

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 Meeting, May 8, 2022

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
 M.A. Bjarkman, Vice-president, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair
 Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
 Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary
 Terri Straub, At-large Board Member
 Gary Duke, At-large Board Member
 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):

Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
 Jim Tanner, Mini show Coordinator
 Laurel Woodley, Facebook
 Caitlin Rubia, Instagram
 Clif Wong, Newsletter Editor

There were 25 people in attendance. President, Maria Capaldo, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm in the Peninsula Center Library's Community Meeting Room in Rolling Hills Estates. She welcomed attendees to our Mother's Day meeting.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman enthusiastically introduced our speaker, Stefan Burger, who spoke on "Copiapoa." Stefan's interest in cactus started early growing up in Australia, although the plants only grown in cultivation. He moved to Chile and has extensively documented *Copiapoa* species that are endemic to Chile's Atacama Desert; many of which are in quite remote and severely dry, rugged locations. Tours are offered through his company, Cactus Explorer (www.cactusexplorer.com). He is dedicated to eradicating poaching, as demonstrated through his organization Ethical Cactus (www.ethicalcactus.com), where donations are appreciated. M.A. encouraged members to peruse his related postings on Instagram ([cactusexplorer_](https://www.instagram.com/cactusexplorer_)).

A brief Q&A session followed his presentation and ended at 2:55pm.

Announcements before the break:

Maria asked Sally Fasteau to pick a name from the can to help judge the Mini Show.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 3:00pm and it was reconvened at 3:06pm.

May Mini Show categories: This month featured cactus and succulent dish gardens. Attractive, artistic arrangements by members were displayed. The plants were judged by Stefan Burger and Linda Ohara, assisted by Jim Tanner and Gary Duke. Winners in first, second and third place were awarded in novice, intermediate and open categories. They will be listed in our newsletter, along with photographs. A free plant went to the judges.

May brag and garden plants: None were shown.

New members and guests: Sally Fasteau introduced new member Patricia Garvy who joined at this meeting. She was then offered a free plant by Maria. Sally printed paper name badges for members who joined in 2022. Later in the year, she will research whether plastic name badges are still available for printing and then, if viable, ask new members if they wish to pay for one.

Birth month plants: Members whose birthdays were in April and are in May were offered to select a free plant by Maria.

Door prize plants: Maria drew the tickets and everyone attending was able to select a plant.

Minutes: The March Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

Announcements:

June meeting: Maria reminded attendees that on June 12 we will meet at South Coast Botanic Garden on Crenshaw Blvd, in the auditorium. The Garden will be given the names of our members and guests to allow them free entrance and avoid paying the Garden's admission fee. Maria asked to let her know if you intend to bring a guest so they may be added to the club's free admittance list.

The presenter will be Tom Glavich who will give a talk on "Exploring Euphorbia."

June Mini Show categories: Cactus: Rebutia, Aylosteria, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia; Succulent: Echeveria.

July meeting: July's meeting will be the third Sunday due to a conflict from the Botanic Garden.

Mini Show chair: Jim Tanner is stepping down as Mini Show chair after our June meeting. He was showered with accolades for his valuable work over the years which met with the membership's applause.

Review of Show and Sale: Maria asked members to provide her with any feedback or suggestions for improvement about the Show and Sale via email (minniecap@icloud.com). Phyllis DeCrescenzo thanked the club for providing the vendors with an 80% return on their sales, rather than the usual 70%. Maria explained that our sales were comparatively good, we made enough for our budget, and we will keep an eye on expenses. The Board had agreed that more of the profits should be shared with these small vendors. It was also expressed that the Show and Sale was well organized and executed, which the members concurred with applause.

Reports:

Treasury report: Bernard Johnson provided the Treasury Report.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended. The meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm. Board members were asked to remain for a brief meeting following a short break.

Submitted,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary