

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, January 10, 2021

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. "Hope you all enjoyed the holiday season. Happy New Year." Maria thanked Scott for hosting the meeting.

Program:

"The Evolution of the Ruth Bancroft Garden." Gary Duke introduced today's speaker, Brian Kemble. No stranger to our Club, he is the curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden and sits on the Board of Directors of CSSA. Brian began our historical trek through the garden with a brief history of Ruth Bancroft. She was an avid plant collector and began her garden in 1972. She was 69 years old at the time and lived to be 109 years of age. She began with an iris garden, then added a rose area, one for herbs and one for small succulents in pots. Her husband had trees removed from a former depleted walnut tree grove on their property to plant her succulents. A pond was built in the middle of the garden. A photo of the pond taken thirteen years after it was built showed how the lush vegetation grew in, surrounding it. She had shade houses constructed, with a gazebo built in-between, which served as the original entrance to her then private garden.

In 1972 there was a bad freeze that did devastating damage to the lesser established plants. The garden was replanted the following year. In the mid 1970s access was gained to a cache of rock from Mount Diablo. It was distributed throughout the garden to unify it using the color of the rock. The perimeter of the garden was planted last with native plants in 1977.

Brian began working there in 1980. 1990 brought another freeze and decimated plants were replaced in Spring 1991. Some plants were relocated to take advantage of walls and the canopy to avoid losing them again in a future freeze. Brian also displayed photos of the garden throughout the seasons. Recently, a new entrance was built on the other side of the garden and the pool has been renovated. You can learn more by visiting their website www.ruthbancroftgarden.org or direct your questions to brian@ruthbancroftgarden.org. Maria reminded us all that the website has amazing tutorials, talks and information.

A question and answer period followed the presentation, which ended at 2:45 pm. Maria thanked Brian for his tour.

Plant-of-the-Month: Cactus: *Mammillaria* – Hooked Spines; Succulent: Caudiciform (*Beaucarnia*, *Calibanus*, *Dioscorea*, *Fockea*, etc.). Maria displayed photos in each mini-show category, submitted by members.

February presentation: Gary announced next month's Zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, February 14th. Guillermo Rivera will present "Cactus Diversity in Northwestern Argentina: A Habitat Approach." Maria suggested "wear your hearts and bring your loved ones."

February Plant-of-the-Month: Cactus: *Eriosyce*, *Neoporteria*, *Neochilenia*, *Islaya*; Succulent: *Crassula*. Please remember to send your P.O.M. photos to Maria by February 13th. “I am enjoying seeing everyone’s gardens as well, so please continue to send me photos of that. Any Brag plants are also welcome.”

CSSA Webinars continue to be available every other Saturday at 10:00 am. The next presentation occurs on January 23rd. Mike Short will send out links to Club members beforehand.

Publishing the Zoom link: Mike reminded us that our Zoom link is not appearing on our website. He wanted to know if he should post it. Maria answered “yes.” Scott said some Clubs do not want to share their link because they are limited to only forty people if they are not paying a monthly fee. Maria confirmed that we are paying the fee and we are allowed up to one hundred people during our Zoom meetings. There was a concern that if the numbers go up over one hundred, with the general public being allowed access, our members may not be able to log in. Scott said it can be set up to prioritize members who wish to log in. M.A. said that some Clubs post their meetings on YouTube. Maria said that we are posting to YouTube, but viewers can’t participate in the meeting. This meeting was live on YouTube.

Newsletter and website creators Clif Wong and Mike Short were praised by Bob Caplan. Others followed with their thanks for all the work that they put in every month.

Minutes: The Minutes of the December Zoom Meeting, previously distributed, were approved. Maria thanked the secretary for her work.

Treasury Report: Before Bernard gave the Treasury Report, he requested that Scott turn off the recording for YouTube. Scott stopped recording for the rest of the meeting. We shouldn’t be spending much this year in the absence of in-person meetings.

The Zoom meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm. Maria thanked everyone. “Stay well. Stay safe. See you next month.”

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary