

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, February 8, 2026

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President
Liz Ying, Vice President
Debra Bushweit Galliani, Treasurer
Nancy Sams, Secretary
Teresa Nicoletto, At-large Board Member
Linda O'Hara, At-large Board Member
Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair
M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair
Debra Bushweit Galliani, 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. Vice President Liz Ying called the meeting to order at 11:30 am in McTaggart Hall in Hesse Community Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. She announced that she was standing in for President Maria Capaldo who was unable to attend. Liz welcomed attendees to the meeting and reminded members to sign in and put their name in the sprinkling can for door prize plants.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Woody Minnich, who spoke on "Pachypodiums in the Field, Garden and Greenhouse." His slide show presentation included questions and answers throughout, and concluded at 12:35 pm.

Announcements before the break:

Liz 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.

Show and Sale: The annual sale will take place at the Palos Verdes Art Center on Friday, April 10 from 1-5pm and on Saturday, April 11 from 9 am to 4 pm. Set-up will be on Thursday, April 9 from noon to 5:45 pm. These dates and times differ from our past sales. The society depends on volunteers to help make the sale successful. Terri Straub will be recruiting volunteers at the March meeting. Those interested in signing up before then were encouraged to speak with her during the break. We will be bar coding this year and some previous job positions will no longer be needed.

The Society's sale table brings in the most revenue and members were asked to donate as many plants as possible. Plants, excluding Tillandsias, need to be potted and labeled with a name if known. Plants that are well potted earlier have a chance to grow roots and will sell better. Members should prep their show plants to show potential customers what a plant could look like with the right care.

Liz announced a break to give folks time to shop the vendors.

Break-Reconvene:

Liz recessed the meeting at 12:40 pm and it was reconvened at 1:00 pm.

February Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Epiphytic Cacti* and Succulent: *Aloe, Kumara, Aristaloe, Aloiampelos, Gonialoe, Aloidendron*.

The plants were judged by Woody and assisted by Graham Scott with overseeing by Terri Straub. Woody 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. Graham was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: Sally announced new members Chris Schavwecker and Anna Slilas and they were offered a free plant.

Brag table: Ted Johnson showed a plant that turned from green to white when it flowered, then back to green. Laurel identified it as *Portulacaria afra*, common name elephant food.

Those who have special plants either blooming or just looking good are urged to submit a photo to Maria for publication in our newsletter. Provide the name of the plant, where it is growing, your name and if you want it mentioned.

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

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

Announcements:

Minutes: The January Minutes were posted on the website for review. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were accepted as published.

March Meeting: The next meeting will be on March 8, 1:00 pm at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Speaker Adam Baker specializes in growing *Astrophytum* and will give us tips on successful growing of that genera.

Reports:

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

Audits were done by Debra for 2023, 2024 and 2025 and approved by Maria. No irregularities were found. Secretary Nancy Sams put copies of the audits in the Minutes binder.

Liz closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in taking down the room and cleaning around their chair. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Submitted by
Nancy Sams, Secretary