

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, October 13, 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 43 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:31pm in McTaggart Hall in the Hesse Park Community Center in Ranch Palos Verdes. She welcomed attendees to the meeting which she then conducted.

She asked for feedback on the venue as we need a meeting space for February and March. The Hall is a little more expensive than the Palos Verdes Library, but vendors can sell plants. After a show of hands, the Hall was considered more desirable than the PV Library. Maria will check on the room's availability.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced our speaker Gary Duke whose talk was titled "Roadside Weeds of Texas and New Mexico." While Gary was on a quest to find *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, the "weeds" he also saw were a large variety of interesting cactus and succulents. Many had hybridized in nature and displayed a wide array of colorful flowers.

A question and answer period followed his talk which concluded at 2:36pm.

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:

Society meeting dates: Our November 10 meeting will be back at the Botanic Garden as well as our Holiday Potluck on December 8.

Maria announced a break to give people time to shop our vendors who were located on the outdoor patio.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:40pm and it was reconvened at 3:05pm.

October Mini-Show categories: Cactus and Succulent: Miniatures (plants of any size in less than 3" containers).

The plants were judged by Gary Duke, who recused himself from judging the Open category since he entered plants, and assisted by Virginia Reeves with overseeing by Terri Straub. Gary 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 Laurel Woodley. Virginia 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. Maria will publish plant photographs in the Members Corner of our Newsletter in lieu of bringing in a brag plant. Photographs of garden or wild plants are to be emailed to Maria. The name of the plant, the submitter's name, and where it is growing should be included.

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

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

New Business:

CSSA Board elections: For the annual election, the CSSA Board officer positions were unopposed and no vote was needed. Maria presented the four CSSA Board of Directors candidates for four-year terms. Three positions are open and those who received the most votes from members were: Nick Deinhart, John Nartinez and Kyle Williams.

Society Board elections: Maria announced that Bob Caplan agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in serving should contact Maria. The current officers have agreed to run again. Martha Bjerke will step down as an At-large Board Member and Martin Dorsey will run for that opening.

Debra Galliani asked whether any members would consider being her back-up as Secretary when she is unable to attend a meeting. Maria indicated that other Board members could use backups for their meeting duties as well.

Maria suggested that this topic be reintroduced at the beginning of our next meeting when more members are present.

Announcements:

CSSA convention: Maria highly recommended attending the CSSA Convention in San Diego on April 23-27, 2025, if possible. Our Society will be sponsoring a speaker. CSSA members were emailed a link to register and there are limited rooms available for the hotel at a special price. If you are not a CSSA member but would like to attend the convention, there is a special membership category which only costs \$20 per year.

Minutes: The September 8 Minutes were posted. Debra Galliani advised of one change: the October Mini-Show plants were labeled as September. There were no other corrections and the Minutes were accepted with this change.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held on November 10 at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Our speaker will be Keith Taylor with a topic that will probably be about wintering plants.

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

Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Bernard Johnson gave the Treasurer's Report. The balance for October 2024 is \$16,260. The balance for October 2023 was \$15,093. Two CD's for \$10,000 are earning interest and we are in good financial shape.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm. She asked for help taking down tables and chairs and restoring the room to a clean condition in order to receive a refund of our security deposit.

Submitted by,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary