

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, March 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 47 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in the South Coast Botanic Garden Auditorium. She welcomed attendees to the meeting and reminded members to sign in with Sally Fasteau and to put their name in the sprinkling can for door prize plants.

Program:

Maria announced that the scheduled speaker, Adam Baker, was unable to attend. Instead Maria discussed all aspects of the upcoming annual plant sale in detail. Her presentation included questions and answers throughout.

Mike Short demonstrated the online plant database he created. MOPDB (MY Online Plant Database) is available for free to Society members and is a great place to store pictures and information about your plant collection. A link to MOPDB can be found on the SCCSS website.

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 plant drawing.

Show and Sale 2026: 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.

We will have access for set-up on Thursday, April 9 from noon to 5:45 pm and on Friday, April 10 in the morning from 8 am to 1 pm. Plants for Show and donations for the Society sale tables may be brought in during the set-up. Those unable to come during those times can contact Maria to arrange delivery. Donated plants contribute much to our income from the Sale and this year we had the added expense of barcoding set-up. Plants should be labeled with a name if known and pots should be clean free of pests, including spiders.

Show plants will be placed on separate tables and are a great way to stimulate buyers to buy plants. They need to remain until closing of the show. There will be no judging but members receive up to five points, one for each plant that is shown, toward their mini-show total.

Volunteer positions was discussed and Terri Straub took names for positions. Members who will be vendors was discussed and all had already contacted Mike Short for barcoding information.

Promotional postcards were given to members so they could help spread the word by handing them out to those who may be interested in our sale. Maria said they should **not** be placed in people's mailboxes.

Member at Large on the Board: There is an opening for a Member at Large on the Board of Directors of our Society since one member dropped out. It requires attendance at Board meetings and availability to read emails and help make decisions for the Society's programs. Maria asked for volunteers but there were none.

Maria announced a break for judging and to give folks time to shop the vendors.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:43 pm and it was reconvened at 2:56 pm.

March Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Echinocactus, Kroenleinia, and Homalocephala*. Succulents: *Cissus, Cyphostemma, and Dorstenia*.

The plants were judged by Laural Woodley and assisted by Ann Nye. Laurel 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. Ann was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: No new members.

Brag table: No brag plants.

In lieu of bringing in a brag plant members may submit a photo to Maria for publication in the Society's newsletter. Provide the name of the plant, where it is growing, your name and if you want it mentioned.

Birth month plants: Maria called for members whose birthdays are in March to select a free plant.

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

Announcements:

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

May Meeting: The next meeting will be on May 17, the third Sunday of the month, at the South Coast Botanic Garden at 1 pm. Joe Stead will be the speaker.

Bromeliad Show: Ted Johnson announced that the 2026 World Bromeliad Conference is being held from April 15-18 at the Hilton Hotel in Costa Mesa.

Reports:

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

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking them to clean up any loose soil around their seat. The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 pm.

Submitted by

Nancy Sams, Secretary