

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

February, 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 2

## Announcements

### February Meeting:

February 24th, 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



## February Program

**Everything (A Lot Anyway) You Need To  
Know To Get The Most Out Of Your  
Sacramento Cactus And Succulent Club  
Membership**



There has been and currently is a lot going on in your club. Your club membership can be more enjoyable, rewarding, and promote your hobby enthusiast growth by joining in as we take a look behind the curtain at all the goings on during this month's meeting.

There will be two parts to the meeting. First, we will provide tips and information for how to get the most out of your club membership. In the second half of the meeting, we will have a member Show-n-Tell session in a small group format.

## February Program

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How can you leverage your club membership:

- To get more for your cactus and succulent buying dollar
- To gain access to more, interesting, and rare plants
- To see cacti and succulents in more natural and beautiful landscape applications

We will very briefly look at the club across all of the decades of its existence. We will move quickly to looking at the club currently and new directions on the horizon. Some of these directions are most welcome, and others may require the club to navigate wisely, creatively, and with enthusiasm.

For the Show-n-Tell, please bring either 1) a plant you love (and may even be thinking of entering in the juried show in May), 2) a plant that is giving you trouble, or 3) a plant you would like to know more about. We will have club “experts” circulating to offer help on identification, culture, or how to show your plant to its best.

Please come. Guaranteed that you will be more ready to leverage your membership. Guaranteed that you will enjoy yourself, connect with other members, and contribute to the forward momentum of the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society.



## Board and Committee Chairs

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**President:**

*Bill McCabe*

**Vice-President/Program Chair:**

*Theresa Roberts*

**Secretary:** *Gerhard Bock*

**Treasurer:** *Greg Lang*

**Board of Directors:**

*Carole Hada,*

*Tina Micheal Ruse*

*Ex Officio: Steve Goodman*

**CSSA Affiliate:**

*Mariel Dennis*

**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*

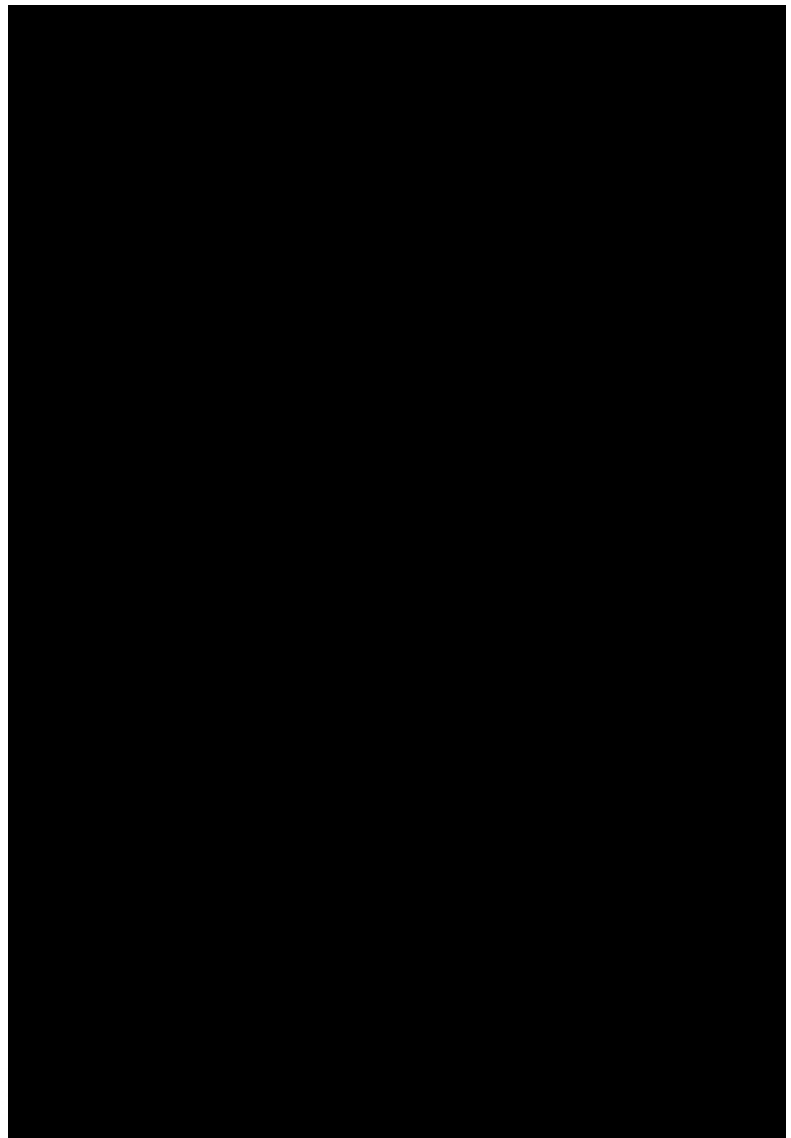
**Webmaster:**

*Gerhard Bock*

**Annual Show & Plant Sale:**

*Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor*

*Co-chairs*



Sunshine Corner



If you know of anyone who could use a cheery note, email me at [cdaf182@gmail.com](mailto:cdaf182@gmail.com) using "Sunshine" on the subject line. Happy growing!

Cherry DuLaney

2025 Mini Show Schedule

| Month     | Cactus                       | Succulent   |
|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|
| January   | Spiral Cactus                | Aeonium     |
| February  | Cylindropuntia               | Haworthia   |
| March     | Ferocactus                   | Gasteria    |
| April     | Coryphantha                  | Euphorbia   |
| May       | Echinocereus                 | Sempervivum |
| 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 in January—keep it up!



Cylindropuntia Spinosior



Cylindropuntia Arbuscula



Haworthia Bolusii



Haworthia Reticulata



Haworthia Reinward

### Mini Show

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**Cylindropuntia Cactus:** Cylindropuntia is a genus of cacti (family Cactaceae), containing species commonly known as chollas, native to northern Mexico and the Southwestern United States. They are known for their barbed spines that tenaciously attach to skin, fur, and clothing. Stands of cholla are called cholla gardens. Individuals within these colonies often exhibit the same DNA, as they were formerly tubercles of an original plant.

Cylindropuntia was formerly treated as a subgenus of Opuntia, but have now been separated based on their cylindrical stems (Opuntia species have flattened stems) and the presence of papery epidermal sheaths on the spines (Opuntia has no sheaths). A few species of mat- or clump-forming opuntoid cacti are currently placed in the genus Grusonia. Collectively, opuntias, chollas, and related plants are sometimes called opuntiads.[2] The roughly 35 species of Cylindropuntia are native to the southwestern and south-central United States, Mexico, and the West Indies. The Flora of North America recognizes 22 species.[3] Some species have been introduced to South America (Chile, Ecuador, Peru) and South Africa.

**Haworthia Succulent:** Haworthia is a large genus of small succulent plants endemic to Southern Africa . Like aloes and gasteria they are members of the subfamily Asphodeloideae and they generally resemble miniature aloes, except in their flowers, which are distinctive in appearance. They are popular garden and container plants. Haworthias are small succulent plants, forming rosettes of leaves from 3 cm (1.2 in) to exceptionally 30 cm (12 in) in diameter, depending on the species. These rosettes are usually stemless but in some species stems reach up to 50 cm (20 in). The inflorescences of some species may exceed 40 cm (16 in) in height. The plants can grow solitary or can be clump-forming. Many species have firm, tough, fleshy leaves, usually dark green in colour, whereas others are softer and contain leaf windows with translucent panels through which sunlight can reach internal photosynthetic tissues. Their flowers are small, and generally white. Though they are very similar between species, flowers from the species in section Hexangulares generally have green striations and those from other species often have brown lines in the flowers. However, their leaves show wide variations even within one species. Additionally, when the plants are stressed (e.g. deprived of water), their colours can change to reds and purples. Depriving them of nitrogen generally results in paler leaves.

See you at the February meeting with your Mini Show entries!!

Linda Partmann

## Announcements

### SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER SPRING SALE

The Shepard Garden & Arts Center Spring Sale is Saturday March 15th 10-4 and Sunday March 16th 10-3.

We will once again be participating, with Cassidy Roberts selling cacti & succulents and Eric Bailey selling pots. We could use a couple of volunteers to assist on either day. Please contact Bill McCabe at 916-225-5974, if you would like to help out for a few hours on either day. Thanks!

If nothing else, come by and take a look at the other Clubs and artists that will be at the Spring Show. Stop by our booth and say hi.



*2025 Spring Sale*

*Saturday, March 15, 2025, 10am-4pm*  
*Sunday, March 16, 2025, 10am-3pm*

*Plants, jewelry, crafts, flowers, art, food, and more*

*Shepard Garden & Arts Center*  
*www.sgaac.org*  
*3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA*  
*Free admission and parking*




### CHECK OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE

Gerhard Bock has been our webmaster for quite some time. Recently, Gerhard and Amie Frisch have been working on updating the format and adding information to our website to make it even more useful to Club members. I hope you share my excitement with what they have done so far and what you can see is coming in the future. Take a look at the upgrade and give Gerhard and Amie a huge thank you for what they have done.

<https://sacramentocss.com/>

## Announcements

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# THE CAL EXPO HOME AND LANDSCAPE SHOW WAS A SUCCESS!

Thank you to all of the Club members who volunteered at the Cal Expo Show. We were tucked away in a far corner, but had a very large space. Thanks to Lesley, who did all of the preliminary work to get us in the Show and get the space reserved. Thanks to Cassidy for taking the baton from Lesley and finalizing the Workshop details. Amie (and her excellent assistant, Kathleen) and Cassidy (and his excellent assistant, Marcos) sold the plants. Cassidy, with the help of Theresa and Mariel, led the workshops teaching people how to plant cactus and succulent dishgardens. Aaron was there all day Sunday, George and Carole joined us on Saturday, Ian was there and Gerhard & Kyle stopped by, as well. To top it all off, we signed up six new members during the Show! Thanks, again, to everyone who volunteered.



## Announcements

# 2025 CSSA Biennial Convention In San Diego April 23-27

Get ready for the world's preeminent cactus and succulent event for hobbyists of all levels, including beginners, growers, and scholars. The San Diego Society is excited to be hosting this special event open only to members of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The convention will feature presentations by world-renowned botanists, explorers, authors, and growers. It's a great place to catch up on the latest research, but also to make connections with these top-tier succulentists. In conjunction with the biennial convention, the San Diego Society will host a public plant sale with dozens of top vendors and unique pots and art. In addition, field strips are offered on April 24. The full schedule of events can be found [here](#).

You need to be a member of the CSSA to attend. [Membership](#) starts at \$20/year and is well worth it. For \$55/year you get their excellent printed journal (4 issues a year).

More information and to register: <https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention/>  
Club secretary Gerhard Bock will attend as the club's CSSA affiliate.



**Grow Your Passion for Cacti and Succulents at the  
Cactus and Succulent Society of America  
Biennial Convention**  
*hosted by the San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society*  
**April 23 – 27, 2025**

- Spectacular Plant, Book, and Art Sales
  - Exciting Auctions
- Engaging Networking Opportunities
  - Inspirational Speakers
  - Educational Workshops
- Beautiful Tours and Excursions
- Luxurious Accommodations  
*at San Diego Marriott Mission Valley*

**Celebrate your love of cactus and succulents  
with fellow enthusiasts.**

For more information scan the QR code or visit:  
[cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention](https://cactusandsucculentsociety.org/events/convention)

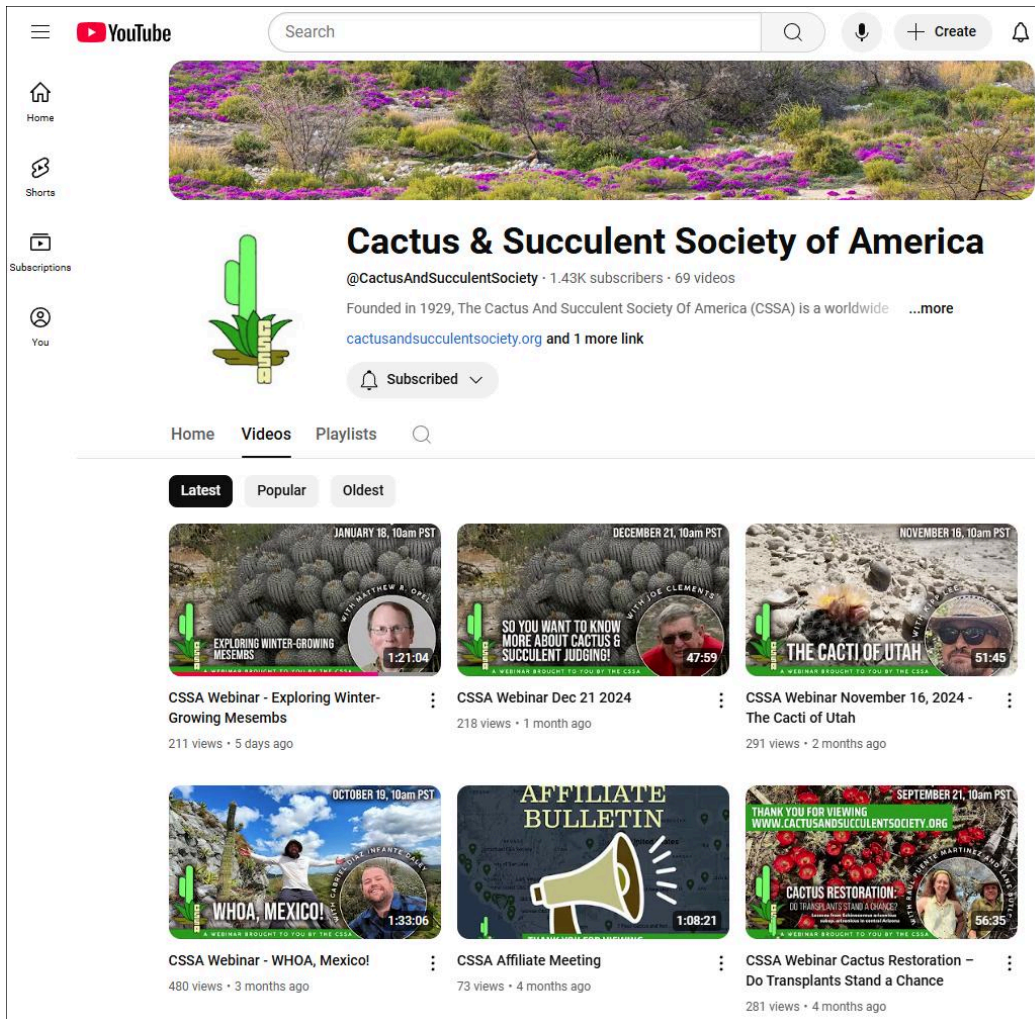


Announcements

# CSSA Webinars On YouTube

The CSSA hosts regular webinars with cactus and succulent experts. These Zoom presentations (usually 1 hour) are free and open to the public, not just members. On the [CCSA website](#), you can sign up for the next webinar and watch recordings of previous presentations. You can also watch on the [CSSA YouTube channel](#).

This is an outstanding resource to learn more about our favorite plants and related topics. The most recent webinars covered topics like winter-growing mesembs, the cacti of Utah, a tour of Mexico, dudleyas in the wild, and cacti of New Mexico, to name just a few.



## Announcements

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# Gerhard Bock Open Garden In Davis, March 1 (Lots Of Aloes!)

Gerhard Bock will open his garden in Davis on Saturday, March 1, from 10 am to 2 pm. Gerhard has a large collection of aloes, and many will be in bloom. There are plenty of other things to see, too: agaves, cacti, and companion plants from around the world. Check out Gerhard's blog for a sneak peek: <https://www.succulentsandmore.com/>

Email Gerhard at [gerhard@succulentsandmore.com](mailto:gerhard@succulentsandmore.com) to RSVP and get the address. Or, if you know where he lives, just show up!



## Announcements

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# LIBRARY ACQUIRES NEW BOOKS IN 2025

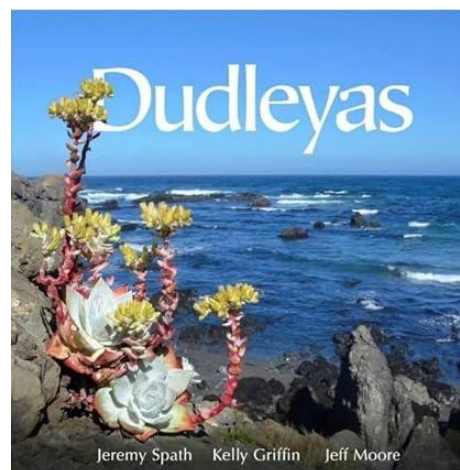
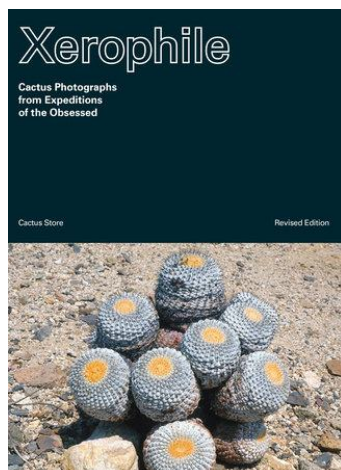
Thanks to the generosity of our club's Board of Directors, the library has acquired 4 new books to be part of our permanent collection:

### **Xerophile edited by Cactus Store.**

From the people behind Cactus Store comes *Xerophile*, a photographic collection of these improbable desert wonders in the wild. Drawing on the archives of twenty-five cactus obsessives—from PhD botanist to banker, art teacher to cancer researcher—this revised edition spans eighty years and features new and expanded descriptive notes for all 350+ photos. *Xerophile* brings together eighty years' worth of these explorers' remarkable images from some of the world's most remote habitats: a peculiar two-leaved plant that lives for millennia in the deserts of Namibia; succulents whose poisonous sap is used by hunters to fell large game in Angola; and cactus that live on snow-covered mountains in Bolivia, sink below ground level to survive droughts in Mexico, are pollinated by bats in Brazil, and grow in pure lava fields of the Galápagos Islands.

### **Dudleyas by Jeremy Spath, Kelly Griffin and Jeff Moore.**

"Dudleyas are among the few ornamental succulents native to the West Coast of the U.S. This book showcases all known species, with beautiful images of plants both in nature and cultivation. Dudleyas range from southern Oregon to the tip of the Baja Peninsula, from the coast to the Sierras, and all the way to the deserts of Arizona. Information on cultivation and conservation is also provided. Authors Jeremy Spath, Kelly Griffin and Jeff Moore are experts in the broad spectrum of succulent plants of the world, but have a special fondness for these endemic botanical beauties.



## Announcements

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### **Desert Jewels: Cactus Flowers of the Southwest and Mexico by John P Schaefer**

Cactus flowers are jewels of the desert—they add brilliant pops of color to our arid surroundings. In this book, renowned Tucson photographer John P. Schaefer brings the exquisite and unexpected beauty of the cactus flower to the page. Hundreds of close-up photographs of cactus flowers native to the U.S. Southwest and Mexico offer a visual feast of color and texture, nuance and light. These stunning photographs allow us to appreciate the spectacular range of color and form cactus flowers have to offer. For the cactus enthusiast, the book offers a comprehensive collection of high-quality flower photographs unlike any other. The photographs cover more than 250 cactus species organized by genus. The book starts with an introduction by the photographer that is both autobiographical and informative. It offers a glimpse into his process for capturing these elusive desert gems, resulting in photographs so beautiful they were featured as a book of stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

### **Pachyforms A Guide to Growing Caudiciform and Pachycaul Plants by Philippe De Vosjoli**

A Guide to Growing Caudiciform and Pachyform Plants Second Edition Welcome to the world of Pachyforms Extraordinary Plants that grow into Living Works of Art 582 Pages Cultivation Notes on 180 Species More than 680 Color Photographs Philippe de Vosjoli has done it again, WOW, Must have book !!! The wait is over. Its here—a complete guide to the selection and cultivation of the increasingly popular group of plants known as caudiciforms and pachycauls, species that develop thick bodies with sculptural forms. In Pachyforms you will find information that will allow you to grow some of the most impressive plants in the baobabs, and boojum trees; members of the passionflower family with bodies as large and wide as a witch's cauldron.

These new books will be available for your review at the February club meeting.

George Krigas  
Librarian

