

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2025 | Volume 7, Issue 10

Announcements

October Meeting:

October 27th, 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:

October Program: How to Landscape
with Big-Box Store Succulents

November Birthdays & New Members

Mini Show

Sunshine Corner

Open Gardens



October Program**How To Landscape With Big-Box Store Succulents**

Presented By Kyle Johnson And Gerhard Bock

Want A Climate-Resilient, Modern, Water-Wise Succulent Garden But Don't Know Where To Start? Think You Need To Visit Specialty Nurseries To Find Plant Material For Your Design? Think Again!

Join Us For An Inspiring Presentation And Learn How To Create A Stunning Landscape Using Affordable And Accessible Succulents From Your Local Big-Box Store. We'll Demystify The Process From Start To Finish, Showing You How To:

- Choose The Winners: Learn The Secrets To Spotting The Best Plants And Which Common Varieties To Look For.
- Design Like A Pro: Discover Simple Design Principles For Combining Colors, Textures, And Shapes To Create Eye-Catching Arrangements In Pots Or Garden Beds. Think Rocks!
- Be Inspired: See Inspiring Examples Of Using Big-Box Store Succulents In The Landscape.



October Program



Whether You're A Beginner Or A Budget-Savvy Gardener, You'll Leave With The Confidence And Knowledge To Turn A Simple Shopping Cart Of Plants Into A Show-Stopping, Low-Maintenance Garden Display.

SCSS Members Kyle Johnson And Gerhard Bock Have Created Spectacular Succulent Landscapes In Their Own Gardens. Many Plants Are From Low-Cost Sources Like Lowe's And The Home Depot. To See Photos Of Both Their Gardens, Visit Gerhard's Blog, Succulents And More (www.succulentsandmore.com).

Disclaimer: Although This Talk Is On Big-Box Plant Acquisition, We Highly Recommend Starting At Your Local Nurseries, Where Your Dollars Will Stay Local, Supporting Your Community And Neighbors. Additionally, Local Nursery Folks Can Help Guide You In Your Plant Selection.

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. 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! .

Sunshine Corner



Yes, another month has rolled by and another “sending hugs to you” card was sent to Lesley Shores and Jerry Slater as they continue to handle the challenges of Lesley’s cancer treatment at Stanford. Not only do their friends here at SCSS send caring thoughts, but if you also want to help more directly, see the link to a [gofundme page](#). Every little bit helps.

Remember, if you know of someone from the club who could use a get well, sympathy, or other cheerful note to let them know we are thinking of them, please send me an email at cdaf182@gmail.com using Sunshine on the subject line.

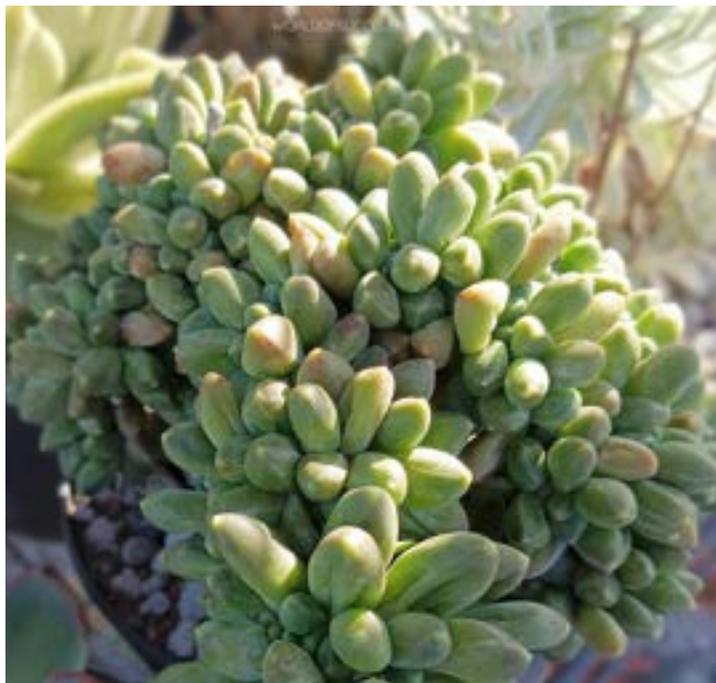


Mini Show

Pediocactus: *Pediocactus* is a genus of cacti native to the Western United States. The genus comprises between 6 and 11 species, depending upon the authority. Species of this genus are referred to as hedgehog cacti, though that name is also applied to plants from the genera *Echinocereus* and *Echinopsis*. The *Pediocactus* genus includes small species of cactus that grow either individually or in clusters, reaching heights of up to 20 centimeters (7.9 in). The shoots, which can be green or glaucous, come in cylindrical, spherical, or depressed spherical shapes, with diameters ranging from 1 to 15 centimeters (0.39 to 5.91 in) and heights from 0.7 to 20 centimeters (0.28 to 7.87 in). Despite lacking ribs, these shoots have warts measuring 2 to 12 millimeters (0.079 to 0.472 in) in length and 2 to 11 millimeters (0.079 to 0.433 in) in diameter. The characteristic appearance is contributed to by the areoles, spaced 1 to 6 millimeters (0.039 to 0.236 in) apart (occasionally up to 12 millimeters (0.47 in)). The shoots also have thorns, varying in number, color, and orientation. There can be up to ten light gray or white central spines, measuring 0.5 to 3.2 centimeters (0.20 to 1.26 in), and three to 35 reddish to whitish marginal spines, which can be straight, curved, or comb-shaped, extending 0.1 to 2.1 centimeters (0.039 to 0.827 in) in length.

The bell-shaped flowers at the top of the shoots come in colors ranging from yellow to magenta to white, with diameters of 1 to 2.5 centimeters (0.39 to 0.98 in). The flowers are characterized by a glabrous or nearly glabrous pericarpel and a short floral tube. Flowering typically occurs in spring, but certain species form buds in late autumn, with some capable of flowering even in their juvenile stages.

The fruits, initially greenish and cylindrical to spherical, transform into reddish-brown, dry structures upon ripening. Opening with a vertical gap, the fruits may be bare or possess a few scales. As the fruit opens, the remaining flower partially detaches, leaving a residue resembling a cap. The fruits contain blackish-brown, wrinkled to tuberous, obovate, or pear-shaped seeds. These seeds ripen 4 to 6 weeks after flowering and remain viable for an exceptionally long period, lasting at least 10 years



Mini Show

Pachyphytum Pachyphytum is a small genus of succulents in the stonecrop family, Crassulaceae, native to Mexico, where species can be found growing at elevations from 600 to 1,500 metres above sea level. The generic name comes from the ancient Greek pachys and phyton, a reference of the succulent nature of the leaves.

The member species of the genus Pachyphytum are perennial succulent plants, which grow as hairless rosettes on ever-lengthening, somewhat delicate stems. The upright plants grow up to 70 cm when young, and develop into a prostrate growth habit over time (to over 1 meter in length, in some cases). The simple, occasionally basally-branching, shoots can reach a diameter of up to 3.5 cm. The rosettes have a diameter of 6 to 20 cm and are made up of roughly 10 leaves; larger specimens may contain 40, rarely up to 80, clearly separated leaves that are often intensely blue-, teal- or lavender-frosted. Towards the tip, the newer leaves are much tighter and more crowded-together. The youngest leaves are, more or less, erect, later spreading and flattening slightly; the older foliage often curls-back

Leaves are obovate to spatulate or elliptical-oblong to lanceolate and usually end blunted to slightly pointed. The upright inflorescence emerges laterally from the leaf axils of the uppermost foliage. The lower 10 to 20 cm of the flower stalks are leafless, the upper 6 to 9 cm are covered with basally spurred, leaf-like bracts. The inflorescence is simple and initially overhanging. Later it is erect and bears up to 50 individual flowers. The bracts (brachts) are mostly overlapping and elliptical to obovate or lanceolate in shape. They are, basally, often arrow- to stalk-shaped, encompassing or more or less bidentate spurred. The flower stalk, which becomes thicker towards the top, has a diameter of 2 to 15 mm. The flowers are five, rarely sixfold and obdiplostemon. The tubular, barrel or bell-shaped, sometimes pentagonal corolla measures 5.5 to 17 mm × 3.5 to 10 mm at the base and 4.5 to 17 mm in diameter at the top. Looking forward to seeing your entries! November will be the last Mini Show of the Year! Prizes awarded at the December Dinner Meeting!



Open Garden

GERHARD'S OPEN GARDEN

Date: Sunday, October 19

Time: 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Gerhard Bock will open his Davis garden to SCSS members on Sunday, October 19 from 1 to 5pm. His garden is full of succulents like agaves, aloes, and cacti, combined with water-wise perennials and shrubs. The afternoon light is particularly beautiful at this time of year.

If you've been to Gerhard's garden before, you'll notice many changes, including new succulent mounds in the backyard and updated beds in the front. To get a taste of what there is to see, visit Gerhard's blog [Succulents and More](http://www.succulentsandmore.com) (www.succulentsandmore.com).

If you're interested in attending, email Gerhard (gerhard@succulentsandmore.com) for directions. Or, if you've been to Gerhard's garden before, simply show up.



Open Garden



OPEN GARDEN

Hi All,

I'm going to do a Fall Open Garden on Saturday, October 25 from 2 - 6 PM as the cooler weather and recent rains are bringing lots of things into bloom. The Halloween decorations will be in full swing and for those that are here between 5 and 6 PM, you should see the solar lights come on and turn the garden into a fairyland! Halloween candy will also be available to get a head start on the spooky celebrations. Please pass along to friends and family if you wish to begin Halloween a little early. Halloween attire and/or Costumes are also welcome.

Saturday, October 25, 2pm - 6pm

Mariel and Ian Dennis

11842 Sandy Knoll Court

Rancho Cordova, CA 95742