

On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

President's Message

Our meeting in May occurs two-thirds of the way through the spring of the year. Gardeners have been enjoying this season, and anticipating continued growth during the summer months. Our Society also has been thriving during the period, with a successful Spring Show & Sale, meetings both convivial and educational, and planning in progress for continued pursuit of our goals and priorities.

We always look to our members to contribute to the ongoing operation of the Society. Currently, we need a member to serve as Membership Chair, and another to serve—at least temporarily—as Treasurer. We'll discuss these needs during our meeting. In the meantime, think about stepping into one of these board positions.



A vignette from the UCSC Arboretum's Succulent Garden

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Linda McNally at the Arboretum

Save the Date!

MBACSS Meets

May 20, 2018

Potluck @ 12:30

Gathering @ 12:00

Program @ 1:00

Board Meets

May 20, 2018

Board @ 11:00

Members always

welcome to attend

Future meetings

Third Sundays

Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Post 1716

1960 Freedom Blvd.

Watsonville, CA

Minutes of the April Board Meeting

Recorded by Mary Cross, edited by Tom Karwin

Call to Order: Tom Karwin called the meeting to order

Board Members present: Tom Karwin, Naomi Bloss, Sarah Martin, Mary Cross, Jorge Quinonez, Gary Stubblefield, Linda McNally

Board Members absent: Ruth Pantry, Stan Verkler Sharon Lucchesi

Minutes of March 18, 2018: Minutes of the March 18, 2018 meeting were accepted as published.

Treasurer's Report: Gary Stubblefield, sitting in for Ruth, reported there were a couple of problems with the data entry system at the show/sale. This sale was the best sale financially we have had so far.

Chairpersons' Reports

Program: Sarah Martin reported that she still needs speaker for Sept. Oct., Nov.

Sunshine Committee: Ruth is in now in a rehabilitation facility in Salinas.

Spring Show: Naomi Bloss reported that the show went well and that there were three novices neck and neck to win. Names of winners will be emailed to Tom for entry in next month's newsletter.

Spring Sale: Gary Stubblefield reported that this was the best show we have had.

CSSA: Jorge Quiñonez will check again to get list of events by Northern California's CSSA affiliates.

Old Business

2019 CSSA Conference: Gary Stubblefield reported that the 2019 CSSA Conference is tentatively set for 1st week of July in San Luis Obispo. He indicated that there will be no central hotel for the conference; attendees will arrange lodgings at various places in the area.

New Business

Plant Sales by Speakers: The Board discussed the sale of plants by guest speakers during the board meeting, so that members arriving after the board meeting—and board members—miss the opportunity to select plants. The board decided that sale of plants will not begin until 12:15pm. Members will be advised during the meeting.

Future Show & Sale Recommendations

The board discussed recommendations for future shows and sales. It was recommended that we again try to schedule the event when San Juan Bautista has its street fairs. The need to schedule an early date for this year's spring show & sale made it difficult for vendors to get their plants mature enough to sell them at the show. Gary applauded Sarah who got great volunteers and went way beyond her job description to make the show such a success.

The board discussed ideas for getting more volunteers (e.g., asking teens to volunteer for "community service" points for school, boy scouts, etc.) to help set up and tear down as well as helping folks take their purchases to their cars. It was decided that we are doing a good job with our members at this time.

The board discussed awarding "Showbucks" to reward volunteers but it decided that we don't need such incentives, and it is very hard to keep track of who does what to earn them.

Parking for the shows is an issue. Gary will research with the Mission about using the grassy area in front of the building in the future.

Lois did a tremendous job of handling the food and volunteers for the show. Sarah suggested we give a plant to volunteers who were exceptionally generous with their time and energy.

Reserve Fund Planning: Tom led discussion about the possible need for reserve funds in specific categories, e.g., unexpected external problems, repair & replacement of fixed assets; and invest for the future. The Board did not agree to raise membership fees or increase vendor fees pending study of the need for reserve funds and the policies of other comparable groups.

MBACSS Anniversary Celebration

In 1986 MBACSSA became an official club. Next month we will celebrate at our monthly meeting with KFC and cake and a silent auction. Members are invited to bring plants to sell and either take the money or donate it to the club.

Preview of May's Program

Succulents of South Africa

by Martin Quigley



Martin Quigley will describe his recent visit to South Africa.

Background

Martin Quigley is the executive director of UCSC's Arboretum & Botanic Garden, appointed in November 2015. He also serves as director of gardens and grounds, where his primary responsibility is to manage the plant collections and direct the operations of the gardens, and he oversees educational programming and the creative development of interpretive materials and exhibits in the Garden.

Quigley earned his B.A. in English and comparative literature at Cornell University, M.L.A. in landscape architecture at Utah State University, and Ph.D. in plant community ecology at Louisiana State University.

Here's his article on the Arboretum's succulents, posted on the Arboretum's website, March 27, 2018,

Healthier, Happier Succulents!

Thanks to Linda McNally (picture, p. __) and her skilled team of volunteers and student workers, our succulent and cactus collection is growing healthier and more spectacular than ever before. There has been constant improvement both in the nursery and greenhouses, at the Horticulture Offices patio and in the hillside gardens at Norrie's and on the dam.

Many specimens have spent years in pots and are clearly delighted to have their roots in the ground and a chance to grow to their full potential. Other succulents have been divided and rooted and are offered for sale at Norrie's, individually or in a variety of dish gardens.

The cool weather has brought out the reds and purples in many species' leaves and stems. Others, particularly the cacti, have swelling buds and have started to bloom. Cactus flowers have brilliant, sometimes almost fluorescent colors. Individual blooms don't last very long—some for a couple of weeks, and others, such as the *Cereus*, for only one night and day. But they all put on a brilliant show to attract their pollinators. We plant nerds wait all year for our cacti to bloom, however briefly!

Our Agaves and Aloes, both old and new, are responding to the late rains by putting on new growth and sending up flower spikes, some of which will last for weeks or even months. It's definitely worth a visit to see these sculptural beauties at all stages. We will be selling offshoots from some of our collections. Keep in mind that Cactus and Agave families are native to the New World only, while Aloes are from the Old World, many of them from South Africa. *Euphorbia* is cosmopolitan (occurring globally), though most of our specimens are from Africa. And, join our excitement as we continue to plant out more unusual and fascinating succulents!

Even *more* good news about our wonderful succulent collections. Hundreds of *Echeveria*, Cactus, *Euphorbia*, *Gasteria*, and other species from around the world are housed in the nursery area, safely locked in the "Echeveria House." These are astonishing, unique, and rare plants—and people want to see them! However, since most of these wonders are small and in pots, theft is always an issue. Most botanic gardens have displays that separate the public from such plants with wire mesh, glass panels, or very wide aisles. Others have greenhouses that are open only occasionally, and only for docent-led groups. Thanks to the generosity of the Monterey Bay Cactus and Succulent Society and of the Ray Collett Trust, we will soon have our own safe and attractive way to display these plants to our visitors. The Collett Trust has financed the construction of a wide concrete platform running the entire length of the Echeveria House, on its south outer side. Next will be the installation of polycarbonate panels, vertically mounted at viewing height, so that the entire house will be visible from the exterior, and with the most special collections closest to the visitor. The MBACSS is donating the materials for this viewing panel, and construction will be in-house, with student and volunteer labor.

Linda McNally and her crew of volunteers have cleaned, re-potted, and re-labeled all the plants, which are now thriving. Having these specimens in public view will be another milestone in the Arboretum's quest to refresh our botanical displays and preserve our botanic legacy for the future.

MBACSS Calendar for 2018

Month	Program	Cactus Mini-Show	Succulent Mini-Show
Jan. 21 st	Joseph Hidalgo: Starting a Collection: Geophytes & Caudiciforms	Any cactus in 6-inch or smaller container	Aloe
Feb. 18 th	Jeff Moore: Soft Succulents	Carnegeia, Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Dudleya
Mar. 18 th	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 th	Ernesto Sandoval: Succulent Propagation from Seeds	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia	Aeonium
May 20 th ➔	Martin Quigley: Succulents of South Africa	Echinopsis, Sclerocactus, Azetkium	Echeveria
June 17 th	Karen Zimmerman: Aloes	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Acanthocalycium	Crassula, Kalanchoe
July 15 th	Keith Taylor: (topic?)	Optunia	Agave, Dykia, Puya
Aug. 19 th	Country Store	No Mini-show	
Sep. 16 th	TBA	Melocactus	Sempervivium, Sedum
TBA	MBACSS Fall Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
Oct. 21 st	TBA	Parodia (Notocactus), Gymnocalycium	Pachyforms (Caudiciforms, Pachycauls)
Nov. 18 th	TBA	Mammillaria	Lithops, Aloinopsis, Conophytum, Faucaria, Pleiospilos
Dec. 23 rd	Christmas Party	No Mini-show	

Related Events Elsewhere in California (and Beyond)

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 th & 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 th Ave., SF
June 30, July 1	CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino
August 11-12	33 rd 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 San Diego CSS Newsletter .

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

May's Mini-Show Plants

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

Cactus

Echinopsis, Sclerocactus, Aztekium

Echinopsis is a large genus of cacti native to South America, sometimes known as hedgehog, sea-urchin or Easter lily cactus.



E. chamaecereus, a small species, is known as the peanut cactus. The 128 species range from large and treelike types to small globose cacti. The name derives from

echinos hedgehog or sea urchin, and *opsis* appearance, a reference to these plants' dense coverings of spines.

Sclerocactus ("hard cactus", from Greek; refers to the hard, dry fruit) is a genus of cacti. It comprises about 15 species, the exact number depending on the authority. All are very xerophytic. They are sometimes called fishhook cactus or little barrels.



Sclerocactus are ovoid to elongate cylindric, have rigid stems with tubercles that are generally coalesced into ribs, and are covered with spines that come out of the areoles.[1] Most species have at least one hooked spine at each areole. Less often, species may not have hooks.

The genus **Aztekium** contains three species of small globular cactus. Discovered in 1929 by F. Ritter, in Rayones, Nuevo León, Mexico, *Aztekium ritteri* was thought to be a monotypic genus until George S. Hinton discovered *Aztekium hintonii* in Galeana, Nuevo León in 1991. In 2011 M.A. Alvarado Vázquez discovered the third species, *Aztekium valdesii*, in the Sierra Madre Oriental mountains of Nuevo León.



Top: *Echinopsis spachiana*
Middle: *Sclerocactus wrightiae*
Bottom: *Aztekium ritteri*

Succulent

Echeveria

Echeveria is a large genus of flowering plants in the stonecrop family Crassulaceae, 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 colored leaves.

Species are polycarpic: they may flower and set seed many times over the course of their lifetimes. The numerous offsets are commonly known as "hen and chicks", which can also refer to other genera, such as *Sempervivum*, that are significantly different from *Echeveria*.

Many species of *Echeveria* serve important environmental roles, such as those of host plants for butterflies. For example, the butterfly *Callophrys xami* uses several species of *Echeveria*, such as *Echevelia gibbiflora*, for suitable host plants. Even more, these plants are integral to the oviposition process of *C. xami* and some other butterfly species as well.

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

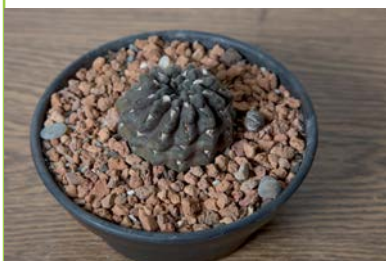
Photo: *Echeveria elegans*



March's Mini-Show Winners

Records by Jeff Brook, Photos by Fred Valentine

Cactus



Erosyce occulta #1 Nov.
Jemma Argabrite

Haworthia Dish Garden
#1 - Jemma Argabrite



Copiapoa luai #1 Int. (tie)
Linda McNally

Haworthia Hybrid #1 Nov.
Mary Ann Rawlings



Copiapoa hypogaea #1 Int. (tie)
Suzy Brooks

Haworthia truncata #1 Adv. (tie)
Ellen Stubblefield

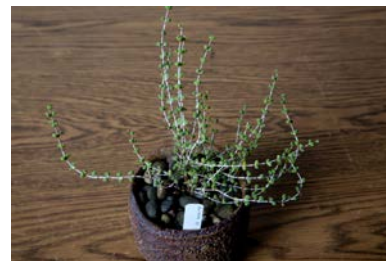


Copiapoa dealbata #1 Adv.
Stan Verkler

Ruschia sp. #1 Adv. (tie)
Linda McNally

Gasteria Hybrid #1 Int.
Suzy Brooks

Succulent



Dudleyas in Danger

Early last month, in Humboldt County, three men, Korean and Chinese nationals were arrested by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for poaching over 2000 *Dudleya farinosa* plants. These plants, which have the common names Bluff Lettuce and Powdery Liveforever, are sturdy California natives that have become valued by Asian landscapers. The rosettes reportedly attract prices up to \$50 each in China. Plants that were recovered were replanted by California Native Plant Society volunteers.



This map shows the natural occurrence of *Dudleya farinosa* plants within California. The range of these plants also extends into Oregon. *Dudleya farinosa* is adapted to the west coast's "most foggy, windy and forsaken spots." They also grow well in Monterey Bay area gardens.

In fact, the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay areas have extensive beds of these plants. The poachers might have worked in more northern parts of California with the hope that they would be less likely to be caught.

This poaching event demonstrates the growing popularity of succulent plants. This *Dudleya* apparently has particular appeal to Asian aficionados: MBACSS member Steve McCabe has observed, "People call them 'charismatic.'"

Still, we have seen rising demand for various succulents, and future poachers might target additional *Dudleya* species that propagate in the wild.

While our Society encourages the appreciation and cultivation of succulent plants, and has a particular affinity for the *Dudleya*, we definitely advocate acquiring plants that have been grown and propagated by amateur or professional growers, and object to collecting plants that grow naturally in natural areas.

Let's encourage cactus and succulent gardeners to discover their newest horticultural treasures at our plant sales, and at those of other cactus and succulent societies.

Photos by Stan Shebs at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden
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 from Wikimedia Commons

Map by Bay Area News Group,
 based on Calflora.org information

Judge's Awards – Spring Show

Photos by Fred Valentine



Aeonium crest
Linda McNally



Agave schidigera 'Shiro no Ohi'
Jeff Brooks



Albuca
Ellen Stubblefield



Eulychinia castanea spiralis
Garden Home



Euphorbia kibwezensis crest
Jeff Brooks



Euphorbia multifolia
Naomi Bloss

Judge's Awards – Spring Show (continued)

Photos by Fred Valentine



Ferocactus viscaianensis
Richard Deming



Fockea edulis
Gary & Ellen Stubblefield



Gasteria glomerata
Suzy Brooks



Trichodiadema bulbosa
Naomi Bloss



Petropentia natalensis
Gary & Ellen Stubblefield



Trichocereus bridgesii crest
Gardener's Home

Officers and Chairpersons, 2018

OFFICERS

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

CHAIRPERSONS

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

Judge's Awards – Spring Show (continued)

Photos by Fred Valentine



Mammalaria theresae
Elton Roberts



Tylecodon
David & Janet Sparks



Thelocactus phymatothelos
Elton Roberts

On the Dry Side

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://mbsucculent.org>