

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2017

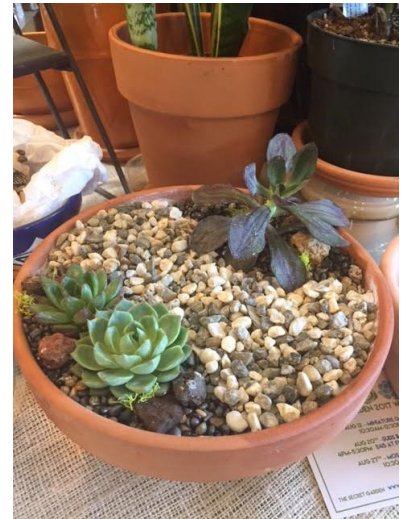
Volume 58, VIII

August Program

MAGICAL MINIATURE GARDENS

Join us at the August 28th meeting when Jennifer Khal, the co-owner of The Secret Garden in Elk Grove, demonstrates how to make a miniature garden with succulents. Whether your idea of a miniature garden is simple, has an Asian feel, or you're picturing a fairy garden, you can make whatever pleases you. Basic supplies will be furnished for about 2 dozen members to make a small garden with some furnished plants. Additional plants and accessories will be available for sale (and drawing prizes) or you can bring your own (cuttings are always useful and you can trade with others). Join us as we make our own magical miniature gardens that you can take home with you. Please bring some basic supplies such as small pruners/ scissors, and a small trowel or spoon. If you prefer a special soil mixture, bring your own.

BEFORE THE MAGIC →



MINIATURE GARDENS — AFTER THE MAGIC!



Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER MEETING — ANNUAL COUNTRY STORE

Country Store Reminder! September's program (just a month or so away) is the much-anticipated Country Store. Start now to organize your donations of plants, produce, sweets, and Silent Auction goodies. This is a fundraiser for the club to support our activities so let's be generous. There will be more info at the August meeting and in next month's newsletter.

July Mini Show Winners

Last month's Mini Show featured *Anacampseros/Avonia* in the Succulent category and *Epithelantha* in the Cactus category. The winners by default in that they were the only entries were Steve Goodman with his *Anacampseros arachnoides* and Linda Roye with *Epithelantha micromeris*.

August Mini Show

SUCCULENT: EUPHORBIA

The genus *Euphorbia* is very well represented in the caudiciform group with many dozens of species considered caudiciforms. Some of these are very hardy, easy plants while others are very touchy and easy-to-rot. Some are almost nothing but caudex while others have only the hint of a caudex and a large, medusoid head of "branches." One of the easiest to grow is *Euphorbia stellata*, which is amazingly cold hardy, tolerates a lot of water, even in winter, and handles low light as well as intense sunlight quite well. This is a good one to start with. *Euphorbia flanaganii* is another one that is nearly "bullet-proof" in terms of tolerating all sorts of abuse.



Euphorbia cauducifolia



Euphorbia bupleurifolia

Euphorbia guillauminiana and *Euphorbia unispinas* are examples of plants with caudiciform stems that normally form above ground just as you see them. *Euphorbia decepta*, *Euphorbia flanaganii*, and *Euphorbia gorgonis* are examples of medusoid plants that also are caudiciform chamaephytes. They have short, thick, succulent stems that are both above and below ground normally.

Euphorbia gymnocalycioides and *Euphorbia horrida* are two examples of Euphorbias in which the entire plant is an above-ground caudex. *Euphorbia obesas* are one of the most popular and commonly grown *Euphorbia* caudiciforms and are themselves caudices.

CACTUS: TURBINOCARPUS

Turbinicarpus is a genus of very small to medium-sized cacti that inhabit the north-eastern regions of Mexico, in particular the states of San Luis Potosí, Guanajuato, Nuevo León, Querétaro, Hidalgo, Coahuila, Tamaulipas and Zacatecas. These succulent plants grow mostly on limestone soil (never on volcanic soil), at altitudes between 300 and 3300 meters above sea level.

Turbinicarpus species are usually confined to specific habitats, generally hostile for the majority of plants, mostly in very drained rocky areas, composed of limestone, sandstone, schist (neutral or alkaline), or in very acidic and humiferous understory, or in gypsum veins, sometimes so pure that they are almost white.



