

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, August 11, 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 40 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 which she then conducted.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced our speaker Peter Walkowiak whose interactive talk was on “Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents.” He demonstrated repotting plants to achieve healthy growth using his own soil mixture combination that provides good air space and oxygen for the roots. He always waters with a light amount of fertilizer in water that has a pH balance between 6 and 6.5.

Questions were answered during his presentation and a robust question and answer period followed his talk which concluded at 3:12pm.

Announcements before the break:

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.

New Business:

Garden meeting location: Our October 13 meeting will be held at Hesse Community Center in Ranch Palos Verdes off Hawthorne Boulevard. This venue has ample parking, a ramp down to the entrance, and a patio where vendors can sell. Maria will provide more information in our October Newsletter and asked attendees to note the location change in their calendars.

Free plants: Mike Short told attendees that a home in southwest Torrance has identified epis available for free and those interested should contact him. The plants have suffered since they have been unattended for a year.

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

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 3:16pm and it was reconvened at 3:27pm.

August Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Lobivia*, *Echinopsis*, *Soehrensia*, and *Chamaecereus*; Succulent: *Stapeliads*.

The plants were judged by Peter Walkowiak and assisted by Ann Nye with overseeing by Terri Straub. Ann announced the winners in first, second and third place who were awarded in novice, intermediate and open categories. The first-place winners will be listed in our Newsletter and on our Website along with photographs taken by Mike Short. Ann was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members and guests: No new members were in attendance.

Brag table: No plants were presented.

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

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

Announcements:

Huntington Symposium: This annual event will take place on August 30 from 9:00am – 4:00pm at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and includes lunch. A plant sale will follow. The cost is \$100.

Minutes: The July 14 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on September 8 at the Botanic Garden. Our speaker will be announced.

September Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Discocactus* and *Uebelmania* and Succulent: *Sansevieria* and *Dracaena*.

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bernard Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asked for help cleaning up and sweeping. She indicated that a Board meeting would follow. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Submitted by,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary