

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, September 10, 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 51 members in attendance. President, Maria Capaldo, called the meeting to order at 1:33pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced our speaker, award-winning master grower Peter Walkowiak, who conducted a “Soil and Staging Workshop” instructional program. Attendees were invited to ask questions during the demonstration. Peter indicated that fast draining soil is needed for good air flow to the roots. A handout of his soil mix was distributed. He recommended placing a newly purchased plant in this mix right away. When transplanting a plant, he waters the plant the day before, places the plant in moist soil and then waits a week before watering it. In addition, he does not cut the roots to avoid creating wounds.

A question and answer period followed his presentation, which concluded at 3:08pm.

Announcements before the break:

Maria Capaldo: Maria asked Nancy Sams 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.

M.A. presented the slate of five candidates running for the CSSA Board of Directors. Ballots were mailed to CSSA members with the Fall 2023 issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal. Our Society receives one ballot on behalf of our members.

A vote of hands was taken for each candidate. Maria and Laurel Woodley counted votes, asking members to vote for up to three nominees to represent our Society’s one ballot. Those who received the most votes were: Jackson Burkholder, Kelly Griffin and Jeff Moore.

Maria announced a break to give attendees time to shop our vendors, including Peter’s plants.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 3:18pm and it was reconvened at 3:33pm.

Duke Plant Sale: Gary Duke announced a rare succulent and artisan pottery sale on September 24 at his Long Beach home. Details on our Website.

Brag Table: Nothing was presented.

New members and guests: No new members.

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

Door prize plants: M.A. drew tickets for members to select a free plant and Shane Mullen announced the names of the winners. Shane selected a free plant for his assistance. Nancy selected a plant for managing the membership table. Maria thanked Bonnie Ikemura for her plant donations.

New Business by Maria:

Nominating Committee: Board member elections take place in November. A Nominating Committee for Board member candidates is needed and Bob Caplan had agreed to participate. Maria asked for additional volunteers.

Huntington Symposium: The Huntington Succulent Symposium held on September 1 was an apparent success. Members who attended were asked to advise Bernard Johnson if they wish to be considered for a partial fee reimbursement.

Meeting with Garden Administration: Laurel Woodley and Maria met with a Botanic Garden administrator, and we will be able to use the auditorium free of charge and without any requirements. We are to leave the room the way we found it. Once 2024 dates have been established, Maria will publish them on our Website under the Event page. We will have the kitchen available for our Holiday Potluck, although we might have to share the space.

We have not yet garnered speakers for next year. Suggestions are welcome and should be directed to M.A., Braulio Mena or Maria.

Announcements by Maria:

Next Meeting: Our speaker for October will be Jim Gardner whose presentation will be on “Fascinating Succulent Flora of the Canary Islands.”

October Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Copiapoa*; and Succulent: *Graptopetalum*, *Graptoveria*, and *Pachyveria*.

September Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Ariocarpus* and *Obregonia*; and Succulent: *Adenium* and *Adenia*.

The plants were judged by Peter Walkowiak and assisted by Judy Unrine with overseeing by Lucy Hemmingway. 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. Judy and Lucy were offered a free plant selection for helping.

Minutes: The August Minutes were posted. The Minutes were accepted as published.

Reports:

Treasury Report: Bernard provided the Treasury Report.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asked for assistance in putting away the tables. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Submitted,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary