

# On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society



*Gymnocalycium vatteri*  
by Sarah Martin

## President's Message

By Tom Karwin

Our Fall Show & Sale was a pleasant and smooth-running experience, due to the diligent and thoughtful efforts of the organizers and volunteers. We will recognize them individually and collectively at our meeting.

The occasion also seemed quite successful! We'll get the official reports at our board and general meetings.

This newsletter is two days later than intended. Sorry about that! The problem begins when the first day of the month falls on a Sunday; that just messes up my calendar!

I hope your calendar is working better, and I'll see you at the meeting!

### Save the Date!

#### MBACSS Meets

**Oct. 15, 2017**

Gathering @ 12:00

Potluck @ 12:30

Program @ 1:00

#### Board Meets

**Oct. 15, 2017**

Board @ 11:00

Members always  
welcome to attend

#### Future Meetings

**Third Sundays**

Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Post 1716

1960 Freedom Blvd.

Watsonville, CA

## Contents

President's Message .....	1
Contents .....	1
MBACSS Board Meeting.....	2
Nomination of Officers.....	2
October Program.....	3
In Members' Gardens.....	4
MBACSS Calendar for 2017.....	5
Succulent Glory - Photos .....	6
Succulents on the Move.....	7
Member Update .....	8
Officers & Chairpersons.....	8



*Agave victoriae-reginae alba*  
by Gardener's Home

# Minutes of the September Board Meeting

Recorded by Stan Verkler and Edited by Tom Karwin

**Board Members in Attendance:** Naomi Bloss, Tom Karwin, Sharon Luchessi, Sarah Martin, Linda McNally, Ruth Pantry, Stan Verkler.

**Board Members Absent:** Gary Stubblefield, Manson Waters

**Guests:** Ellen Stubblefield

**Approval of Minutes:** The board approved September's minutes as published but corrected to list Naomi Bloss as present.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ruth Pantry presented the current financial report, dated August 20, 2017. Financial reports are available to members upon request.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **CSSA Report:** No report.

• **Fall Show & Sale:** Postcard announcement of the Fall Show & Sale were mailed on scheduled. Sarah Martin will update and print a supply of MBACSS membership forms. Tom Karwin recommended reviewing the membership form for possible redesign, and invited board member to provide examples of membership forms/flyers from other organizations.

The Show Co-chairs Lynda Waters and Gary Stubblefield have been organizing volunteers for various roles. Lynda presumably will bring coffee & donuts for the volunteers. Sarah Martin will bring drinks. A volunteer is needed to arrange lunches.

• **Program:** Sarah Martin reported that Russell Wagner is scheduled to speak on South Africa at the October meeting, and that Mark Muridian is the prospective speaker for November. The program for December will be the annual Christmas Party and auction (no mini-show). She is developing other plans for the early months of 2018.

Sarah Martin also reported briefly on planning for partnering with the San Jose CSS for a trip to the Huntington Botanical Garden in January of 2018. The San Jose CSS has not indicated significant progress in planning for this trip.

• **Sunshine Committee:** Sharon Luchessi will send a sympathy/get well soon card & gift to Dorothy Hurley, who had broken her leg. All other Society members seem to be doing well, thankfully.

## OLD BUSINESS

• **2019 CSSA Convention:** Ellen Stubblefield reported on behalf of Gary Stubblefield that we have no new information from the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society (host of the 2019 CSSA Convention) on the co-hosting role for the MBACSS.

## NEW BUSINESS

• **Spring 2018 Show & Sale:** Ellen Stubblefield reported that the City of San Juan Bautista has advised Gary Stubblefield that the Community Hall might not be available on a Sunday for our 2018 Spring Show & Sale, due to possible rental of the facility by a church group. The board discussed alternate schedules with Sunday, e.g., Thursday and/or Friday evening, plus Saturday. Discussion to be continued after more is learned about the availability of this space.

• **Election of Board Members and Officers:** Tom Karwin noted that the MBACSS Bylaws specify election at the November meeting in odd-numbered years of ten officers to serve two-year terms. Accordingly, Tom Karwin appointed Stan Verkler as the chairperson of a nominating committee, and during the regular meeting will invite two other members to serve on this committee. The Bylaws provide for publication of nominees for officers of the Society in the November newsletter, and, at the November meeting, presentation of the nominees and election of the officers.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00p.m.

# Nominations of Officers

The Society's officers include: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair, affiliate representative, three directors-at-large, and immediate past president (ex officio). The Bylaws summarize the duties of these officers.

All members of the Society except Honorary and Special Members are eligible to vote and hold office. All members are invited to nominate themselves or other members to serve as an officer of the Society. Send nominations to Stan Verkler, chairperson of the Nominating Committee for 2017.

## Preview of October's Program

# A Recent Trip to South Africa

By Russell Wagner

Russell Wagner arrived in the Bay Area to study chemistry at the University of California at Berkeley after receiving his undergraduate degree at the University of Georgia in 1994. He obtained his PhD in physical chemistry, and later found his passion for plants as a member of the San Francisco Succulent and Cactus Society.

