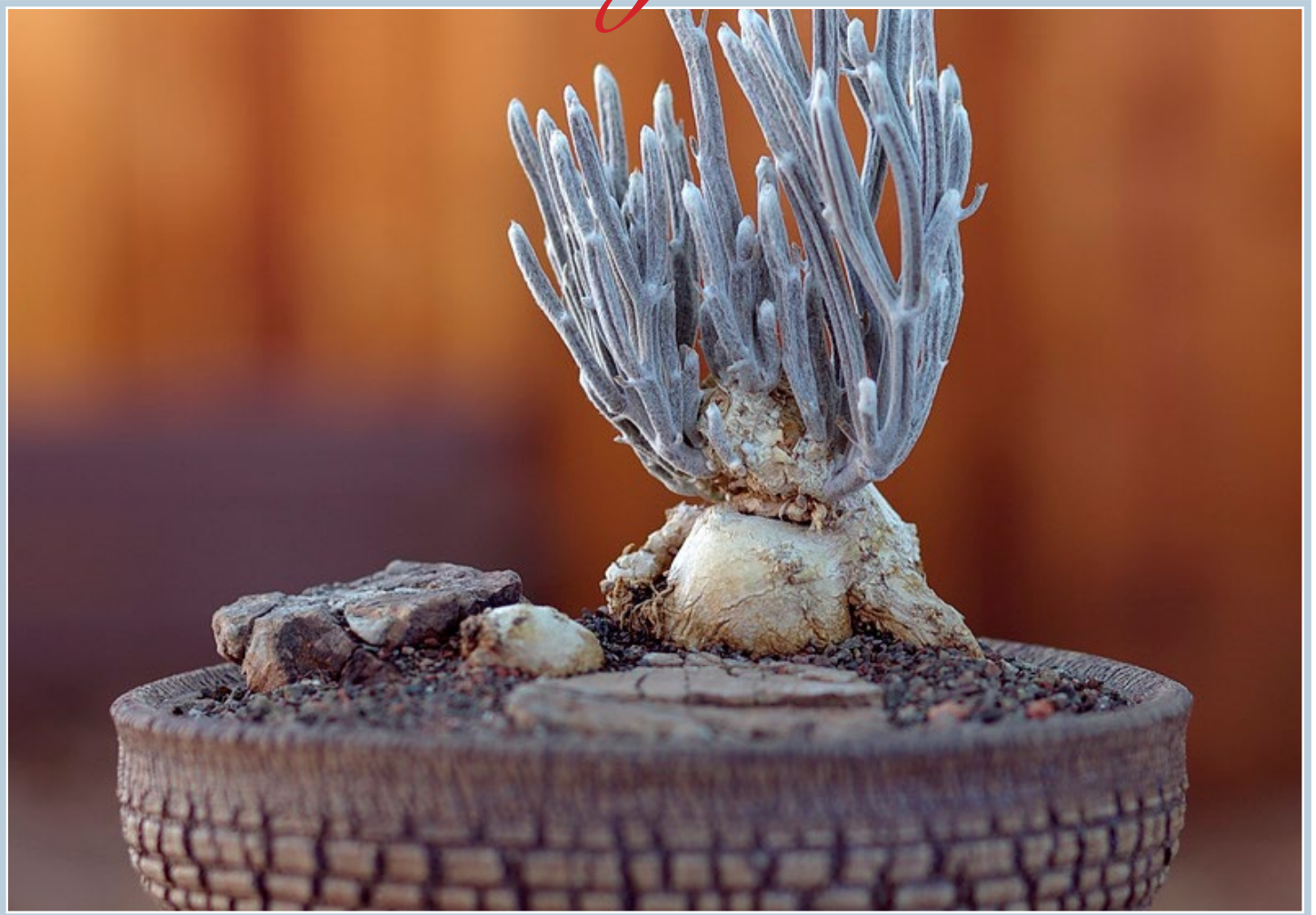


Thorny Issues

next meeting 3.28.2016

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society | March 2016 | Volume 57, III



<http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com/>

PLANT YOUR POTS - MARCH PROGRAM

For those members that made pots last fall, Keith Kitoi Taylor will be bringing back our glazed pots. You can plant the pots you made or some pots will be available to plant for those that did not make pots or you can bring your own. Just bring some cactus and/or succulents and soil to fill an 8" pot. While everyone is having fun planting, Mariel Dennis will be going over some of the principals of planting dish gardens. Remember to bring some planting tools as well or you can just watch the fun and participate in the monthly plant drawing.

We'll also be announcing two upcoming field trips and plans for a third later in the year. Don't miss it!

—Mariel Dennis, Vice President

SUNSHINE CORNER

Barbara McCandliss, a loyal member since 1986, passed in her sleep on February 24 at age 99. Over the years, Barbara participated in numerous activities and while not an active member these past years she maintained her membership. Our sympathy goes out to the family. A card has been sent from the club and those wishing to send a remembrance can contact Marilyn Vilas for information.

—Marilynn Vilas, Sunshine Chair

UPCOMING MARCH SUCCULENT AND CACTUS MINI SHOW

Mini Show Descriptions by Michelle Egan. Photos by Gerhard Bock

Succulent • PSEUDOLITHOS



Pseudolithos migiurtinus

Pseudolithos are known as “living stones” due to their appearance looking like small round stones with their name meaning “false stone”. Found almost entirely in Somalia they are in the milkweed family of *Asclepiadaceae*. They are fly pollinated with their small clumping flowers smelling like rotting meat or manure. The flowers are very small being no more than 1/2 inch across and star-shaped generally black or dark brown in color. Some look like they have tiny tassels on the tips of each petal. Propagation can successfully be done from seed. There are only a few members in this species such as *P. migiurtinus*, *P. dodsonianus* (the only branching form), *P. cubiformis* (which is cube shaped), *P. sphaericus*, *P. maccoyi*, *P. harardheranus*, *P. eyelenis* and *P. caput-viperae* (viper’s head). Although *P. migiurtinus* is the most commonly cultivated species in this genus they definitely are a challenge to grow, but are a very interesting addition to anyone’s collection.

All are considered rare plants and difficult to maintain. Bright but moderate light and moderate heat is required but plants will burn in direct intense light. Being very prone to rot water should not settle on them for any period of time and should have a very well and quickly drained soil.

Cactus • ESPOSTOA/OREOCEREUS ANY “OLD MAN” variety

Espostoa range from Equador to Peru. Due to the thick long woolly-like shaggy white hairs these plants are known as “old man” plants such as “Old Man of Peru” (*E. lanata*) and “Old Man of the Andes” (*O. celsianus*). Oreocereus differs in habitat which ranges from Peru to Bolivia and Argentina. Espostoas have been known to grow up to 20 ft. tall in the wild. They are not tolerant to heavy frost or intense heat and can be prone to rot but require bright light. The thick hairs screen out light therefore there is the need for bright intense light. If the plant is lacking in hair it is due to the plant not getting enough intensity in sunlight it is receiving. Let soil almost dry out between waterings in spring and summer.

Do not water in winter. Temperature range is 65-90°F in spring and summer down to 45-50°F in fall and winter.

Oreocereus also differ a bit from *Espostoas* in that they have long yellow to red spines that protrude through the thick woolly white hairs as in *O. henricksonianus* and do not reach the height that *Espostoas* do. Dark red flowers poke through the hairs at the top of the plant in early spring. They can tolerate temperatures down to 20°F. for short periods of time. Let dry out between waterings.



Oreocereus celsianus

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS!

