

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America (CSSA) • Associated Plant Society of California Garden Clubs, Inc. (CGCI)

Minutes of the General Meeting, July 8, 2018

South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
 M. A. Bjarkman, Vice-president
 Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
 Sue Wong, Secretary
 David Hodgson, At-large Board Member
 Caitlin Rubia, At-large Board Member
 Clif Wong, At-large Board Member
 Gary Duke, Programs Committee Chair & Speaker
 Co-coordinator
 Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair
 Jim Hanna, Finance Committee Chair & Plant Man
 Mike Short, Communications Committee Chair,
 Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

OPEN, Show and Sale Coordinator
 Lou Hagemeyer, CGCI Liaison
 William Wilk, CSSA Liaison

Committee Members (Tasked):

M. A. Bjarkman, Hospitality/Refreshments Co-chair
 Anita Caplan, Show and Sale Publicist
 Carol Knight, Hospitality/Refreshments Co-chair
 Jade Neely, Speaker Co-coordinator
 Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
 Jim Tanner, Mini-show Coordinator
 Laurel Woodley, Social Media

Attendance: 76 were in attendance.

President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in Frances Young Hall. She welcomed members and guests and reminded members to sign in and put their names in the sprinkling can for the free plant drawing later on.

Program: Jade Neely introduced today's speaker, Ernesto Sandoval, Director and Manager of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. Son of a "mow and blow" gardener whose motto was "just do it!" Jade reminded us that his presentation is the second part of a talk he gave us last year on "Succulent Propagation." His plants would be for sale during the break.

Always entertaining, Ernesto began by suggesting we use Google to find the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory and look up his page containing his soil mix recipes and past lectures (<http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/conservatory/Resources.html>). We learned about the plant growth hormones auxin (promotes roots) and cytotoxin (promotes branching). Ernesto explained the need for sterilizing cutting tools and how he makes cuttings for grafting. Using sections with younger leaves (thus higher auxins) will help the plant root better. He uses *Trichocereus pachanoi* as a base for grafting, 4" to 6" tall, young with a few roots. The purpose of grafting is to get a plant to grow faster and toughen the roots. The grafted section can be left on the base or some can be removed to grow on their own later on. He divides his plants by quartering the top of the stem instead of completely cutting lengthwise. Leafy plants grow faster if grown in moisture/mist. We were treated to many photo examples of his work along with his engaging descriptions. Questions were answered from the audience. His parting words were "Experiment, try things side by side and compare—from our failures we will actually learn to do things better!" You can contact him at jesandoval@ucdavis.edu.

Announcements before the break: Maria thanked Ernesto and said he would be selling plants after judging the Mini-show.

T-shirts: We have a sign up sheet for purchasing T-shirts with a size specified. If we have enough interest, we will put in an order.

Maria asked members to please put their names down in the kitchen if they brought food so they can be thanked in the Newsletter.

Maria asked Heidi to give her announcement. Heidi stated there were L.A. County Fire Department booklets with information about protecting our homes from wildfires.

Maria said plants would be available for purchase during the break. Free plants were available on the right. Please feel free to leave suggestions at the table where the box is. She will welcome any ideas to improve meetings for members.

Sally was asked to pick two names from the sprinkling can. Gloria Diaz was chosen to help draw names after the break for free plants and Debby Hemingway was chosen to help judge the Minishow.

After the Break: The President reconvened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Mini-show: Ernesto Sandoval announced the Mini-show winners, aided by Jim Tanner. This month's plants were Cactus: *Lobivia* and *Echinopsis* and Succulent: *Sansevieria*.

The results will be published in the Society's newsletter, *Prickly News*, <http://southcoastcss.org/newsletters> and on our website at <http://southcoastcss.org/>.

Table set up: Maria thanked Ned Sasaki (a new member) for setting up the tables. Dennis Emerson was thanked for giving his time to set up before the meeting.

Brag table: Anita Caplan displayed photos of a *Puya raimondii* from her recent trip to the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. The flower has the tallest bloom of any succulent in the world and originates from Bolivia.

Last call for buying Ernesto's plants came from Jade before he left.

New members and guests: Sally reminded us that this is a new calendar year starting this July. She thanked those who already renewed and asked if anyone still needs to do so. Sally introduced new members Karyn Farris, Jim Gray, Peggy Imatani, Robert Marek (not in attendance), Wong Na Ng, Irene Sasaki, Ned Sasaki, Irene Senzaki and Aaron Welkowsky (not in attendance). New members were asked to choose their free plants.

Birth month plants: Maria offered Birth month plants for July.

Door prize plants: Gloria Diaz drew names while Maria announced the winners of the remaining free plants.

Minutes approval: The minutes of the June General Meeting, previously distributed, were approved.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Knight was thanked by Maria for making the coffee today.

August Mini-show genera are: Cactus: *Ferocactus* and *Leuchtenbergia*; Succulent: *Stapeliads* (*Stapelia*, *Huernia*, *Orbea*). The Newsletter and the website have the plants of the month described with photos and is available at least two weeks before the meeting.

The speaker for August was announced by Gary Duke. Peter Breslin will be speaking on "Desert Island Rarities: Endemics of the Bahia Magdalena Archipelago, Baja California Sur." The topics are his current research and how to preserve rare species in Southern California.

CSSA Show and Sale: Maria congratulated those who had plants on the trophy table: Gary Duke, Jim Hanna, Bill Wilk and first place winners from our Club: M. A. Bjarkman and Laurel Woodley.

Intercity Show and Sale: Cactus and Succulents, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia. August 11-12, 2018, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, www.intercityshow.com. Flyers were on the table. There will be lots of unusual plants for sale. If anyone wants to carpool, let Maria know so rides can be arranged.

Huntington Succulent Plants Symposium: September 1st—an all-day symposium.

The Bromeliad Show was announced by Jackie Johnson at the Rainforest Flora Nursery, 19121 Hawthorne Blvd, Torrance on the first weekend (Saturday and Sunday) in August. There will be free and ample parking.

CONCLUDING MATTERS

The President thanked members who arrived early to set up the tables and chairs. She asked to please help stack the chairs and if possible, help put away tables. She announced the Board of Directors will meet in the classroom directly and thanked all for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary