

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

November 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 11

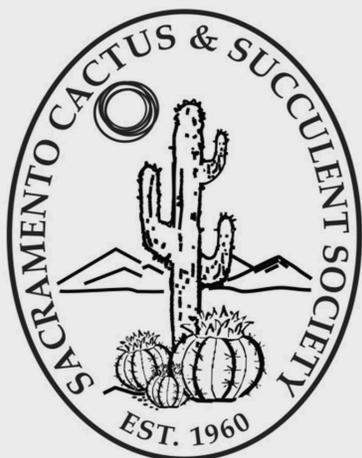
## Announcements

### November Meeting:

November 24th, 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



## This Months Contents:

November Program: South African  
Bulbs: Propagation and Cultivation

Birthdays & New Members

Mini Show

Sunshine Corner

Holiday Party

Elections



## November Program

### South African Bulbs: Propagation And Cultivation

Ernesto Sandoval has grown South African bulbs and geophytes for many years, both professionally and privately. He wants to share some of his experiences with this beautiful and diverse set of plants, particularly concerning propagation and cultivation. Mostly, through the use of gorgeous photos, he wants to convince us to grow more of these fascinating plants in our gardens with little effort (free winter rainfall) to bring a little more color into our gardens during the winter months!

Ernesto Sandoval has been pondering and seeking answers to the question of why plants grow and look the way they do for nearly 40 years. He regularly lectures to various Western Garden Clubs throughout the year. Desert plants are his particular passion. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None" and loves learning from the experiences and passions of others and his own.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly, "Because that's how you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 30 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He is now a Graduate Student getting his Masters (ac in Horticulture and Agronomy at UC Davis with a focus on the propagation and cultivation of drought adapted plants.



November Program

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## 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*

*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*

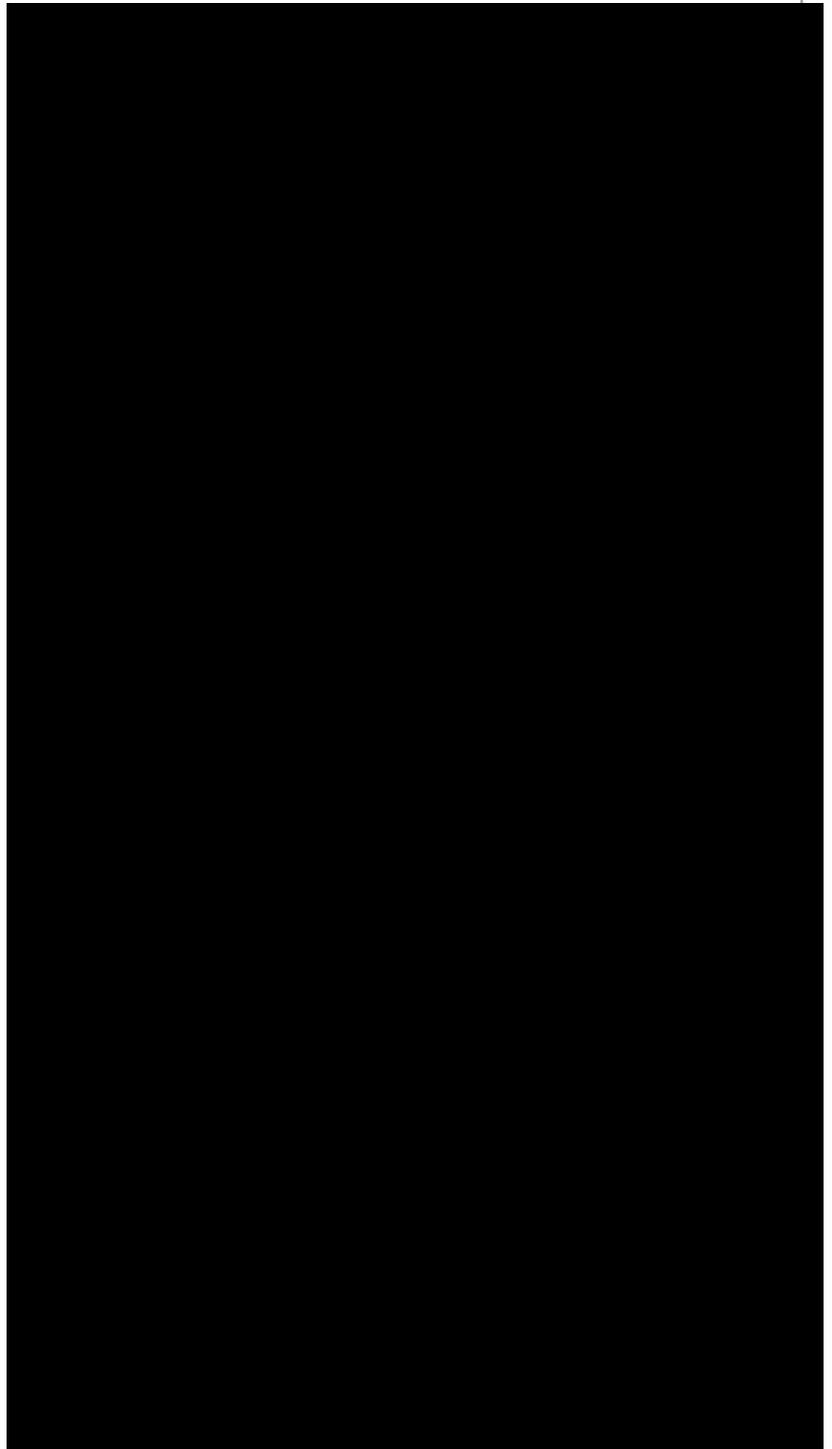
**Webmaster:**

*Gerhard Bock*

**Annual Show & Plant Sale:**

*Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor*

*Co-chairs*



2025 Mini Show Schedule

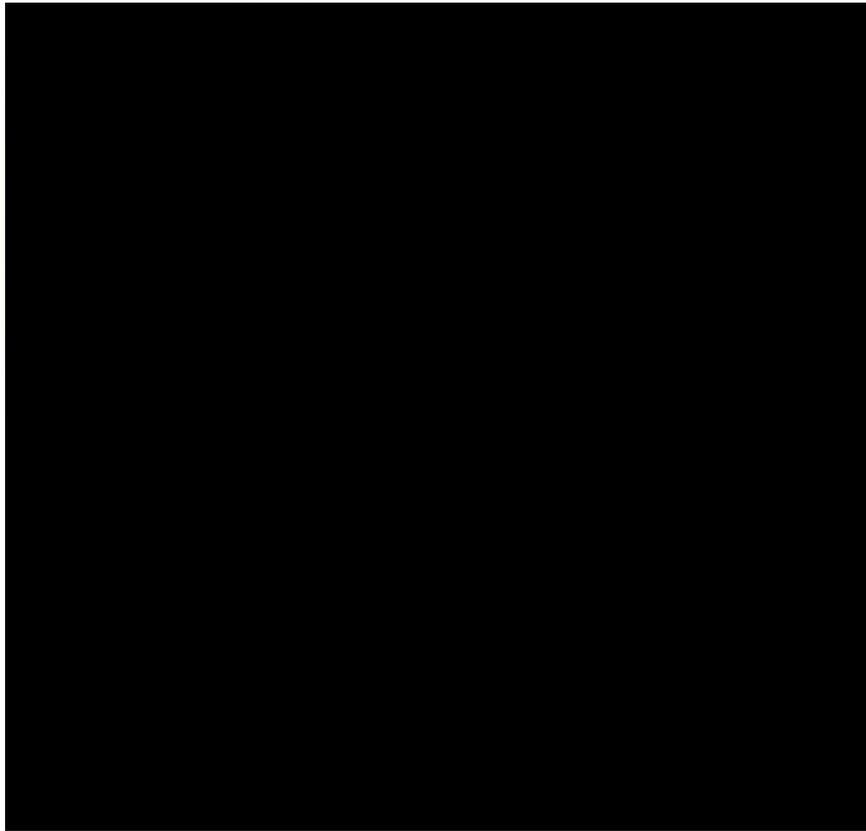
Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Spiral Cactus	Aeonium
February	Cylindropuntia	Haworthia
March	Ferocactus	Gasteria
April	Coryphantha	Euphorbia
May	Catered Dinner – No Mini Show	
June	Aporocactus	Adenium
July	Rebutia	Echeveria
August	Ariocarpus	Senecio
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Pediocactus	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. You can enter up to 2 plants for each category.

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!

This is the last Mini Show before the December Dinner where prizes will be given to the top five members who earned the most points during 2025!



## Mini Show

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**Mammillaria:** Mammillaria is one of the largest genera in the cactus family (Cactaceae), with currently 200 known species and varieties recognized. Most of the mammillarias are native to Mexico, while some come from the Southwestern United States, the Caribbean, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela.[3] The common name "pincushion cactus" refers to this genus and the closely related Escobaria.

The first species was described by Carl Linnaeus as *Cactus mammillaris* in 1753, deriving its name from the Latin *mammilla*, "nipple", referring to the tubercles that are among the distinctive features of the genus. Numerous species are commonly known as globe cactus, nipple cactus, birthday cake cactus, fishhook cactus or pincushion cactus (though such terms are also commonly used for related taxa, such as *Escobaria* or *Ferocactus*).

The distinctive feature of the genus is the possession of an areole split into two clearly separated parts, one occurring at the apex of the tubercle, the other at its base. The apex part is spine bearing, and the base part is always spineless, but usually bears some bristles or wool. The base part of the areole bears the flowers and fruits, and is a branching point. The apex part of the areole does not carry flowers, but in certain conditions can function as a branching point as well.

The plants are usually small, globose to elongated, the stems from 1 to 20 centimetres (1/2 to 7 3/4 inches) in diameter and from 1 to 40 cm (1/2 to 15 3/4 in) tall, clearly tuberculate, solitary to clumping forming mounds of up to 100 heads and with radial symmetry. Tubercles can be conical, cylindrical, pyramidal or round. The roots are fibrous, fleshy or tuberous. The flowers are funnel-shaped and range from 7 to 40 millimetres (1/4 to 1 1/2 in) and more in length and in diameter, from white and greenish to yellow, pink and red in colour, often with a darker mid-stripe; the reddish hues are due to betalain pigments as usual for Caryophyllales. The fruit is berry-like, club-shaped or elongated, usually red but sometimes white, magenta, yellow or green. Some species have the fruit embedded into the plant body. The seeds are black or brown, ranging from 1 to 3 mm (1/16 to 1/8 in) in size. flowering and remain viable for an exceptionally long period, lasting at least 10 years



Mammillaria Laui



Mammillaria Baumii

### Mini Show

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**Crassula:** Crassula is a genus of succulent plants containing about 200 accepted species] including the popular jade plant (*Crassula ovata*). They are members of the stonecrop family (Crassulaceae) and are native to many parts of the globe, but cultivated varieties originate almost exclusively from species from the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Crassulas are usually propagated by stem or leaf cuttings. Most cultivated forms will tolerate some small degree of frost, but extremes of cold or heat will cause them to lose foliage and die.

Crassula was first formally described by Carl Linnaeus in 1753 with 10 species. The name crassula comes from the Latin adjective crassus, meaning thick, referring to the thickening of the succulent leaves.



Crassula Capitella



Crassula Capitella



Crassula Ovata



Crassula Perforata

## Holiday Party

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# HOLIDAY DINNER WITH GIFT EXCHANGE

**DECEMBER MEETING will be the THIRD MONDAY OF DECEMBER 12/15**

Join us on Monday December 15<sup>th</sup> for our annual Holiday Dinner and Gift Exchange. Please note that this is on the **THIRD MONDAY** of December, **NOT** our typical 4<sup>th</sup> Monday. We will be sending out a list of menu options and a way to select your choice and to RSVP. This year the Club will provide dinner for free to members, but guests will need to pay \$20 each that night. Set-up will begin at 6:15 PM with dinner starting at 7 PM. If you wish to bring minor children, please contact Bill at 8mcca8e@sbcglobal.net. I would like to encourage members to bring their minor children, but I also want to be sure that as many members as possible can attend. So, contact me and we'll get that figured out.

For those who wish to participate in our fun, but optional Gift Exchange, bring a loosely wrapped gift valued at about \$10-\$25. The less tape we have to cut off with knives, scissors and machetes, the better. Bags are great for wrapping. The gift (or gift card) can be cacti, succulent or garden themed. Hand crafted items work great. Gag gifts can sometimes work, but nothing inappropriate! It's a Holiday dinner, not a stag party. Remember, children may be there!



If you are going to participate in the gift giving exchange, you must bring a gift. If you choose not to bring a gift, you can still watch and laugh at the rest of us. There will also be gifts given for most festive holiday attire/"ugliest" sweater. Details to follow. If you would like to help with the dinner Holiday decorations and set-up, please check with Micheal (Tina) Ruse at the November meeting.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Holidays.

*Bill*

## Elections

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# ELECTIONS FOR SCSS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We will conduct elections for next year's SCSS Board of directors at our November meeting. We will take nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Directors. All of the current officers and Directors have agreed to be candidates again, but if any SCSS member would like to be considered, they can self-nominate or have a member nominate them. Please do not nominate someone without their approval. The elected Board will be installed at the December meeting so they can begin planning for 2026.

