

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

August 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 08

Announcements

August Meeting:

August 24th, 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:

August Program
Birthdays & New Members
Sunshine Corner
Mini Show
Country Store
Open Garden
T Shirt Contest



AUGUST PROGRAM: Dig Into The Dog Days Of Summer And Make A Dish Garden
Presenter: Mariel Dennis

At the August meeting, members will have an opportunity to assemble a dish garden using materials provided by the club (and supplemented by the members). A dish garden is a collection of plants that can include decorative items but does not have to be a "fairy garden".

Mariel Dennis will be leading the session with a demonstration and design guidance. Other club members will share dish gardens as examples for inspiration.

Your dish garden should include additional decor such as top-dressing or pebbles to simulate paths or streams and may include figurines or other accessories that you furnish to implement your design. Members are asked to bring your own top dressing, pebbles, glass blobs and other "pretties". Bring any extra items or cuttings to share.

FIRST 50 MEMBERS FIRST SERVED!

The club will provide:

- A shallow dish/pot (7.5 or 8 inch diameter) in different shapes.
- Soil to fill the pot and a piece of screen for the drainage hole.
- 3-5 plants depending on which seller/s you select from.

About the Plants: Two of our local plant sellers (L&J Succulents and JD Wikert) will be providing plants:

- L&J has plants in 4" pots; 3 of your choice.
- JD Wikert has plants in 2" pots; 5 of your choice.
- Mix and match plants from both sellers: 4 of your choice.

What to Bring (and Resources):

- Top dressing or pebbles. Sources for these include home improvement stores/nurseries, or pet stores (fish tank gravel works great) or rock yards (like Hasties, Cascade Rock or Nimbus Landscape). Specialty rocks or other materials can be found on Amazon (e.g., amethyst or jade chips or special colors).
- Accessories/figurines for your dish garden. Green Acres, and The Secret Garden have recently restocked their fairy garden items. Michaels may have some too. Pet stores have fish tank decor that could work.

AUGUST PROGRAM: Dig Into The Dog Days Of Summer And Make A Dish Garden
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- Your own dishes/pots if preferred
- Additional plants and/or cuttings to share
- Basic tools: garden gloves; small shovel/trowel, scoop, or scissors/small clippers; and tweezers, if desired. Please make sure your tools are marked with your name.

Join us for freebies, fun, creativity and interaction with other club members!

Questions, email Mariel at mariel@comcast.net any time up to the Sunday before the meeting (not the day of the meeting, please).

Mariel Dennis has been very active as a succulent enthusiast and club volunteer for many years. She served as Club President for over 5 years. She volunteers for the Club at several of the local home and garden shows where the Club hosts a table promoting and enrolling new members. Several of you may have first met Mariel at one of these events where you joined the club. Fantasy themed dish gardens are a special interest of hers. You can enjoy seeing them in her garden at one of the regular Open Gardens she hosts! She is also one of the members who submits the limit of 10 pants to the annual show for many years. She often shows mammallaria and euphorbia at this event.





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/Montrose Succulent
August	Wilcoxia/Echinocereus	Hoya
September	Country Store – No Mini Show	
October	Pilosocereus pachycladus	Agave
November	Spiral Cactus	Spiral Succulent
December	Holiday Dinner – No Mini Show	



Echinocereus nivosus



Hoya carnosa

Our gardens are into real summer now, and the cactus especially should be happy. 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!

New Category: We will also have a table at the meeting for Show & Tell!! Do you have a special plant that you would like to show off to our membership. Maybe you have a plant that is blooming now, but isn't the category of the Mini Show. No problem, bring it in. You can talk about this special plant, or if you prefer, just leave it for everyone to admire. We all enjoy seeing special cactus or succulents!!

See you at the Next Meeting!

Linda Partmann

Wilcoxia/Echinocereus

Wilcoxia/Echinocereus: Echinocereus is a genus of ribbed, usually small to medium-sized, cylindrical shaped cacti, comprising about 70 species native to the southern United States and Mexico in very sunny, rocky places. Usually the flowers are large and the fruit edible

The species of the genus Echinocereus grow solitary or branching with prostrate to erect shoots that are spherical to cylindrical. The roots are fibrous or bulbous. The plants reach heights of growth between 1 and 60 centimeters. On the tips of the 4 to 26 ribs, which are mostly clear and only rarely resolved into humps, are the areoles, from which differently shaped spines can arise.

A distinctive characteristic and likely synapomorphy of the genus is the erumpent flowers. The floral buds develop internally and break through the epidermis of the stem. This flower morphology is likely an adaptation to protect the developing buds from low temperatures. Upon maturity, the flowers are usually brightly colored and open during the day. Echinocereus floral color is variable because perianth color reflects pollinator specificity. Red flowers are generally associated with hummingbird pollination, while pink flowers tend to correspond to moth pollination. Their pericarp and floral tubes are studded with thorns, bristles, and sometimes wool. The scar is usually green, but sometimes white in color.

The spherical to ovoid fruits are green to red and mostly thorny. They are mostly juicy and open along a longitudinal slit. The sometimes fragrant fruits contain broadly oval, black, tuberous seeds 0.8 to 2 millimeters long.



Echinocereus cinerascens



Echinocereus coccineus

Hoya

Hoya: Hoya is a genus of over 500 species of plants in the dogbane family, Apocynaceae, commonly known as waxflowers. Plants in the genus Hoya are mostly epiphytic or lithophytic vines, rarely subshrubs, with leathery, fleshy or succulent leaves, shortly tube-shaped or bell-shaped flowers with five horizontally spreading lobes, the flowers in umbels or racemes, and spindle-shaped or cylindrical to oval follicles containing flattened egg-shaped to oblong seeds.

Plants in the genus Hoya are mostly epiphytic or lithophytic vines that rarely form roots in the ground, or rarely more or less shrubby. They have creeping or climbing, pendent, left-twining stems, with white latex, and sometimes with adventitious roots. The stems are cylindrical in cross section, and more or less sparsely branched. The leaves are leathery, often fleshy or succulent, elliptic, egg-shaped, rhomboid or lance-shaped, may be glabrous or hairy, and usually have a petiole.

The flowers are often fleshy or waxy, arranged in umbels or racemes on a peduncle between the leaves, the peduncle usually persisting from year to year. The petals are wheel-shaped or tube-shaped, with five fleshy, more or less jug-shaped, horizontally spreading lobes attached to the staminal column, and forming a prominent ring alternating with the petal lobes.

The fruit is a spindle-shaped to oval follicle containing flattened, egg-shaped to oblong seeds with a tuft of hairs at one end.



Hoya mindorensis



Hoyabella

Country Store Coming soon!

Country Store! Contry Store! Contry Store!



WHAT IS THE COUNTRY STORE? MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

It's time for Club members to start gathering donations of cacti, succulents, pots (and other garden stuff) and misc. cacti and succulent themed items (books, clothing, pictures, jewelry, etc.) to bring to our annual Country Store on Monday September 28, 2026. If you don't have any extra plants, how about baking some sweet treats like cookies, brownies or cupcakes?

Yes, there will still be an incredible Silent Auction where you can get great deals on higher valued cacti and succulents and other cactus and succulent related items. The Silent Auction has exploded over the last couple of years with some amazing items being donated by our generous Club members!

A drawing will be held for donated items, but this year you will not have to pay for the drawing tickets. THIS YEAR WE WILL GIVE AN EQUAL NUMBER OF FREE TICKETS TO EVERY MEMBER WHO ATTENDS OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING. We will charge 50 cents to \$1 for baked goods. Please wrap the baked goods into a single serving size (maybe 1 or 2 cookies?). Pies, cakes or full plates of cookies will go in the silent auction. The higher end donations will be selected for the silent auction. All of the other items that you have donated will be in the free drawing. We are talking about hundreds of items! Please bring your donations in early (the doors will open at 6PM) so we can get set up and you can see what's available.

And on that note: To be successful, we need your donations! Please start setting aside the items you would like to donate. Please make sure the plants are healthy and pest free. Large cuttings are great, but people rarely use their winning tickets to choose a small cutting. Please save small cuttings for our monthly free items.

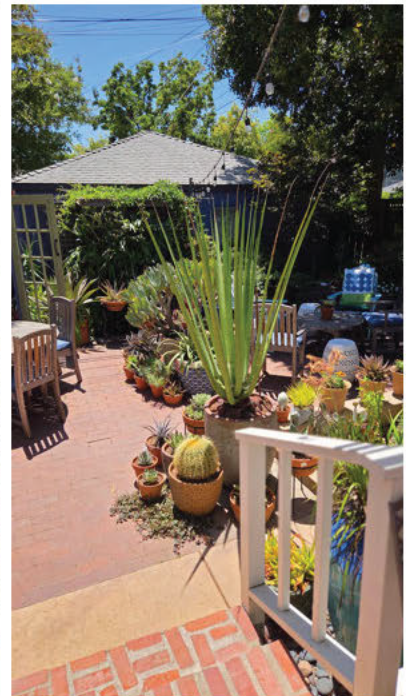
This may be the only year we do a free drawing, so you do not want to miss this event! We will have more details at the August meeting.

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.

OPEN GAREN

Dave Roberts' Open Garden**Saturday, September 12, 2026****9:00am to 2:00pm**

This garden features many specimen cactus and succulents collected over the years. A former nurseryman and landscaper and now an avid gardener, Dave has a love of many plants besides cactus and succulents. Both the front and back yards reflect an eclectic style. But fear not...Cactus and succulents are not only in a planted section of the yard, but displayed throughout in pots. A few highlights include a 50+ year old Bottle Palm, a 50+ year old Staghorn Fern and a 35+ year old Fan Aloe. If you came by a couple of years ago, the ground bed has been upgraded with new specimens and several new potted specimens are in pots. There will be plants for sale. So, drop by and check it out, have a bit of refreshment and chat with fellow plant lovers.



Tshirt Contest 2026

Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society T-Shirt Design Contest 2026

Calling All Artists and Creatives!

We need your help to design a new T-shirt for our club! Submit your design, and it could be featured on T-shirts and other merchandise to be sold at our upcoming Show and Sale in May, as well as at club meetings.



Design Requirements

- One specimen plant should be the primary subject. Accurate botanical detail is encouraged. Creative settings and supporting details are encouraged, as long as one specimen plant remains the clear focal point. Do not include any text.
- It must fit on a standard T-shirt (about 8" x 12").
- Up to 5 solid colors may be used. No gradients or transparencies. Line drawings are also welcome.
- The final design will be converted to a print ready design by a graphic designer. Minor adjustments may be made as needed. Colors will be added/changed to suit the final print. Club text and the plant name will also be added.
- Digital submissions only (PDF, PNG, or JPEG). If hand drawn, please provide a high-quality scan.
- Must be your own original artwork. Do not use AI generated art or material copied from copyrighted works.
- Limit 2 entries per person.

How to Submit

Submit your design on our website - sacramentocss.com/tshirtcontest.html

Deadline

All submissions must be received by Sunday, October 18th 2026.

Winner Announcement

The winning design will be chosen by club members at our October 26th Club Meeting. The winner will get a free t-shirt featuring their design once they are printed!

Questions?

Email Amie - amie@vividroot.net

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