

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, March 8, 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

Cory Zedler, At-large Board Member

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 1:35 p.m. in Frances Young Hall. She welcomed members and guests and modeled our new Club tee shirt design. She wore a woman's small with a graphic logo of our Club name. Bernard and Clif will come up with a price. The woman's tee is a soft cotton with a scoop neck. There are also tee shirts available in men's sizes. They will be sold at the Show and Sale and during today's meeting. Maria reminded us to put our names in the sprinkling can for the free plant drawing later in the meeting. While our guest speaker was setting up, Maria began to talk about the Show and Sale. It is an opportunity to raise money for the Club. It is important for all of us to pitch in. People setting up plants should enter from the back door. The classrooms will hold Show plants. Everyone can bring and show off a plant. The other room will hold six-foot tables for Specimen plants. You can show off a number of plants. The tables should be covered with a tablecloth.

Program: Maria introduced Woody Minnich. He is from New Mexico, a former teacher and a key member of CSSA. He has led many trips around the world. Woody began his presentation entitled: "Protecting the Beauty of Our World. Conservation." He began with a warning that some of his ideas may be controversial. In Mexico, some people live in the wild and are selling cacti along the road for income. They don't realize that they are stripping native plants from their habitats. Poaching and environmental destruction threaten these plants. We need to develop an awareness of native plants because when they are gone, they are gone forever! Private collecting in the field, unregulated internet sales (of probably poached plants), large solar panel installations and outdated regulations for sales and propagation are all a great threat. Woody showed slides of plants that have been stripped from their native habitats, some in very large numbers. The smallest being the size of a quarter. We can help by not buying plants online that could be field-collected. We can also avoid using chemicals: pesticides and herbicides. "We all need to do our part through education and awareness and responsible plant acquisition. Let's protect our fantastic world!"

Announcements before the break: Ruth Andrews was chosen to help judge the Mini-show and Joyce Mori's name was chosen to pick the names of the free plant winners.

April Show and Sale: Next month is our Show and Sale which will be the first weekend of April, the 4-5th. Set-up will be April 3rd and will be a volunteer- and vendor-only day. No pre-sale will occur as our usual practice. The Garden has raised admission prices as of March 1st. Please wear your badges to avoid paying the entrance fee during the Sale. There will be no more reciprocity between Gardens. This is a county-wide decision.

Members and vendors are invited to bring their favorite succulent and cactus plants to show off at the Society display table. In addition, six-foot round tables will be available for those who wish to have either a Specimen Plant or an

Artistic Display. Monetary awards to be spent on Sunday of the sale will be given to those who have the most votes in our People's Choice award.

We like to have food available for the vendors and volunteers who stay in the building for the entire Sale period. We ask that members bring a potluck to have available. It should be something that doesn't need to be heated beforehand and can be stored overnight for the second day. Or you can bring something special on both days which would be ideal, since there is sometimes not much space in the refrigerator. There is a sign-up sheet for the Show and Sale in the kitchen. Please indicate what you would like to bring. The Club will provide baked chicken, coffee, tea and water.

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 provide the finances for our speaker programs, community support and donations to programs for conservation and education.

Volunteer openings were listed by Carol Knight: cashiers are needed for Sunday morning and afternoon; credit card takers and tag-pullers are needed on Sunday. Bob Caplan will talk about the Children's table. Volunteers are needed on Friday to help label plants. Help is needed in the kitchen on both Saturday and Sunday. Volunteers are also needed on Sunday to help clean up. If you want to do a table, let Carol know. This is how we make money for the Club. Please sign up.

The Children's Potting table is being overseen by Bob Caplan. He described it as an endearing and precious activity. He asked for six volunteers and three raised their hands.

Potluck for vendors and volunteers: Maria asked for dishes to be brought in and again stated that the Club will provide chicken, tea, coffee and water.

Before adjourning: Maria pointed out that the sign-up sheets for food for the May meeting and the April Show and Sale are in the kitchen. We were also reminded by M.A. and Maria that today is International Women's Day.

Announcements after the break: Maria reconvened the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Mini-show: Woody Minnich announced the Mini-show winners, aided by Ruth Andrews and Jim Tanner. This month's plants were: Cactus: *Echinocactus* and Succulent: *Agave* and *Manfreda* including *Manfreda* crosses.

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 Ruth Andrews and Joyce Mori.

Birth month plants: Members with March birthdays were asked to choose their free plants. Joyce Mori picked names from the sprinkling can while Maria read the names for the winners of the free plants.

M. A. Bjarkman received thanks from Maria for helping in the kitchen today and M. A. thanked the Club for buying her a new copy of a recently purchased plant book that had been mistakenly chosen as a door prize at a previous meeting.

Treasurer: Bernard Johnson gave his Treasury Report.

REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Programs Committee: There will not be a meeting on the second Sunday in April and the May program, which is on Mother's Day, will be: Russell Ray's "Nature's Geometry Succulents." Gary said it is a different way of looking at plants with mathematics and symmetry. Russell will have his book for sale.

May's Mini-show genera are: Cactus: *Notocactus*, *Parodia* and Succulents: *Euphorbia* (not from Madagascar).

Gary Duke's Open Yard Sale: See his new solar powered waterfall, March 21st and 22nd, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The location is 4660 Rio Avenue, Long Beach 90805 (cell: 310-947-9803).

Bromeliad Spring Sale: Ted Johnson reminded us of the sale on Saturday, April 18 at Live Art Plantscapes, Inc., 1329 W. 130th St., Gardena. Free admission and parking. Sale hours are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be Bromeliads, houseplants and succulents. Flyers were on the table.

The Orange County Show and Sale takes place on March 19th – 21st.

The Sunset Show and Sale takes place on the 1st weekend in May at the Veteran's Administration Hall.

Please see the list of events in our online calendar on our website.

CONCLUDING MATTERS

Maria adjourned the meeting at 3:50 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