

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

September 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 09

Announcements

September 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:

September Program: Country Store

Birthdays & New Members

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Members Corner: Marilyn Vilas



COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!!



COUNTRY STORE: MONDAY SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

It's September and the Country Store is just days away.

Hopefully everyone has managed to set aside a few cacti, succulents, misc. cacti and succulent themed items and/or pots to donate for the Country Store Fundraiser/Club Thank you.

Doors will open at 6:00 PM for you to bring your Donations. Please arrive by 6:45 PM to set out your donations, receive your drawing tickets and settle in for an exciting evening.

The Country Store drawing will start shortly after our 7PM announcements.

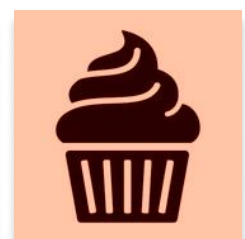
THERE WILL BE FOUR DRAWING CATEGORIES OF THE DONATED ITEMS

1: CACTI

2: SUCCULENTS

3: MISC. Cacti and succulent themed items such as books, clothing, jewelry, etc.

4: POTS and GARDEN SUPPLIES



COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!! COUNTRY STORE!!

THE DRAWING TICKETS WILL BE FREE THIS YEAR! That means free cacti, free succulents, free pots, etc.!! Every member who attends will be given the same number of drawing tickets. There are 2 of each ticket number. You keep one of the two and the other goes into one of the containers located at each category. You can enter as many tickets as you like in whichever categories you choose. If your ticket number is called, you get to pick whatever you want from the category that it was pulled from.

SILENT AUCTION: This is where the really good stuff goes---higher-value plants or special items—think planters, books, special pottery, jewelry, etc. Each item will have a bid sheet where you can add your name and your bid. All bids are visible and everyone will have multiple opportunities throughout the night to increase their bids. Please bring cash (smaller bills, too, not just twenties) for the silent auction.

BAKED GOODS: Anyone who wants to bring cookies, brownies, etc. to donate for the evening's snacks, please feel free to do so. The snacks will be free to all members. If anyone brings a full cake or pie, that will go in the silent auction.

PRO TIPS (NEW MEMBERS PLEASE READ)

1: Keeping track of your numbers can become a challenge. However, all you need to do is write down the number of the first and the last ticket. If a ticket between these two is called, it's yours.

2: Some people like to tape their tickets to a piece of cardboard.

BE PREPARED: BOXES: Please bring a box or boxes (tray type) for your winnings! Bring packing material.

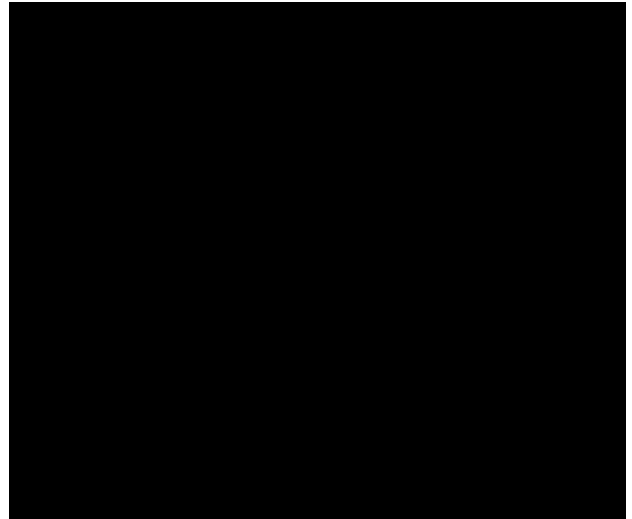
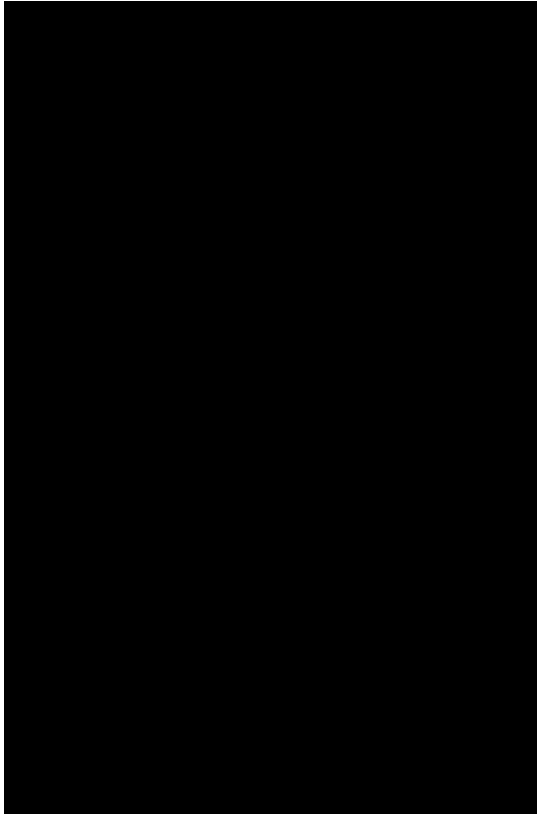
NOTE: You do not have to donate to participate. If you do have donations, use your judgement on what to donate. Think healthy & pest free plants that some other members would be happy to own. Large cuttings are great as well. Small cuttings from soft succulents should be given away in the free section at regular meetings.

If you have any questions, please call or text Bill McCabe at (916) 225-5974.

Thank you,
Bill McCabe



OCTOBER



SUNSHINE CORNER

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	

Since the August meeting was a little chaotic at the end I didn't get a chance to announce the August Mini Show winners.

Congratulations to the following:

Cactus - 1st place Kevin Schultz, 2nd place George Krigas, 3rd place Rudy Aguilar.

Succulent: 1st place Kevin Schultz, 2nd place (tie) George Krigas & Tyree M, 3rd place Rudy Aguilar

Dish Garden - 1st place Elaine Thomas, 2nd place (tie) George Krigas & Eric Bailey, 3rd place Grace Frasche

I look forward to the always fun September Country Store meeting!

Linda Partmann



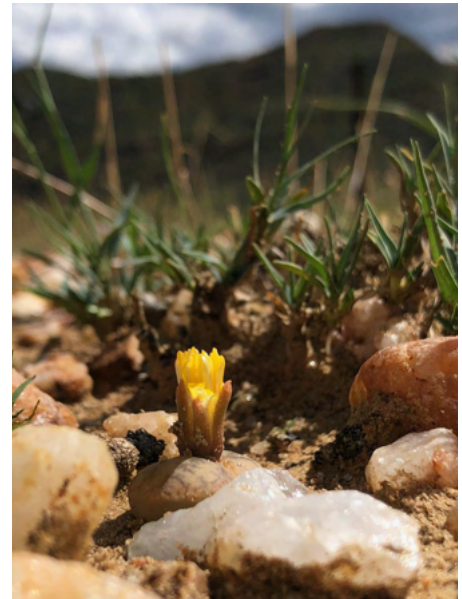
Pictures Of August Program: Dish Gardens



