

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, May 18, 2025

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
Terri Straub, Vice President
Bernard Johnson, Treasurer
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary
Vincent Darmali, At-large Board Member
Martin Dorsey, 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 46 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 encouraged members to renew their memberships with Membership Chair Sally Fasteau.

Program:

Maria complimented our speaker, Kelly Griffin, on his wonderful job running the CSSA Convention last month and the audience concurred with applause.

MA Bjarkman introduced Kelly who spoke on “Australia: A Journey into the Outback/Cape York.” His very knowledgeable, enthusiastic and colorful recounting of his time in Australia plant exploring was enjoyable and educational.

His presentation was followed by a question and answer period and concluded at 2:37pm.

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.

Maria announced a break to give people time to shop our vendors, including the book that Kelly co-authored, “Dudleyas.”

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:38pm and it was reconvened at 2:52pm.

May Mini-Show categories: Cactus and Succulents: Dish Gardens.

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

New members: Julie Briggs, Manjri Dhami, and Randy Gomez joined our Society. They were offered a free plant from Maria.

Brag table: Anita Caplan brought an unidentified *Echinopsis*, with striking double blooms of bright yellow flowers.

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

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

Announcements:

Next Meeting: Nick Renteria will present “Botanical Gardens of Thailand.” Nick has travelled to Thailand extensively and has wonderful photos of the garden there. The meeting will be at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

The Mini-Show plants for June are: Cactus: *Rebutia*, *Aylosteria*, *Weingartia* (includes *Sulcorebutia* and *Scintia*). Succulent: *Mesembs*. No *Lithops* or *Conophytums*.

Meeting Venue: The South Coast Botanic Garden has sent us a list of available dates for our meetings in the 2025-2026 season and we are only able to use this room four times. Maria recommended we meet at the Hesse Park facility for the unavailable months and the membership agreed. She will check their availability, and asked that attendees help restore the room after the meetings there.

Our Holiday Party may need a different venue and there was no objection from the membership to holding it at the Palos Verdes Library. Maria will check if it is available.

There are also some other conditions that the Board will discuss today and she will report back to the membership.

Reports:

Show & Sale: Maria thanked the volunteers who brought in many plants and worked it. She read the Treasurer’s Report which showed a net income of \$2,780.96 for our annual event. Our Society’s Sale Table contributed \$1,325 of the net income.

Minutes: The March 9 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections and the Minutes were accepted as published.

Treasurer’s Report: Maria read the Treasurer’s Report.

Bromeliad Show & Sale: Ted Johnson announced the August 9 one-day free event at the Palos Verdes Art Center from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in cleaning around their chair. She announced that there would be a Board meeting to follow. It was adjourned at 3:14pm.

Submitted by,

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary