

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, July 9, 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 54 members in attendance. President, Maria Capaldo, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and advised them that the speaker, Kelly Griffin, was delayed in traffic. As a result, the usual order of business would be altered.

Brag Table: Maria shared that she, Bernard Johnson and Jim Hanna were on the Trophy Table at the recent CSSA Show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. She and Bernard held up the trophies they received. Jim provided a photograph of all the Trophy winners from the Show.

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

Laurel Woodley was asked to judge the Mini-Show plants and Barbara Smiley was selected to assist her, with overseeing by Terri Straub. They all agreed and began the judging process.

Treasury Report: Bernard Johnson provided the Treasury Report. A donation to the CSSA for their Convention was made (which resulted in applause).

New members and guests: Sally announced that Ric Dykzeul and Teri Dykzeul joined as new members and Ric was offered to select a free plant. Teri did not attend the meeting.

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

Announcements:

Next Meeting: Our speaker for August will be Russell Ray, talking on “Nature’s Geometry: Succulents.” His book will be for sale at a discounted rate.

August Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Astrophytum* and Succulent: *Sedum*, *Pachyphytum* and *Sempervivum*.

Minutes: The June Minutes were posted. There were no objections to approval and the Minutes were accepted.

Pop-up Sale: On Saturday, July 15, from 9:00am – 3:00pm, pop-up sales will be held at Green Touch Nursery in Bellflower and at Gary Duke’s place in Long Beach. Potters and nurseries will be selling.

Intercity Cactus and Succulent Sale: This annual Sale will take place at the Los Angeles County Arboretum on August 4 – 6. The Show will be August 5 – 6. An email will be sent when the schedule for entering plants is released. You don’t have to be a member of one of the three clubs to enter.

Bromeliad Society Show & Sale: Ted Johnson announced that The South Bay Bromeliad Associates has their annual Show and Sale on Saturday, August 12 at the Palos Verdes Art Center.

Dyckia seeds: Maria offered attendees seeds from her Dyckia plant that was being displayed in the Mini-Show, indicating they are prolific seeders and all seem to germinate.

Speaker assistance: M.A. asked, on behalf of Kelly Griffin, if an attendee could provide parking space for Kelly's car at their home while he is plant hunting for two days following our meeting. Mike Short volunteered.

Door prize plants: Maria thanked Bonnie Ikemura for the plant donations. June Treherne drew tickets for members to select a free plant and M.A. Bjarkman announced the names of the winners. June selected a free plant.

M.A.: Background on our speaker, Kelly Griffin, was provided by M.A. while Kelly was setting up the table of his plants that would be for sale.

She also asked attendees if they were attending the upcoming CSSA Conference in Colorado Springs and a few indicated they would be there.

Future Program Ideas: Maria suggested offering a program on how to prepare plants for the Mini-Show or a broader judged event. February or March would be good timing since it is prior to the annual CSSA Show & Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens.

Attendees expressed interest in a demonstration of how plants are repotted. Perhaps indicate how to improve plants with potential to be Show plants. Maria referred those interested in the subject to read an article she wrote about plant staging in the April Society Newsletter, "The Prickly News," which is on our Website and in the summer edition of "To The Point."

Bob Caplan recommended a scholarly talk on how we got from being a planet with only rocks to one with succulents. Maria will contact Jackson Burkholder regarding this possibility.

Maria briefly recessed the meeting at 2:00pm and it was reconvened at 2:03pm.

Program:

M.A. introduced our presenter, Kelly, who led a program on "Aloe Hybrids" after showing a fascinating and informative 30-minute video of Nan Sherman's program, "A Growing Passion," featuring Kelly and his commercial and private work. Kelly also shared some of his images from an upcoming book he is co-authoring with Jeff Moore and Jeremy Spath on *Dudleya* plants.

Kelly discussed and demonstrated through photograph the process of hybridization and resulting plant characteristics. He capitalizes on plant variation to develop captivating varieties for the marketplace. Often, they are created using multiple hybridization crosses that takes years to produce.

A question and answer period followed his talk, which concluded at 3:13pm.

July Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Melocactus*; and Succulent: Bromeliaceae (other than Tillandsia).

The winning plants were described in detail by Laurel with an educational focus. 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. Barbara had been offered a free plant selection for helping.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and it was adjourned at 3:27pm.

Submitted,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary