

# On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

## President's Message

We have arrived at mid-summer. I hope you and your garden are both well.

Our August meeting will feature Karen Zimmerman's talk, which was originally scheduled for last June's meeting. We pleased that she was willing and able to share with us her experience and ideas on hybridizing aloes.

We expect that she also will bring specimens of her hybrid for our members to buy and add to their collections. That should be a treat, especially when eager collectors honor the "no early birds" rule. The sale begins at 12:15.

Please note that this issue of *On the Dry Side* includes the same introduction to Ms. Zimmerman's talk that was in last June's issue. That replay is intentional, for your convenience.

Next month's meeting will feature the ever-popular Country Store. We typically do not have a speaker at the same meeting as the Country Store (too much!), so we left open the plan for this event, pending arrangements for speakers.

The August newsletter will have more information about the Country Store. The short version is that this is an opportunity for members to bring plants, containers and other garden items that they wish to share. This is a fine opportunity for members to acquire items that need new homes, and a great fund-raiser for the Society.

Finally, please consider the call of the Central Coast CSS for volunteers for the 2019 CSSA Convention. If you could help with that event, it will be appreciated. The information is in last month's newsletter, which is on [mbsucculent.org](http://mbsucculent.org).

I'll see you at the meeting!

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## Save the Date!

### MBACSS Meets

**August 19, 2018**

Gathering @ 12:00

Plant Sale @ \$12:15

Potluck @ 12:30

Program @ 1:00

### Board Meets

**August 19, 2018**

Board @ 11:00

Members always

welcome to attend

### Future meetings

**Third Sundays**

Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Post 1716

1960 Freedom Blvd.

Watsonville, CA



Monterey Bay Nursery

# Minutes of the July Board Meeting

Reported by Mary Cross

## Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Board of Directors Meeting Minutes July 15, 2018, 11:00 – 12:00

**Call to Order:** Tom Karwin, called the meeting to order.

Members present were Tom Karwin, Lidia Hernandez, Jorge Quinonez, Sharon Lucchesi, Karen Valentine, Gary Stubblefield, Naomi Bloss, Stan Verkler, Mary Cross

**Minutes of June 17, 2018** were taken and written by Stan Verkler & Mary Cross and accepted as written and edited by Tom Karwin.

### Chairpersons' Reports

**Treasury:** Lidia Hernandez reported that she has received the Treasurer information from Ruth and is reviewing it all. Gary said she still has to get her name on the bank account and the letterhead and get a new email (and advise Anita Crawley). Tom indicated that the information on the website has been updated.

**Membership:** Karen Valentine reported she has the master roster and has some ideas for the membership brochure for the future. She will continue to update roster. She will continue to examine a Welcome Kit for new members. Mary Cross volunteered to help Karen create the Kit and Membership Brochure. We should have the updated brochure for the fall show. If the Treasurer receives a new member check and info, it needs to be forwarded to Karen for Membership List

**Hospitality:** Sharon Lucchesi will work with Karen regarding new members.

**Sunshine Committee:** Sharon Lucchesi was happy to report there was nothing to report

**Program:** Sarah Martin reported on the following:

**Country Store Date:** Discussion about the date – September or October? One consideration is how it would affect the Christmas auction. October was chosen as the date at the regular meeting. There is no speaker scheduled for that month.

**Fall Show and Sale** is the Last weekend of September and sales will occur on Saturday and Sunday but not on Friday

**CSSA:** Jorge Quiñonez report there was no new information to share.

### Old Business

**MBACSS Participation in 2019 CSSA Convention:** There was a discussion with Gary Stubblefield and the Board about the possibilities for our participation and the location for the show and hotels.

### New Business

**Fall Show & Sale:** Gary Stubblefield and Naomi Bloss indicated there was no new information. The show will be basically the same as last time. Publicity needs to be put on the agenda for next meeting. Lidia reported that on July 1 we need to renew the Business license at San Juan Bautista. Tom will forward the information she needs to be able to calculate what our sales were and what our fee should be.

**Cost of Printing & Mailing Newsletter:** Karen Valentine presented the idea of giving the 10 members who get hard copies of the Bulletin, rather than via email, six months to decide what they want to do regarding getting copies of the newsletter, such as paying extra, getting a copy from the public library computer, etc. The cost to the club is \$2.32/per issue to print and mail each copy. It was thought that the annual fee would be more than folks will want to pay.

**Membership Kit:** Discussion about what we could include such as: free raffle tickets, a bibliography of books and our calendar and by-laws (which are on line), as well as a list of local resources, etc. All the information needs to be coordinated with the information on the web.

### Adjournment

Tom Karwin adjourned the meeting at noon.

Preview of August's Program

# Aloes On My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time

by Karen Zimmerman



Bottom left: Aloe 'Gargoyle'

Bottom right: Aloe 'DZ'

Other plants: new hybrids under evaluation

## Biographical Notes

Karen Zimmerman has loved and grown plants from a very young age, thanks to her grandparents. Succulents became a major passion of hers in 1994, and she has never slowed down.

She has been with the Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens for 18 years as Succulent Propagator, caring for the many thousands of potted plants in the Desert Collections.

Since 2002, aloe hybridizing became a "hobby" within her job. She still gets that same "Christmas morning" excitement when a batch of new aloe hybrid babies germinates. It's even better when they start to develop some character, often very early with the first true leaf.

Despite careful breeding for specific traits such as color, size or toothiness, unexpected anomalies can appear in any breeding, especially given how complicated these aloe hybrids have become with generations of species and crosses in the mix. The standouts are, of course, the ones she craves!

She has had 10 hybrids published and distributed through the Huntington's International Succulent Introductions (ISI) program, with many more on the horizon.

Photography is another passion that she brings to her work, and has had many photos published in journals, books and a photography magazine.

For more about Karen's plants, see "Fantasy Aloe Hybrids," posted on the [Huntington blog](#).

## Summary of the Talk

I start with an overview of the genus aloe; distribution and diversity of species. I go through a short tutorial on pollinating and seed production. I talk a little about the work of hybridizers up to the present, with a special mention about Kelly Griffin, who was my inspiration to try my hand at hybridizing. I show parent plants and offspring, including some that became good enough to name and distribute, and others that became disappointments.

Then I show some promising babies and future possibilities.



Colorful and playful, Aloe 'Jeff Karsner' is named after the late head gardener of The Huntington's Children's Garden.



Month	Program	Cactus Mini-Show	Succulent Mini-Show
Jan. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Joseph Hidalgo: Starting a Collection: Geophytes & Caudiciforms	Any cactus in 6-inch or smaller container	Aloe
Feb. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff Moore: Soft Succulents	Carnegeia, Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Dudleya
Mar. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Skillin: Kenya, Land of Tropical Succulents	Copiapoa, Eriosyce	Haworthia, Gasteria, Ruschia, Delasperma
Mar. 24, 25	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Ernesto Sandoval: Succulent Propagation from Seeds	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia	Aeonium
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Quigley: Succulents of South Africa	Echinopsis, Sclerocactus, Aztekium	Echeveria
June 17 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Karen Zimmerman: Aloes On My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids, One Generation at a Time (rescheduled)</del>	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Acanthocalycium	Crassula, Kalanchoe Extra Category: Aloes
July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Keith Taylor: Staging Pots and Plants to Win Awards	Optunia	Agave, Dyckia, Puya
Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup> ➔	Karen Zimmerman: Aloes On My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids, One Generation at a Time	Melocactus	Sempervivium, Sedum
Sep. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Country Store	No Mini-Show	
Sep. 28 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup>	MBACSS Fall Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
Oct. 21 <sup>st</sup>	TBA	Parodia (Notocactus), Gymnocalycium	Pachyforms (Caudiciforms, Pachycauls)
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	TBA	Mammillaria	Lithops, Aloinopsis, Conophytum, Faucaria, Pleiospilos
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Christmas Party	No Mini-show	
<b>Related Events Elsewhere in California (and Beyond)</b>			
April 29	Huntington Botanical Gardens Plant Sale, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino		
May 26-27	Central Coast CSS Show & Sale, Ludwick Community Ctr., 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo		
June 2	San Francisco Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, Golden Gate Park Recreation Room, 9 <sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Way, SF		
June 2-3	Fresno CSS Show & Sale, Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth St., Clovis		
June 9-10	San Francisco CSS Show & Sale, SF County Fair Bldg., 1199 9 <sup>th</sup> Ave., SF		
June 30, July 1	CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino		
August 11-12	33 <sup>rd</sup> Inter-City Cactus Show & Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia — 9:00 to 5:00		
Note	For more related events in southern California, see the <a href="#">San Diego CSS Newsletter</a> .		

Thanks to Jorge Quiñonez for gathering information for this section of the Calendar.

# August's Mini-Show Plants

Selections by Jeff Brook, Information from Wikipedia and Cactus-Art.biz

## Cactus Melocactus

**Melocactus** (melon cactus) is a genus of cactus with about 30-40 species. They are native to the Caribbean, western Mexico through Central America to northern South America, with some species along the Andes down to southern Peru, and a concentration of species in northeastern Brazil.

The first species was named by Carl Linnaeus in 1753, as *Cactus melocactus*. When the genus was separated from *Cactus*, the pre-Linnaean name *Melocactus* was used. Acting on the principle of priority, in 1922 Nathaniel Britton and Joseph Rose resurrected Linnaeus' *Cactus*. However, the 1905 Vienna botanical congress had already rejected the name *Cactus*, so this name was not available, and *Melocactus* is the correct genus name.

Mature plants are easily recognizable by their cephalium, a wool- and bristle-coated structure at the apex of the plant, containing a mass of areoles from which the small flowers grow. Since the red, wool-coated cephalium of the plant is similar to the Fez hat of Turkish male citizens during late Ottoman Empire, one name for the plant is Turk's cap cactus.

The fruits of *Melocactus* are pink and resemble the shape of pepper fruits. The fruits of this genus are edible, and in the wild they are frequently dispersed by lizards and birds.



*Melocactus acipinosus*

## Succulent Sempervivum, Sedum

**Sempervivum** is a genus of about 40 species of flowering plants in the Crassulaceae family, commonly known as houseleeks. Other common names include liveforever (the source of the taxonomical designation *Sempervivum*, literally "always/forever alive") and hen and chicks, a name shared with plants of other genera as well. They are succulent perennials forming mats composed of tufted leaves in rosettes. In favorable conditions they spread rapidly via offsets, and several species are valued in cultivation as groundcover for dry, sunny locations.



*Sempervivum tectorum*

**Sedum** is a large genus of flowering plants in the family Crassulaceae, members of which are commonly known as stonecrops. The genus has been described as containing up to 470 species. They are leaf succulents found mostly in the Northern Hemisphere, but extending into the southern hemisphere in Africa and South America. The plants vary from annual and creeping herbs to shrubs. The flowers usually have five petals, seldom four or six. There are typically twice as many stamens as petals.



*Sedum acre* (Biting Stonecrop)

# July Mini-Show Winners

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Photos by Paul Albert

## Cacti



Tephocactus geometricus  
Naomi Bloss  
Advanced #1



Opuntia cylindrica crest  
Sharon Lucchesi  
Intermediate#1



Opuntia polyacantha  
Jemma Argabrite  
Novice #1

## Succulents



Dyckia burle-maxii  
Naomi Bloss  
Advanced #1



Agave marmorata  
Dsviid Sparks  
Intermediate #1



Dyckia platyphylla  
Yolanda Borges  
Novice #1



Crassula Dish Garden  
Mary Cross  
Dish Garden #1



# Tour of Monterey Bay Nursery, June 23, 2018

Hosted by Jeff Brooks, Photos by Sarah Martin





## Officers and Chairpersons, 2018

### OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Tom Karwin  
VICE PRESIDENT — Naomi Bloss  
SECRETARY — Mary Cross  
TREASURER — Lidia Hernandez  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR — Karen Valentine  
AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE — Jorge Quiñonez  
DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE  
— Gary Stubblefield  
— Sarah Martin  
— Sharon Lucchesi  
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT — Stan Verkler  
IMMEDIATE PAST TREASURER — Ruth Pantry

### CHAIRPERSONS

LIBRARIAN — Suzy Brooks  
MINI-SHOW — Jeff Brooks  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR— Tom Karwin  
PHOTOGRAPHY— Paul Albert, Fred Valentine  
PROGRAMS — Sarah Martin  
PUBLICITY — Sarah Martin, Sharon Lucchesi  
RAFFLES — Gary Stubblefield  
SALE FLOOR MANAGER— Gary Stubblefield  
SALES LIAISON — Sarah Martin  
SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks  
WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

## Member Updates

Welcome to these new members:

Carol and Frank Wilson, Hollister

Kathy Wittpenn

The Society needs a volunteer to serve as sales chairperson for the 2019 Spring Show & Sale.

This role will be filled for the 2018 Fall Show & Sale, so there is ample time for a new volunteer to learn the responsibilities of this important position in preparation for the next sale, which will be around late March of 2019.

There is also time to redefine and share related tasks among two or more people.

➔ Monterey Bay Nursery Rosettes. Photo by Sarah Martin



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Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://mbsucculent.org>