

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2017

Volume 58, III

## March Program

### DESIGN A SUCCULENT WREATH OR WALL HANGING

At our Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, local floral designer Cheryl Keech will demonstrate how to design a succulent wreath and wall hanging. Basic materials will be provided (wreath forms or frames, moss and soil) so you can make your own. You will need to provide plant material. Please bring cuttings from your garden or be prepared to buy plants at the meeting to make your design if you wish to participate. You might also want to bring a bottle of Eileen's Clear Tacky Glue gel, clippers or scissors (for cuttings). We will also have plants for our monthly drawing from the trip to Poots' Cactus Farm, which can be used in your designs if you are a winner.



## How to Really Enjoy the May Show!

Well, we all want to win the top prize, but this is about helping the club and therefore, yourself, during show weekend. One way is to volunteer for one or more of the many committees. For example: Set-up, Teardown and Staging are a lot of hard work but you learn the 'bones' of the show. How to set up, cover, and eventually take down, put away the tables; what goes into the arrangement of the plants and why; seeing the plants pre-judged and compare with post-judged. Talk to Keith or just show up at the Center early Friday morning, stay late Friday evening or come by late Sunday and you will be put to work.

Clerking is a wonderful opportunity for novice and first-time advance members to learn what the judges desire in a plant. You cringe when your plant is being discussed, but what a learning moment! Also, you and the judges are the only ones allowed in the exhibition area – how exclusive! See JoEllen Arnold to sign up. Plant Sales and Plant Hotel always need hands and feet. Help arrange sales plants and get a first look at what to buy. If the registers are operating on Friday, you can pay for and take your treasures home that day. On Sat/Sun, run a register or call out prices – all this money goes in the club's coffers for our programs and trips. Spend an hour or two stowing plants people's plants in the Plant Hotel. Greg Lang and Steve Goodman are sales chairs. Contact Keith Taylor for Plant Hotel to be Chair. Then, when your dogs are tired, sit a spell inside at the Membership table (Oanh Vu) or Hospitality/Security doors (Mariel Dennis). There will be sign-up sheets at the March/April meetings. Do your part!

But wait! There's more! If you volunteer/work at the show, the club feeds you! Yes!

Friday is usually pizza – easy peasy. Saturday morning we have coffee, fruit and sugar treats (donuts) and the Judges' Lunch that day is the Refreshment Chair's choice. Sunday is potluck – you bring your favorite dish to share. All weekend there is bottled water and sodas. We have a lot of fun while working hard. So come on, volunteer and get to know your fellow club members while contributing to the club.

—Show Committee

## Upcoming Events

### UPCOMING C&S EVENTS (FROM THE CSSA CALENDAR OF EVENTS)

Date	Event
March 23-25	Orange County C&S Society Spring Show & Sale, Anaheim United Methodist Church, Anaheim CA. Contact: 562-587-3357.
March 25 & 26	Colorado C&S Society Show & Sale, Denver Botanical Gardens
April 1 & 2	San Jose C&S Society Show & Sale, Peterson Middle School, Sunnyvale CA
April 7-9	Central Arizona C&S Society Annual Show & Sale, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix AZ
April 8 & 9	Cactus and Succulent Society of New Mexico Show & Sale, Albuquerque Garden Center
April 8 & 9	South Coast C&S Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Garden, Palos Verdes, CA. Contact <a href="http://www.southcoastcss.org">www.southcoastcss.org</a> .
June 30 - July 2	CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Library, San Mateo
July 26-30	CSSA Annual Convention, Tempe AZ

### UPCOMING SCSS AND LOCAL EVENTS

Date	Time	Event
April 1	TBD	High Hand Nursery Succulent Extravaganza
April 1 & 2	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	RBG Spring Plant Sale
April 7-9	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, San Mateo
April 8 & 9	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Annie's Annuals & Perennials Spring Planting Party
April 22	All Day	Earth Day
April 22	11:00 AM - 3:00 PM	UC Davis Picnic Day/Botanical Conservatory Open House
April 24	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting: Preparation for Show
May 2	6:45 PM	UCD: Stalking the Wild Welwitschia, Public Library
May 5	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Set up for Annual Show/Sale
May 6 & 7	Various	Annual Show & Sale
May 13-14	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Annie's Annuals & Perennials Mother's Day Soiree
May 22		NO Monthly Meeting
June 26	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting
July 24	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting, Dr. Carlos Sanchez
August 28	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting
September 25	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting: Country Store
September 30	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Annie's Annuals Fall Extravaganza
September (TBD)	TBD	Succulent Extravaganza (Castroville)
October 23	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting
November 27	7:00 - 9:00 PM	SCSS Monthly Meeting
December (TBD)	7:00 - 9:00 PM	Holiday Gift Exchange/Potluck
December 25		Christmas: NO Monthly Meeting

## March Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: VARIEGATED SUCCULENT



Just about any plant can potentially have variegation, and in many this feature denotes one of genetic weakness or a viral infection. However, in many others variegation almost seems to be the norm, and these plants are incredibly hardy and resilient landscape and potted plants. And they look great, partly because they look different, but mostly because the multiple colors are often more attractive than the single colors.

Variegation in succulents is almost always caused by normal genetic variation, at least initially... Once this mutation occurs, they are selected for and magnified in the cultivation process. Most variegates in the wild would probably be eliminated due to the tendency for the variegated tissues to be naturally “weaker” and more prone to insect attack, sun damage, lesser ability to photosynthesize in low light situations (and hence become weak and die), and infection from fungi and bacteria. But in captivity, under the right environments, or protected from evolutionary pressures, many of these variegated plants perform beautifully and make excellent landscape and potted plants.

### CACTUS: STENOCACTUS

**Etymology:** from the Greek *stenos* meaning narrow and referring to the ribs which are very thin on most species in this genus.

A number of species of the genus *Stenocactus* are popular in cultivation. The plants are globose and remain relatively small, making them very manageable in pots. Additionally, they grow easily and flower readily—often one of the first in a cactus collection to flower in the spring. In addition to their ball shape, most species in this genus have unique fin-like ribs that are very numerous. This gives them a look reminiscent of undersea coral. Spines are usually present and prominent, but not to the point of obscuring the stem. Flowers arise at the apex and are often white with a wide, dark pink midstripe, but can be a plain creamy white. This genus is native to the Chihuahuan desert in Mexico.



Individual plants can vary considerably within a species, and this makes identification in this genus notoriously difficult. Due to a long and convoluted nomenclatural history, the genus is often still grown and traded among collectors under the genus name *Echinofossulocactus*.

## February Mini-Show Winners



### NOTOCACTUS/PARODIA

**First:** Troy Fajerson

**Second:** Linda Roye

**Third:** Gene Wiggins

### ALOE

**First:** Keith Taylor, Aloe erinacea

**Second:** Hal Coburn, Aloe (red)

**Third place:** Rudy Aguilar, Aloe saponaria variegata

**Honorable Mention:** Steve Goodman, Dennis Ragasa, Sarah Robinson, Gene Wiggins, Linda Roye, Troy Fajerson

## Member Badges

### 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 March meeting or call her at (916) 424-5233.



## Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: March 27

Shepard Garden & Arts Center | 3330 McKinley Blvd | Sacramento, CA 95816

center phone: (916) 808-8800 | [www.sacramentocss.org](http://www.sacramentocss.org)