

## **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 12, 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 37 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 11:33am in McTaggart Hall in Hesse Community Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. She welcomed attendees to the meeting. While waiting for our speaker to finish setting up, Maria addressed some new business.

**Elections:** Maria said that Bob Caplan has been diligently working to fill the proposed vacancies on the Board. The following people have agreed to serve in 2026.

President: Maria Capaldo

Vice President: Liz Ying

Treasurer: Debra Bushweit Galliani

Secretary: Nancy Sams

At Large Board Members: Martin Dorsey, Teresa Nicoletto, and Linda O'Hara

CGCI Liaison: Debra Bushweit Galliani

We will hold the vote for new Officers at our November meeting.

Bernard Johnson is presently not able to continue as Treasurer and Debra Galliani was appointed to take over his financial duties effective immediately with access to bank accounts and checks.

Braulio Mena is no longer able to continue as our CGCI Liaison and Debra has volunteered to serve.

#### **Program:**

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Al Klein, co-owner of Botanical Wonders, who presented a program on "Growing Succulent Euphorbias." He provided tips to propagate and grow myriad euphorbia species and discussed the great deal of diversity in their appearance. He cautioned about their milky sap that can irritate the skin during propagation. Spray water on a freshly cut plant area to stop the "bleeding."

His presentation was followed by a question and answer period and concluded at 12:43pm.

#### **Announcements before the break:**

Maria asked Sally Fasteau to pick two names from the sprinkling can: one to help judge the Mini-Show and one to assist with names for the free plants. She reminded attendees to sign in with Sally and to put their name in the can for a possible free plant later in the program.

**Reminder of Society meeting dates:** We have booked the November meeting at the Zamperini Field Office Main Meeting Room at the Torrance Municipal Airport at our regular time of 1:00pm. Our Holiday Pot Luck will be at the Palos Verdes Art Center on Saturday, December 13 with set-up at 12:00 noon.

Maria announced a break to allow attendees to shop the vendors, including Al who brought amazing plants from Botanical Wonders.

**Break-Reconvene:**

Maria recessed the meeting at 12:47pm and it was reconvened at 1:06pm.

**October Mini-Show categories:** Cactus: *Turbinicarpus* and Succulent: *Adromischus*.

The plants were judged by Al and assisted by Lemono Lott with overseeing by Terri Straub. Lemono 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. Lemono was offered to select a free plant for helping.

**New members:** No new members.

**Brag table:** None. Maria is happy to publish photographs of any plants, whether in the wild or the garden, in lieu of bringing in a brag plant. Submit the photo, name of the plant, name of submitter (if approved to use it), and where it is growing.

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

**Door prize plants:** Maria drew tickets for members to select a free plant, and Vincent Damarli announced the names of the winners. Vince received a free plant.

**Announcements:**

**Minutes:** The September 14 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were accepted as published.

**November Meeting:** On November 9 our meeting will be at Zamperini Field Office at the Torrance Municipal Airport at our regular time of 1:00pm. Our speaker is Peter Walkowiak, who will demonstrate how he grows his award-winning plants.

The Mini-Show plants for November are: Cactus: South American columnar cactus (*Cleistocactus*, *Espostoa*, *Oreocereus*, etc.) and Succulent: *Lithops* and *Conophytum*.

The Mildred Mathias Botanical Garden at UCLA in Los Angeles wants us to be aware that they have free admission. Described as a small, beautiful garden it was highly praised by Laurel Woodley who has attended and who also suggested to go on a Sunday for better parking options.

**New Business:**

**CGCI:** A two-year Membership Card for California Garden Clubs is available for our members. See Sally if you wish to receive a card.

**CSSA membership:** An offer for a \$10 membership in CSSA was emailed to members. It entitles people to receive digital notices, "To the Point" newsletters, and access to the seed depot. The magazine is not included. This is for affiliate members and requires a code for check out giving you the discount. If you are unable to find your email with the code and are interested, please email Maria.

**Reports:**

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

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in taking down the room and cleaning around their chair. No Board meeting was to follow the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:27pm.

Submitted by

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Secretary