



STICKY ISSUE

STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

MEETINGS: Fourth Thursday each month, 7:00 p.m.

* Unless otherwise noted

WHERE: San Joaquin County Building
2707 Transworld Drive
Stockton, California

***NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, October 27th, 2011

PRE MEETING DINNER: Denny's Restaurant
Arch Road location 5:30 p.m.



STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
C/O BRIAN POOT
1180 BOXWOOD WAY
TURLOCK, CA 95380



Dyckia sp.

2011 BOARD:

President: Roelyn Poot (209) 599-7241 pootscactus@yahoo.com
Vice President: Brian Poot (209) 664-9232 jeffgordonfan24@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer: Lori Mace (209) 847-0180 lmace@ainet.com
Secretary: Trudy Spahn (209) 847-1673 trudyspahn@velociter.net
Newsletter: Brian Poot (209) 664-9232 jeffgordonfan24@sbcglobal.net
Board Members: Harvey Parolari, Barbara Parolari, Steve Roberts

BOARD MEETINGS: Please note, board meetings will now be held the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m., except in December, or if that date conflicts with something else. Anyone is welcome to attend, but please call first to let them know you will be coming to make sure of the date. Thanks!



We can always use new ideas & opinions for the club, as well as help with behind the scenes stuff. If you are interested, please come to a board meeting. Thx!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Individual	\$15/yr
Family	\$20/yr
Contributing	\$35/yr
Patron	\$50/yr

All dues should be sent to the treasurer before the February general meeting.

Membership runs January-December. Complimentary Jan. & Feb. issue if unpaid.

CALENDAR:

October 11th - Board Meeting at the Poot's 7:00 p.m.
27th - General Meeting 7:00pm: **Keith Smith - Dyckia**
2012 Board Elections

November - **NO MEETINGS**

December 8th - Annual Christmas Dinner & Auction at UJ's Restaurant in Stockton
Location: 7628 Pacific Avenue at Hammer Lane in Stockton

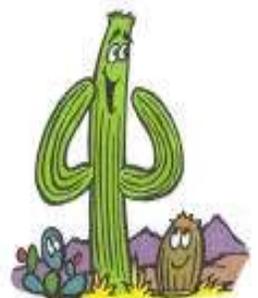


OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS: (not club related)

We will also be listing other clubs shows, sales, and speakers, as well as cacti related events that may be of interest to our members. **If you know of something that should be listed, please let the editor know. Thanks

SUNSHINE REPORT: by Mildred Young

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY to: Lori Mace, Kathy Zumbrunn, Gloria Feedback,
Jim Bock & Bill Poot.**



THIS MONTHS PROGRAM: Keith Smith - Dyckia

Embrace the genus Dyckia (carefully!) - Dyckia's have always been the stepchild of both the bromeliad family and of cactus and succulent lovers. Their prickly personality has deterred many a grower, but they can more than repay your wounded arms by being easy to grow and propagate, and by providing a wonderful display of leaf color and symmetry. Granted their flowers don't equal those of the vrieseas and aechmeas, or even most succulents, but they bloom prolifically and frequently; no waiting for years for your next bloom. So maybe it is time to take a second look at this neglected genus and give the poor neglected Dyckia a chance. To wet your appetite - a slide show of some of the new species and hybrids coming from Brazil as well as some of the U.S. hybrids that have found a home in our collections, plus a few growing tips. (*Member's who have Dyckia's big or small, are asked to bring them to the meeting so our members can get up close and personal with them.*)

WHO: Keith Smith has been an active bromeliad grower and member of the Sacramento Bromeliad and Carnivorous Plant Society since 1976. He acquired a number of his Dyckia's and other spiny monsters as a result of being the only member with a pick-up truck when a former member's collection was being distributed to Society members. He has learned to live in relative safety with his adoptees and has ever grown to appreciate them as reliable and easy to grow companions.

***The raffle table this month will be provided by YOU the members & a few by the speaker.**

***Reminder to Steve Roberts & the Poot's, this is your month to bring refreshments.**

***Reminder to Barbara Parolari it is your month to be the greeter.**

***A big thank you to Barbara Coelho for setting up the Country Store & also to everyone who donated raffle items & purchased tickets & silent auction items.**

BOARD POSITIONS FOR 2012:

President: Roelyn Poot
Vice-President: Brian Poot
Treasurer: Lori Mace
Secretary: Barbara Parolari
Board Members: Bill Poot, Steve Roberts & Pam Fish

Since there is no one running against each other we will just have a confirmation vote.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS OVER THE YEARS: by Bernadine Chapman-Cruz

Steve Roberts has been a member of Stockton Cactus & Succulent Club for the past two years. However, he has had an on-going love for cactus since 1985 after seeing a friend's cacti garden. That's when Steve was bitten by the cacti and succulent bug and became fascinated with the easy to grow and care for plants. "Seeing my friend's plants definitely sparked my interest," Steve said. "After looking at his plants for a while, all of a sudden I found myself at one of the big box stores heading for the gardening section seeking out cacti. I bought a few plants, took them home, and then bought a few more and a few more." Today, Steve estimates his cacti and succulent garden hosts up to 1000 different varieties. His favorites are Euphorbia's, Aloe's and Haworthia's which he has displayed on six-inch cement block and board plant stands in and around his home.

"Growing and tending my plants is relatively easy," Steve said. "They don't need much care, little water and even though I don't have a hot house, I cover my plants to protect them from the elements with shade cloth stretched over pvc pipe. That seems to work. I learned my lesson some 20 years ago in the valley's big freeze when nighttime temperatures dipped to 18 degrees for two consecutive night's right at Christmas. I lost hundreds of plants that year, but not all of them, so I just started building my garden back up again, and now take precautions to protect them from the elements. It's all trial and error. A definite learning experience." Steve has spent many years researching different varieties of plants and is extremely knowledgeable in the field of cacti and succulents. "A good resource is the internet," he says, but he also uses reference books as well as interacting with club members and others who enjoy the common interest.

"I like cacti and succulents because they are different from other plants," Steve said. "I enjoy their strange shapes and unusual flowers, and just the fact that most people don't have these types of plants in their gardens. It is kind of unique and different." "Cacti and succulents are interesting, different, relatively easy to care for, and delightful to learn about as well as the perfect plants for a garden."

2011 COUNTRY STORE – PHOTO'S BY KATHY ZUMBRUNN



Succulents make excellent decorative plants, if you know how to care for them I have not written about one of my favorite plant groups in a while: Succulents, those fascinating plants that always have an artificial, plastic look about them. With their hard outer skin and often wicked spines, they have always appeared indestructible to me. The word succulent is a general term that denotes plants that are adapted to arid environments and have the ability to store water in their trunks, roots, or leaves. Sometimes people use the words cactus and succulent interchangeably, but cactus is an actual family of plants, most of which are succulents, and succulent is just a characteristic found in many different plant families.



One other interesting characteristic of these seemingly tough plants is their flowers. Many, being plants from inhospitable environments like deserts, have white flowers that bloom at night. This, of course, is an adaptation to attract pollinators to visit the flowers during the coolest part of the day. Since these pollinators don't rely on vision to get around at night, some of these flowers have delicious fragrances. Pachypodium is a good example of a night-blooming flower. I often see them in residential landscapes. They can grow quite tall, sometimes up to eight feet, with spiny, erect, green trunks and perhaps a branch or two coming out laterally looking like a dried-out scarecrow.

When they are in a well-drained location but do get irrigated regularly, they can develop large bulges in their trunks that give them the look of an overfed person. In periods of drought, these bulges will shrink. I grew a number of very large Pachypodium from seed at Parrot Jungle years ago. They liked the full blasting sun, well-drained soil with a bit of well-composted organic material mixed in, and lots of water. Many of the succulents do not grow well here in South Florida because of our high humidity. One day you'll notice a small, wet, black spot on the trunk and a couple of days later the whole plant turns to mush and falls over. Not all succulents will grow here, especially if they get rain on them. I used to have a large collection of succulents that I grew under a translucent fiberglass roof. They did well for the most part, but if I ever left them out in the rain or cold, they quickly turned to mush.

The photo that accompanies this article is a fairly new form of the crown-of-thorns plant that has come and gone from our local landscapes for years now. The flowers are striking against the large foliage and last a long time. I have grown many forms of *Euphorbia milii*, and this is one of my favorites. It grows well in my yard, but I think it best to grow it in a container. This form of crown-of-thorns makes a nice, fat, round specimen in a container, and thus is an excellent balcony plant. Plus, growing it in a container gives you a chance to move the plants under cover if we are expecting cold weather. (Most succulents like crown-of-thorns will not tolerate frost. We used to cover our hedges of these spiny plants with burlap before frost and sometimes still had them die in 30-degree temperatures.)

For those of you concerned about toxic plants, the crown-of-thorns is in the *euphorbia* family (as is the holiday poinsettia) and the milky sap, which is characteristic of this family, can be a bit caustic. Most pets and children won't go past the thorns to get to the sap, but the leaves have a bit of sap in them, too. The desert rose, *Adenium obesum*, is another succulent that makes an excellent potted plant. The plant has colorful flowers, no spines, and can end up with a wonderfully fat trunk. (A large swollen base two or three feet across is not unheard of.) When I repot them, I always raise the plant up out of the soil a few inches to expose more of the swollen base. This will not harm the plant and I think it makes a much more attractive specimen. When you first buy these plants as seedlings, they are usually pretty skinny. Don't raise them until they have been growing for a year or two and you see the base getting fat. If you don't see flowers, they are probably in too much shade. I often see some very attractive species of succulents for sale in the local garden centers. They'll be purchased for planting in residential landscapes, where they'll look great for a couple of weeks and then start to die out. Check out the species before you purchase a plant. Many succulents only grow well in a cool, dry, Mediterranean-type environment.

On those early summer mornings when the air lay stagnant in the south part of town, I'd rise early to get to Clark Moorten's garden by 7. This was the magical hour for working before the sun rose high to bake the low desert. The greatest reward for such diligence was to peruse Moorten's copy of the *Cactus & Succulent Journal*, which floated for weeks around the front desk, becoming dusty and sun-wrinkled until the next issue arrived. Among these pages the lumpers and splitters fight it out over the ultimate classification of cacti. Lumpers feel there should be fewer genera with more species. Splitters want to divide large genera into numerous smaller ones. Early botanists had only the similarity of reproductive structures for determining which plants were related.

Today DNA is far more accurate, with new data forcing plant taxonomists to perpetually reclassify much of the cactus family.

Add this to the high degree of variability within many succulent groups and their tendency to naturally hybridize in the wild makes things even more confusing. This is why the articles in the journal are so fascinating; because botanists often prove their points with photos taken in the habitats where a particular species originates. It is habitat that tells the most about what a plant wants from us and how we can expect it to behave in our desert gardens.

Succulent plants are defined as any that contain specialized cells able to hold water for a long period of time. These tissues can be distributed throughout the entire plant. They may be only in the leaves or clustered in a semiwoody stem known as a caudex. The vast majority of succulent plants are native to southern Africa, the island of Madagascar and the Americas. Because this is an American organization, there is a great deal of emphasis on cacti, which are found only in the western hemisphere. This demonstrates the enormous range of plants covered by this society, and routinely omitted from gardening publications. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America was founded in Pasadena in 1929. It is an honored group to which Moorten's parents Pat and Slim belonged in its earliest days and he enjoys their vast collection of back issues now available on CD. The worldwide membership includes botanical travelers, academics, breeders, botanical gardens, botanists and devotees like myself.

I recently contributed an article on succulents to a nationally distributed gardening magazine. During the year-long editorial process we had many frustrating discussions about the exact names for these plants and their unique characteristics. Ultimately, the story was changed to suit their need for exact nomenclature, illustrating how traditional gardening publications have a hard time with this group of plants. Only through publications dedicated to plants with succulent tissues will you find accurate and highly valuable articles. My favorite stories are those of travels into the vast Angolan and Namibian deserts to find reclusive species of succulents. These are always illustrated with great photos. It's rare to see our favorite African succulents in habitat, and there they often look very different than they do in gardens.

The current issue of the journal features a fascinating story on the mites that create aloe blight, a problem that afflicts plants in our area. Blight is actually the result of microscopic insects, *Aceria aloinis*, that travel from one plant to the next. Their presence causes cancer-like growths in the tissues that are easy to recognize once you know what to look for. This article features fascinating electron microscopy images that reveal these invisible pests in detail. Perhaps most important of all are the society's goals to conserve cacti in the wild. Many species of cacti are threatened by climate change, over-collecting and habitat destruction. The desire for rare and unusual plants has literally destroyed once cactus-rich regions of Mexico. The annual dues of \$48 per year not only fund the journal, but go toward efforts to preserve these species both in cultivation and in the wild. Consider gifting memberships to friends and relatives who share your love of these unique plants. For anyone who loves growing desert plant species, designing with succulents and learning to identify them, you'll find membership the Holy Grail of learning.

Learn more about the Cactus and Succulent Society of America at www.cssainc.org. The Facebook page is excellent for following events in our region, particularly rare plant sales held as fundraisers for major collections and botanical gardens. Reach them by mail at P.O. Box 1000, Claremont, CA 91711. Phone: (626) 852-8085.



These fence post cacti were planted to lure photographers to the ethnobotanical garden located in Oaxaca City, Mexico.

2011 COUNTRY STORE – PHOTO'S BY KATHY ZUMBRUNN



**STOCKTON CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Annual dues (January-December 2012)

Single Membership.....	\$15.00
Family Membership.....	\$20.00
Contributing.....	\$35.00

Total Due\$ _____

Please Print:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Birthday (year(s) optional) _____

Do you want the newsletter
E-mailed to you - Check 1
Yes No

*Please mail this form, along with a check made payable to the Stockton Cactus & Succulent Society to the membership chairperson before the February general meeting to continue receiving the newsletter.

**Lori Mace
10982 28 Mile Road
Oakdale, CA 95361**

MONTHLY MINI SHOW: OPEN TO ANY CLUB MEMBERS THAT WANT TO SHOW PLANTS!

The mini show, held at the general meetings, is a time when you can **bring your plants**, to compete against other members' plants. There are 10 categories: Cacti & Succulent, (Open, Advanced & Novice Divisions), Bloomers (anything in bloom, also three divisions) & Allied Interest (dish gardens or natural planters). You may bring up to 2 from each category. The forms for judging are available to take home so that you can fill them out prior to the meeting if you wish, or there will be some at the meeting as well.



The plants are judged by the members attending that meeting; Who ever receives the most votes wins that months mini show & will get their name in the next newsletter. The person(s) receiving the most votes at the end of the year will receive a gift from the club.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO BRING PLANTS TO SHOW THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

FYI: We will be changing the mini show categories to now be **Novice** - those with fewer than 5 years of showing in the mini-show. **Advanced** – those who have shown for more than 5 years in the mini-show & does not sell more than \$300 in plants a year. **Open** – those who sell more than \$300 in plants a year.

Brian Poot, Mini show coordinator

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER RESERVATIONS

NAME: _____

Number Attending: _____ (# of Dinners)

Dinner Choices:

PRIME RIB: _____

TERIYAKI CHICKEN: _____

SALMON: _____



Cost: \$7.50 per person. The club will be paying for the other half of the meal.

The dinner will be held on **Thursday, December 8th** at 6:30 pm, arrive between 6:15 & 6:30, at UJ's in Stockton on Pacific Ave. near Hammer Lane.

Make your check payable to the Stockton Cactus & Succulent Society and mail your reservations to **Lori Mace at 10982 28 Mile Road, Oakdale, CA 95361**. Reservations not received by December 6th will not be accepted.

You can also renew your membership for next year (2012) at the same time & send it in all with the same check. The membership renewal form is on the backside of this form. If you renew your membership by the Christmas dinner you will receive a free plant.

We will also be having our annual Christmas auction so be sure to bring items that are edible or of garden relation; like garden books, pots, artwork or pictures, garden gloves or clothing, tongs, birdhouses or feeders, plants, seeds, or other items garden related & also Christmas related items.