

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, December 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 welcomed all to the meeting: "I know we usually have a potluck with holiday cheer at this time, so we have put together two videos, one by Gary Duke and one by Mike Short. I have an interesting presentation of the Plant of the Year plants, so please hang in there to the end if you can."

Program:

"Ethical Plant Shopping." Gary was interviewed in a video several months ago by Cactus Quest. Someone accused him of having field collected plants. The plants they were talking about were not field collected, but Gary wanted to address how to tell a plant's origins. A younger crowd of collectors has shown interest in water-wise plants, including cacti and succulent and want to see them ethically sourced. There was a problem with the video sound so Maria had Mike show his presentation until a solution could be found.

"MOP-DB (My Online Plant Data Base)." Mike kept finding plants in his collection that were missing labels and created an online database for tracking plant data and photos. He has graciously offered to share access to this database for Club members. It can be used to identify plants or you can enter and track your own. He and other Club members have chronicled five hundred plants so far. The database is photo-oriented and you can try to identify your plants from the available photos. Being a website, it can be accessed anywhere you have the internet using any device, phone, tablet, laptop, etc. Mike's twenty-minute video showed how to use the data base, step-by-step. He reviewed the functions: plant view; taxonomy; description and care; colors; properties; links; history; privacy and notes. Mike backs up the site about twice a week. You can also save your data to your own computer using Export, which downloads a spreadsheet with the information you entered and a zip file with your photo files. A question and answer period followed. Our website contains a link to Mike's "My Online Plant Database." To access the link, go to the website's top menu and choose Other>Links>Plant Encyclopedias>MOP-DB or you can go directly to the site at <https://mop-db.shortsnet.com/>.

Because Mike's presentation ran long, Maria suggested we watch Gary's video another time. It can be viewed on our SCCSS Website, just click on it there under "Latest News." It will be available there for at least one month. Or, on Google you can go to YouTube and search for "Ethical Plant Shopping." Gary also proposed to the Conservation Committee at CSSA the possibility of creating a video on the same subject on their website.

Minishow or POM Winners:

OPEN CLASS	YEAR TOTAL
1 st Phyllis DeCrescenzo	49
2 nd Maria Capaldo	40
3 rd Gary Duke	37

4 th Sally Fasteau	28
INTERMEDIATE CLASS	
1 st Bernard Johnson	45
2 nd Coni Nettles	37
3 rd Ted Johnson	21
4 th Dale LaForest	16
NOVICE CLASS	
1 st Terri Straub	37
2 nd Jim Tanner	27
3 rd Jacob Youssefzadeh	20
4 th Diane Cottrell	16

Awards will be given to the first four place winners in each category. Cory Zedler has agreed to distribute them. The plants will be the best of Dick Kohlschreiber's plants that Maria has repotted and will be held by Cory once she makes the arrangements.

Dues: The Board agreed at the last meeting to increase dues to \$20, payable each January. However, dues will not be payable until we start to have in-person meetings again and will carry over until 2022.

Minutes: The Minutes of the November Zoom Meeting, previously distributed, were approved.

Power Point of Plant of the Year: *Lobivia saltensis*. Maria displayed the photos of *Lobivia saltensis* that were submitted by members who tended them throughout 2020. She noted the differences in spination and color due to different growing conditions. Shade during the day seemed to bring out more green coloration at the top of the plant. Different plants bloomed during the period of May through August. Gary suggested entering next year's Plant of the Year into Mike's database. They will discuss later whether the database will work for that function. M.A. suggested sending in photos taken every three months to Maria to hold for the year. Gary said his motive was to get more people to use Mike's database. Dale asked about the Plant of the Year for 2021. Maria said we will wait until the next in-person meeting to decide. It will be a succulent.

Treasury Report: Maria gave the Treasury Report.

2021 Meetings: There is no word yet from the South Coast Botanic Gardens about reopening. We won't be able to meet for awhile anyway. Maria will see if the Garden can still accommodate us. Maria said she is happy to see everyone on Zoom.

Show and Sale: Gary started a conversation about the safety of holding some version of a Show and Sale at a local nursery. Maria said that can be discussed at the Board level.

The Zoom meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary