

# Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

March 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 03

## Announcements

### March Meeting:

March 23rd, 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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## March Program

### Show Time At The Shepherd Garden Center!

The Shepherd Garden Center cactus and other succulent show and sale will occur May 3-5, 2026. This is the time for club members to show your plants in either novice or advanced categories. The March meeting will focus on how to show your plants to best advantage. Club members who volunteered will bring in plants and get expert feedback on those plants from Keith Taylor, Penny Newell and Cassidy Roberts-Yee, club members who have had winning entrants. Ok you club members who volunteered, please remember to bring those plants in!! Details on the judging, entering of plants for the judged show, and general ins and outs of the annual sale will be covered. Even if you do not plan to enter plants this year (but we hope you will), the growing and showing tips to be offered will help get those “up and comers” growing beautifully and ready for next year or for display in your garden. Please feel free to bring photos of any plants you would like to get feedback on, as time permitting, there may be opportunity in a small group format to talk about those plants with other club members.



## 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*

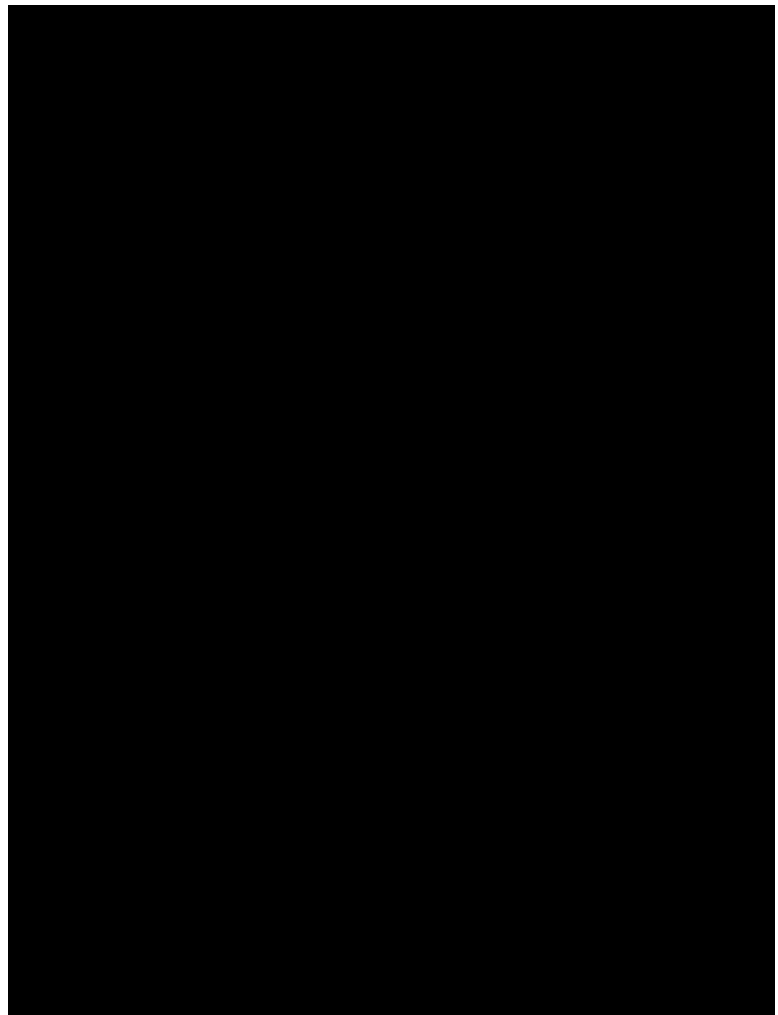
**Annual Show & Plant Sale:**

*Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor*

*Co-chairs*

## Members

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## Club Calendar

Did you know we have a Club events calendar? Be sure to check it out for club events and other events that will interest our members. Check it out!

SCSS Events calendar:

<https://sacramentocss.com/calendar/>

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	

A new year of Mini Shows and the participation in January and February was awesome. 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!

Sunshine Corner



If no news is good news, then I'm glad to share that there was no news of anyone in our club who could have used a Sunshine card this past month. As always, though, if you know of someone 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](mailto: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. On a personal note: By the time you read this, I will be recovering from minor knee surgery. All's well that ends well.

Cheers,  
Cherry



### Mini Show

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**Stenocactus** A number of species of the genus *Stenocactus* are popular in cultivation. The plants are globose and remain relatively small making them very manageable in pots. Additionally, they grow easily and flower readily - often one of the first in a cactus collection to flower in the spring. In addition to their ball-shape, most species in this genus have unique fin-like ribs that are very numerous. This gives them a look reminiscent of undersea coral. Spines are usually present and prominent, but not to the point of obscuring the stem. Flowers arise at the apex and are often white with a wide, dark pink midstripe, but can be a plain creamy white. This genus is native to the Chihuahuan desert in Mexico.

Individual plants can vary considerably within a species and this makes identification in this genus notoriously difficult. Due to a long and convoluted nomenclatural history, the genus is often still grown and traded among collectors under the genus name *Echinofossulocactus*.

*Stenocactus multicostatus*, or *Echinofossulocactus multicostatus* is commonly known as the 'Brain Cactus'. It is best grown in pots because of its wrinkled look, globular shape, small size, and low growth rate. This winter-dormant plant can reach up to the height of 2.5 inches. Brain succulents are native to Mexico and belong to the Cactaceae family.



### Mini Show

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Peperomia is a large genus of ornamental foliage tropical plants in the family Piperaceae native to Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean. With more than 1,500 known species, like watermelon peperomia and baby rubber plants, these hearty plants vary significantly in appearance.

Most boast thick, fleshy leaves that contribute to their drought tolerance and vigor. All Peperomia plants are low maintenance, slow-growing, and can be planted year-round.

Here are the main care requirements for growing Peperomia plants indoors:

- Place in medium to bright indirect light and should be protected from direct sunlight.
- Choose a potting mix that is loose and well-draining but still retains moisture well.
- Allow the soil to dry slightly between waterings; be cautious of overwatering.
- Maintain warm temperatures and medium to high humidity; avoid frost.

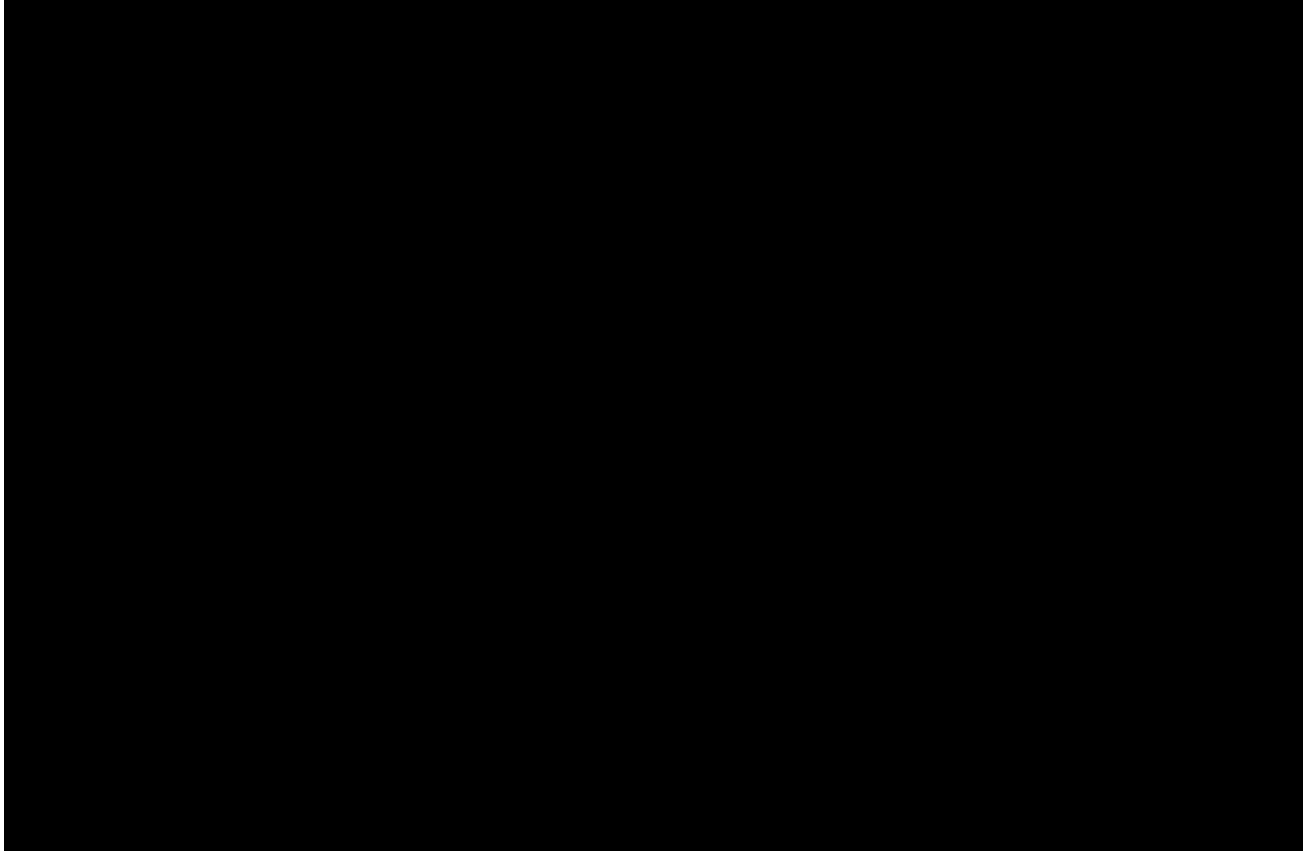
See you at the meeting with your entries!

