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, June 14, 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 35 members in attendance. President Maria Capaldo called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm in McTaggart Hall in Hesse Community Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. Maria welcomed attendees to the meeting and reminded members to sign in and put their name in the sprinkling can for door prize plants. She announced that the Society has a new logo and showed a picture of it.

Program:

M.A. Bjarkman introduced Ernesto Sandoval, who spoke on "Propagation & Cultivation of South African Bulbs." His slide show presentation included questions and answers throughout, and concluded at 2:30 pm. Ernesto will have some bulbs available for sale later in the year and will send Maria a list to share with members when they are ready. Bulbs can also be purchased at telosrarebulbs.com. Pacificbulbsociety.org is a recommended source for information.

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.

Maria announced a break at 2:34pm to give folks time to shop the vendors. Ernesto also brought a selection of plants for sale. Maria reminded those with plants in the Mini-Show to leave them in place after the judging so Mike Short could take photographs. Tags should be left in place since they are used to calculate points.

Break-Reconvene:

Maria reconvened the meeting at 3:04 pm.

June Mini-Show categories: Cactus: *Cylindropuntia, Austrocylindropuntia, Tephrocactus* and Succulent: *Euphorbia* not from Madagascar.

The plants were judged by Ernesto and assisted by Valerie Anderson with overseeing by Terri Straub. Ernesto 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. Valerie was offered to select a free plant for helping.

New members: Sally announced new member Kathy Tillotson and Kathy was offered a free plant.

Plant Sale: Sunset Succulent Society is holding a one day sale on June 28 from 9 am – 4 pm at the Culver City Veteran's Center. There will be a rare plant auction at noon. A flyer is in our Newsletter and on the information table.

Birth month plants: Maria offered a free plant to Members whose birthdays are in June.

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

Announcements:

Minutes: The May Minutes were posted on the website for review. There were no corrections, and the Minutes were approved as presented.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on July 14 at 1:00 pm at Hesse Community Park. Jeff Chemnick will present "Seldom Seen Succulents and More." The Plants of the Month for July are *Melocactus* and *Bromelaceae* (other than *Dyckia* and *Hectia*.)

The August meeting will be held at 1:00 pm at Hesse Community Park. Speakers will be announced in the Newsletter and on the Website. The South Coast Botanic Garden has not responded with availability of their space for the upcoming fiscal year. Given the difficultly parking there at the May meeting Maria arranged alternative meeting spaces through December. Please check the website for locations each month.

Reports:

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

Debra mentioned that the Society's table brought in a significant amount of income during the April Show and Sale. She urged members to begin propagating plants now for next year's sale.

Maria closed the meeting by thanking those who attended and asking for help cleaning up any loose soil around the seats. The meeting was adjourned at 3:14pm and a Board meeting would follow.

Submitted by
Nancy Sams, Secretary