

## 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, March 14, 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 and hoped that the rain has helped everyone's plants. She thanked Scott for co-hosting and asked Jade to introduce today's speaker. Jade talked about Gary Duke and his start with collecting cacti. She said he has a great bio on the website. Gary has adapted to the pandemic by selling his plants on Instagram and in pop-up sales, mostly in the Bellflower area.

#### Program:

**"Chile—Land of the Ancients, 27 November—2 December 2019."** Gary's trip took him from Argentina to Chile and then back to Argentina. He found more species in Argentina than Chile. They began their tour surrounded by sand and gravel and areas full of alkaline deposits. *Copiapoas* are scattered among the rocky hillsides. Most of their flowers are pure yellow. He showed photos of the smallest *C. lauii*, which are the size of a dime, hiding in the gravel. *C. hazeltoniana* grew in large clumps on the foggy beach. These plants are probably over 100 years old. There were photos of *C. Cinera v. columna-alba* as far as the eye could see. Leaving the coast, Gary traveled up into the Andes, above the treeline. There were a few shrubs and a little grass. The high-altitude lake was very alkaline. He then showed his drone footage from Chile. *Eulychnia* clumps dotted the hillside in the canyon. They were joined by *C. krainziana* with fuzzy spines. These clumps are probably over 100 years old. On flatter ground, Gary saw *Copiapoas* everywhere. He did not see any holes where plants would have been poached.

A question and answer period followed the presentation. **"What sets Copiapoas apart from other cacti?"** It is one of a few genera that have almost the same flower.

Gary added that Guillermo Rivera (who led the above tour) is offering this trip again in November or December of 2021. It will be open to ten or twelve people. You can contact Gary ([dukebb@earthlink.net](mailto:dukebb@earthlink.net)) or Guillermo if interested.

Maria asked Gary about his book entitled "Landscaping and Micro-Climates For Small Yards." It talks about sun angles and how you can create micro-climates in your yard, on a balcony, etc. It is an idea book for small areas. Some examples are crevice and rock gardens and creating mounds. Maria mentioned that there are YouTube videos about plant conservation and determining whether plants were collected in the wild.

Gary said there will be another pop-up sale tentatively scheduled for May at Green Touch and Garibaldo's Nurseries in Bellflower. He will post information on Instagram and the Club website.

Viewers thanked Gary for his talk on Chat.

Mike asked Maria how long we are now making the presentation available online. Maria said that Scott is recording the speaker and P.O.M. presentations separately and the remainder of the meeting should not be recorded.

**Plant-of-the-Month March presentation:** Cactus: *Echinocereus*; Succulent: *Gasteria* and hybrids. Maria showed the plant photos submitted by Club members in each category.

**April P.O.M.:** Maria spoke about next month: “Normally we would have a Show and Sale in April, but since that is not happening, I decided to make our Plant-of-the-Month for April: favorite Cactus and Succulent. Please dress your plant up as you would for a show and take some good photos to show them off for our presentation of your plants. Please remember to send photos of your favorites by April 9<sup>th</sup> (Friday before the meeting) to me. I am enjoying seeing everyone’s gardens as well, so please continue to send me photos of that. Any Brag plants are also welcome.”

**April Presentation:** Next month’s Zoom meeting will be on Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Our speaker is Karen Ostler who will be speaking on the subject of staging. Karen is an expert grower and has won many Best in Show ribbons for her excellent plants and staging.

**CSSA Webinars** continue to be available every other Saturday at 10:00 am. The next one is on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. John Rebman will speak on “The Flora of Baja California: Botanical Research and Succulent Diversity.” Mike Short will send a link by email again.

**Other Webinars:** On Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 am PT, there will be a talk on “The Wonderful World of Hoyas” sponsored by the Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society via Zoom. Maria will forward the link when she receives it.

**Group Effort:** Clif Wong was thanked for his work as editor of our newsletter. There were multiple positive remarks about his design work. Maria also thanked Mike Short for his work on the website. Jim Tanner also received thanks for his work each month tallying up the P.O.M. results.

**CITES:** Maria received a request from a researcher at the University of Alabama, Jared Margulies, and he has asked to distribute a link to a questionnaire regarding succulent conservation and it is totally anonymous. She will ask Mike to distribute the link. She took the questionnaire and said it is easy and took about ten minutes at most. It mostly asks questions about CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), an individual’s knowledge of it and their experience with collecting and growing plants.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the February Zoom Meeting, previously distributed, were approved. Maria thanked the Secretary.

**Treasury Report:** Bernard read his Treasury Report.

The Zoom meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Submitted, Sue Wong, Secretary