

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2016

Volume 57, V

## May Program

### MAY 18 POTLUCK • AWARDS • RAFFLE • MINI-SHOW

Club members worked hard putting on another great Show, as well as throughout the entire year. Now let's celebrate with our Annual Awards Potluck Dinner. Everyone is welcome, especially those new members who enjoyed our Show so much they decided to join the Club! This is one of our two potlucks each year and besides our love of plants, we love good food and conversation. Come visit, dine, and relax as we present the coveted Punctured Thumb Award.

Potluck 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.

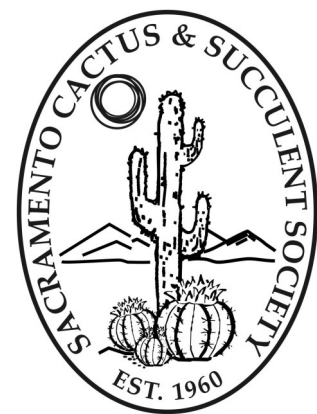
*See page 3 for the May mini-show cactus and succulent descriptions.*



#### Punctured Thumb Award

Well, it's that time of year again when the Punctured Thumb is awarded. Obviously, this refers to all of us removing those darn spines from whatever finger they have punctured. Somehow, thumb works best in this case. The premise of the award is to acknowledge a member(s) who has contributed much time, effort, sweat, blood and tears to the club. Each year someone new receives this and it is a surprise to the recipient. Come to the potluck to see who is surprised, embarrassed and speechless when fellow members bestow this coveted prize. Never a dull moment!

—Your Club Board



**See inside for highlights and pictures from our May Show and Sale, a huge success made possible by the hard work and dedication of our Club members, vendors, and volunteers!**

## Thank You from our Show Committee

**Congratulations and Thank You to all – Exhibitors, Volunteers, & Vendors – for a Great 2016 Show and Sale!!** Again the Club has sponsored a beautiful, award-winning show. First to thank are Steve Goodman and Dennis Ragasa, who did an outstanding job of organizing all the vendors and keeping the sales flowing smoothly. **THANK YOU, STEVE and DENNIS!!** We could not finance the show without our vendors. This



year we had 12 plant vendors and 3 pottery vendors. **THANK YOU ALL!!** Gerhard Bock herded the Plant Hotel, a very lively and busy area. **THANK YOU, GERHARD!!** Most of the Club's plant table, (money goes directly to club) was propagated and arranged by Trish and Dick Bruga with additions from various members. **THANK YOU, TRISH, DICK AND CONTRIBUTORS!!** Stephanie Reali took on the task of feeding us lunch on Saturday, with the Club and members contributing to meals on Friday and Sunday. Jane Dickey kept us going with morning fare. **THANK YOU, STEPHANIE and JANE!!** Without the various volunteers throughout the weekend, the Show would not be possible. Give yourself a big pat on the back if you volunteered for anything. **THANK YOU, MARIEL DENNIS,** for coordinating the volunteers. Keith Taylor, our Show Chair, did an outstanding job of set-up and staging. He also made all the pots for the Best... awards. **KUDOS TO KEITH!!** Ellen Ragasa supplied the plant registration slips. **THANK YOU, ELLEN!!** Without exhibitors there would be no show. For each of you who brought in even one plant, consider yourself a winner. The public appreciated each and every plant. The Shadowboxes were delightful with interpretations of this year's theme, "Olympic Moments." **THANK YOU, MICHELLE!!** The Shadowbox competition winner was **CHER'E PETERSON!!** We salute Ed Egan, our watchful Security person and his crew. **THANK YOU, ED AND CREW!!** JoEllen Arnold was both Judge and Clerk Chair. She kept the clerks and judges on their toes determining those final awards. **THANK YOU, JOELLEN!!** Marilynn Vilas handled award placement and ribbons. **THANK YOU, MARILYNN!!** Keith Taylor staged the arrangement. No one would come to the Show without publicity. Joe Samora did these honors with outstanding results. See the attendance numbers. **THANK YOU, JOE!!** Taking membership money and dispensing information was Oanh Vu and her crew. **THANK YOU, OANH!!** Jackie Bosquin did an outstanding job on designing and printing our attractive Show flyer and schedule. **THANK YOU, JACKIE!!** Lou Grubaugh, Erica Crosby, Mara Aditajs and Steve Goodman did the signage. **THANK YOU LOU, ERICA, MARA AND STEVE!!** Our treasurer, Greg Lang, keeps the money flowing and the bills paid. **THANK YOU, GREG!!** A big thanks goes to our Center monitors, **MABEL AND CHRIS!!**



If your name wasn't mentioned, please forgive us. You know who you are and what you did. **A SPECIAL THANK YOU ALL!!**

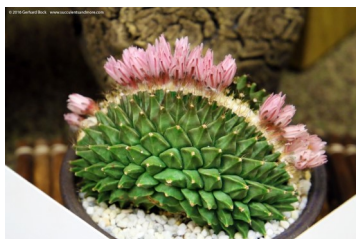
—Show Committee



## 2016 BEST IN SHOW AWARDS

|                          |                                              |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| BEST PLANT IN SHOW       | OBREGONIA DENEGRII CREST – BILL MUNKACSY     |
| BEST CACTUS ADVANCED     | MELOCACTUS GLAUCESCENS – PENNY NEWELL        |
| BEST SUCCULENT ADVANCED  | FOCKEA EDULIS – KEITH TAYLOR                 |
| BEST CACTUS OPEN         | THELOCACTUS PHYMTOTHELOS – ELTON ROBERTS     |
| BEST SUCCULENT OPEN      | ADENIA SPINOSA – PETER WALKOWIAK             |
| BEST CACTUS NOVICE       | ECHINOPSIS ‘RAINBOW BURST’ – RUDY AGUILAR    |
| BEST SUCCULENT NOVICE    | AGAVE KISSHO KAN – GREG LUTEFF               |
| BEST CACTUS JUNIOR       | NONE                                         |
| BEST SUCCULENT JUNIOR    | NONE                                         |
| BEST CEREUS              | ECHINOCEREUS ENGELMANII – PETER BEIERSDORFER |
| BEST DISH GARDEN         | ‘MOTHER GAIA IS REBORN’ – GEORGE AVERY       |
| BEST PLANTER             | ‘CASCADING ELEGANCE’ – DONNA TAYLOR          |
| BEST OPUNTIA             | OPUNTIA WHITNEYANA – PETER BEIERSDORFER      |
| BEST EUPHORBIA           | EUPHORBIA CLANDESTINA – KEITH TAYLOR         |
| BEST CAUDICIFORM         | FOCKEA EDULIS – KEITH TAYLOR                 |
| BEST MINIATURE SUCCULENT | ECHEVERIA SP. – PENNY NEWELL                 |
| BEST MAMMILLARIA         | MAMMILLARIA MELALEUCA – PETER WALKOWIAK      |
| BEST FEROCACTUS          | LEUCHENBERGIA PRINCIPIS – KEITH TAYLOR       |

*Awards continued on page 4*



### 2016 Show Statistics

- Cactus: 117
- Other Succulents: 293
- Planters: 12
- Dish Gardens: 2
- Bonsai: 6
- Nature's Container: 3
- Living Composition: 4
  
- Public Attendance: **3,318** people passed through our gate! A record for our club if not for the Center too!! Well done everyone!!

## 2016 BEST IN SHOW AWARDS (CONT.)

|                                   |                                                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| BEST ALOE                         | ALOE PEARSONII – PENNY NEWELL                         |
| BEST AGAVE                        | AGAVE KISSHO KAN – GREG LUTEFF                        |
| BEST CRASSULA                     | CRASSULA BARKLYI – PETER BEIERSDORFER                 |
| BEST ARIOCARPUS                   | ARIOCARPUS TRIGONUS – KEITH TAYLOR                    |
| BEST GYMNOCALYCIUM                | GYMNOCALYCIUM MIHANOVICHII – BILL MUNKACSY            |
| BEST HAWORTHIA                    | HAWORTHIA ‘JIM SMITH HYBRID’ – DAVID CALIBO           |
| BEST MADAGASCAN SUCCULENT         | ALOE CASTILLONIAE – NAOMI BLOSS                       |
| BEST CREST                        | OBREGONIA DENEGRII – BILL MUNKACSY                    |
| BEST REBUTIA                      | SULCOREBUTIA ARANACEAE – BILL MUNKACSY                |
| BEST CACTUS COLLECTION            | NONE                                                  |
| BEST SUCCULENT COLLECTION         | EUPHORBIA MEDUSOID/GLOBOSE TYPES – PETER BEIERSDORFER |
| BEST MINIATURE CACTUS             | COIAPPOA TENUISSIMA – PETER BEIERSDORFER              |
| BEST COIAPPOA                     | COIAPPOA SERPENTISULCATA – PENNY NEWELL               |
| BEST MESEMB                       | MESTOKLEMA ARBORIFORME – PETER BEIERSDORFER           |
| BEST SANSEVIERIA                  | SANSEVIERIA PATENS – DENNIS RAGASA                    |
| BEST VARIEGATE (CACTUS/SUCCULENT) | ECHEVERIA ‘LENORE DEAN’ – DAVIS CABILO                |
| BEST NOTOCACTUS                   | NOTOCACTUS MAGNIFICUS – OKSUN AVERY                   |

### Shadowbox Awards

1st: Cher’e Peterson  
 2nd: Sandra & Veronica Brookshaw  
 3rd: Patty Whitmire  
 Honorable Mentions: Michelle Egan  
 and Sue Ballenger

Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all who participated in the Shadowbox competition! All of the entries were fun and creative. We had a total of 452 votes cast between 10am and 2pm, a record number of voters!



Show Photos by Gerhard Bock with exception of hummingbird on page 3



## May Mini-Show

### CACTUS: REBUTIA/SULCOREBUTIA

The genus *Rebutia* is a group of small and freely flowering cacti that can form large clusters and are found from Bolivia to Argentina. A common name for them is “Crown Cactus.” They flower in colors of red, orange, yellow, white, pink, and purple. *Rebutia* now includes the genera *Weingartia* and *Sulcorebutia*. Unlike *Rebutia*, *Weingartia* tolerate frost, cooler conditions, and lower light levels but not intense light and high temperatures, whereas *Sulcorebutia* won't tolerate the cold as much but will tolerate higher temperature and brighter light. However, with their tuberous roots, *Sulcorebutia* can be prone to rot. Do not place *Rebutia* in full sunlight if they are to be grown outdoors. *Rebutia* are relatively easy to grow and are very rewarding with their abundance of brightly colored flowers produced in the spring at the base of the plant.



*Rebutia muscula*

### SUCCULENT: ANY VARIEGATE



Member Penny Newell's *Euphorbia lactea* 'Variegata' crest from May 2016 show | Photo by Gerhard Bock

Variation can occur naturally or in cultivation. The term “variegation” refers to a variety of color on leaves, stems, branches, flowers, and even seeds that is generally caused by the lack of chlorophyll. The lack of color can range from total lack of pigmentation (producing white) to shades of yellow. Colors other than green, (e.g., red, purple, and pink) in conjunction with green are also considered forms of variegation. These colors are caused by the amount of anthocyanins (vacuolar pigments) but not lacking in the output of chloroplasts. Some examples of variegated succulents are *Euphorbia lactea* “Ghost,” *Agave victoriae-reginae*, *Sanseveria trifasciata*, *Haworthia limifolia*, *Aloe variegata*, *Echeveria agavoides*, and *Aeonium* “Sunburst.” *Aloe variegata* is a good

example of a simple green and white variegation whereas *Aeonium* “Sunburst” is an excellent example of the extent and variety of variegated colors that can be produced in one plant. The name “Sunset” is very descriptive of this *Aeonium*. All of these are examples of the variety and extent of color variegation that can be produced in succulents.