LITHOPS CONSERVATION DONATION



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

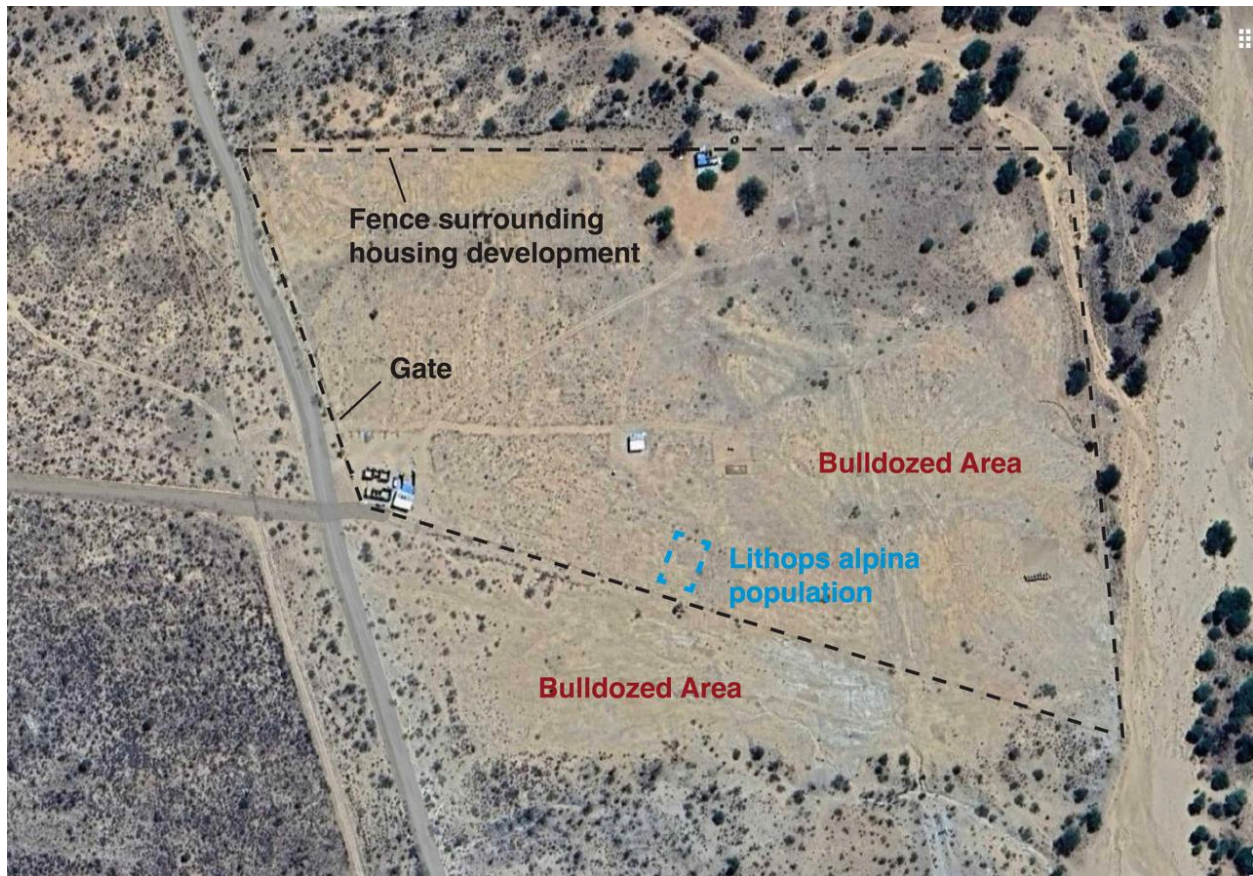


We are extremely excited to announce a major donation toward succulent conservation!

The Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society Board of Directors has approved a donation of \$6,800 for the conservation of lithops in Namibia. The donation will go to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA). The CSSA will contribute an additional \$6,200 to complete the \$13,000 purchase of a parcel of land that is home to a population of *Lithops pseudotruncattella* f. *alpina* exhibiting a unique yellow color. This population is contained in a fully fenced-in area that had been bulldozed to make way for a housing development. Initially, the lithops population was decimated, but fortunately, it has rebounded from the seed bank in the soil.

The buyer of the property is the Namibian Chamber of the Environment (an NGO) and the custodian of the property is the National Botanical Research Institute of Namibia. Having the CSSA direct the donation to this NGO will speed up the process of acquiring the lithops parcel.

LITHOPS CONSERVATION DONATION



The SCSS has donated to the conservation and education of cacti and succulents in the past, but nothing of this magnitude. This isn't just a one-time gift, it is a stepping stone towards establishing a sustainable, recurring grant/donation program to aid in cactus and succulent conservation and education. We will continue to consider large impactful donations in the future, but we are planning to shift our focus to smaller and more local projects that contribute to our mission. With this shift in focus, we intend to spread our resources more evenly and make them accessible to a wider variety of projects.

NOTE: The SCSS originally approved \$5,000 for this donation. That amount, plus the CSSA donation, left us short of the purchase price. Two very generous SCSS members donated the additional \$1,800 directly to the SCSS and we forwarded \$6,800 to the CSSA.

Thank you.

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society Board of Directors

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

Open Garden

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. An inventory list will be posted online closer to the sale (check the October newsletter for the link). Eric will also sell a variety of larger cacti and other succulents.



Field Trip To Micro Paradox

Field trip to Micro Paradox, Friday, October 9, 10 am

Did you know that many of the plants we love and have growing in our gardens aren't propagated through seeds or offsets but start life in a lab? This includes succulents like agaves, mangaves, and aloes, not to mention virtually all the house plants you find in grocery stores and garden centers.

On Friday, October 9, we'll visit Micro Paradox, a tissue-culture facility in Pleasant Grove, about 30 minutes north of downtown, where you'll have the opportunity to see how plants are created in a lab.

We'll meet at 9:45 am in the Micro Paradox parking lot at 3560 Sankey Rd, Pleasant Grove, CA 95668 ([MapQuest link here](#)). The tour will start at 10 am and last about 90 minutes.

Check out Gerhard's blog post from early August to see Micro Paradox's operation.

If you plan on joining us, please email Gerhard (gerhard@succulentsandmore.com) so Micro Paradox has a better idea of how many people there will be.



Meet Longest Term Club Member-48 Years!



1. What piqued your interest in cacti/succulents?

My interest in C&S started early when I bought a small cactus in my teens. I remember attending my first C&S show at Sacramento in May 1978 and immediately joined the club.

2. Role in the club and why.

Over the past 48 years, I have been President, VP, Show Chair and chair of/or involved with various other committees with the club. The best way to support a group is to be active in it.

3. Favorite Cacti/succulent?

Favorite Cacti are small ones like Rebutia, Sulcorebutia and Mammillaria. Favorite Succulents are Haworthia and Gasteria.

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

My least favorites are Opuntias due to their nasty spines/glochids.

5. Favorite local nurseries or gardens to visit?

I enjoy any garden and nursery as I enjoy all kinds of plants.

6. Advice for new cacti/succulent enthusiasts?

Advice for newbies: Volunteer!! for any position. Volunteering helps you know other members and learn the workings of the club. At the May Show, volunteer to be a clerk and listen to the judges - best way to learn the plants and how to show/care for them.

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:

Keith Taylor