He served for seven years as editor of *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, and he then started his own publishing company, named Little Sphaeroid Press. The Press's first book, authored by Steven A. Hammer, was published in 2013 and launched a series of eight planned volumes by Steven A. Hammer on the collectable mesembs. The Press's most recent publication is *Mesembs: The Titanopsis Group*.

Russell has an extensive collection of (mostly seed-grown) succulents, with an emphasis on the Crassulaceae (*Tylecodon* and *Adromischus* are his favorites) and the mesembs. He grows plants in the ground and in his homemade, 20' x 40' greenhouse in his yard in Oakland.

Russell travels extensively to see succulent plants in their natural habitats. He has been to Mexico three times and South Africa three times, as well as Peru, Bolivia, Morocco, and the Canary Islands.

He has also travelled throughout America's southwest desert, including a particularly memorable week visit to the Big Bend National park, in Texas.

He often takes opportunities to speak to cactus clubs and meet other members of the succulent plant world. We are pleased to have him speak again to our Society.



## Look at a Book

Addition to the MBACSS Library, Reported by Suzy Brooks

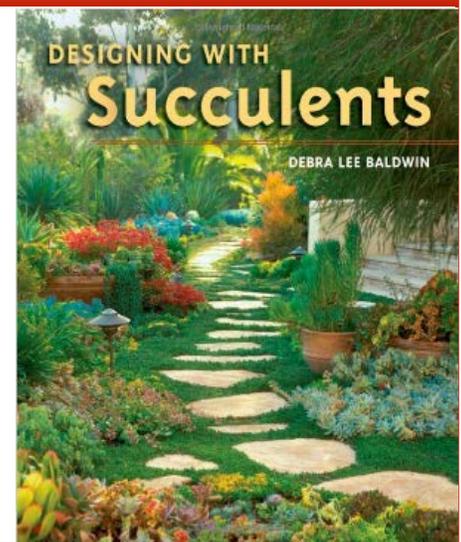
The MBACSS Library now has two copies of Debra Lee Baldwin's latest book, *Designing with Succulents*, which is an extensive revision of her 2007 classic.

The August issue of *On the Dry Side* included Tom Karwin's review of this book, as published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. Here are some additional comments:

Amazon: "Succulents offer dazzling possibilities and require only minimal maintenance and very little water to remain lush and alluring year-round. No one knows them better than the Queen of Succulents, Debra Lee Baldwin.

"This new, completely revised second edition of her bestselling classic is a design compendium that is as practical as it is inspirational. *Designing with Succulents* shares design and cultivation basics; hundreds of succulent plant recommendations; and profiles of 50 easy-care, drought-tolerant companion plants. Lavishly illustrated with 400 photographs, you will find everything you need to visualize, create, and nurture a thriving, water-smart succulent garden."

Kathleen N. Brenzel, *Sunset*: "*Designing with Succulents* is inspiring, practical, and complete—a treasure for any gardener who loves these otherworldly beauties."



# October's Mini-Show Plants

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information by Wikipedia

## Echinocereus, Parodia

**Echinocereus** is a genus of ribbed, usually small to medium-sized cylindrical cacti, comprising about 70 species native to the southern United States and Mexico in very sunny rocky places. Usually the flowers are large and the fruit edible.

The name comes from the Ancient Greek echinos, meaning "hedgehog," and the Latin cereus meaning "candle." They are sometimes known as hedgehog cacti, a term also used for the *Pediocactus* and *Echinopsis*.

*Echinocereus* are bushy and globular with tight spines that are often colorful and decorative. The flowers last slightly longer than those of other cacti.

*Echinocereus* is easier to cultivate than many other cacti. They need a light soil, a sunny exposure, a fresh and dry winter to flower. They like a soil slightly richer than other cacti. In the wild, several of the species are cold-hardy, tolerating temperatures as low as -23°C but only in dry conditions.

**Parodia** is a genus of flowering plants in the cactus family Cactaceae, native to the uplands of Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. This genus has about 50 species, many of which have been transferred from *Eriocactus*, *Notocactus* and *Wigginsia*. They range from small globose plants to 1 meter (3 ft) tall columnar cacti. All are deeply ribbed and spiny, with single flowers at or near the crown. Some species produce offsets at the base. They are popular in cultivation, but must be grown indoors where temperatures fall below 10 °C (50 °F).

The genus is named after Domingo Parodi, one of the early investigators of the flora of Paraguay.



Parodia magnifica



Echinocereus

## Echeveria

**Echeveria** is a large genus of flowering plants in the Crassulaceae family, native to semi-desert areas of Central America, Mexico and northwestern South America.

Plants may be evergreen or deciduous. Flowers on short stalks (cymes) arise from compact rosettes of succulent fleshy, often brightly coloured leaves. Species are polycarpic, meaning that they may flower and set seed many times over the course of their lifetimes. Often numerous offsets are produced, and are commonly known as "hen and chicks", which can also refer to other genera, such as *Sempervivum*, that are significantly different from *Echeveria*.

The genus is named after the 18th century Mexican botanical artist Atanasio Echeverría y Godoy.

Many *Echeveria* species are popular as ornamental garden plants. They are drought-resistant, although they do better with regular deep watering and fertilizing. Most will tolerate shade and some frost, although hybrids tend to be less tolerant. Most lose their lower leaves in winter; as a result, after a few years, the plants lose their attractive, compact appearance and need to be re-rooted or propagated. In addition, if not removed, the shed leaves may decay, harboring fungus that can then infect the plant.

They can be propagated easily by separating offsets, but also by leaf cuttings, and by seed if they are not hybrids.

## Echeveria elegans



# September's Mini-Show Highlights

## Succulents



*Adenium obesum* -  
Stan Verkler



*Pachypodium baronii* v. *windsori* -  
Stan Verkler



*Pachypodium lamerei*  
Pat Boylan

## Cacti + Open



*Rhipsalis pilocarpa*  
Shirley Amadon



*Mammalaria microcarpum*  
Jan Lepson



*Crysanthus elates*  
Jan Lepson

# MBACSS Calendar for 2017

MONTH	PROGRAM	CACTUS MINI-SHOW	SUCCULENT MINI-SHOW
1/15	Jeff Moore's New Book <i>Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation</i>	Any columnar cactus must be 12" or taller	Aeonium
2/19	Martin Quigley: Future Fantasy: The succulent collection at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum	Mammillaria, Escobaria	Euphorbia
3/19	Brian Kemble: North East Mexico	Rebutia (inc. Sulcorebutia), Echinopsis (Lobivia)	Aloe
4/16	Robin Stockwell New Book - <i>Succulents: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Designing and Growing 200 Easy-Care Plants</i>	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum	Haworthia
5/20-21	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
6/18	Naomi Bloss Early Days of MBACSS	Ferocactus, Blossfeldia	Kalanchoe
7/16	Kelly Griffin: Agaves	Melocactus	Stapelia
8/20	Country Store	No Mini-Show	
9/17	Peter Beiersdorfer Succulent Tidbits from Around the World	Rhipsalis	Adenium, Pachypodium
9/30 & 10/1	MBACSS Fall Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
→ 10/15	Russell Wagner Recent Visit to South Africa	Echinocereus, Parodia	Echeveria
11/19	TBA	Opuntia, Opuntiads	Gasteria
12/17	Christmas Party	No Mini-Show	

## RELATED EVENTS ELSEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA (AND BEYOND)

This calendar lists CSS shows & sales in central & northern California, major events in southern California, and CSSA events.

101111/14	Desert Forum, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA
4/29-30	Show & Sale, San Jose CSS, Sunnyvale
4/29	Plant Sale, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA
5/6-7	Spring Show & Sale, Sacramento CSS, Sacramento
5/13	Annual Show & Sale, Santa Barbara CSS, Santa Barbara
5/20-21	Show & Sale, Carmichael CSS, Carmichael
5/27-28	Annual Plant Show & Sale, Central Coast CSS, San Luis Obispo
6/3-4	Summer Show & Sale, Fresno CSS, Clovis
6/10-11	Show & Sale, San Francisco CSS, San Francisco
6/30 - 7/2	CSSA Annual Show & Sale @ Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino
7/26-30	CSSA 37 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Tempe, AZ
8/12-13	31 <sup>st</sup> Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA Arboretum, Arcadia

# Officers and Chairpersons, 2017

## OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Tom Karwin  
 VICE PRESIDENT — Naomi Bloss  
 SECRETARY — Stan Verkler  
 TREASURER — Ruth Pantry  
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR — Linda McNally  
 AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE — Jeff Brooks  
 DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE  
 — Gary Stubblefield  
 — Manson Waters  
 — Sharon Lucchesi  
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT — Stan Verkler

## CHAIRPERSONS

LIBRARIAN — Suzy Brooks  
 MINI-SHOW — Jeff Brooks  
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR— Tom Karwin  
 PROGRAMS — Sarah Martin  
 PUBLICITY — Sharon Lucchesi  
 RAFFLES — Gary Stubblefield  
 ROSTER — Ruth Pantry  
 SALE — Gary Stubblefield & Lynda Waters  
 SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks  
 WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

## Members Update

Welcome to new member, Cecelia Azhderian

A highlight of the Society's Fall Show & Sale was the collection of show plants displayed by members.

This issue of On the Dry Side includes a sampling of those entries. The November issue will include a photo gallery of selected plants in the show, and will identify the favorites as chosen by votes by visitors to the event.



Here's a recommendation for members who bring plants for a mini-show or show & tell at a regular meeting of the Society, or for a public display at one of the Society's Show & Sale events. Take time to groom your plant! Remove any stray materials, e.g., cobwebs, insects, or damaged parts. Plants given such close attention will show at their best.



Lithops  
by John & Lisa Bloss

## On the Dry Side

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society  
<http://mbsucculent.org>