

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

April 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 04

## Announcements

### April Meeting:

April 27th, 2026

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:

April Program
May Sale
May Sale Volunteers
Birthdays & New Members
Sunshine Corner
Mini Show
Open Gardens
The UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
New Vendor Spotlight



## April Program

### New And Old Adventures In Dudleya

Exploring remote locations to try to find new species and decipher relationships between species can often get researchers into challenging situations on the sides of cliffs or in sketchy boats. Stephen has braved rough seas, steep climbs, and close encounters with dangerous wildlife as part of the process of naming five species new to science. While describing these adventures, he will also talk about the many endangered species of Dudleya (a.k.a Liveforevers) and how grow them successfully. For amateurs and fans of Dudleya.

Stephen McCabe worked in Yosemite for three summers, started studying Dudleya in 1983, then worked at the University of California Santa Cruz Arboretum for 30 years. His hobby of rock climbing has come in handy in accessing some of the species in the group he studies. He has published widely on the genus Dudleya and on a variety of subjects. Some of the publications were in Madroño, the Cactus and Succulent Journal, Fine Gardening, the Jepson Manual second edition, Systematic Botany, the American Alpine Journal, and in Rock Garden Quarterly. He has named five species of Dudleya and has developed cultivars of Dudleya, Monkey flower, X Gasteraloe, manzanita, and an Australian shrub. He was named the first and only Fellow of the Society for the San Jose Cactus and Succulent Society. Stephen and his brother have been growing cacti and succulents since they were young.



SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY  
PRESENTS THE 66TH ANNUAL  
*Cactus & Succulent  
2026 Show and Sale*



**MAY 1, FRIDAY 1PM - 5PM**  
**MAY 2, SATURDAY 9AM - 5PM**  
**MAY 3, SUNDAY 9AM - 3PM**

Free Admission

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**SHEPARD GARDEN & ARTS CENTER**  
3330 McKinley Blvd Sacramento, CA 95816  
[sacramentocss.com](http://sacramentocss.com)





## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

### OUR GIANT MAY SALE IS COMING SOON! SAVE THE DATES---MAY 1,2,3

#### ONLY 15 DAYS UNTIL THE BIG EVENT.

This event is the major source of funding our club. That is why we need you to step up and help make our show and sale a success.

#### SIGN UP HERE :

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DAAA92EABFEC43-62915027-2026>

This is when we need the most help:

**Saturday, May 2:** A few spots remain in the morning, but SEVERAL spots are available in the afternoon.

**Sunday, May 3:** SEVERAL spots are available in the morning and the afternoon.

Joining in is as simple as 1-2-3!

**1)** Follow this link to SignUp Genius and register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054DAAA92EABFEC43-62915027-2026>.

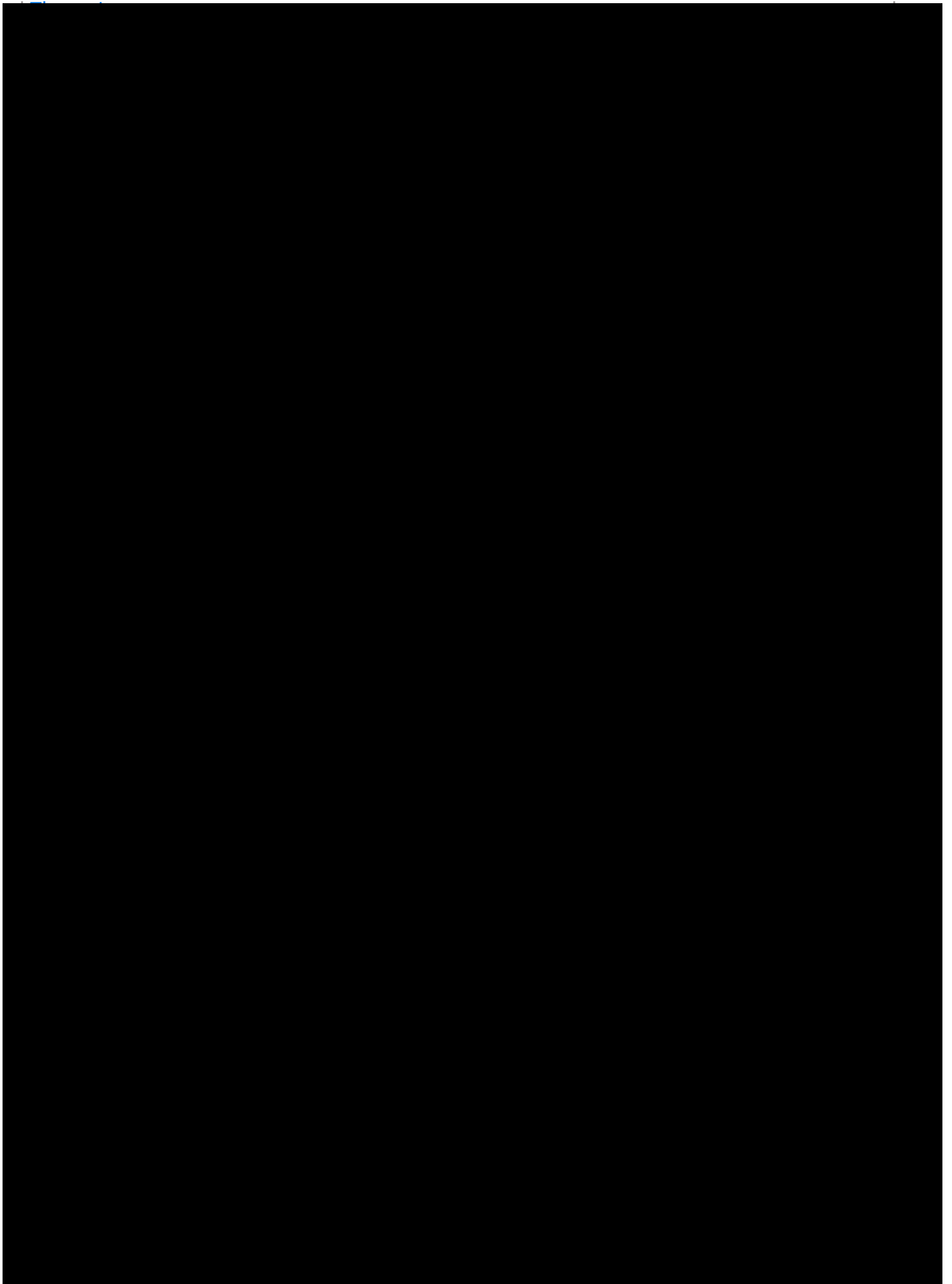
**2)** Pick a day(s), time(s) and tasks you can work. We will have time slots and tasks to consider. You can volunteer for a short (4 hours) or longer (all day) time period. You can volunteer on one, two or all 3 days.

**3)** SHOW UP! Just show up and have a good time. And don't forget to buy a few plants.

#### WE NEED LOTS OF CARDBOARD FLATS!!!

Last year we used over 2000 flats for customers to carry out all the plants they purchased. Volunteers like you collected them and brought them to the sale for us. These are the flats that many jars, fruit clamshells or small boxes are shipped in. Grocery stores or big box stores have them. Costco is one of the best places to find them, we want smaller ones. 12"x18" is a sweet spot. At Costco, some of the berry flats are perfect (blueberry, raspberry are perfect. Skippy peanut butter, Rao's pasta sauce). At Costco they are cool if you collect them. You can get more in your cart if you nestle smaller ones in slightly larger ones. Tell the employees that you need them for your nonprofit's fund raiser. We would like to get them on Friday or Saturday morning. If you can't make the sale, bring them to the April meeting. Thank you all!

Have questions or need help? Email Dave Roberts at [roblands94@gmail.com](mailto:roblands94@gmail.com). Can't email? Call or text Dave at 916-416-9368. Please leave your phone and email. Put "SCSS volunteer" in the subject line.



2026 Mini Show Schedule

Month	Cactus	Succulent
January	Rhipsalis	Kalanchoe
February	Frailea	Senecio
March	Stenocactus	Peperomia
April	Stetsonia	Lithops
May	May Show Wrap-up, No Mini-Show	
June	Gymnocactus	Mangave
July	Crested Cactus	Crested Succulent
August	Wilcoxia	Hoya
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Pilosocereus pachycladus	Agave
November	Spiral Cactus Spiral Succulent	
December	Holiday Dinner – No Mini Show	



Our gardens are starting to come alive with spring blooms! Remember the prizes are given out at the December dinner. An entry needs to be one plant (with or without pups) in a pot. Dish gardens can be several plants of one species, or various species. Fanciful items, like fairy gardens are also welcome. Let's see more dish gardens! Each member can submit up to two plants for each entry. Also, please arrive on time to present your entries. I will not be putting out the beans to vote until 6:30 p.m., and voting ends when the speaker starts at 7 p.m. If you bring in your plant late, it really doesn't have a chance of being voted on!



### Mini Show

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**Stetsonia coryne**, the toothpick cactus, is the sole species in the cactus genus *Stetsonia*. *Stetsonia coryne* is native to arid regions of South America, where it grows to a height of 15 to 25 ft tall. It contains mescaline and other alkaloids.

The plant is large, with tree-like growth, and can reach a height of 5 to 8 m up to 12 m. The trunk is thick and short, measuring about 40 cm in diameter, with numerous erect or somewhat bent branches. The blue-green shoots turn greenish-gray with age, are usually not jointed, and have a diameter of 9 to 10 cm. There are eight to nine blunt-edged, somewhat notched ribs that are 1 to 1.5 cm high. The spines are straight and stiff. The central spine grows 2–8 cm long and is thickened at the base, while the seven to nine spreading marginal spines grow to 3 cm long. Spines are black or yellowish-brown, although they eventually turn white with a dark tip.

The plant flowers from October to April with white, funnel-shaped flowers that grow up to 15 cm in diameter. They open at night and often remain open until the next day. The pericarp is covered with numerous roof-tile-like structures. The long corolla tube has scattered scales.

The plant fruits from January to May. The fruit is a fleshy berry 4 cm in diameter, ovoid, and scaled. Edible fruits are green to reddish and have a drooping floral remnant. The broadly oval, shiny blackish-brown seeds are 1.7 mm long and 1 mm wide. They are humped with a fine wrinkled pattern.



### Mini Show

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**Lithops** is a genus of succulent plants in the ice plant family, Aizoaceae. Members of the genus are native to southern Africa. They avoid being eaten by herbivores with their camouflage as small stones, and are often known as pebble plants or living stones.

Individual Lithops consist of one or more pairs of bulbous, almost fused leaves opposite each other and hardly any stem. The slit between the leaves contains the meristem and produces flowers and new leaves. The leaves of Lithops are mostly buried below the surface of the soil, with a partially or completely translucent top surface known as a leaf window which allows light to enter the interior of the leaves for photosynthesis

During winter a new leaf pair, or occasionally more than one, grows inside the existing fused leaf pair. In spring the old leaf pair parts to reveal the new leaves and the old leaves will then dry up. Lithops leaves may shrink and disappear below ground level during drought. Yellow or white flowers emerge from the fissure between the leaves after the new leaf pair fully matures, one per leaf pair. This is usually in autumn, but can be before the summer solstice in *L. pseudotruncatella* and after the winter solstice in *L. optica*. The flowers are often sweetly scented.



**Open Gardens: Mariel Dennis**

I am excited to announce that my garden recently was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat so I'm scheduling an open garden for **Saturday, April 18 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The address 11842 Sandy Knoll Ct., Rancho Cordova, CA 95742.** It's ok for guests to park in the driveway but please don't block the neighbors driveway. If people on the day that are lost or need directions can call Ian at 916-947-3850.



## The UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

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### **SAVE THE DATE!** VISIT The UC Davis Conservatory

The UC Davis Botanical Conservatory is home to a diverse collection of over 4,000 plant species from around the world, providing a unique space for education, research, and conservation. Our greenhouse showcases rare and unusual plants from tropical rainforests, arid deserts, and carnivorous habitats, offering visitors a hands-on experience with plant adaptations and biodiversity. Whether exploring on a self-guided visit, joining a guided tour, or participating in internships and volunteer opportunities, the Conservatory is a hub for discovery and learning. For more, visit their website at <https://conservatory.ucdavis.edu/>.

Join fellow plant lovers from the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society for a 45 to 60 minute docent led tour of this botanical gem. Here are the basics.

When: Wednesday, April 22, 2026

What Time: 9:45am at the conservatory. The tour will begin at 10:00am. They will break us up into groups no larger than 15 people at a time.

Cost: Admission to SCSS members will be free. Non members \$14.00. WOW!

For \$15.00 a non-member can become a member!

Parking: Weekday parking on the UCD campus is \$18.00/day, No hourly rate. Besides being eco-friendly, carpooling can be good for your pocket book. We highly recommend forming carpools.

What else can I do while at UCD? The easiest thing to check out is the arboretum <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/> . With said there are other things such as Shrem museum <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu/home>.

SIGN UP on by going to The SCSS website,

<https://sacramentocss.com/>.



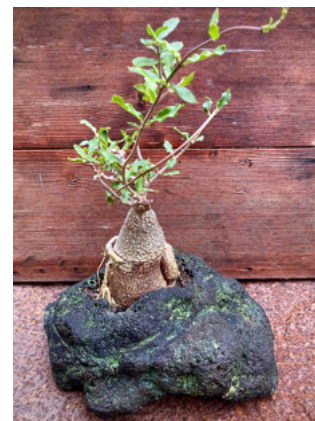
### New Vendor Spotlight: Billy Sprague

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Cactus enthusiast and lava carver Billy Sprague aka Obsidian Monarch has been shaping plant vessels for about a year and will be debuting over 80 pots at the Cactus Show. Each rock is hand selected from thousands direct from a lava quarry located along the San Andres Fault line. Carving starts with a unique rock with lots of character to help aid in carving direction and a beautiful and always unique result. All pots have drainage holes and offer stellar airflow/breathing because of their porous nature. Each pot is also artist signed/stamped on the bottom.

Instagram @obsidianmonarch

Website: <http://www.bornfreenaturalmystic.com>



### New Vendor Spotlight: Ej Sturghill

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Ej is all about making your plants look even better by using excellent tools and a variety of top dressings. He runs a forge out of his garage to create quality staging tools with an old fashioned look. Stop by Ej's table and talk plants and presentation. Choose your staging tool/ weapon of choice!



Ej is also the current President of the Stockton Cactus & Succulent Society.  
Ej Sturghill Instagram: sharpgreenthings

**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*