April 16 – Spring Fling at Ruth Bancroft Gardens & Lysaught Garden Tour

Join SCSS members as we carpool to the Ruth Bancroft Gardens for their Spring Fling on Saturday, April 16th. The Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek is a public dry garden featuring a unique display of succulents, cacti, and other drought-tolerant plants as well as California natives. We will depart from the Shepard Garden and Art Center at 8 AM to arrive for the opening of the gardens and plant sale that starts at 10 AM. This is a special event at the gardens and will be highly attended by the public. We will have a special tour of the cactus and succulent areas by friend and docent Stephen Lysaght. Following the tour at the Bancroft Gardens, we will break for lunch (please bring your own) and then travel about 10 miles to Orinda for a tour of Stephen's beautiful succulent garden (photo below) and green house. Parking is limited at both locations so carpooling is a must and RSVPs are required. Admission fees will be paid by SCSS for members. The Bancroft garden is handicap accessible, but Stephen's home is not. Please email vp@sacramentocss.org to RSVP by Monday, April 11. For more information and program information about the Bancroft gardens, visit www.ruthbancroftgarden.org



May 14 – UC Davis Botanical Conservatory Plant Sale and Tour

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 for members of cactus and succulent plants. 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).

Next Outing: Plans are in the works for a trip to the UC Berkeley Arboretum followed by a visit to nearby Dry Garden nursery in late summer. Stay tuned as details are firmed up.

Any other suggestions for outings or meeting topics/speakers, please send them to Mariel.
–Mariel Dennis, Vice President

FEBRUARY SHOW WINNERS

Cactus: ASTROPHYTUM

1st *Astrophytum myriostigma*, Michelle Egan
2nd *Astrophytum ornatum*, Rudy Aguilar
3rd *Astrophytum ornatum*, Linda Roye

Succulent: PELARGONIUM

1st *Pelargonium barklyi*, Michelle Egan
2nd *Pelargonium ferulaceum*, Steve Goodman
3rd *Pelargonium grandiflorum*, Rudy Aguilar



SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
PRESENTS THE 56TH ANNUAL
CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW

MAY 7, SATURDAY

9AM - 5PM (PLANT SALE)

10AM - 5PM (EXHIBITION)

MAY 8, SUNDAY

**9AM - 4PM (EXHIBITION &
PLANT SALE)**

Free Admission • Free Parking • Plant Seminars
FREE plant each day to the 1st 50 guests!

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENTS

Publicity fliers, show schedules and plant registration tags will be available at the meeting. Also sign-up sheets for Plant Hotel, Plant Sales Cashiers, Hospitality, Refreshments, Shadow Boxes and more. Support the club over our busy weekend and eat free on Friday, set-up day!

—*Show Committee*

SHADOWBOX

Show your creativity with your special cactus or succulent you want to show off. Only 5 spaces are available. They are judged on a people's choice vote at the show. The shadowbox with the most votes wins \$25.00. This year's theme is "Olympic Moments". Anyone interested in doing a shadowbox display for our May show please sign up at the March or April meeting or call Michelle Egan at (916) 424-5233.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need a Refreshment Chair(s) for the May Show. Duties will include organizing lunches for volunteers, drinks, etc. For more information contact Keith Taylor. Email caudex.one@gmail.com



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Fees go towards the newsletter, great cactus and succulent programs and meetings. Dues in the Society are \$15 per person and \$20 per family membership for one calendar year.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: SCSS (Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society)
MAIL TO: Oanh Vu 8837 Monterey Oaks, Elk Grove CA 95758
Questions? email: oanhthai@yahoo.com

Need a badge? Only \$10.
Sign up with Michelle Egan at the next meeting or call (916) 424-5233.

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

This will be my last newsletter. Ian Dennis has volunteered to take over the newsletter. The SCSS will be in good hands. Thank you everyone for inspiring this novice gardener to go succulent crazy! I have to give a special thanks to Marilyn Vilas for helping me keep track of everything and being an amazing proofer! Special thanks to Mary Lake-Thompson for providing color printouts of the newsletter.

www.marylakethompson.com

Happy Succulenthing!
—*Jackie Kang Bousquin*

MEETING DETAILS

Next Meeting Monday March 28th, 7:00pm

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

The Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society meets the
4th Monday of each month at 7:00PM

www.sacramentocss.org