



Thorny Issues

Volume 50, No. 2

February Program and Meeting

Monday, February 23, 2009

7pm

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



Stapeliads - Spectacular But Smelly

J.D. Wikert, a member of our own club and current president of the Stockton Cactus and Succulent Society, will be our program speaker for our February 23rd meeting. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about the fascinating group of plants known as stapeliads. Commonly known as carrion flowers, they use their pungent odor to attract fly pollinators. Stapeliads have some of the most beautiful and long lasting flowers of any succulent. The group is found predominantly in Africa and has over 300 different species. J.D. will provide a presentation with beautiful photos of spectacular stapeliad flowers and will also cover taxonomy, morphology, care, cultivation, propagation, and distribution of these unusual plants.

J.D. Wikert is a fisheries biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working on salmon restoration in Lodi, California. He has been a casual appreciator of succulent plants for most of his life, but only recently developed a real passion for these plants. He is happy to trade plants with almost anyone and is unfortunately affected by the "I must have at least one of each species" bug. His other interests include keeping aquariums full of tropical cichlids, his family, and unending home improvement projects.



Stapelia flavopurpurea copyright Anita Andersson from the stapeliads.info web site

Mini-Show Winner for 2008!

Barbara Coelho is our 2008 Mini-Show Champion! She gathered the most points for her entries in our Mini-Shows held each month. The runner-up was Michelle Egan. This should inspire you to bring in and show your plants.



Barbara accepting the award from Pearl Lemkuil

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Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

We meet the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in Sacramento.

The Center's phone number is (916) 264-8800.

There is no meeting held in December.

The public is warmly invited to any meeting.

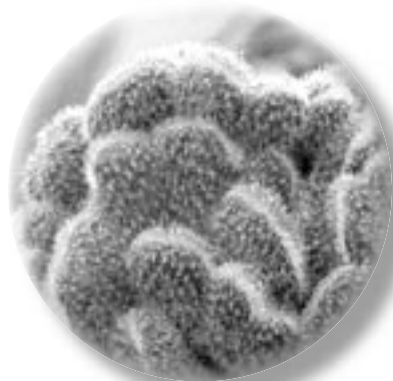
MINI SHOW February 2009

Cactus - Crested or Monstrose

In plants the growing point is a collection of cells that are still actively dividing, but have not yet differentiated to become leaf or flower cells.

In a cristate or crested plant, instead of the growing point being a single lateral point, it is a (long) horizontal line at the apex consisting of many growing points in a symmetrical line, forming patterns like a fan if straight, or a "brain" if wavy.

Most crested or monstrose cactus and succulents are not as strong as their normal counterparts. They have increased sensitivity to cold, drought, and insect pests which can easily hide in the many folds and crevices. Plants may flower, but less abundantly. They may be sterile and not produce seed. If seed is produced it's monstrose characteristics may be carried in some of its new generation but inheritance among these plants is highly variable.

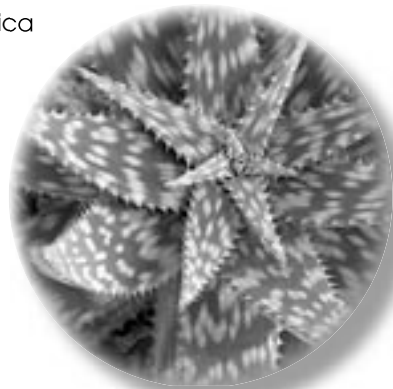


Mammillaria sp.

Succulent - Aloe

Aloe, is a genus containing about four hundred species of flowering succulent plants. Aloes are probably one of the most popular and well known succulents. The famous aloe vera and its healing properties have contributed to the popularity of this genus.

Aloes originated in Africa and the Arabian peninsula. Aloe flowers are tubular, frequently yellow, pink or red and are borne on densely clustered, simple or branched leafless stems. They are loved by hummingbirds.



Aloe sp., Huntington Desert Garden

Aloes grow in rosette shapes and in size they range from small plants to several species which are called tree aloes and grow as tall as that name implies. Most aloes like light shade and are frost tender but research your particular variety. The do not die after blooming as agaves do.

Mini Show Winners January 2009

CACTUS - Mammillaria

- 1st - *Mammillaria perbella*, Barbara Coelho
- 2nd - *Mammillaria fragilis*, Sharon Wisecarver
- 3rd - *Mammillaria klissingiana*, Mary Schuett
- 3rd - *Mammillaria sp.*, Michelle Egan
- 3rd - *Mammillaria yaquensis*, Tom Flynn

SUCCULENT - Sedum, Sempervivum

- 1st - *Sedum hispanicum*, Michelle Egan
- 2nd - *Sedum nussbaumerianum*, Barbara Coelho
- 2nd - *Sedum sp.*, Pearl Lemkuil

Mini Show Selections

2009

(No Mini Shows in September and December)

CACTUS

- MARCH - *Notocactus*
- APRIL - *Parodia*
- MAY - *Opuntia*
- JUNE - *Echinopsis*
- JULY - *Ferocactus*
- AUGUST - *Gymnocalycium*
- OCTOBER - *Astrophytum*
- NOVEMBER - *Ariocarpus*

SUCCULENTS

- MARCH - *Your Favorite Succulent*
- APRIL - *Echeveria/Dudleya*
- MAY - *Euphorbia*
- JUNE - *Crassula*
- JULY - *Caudiciforms*
- AUGUST - *Pachypodium*
- OCTOBER - *Haworthia/Gasteria*
- NOVEMBER - *Mesemb*

Program Chair Needed

In a letter to President Michelle Egan, Michon Witters submitted her resignation as Program Chair and Plant Raffle Table Supplier. The Board and President Egan accepted Michon's resignation. Michon brought us some excellent programs for the past several years and now we're looking for another volunteer to fill this interesting and vital job. Do you have ideas for speakers, or like to talk with knowledgeable people in the cactus and succulent world? Lots of help is available and the programs are already arranged through June. Please contact Michelle if you'd like to fill this position for us!

Future programs are:

March—Marilynn Vilas, *May Show Preparation*

April—Tim Metcalf, *Carnivorous Plants of Borneo*

May—*May Show Awards and Pot-Luck*

June—Ernesto Sandoval, *South African Succulents*

Got any Pot(s)?

The Club propagators are starting to make planters to sell at the May Show. If you have any planter-type pots, large or small, that you wish to donate, please contact or give them to Marilynn Vilas. We will take any type (bonsai, clay, glazed) that are saleable - cracked, overly chipped or pots in bad condition are not usable. Also, any small 5" plastic pots would be appreciated. Thanks!!

MAY SHOW UPDATE

The Annual May Show Committee met at Director Michelle Egan's house on January 18, 2009. The dates are Friday, May 1, for set-up; Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3, for the Show and Sale. The fliers announcing the Show are finished and available. If you need fliers, contact Marilynn Vilas at 530-753-7011 or nedmar@omsoft.com. The Show Schedule will be available at the February meeting.

Essentially the show remains the same - a non-judged show but retaining the Peoples' Choice Awards. We will need lots of volunteers for the set-up and tear down (Sunday May 3, 4 pm on). No sign up required, just show up! Other volunteer opportunities include: Helping in the sales area (contact Kathy Hodges at 916-682-1196 or agavequeen@comcast.net). Being a host or door monitor (contact George Avery at 916-682-837 or gravity@frontiernet.net). Taking new memberships - a sit-down job!! See George Avery above. Shadowboxes are available for the artistic minded. You can talk to Jeanne Lemkuil about those at 916-427-2540. Or see any of these people at the meetings from now to April.

As always, it takes an entire club to put on the show. This is a wonderful time to meet new people and work with your fellow C&S enthusiasts. More announcements in future newsletters.

NAME BADGES

If you'd like your own genuine name badge, they are being ordered, so please contact Michelle Egan by March 1, 2009. The price is \$7.50.

SCSS Membership and Renewal Form

NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____ BIRTHDAY(S): _____

INDIVIDUAL \$10: _____ FAMILY (2 OR MORE) \$15: _____ RENEWAL (YES/NO) _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

MAIL TO: George Avery, 7941 Dersingham Drive, Sacramento, CA 95829-1469

CHAIR USE ONLY: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____ Cash _____ Receipt # _____



Next Meeting Date
Monday, February 23

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society


c/o Sharon Wisecarver, Editor
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DEADLINE for publication is
 the 5th of every month.

Visit our website:

www.sacramentocss.org

March 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			4	5	6	7
			11	12	13	Sacramento Rose Show Shepard GAC 14
			Eddie Aditajs Dino Colangelo B-DAY 18	19	20	Perennial Plant Sale Shepard GAC 21
22	SCSS General Meeting Shepard GAC 23	24	25	26	Ken Dines B-DAY 27	SGAC Spring Sale Shepard GAC 28
SGAC Spring Sale Shepard GAC 29	30	Ted Heath Shirley Opie B-DAY 31				