

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, February 9, 2020

South Coast Botanic Garden, Palos Verdes Peninsula, California

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
 M. A. Bjarkman, Vice-president
 Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
 Sue Wong, Secretary
 Terri Straub, At-large Board Member
 Clif Wong, At-large Board Member & Newsletter Editor
 Gary Duke, Programs Committee Chair & Speaker
 Co-coordinator
 Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair
 Lou Hagemeyer, CGCI Liaison
 Jim Hanna, Finance Committee Chair & Plant Man

Carol Knight, Show and Sale Coordinator
 Mike Short, Communications Committee
 Chair & Webmaster
 William Wilk, CSSA Liaison

Committee Members (Tasked):

Anita Caplan, Show and Sale Publicist
 Jade Neely, Speaker Co-coordinator
 Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
 Jim Tanner, Mini-show Coordinator
 Laurel Woodley, Facebook
 Caitlin Rubia, Instagram

Attendance: 69 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 asked them to please sign in and put their names in the sprinkling can for the drawing for free plants that Jim Hanna brings every month. Maria gave some background about today's speaker: Sean was scheduled at the CSSA convention in San Luis Obispo but his VISA was delayed. He is here now and Woody Minnich arranged for him to speak at local Society meetings.

Program: Jade Neely introduced today's speaker, Sean Dean Gildenhuys. She said she heard his talk in Long Beach. Jade showed a copy of the Aloe Journal (\$15) from South Africa, which is sold out. Gary corrected the cost at \$20. Sean will ship copies to Gary for anyone who would like to order them. Please give your order to Gary.

Sean gave his talk and slide presentation entitled "The Genus *Haworthiopsis*." His slides showed most plants in their natural habitat and how differences in light and rainfall stress and add striking colors. He loves these plants for their beautiful colors and textures. Some are stressed and dwindling in numbers because of the continuing trend of less rainwater. *Haworthia* has become three different genera, but their flowers all look similar. They share the same pollinators. The plants are variable. Some appear spotted, striped and show lovely colors. Some have short leaves and some longer. They can appear lime green in the shade and become olive to red in the sun and vary from place to place. Some grow upward and some curve or curl downwards. *Haworthiopsis nigra* is sticky and windblown sand forms a protective coating over the plant. They do have some natural predators: grasshoppers, rodents and tortoises eat them. Porcupines can dig them up. They also must be protected from foreign collectors and local citizens seeking to sell them to other countries. Sean told the story of one South African policeman actively trying to thwart these efforts.

Announcements before the break: Karen Yoshioka was chosen to help judge the Mini-show and Judy Unrine's name was chosen to announce the free plant winners. After the Board Meeting (around 4:30) remaining members were invited to dine at an Italian Restaurant with our speaker, Sean.

April Show and Sale: The Show and Sale will be the first weekend of April again this year. The dates are April 4th-5th. The Set-up date is Friday, April 3rd and will be a volunteer- and vendor-only day. No pre-sale will occur as our usual practice. Members and vendors are invited to bring their prized or favorite succulent and cactus plants to show off at the Society Display Table. This is the time to start getting them ready for show. In addition, six-foot round tables will be available for those who wish to have either a specimen plant or an artistic display. As Maria wrote in the Newsletter, save any cuttings you might have for the Children's Potting Table or extra plants for the Society Sale Table. The proceeds from this Show and Sale support our speaker programs, our community and donations. Coordinator Carol Knight listed positions that need to be filled and asked for volunteers for the Show and Sale. Rosemarie Murphy and

June Treherne are helping with sign-ups. Carol will publish a list in the Newsletter. On Friday they need volunteers for setting up. On Saturday they need cashiers. Saturday and Sunday they need tag pullers (they help the cashiers by removing the tags from each plant) and tag counters (they help count the tags so the vendors can be paid). Volunteers are also needed at the Membership Table. Bob Caplan is coordinating the Children's Table. They will need soil, pots and cuttings. Volunteers are needed to help with Member Plant Sales. Kitchen helpers are needed to set-up and clean. Show monitors are needed to sit in the back rooms and keep an eye on things. Volunteers are also needed to help clean up and tear down on Sunday afternoon. Please see Carol, Rosemarie or June to sign-up.

Missing book: Last month, M. A. brought in a *Sinningia* to the Brag Table along with a newly purchased book she placed alongside it. Someone may have mistaken the book for a freebie along with the free plants. If someone has the book, please talk to her, no questions asked.

Show and Sale postcards: Anita Caplan will distribute the postcards next month because there may be an error on the current cards. Is there anyone who would like to drive around and distribute the postcards to libraries and other public venues? Are there any new ideas in getting publicity into newspapers, etc? Please see Anita if you have any new ideas.

The County-wide system of Gardens has increased their listed prices from \$9 to \$15 for general admission; they have added \$1 to senior admissions and children are now \$5. Maria will talk to the Garden to see if they will honor the older prices already listed on the postcards for the Show and Sale.

Before adjourning: Maria pointed out that there are Cactus Lover bumper stickers from the Tucson Cactus Society on the table with the pamphlets. Maria thanked all who brought refreshments today. She asked those members to please put their names down on the list. She reminded us that there is a sign-up sheet for refreshments in the kitchen. The meeting was adjourned for 20 minutes. Plants were available for purchase and free plants were available on the table to our right. During the break she will be projecting photos that she and Laurel took at the San Gabriel Show. The baby at the end is Maria's new granddaughter.

Announcements after the break: Maria reconvened the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Mini-show: Sean Gildenhuys announced the Mini-show winners, aided by Jim Tanner and Karen Yoshioka. This month's plants were: Cactus: Epiphytic Cactus and Succulent: *Haworthia* and *Astroloba*.

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

New members: There were no new members today.

Free plants went to Judy Unrine for reading names and Karen Yoshioka for judging.

Birth month plants: Members with February birthdays were asked to choose their free plants. Judy Unrine picked names from the sprinkling can while M. A. Bjarkman read the names for the winners of the free plants.

Brag table: Maria displayed her *Eryosyce senilus*, covered in many pink flowers with yellow centers. She fertilizes it every week with a weak solution. Bernard showed his *Dudleya gatesii*, boasting cascading blooms on long stalks. The flower stalks can last a month and the flowers are just opening.

Treasurer: Bernard Johnson gave his Treasury Report.

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

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Programs Committee: March's Mini-show genera are: Cactus: *Echinocactus* and Succulents: *Agave*, *Manfreda* including *Manfreda* crosses. The speaker for March will be Woody Minnich. He will talk on "Cactus and Succulent Conservation Around the World."

April Show and Sale: There will be no meeting in April.

Plant Sale: Gary Duke is opening up his yard for a plant sale on March 21st-22nd. Save the date.

Bromeliad Spring Sale: Ted Johnson reminded us of the sale on Saturday, April 18 at Live Art Landscapes, Inc., 1329 W. 130th St., Gardena. Free admission and parking. Sale hours are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

CONCLUDING MATTERS

Maria adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm. She asked members to please help put away the chairs and tables and help clean up in the kitchen. She announced that there would be a Board Meeting afterwards. She thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary