

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

April, 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 4

Announcements

April Meeting:

March 28th, 2025
6:00pm -9:15pm
Shepard Garden & Art
Center

Doors open at 6:15 for
plant sales and
fellowship.
Program begins at 7
PM.

Open to the public.
No admission fee.
Free parking.
Refreshments served



April Program

Talk Title: How Plants Get Around: Flying,
Hitchhiking, And Other Cool Methods



Our speaker this month is J.D. Wikert. He will present on the various modes that plants use move from one location to another. J.D. will discuss some of the more interesting ways plants have of distributing themselves across the landscape. This is an aspect of cacti and succulent horticulture that we don't often focus on.

April Program



J.D. is a soon to be retired fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in California's Central Valley and lives in Lodi California. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 150 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for around 20 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies.

You might have seen J.D. speak in a previous meeting on *Adromischus*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Sedum*, *Senecio*, *Stapeliads*, a general Succulent Overview, watering succulents, and a succulent quiz.

J.D. will bring plants to sell at the meeting. He can take cash or Venmo.

Volunteers Needed!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

OUR GIANT MAY SALE IS COMING SOON!

SAVE THE DATES---MAY 2,3,4

Our annual giant cactus and succulent sale and show is now only three weeks away. Currently we are very short on volunteers for Saturday and Sunday. Spots are also still available on Friday. Success depends on you, our members, coming out in droves to help with many tasks.

Volunteer Online here>>>> <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DAAA92EABFEC43-55593770-scscs#/>.

THE PERKS!

#1 FIRST CHOICE... You can start buying cacti and succulents BEFORE the public can! On Friday May 2, the members only sale for volunteers is at 12 PM-1 PM. The public sale is 1PM-5PM. Volunteers can also shop from 8AM-9AM on Saturday and Sunday.

#2 We feed you. Volunteers will be fed lunch on all days that they volunteer!

#3 Get the satisfaction of knowing that you participated in helping to continue all the great things our club does, such as speakers, field trips, plant exchanges and drawings, the demonstration garden and much more.

#4 Meet new folks from our club and the vendors.

For those of you who are into the details of opportunities to volunteer. Tasks are generally easy. The hospitality/food area, the Plant Hotel, Cashier, Cashier assistant (think grocery bagger, but with boxes and cacti and succulents), at the entrance and exit to the Shepard Center and at the Show entrance, helping to setup or take down tables and popup tents., and more.

Volunteers Needed!

VOLUNTEERING IS SIMPLE:

Volunteer Online here>>>> [https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DAAA92EABFEC43-55593770-scss#/.](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DAAA92EABFEC43-55593770-scss#/)

You will be able to choose days, times and tasks by clicking on the SIGN UP button on the category you want to volunteer for. If it is your first time, you will be asked to fill in your name and email. After that, you be able to sign up for one or more categories.

AT THE APRIL 28TH MEETING

We will be signing up volunteers at the meeting as well. But don't wait!

THERE IS HELP! Email Dave Roberts at roblands94@gmail.com. Please leave your phone and email. Put "SCSS volunteer" in the subject line. Can't email? Call or text Dave at 916-416-9368.

BOXES NEEDED

We also need hundreds (yes, hundreds) of boxes for the shoppers. Boxes with flaps are too difficult to work with! Grab as many small "berry box flats" as possible (strawberry boxes are too large). Ask at the produce department of your local grocery store. If you are a Costco member, please start taking the tray style blueberry, raspberry and blackberry boxes on each visit. Costco also has smaller tray style boxes. Walk up and down the aisles and you will see them --- combine product to create empty boxes.



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Bill McCabe

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CSSA Affiliate:

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George Krigas

Membership/Roster:

Charlotte Tipton

Mini Show:

Linda Partmann

Newsletter:

Eve Milan

Drawing Tickets:

Cindy Morales

Refreshments:

Michele Swanberg & Elaine

Thomas

Annual Country Store:

Bill McCabe

Sunshine Corner:

Cherry Dulaney

Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor

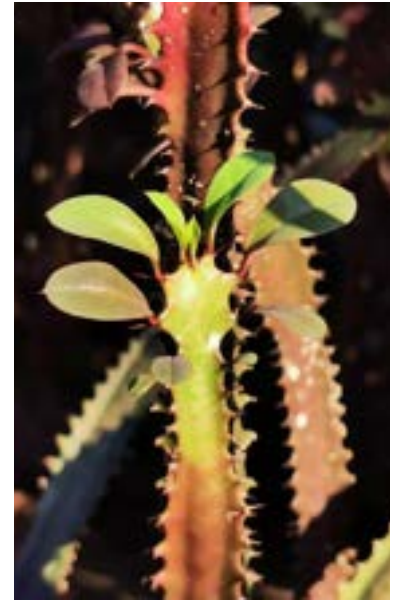
Co-chairs

2025 Mini Show Schedule

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Spiral Cactus	Aeonium
February	Cylindropuntia	Haworthia
March	Ferocactus	Gasteria
April	Coryphantha	Euphorbia
May	Catered Dinner – No Mini Show	
June	Astrophytum	Adenium
July	Rebutia	Echeveria
August	Ariocarpus	Senecio
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Pediocactus	Pachyphytum
November	Mammalaria	Crassula
December	Holiday Party – No Mini Show	

Our three categories are cactus, succulents and dish gardens. Remember, for cactus and succulent categories, an entry should just be one plant (or plant with its pups). If there are several plantings in a pot (even of the same species), that is a dish garden. A dish garden can have several plants of the same species, or a mix of species. Dish gardens can also have playful elements, such as fairy gardens, etc.

If you are participating in the Mini Show, please plan on arriving on time to get your plant set up and give the members time to vote! Voting is over at 7 pm when the speaker starts. Winners are announced after the speaker. We had great participation so far this year—keep it up! This month's featured entries are ones we all have so it should be a great Mini Show! With the warmer temperatures we are all bringing our plants back out into the sunshine!



Euphorbia trigona



Euphorbia bulbispina



Coryphantha

Mini Show

Coryphantha: .Coryphantha, or beehive cactus, is a genus of small to middle-sized, globose or columnar cacti. The genus is native to arid parts of Central America, Mexico, through Arizona, New Mexico, and western Texas and north into southwestern, central, and southeastern Montana There are four characteristics that distinguish Coryphantha from other cacti.

1. Their bodies do not have ribs, just tubercles.
2. The flowers form at the top of the plant (the apex or growing end of the stem).
3. The tip (podarium) of each flowering tubercle has three parts, the spiny areole, the groove and the axil. Without the groove it is not a Coryphantha.
4. The seed coat (or testa) has a net-like pattern (reticulate).

More than many other cacti, the Coryphantha change in their appearance over their lifespan. The presence or absence of a central spine is not indicative of the genus, even in fully adult plant.



Coryphantha octacantha



Coryphantha vogtherriana

Mini Show

Euphorbia: Euphorbia is a large and diversified genus of flowering plants in the Euphorbiaceae family. These are most common in southern and eastern Africa and Madagascar, but they can also be found in tropical Asia and the Americas.

Euphorbias exhibit an impressive variety of shapes, textures, and growth habits. Some, like the *Euphorbia tirucalli* (Pencil Cactus), can reach up to 30 feet in height, creating a striking, tree-like presence in landscapes. Others, such as *Euphorbia obesa*, remain small and round, perfect for potted displays.

Many Euphorbias are succulent-like in nature, storing water in their stems and leaves, making them highly drought-tolerant.

Their foliage can be evergreen or deciduous, and their forms range from upright stems to sprawling, ground -covering varieties.

See you at the meeting! I am sure we are all getting excited about our annual show & sale!

Linda Partmann



Euphorbia mammillaris



Euphorbia obesa



Euphorbia Milii

Announcements

OPEN GARDENS

Hey Cactus & Succulent members:

We have 3 Open gardens coming in the near future. April 19th, May 24th and May 31st.

Saturday April 19: 10AM-4PM

3531 Greenview Ln. Sacramento.

Nate Hardkor is a fairly new member and has only been to one meeting, so far. He is holding an Open Garden on Saturday 4/19 and he is inviting people from our Club to come on over. He says his yard looked like a dirt lot 4 years ago. You can see from the photo attached that it has come a long way in the last 4 years! Nate has stage 4 cancer and says he has not been able to keep up with all of the weeding, but with the good weather and the help of some friends he's catching up. Stop by this Saturday and check out Nate's garden!

Nate says come on over anytime after 10AM, just text him when you arrive. Although Saturday the 19th is the official Open Garden, Nate wants you to know your welcome to stop on by any day if Saturday doesn't work for you (please text ahead of time if you come on a day other than Saturday 4/19). The sooner the better if you want to see everything in bloom! Nate Hardkor's phone number for those who intend to visit his Open Garden: 612-296-0655



Announcements

Saturday May 24 9AM-2PM

Dave Roberts will be having another Open Garden this year. If you've been there before, you know there are great things to look forward to in Dave's garden. If you haven't been to Dave's, don't miss your chance this year!



May 31, 10AM-2PM

Amie Frisch hosted an Open Garden last year and will give us all another opportunity to see her greenhouse amidst the oak studded countryside. Her place is a few minutes past Coloma in Garden Valley and it's well worth the drive.



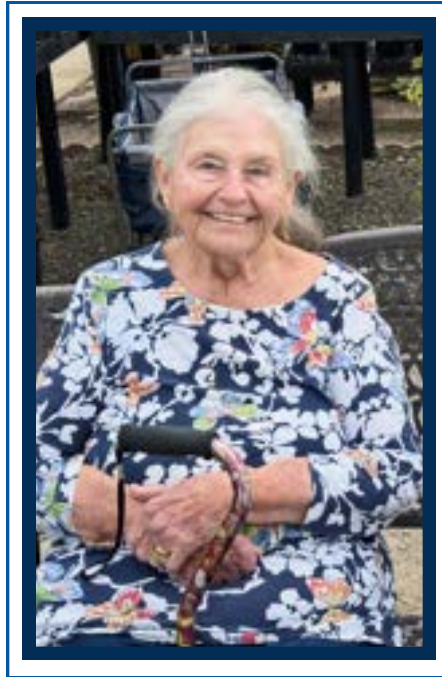
Club Members On A Holiday Return With Garden Succulents



Club Members Bill McCabe And Dave Roberts Have Recently Returned From A Road Trip To Southern California And Arizona Where They Visited National Parks, Botanical Gardens And Specialty Nurseries. They Came Back To Sacramento With A Van Load Of Cactus And Succulents. Included Were Four New Plants For Our Club's Demonstration Garden At The Shepard Garden And Arts Center. The New Plants Are Opuntia Dark Night, Echinocereus Engelmanni, Euphorbia Moroccan Mound, And Mammillaria Geminispina.



Obituary for Naomi Jacqueline Bloss



Naomi Jacqueline Bloss

January 10, 1939 - March 21, 2025

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Naomi Jacqueline Bloss, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Naomi's love for plants and nature was a gift that touched the hearts of everyone she met. Her passion for gardening, especially cacti and succulents, was more than a hobby, it was her life's work. Naomi's love of plants began at a young age. At just eight years old, living at NAS Corpus Christi, she was gifted Kalanchoe cuttings by a neighbor. Her grandmother's green thumb with plants like gardenia and succulents, as well as her father's obsession with papayas, nurtured her love for the natural world. This passion followed her throughout her life, shaping her career and leaving a lasting legacy in the world of horticulture. A proud member of the Cactus and Succulent Societies of America, including the Monterey Bay Area, San Francisco, and San Jose chapters, Naomi's contributions to their community are infinite.

She was a longtime volunteer at the UCSC Arboretum, sharing her knowledge and love of plants with others. Naomi also founded her first business in Washington, D.C., where she began cultivating cacti and succulents in a small porch that soon transformed into a dedicated grow room. As her collections grew, Naomi, with her husband Frank, designed a rooftop greenhouse at their Mount Pleasant townhouse, expanding their passion even further. Naomi was instrumental in establishing the Cactus & Succulent Society of Washington D.C., a testament to her commitment to the growth of this vibrant community.

In 1980, Naomi and Frank relocated to California, where they deepened their involvement in the world of cacti and succulents, enriching the local plant community. Her presence at plant sales and society meetings will be greatly missed by all who knew her. In addition to her passion for plants, Naomi had a deep love for travel. She cherished her visits to Namibia, Argentina, the Caribbean, and many other places, creating joyful memories with her loved ones.

Naomi was predeceased by her husband, Frank and her beloved daughter Lisa. She is survived by one daughter, three sons, two daughters-in-law, one son-in-law, five grandsons, one granddaughter, and many dear friends who adored her. Her legacy will live on through her family, her plants, and the many lives she touched. Naomi will be remembered for her warmth, generosity, and the beauty she cultivated both in her garden and in the hearts of those around her.