.

Eats and Drinks Refreshments volunteers are needed for the monthly meetings. Please see Stephanie Reali at the next meeting to sign up to bring goodies and drinks for one of the upcoming meetings. (Don't worry — snack costs are reimbursed!)

Need a badge? There's still time to order a badge and get it for the May show. Only \$10. Please see Michelle Egan at the April meeting or call her at (916) 424-5233.

Show Notes Publicity fliers, show schedules and plant registration tags will be available at the meeting. There will also be sign-up sheets for Plant Hotel, Hospitality, Refreshments, Shadowboxes, Plant Sales Cashiers, and more. Support the club over our busy weekend and eat free on Friday, set-up day!

April Mini-Show

CACTUS: ANY GRAFTED CACTUS



Grafted Cactus

Grafted cactus are created when two different living plant tissues are joined together to form a single composite plant. This is generally done when the top plant (known as a scion) has a weak root system and isn't strong enough to grow on its own. For the lower half of the graft, a stronger cactus species is used (known as the rootstock) and is a new food source for the scion. *Hylocereus* and similar types of jungle cactus are used as a hardy rootstock source. Grafting is also done to perpetuate clones that don't do well when propagated from cuttings or asexual propagation techniques.

Other reasons for grafting are to obtain a disease and insect resistant rootstock, provide a source of chlorophyll for cactus that are unable to produce it on their own, provide a stronger root system to crested cactus, promote faster growing to some slow growers, or create unusual and interesting growth forms. The "Moon Cactus" or "Hibotan" (*Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*) are the most commonly known. They come in bright reds, yellows, oranges and pinks, all lacking their own chlorophyll. 98% of all "Moon Cactus" are produced in Korea. "Ruby ball" or "red caps" are a common *Gymnocalycium* grafted onto *Hylocereus*. Unfortunately, these plants tend to last only a few years due to the tender tissues of the graft.

SUCCULENT: SANSEVERIA OR SANSEVERIA

Sanseveria are in the Agavaceae family. They are also commonly known as mother-in-law's tongue, devil's tongue, jinn's tongue, bowstring hemp, snake plant, and snake tongue. Sanseveria was originally named by Petagna in honor of his patron Pietro Antonio Sanseverino. However, the spelling was changed later to Sanseveria for the prince of San Severo.

There are about 70 species, which are native to Africa, Madagascar and southern Asia. There are multiple varieties, which include a dwarf type of Snake plant known as "Birdsnest Sanseveria" (*Sanseveria trifasciata* 'Hahnii'), which is low growing and has a rosette form of growth. The leaves of other African species are used in the production of fiber for making rope. *S. chorenbergii* sap has antiseptic qualities and is used in first aid for bandages. Sanseveria are also used for air purification in rooms since they are able to absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen at night. Sanseveria have lovely sturdy foliage and make excellent houseplants. They can tolerate some low light but prefer bright light. They can go long periods of time with little or no watering. Propagation is done by clippings or separating the rhizomes that are produced at the base of the plant.



Sanseveria suffruticosa | Photo by Gerhard Bock

Upcoming Events

FIELD TRIP TO UC DAVIS BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY – MAY 14

On Saturday, May 14, join SCSS members and meet at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. The Conservatory is open to the public for a plant sale from 9 AM – 1 PM. Director Ernesto Sandoval will give us a special tour of the cactus and succulent collection starting at 10 AM, with a special sale of cactus and succulent plants for members. The University greenhouse features an expansive collection of diverse plants from around the world. Meet at 1 Shields Ave, Davis, CA 95616. Follow campus signs for parking. Parking fees may apply (pay your own, please).

Plans are in the works for a trip to the UC Berkeley Arboretum followed by a visit to nearby Dry Garden nursery in late summer. Stay tuned as details are firmed up. If you have any other suggestions for outings or meeting topics/speakers, please send them to Mariel.

–Mariel Dennis, Vice President

ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK DINNER – MAY 18

The Annual Awards Potluck will be held May 18th. Set-up starts at 6:30 PM, with dinner at 7 PM and festivities at 8 PM, including the presentation of the Punctured Thumb Award. Families & guests of members are welcome.

Assignments (by first letter of last name): A – G Desserts | H – R Main Dishes | S – Z Salads

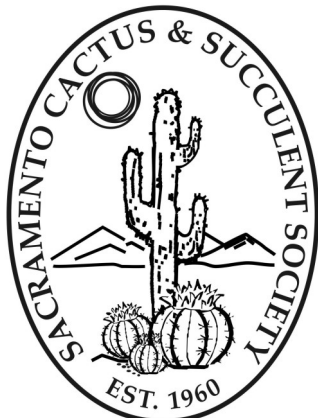
Please bring a dish to serve 8–10 people. Beverages will be provided by the Club. Please bring silverware, napkins, and plates for yourself and your guests.

–Steve Goodman, President

Meeting Details

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 4th Monday of each month at 7 PM.

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



Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society
presents the 56th Annual

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW



MAY 7, SATURDAY

9 AM – 5 PM (PLANT SALE)

10 AM – 5 PM (EXHIBITION)

MAY 8, SUNDAY

9 AM – 4 PM (PLANT SALE & EXHIBITION)

FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • PLANT SEMINARS

FREE PLANT EACH DAY TO THE FIRST 50 GUESTS!