

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, March 17, 2024

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
Terri Straub, Vice President
Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary
Martha Bjerke, At-large Board Member
Vincent Darmali, At-large Board Member
Nancy Sams, At-large Board Member
Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair
M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair
Braulio Mena, CGCI Liaison

Jim Hanna, Finance Committee Chair & Plant Person
Mike Short, Communications Committee Chair & Webmaster

Committee Members (Tasked):

Ann Nye, Monthly Publicist
Terri Straub, Show & Sale Chair & Mini-Show Coordinator
Laurel Woodley, Facebook
Nancy Sams, Instagram
Maria Capaldo, Newsletter Editor

There were 52 members in attendance. President, Maria Capaldo, called the meeting to order at 1:31pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and announced that new Society t-shirts were available for purchase at the Membership Table for \$12.00 cash and \$12.50 credit card.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced our speaker Steven Frieze whose upbeat presentation, "Journey to Brazil," was based on his winter trip with a *Dyckia* expert. Many types of plants grew in difficult conditions and varied habitats. Steven showed examples of the botanical diversity of plants growing well together, such as cacti with orchids and bromeliads.

A question and answer period followed his talk, which concluded at 2:37pm.

Announcements before the break by Maria:

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.

She asked for volunteers for the Show and Sale on April 13-14 at the Palos Verdes Art Center. People were asked to see Terri Straub to sign up for specific positions.

She showed a terrific promotional video about our Show & Sale that was created by Mike Short. It is posted on our website, and attendees were asked to share it with friends and neighbors to promote our Show & Sale.

She announced a break to give folks time to shop our vendors, including Steven Frieze.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:45pm and it was reconvened at 2:58pm.

March Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Echinocereus*; Succulent: *Dudleya*, *Cotyledon*.

The plants were judged by Steven Frieze and assisted by Bonnie Ikemura 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. Bonnie was offered a free plant selection for helping.

Brag Table:

New members and guests: None.

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

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

Announcements by Maria:

Show & Sale: Next month is our Show & Sale on April 13 and 14. Setup will be April 12 for volunteers and vendors only. No pre-sales will occur but there will be the ability to hold plants for purchase the next day.

Showing plants: Members and vendors are invited to bring their prize or favorite succulent and cactus plants to show off at the Society display table. There will be up to five Mini-Show points awarded for each plant displayed. There will be no voting or prizes. Plants are to be clean and free of disease, with the name of the plant and provider placed on slips located on the tables.

Bringing plants for sale: The Society will have sale tables with potted plants donated by members as a fundraiser for our Society. Many more plants are needed and a plea was made to contribute as many as possible. They can be brought anytime on Friday to the Holding area, where they will be priced and labelled with the Society's tags, if labels are not already provided.

Food: Food will be provided for the volunteers who work the entire day. In addition, the Society will provide coffee, tea and water.

Proceeds: They provide the finances for our speaker programs, community support, and donations to programs for conservation and education.

Postcards: Many were given to attendees to distribute in order to promote our Show & Sale.

Minutes: The January and February 2024 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

Next Meeting: May's meeting will be held on May 19 which is the third Sunday, not our usual second Sunday. Our speaker will be Kelly Griffin who will talk about his Namibia and South Africa trip.

May Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Erioseyca*, *Neoporteria*, *Neochilenia*, *Islaya*; Succulent: *Crassula*

Reports:

Treasury Report: Bernard Johnson provided the Treasury Report.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and it was adjourned at 3:29pm. She indicated that a Board meeting would follow.

Submitted by,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary