

## **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, November 10, 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 53 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 which she then conducted. For our Show & Sale, she recommended potting up cuttings and plants now since they will do better with the winter rains. She pointed out pots that she provided at the give-away table.

#### **Program:**

M.A. Bjarkman announced our speaker Keith Taylor whose talk was on “Transitioning from Summer to Winter Growers.” He brought a large selection of his expertly displayed succulents. He often selects plants specifically to fit his highly-textured, oddly-shaped, hand-made pots. He grows his plants hard to allow them to survive in all conditions including cold and rain. He uses inorganic planting material, little water and fertilizer, and small containers. His interactive presentation included questions and answers and concluded at 2:38pm.

#### **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:**

We held elections for the elected members of the Board of our Society. Bob Caplan presented the candidates and called for nominations from the floor. Elections were held by acclamation as there are no nominees from the floor. Listed are the officers who were elected:

President: Maria Capaldo (incumbent)  
Vice-President: Terri Straub (incumbent)  
Secretary: Debra Bushweit Galliani (incumbent)  
Treasurer: Bernard Johnson (incumbent)

#### **Members at Large:**

Vince Darmali (incumbent)  
Martin Dorsey  
Nancy Sams (incumbent)

Maria asked for volunteers to help assist committee chairs with their functions if they are unavailable for a meeting. Secretary needs to take minutes during each meeting and Membership needs someone to greet members for sign-in at meetings. Nancy Sams volunteered to assist with Membership.

Maria announced a break to give people time to shop our vendors, including Keith who was selling his pottery.

**Break-Reconvene:**

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

**November Mini-Show categories:** Cactus: North American Columnar (*Saguaro*, *Cereus*, etc.); Succulent: *Senecio* including *Kleinia*, *Caputia* and *Curio*.

The plants were judged by Keith Taylor and assisted by Vince Darmali with overseeing by Terri Straub. Keith 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. Vince was offered to select a free plant for helping.

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

**Brag table:** Bernard Johnson showed a close-up photographic image of his *Kleinia* (= *Senecio*) *anteuphorbium* on his tablet. The plant was entered in the Mini-Show.

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

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

**Announcements:**

**Minutes:** The October 13 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

**Holiday Potluck:** Our next meeting will be our holiday potluck on December 8 starting at 1:00pm at the Botanic Garden. When asked, seven members volunteered to help set up at 12:00pm to decorate the tables, make coffee, and arrange the dishes as they are brought in.

The Society will supply meat, typically beef and ham. Vincent volunteered to cook the beef. A volunteer is being sought to warm up the ham. Everyone brings a dish (appetizer, salad or casserole) and the Society provides coffee, tea and water. Dishes, with serving utensils, should be labeled with their contents in case of allergies and must be ready to consume at 1:00pm. We are not able to cook, warm-up or keep anything in the refrigerator since there is no use of the kitchen allowed. Bring any beverage of your choice to consume.

Plants will be awarded to those who have the highest points in the Mini-Show in all categories. The plant of the year will be distributed. Members are to bring last year's plant of the year, *Haworthia emelyae* var. *major*, to show how it has been grown, even if it looks pitiful, so we may compare all the plants one year later. The admission charge for those who are not members is \$10. Advise Maria by the Thursday before the meeting if you are bringing a guest to allow for their admittance.

**Dues:** Annual dues are \$20 and will start to be collected for the year 2025. Checks or cash may be given to the Treasurer at the meeting. Complete the renewal form to make sure Sally has all the correct contact information. They can be mailed with a check to the Treasurer.

**Plant Botanical Club of UCLA:** They are having a spring plant exhibition at the Mathias Botanical Garden at the end of April and wish to gauge interest in exhibiting plants. If interested, contact Maria.

**Catalina Conservancy Foundation:** They wish to have a Zoom call with us to explore common interests. Those interested in being included in the discussion should contact Maria.

Gary Duke will hold a plant and pottery sale at his Long Beach nursery on December 7. Details will be on our Website.

**Reports:**

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

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking them to clean up the floor around their areas. The meeting was adjourned at 3:22pm.

Submitted by,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary