

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2018

Volume 59, I

January Program

LET'S GO ON SAFARI IN TANZANIA!

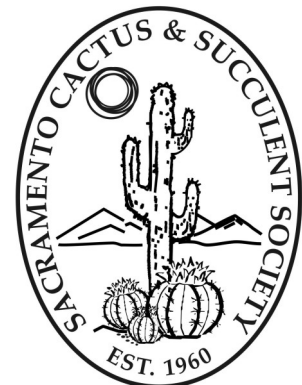
Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society member JoEllen Arnold will be our speaker at the January meeting. She will take us on safari through photos and video clips she made while on a photo safari in Tanzania in January and February of 2017. The animals and birds of Tanzania are the stars of the safari, including the little bat eared foxes seen here. On our safari, we will of course be seeking interesting plants as well.



March Program – New Format!

Calling club members with a passion for a special group of cactus or succulents! We will be having a new speaker format for the March meeting. There will be a panel of five club members giving themed 10-minute talks on cactus or succulents they love. A theme could be a particular genus or species, miniatures, red flowers, special pots, frost tolerant, etc. Specimens or photos of plants are requested as part of the talk. Format guidelines will be provided to ensure a well-organized panel.

If you are interested but uncertain what to say, there will be help. Go for it! A call for volunteers with guidelines for your talk will be forthcoming.



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of long-time club member Michelle Egan, who passed away on December 7th after a protracted illness.

Michelle had great enthusiasm for cacti and succulents and was passionate about making the Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society the best it could be. She will be missed. Please keep her husband Ed and their family in your thoughts and prayers.



CSSA Journal Synopsis

SCSS is affiliated with the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Members might be interested in joining the national organization and receiving their publications. Below is a summary of one of their most recent journals.

CSSA JOURNAL | JULY-AUGUST 2017 | Synopsis of Selected Articles

The Great Escape

This lengthy article by Dr. Graham Williamson, dentist and botanist (who passed away at his home in Cape Town on October 12, 2017) discusses the survival of succulent plants in the high rainfall areas of South Central Africa and presents many photographs and illustrative drawings.

Sedum sinforosanum (Crassulaceae), a new species from the state of Chihuahua, México

Authors Jerónimo Reyes Santiago, Julia Etter and Martin Kristen present an introduction of a new *Sedum* with white flowers from the Barranca de Sinforosa similar in morphology to *S. suaveolens* and with beautiful rosettes 6.5-9 cm in diameter. The type locality was identified in 2010.

Pushing the limits: landscaping with cacti and succulents in cold climates #25

Leo Chance continues his series on cold hardy succulents and companion plants, information on which he has gathered from personal observation, from other cactophiles and from the Denver Botanical Garden. Several photographs by Marcia Tatroe colorfully illustrate the use of wildflowers and small flowering shrubs planted in among succulent plants. The author notes these “will not only help to bring a longer season of color along with variety and contrast...they also keep the bees and hummingbirds around.”

The *Crassulaceae* of Cusco, Peru, Part II: subfamily *Sedoidae*

This article, authored by Guillermo Pino, Washington Galiano, Percy Núñez Vargas and Ben Kamm, discusses two diminutive succulents, *Sedum berillonanum*, known from the department of Ayacucho, which is reported for the first time in Cusco and *Villadia virgata* which differs somewhat from the type locality in Dept. Ancash. Habitat shots as well as pictures of leaves, petals, fruits and seeds are presented.

Additionally, there are articles by John Lavranos, Zlatko Janeba and Root Gorelick.

Mini-Show Schedule and Rules

Joel Parker is our 2018 Mini Show Chairperson. The Society would like to thank Linda Roye for the excellent job she did chairing the Mini Show last year. We will be preparing the plaque to present to the 2017 Mini Show winner at our February meeting.

To encourage increased Mini Show participation for 2018 we are making some changes to the program. We want to fill two or three tables with members' cacti and succulent entries instead of only one to show for the nine Mini Show months. We have some new and expanded as well as, we hope, fun categories that are shown below. The rules are:

- Mini Show entries are limited to members only.
- Come as early as possible and put your plants out ASAP. Entries will be accommodated as late as the end of meeting announcements but not after the presentation begins.
- Enter a maximum one cactus and one succulent per category per member. Plants must be shown as a single specimen per pot unless the category specifies otherwise. Members will receive one free drawing ticket for each plant entered. Be sure to collect your tickets from the drawing coordinator before the drawing.
- Fill out one entry form per plant. Print the name of genus, species and variety if available as legibly as possible. Fold the form above the signature line and print your name at the Name space. Joel will announce any blank or incomplete forms as soon as they are found. Place only a corner of the form under the plant and put a bean cup near your plant.
- Members vote for a plant in each category by putting a bean in the appropriate cup.
- The close of voting will be announced before the presentation.
- Mini Show winners for that month will be announced for each of the categories prior to the end of the meeting based on the total number of beans each plant receives. The scoring is as follows: First, second, third place and honorable mention earn 4 points, 3 points, 2 points and 1 point each respectively. Each month, the first place winner in each category will be presented with a \$10 gift certificate to a local nursery.
- Monthly Mini Show points also are also accumulated throughout the year to determine the Mini Show Winner of the Year awarded to the member with the highest point total overall. The Mini Show Winner of the Year will be announced at the end of the calendar year. The winner's name will be engraved on the SCSS Mini Show plaque and presented at a meeting the following year. The winner will retain the plaque for one year after which it will be used to recognize the winner the following year.

Month	Succulent	Cactus
January	Cotyledon/Tylecodon	Any crested cactus or monstrose
February	Aloe	Opuntia/Pereskia
March	Pelargonium	Rhipsalis/Mexican Rat Tail
April	Any non-standard planting or pot-plant pairing *	
June	Gasteria/Gasteraloe	Mammillaria
July	Anacampseros/Avonia	Rebutia/Sulcorebutia
August	Agave	Epiphyllum
October	Bromeliad	Globular cacti
November	Sedum	Zygocactus

***Notes:**

- A Non-Standard planting would be an unusual ceramic, container or art object used for a planter such as a coffee pot, an aquarium or landscaping item, hollow figurine, knickknack, or art object used as a pot.
- A pot-plant pairing would be matching the specific texture or coloring of the pot to the plant.
- Any month lacking a speaker, we can substitute the Non-Standard plantings/pottings or the scheduled Mini Show categories for that month for a show and tell to fill about an hour.

January Mini-Show

CACTUS: ANY CRESTED CACTUS OR MONSTROSE

Cacti have fascinating mutant forms called the crested and monstrose plants. Cresting or monstrose mutations occur when a cactus' growth center produce atypical undulation and curving that occurs as crests continue to develop. Cristate and monstrose plants have lost their symmetrical architecture so monstrosities also experience a loss of symmetry. Proliferation occurs resulting in multi-headed or multiple branched cacti. The *Ariocarpus retusa* displayed here (top) shows gorgeous whorling undulations as well as its more typical tubercular shape. It retains some original coloration and spination but actually does not look like the normal plants.



In monstrose growth, every tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point, often resulting in knobby or lumpy growth. Crests and monstrose plants grow the same as normal except they are more sensitive and are often grown as grafts. Monstrose and crested cacti flower and produce seed just as other plants do, however the best way to propagate these plants is by cuttings. Cresting is similar to monstrose but in cactus the forms are different like in the *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* (left). It is a very common species to see crested but the monstrose form (right) is rare.



SUCCULENT: COTYLEDON/TYLECODON

Tylecodon is a winter grower ranging from an inch to over six feet in height, with their deciduous succulent leaves arranged in a spiral manner. Indigenous to Southern Africa, they are a succulent genus in the family Crassulaceae. Until the late 1970s Tylecodons were part of the Cotyledons but were separated into their own genus by Dr. Helmut Toelken of the South Australian Herbarium. The name Tylecodon was chosen as a Cotyledon anagram. They require careful winter watering and much less or no watering in spring and summer. Flowers are produced after the leaves have been shed in the spring or summer although in cultivation with continued water leaves may persist. They are not hardy but can tolerate a cool winter.

The *Tylecodon wallichii* (left) shown here is common, but because the leaves are toxic to mammals many Tylecodons are treated as weeds and destroyed by farmers to protect livestock. Two species, *Tylecodon aridimontanus* and *Tylecodon aurusbergensis*, are classified as near threatened, and are endangered in their habitat. *Tylecodon paniculatus* (middle) shown here in a bonsai pot and some other species have attractively peeling bark and are popular with collectors.

Cotyledon (right) is a genus of succulent plants in the Crassulaceae family. Mostly from Southern Africa, they also occur throughout the drier parts of Africa as far north as the Arabian Peninsula. Members of the genus are shrublets, generally succulent, with fleshily woody, brittle stems and persistent succulent leaves. The flowers are pendulous and tubular, borne at the tips of stout, rather long peduncles, mainly in short cymes.

As succulents go, *Cotyledon* certainly are rewarding garden and indoor subjects, practically independent of irrigation in all but full desert conditions, though they cannot survive poor light or bad drainage in the wet.



SCSS Library Acquires New Books

Thanks to the generosity of our club's Board of Directors, the library has acquired 14 new books to become part of our permanent collection:

The Gardener's Guide to Cactus by Scott Calhoun. Succulent plant expert Scott Calhoun picks 100 of the best cacti available and shows how they can make striking additions to your garden or serve as dazzling container specimens.

Rock Gardening by Joseph Tychonievich. Rock gardening—the art of growing succulents, cacti, alpines and other miniature plants in the company of rocks in order to recreate the look of a rugged mountainside—has been surging in popularity. Time and space constraints, chronic drought in the American West, and a trend toward architectural plants are just a few of the reasons for taking a look at this new volume.

Succulent Container Gardens by Debra Lee Baldwin. If you love succulents you'll want to read this book. Find hundreds of ideas for great containers, creative ways to use colors, shapes, and textures and the best succulents for pots and small space solutions.

Succulents by Robin Stockwell. The ultimate guide to choosing, designing, and growing 200 easy-care succulents.

Hardy Succulents by Gwen Kelaidis. This book is dedicated to establishing low-fuss succulent gardens in areas far beyond their traditional desert settings.

Succulents Simplified by Debra Lee Baldwin. Because they come from the earth's most challenging habitats, succulents suit all manner of gardens and life styles, thriving in garden designs not possible with other plants. Whether you live in Calexico or Canada, let the author demystify these low water beauties.

Agaves, Yuccas and Their Kin. Seven Genera of the Southwest by Jon L. Hawkins. This is a single full color guide to the most recognizable genera of the southwestern United States: Agave, Dasylirion, Hechtia, Hesperaloe, Nolina and Yucca.

All About Saguaros by Leo Banks. Meet the giant saguaro cactus, native of the Sonoran Desert, which with a few exceptions is the only place in the world where *Carnegiea gigantea* grows. Sometimes called El Gigante (the giant), the saguaro cactus provides home and food to many desert animals, as well as to peoples of desert tribes.

Cactus by Dan Torre. Dan Torre explores the natural, cultural and social history of cacti, with particular emphasis on how these remarkable plants have been represented in art, literature, cinema, animation and popular culture around the world. This is a highly original, entertaining and informative book that will appeal to everyone with an interest in cacti.

Garden Aloes by Gideon Smith and Estrela Figueiredo. Authored by two leading international experts on aloes and their kin, **Garden Aloes** is the first to deal with a range of the most desirable aloe cultivars and hybrids, all of which are exceptionally suitable for planting in gardens.

The Organ Pipe Cactus by David Yetman. The author provides an in-depth and comprehensive look at these intriguing and picturesque plants that most Americans will never have the opportunity to see.

Succulents for the Garden by Attila Kapitany and Rudolph Schulz. With the advent of water wise gardening, more gardeners are demanding information on how to choose and use these outstanding and care-free plants.

'Loco Cacti' Ariocarpus, Astrophytum & Friends by Brett and Hadley Nation. This book is primarily a picture book with over 114 high-quality photos and 10 of these are full page: 8.5 x 8.5 inches. The majority of this book illustrates various *Astrophytum* and *Ariocarpus* cultivars with a few more common plants illustrated and even a handful of non-cactus succulents.

Succulent Success in the Garden by Attila Kapitany. Succulent Success in the Garden is the third in a series of books which explains how these fascinating plants can be used in the garden. In this book a range of gardens are explored in considerable detail, showing a variety of situations, ranging from an inner city courtyard to a rural property.

Many of these books will be available for your review and checkout at our January of 2018 meeting.

—George Krigas, Librarian

Happy Birthday



Election Results

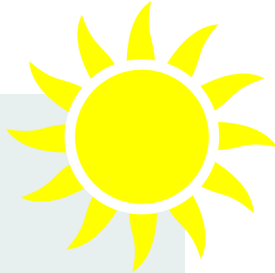
Our annual election of Society Officers and Board Members occurred at November's meeting. A special thanks to our Officers and Board Members for volunteering their time and energy for the upcoming year.

- President: Mariel Dennis
- Co-Vice Presidents: Theresa Roberts & Shawnee Giles
- Treasurer: Greg Lang
- Secretary: Gerhard Bock
- Board of Directors: Oanh Vu, Hal Coburn, Joel Parker
- President Ex Officio: Steve Goodman

Sunshine Corner

Hi to all and here's to a healthy new year. But, if someone you know in the club needs a bit of cheer during the doldrums of winter, please inform the Sunshine Chair, Marilyn Vilas. Her street address, email and telephone number can be found in the roster or let her know at the meeting.

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair



November Mini-Show Winners

CACTUS: COPIAPOA

First: Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Copiapoa lembecki*
Second: (tie) Theresa Roberts, *Copiapoa mollicula*, and Joel Parker, *Copiapoa hypogaea*

SUCCULENT: ANDROMISCHUS

First: (tie) Cassidy Roberts-Yee, *Andromischus roanianus*, Rudy Agular, *Andromischus species*, and Theresa Roberts, *Andromischus maculatus*

Membership

Membership Renewal Annual membership fees were due in November/December. Contact Carole Hada, Membership Chair, if you have questions about membership or to obtain a membership form. Please note that if you initiated membership in October, November, or December 2017, you are paid through 2018. **The January newsletter will be your final newsletter if you have not paid dues by the January meeting.**

Membership Roster The SCSS membership roster for 2018 will be distributed in March, another benefit of being a member. Please let Carole Hada know if you have any changes of address/phone/email address, or if you noticed any errors in the 2017 roster.

Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: January 22

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