## April Mini-Show Winners

### CACTUS

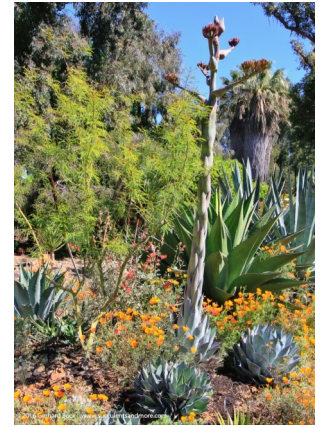
- 1st: *Puna bonnieae*, Keith Taylor
- 2nd: *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii*, Mary Schuett
- 3rd: *Cereus sp. crested*, Michelle Egan

### SUCCULENT

- 1st: *Sanseveria patens*, Dennis Ragasa
- 2nd: *S. trifasciata* “Silver Sword,” Carolyn Allen
- 3rd: *S. var. trifasciata* “Bird’s Nest,” Michelle Egan
- Honorable Mention: *S. sp.*, Victor H. Rosario, *S. sp.*, Rudy Aguilar, *S. pinguicula*, Ellen Ragasa, *S. desertii*, Mariel Dennis, *S. hallii*, Steve Goodman

## Field Trip to Ruth Bancroft Gardens & Private Garden

The club's first field trip of 2016 was to the Ruth Bancroft Garden (RBG) in Walnut Creek. It coincided with their spring plant sale, always a big draw for succulent enthusiasts from all over Northern California. Our small group—much smaller than I had expected—car-pooled to Walnut Creek and arrived in plenty of time for the 10 a.m. opening. The first two hours were spent browsing the RBG's large selection of succulents, California natives as well as shrubs from Australia and southern Africa. A Talavera pottery road show and arts and crafts from local vendors rounded out the offerings. The temptation was so strong that some members bought more than they had expected to. And who can blame them?



At noon our group received a special tour of the RBG by garden host Stephen Lysaght. He showed us not only the garden itself, but also the propagation greenhouse which is normally off-limits to the public. The highlight for many was a walk through Ruth Bancroft's personal iris garden next door. Ruth Bancroft is 107 years old now. We didn't see her, but apparently she still takes an active interest in the garden and checks on its progress now and then.

I took a lot of photos and posted a selection on my blog: <http://www.succulentsandmore.com/2016/04/2016-spring-fling-at-ruth-bancroft.html>.



After a brown-bag lunch at the RBG, we set out on part two of our trip: a visit to Stephen Lysaght's private garden in the hills of Orinda, about 20 minutes away. Although I had seen many photos of Stephen's garden on Facebook, I wasn't prepared for how large the property was—and how beautiful. The 2/3 acre property is quite steep, which adds to the drama. The house was built in 1929 and retains many of its original architectural features. It sits under the canopy of mature oak trees and looks like a museum.



Stephen and his husband Gary have not one, not two, but three greenhouses housing a world-class collection of succulents and caudiciforms. I'm sure I wasn't the only one surprised by the caliber of the plants!

But the highlight of our visit was Stephen and Gary's succulent garden. It's not huge, but it was recently overhauled and is chock full of very photogenic specimens. Since Orinda rarely gets frost, they can grow plants in the ground (especially large cactoid euphorbias) that would not survive in the Sacramento Valley without significant protection.

To see more photos of Stephen and Gary's property, go to <http://www.succulentsandmore.com/2016/04/hillside-succulent-paradise-in-sf-east.html>. A big thank you to Vice President and Program Chair Mariel Dennis for arranging this special field trip, and to Stephen and Gary for inviting us to their hillside paradise.

—Gerhard Bock, SCSS Secretary and Webmaster



## 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).

### SCSS ANNUAL AWARDS POTLUCK DINNER – MAY 18

The SCSS Annual Awards Potluck Dinner will be held at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center on May 18. See page 1 for details.

### FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE – JUNE 4-5

The Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society will hold their annual show and sale on June 4-5. The show and sale will be held at the Sierra Vista Mall in Clovis. Saturday: 10am to 6 pm, Sunday: 10am to 4 pm. For more information, visit [www.fresnocss.com](http://www.fresnocss.com).

### CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL SHOW & SALE – JULY 1-3

The Cactus and Succulent Society of America's 51st Annual Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale will be held July 1, 2, and 3 at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino. For information call (626) 405-2100 or (818) 368-6914. The event is open to the public with paid admission or membership to the Huntington.



#### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: May 18 Annual Potluck  
(no 4th Monday meeting in May)

Shepard Garden & Arts Center  
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