

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 8

Announcements

August Meeting:

August 25th, 2025
6:15pm -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



August Program

Caudiforms 101

Keith will discuss caudex forming succulents. Topics will cover root pruning, growing for size, presentation and more. Have your questions ready.

Keith will bring in specimens from his collection and have pottery available for purchase.



August Program

Keith Taylor began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991 after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. "I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk". The *Cyphostemma* he saw is also the 1st succulent he purchased and still in his possession. His collection has swollen to more than 800 plants. He grows in plastic containers, raised and ground beds. Keith prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants. He grows them hard, meaning limited water, little to no feeding and hot sun.

In 2008, Keith began creating pots to show off his plants. He believes the pot should compliment, not distract from the plant. The main focus should be the succulent. If the pot is too ornate, colorful, or shiny, it draws your eye toward the pot rather than the succulent. Also proportions play a roll. Rocks and topdressing add to complete the presentation. His pottery is sought after by C&S collectors as well as bonsai artists.

Keith sells his work at C&S clubs and shows, bonsai clubs, online through Facebook, Instagram, and his website. He accepts custom orders and ships worldwide.

<https://www.instagram.com/kitoi/>



Board and Committee Chairs

President:
Bill McCabe

Vice-President/Program Chair:
Theresa Roberts

Secretary: *Gerhard Bock*

Treasurer: *Greg Lang*

Board of Directors:
Carole Hada,
Tina Micheal Ruse
Amie Frisch
David Roberts
Ex Officio: Mariel Dennis

CSSA Affiliate:
Gerhard Bock

Librarian:
George Krigas

Membership/Roster:
Charlotte Tipton

Mini Show:
Linda Partmann

Newsletter:
Eve Milan

Drawing Tickets:
Cindy Morales

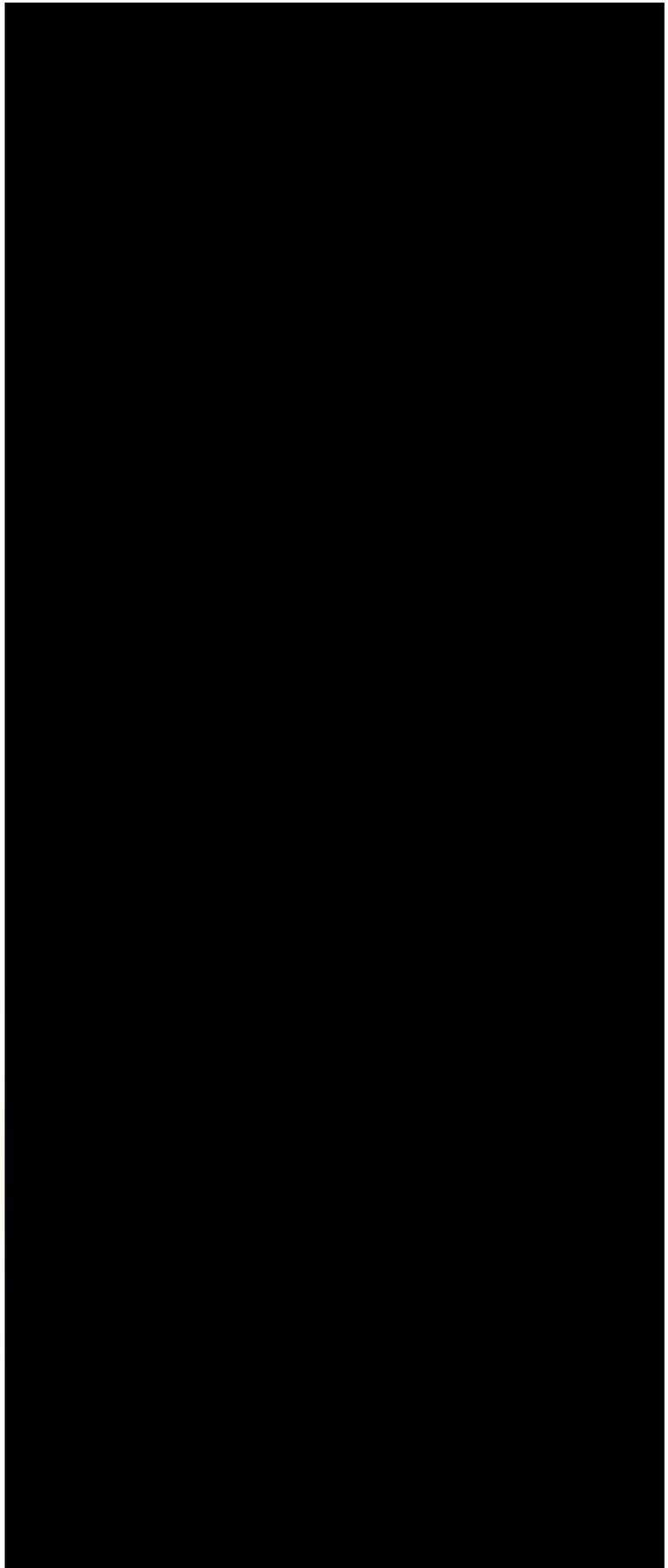
Refreshments:
Michele Swanberg & Elaine
Thomas

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	Aporocactus	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.



Ariocarpus Retusus

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! .

August Mini Show

Ariocarpus is a small genus of succulent, subtropical plants of the family Cactaceae. It comes from limestone hills of Rio Grande in the south of Texas and also the north and the center of Mexico with strong sunshine exposures. Ariocarpus are endangered and quite rare in the wild. It is also one of the easiest cacti to grow from the genus. Medicinal applications: In traditional medicine, the Ariocarpus retusus has been used to treat fever.

Ariocarpus retusus has flattened, spherical shoots that are gray-green, blue-green, or yellow-green, growing to heights of 3 to 25 centimeters and diameters of 4 to 30 centimeters. The erect, spreading warts protrude from the soil, crowded at the base, and are somewhat pointed or sharp-tipped with rounded or flat tops. The warts measure 1.5 to 4 centimeters long and 1 to 3.5 centimeters wide, sometimes as long as they are wide or twice as long. Occasionally, areoles are present at the tips of the warts. The flowers are cream to light yellow, white (sometimes with a red central stripe), or pinkish red, and have a diameter of 3 to 5 centimeters. The elongated fruits are 1 to 2.5 centimeters long

Plant in a deep pot to allow the taproot to grow comfortably and survive. A little bit of water goes a long way with ariocarpus. In winter, withhold water altogether, unless tubercles are so shriveled they have lost dimension. When watering in spring and summer, do so very lightly.



Aporocactus Flagelliformis



Ariocarpus

August Mini Show

Senecio is a genus of flowering plants in the daisy family that includes ragworts and groundsels. Various circumscribed taxonomically, the genus Senecio is one of the largest genera of flowering plants. Plants of the World Online currently accepts 1482 species.

Plants in the genus Senecio produce pyrrolizidine alkaloids, which cause liver damage in livestock and humans when these compounds are ingested. Senecio is poisonous to cattle and horses and toxic to humans, such as when plant parts are harvested, either intentionally or unintentionally, for use in herbal teas.

Senecio plants, especially succulent varieties like String of Pearls or String of Bananas, are relatively low-maintenance but require specific care to thrive. They need bright, indirect light, well-draining soil, and infrequent watering. Overwatering is a common issue, so allow the soil to dry out completely between waterings.



Senecio Radicans



Senecio Serpens



Senecio Rowleyanus

ARE YOU READY FOR THE COUNTRY STORE?

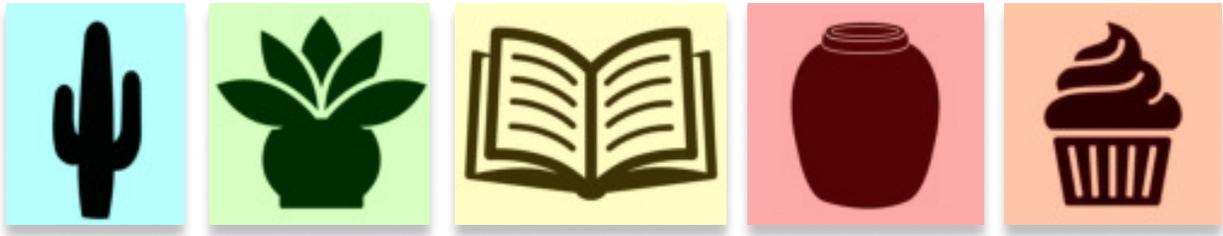
**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 2025**

Why in the **** do we keep propagating more cacti & succulents? Why, so we can donate them to our annual Country Store!

Do you need want more plants? Do you have way too many plants and want to get rid of some? We collect cacti and succulents---it's what we do! But we are often conflicted between the need to reduce and the desire to add to our collections. Welcome to the Country Store where we try to solve this dilemma for you or at least make it easier to rationalize coming home with more plants.

It's time for Club members to start gathering donations of cacti, succulents, pots, and cacti and succulent themed items (books, clothing, pictures, jewelry, etc.) to bring to our annual Country Store on Monday September 23, 2024. If you don't have any extra plants, how about baking some sweet treats like cookies, brownies or cupcakes? A drawing will be held for donated items with tickets being sold before 7PM that night.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE COUNTRY STORE?



Bring your donations in early (6:15) so we can get set up and you can see what's available. There will be a silent auction where you can get great deals on higher valued cacti and succulents and other cacti and succulent related items. The Silent Auction has exploded over the last couple of years with some amazing items being donated by our amazing Club members!

Attending the Country Store is one of the great perks of being a Club member. You can add several new plants, inexpensively, that have been generously donated by other Club members. And on that note: To be successful, we need your donations! Please start setting aside the items you would like to donate. You do not want to miss this event. You do not have to donate items to participate! We will have more details at the August meeting.

New members: If you are unable to attend the August meeting, but have questions about how the whole thing works, feel free to call or text Bill McCabe at 916-225-5974.

RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN FIELD TRIP

A plan is in the works for a field trip to Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery.

Located in Walnut Creek, the Ruth Bancroft Garden houses a unique and diverse collection of cacti, succulents and drought tolerant plants from around the world. The many large mature specimens located throughout the 3.5 acre garden serve as an excellent example of just how stunning a dry garden can be. Their nursery features drought tolerant plants including California natives, cactus and succulents. This garden is a MUST SEE!

When will it be? We are hoping to get a Saturday date in late September or early October.

What will be included? SCSS will arrange admission and a box lunch served in their lecture room. We are currently working on possibly having a bus for transportation.

How much will this cost? For members, the cost will be \$40.00. We have not worked out a non-member cost currently. As soon as we work out the details, we will email all members with an invitation to attend. If you wish to learn more about the garden, visit their website.

<https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>.



RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN FIELD TRIP