Linda Partmann



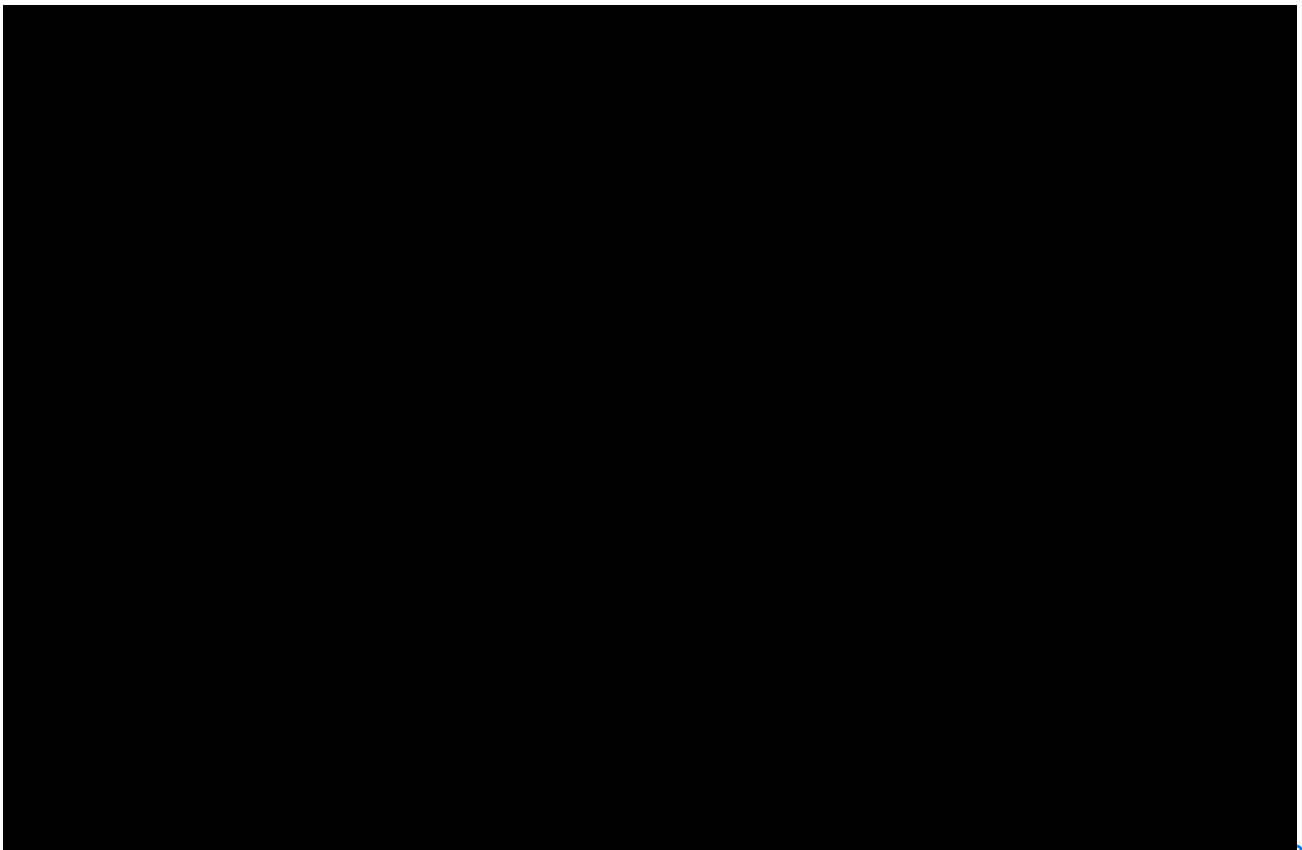
**Open Gardens: Theresa Roberts**

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**Open Gardens: Mariel Dennis**

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## 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.

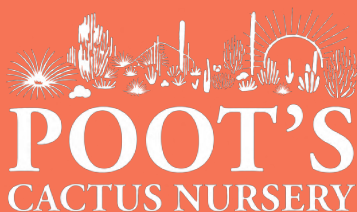
What else can I do while at UCD? The easiest thing to check out is the arboretum <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/> . With said there are other things such as Shrem museum <https://manettishremmuseum.ucdavis.edu/home>.

SIGN UP on by going to The SCSS website,

<https://sacramentocss.com/>.



Poots Cactus Field Trip



Field Trip to Poots House of Cactus  
Saturday, 4/11, Ripon CA  
Meet at Poot's at 8:45 am

There are some of you out there who have never been to Poot's Cactus Nursery?! The perfect opportunity to right that wrong is coming up on **Saturday April 11 th** . It's also the perfect time of year to shop at Poot's. The crew at Poot's will have filled all of their tables with the new stock of plants for 2026. In addition to that, Poot's Nursery is also planning on having other Cactus Succulent Vendors at their place on April 11 th . Despite it being a busy day for the nursery, we should be able to take a behind the scenes tour of the propagation greenhouse.

**Any Club members that wish to come should meet at Poot's about 10 minutes before 9AM on Sat April 11 th** (we want to avoid the rush). There is a small paved parking area directly in front of Poots, followed by a larger dirt parking area. We can gather there and enter as a group.

Poot's Cactus Nursery: 17229 E State Hwy 120 Ripon, CA 95366  
Phone (209) 599-7241 Website: [http:// pootscactusnursery.coall](http://pootscactusnursery.coall)



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

Our annual giant cactus and succulent sale and show is now less than two months away. We are planning on building on the success of former shows. However, our success depends on you, our members, coming out in droves to help with many tasks. But first, THE PERKS!

#1 FIRST CHOICE... You can start buying cacti and succulents BEFORE the public can! On Friday May 1, the members only sale for volunteers is at 12 PM-1 PM. The public sale is 1PM-5PM. Volunteers can also shop from 8AM-9AM on Saturday and Sunday.

#2 We feed you. Volunteers will be fed lunch on all days that they volunteer! These things alone should bring you running. But wait...

#3 Get the satisfaction of knowing that you participated in helping continue all the great things our club does. Such as speakers, field trips, plant exchanges, drawings, the demonstration garden and much more. And if that wasn't enough....#4 Meet new folks from our club and the vendors.

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

- 1) Go to our website. [sacramentocss.com](http://sacramentocss.com). Click on The VOLUNTEER button. Or... just click here (VOLUNTEER button).
- 2) Pick a day(s) and times 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.

For those of you who are into the details of opportunities to volunteer. Tasks are generally easy. The hospitality/food area, the Plant Hotel, Cashier, Cashier assistant (think grocery bagger, but with boxes and cacti and succulents), monitoring the entrance and exit to the Shepard Center and at the Show entrance, helping to set up or take down tables and popup tents., clerking for show judges and more. Can't make the meeting? 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.

Thank you all!



**Members Corner****Meet Board Member: Dave Roberts****1. What piqued your interest in cacti/succulents?**

I was in the nursery business before landscape contracting. Anything unusual would attract me. Cactus and succulents kept popping out at me.

**2. Role in the club and why.**

I like to support organizations that I belong to with participation. That includes helping make decisions. Hence the Board.

**3. Favorite Cacti/succulent?**

OOOOOH so many! Currently my favorite cactus genus is Echinocereus. My favorite single cactus is Lophocereus schottii monstrose. Euphorbia is my favorite succulent genus.

**4. Least favorite cacti/succulent or one you have killed the most?**

Lithops. I don't hate them, I just kill them.

## Members Corner

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### **5. Favorite local nurseries or gardens to visit?**

The Ruth Bancroft Garden and nursery are tops. The garden is amazing and the nursery has a great selection. Poots is a top spot for c&#amp;s as well

### **6. Any other hobbies or interests you want to share?**

I have been a life long home gardener besides being a nursery and landscape professional.

### **7. Advice for new cacti/succulent enthusiasts?**

My advice to any newcomer is to join a club. Then ask, listen and share with your fellow enthusiasts. Participate in activities that make you happy.