

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, October 11, 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 1:30 pm. The Club's Zoom meeting was co-hosted by our President, Maria Capaldo and Scott Bunnell from the Long Beach Cactus Club.

Program: Gary Duke introduced our presenter, Tom Glavich. Tom is Chairman of the Inter-city Cactus Show and Sale (cancelled this year). Tom spoke about "Exploring *Gasterias* Cultivars and Hybrids." He spoke about and showed images of cultivars and cultivation work going on now. *Gasterias* are monocots, producing a single seed leaf. They are closely related to *Agaves* and *Aloes*. Most of the *Gasterias* shown have plump, triangular shaped leaves. Many have white or yellowish spots, some raised, some spotted in bands. Many flowers hang on a long stem in colors of pink and green or pink and yellow, with bellies that grow fatter with age. One plant only measures 1" across, with others measuring 18" or more. Tom showed hybrids and a variety of variegated plants. He selectively weeds out the normal offsets until he gets plants with his desired color and texture. Most of the variegates he showed were three years old from seed. Most of the intergeneric hybrids are being created by hybridizers in Africa. When cultivating, Tom starts with a mix of 70% pumice and 30% potting mix (Miracle Grow Super Retention potting mix). He included information about plant pests. He showed an image of root mealy bugs and suggested just removing the affected root parts. Black Spot can be treated with a fungicide called Subdue Maxx. Subdue Maxx costs about \$200/pint (probably a life-time supply) and is extremely toxic. It will keep new spots from forming but will not treat old spots (the leaf must be removed). To propagate *Gasterias*, remove a leaf just above the bottom row by wiggling it back and forth. Let it sit and dry out for a few days. Stick it in a pot about ½" to 1" below the soil surface. It takes a year or two to produce offsets. Keep records of the plant's parents and a pack of seeds. "Your most important tool is your trash can" as you select your desired offsets. Tom's seedling potting mix and instructions: Seed mix- 1 part Miracle Grow seed starting mix + 1 part Perlite + 2 parts pumice. Soak for one hour. Add seeds and small top dressing. Pot up and place in plastic bags. Keep under lights until germination is complete. Move to brighter light (out of bags) when growth is a month or so old. Start the selection process by removing any vigorous all-green plants. Repeat the selection process until you are happy with the remaining plants. Tom's presentation ended at 2:15 pm. A question and answer period followed.

Tom's Book: Maria thanked Tom and mentioned his new book "Beginner's Guide to *Adromischus*, *Aeonium*, *Dudleya*, *Echeveria*, *Euphorbia*, *Pelargonium* and Other Succulent Dicots." You can go online to the CSSA website to "My Shopify" to purchase a copy. Maria thanked Tom for writing all the great articles that we still use in our newsletter and on our Club website.

Plants of the Month: Maria showed members' garden photos and then the POM photos in all categories. This month's Mini-show plants were: Cactus: *Copiapoa* and Succulents: *Graptopetalum*, *Graptoveria*, *Pachyveria*. All photos will appear in November's newsletter with the names of each plant and their owners. Thanks to all who shared their plants.

CSSA Voting: M. A. spoke about the yearly CSSA elections. Board members are voting for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 2-3 Board member. Each affiliate gets one vote. Because we can't vote on Zoom without a quorum, the voting this year will be left to our Club Board members. Maria will gather the votes.

Mystery Plant ID: M. A. asked for help in identifying a photo of her plant in bloom. She wanted to know if the parent plant would die after blooming. Laurel identified it as Maritius hemp (*Furcraea*). She said it will pup and the mother plant will die.

CSSA Webinar: Next Saturday, October 17th at 10:00 am, there will be a CSSA webinar featuring Karen Ostler. The title is "Staging: Bringing Out the Best in Your Plants." Maria will send out another notice on Friday. You can also check Hotlink on the CSSA webpage and CSSA Instagram. Maria says it's a great program.

Remembering Dick Kohlschreiber, who passed away two weeks ago. He was active in the *Epiphytum* Society. He also worked in Propagation at South Coast. We will all miss him. Sally is taking care of his cat and showed him off to the camera.

South Coast Events: Laurel told us about two upcoming events at the Gardens. "Glow," a lightshow installation, will be held from November 21, 2020 through January 10, 2021. A new Butterfly Pavilion is in the process of being built as well.

Programs Committee: Next month's Zoom meeting will take place on Sunday, November 8th. Stephen McCabe will speak about "Cliff hangers and Flatlanders: *Dudleya* on the Edge." The South Coast Society made a donation to Stephen for his *Dudleya* research. It will be great to get an update from him on his work. November Mini-show genera are: Crested and Monstrose. Please remember to send your POM photos to Maria by November 7th.

Treasury Report: Bernard Johnson gave his Treasury Report.

CSSA Endowment Fund: M. A. talked about the anonymous donor from Santa Barbara who offered to match donations to the CSSA Endowment Fund. She is calling for members and our Club to think about a donation to the Fund. Gary said you can transfer stocks from an IRA without having to pay taxes. Bernard said you can transfer from any stock fund without paying capital gains. M. A. added that any individual can make contributions as well.

Gary Duke was interviewed by Cactus Quest on YouTube. The photos of his garden are beautiful and the link appears in our Club newsletter and on the website.

Australian Garden: Attila Kapitany's home and garden in Australia have been filmed by an Australian videographer. The link will appear in our next newsletter and on our website, as well as Instagram.

Plant Database: Mike Short now has over 450 plants added to his shared online plant database (MOP-DB).

Maria thanked Scott for co-hosting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary