

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

January 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 01

Announcements

January Meeting:

January 26th, 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.

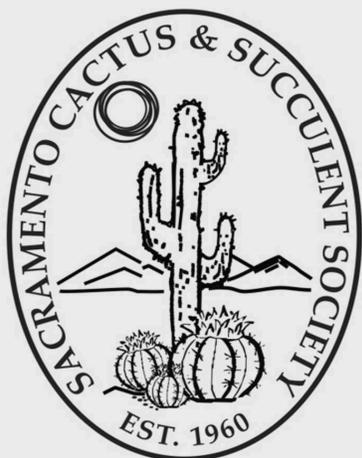
No admission fee.

Free parking.

Refreshments served

This Months Contents:

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| January Program |
| Birthdays & New Members |
| Sunshine Corner |
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January 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.



January 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

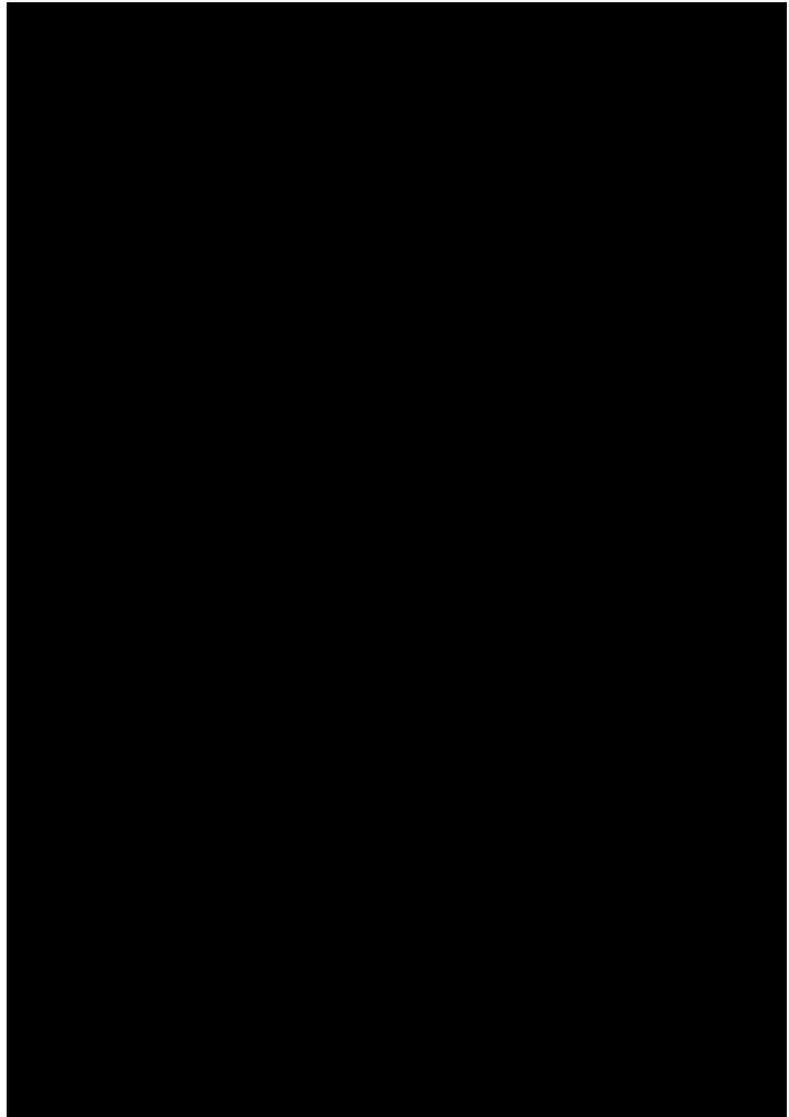
Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

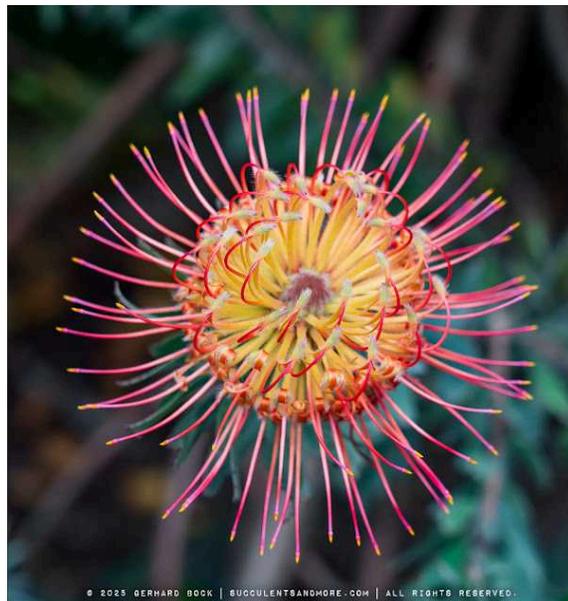
Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor

Co-chairs



2025 recap:

79 new members! Welcome!



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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 | |

Welcome 2026! A new year of Mini Shows. I hope to see more of you participate this year! The prizes given out at the December dinner I hope give some incentive!! Remember, a 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. 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!

Sunshine Corner



Happy New Year! Thankfully, there was no news saying someone in our wonderful group could use a Sunshine card this past holiday season. However, 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. I'm happy to drop them a note letting them know we're thinking of them.

Cheers,
Cherry



Rhipsalis Paradoxa

Mini Show

Rhipsalis, commonly known as mistletoe cactus, is a genus of epiphytic (tree-dwelling) cacti with long, trailing stems, native to tropical Americas, Africa, and Madagascar, and is popular as a low-maintenance houseplant. Unlike desert cacti, they thrive in indirect light, high humidity, and moist but well-draining soil, and are known for their unique, often spineless, segmented stems and small flowers that produce berries. They are easy to propagate from cuttings and are generally non-toxic to humans and pets, though some sources list them as mildly poisonous.

Key Characteristics

- Appearance: Trailing, cascading stems that can be thin and reed-like or stubby and segmented, often with small, hair-like roots for climbing.
- Habitat: Epiphytic (grows on trees) or lithophytic (grows on rocks) in tropical rainforest understories, not deserts.
- Common Names: Mistletoe cactus, coral cactus, spaghetti cactus.



Rhipsalis Baccifer



Rhipsalis Aurea



Rhipsalis crusiformors

Mini Show

Kalanchoe is a genus of succulent plants known for their vibrant, long-lasting flowers and fleshy leaves, popular as houseplants and in gardens. Native to Madagascar and Africa, they are low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, and thrive in bright, indirect light, requiring well-drained soil and infrequent watering. Common varieties like *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* produce clusters of red, pink, orange, or yellow flowers in winter and spring, while others, like the Panda Plant (*K. tomentosa*), are grown for their unique foliage.

Key Characteristics

- Flowers: Showy, often in large clusters, with colors like red, pink, orange, yellow, and white.
- Foliage: Thick, waxy, succulent leaves, often with scalloped edges that can turn reddish in bright light.
- Growth: Can grow up to 2 feet tall and wide, depending on the variety.
- Toxicity: Toxic to dogs and cats if ingested.



Kalanchoe luciae



Kalanchoe orgyalis



Kalanchoe beharensis



Kalanchoe daigremontiana

Membership

Saguaro Sam's Son Says:



2026 MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PORTAL!

- Membership – Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society
- Reach out to Charlotte or Amie for questions
- Can still renew with check or cash at monthly meetings membership table

JOIN NOW

Home & Landscape Expo

**Event reminder:**

The club will have a booth at the Northern California Home & Landscape Expo at Cal Expo on Jan 30, 31, and Feb 1.

<https://www.homeandlandscapeexpo.com/>

Members are welcome to come visit our booth, and we can always use a few volunteers to talk with interested people about cacti & succulents. If you volunteer for at least 3 hours we can provide parking passes for you. There is a special place for volunteer parking that also allows you to get into the Expo for free. If interested, please contact Bill at 8mcca8e@sbcglobal.net.

Northern California Home and Landscape Expo at Cal Expo Jan 30, Jan 31 and Feb 1.
Friday 11AM-5PM, Saturday 10AM-5PM and Sunday 11AM-5PM

Members Corner

Meet The President: Bill McCabe



What piqued your interest in cacti/succulents?

When my brother, Steve, was about 11 and I was 8, my dad bought Steve a dish garden with five cacti and succulents in it. That started the madness! I still have cuttings/clones of two of those original plants from 61 years ago. We were lucky that our dad was a plant guy (orchids, fuchsias, camelias, etc.—but not cactus) and he fostered that love of plants with us. Some of my favorite memories are of my dad taking me to the First Street Cactus nursery in San Jose. My brother went on to be a botanist and worked at the Santa Cruz Arboretum for 35 years. I just became an obsessed cacti & succulent enthusiast.

Role in the club and why.

I am currently the President of our Club. I also organize the vendors for the May Sale and help organize the outside sales events that our Club does throughout the year. I started by volunteering one day at my first Sale/Show. I had a great time and one of the vendors gave me several Gasterias at no charge. The volunteering just ballooned from there. I blame Steve Goodman for roping me into organizing the vendors for the Sale. Yeah, but I thank him too. I enjoy volunteering. This sounds cliché-ish, but I've met some great friends and some amazing people while at this Club. I do most of my socializing with people from our Club. It's incredibly easy to talk to other cacti & succulent lovers.

Favorite Cacti/succulent?

Oh c'mon, that's kind of like asking a parent, "who's your favorite child"? Favorite, well...looking at my collection you would say Gasteria and Gymnocalycium. And then there are all of my other 'Children'— Oriocereus celsianus, Teprohcaactus articulatus papyracanthus, the flowers of echinopsis, Aloe Hercules, Leuchtenbergia, Euphorbias, Crested and Monstrose cacti.....and on and on.

Members Corner**Meet The President: Bill McCabe****Least favorite cacti/succulent or one you've killed the most?**

Stenocerus hillianus cristata is another one of my favorite cactus, but I can't keep the sucker alive. And yes, I am stubborn, and I will try again.

Favorite local nurseries or gardens to visit?

I am a member of The Ruth Bancroft Garden---fantastic. I am a big fan of Poots---I do not go away empty handed and Bill, Brian and Roelyn are great. The problem is that neither one of these is very local. So, I give a huge thank you to our own local cacti & succulent and pottery vendors, Amie, Cassidy, Eric and Lesley & Jerry, for selling their plants and pots at our meetings! Damn, we are lucky to have them in our Club.

Advice for new cacti/succulent enthusiasts?

- 1:** When you buy a new plant, always research how to take care of it. Ask the vendors. Bring your plants (or photos) to our meetings and ask other Club members. Ask specific questions about amount of sun, morning or afternoon sun, shade cloth or other coverage, amount of watering, etc. You will kill some plants, we all do, but use your Club resources to limit the casualties.
- 2:** If your feeling a bit alone at the meetings, remember that part in item #1: Ask questions of members. Ask people about their favorite plants, ask for advice about plants, ask what plants they have, ask how they got into cacti & succulents, etc. When you ask these kind of questions, people will talk with you.
- 3:** Volunteer!!! Start out small---do what feels comfortable. You will be surprised how this expands your enjoyment of the Club. You get a chance to be around people in a different setting than our monthly meetings.

Bill

