

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, February 12, 2023

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
 Terri Straub, Vice President
 Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
 Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary
 Vincent Darmali, At-large Board Member
 Braulio 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 49 members in attendance. Vice President, Terri Straub, began the meeting at 1:38pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She advised attendees that the scheduled speaker, John Trager, was delayed and it was later determined that he was unable to provide his presentation. She asked for people to see her during the meeting to sign up as a volunteer at the April 15 and 16 Show & Sale, which several did.

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

The plants were judged by Laurel Woodley for the succulent category and Jim Hanna for the cactus category, with overseeing by Shane Mullen. 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.

In lieu of a featured speaker presentation, Laurel provided detailed information about the plants that were displayed as well as valuable advice on how they would be judged in official competitions. Judging insights included: remove plant hangers; remove plant labels; avoid using white pots and top dressing as they distract from the plant, unless the plant is white and can blend, such as a *Dudleya*; provide some room around the perimeter of the plant so it does not look severely confined; ensure there is only one plant per pot, unless the entry is a dish garden; and use a pot that is harmonious with the plant as it is considered part of the staging of the plant.

New members and guests: Sally announced that Andy Gold joined as a new member and will be offered to select a free plant at the next meeting he attends.

Birth month plants: Members whose birthdays are in February were offered to select a free plant by Terri, however, none were present.

Door prize plants: Sally drew tickets for members to select a free plant and announced the names of the winners.

Plant of the Year: Terri indicated that our Plant of the Year was distributed at the Holiday Party and, asked those who missed the party to select one. She also offered prize plants for winners of the Mini-Show competition who were not present at our December meeting and Phyllis DeCrescenzo made her selection.

Announcement: Lemono Lott announced that the Show & Sale for the Long Beach CSSA club will be on May 7.

Brag Table: Jim Gardner brought in his flowering *Aloe conifera* that was displayed in last month's Mini-Show but was not in bloom at that time.

Next Meeting: Terri noted that our speaker for March will be Jerry Robinson talking about "Bromeliads for the Home and Garden."

March Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Echinocactus*; and Succulents: *Agave, Manfreda* (including *x Mangave*).

Show & Sale Postcards: Terri asked attendees to take some of the newly-available Show & Sale postcards to help distribute them to people and places where there may be interest.

Treasury Report: Terri read the Treasury Report that was prepared by Bernard Johnson.

Minutes: Terri advised that the January Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

CSSA Convention: M.A. discussed the CSSA Convention in Colorado Springs in July and indicated that a mailer was sent to CSSA members. A conservative amount of hotel rooms were secured at a low rate and members who are interested in attending were encouraged to make their reservations soon to ensure they receive the low hotel room rate.

Show & Sale: Sally announced that Maria provided some small pots for members to use to grow plants for our Show & Sale in April. Terri reminded attendees that more volunteers are needed to staff the event.

Terri closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and requesting that members assist in restoring and tidying up the room. The meeting was adjourned at 2:41pm.

Submitted,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary