

Thorny Issues

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

February 2026 | Volume 8, Issue 02

Announcements

February Meeting:

February 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:

February Program
Birthdays & New Members
Sunshine Corner
Mini Show
Membership Renewal
Sale And Open Gardens
Members Corner



February Program**Cassidy Roberts-Yee Plant Show And Tell**

Cassidy will show you plants and tell you about them! Rare and exotic plants that you may not have seen "in person" will be featured. Cassidy is a club member and owns Radiant Cactus. He will be a vendor at the club May show. Come to the meeting to see and hear about some special plants!



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

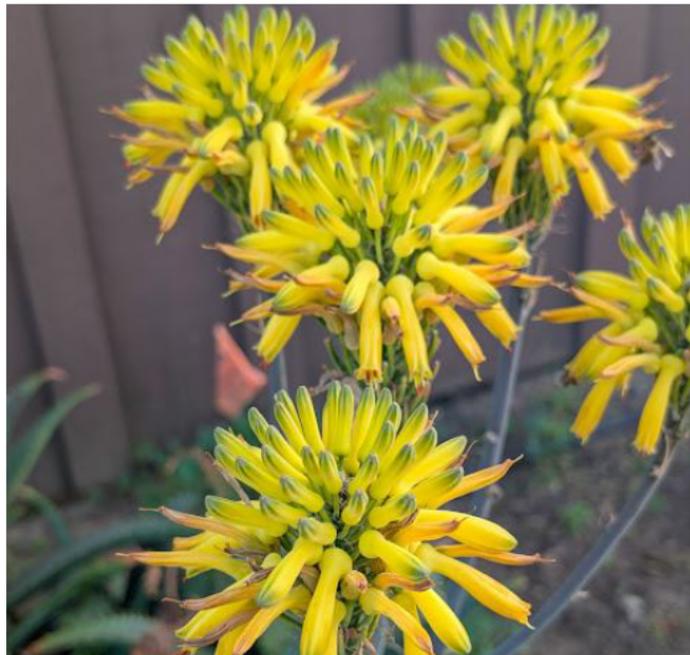
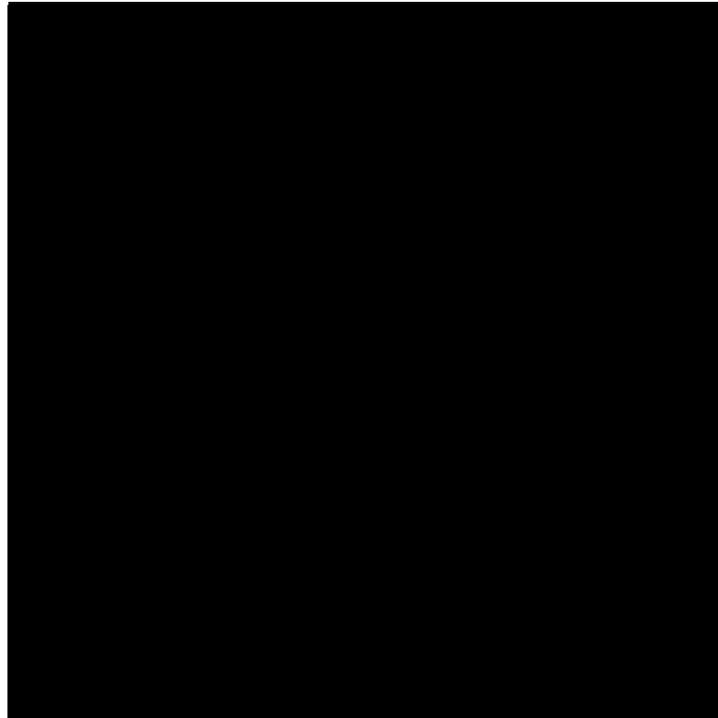
Annual Country Store:
Bill McCabe

Sunshine Corner:
Cherry Dulaney

Webmaster:
Gerhard Bock

Annual Show & Plant Sale:
Mariel Dennis/Keith Taylor
Co-chairs

Members



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 and the participation in January was awesome. Remember the prizes are given out at the December dinner. 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. 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



I'm glad to share that there was no news of anyone in our wonderful group who could have used a Sunshine card this past month. 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. On a personal note: I'm scheduled for meniscus knee surgery on March 9th. Old age is no place for sissies!

Cheers,
Cherry



Senecio Barbarto

Mini Show

Frailea is a genus of globular to short cylindrical cacti native to South America.

They are characterized by low-growing, flattened-spherical to short-cylindrical stems that often form multiple shoots, though sometimes grow solitary. These stems have weakly developed ribs and tubercles, adorned with small spines. The short, funnel-shaped flowers emerge from the tip of the shoot. They are notable for their limited opening, often blooming only briefly during the day. A significant characteristic of most *Frailea* species are cleistogamous, where flowers self-pollinate and produce seeds without ever opening. This occurs because the anthers develop in contact with the stigma, allowing for self-fertilization within the closed bud. Cleistogamy is believed to be an adaptation to protect against adverse weather conditions that could impede pollination, especially during their summer flowering period which coincides with significant rainfall. The areoles on the pericarpel and flower tube are densely covered with woolly hairs and bristles. The fruits are thin-walled, dry, and packed tightly with seeds. They may retain a persistent floral remnant and can open irregularly or remain indehiscent. The seeds, measuring up to 1.5 millimeters in length, are broadly ovate or cap-shaped.



Frailea amerhauseri



Frailea pumila



Frailea chiquitana

Mini Show

Senecio is a genus of flowering plants in the daisy family (Asteraceae) that includes groundsels and some ragworts. Variously circumscribed taxonomically, the genus *Senecio* is one of the largest genera of flowering plants. Plants of the World Online currently accepts 1482 species.

The flower heads are often rayed (though the type species *Senecio vulgaris* does not have ray florets), with the heads borne in branched clusters, and usually completely yellow, but green, purple, white and blue flowers are known as well.

In its current circumscription, the genus contains species that are annual or perennial herbs, shrubs, small trees, aquatics or climbers

I look forward to seeing your entries at the February meeting!



Monticalia ledifolia



Senecio madagascariensis

Membership

Saguaro Sam's Son Says:



2026 MEMBERSHIPS ARE OVERDUE!

Easy Ways to Renew:

- **Online at sacramentocss.com/membership**
- **Cash or check at monthly meeting given to Charlotte at membership table**
- **Mail check to Charlotte**

Open Gardens: Gerhard Bock

**Gerhard Bock Open garden**

Gerhard will have an open garden on Saturday, March 7, from 11 am to 3 pm. Even if you came to Gerhard's open garden in October, there'll be plenty of new things to discover. Plus, the aloes should be in full bloom, including some fairly mature specimens. Check out this photo from last year. To see more pictures, visit his blog, [Succulents and More](#).

Open Gardens: Mariel Dennis

I am excited to announce that my garden recently was certified by the National Wildlife Federation as a wildlife habitat so I'm scheduling an open garden for Saturday, April 18 from 10 AM to 3 PM.

Shepard Center Spring Sale

On Sat. March 14 10AM-4PM and Sun. March 15 10AM-3PM, Cassidy Roberts and Eric Bailey will be representing our society (and selling their plants & pots) at the SGAC 2026 Spring Sale.

Stop on by and say hello! If you also want to volunteer between for 2-4 hours at our booth, you are more than welcome to! Please send me an email if you'd like to volunteer (8mcca8e@sbcglobal.net).

More FREE Large Cactus Cuttings

More FREE Large Cactus cuttings will be available at the Monday, February 23 meeting. If you missed out getting some of these at the January meeting, you have a second chance. We will have various size cuttings of *Cereus peruvianus* monstrose and *Trichocereus spachiana*.

WHEN: Monday, February 23 at 6pm

WHERE: We will set the plants on the concrete floor outside the normal entry door.

BRING: Heavy gloves. Foam, rug or towels to move them.

REMEMBER: First come, First serve.

THANK: A huge thank you to Mary Jane Machado (100 years old) and to her children, Jeanne and Patrick! Mary Jane wanted her plants to go to new homes when her house is sold and Jeanne and Patrick reached out to the SCSS to see if we could help.



Members Corner

Meet The President: Meet The Vice President! Theresa Roberts

1. What piqued your interest in cacti/succulents?

I was very interested in Hopi Indian culture and made several trips to the southwest where I became enthralled with towns and the landscape. We later built a house that incorporated influences from these experiences. And then I grew interested in the xeriscape nature of the landscape. Voila succulents!

2. Role in the club and why.

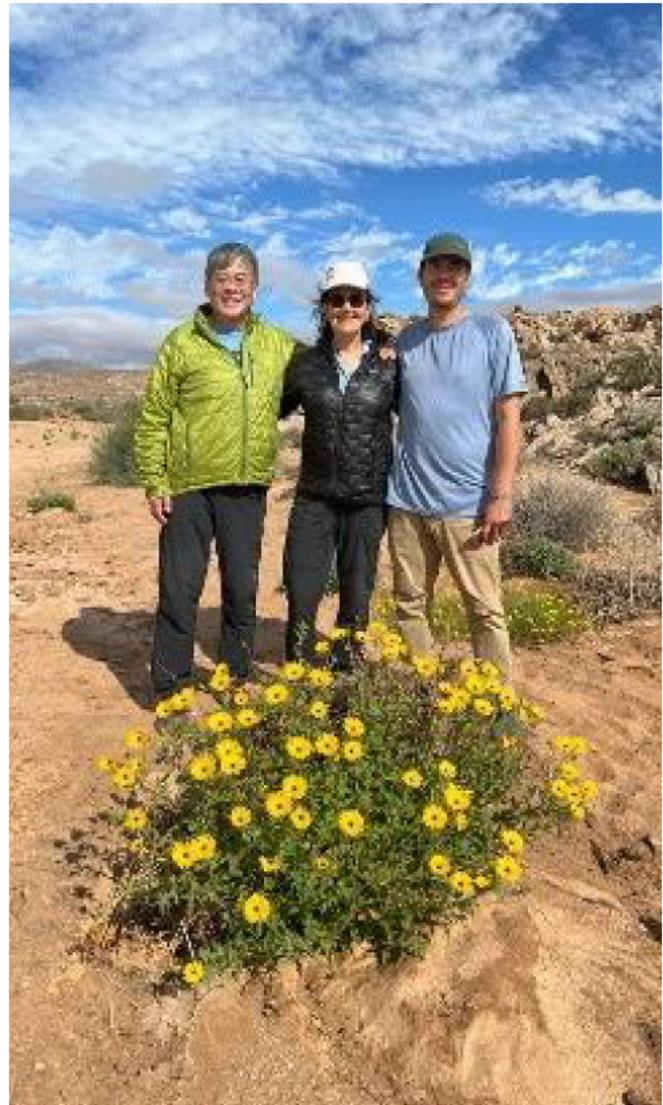
I am the vice president of the club. I arrange for the speakers and participate on the board where we work to keep the club interesting, beneficial to members, organized, and solvent.

3. Favorite Cacti/succulent?

Conophytum. They are small precious mesembs from South Africa.

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

Well I am not good at germinating stuff.



5. Favorite local nurseries or gardens to visit?

I like the Foundry downtown. I love seeing club members gardens.

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

I am a Uc Davis Master Gardener volunteer and a birder. I like being physically active with trail running, gardening on two acres, and doing a sport called triathlon (swim, bike, run).

7. Advice for new cacti/succulent enthusiasts?

I would suggest I guess to read as much as you can, go out and about to see succulents in as many different places as you can, and of course never miss a meeting.....