

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

May 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 05

Announcements

May Meeting:

May 18th, 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



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Members Corner



MAY MEETING

Monday May 18th

The meeting is on **THIRD** Monday, so as not to interfere with Memorial Day.

May Program

MISADVENTURES IN NAMIBIA
(Fascinating Plants, Amazing Creatures, Incredible Scenery)

This February Bill McCabe journeyed to the southern portion of Africa to experience the exotic sights and sounds of Namibia. At our May meeting, join Bill as he recounts his Namibian adventures and misadventures (of which there were a few). He will share stories of his travels with Peter Beiersdorfer and Jaan Lepson of PB & J Plants—long-time vendors and great friends of the Sacramento Society.

Bill's Bio

Bill's enthusiasm for cacti & succulents started when he was about 8 yrs old. The number of plants in his collection remained steady for many years and only recently crossed the line from hobby into obsession. He joined the Sacramento Club in 2015 and has been volunteering ever since. Bill has been the vendor coordinator for the annual sale since 2022 and is currently the Club President.



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	

**NO
MINI SHOW
THIS MONTH!**



Open Gardens:



June 6th, 10a - 2p

6101 Chrysler Cir, Garden Valley, CA 95633

Look for the big greenhouse! Explore my hundreds of varieties of cacti and succulents and see a real working nursery. There will be plants for sale, as well as light refreshments and shelter from the heat (if the day turns out to be hot). This is about an hour away from Sacramento, so you can make a day of it by visiting the American River, Marshall State Park (site of the original gold discovery), and other local attractions.

Poots Trip



THE POOT'S TRIP IS BACK ON!

Poot's Cactus Nursery has rescheduled their Spring Market Sale event for May 30th. Details to come in an email blast to all members.

Thank You Members!

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING OUR 2026 SHOW AND SALE SUCCESSFUL!

Planning our show and sale starts far in advance of the actual event. Deciding the size, categories, judging and prizes for the show begins around January and is finalized in April. Contacting and securing vendors happens well in advance. And of course, there are feeding vendors and volunteers. This is a shout out for all who get us to the start of the event on Friday!

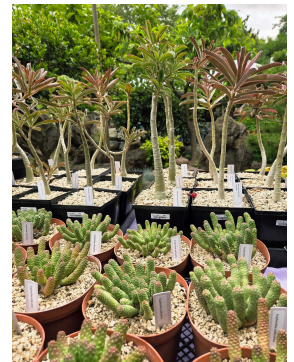
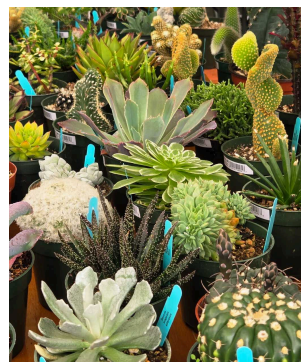
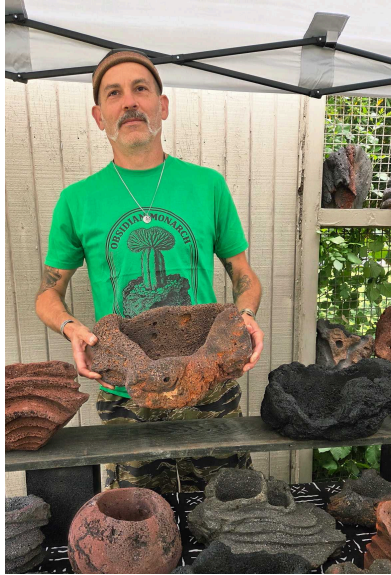
From that point, it is GO, GO, GO! Set up, shopping, volunteering, shopping, eating, shopping. Wake up on Saturday and do it over. And on Sunday, do it again. Last minute shopping and at last...clean up. Wait! On Monday the tables and boxes were removed from the Shepard Center. The tents, signs and materials were stowed away for next year. And the last volunteers finally went home to rest. Our show and sale were successful because of YOU. Whether frantically getting customers through the cash registers or dutifully watching an entry, it all matters. Your participation is what makes SCSS a community of plant lovers dedicated to cactus and succulents. On behalf of the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society Board of Directors we heartily thank you for your participation in this year's sale and show.

David Roberts, 2026 Volunteer Coordinator

Bill McCabe, President



Thank You Members!



Meet The Secretary! Gerhard Bock

1. What piqued your interest in cacti/succulents?

My mother had cacti and euphorbias on her windowsills when I was growing up. I got a moon cactus when I was 12. So it seems I've been around them forever. As an adult/gardener, my interest really took off when I realized that they make great landscape plants: They're beautiful, and they need very little care.



2. Role in the club and why.

I've been secretary and webmaster for a number of years. These roles play to my strengths. I'm well organized, and I work best behind the scenes.



3. Favorite Cacti/succulent?

Cacti: Echinopsis/Trichocereus hybrids for their incredible flowers. Succulents: agaves and aloes for their architectural qualities and use as landscape plants. I try to put most of my plants in the ground, so that matters.

4. Least favorite cacti/succulent or one you've killed the most?

Dioscorea elephantipes. I've killed more than I can count, either by overwatering or by underwatering. Everybody says they're easy to grow. Not for me!

5. Favorite local nurseries or gardens to visit?

Hands down the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, only an hour away. The variety of plants they grow, and the design of the garden itself, that's been a huge inspiration for me. Plus, their climate is essentially the same as ours, so what does well there will typically do well here.

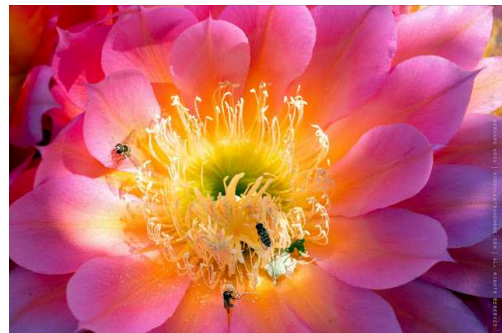


6. Any other hobbies or interests you want to share?

I love photography, and I write a blog, Succulents and More (succulentsandmore.com). I chronicle the successes and failures in my own garden and write about other gardens and nurseries I visit, here and wherever I happen to travel.

7. Advice for new cacti/succulent enthusiasts?

Grow the plants that get you excited. And if you fail, try again. Killing plants doesn't mean you're a bad grower/gardener — plants have a mind of their own. In your garden, don't stick to rigid rules or listen to what others say. Do what *you* like. The only person you have to please is yourself. (Look for the book Fearless Gardening by Loree Bohl. It might change your life!)



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