

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 Zoom Meeting, November 8, 2020

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
 Mike Short, Communications Committee
 Chair & Webmaster

Committee Members (Tasked):

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

The meeting was convened at 1:35 pm. The Club's Zoom meeting was co-hosted by our President, Maria Capaldo and Scott Bunnell from the Long Beach Cactus Club. Maria welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Scott for co-hosting.

Program: Gary Duke introduced Stephen McCabe. He lives north toward the Bay Area and is writing a book with Kelly Griffin. His presentation is called "Cliff Hangers and Flatlanders – Dudleya on the Edge." Dudleya grow in very steep areas and on flat mesa tops. Different varieties have different habitats. Stephen's concerns today covered the growing of Dudleya; poaching, fire and other threats; responses to poaching; adventure conservation and new cultivars and species. He showed some plants in habitat and suggested looking at the conditions your variety grows in to determine the best care plan if you are growing them at home. For example: *D. blochmaniae* is summer deciduous. It can be kept pretty dry and shaded in summer and should bloom in October. *D. pachyphytum* grows on an island where it is foggy and rains often and can handle some watering. In 2018, on Isla de Cedros, *D. pachyphytum* plants were being stripped from their habitat because it was a status symbol in China for collectors. He showed a photo of a room full of confiscated plants. Stephen works with the Tree of Life Nursery doing tissue cultures. He also works with law enforcement, conservation societies, seed banks, state forensics labs and others to help cultivate and preserve these plants. Climate change has contributed to more fires and growing traffic has increased nitrogen deposition from car exhaust, all to cause weed overgrowth. Enforcement for habitat preservation uses trail cams, tracking phones, DNA and other methods. He is always working to restore upset habitats and tries to reduce the demand for poached plants with responsibly produced plants, tissue cultures, new cultivars and education. *D. linearis* was wiped out by hungry rabbits. There are now five hundred in the wild after removing the rabbits from the area. The seeds are the size of the head of a pin. When germinating them, Stephen just sows them on top without covering them. He is still growing plants at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum after retiring five years ago. Stephen thanked SCCSS and affiliates. Maria thanked him and a question and answer period followed. Maria mentioned our donation to help Stephen with his work. He appreciates our help. Working with volunteers, thousands of plants have been repotted at the UC Arboretum. He is also collaborating on collecting DNA and mailing samples to different Gardens. Some of the best work is being done in the Santa Monica Mountains as well as in Orange County. Stephen finished at 3:05 pm. Maria was pleased to see him doing so well with his Dudleya projects and told him to keep up the good work.

Plants of the Month: Maria showed members' garden photos and then the POM photos in all categories. This month's Mini-show plants are Crested and Monstrose. All photos will appear in December's newsletter with the names of each plant and their owners. Scott Bunnell showed photos of his 25- and 30-foot plants in his backyard. Thanks to all who shared their plants.

CSSA Webinar: Next Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 am, there will be a CSSA webinar featuring Karen Zimmerman. The title is "Aloes On My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time." Mike will send out another notice on Friday. You can also check Hotlink on the CSSA webpage and our Facebook page (no Hotlink).

Programs Committee: Next month's Zoom meeting will take place on Sunday, December 13th. There will be no holiday party. *Lobivia saltensis* has been our Plant of the Year. Please show a photo of them either dead or alive. Photos should be sent to Maria by December 12th.

Treasury Report: Bernard gave his Treasury Report

Gary Duke announced a sale at Green Touch Nursery in Bellflower on Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 to 11:00 am. There will be six to eight potters and cactus related tee shirts for sale. Gary will be lecturing and selling his new book. You can check it out on Instagram: @garyduke53. He will also be at Garibaldo's Nursery in Bellflower on the following Saturday.

Maria announced a Board Meeting directly after the General Meeting. She asked those not on the Board to sign out of the Zoom meeting which was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary