

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, September 13, 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. Maria began by thanking Scott for co-hosting this meeting.

Program: Jade Neely introduced our presenter, Gunnar Eisel. Gunnar coordinates Webinars for the CSSA and is a retired music professor from Citrus College. His presentation is entitled: "The Folklore, Enchantment and Evolution of the C&S Hobby from 1894 to the present day." Gunnar is Executive Director of CSSA and President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society. He began telling a story of passion, initiative and perseverance that led to the beginning of our local clubs and their publications. Beginning with the first publication about cacti—"What Kinda Cactus Izzat?"—he showed us the few botanists and enthusiasts who pursued collecting and an interest to share their favorite plants. The first cactus catalog was printed in 1889 by A. Blanc & Co. In 1892, the catalog takes credit for making cacti popular again. A \$2.00 *Astrophytum* listed in the catalog can sell for around \$50.00 today. In 1929, thirty-nine people paid \$1.00 each to become members of the first CSSA. The first cactus show in Pasadena in 1929 boosted membership. In the '50s and '60s plants were habitat-collected in the deserts of the US and Mexico and no actions against this were enforced. Dick Wiedhopf was quoted in 1984: "Wildlife—including cactus—ranks just below drugs and guns as the most popular good smuggled out of Mexico." A new aspect of the hobby of collecting cacti is staging succulents as Bonsai. New species are still being created. Gunnar ended with a video about the creation of an Agave Digeridoo. The talk was followed by a question and answer period. Gunnar suggested marking the date when your plants bloom on Google Calendar so you can be prepared for the following year. Laurel suggested posting a picture of the plant on the date.

CSSA Webinars: Maria thanked Gunnar for his presentation and his work on the CSSA Webinars. They will be extended for a year. Buck Hemenway will present next Saturday at 10:00 am. Attila Kapitany is coming up on the schedule as well.

Members' Garden Photos: Maria shared a presentation of members' favorite plant and garden photos sent in for this month. Afterwards, she displayed the Mini-show photos in each category which will appear in the Club Newsletter. Maria will do another presentation at next month's Zoom meeting. Thanks to all who sent in their photos. Please send your POM photos to Maria by October 10th for presentation during our October Zoom meeting.

Huntington Webinar: M.A. said the second weekend in September is traditionally the time for the Huntington to host a Symposium. Instead, they hosted a free two-hour history presentation on Friday. They talked about replanting a section of the gardens with Cycads and also showed plans for a major renovation of the grounds. The link to the Huntington Symposium will go up live, and free, on the Huntington website next weekend.

CSSA members received ballots in their journals. M.A. asked members to please vote early so they will be received before the December 1st deadline. By clicking the link in the next SCCSS Newsletter, you can get a free "To the Point"

CSSA Newsletter emailed to you. It is for CSSA members only, however when others see it, she hopes they will choose to join CSSA. Maria said that as an affiliate, we vote as a Club. We can't vote this year on Zoom without a quorum, so she will leave the voting up to the Board members. The Board can vote by email.

Board agenda: If anyone on the Board has an issue for discussion, please contact Maria.

Programs Committee: Next month's Zoom meeting will take place on October 11 at 1:00 pm for social time and the presentation will begin at 1:30 pm. Our speaker will be Tom Glavich on "Gasterias." October Mini-show genera are: Cactus: *Copiapoa* and Succulents: *Graptopetalum*, *Graptoveria*, *Pachyveria*.

Treasury Report: Bernard Johnson gave his Treasury Report.

Club dues: M.A. mentioned that other affiliates have announced that they are forgiving dues for the year. Maria said we are postponing dues and will revisit this in January. Normally they are due in July but we have postponed them. We will discuss this and insurance during the next Board meeting.

Maria thanked Scott again for co-hosting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary