

## **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, January 8, 2023**

#### **Board Members:**

Maria Capaldo, President  
 Terri Straub, Vice President  
 Bernard Johnson, Treasurer  
 Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary  
 Vincent Darmali, At-large Board Member  
 Brulio Mena, At-large Board Member  
 Shane Mullen, At-large Board Member  
 Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair  
 Lou Hagemeyer, CGCI Liaison  
 Jim Hanna, Finance Committee Chair & Plant Person  
 M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair

Mike Short, Communications Committee Chair & Webmaster

#### **Committee Members (Tasked):**

Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist  
 Terri Straub, Show & Sale Chair & Mini-Show Coordinator  
 Laurel Woodley, Facebook  
 Caitlin Rubia, Instagram  
 Clif Wong, Newsletter Editor

There were 58 members in attendance. President, Maria Capaldo, called the meeting to order at 1:35pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed attendees to the meeting. Sally Fasteau was thanked for managing the sign-in table.

#### **Program:**

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Dylan Hannon, the long-time Curator for the Conservatory Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, who spoke on “Othonnas for the Collector.” He also propagates plants, particularly those with wild origins, and sells wholesale. A few of his plants were brought for purchase.

*Othonna* is a relatively small genus that is related to *Senecio*. Most display yellow daisy-like flowers and prefer full sun. Dylan grows plants for about two years in two-inch seed pots with a mix of perlite, peat moss and a tiny bit of sand. He allows dead leaves to remain on plants if they are difficult to tear off, as an indication that they are protecting the plant (such as *Dudleyas* and some *Aloes*).

A question and answer period followed his talk, which concluded at 2:15pm.

#### **Announcements before the break:**

**Maria Capaldo:** Maria asked Sally Fasteau to pick two names from the sprinkling can: one to help judge and the other to assist with selecting names for the door prize plants.

**Board Elections:** Maria introduced all the newly-elected Board members whose terms started this month and asked them to stand in the front of the room as their names were called. Maria Capaldo, President; Terri Straub, Vice President; Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary; and Bernard Johnson, Treasurer. Members At-Large are: Vincent Darmali, Brulio Mena and Shane Mullen. Unelected appointees are: Sally Fasteau, Membership Chair; Mike Short, Communications Chair; Jim Hanna, Finance Chair; M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison; and Lou Hagemeyer CGCI Liaison. Debra recognized Maria for performing the work that no one else volunteers to do.

#### **Break-Reconvene:**

Maria announced a break to give folks time to shop the vendors. She expressed her appreciation that Mike Short takes such wonderful photos of the first place plants. He would also like to photograph all placed plants for the Newsletter and Website. After the judging is announced, she asked that participants leave their plants in place so that Mike can match all the photos.

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:19pm and it was reconvened at 2:40pm.

**January Mini-Show categories:** Cactus: *Mammillaria*, straight spine, clumping and Succulent: *Aloe*.

The plants were judged by Dylan Hannon and assisted by Bob Caplan with overseeing by Terri Straub. Winners in first, second and third place were awarded in novice, intermediate and open categories. The winners will be listed in our Newsletter and on our Website, along with photographs taken by Mike Short. Bob was offered a free plant selection for helping.

**Brag Table:** Shane Mullen described his *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* with black to purple coloring.

**New members and guests:** Sally announced that Bonnie Ikemura joined as a new member and she was offered to select a free plant.

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

**Door prize plants:** M.A. drew tickets for members to select a free plant and Russell Richer announced the names of the winners in an entertaining fashion. Russ selected a free plant.

**Plant of the Year:** Maria indicated that our Plant of the Year was distributed at the Holiday Party and, asked those who missed the party to select one, which many did. The nomenclature of the plant was listed as *Rebutia*, but the name was assigned as *Aylosteria* by the latest taxonomy change and so we are using both names. Members were asked to bring their plants to show off at this year's Holiday Party in December.

#### **Announcements:**

**Next Meeting:** Our speaker for February will be John Trager from the Huntington Botanical Gardens who will speak on "Huntington Happenings," giving us inside look at what's ahead for that garden.

**February Mini-Show categories:** Cactus: Epiphytic Cactus, and Succulents: *Haworthia* and *Astroloba*.

**Garden News:** The South Coast Botanic Garden will host a Lunar New Year celebration on January 28 and 29, with activity stations and performances. A flyer was available for viewing. Tickets are free for Garden members.

**Bromeliad Society Speaker:** Jackie Johnson announced that Paul Isley, of Rainforest Flora, will make his last presentation before retiring from speaking at their February meeting.

**Plant Rescue:** Maria received a request to offer nearby plants that are free for pick up. She showed photographs of the large potted plants and asked to be advised if there is interest.

**Show and Sale:** Maria announced that our Society Show & Sale will be at the Palos Verdes Art Center on April 15 and 16, with set-up on April 14. Jim Hanna will coordinate vendors, Terri Straub will coordinate volunteers, and Ann Nye will handle publicity. She asked that members save the date for displaying their plants, donating plants for our membership sale table, and volunteering to work some or all of the weekend. This is our chance to raise funds for the Society in order to pay for programs and make donations to causes we want to support.

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

**Dues:** Maria reminded members that yearly dues of \$20 per person are to be paid in January. This entitles all members to receive email notices, free admission to the Botanic Garden for meetings, plant giveaways during meetings, Mini-Show entries and awards, our Plant of the Year, and admission to the Holiday Party. The membership form is required with each dues payment and will be published in the Newsletter. It is also on our Website under the "About Us" section.

**Name Badges:** A member asked the status of ordering hard plastic name badges and was informed that not enough members signed up for them as yet.

**Reports:**

**Treasury Report:** Bernard Johnson provided the Treasury Report.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and requesting that members assist in restoring and tidying up the room. A Board meeting would follow in the auditorium. The meeting was adjourned at 3:13pm.

Submitted,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary