

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, July 13, 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 42 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 and encouraged members to sign in with Vince Darmali, who helped with membership, and to put their name in the sprinkling can for a free plant later in the meeting.

Program:

Maria introduced Keith Taylor who presented a program on “Chopped: Root Pruning 101.” He primarily grows caudiciform plants for show and sale. He demonstrated his root pruning and plant potting techniques of growing his plants “hard” to ultimately plant them in shallow pots. His soil mix is 20% decomposed granite and 80% pumice and he does not fertilize in order to slow down the growing. He makes unique, highly textured pots for his own use and sale.

His presentation included active questions and answers and concluded at 2:55pm.

Announcements before the break:

Maria asked Vince 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 reminded all attendees of our meeting places for the Fall. We have the Botanic Garden for our next meeting. Thereafter, check the Website and/or Newsletter as a reminder of the locations and times of the meetings. Our Hesse Park meetings will start at 11:00am and speaker at 11:30am. Our holiday Pot Luck will be on a Saturday, December 13 at the Palos Verdes Art Center. The Garden indicated that we have not been able to secure regular meeting times because we take up too much parking which precludes paying customers from being able to park.

Maria announced a break to give people time to shop our vendors. Keith brought pots and plants for sale.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:50pm and it was reconvened at 3:16pm

July Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Matucana*, *Oroya*; Succulent: *Echeveria*.

The plants were judged by Keith and assisted by Karen Yoshioka. Keith 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. Karen was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: None.

Brag table: None.

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

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

Announcements:

Next Meeting: Tom Mc Coy will talk 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.

The Mini-Show plants for August are: Cactus: *Epithelantha*, *Frailea*, *Aztekium*; Succulent: *Dyckia* and *Hechtia*.

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, she asked that you please consider some of the positions for which we need help.

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

Reports:

Minutes: The June 8 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 3:30pm.

Submitted by

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary