



Thorny Issues

Volume 50, No. 4

April Program and Meeting

Monday, April 27, 2009

7pm

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



Carnivorous Plants of Borneo

Presented by Tim Metcalf

Two years ago, Tim Metcalf was invited to join a ten-day backpacking trip in Borneo, visiting wild sites of *Nepenthes*, the tropical pitcher plants. The terrain was rugged, the leeches thirsty, and the facilities primitive, but the plants were spectacular. This slide show will illustrate the incredible diversity of form, shape, color, and trapping mechanisms of the *Nepenthes* Tim encountered, as well as other plants, including some tropical succulents.

Tim Metcalf, born in Sacramento, grew up in Woodland, California. He graduated from UC Davis in 1970 with a BS in Math, but from his freshman year on, he was a student assistant in the Botany greenhouses. After graduation, Tim was offered a position at what is now the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. In the next few years, Tim received his Masters in Environmental Horticulture and eventually became the Director of the Conservatory. He has traveled to the American tropics, South Africa, and Madagascar.

Tim fell in love with plants successively: the caudiciforms because of their sculptural shapes and subtle color, and the sense of age, strength, and persistence; cacti especially after raising them from seed, and others including orchids, seedless vascular plants, carnivorous plants, aeroids... all captivated him.

Recent years have been focused on planning and construction of new instructional and research greenhouses and overseeing the operation of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, the teaching production operation, and research greenhouses for the College of Biological Sciences.

In July 2008, Tim retired to take care of his aged parents but he has freedom to volunteer as Director Emeritus for special projects and tours.

Tim will supply our Plant Raffle Table with cactus, succulents AND carnivores!

Marilynn Vilas



Carnivorous plant
UC Davis Conservatory

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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.

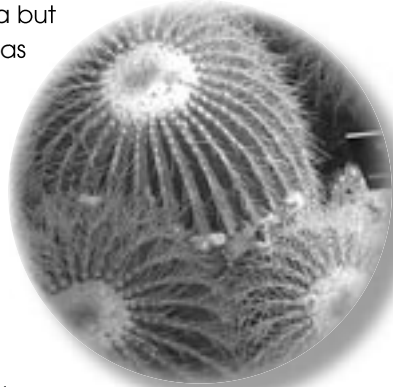
MINI SHOW *April 2009*

Cactus - Notocactus

Though the genus *Notocactus* was moved and included with *Parodia* in the mid 80s there is still much discussion and disagreement. *Notocactus* has now been merged with *Parodia* but since the name *Parodia* was used before *Notocactus*, it has precedence and all the *Notocactus* became *Parodia*. Members of the genus *Notocactus* are found in Southern Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay. Argentinian *Notocacti* grow at relatively low altitudes in areas that receive quite a high annual rainfall compared with other cacti and succulent plants. *Notocactus* is a genus of about 25 species. They are grown for their spine formations, as well as for their attractive flowers. The genus name comes from the Greek for "cactus from the south".

Notocactus are almost always globose, elongating as they age, some species eventually reach 3 feet (90 cm). They are often solitary and rarely offset. Their flowers are funnel or bell shaped, yellow, or occasionally red. They come in groups of 3 or 4 at several times during the year and last around a week.

Editor's note: March and April's Mini-Show selections were mistakenly reversed. The rest of the year's Mini-Show selections are correct as announced in the February newsletter.



Notocactus claviceps
Huntington Gardens

Succulent - Your Favorite

Any fleshy plant that belongs to one of many diverse families, among them species of cactus, aloes, stonecrop, houseleek, agave and yucca. Most succulents are indigenous to arid or semi-arid regions and their succulence is an evolutionary adaptation to the extreme heat and dryness of the environment.

Typically the plants have greatly reduced leaves with a hard and heavily cutinized outer surface. Succulent plants are especially adapted to use their hollow bodies to store water for long periods and this allows them to survive in arid environments

with little competition. Their large internal volume for storage but minimum surface area is also important to prevent water loss. Succulents are grown horticulturally for their interesting and often grotesque forms and a few have very attractive flowers.

Compiled by Mara Auseklis Aditajs



Aeonium sp.

Sales Help, Handle Money!

Help is needed in the outside sales area. Please contact Kathy Hodges at 682-1196 or agavequeen@comcast.net, if you can work a shift in the plant hotel area. It is mostly a sit down job, so you can rest.

We also need more volunteers to help work the register area. Bring collected boxes to the April meeting or Friday, May 1, during set-up.

Thanks, Kathy Hodges, Sales Chair

Name Badges

President Michelle Egan reports that we have a new company that will do name badges for us at a cost of \$8.50 each. Michelle would like anyone who has already signed up and paid to please call her at 424-5233 so that she can make a current list. Anyone else wanting a name badge should call her also.

Mini Show Winners

March 2009

CACTUS - Parodia

1st - *Parodia maasii*, Barbara Coelho

1st - *Parodia aurespina*, Michelle Egan

SUCCULENT - Echeveria

1st - *Echeveria gibbiflora carunculata*, Barbara Coelho

2nd - *Echeveria runyonii*, 'Topsy Turvy', Michelle Egan

3rd - *Dudleya sp.*, Mary Schuett

May Show Update

The May Show is almost upon us! Hope you are busily selecting and repotting your award winning plants. If you have any questions, please call Michelle Egan or Marilyn Vilas (see below) and we will be glad to help. All the committee chairs seem to have everything well in hand. Please remember to submit any bills to Greg Lang (treasurer) or the Show Director by the end of the show on Sunday.

As you are cleaning and repotting your plants, remember that this year each plant in both open and novice is eligible for a \$75, \$50 or \$25 prize, depending on the public's voting. Also, one of the shadow boxes will be awarded \$25 when selected best by the public.

Great incentive to enter lots and often! Registration slips and show schedules are available at the April meeting or you can register on Friday when you bring your plants.

A special reminder: Kathy Hodges and/or Marilyn Vilas will be on the Farmer Fred Show, Sunday April 26 from 9-11am. The 9-10 hour will be on KFBK 1530 and the 10-11 hour will be on KSTE 650. Listen up about your show!!

We're calling for set-up volunteers on Friday May 1, starting at 9am. We need to get the tables ready for the plant deliveries by 11am. We also will need volunteers to break down the show on Sunday, May 3, from 4-5:30pm. Everyone is tired by then so anybody that can help will be greatly appreciated. All plant entrants should help with either set-up or teardown.

Lunch will be provided for workers and volunteers on Friday and Saturday. Please bring a favorite dish for the Sunday potluck. See Karen and Ken Dines for any questions.

Please sign up with George Avery to be a Host or to help at the Membership table. Remember, volunteering to do anything will get you free lunch on your volunteer day!

Center times:

Friday, May 1: Open 9 am for Show setup.
10am – 7pm Plant Sales Setup
11am to 7pm – Plant Show Setup.

BE AWARE! The CENTER WILL CLOSE SHARPLY AT 7 PM. ALL PLANTS MUST BE IN PLACE ON THE TABLES BY THEN. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Saturday, May 2: Open at 8am, closes at 5:30pm
Show and Sale: 9am to 5pm

Sunday, May 3: Open at 8:30am, closes at 5:30pm
Show and Sale: 9am to 4pm

Any questions? Call or email:

Michelle Egan, 916-424-5233

Marilynn Vilas, 530-753-7011, nedmar@omsoft.com

Kathy Hodges, 916-682-1196, agavequeen@comcast.net



May Meeting on Memorial Day

Our May meeting, which is our annual Pot-Luck and Awards meeting, will be held on our usual 4th Monday of the month. It happens to be Memorial Day, May 25th, so mark your calendars. We were unable to schedule it for any other Monday at the Garden Center. See you there.

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, April 27

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

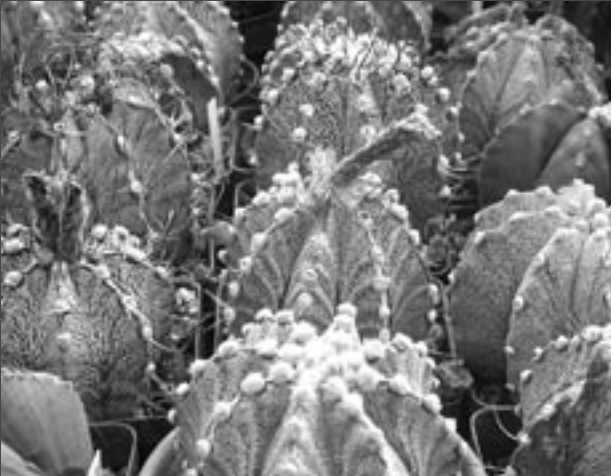
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DEADLINE for publication is
 the 5th of every month.

Visit our website:

www.sacramentocss.org

May 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						SCSS Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale Shepard GAC 1 2
SCSS Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale Shepard GAC 3	Carrie Hanson B-DAY 5/3 Irma Hauni B-DAY 4	Helen Albright B-DAY 5	6	7	8	Geranium Show Shepard GAC 9
Del Jack B-DAY 10	11				Penny Newell B-DAY 15	Carmichael C&S Show & Sale 16
Carmichael C&S Show & Sale 17	Gerri Wigglesworth B-DAY 5/17 18				Scott Fike B-DAY 22	23
Kathy Bees B-DAY 5/31 Bonsai Show Shepard GAC 24/31	SCSS General Meeting Shepard GAC Memorial Day 25				Pat Niemeyer B-DAY 29	Bonsai Show Shepard GAC 30