

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, May 17, 2026

Board Members:

Maria Capaldo, President

Liz Ying, Vice President

Debra Bushweit Galliani, Treasurer

Nancy Sams, Secretary

Teresa Nicolello, At-large Board Member

Linda O'Hara, At-large Board Member

Gustavo Cardenas, At-large Board Member

Sally Fasteau, Membership Committee Chair

M.A. Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison & Program Chair

Debra Bushweit Galliani, CGCI Liaison

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 1:30 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:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Joe Stead who gave his presentation called "My Journey with Operculicarya." He also propagates plants and brought some for purchase. A question and answer period followed his talk, which concluded at 2:38 pm.

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.

CSSA Show and Sale: We received a limited number of complimentary tickets to The Huntington for each day of the CSSA Show and Sale on June 12-14. Members may bring plants for show and can also volunteer. An email was sent to all members with information and a link to the ticket site.

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

Break-Reconvene:

Maria recessed the meeting at 2:39 pm and it was reconvened at 3:05 pm.

March Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Astrophytum*, and Succulents: *Agave*, *Manfreda*

The plants were judged by Joe Stead and assisted by Debra Bushweit Galliani. Joe 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. Debra was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: Valerie Anderson was welcomed as a new member and was offered a free plant.

Brag Table and Q&A: No brag plants or questions.

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

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

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

Announcements:

Minutes: The March 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 June 14, the second Sunday of the month, at Hesse Community Park at 1pm. Our speaker is Ernesto Sandoval who will talk on "Propagation and Cultivation of South African Bulbs."

Member at Large on the Board: Maria announced that a Member at Large on the Board of Directors of our Society dropped out and there is a vacancy. The position requires attendance at Board meetings and availability to read emails and help make decisions for the Society's programs. Gustavo Cardenas volunteered.

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. Any unwanted plants left on the give away table and drawing table are to be thrown away in the trash can only. Plants are not to be thrown out in the Garden.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 pm with a Board meeting to immediately follow.

Submitted by

Nancy Sams, Secretary