

## **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, January 11, 2026**

#### **Board Members:**

**Maria Capaldo, President**  
**Liz Ying, Vice President**  
**Debra Bushweit Galliani, Treasurer**  
**Nancy Sams, Secretary**  
**Martin Dorsey, At-large Board Member**  
**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 45 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 11:35 am in McTaggart Hall in Hesse Community Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and reminded members to sign in and to put their name in the sprinkling can for door prize plants.

Maria clarified that annual membership covered the calendar year beginning in January. Sally Fasteau had renewal forms at the sign in table and dues could be paid during the meeting or mailed.

#### **Program:**

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Gary Duke, spoke on "Bolivia in Bloom."

His presentation was followed by questions and answers and concluded at 12:35pm.

#### **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.

Maria announced that the next Society meeting would take place in the same venue, Hesse Community Park, on February 8, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. The speaker will be Adam Barker whose specialty is growing *Astrophytum*. He will give tips on successful growing of that genera.

Maria announced that a short break would be given to let members shop the vendors. She asked those who had plants in the mini-show to leave their plants in place after the judging so Mike Short could take pictures, and to leave the tags in place since they are used to calculate the points.

#### **Break - Reconvene:**

Maria recessed the meeting at 12:38 pm and it was reconvened at 1:00 pm.

**January Mini-Show categories:** Cactus: *Mammillaria* straight spine (clumping) and Succulents: *Haworthia*, *Haworthiopsis*, *Astroloba*, *Tulista*.

The plants were judged by Gary Duke and assisted by Russ Richer with overseeing by Terri Straub. Gary 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. Russ was offered to select a free plant for helping.

**New members:** No new members.

**Brag table:** None. In lieu of bringing in a brag plant Maria welcomed members to submit a photograph of any plant in their garden or in the wild. Along with the photo they are to submit the name of the plant, their name if they want it published, and where the plant is growing.

**Birth month plants:** Both persons with January and December birthdays were invite to pick a plant.

**Door prize plants:** Teresa Nicoletto drew tickets for members to select a free plant, and she announced the names of the winners. Teresa received a free plant.

**Plant of the Year:** Aloe 'Sunrise' was distributed at the December pot luck. A plant was offered to those who did not get one.

#### **Announcements:**

**February Plants of the Month:** Cactus: Epiphytic cactus and Succulents: Aloe, Kumara, Gonialoe, Aristaloe and Aloidendron. A description of these new taxonomic designations will be discussed on the website and in the Newsletter.

**SCCSS Annual Show and Sale:** There has been little attendance on Sundays so this year the sale will take place on Friday, April 10 from 1pm-5pm and Saturday, April 11 from 9am-4pm. All vendors at out sale will need to bar code their plants and Mike Short will offer assistance to those who need help.

**World Bromeliad Conference:** Jackie Johnson reported this will take place April 15-18 in Costa Mesa.

**Plant and Pottery Sale:** Gary Duke will be hosting a pop up sale at his Long Beach nursery on February 7 from 9am-2pm. Details will be in our Newsletter and on our Website.

#### **Reports:**

**Minutes:** The November 9 Minutes were posted. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were accepted as published.

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

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for assistance in stacking chairs. It was adjourned at 1:24pm. A Board meeting was to follow.

Submitted by  
Nancy Sams, Secretary