

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2019

Volume 61, IX

## October Program

Back by Popular Demand! The October monthly meeting will feature a panel composed of club members who will share their interests and expertise on a range of topics.

Topics will include:

- 1) Growing mangaves suited to the Sacramento area
- 2) Designing with succulents and rocks
- 3) Helping succulents survive frost
- 4) Haworthia and gasteria varieties



Come to the meeting to hear fellow club members speak about their succulent and cactus knowledge and passion.

## October Mini-Show

### SUCCULENT: ASCLEPIADS, HUERINA, STAPELIA, CARALLUMA AND OTHER TYPES



Asclepiads are an exotic looking plant family that may often resemble species of cacti. The genus contains over 3000 species and are primarily found in warm, dry climates like Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Asclepiads have a unique four angled stem structure, although there are some species that can have more. When flowering they can produce blooms anywhere from just a few millimeters in size up to 16 inches in diameter and have star-shaped petals, most commonly with 5 points and are striped vividly in contrasting colors or tones in a variation of red, yellow or brown. These plants often emit a scent similar to decaying flesh, although not all are odorous thankfully! Many species of Asclepiad are commonly cultivated as container plants and can grow well under full sun. They should be planted in well draining containers as the stems are prone to rotting if kept moist for long.



### CACTUS: GLOBULAR CACTI

Globular cacti is very general category. Examples of genera are Gymnocalycium, Notocactus, Parodia, Thelocactus, Melocactus, Mammillaria, Echinopsis, Echinocactus, and the list goes on. While some of these plants may elongate as they age, they do not display the columnar growth characteristics of Cereus-type plants or the trailing style of a rat-tail cactus.

If you have a cactus that is globular or somewhat globular in shape, it qualifies for this category. Bring it to the Mini Show and let the members decide which is the best!



## Upcoming Events

### Garden Work Day at Shepard Garden and Arts Center.

November 23rd. We will be relocating some of the plants away from the camellias and installing some additional plants. Members may bring any plants they would like to donate to be planted. We'll meet there on the Saturday before Thanksgiving at 10am weather permitting. We would love club member volunteers to come and help out. Bring your garden tools with you for this!

### December Meeting Event!

Be sure to mark your calendars for the December Holiday Potluck and Gift Exchange! The date has been changed to Monday, December 16th. Look to next month's newsletter for more information!



## Notes from the Shepard Garden & Arts Center

### HEADS UP! PARKING ALERT!

Sacramento is to end free, unrestricted parking around the perimeter of McKinley Park to three hours, seven days a week. If park goers stay longer, they can move their car to another street. If the council approves the change, it will take 2-3 weeks to install signage. Warnings will be issued for two weeks, then \$47.50 tickets. Restrictions will be on McKinley and Alhambra Blvds., G, H, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 35<sup>th</sup> Sts., and Park Way, directly surrounding the park. (Excerpted from Sac Bee, Sat. Oct. 12, 2019, p. 3A.) Note: Article did not state hours during the day.

This will affect our May Show weekend.



### Remaining Mini-Shows for 2019

#### NOVEMBER MINI-SHOW

Any Varigated succulent or cactus.

#### DECEMBER MINI-SHOW

There will be no Mini-Show in December.

## Country Store

Thank you to everyone who brought such wonderful items for the Country Store event last month!

Without you all this event wouldn't be such a success! We hope you all had a wonderful time and will review the event at the October meeting.

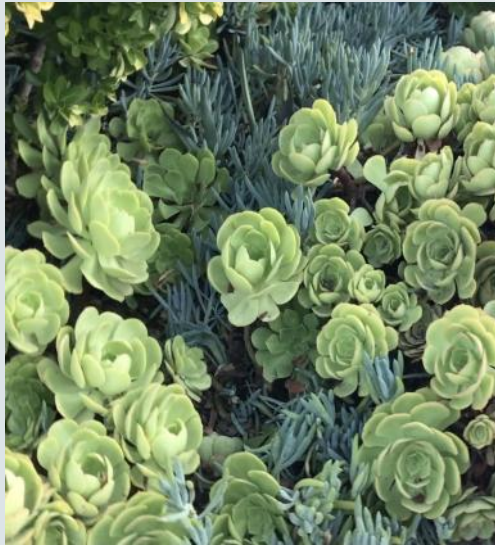


## 10 Autumn Succulent Must-Do's

You're aware of autumn in sun and shadows, shorter days and drier air, and so is your garden. Smart plant parents are attuned to wind, rain and frost. And they're vigilant. Succulents recovering from summer heat and sun are especially prone to pests.

### In Autumn...

(1) Aeoniums and senecios are emerging from summer dormancy. Cut back leggy aeoniums then replant the rosettes and discard old plants roots and all.



(2) Trim *Senecio mandraliscae* back several inches, and plant cuttings in gaps. Old stems branch where cut, which helps swaths grow fuller.

(3) Apply a weed preventer (pre-emergent herbicide). This nontoxic, granulated powder stops seeds from germinating. Spread it before the first rainstorm, wherever you don't want annual weeds.

(4) Check your garden's run-off. Create channels that divert rain from succulents in low spots. If they sit in puddles, they may rot.



(5) Create a wreath from clippings that'll transition from fall into winter.

(6) Treat agaves for snout weevil. This essential preventative needs doing in spring and fall. It also saves infested plants if caught early.

(7) Fertilize in-ground succulents before a rainstorm with Ironite. Ideal for newly planted gardens, it boosts spring growth. Take care it doesn't stain hardscape.



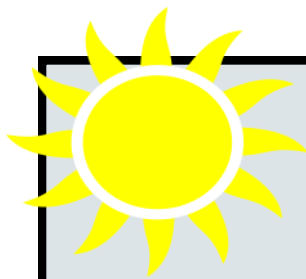
(8) Scrub cochineal scale off opuntia pads. Remove the bumpy white colonies with a soft-bristled shower brush dipped in Safer soap.

(9) Check for ants in outdoor potted succulents, especially haworthias, gasterias and aloes. One tell-tale sign is soil in the crowns, pushed up from below.

(10) Heat, sun and winds can decimate succulents. Cuttings are most at risk because they've yet to form roots, so plant them after the winds die down.



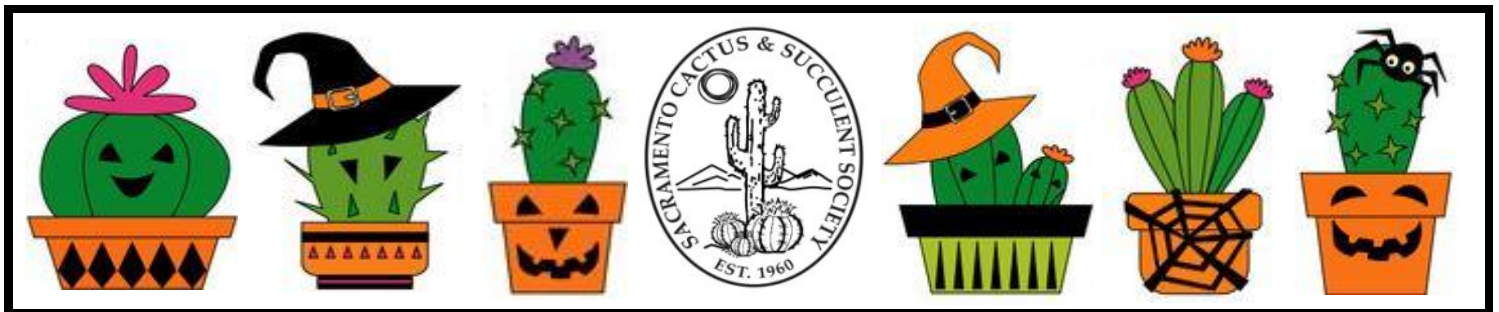
Excerpt from the article *10 Autumn Succulent Must-Do's* by Debra Lee Baldwin, [www.debraleebaldwin.com](http://www.debraleebaldwin.com).



## From the Sunshine Corner:

Our Super Refreshment Co-Chair, Michele Swanberg, has had a bump in the road and is recovering from surgery at home. We miss her and wish her an easy and speedy recovery. To send get-well wishes, you can find Michele's address in the roster. If you know of anyone else who needs a bit of cheer, please contact Marilyn Vilas at 530-753-7011 or by email at nedmar@omsoft.com. Thanks!

## September New Members:



### Meeting Details

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

Next meeting: October 28th

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