

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 10, 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 39 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:32pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and encouraged members to sign in with Sally Fasteau and to put their name in the sprinkling can for a free plant later in the meeting.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Tom McCoy who spoke on the “Aloes of Saudi Arabia.” Tom spent many years working in Saudi Arabia and had access to plants that many do not see. He has published extensively and rarely speaks.

His presentation was followed by a question and answer period and concluded at 3:17pm.

Announcements:

Maria asked Sally 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. The judging began immediately thereafter and no break was taken as the speaker’s presentation ran long.

Maria reminded attendees of our meeting places for the Fall. For September and October, our Hesse Park meetings will start at 11:00am and the speaker at 11:30am. We will need help setting up tables and chairs for those meetings. She asked for a raise of hands of who could arrive at 10 00am and help for September. Our November meeting is at our usual time at the Zemperini Airport meeting room. Our holiday Pot Luck will be on a Saturday, December 13 at the Palos Verdes Art Center.

August Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Epithelantha*, *Frailea*, *Aztekium*; Succulent: *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*.

The plants were judged by Tom and assisted by Ruth Andrews. Tom 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 winners taken by Mike Short. Ruth was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: None.

Brag table: No brag plants, however, Maria provided advise on two plants that were not doing well, per a member’s request.

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

Door prize plants: M.A. drew tickets for members to select a free plant, and M.A. announced the names of the winners.

Announcements:

September Meeting: On September 14 our meeting will be at Hesse Community Park at 11:00am. The doors open for set-up at 10:00am. Our speaker will be Andrew Hankey, horticulturalist from the South African National Biodiversity Institute. He will be speaking at the Huntington Symposium and will be touring the speaker's circuit at clubs in Southern California on plants of South Africa.

The Mini-Show plants for September are: variegated cacti and succulents.

Nominations for Officers and Positions: Bob Caplan has agreed to help identify members who are willing to run for Officer positions on the Board and to help with doing some of the jobs when Board members are unavailable. If he reaches out to you, Maria asked that you please consider some of the positions for which we need help.

Huntington Succulent Symposium: This is an all-day Symposium of speakers, programs and plant sales taking place on August 29 from 9-5:30. The cost is \$100. Our website has a link to the registration page for the event.

Reports:

Minutes: The July 13 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were accepted as published.

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

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in cleaning around their chair. There was no Board meeting following the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

Assisted by Nancy Sams

Submitted by

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary