

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, September 9, 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

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

Committee Members (Tasked):

Maria Blas, Refreshments
 Anita Caplan, Show and Sale Publicist
 Debby Hemingway, Refreshments Assistant
 Jade Neely, Speaker Co-coordinator
 Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
 Jim Tanner, Mini-show Coordinator
 Laurel Woodley, Social Media

Attendance: 74 were in attendance.

President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. in Frances Young Hall. She apologized for the lack of air conditioning and welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She asked Gary Duke to introduce our speaker, Peter Breslin and his presentation “Desert Island Rarities: Endemics of the Magdalena Plains and the Bahia Magdalena Archipelago, Baja CA Sur.”

Program: Peter began with some background information and received a round of applause for his work towards a PhD at Arizona State University. His talk is based on his degree work. He taught High School for thirty years, enjoyed botany on an amateur basis, then began working with professionals and decided to pursue his doctoral degree. He visited Baja in 1992 and became fascinated with the local cacti and succulents. The plants Peter photographed have adapted over the years to a harsh environment. Some have adapted to growing along the ground instead of upright, maybe because the area is prone to hurricanes. Some were mostly made up of long spines and tiny flowers. Geography and climate may have cut these plants off from their relatives and they have speciated. On one island area, Peter believes they may have discovered a new species of *Mammillaria*. His most entertaining story was of his work on Santa Margarita, an island owned by the Mexican Navy. It turns out he was doing his plant research in an area where they were performing bombing exercises with the U.S. Marines! Peter believes most area natives find the spiny plants to be more of a nuisance to be cleared away. He hopes to change local attitudes so people will see that they have value and can contribute to their economy and hopefully will be treasured and conserved.

Announcements before the break: Maria thanked Peter. She asked Nancy Jengo to pick two names from the sprinkling can. Pamela Broz was chosen to help Peter judge the Mini-show and Hank Warzybok was chosen to assist with names drawn for the free plants. Maria reminded us that there were “give-away” free plants on one table and other tables of plants for sale around the room. She reminded members that there is a sign-up sheet for refreshments in the kitchen and thanked all those who brought refreshments today. She announced we would adjourn for 15-20 minutes.

After the Break: The President reconvened the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Mini-show: Peter Breslin announced the Mini-show winners, aided by Pamela Broz. This month’s plants were Cactus: *Discocactus* and *Uebelmania* and Succulent: *Kalanchoe*.

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

New members and guests: Nancy Jengo stood in for Sally and introduced new members Jacob Youssefzadeh, Joseph Tillotson, Amanda Flagg and Nancy Gray. New members were invited to choose their free plants.

Brag table: Maria brought in two plants to share with us: a pink flowering *Echinopsis* and a *Kalanchoe rotundifolia* with delicate red flower tips that last for weeks. Bob Caplan shared a story about his guests watching his night-blooming cereus flower. Chinese legend says it brings the spirit of nature into one's heart.

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

Door prize plants: M.A. Bjarkman announced the winners of the remaining free plants, assisted by Hank.

Minutes approval: The minutes of the August General Meeting, previously distributed, were approved. Maria thanked the Secretary.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The speaker for October was announced by Maria. Gary Duke will give a talk on "What Kind of Cactus is This?" He will discuss new nomenclature to help with labeling your plants. Maria thanked Gary for agreeing to speak next month.

October Mini-show genera are: Miniatures for Cactus and Succulents (anything that is in a three-inch pot that is meant to be a mature plant that stays small). The Newsletter and the website have the plants of the month described with photos and is available at least two weeks before the meeting.

South Bay Bromeliad Society bus trip was announced by Ted Johnson. It will be on the last Saturday in October and will include visits to nurseries in Carpinteria and Santa Barbara. Wear good walking shoes. The cost is \$25 for members. It costs only \$5 to join. There are fifteen to sixteen seats left.

South Bay Orchid Society Show and Sale on September 15 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm was announced by Jackie Johnson. It will take place here at the Garden. Jackie is also sponsoring a seminar on divorce at Bristol Farms. There will be free community activities with pumpkins and plants. Please see their website for details.

Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Sale at Sepulveda Garden Center, 16623 W. Magnolia Blvd., Encino. It takes place on Saturday, September 15 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Free admission and parking. M. A. said there will be a lot of amazing plants.

The Long Beach Cactus Club Auction was announced by M. A. It happens on Saturday, September 15 at 1:00 pm at Rancho Los Alamitos, 6400 E. Bixby Hill Road in Long Beach. A buffet lunch starts at 1:00 pm and the auction begins a half hour later.

The Huntington Symposium was attended by M. A. last weekend. CSSA had a big annual Board meeting. An anonymous donor will donate \$50,000 to an Endowment Fund if that amount can be matched by fundraising. Our Club donated \$2,000 toward this fund. \$6,000 more is needed to meet the goal. The Sunset Club has donated \$1,000. A lot of individuals have donated. If you are interested in donating, you can give your check to M. A. The check should be made out to CSSA. Gary Duke added that individuals can roll over money into the Endowment Fund from an IRA and do not have to pay taxes on that amount. The deadline is December 31st.

Registration reimbursement for last week's Huntington Symposium can be obtained with proof of registration. Maria said to see Bernard if you are interested.

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. There will be no Board of Director's meeting today. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary