

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

October 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 10

Announcements

October Meeting:

September 28th, 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:

October Program: Rebutia, Amie Frisch
Presidents Corner
Birthdays & New Members
Sunshine Corner
Mini Show
T Shirt Contest
Open Garden: Eric Bailey
Field Trip To Ruth Baincroft
Library Acquisition



October Program: Rebutia – By Any Other Name: Amie Frisch

Rebutias are small, often prolific flowering cacti native to the mountains of Bolivia and Argentina. They're also a group with a surprisingly complicated history of name changes! We'll look at their natural habitats, sort through some of the botanical confusion, explore the differences between Rebutia, Aylosteria, and Weingartia, and discuss growing and caring for these plants.

Amie Frisch is the owner of Vivid Root, a small nursery in Garden Valley, California, where she grows and propagates a wide variety of cacti and succulents. She has a particular interest in unusual species and has recently been expanding her collection of Rebutias and related genera for propagation.



Presidents Corner

UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY!

There have only been 4 T-Shirt Contest entries submitted so far! If you have been waiting to submit your design you have almost run out of time.

Please stop doubting yourself and send in your design. The deadline for submitting your T-Shirt Contest designs is October 18th.

COUNTRY STORE

Thank you all for your participation in the Country store! Thank you for showing up and for donating so many plants and pots!

We had record attendance for a meeting, with 88 Club members present. We had record sales for the Silent Auction with \$1039 raised.

Thanks again to Kyle & Gerhard for getting the ticket numbers on the giant screen and smoothing out that portion of the night.

Time to start planning what to bring to the Silent Auction in 2027, 2028, 2029....

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

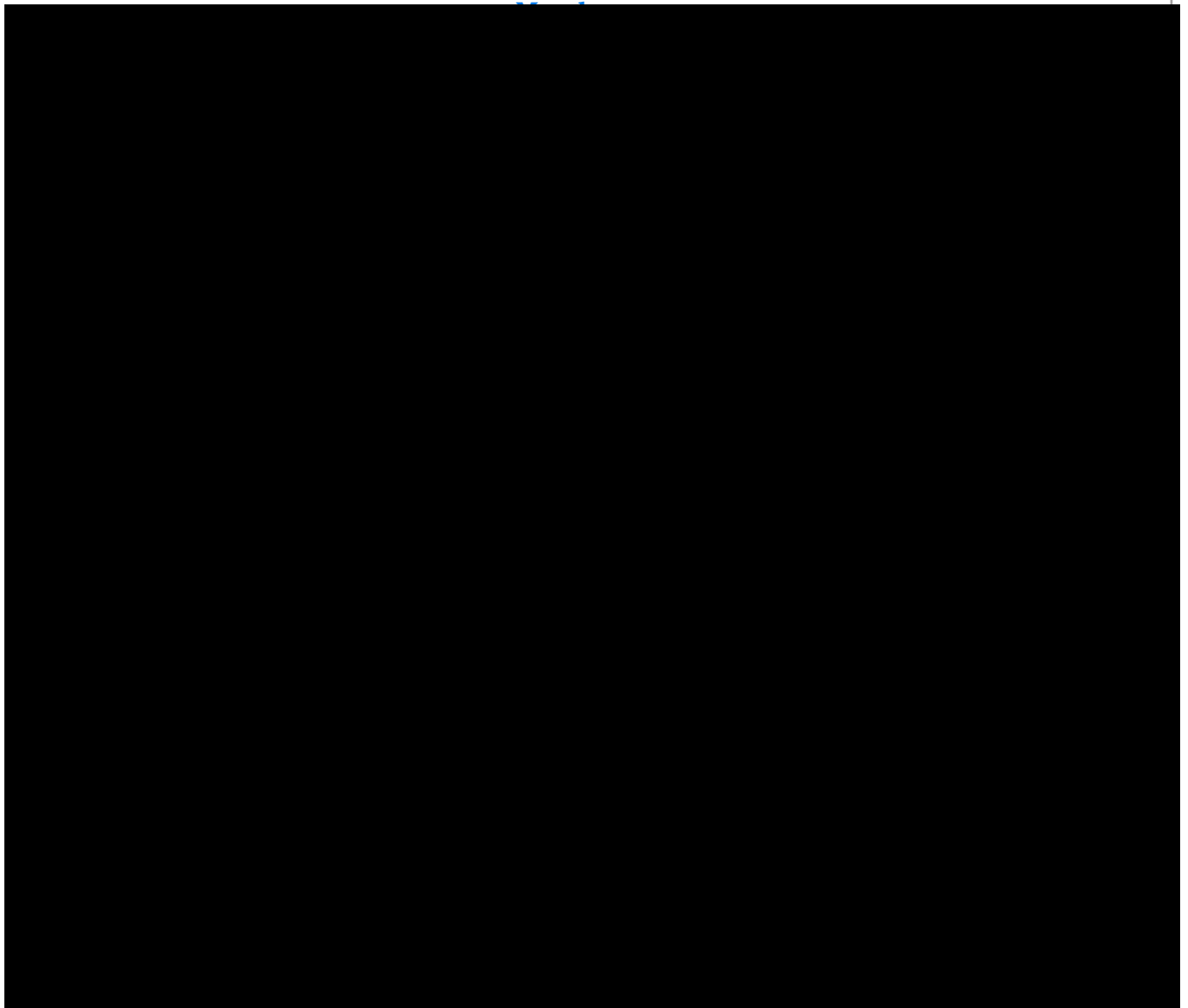
At the November meeting we will be having the election for the 2027 Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society board of directors. The list of the current four officers and additional four board members is shown at the bottom of the newsletter.

So far, it looks like all the officers and three of the general board members will run for office again in 2027. That leaves one open general board member position with no candidates. All club members are eligible to run for that open general board member position. All club members are also eligible to run for any of the other positions.

If you have an interest in running for the soon to be vacant general board member position or for running for any of the other positions, please contact any one of the board members to let them know

Bill McCabe





Gardens cultivate joy. I hope since there were no requests for Sunshine cards this past month that you all are enjoying yours. However, if you know of someone from the club who could use a get well, sympathy, or a 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 DuLaney, Sunshine Chair

Cheers,
Cherry

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	

Well, we are winding down another year of Mini-Shows, only October and November, and then the winners of 2026 will be printed in the December Newsletter, and prizes for the top five (5) point winners will receive special gifts at the December Dinner Meeting! Prizes are very special pots from your member potters, Keith Taylor, Linda Partmann and Eric Bailey, I will not be at the October Meeting since I will be in Hawaii at that time. Don't worry, Bill McCabe, or his designee, will handle the voting and record the winners.

Remember, 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. Beans will not be put out 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!!

Linda Partmann

Mini Show

Pilosocereus pachycladus is a species of flowering plant in the family Cactaceae found in eastern Brazil, and introduced to the Canary Islands.

- Appearance: Features a distinct powdery blue-green or turquoise stem covered in a waxy cuticle, ribbed columns, and clusters of golden or yellowish spines emerging from woolly areoles.
- Size: Can grow up to 33 feet (10 meters) tall in the wild, growing about 1 to 2 feet per year under optimal conditions.
- Flowers: Produces large, night-blooming, funnel-shaped white flowers with reddish outer segments that are pollinated by bats and moths.
- Fruit: Bears edible, reddish-purple fleshy fruits.



Mini Show

Agaves are a large group of succulent plants native to the hot and dry regions of the Americas, especially Mexico.

- Appearance: They grow in a circle of thick, fleshy leaves. Most types have sharp teeth on the edges and a hard, dangerous spike at the tip.
- Lifespan: Most agave plants are monocarpic, meaning they grow for many years—sometimes 10 to 30 years (earning them the name "century plants")—bloom just once with a massive central flower stalk, and then die.
- Offshoots: Before dying, the parent plant usually produces small baby plants, called "pups," around its base.
- Sunlight: They need 6 to 8 hours of direct, bright sunlight every day.
- Soil: They require fast-draining, sandy, or rocky soil. Wet, heavy clay soil will rot their roots.
- Water: Water them deeply during the hot summer, but let the soil dry out completely before watering again. Keep them dry in the winter.



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

Eric Bailey Open Garden And Giant Plant Sale

October 31: Eric Bailey Open Garden and Giant Plant Sale

Eric Bailey will host an open garden at their rural property in West Sacramento right off the Sacramento River:

WHEN: Saturday, October 31, 10-2

WHERE: [REDACTED] (the driveway is marked by two large white tractor tires)

Eric made a cactus garden after cleaning up old stuff on the ranch, cutting up drums and other metal that was lying around and turning them into all kinds of creative containers. Check out [this recent post on Gerhard Bock's blog Succulents and More](#) to see photos.

In conjunction with Eric's open garden, SCSS members Kyle Johnson and Gerhard Bock will have a giant plant sale featuring plants they propagated themselves as well as special agaves and aloes from San Marcos Growers, the iconic nursery in Santa Barbara that has now closed its doors forever.

The focus will be on landscape succulents, not small collector plants. This is a great opportunity to buy plants for your garden that you won't find in regular nurseries.

Most plants will be \$5, \$10, \$15, or \$20. Some rare plants or larger specimens will be a bit higher. CASH only.

Check out this post on Gerhard's blog for more information, including an inventory of plants that will be for sale as well as videos of the plant sale area:

<https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2026/10/crazy-in-best-way-what-kyle-and-i-have.html>



2027 RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN TRIP



SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, February 6, 2027

Everything is set to GO! All we need now is for YOU to sign up
FEBRUARY??? YES.... Think blooming ALOES.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? A Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society educational field trip to the Ruth Bancroft Garden <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>.

Located in Walnut Creek, the Ruth Bancroft Garden houses a unique and diverse collection of cacti, succulents and drought tolerant plants from around the world. The many large mature specimens located throughout the 3.5-acre garden serve as an excellent example of just how stunning a dry garden can be. Their nursery (you know a place where you buy plants!) features drought tolerant plants including California natives, cactus and succulents. This garden is a MUST SEE! And the Aloes in bloom are a special treat.

WHAT'S INCLUDED? SCSS will provide Admission, a box lunch with drinks and bus transportation from Sacramento and Davis.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? \$45.00 per person. \$45.00!!! What's the catch? The SCSS Board has approved inviting Carmichael Cactus and Succulent Society members to join in the fun. However, SCSS members will have exclusive registration until December 30, 2026. There is a limit of 50 people. We filled the bus in our first Ruth Bancroft trip, so don't get caught snoozing. Sign up now!

2027 RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN TRIP

TRANSPORTATION:

We will travel by BUS. You may meet and be dropped back at one of the following locations. Both have plenty of parking. Note: If you miss your bus, you are still welcome to drive to the garden.

The first pickup location is the Watt/Manlove Park and Ride on Manlove off Watt Avenue just south of Highway 50. <https://maps.app.goo.gl/4eKXzpVKi78p3tJMA>. Meet at the bus loading area. Please arrive by 8:00am. The bus will depart at 8:15am.

The second pickup location will be at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride in Davis. Meet near the beginning of the parking area. Please arrive by 8:40am. The bus will depart at 9:00am.

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/cLBnURgCFzyynpng9>

RAIN POLICY: In the event that moderate to heavy rain is in the forecast, the trip will be cancelled and all registrations will be refunded. If light or intermittent rain is predicted, the trip will proceed as scheduled. Bring a raincoat and umbrella.

HOW DO I REGISTER AND PAY? You can register and pay online. Fill out a separate form for each participant. Follow this link <https://pci.jotform.com/262818489161164>. OR go to the SCSS website <https://sacramentocss.com/> and follow the instructions from the promo. You can pay with a credit card online. To pay by check, print the attached form fill it out and send it along with a check to the address on the form. Please mail no later than Tuesday, January 19, 2027. Note: The day your check arrives will determine if you get registered.

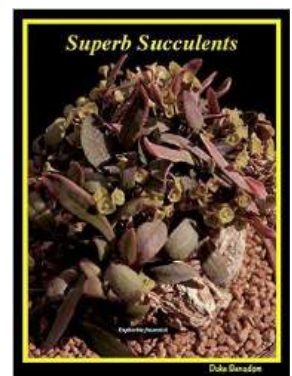
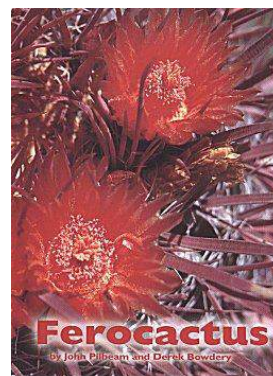
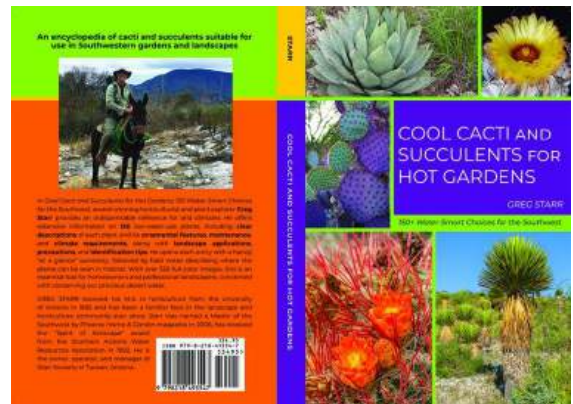
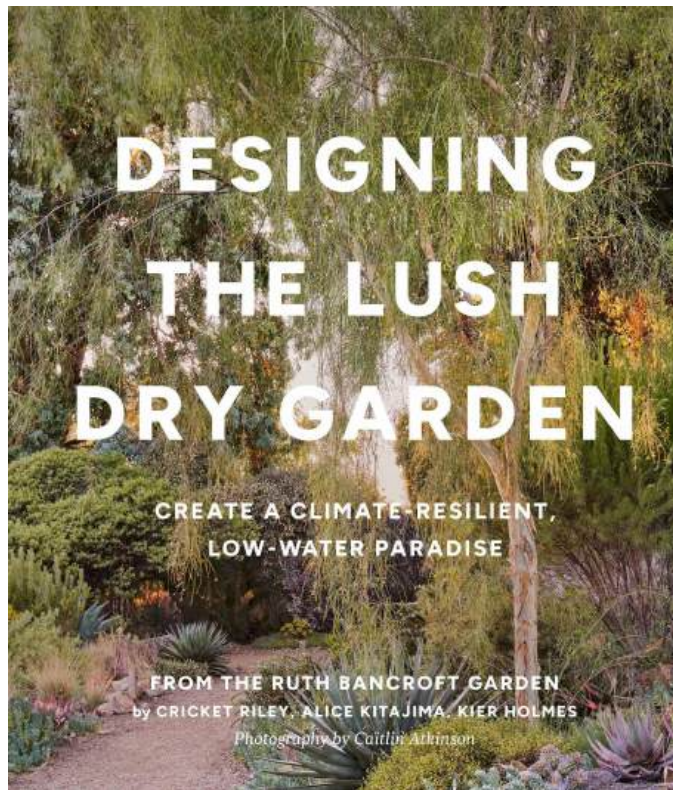
PERSONAL CANCELLATION POLICY: You may cancel with refund up to and including January 30, 2027 to receive a full refund. Any cancellations after that will be non-refundable.

HAVE QUESTIONS? If you have concerns or questions about the trip, please contact Dave Roberts. Email: roblands94@gmail.com. Cell phone: 916/416-9368.

Now you can say "I am going to the Ruth Bancroft Garden!"

SIGN UP NOW

LIBRARY ACQUIRES NEW BOOKS IN 2026



Thanks to the generosity of our club's Board of Directors, the library has acquired 4 new books to be part of our permanent collection:

Cool Cacti And Succulents For Hot Gardens by Greg Star.

Cool Cacti and Succulents for Hot Gardens is a newly published companion book to the ever-popular Cool Plants for Hot Gardens. In this book, award winning horticulturist Greg Starr has selected 150+ intriguing cacti and succulents that can be utilized in cactus and succulent gardens or well-rounded xeriscapes throughout the warmer regions of the desert southwestern U.S. and dry regions of Australia, Mexico, Argentina, and even parts of Europe with a Mediterranean-type climate. Following the format of Cool Plants, each species has a two-page spread, with at least two pictures for each species and categories including Etymology, Field Notes, Description, Culture, Identification, Landscape Application, and Precautions.

Superb Succulents by Duke Benadom.

The intent of Superb Succulents is to provide readers with a compilation of information and images from years of perambulating and photographing winning specimens as displayed in cactus and succulent shows throughout the western USA. A few additional images have been included, mostly for a comparison to the potential beauty of a well-staged show plant, or in some cases, to show flowering specimens.

Field Trip To Micro Paradox

This book is loaded with 700 photos of fantastic plants. Each subject includes text that is not merely a rigid botanical description, but full of useful tips for the collector.

Designing The Lush Dry Garden by Cricket Riley and Alice Kitajima.

A must-have guide to dry garden design inspired by the legendary Ruth Bancroft Garden. The Ruth Bancroft Garden, known as one of the finest dry gardens in the world, is a pioneering example of resilient design with a focus on water conservation. Ruth Bancroft (1908-2017) was

a self-taught gardener and designer whose eclectic methods encourage richly textured, bold, and colorful layers of regionally climate-appropriate flowers, shrubs, trees, and succulents. These include her favorite aloes, agaves, yuccas, and echeverias that she collected and experimented with for over 60 years, and which the garden has continued to steward. Designing the Lush Dry Garden is the first guide to lay out Ruth Bancroft's methods for the home gardener and designer. With gorgeous photographs by Caitlin Atkinson, and detailed portraits of 20 gardens inspired by the Garden, discover how to create a design that suits your vision.

Ferocactus by John Pilbeam and Derek Bowdery.

Pilbeam again employs his organizational skills to make understanding the genus Ferocactus as easy as such a thing can be. The book is 116 pages long and is primarily devoted to the identifying description of every known species of the genus. There are many large pictures throughout - mostly of habitat plants. For each species a distribution map is given which is a great aid for those visiting the plants where they grow. At the front of the book, before getting into species descriptions, 16 pages of other useful information is provided. This includes an overview of the species, classification explanations with a key to the species and even cultivation tips.

These new books will be available for your review at the November club meeting.

George Krigas
Librarian

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Theresa Roberts

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Mini Show:

Linda Partmann

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Michele Swanberg & Elaine

Thomas

Annual Country Store:

Bill McCabe

Sunshine Corner:

Cherry Dulaney

Webmaster:

Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:

Keith Taylor

