Volume 33 Issue 7
July 2019

On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area
Cactus & Succulent Society

Contents

Eulychnia acida, endemic to western Chile, has a wide range, it is abundant, and its population is stable overall. Major threats are localized: agriculture of fruit trees and goat grazing.

Photo provided by Woody Minnich

President's Message

We've been having a fine summer season!

Our June meeting provided a welcome departure from our usual indoor activities. We enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at the home of Naomi Bloss and her family, with opportunities to tour her amazing greenhouses. We are all very appreciative of Naomi's gracious hospitality.

We are also delighted with the program planning by Sarah Martin and Suzie Brooks. Their Hypertufa Workshop proceeded without a hitch, and many members dove in to acquire basic skills for creating unique plants containers. See p.6 for Paul Albert's photos of this occasion.

We should recognize, too, that this occasion marked the thirty-third official year of the founding of our society. We say "official" because MBACSS, like many organizations, emerged over a period of a few years without a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The board of directors, acknowledging the summer season, did not meet in person in June but took action on two matters through online voting.

1. Approved an educational contribution of $1,000 to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America's Research Program
2. Approved the appointment of Peter Beiersdorfer as Vendor Liaison for MBASCSS's Fall Show & Sale.

With these noteworthy accomplishments in June, we are well-prepared to proceed into the following months. Our July meeting included two presentations by Woody Minnich. We're pleased that he will share his experiences with cacti and succulents.

Please note our unusual schedule for this meeting, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Save the Date

MBACSS Meets

Gathering @ 10:00
Program #1: 11:00
Potluck @ 12:00
Program #2: 1:00

Board Meets

Board will not meet in July

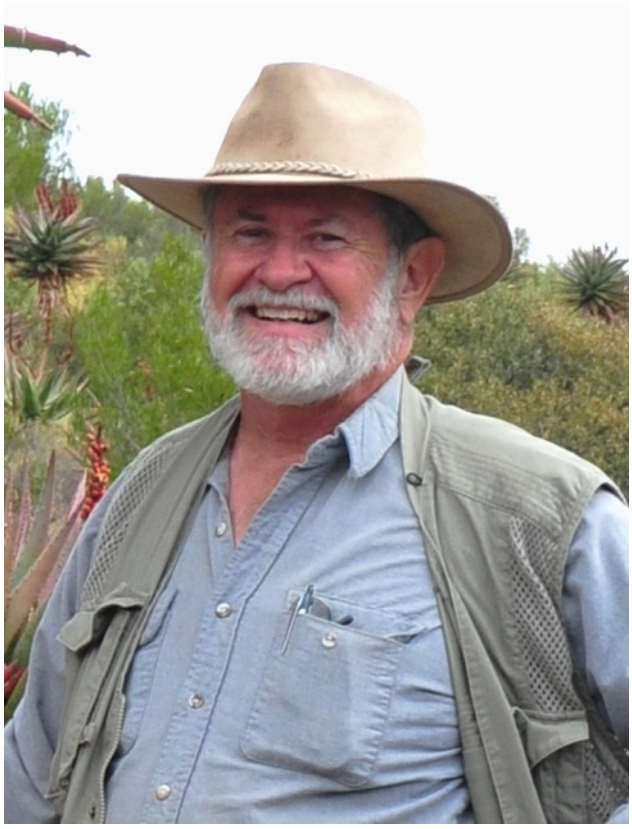
Future Meetings

Third Sundays
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Watsonville, CA

Preview of the July Program #1

Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila

Presented by Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich



Biographical Notes

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

Presentation Notes

Mexico is thought by many to be the richest region in the world for cacti. For all those individuals who travel in search of rare and unusual cacti, their first choice is often Mexico. The Sierra Madre Oriental is considered the center of diversity for Mexican genera, ranging from *Ariocarpus* to *Aztekiums, Echinocereus, Ferocactus, Geohintonia, Gymnocactus, Mammillaria, Obregonia, Pelecephora, Thelocactus, Turbinicarpus* and many, many more. Because of the plethora of plants found in the states of Tamalipas, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi and Hidalgo, most field workers have just decided to ignore the little explored Coahuila.

For most of us, Coahuila and its neighboring state of Chihuahua were often only used as drive-throughs on our way to the succulent rich south. In recent years, many of the serious plant explorers have started finding new back country roads in these two states. These new roads have graciously opened up some of the rarely explored areas to extremely remote regions, and some of these backcountry roads (trails) are not even found on the maps! Coahuila, as close as it is to the USA, actually has some of the least explored and most remote regions in all of Mexico.

On our trip through Coahuila, we drove for many hours without ever seeing other vehicles or back country people. There were no urban or agricultural developments as these wild places are still virtually untouched! The valleys and mountains of these expanses will surely offer many new species for the field worker willing to do some serious exploring. Near the roads, if you wish to call them roads, I saw only a few dried-up old ghost towns where apparently some tough old Mexicans, probably from the Poncho Villa era, once resided.

(Continued Next Page)

Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila

(Continued)

From the unknown territories of Coahuila, there have been numerous new cacti and other succulents discovered and rediscovered. The crown jewel of these new plants is the fantastic *Mammillaria luethyi*. It was lost for over 60 years since its original siting, growing in a rusted tin can on a dusty ranchito porch. All of us exploring Mexico had searched for this very special *Mammillaria*, until only a few years ago, Luethy found it in northern Coahuila. The Sierra del Carmen, which abuts the Rio Grande and the Big Bend National Park, has also been the origin of other new species. Close to this area, we discovered a new, very beautiful *Echinomastus*, or possibly *Gymnocactus*? From this region we also found a very handsome red *Sedum*, as well as *Echinocereus longisetus*, and the northern most of the *Echeverias*, *Echeveria strictaflora*. In a remote dry lake bed, Laguna la Leche, we admired the amazingly cryptic *Escobaria abdita*.

Wow, just some of the treasures of Coahuila!

This trip was also to be an adventure in seeing some of the brand-new *Agaves*, *Echeverias*, *Astrophytums*, *Echinocereus* and *Mammillarias*. We scored on almost everything we went to see, and never, in the 45 years that I have traveled Mexico, have I seen it so green. This talk will also feature many cacti and other succulents that have never been seen in books or presentations. Come explore Mexico with me!

Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus (above)

This species is widely distributed as a large number of small, isolated populations in a big area extending over 600 km. Commonly called "living rocks," they are edaphic specialist plants widely distributed in and around the edges of Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert.

Astrophytum asterias 'Super Kabuto' (right)

With its inimitable fuzzy epidermis, this plant is actually the most popular cactus cultivar. It is easily distinguished from the normal A. asterias by the epidermis that does not have simple dots but a mosaic of extensive white spots that make the plant look intensely maculate.

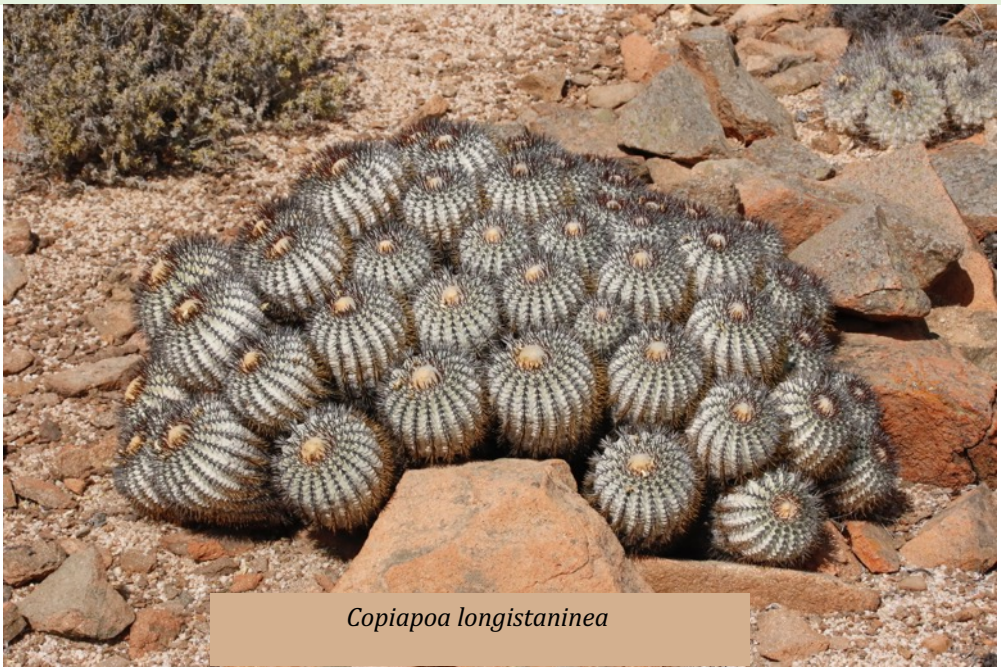
Super Kabuto probably came from a mutation that occurred in nature to just one field-collected individual.

Photos provided by Woody Minnick

Preview of the July Program #2

20 Years in the Atacama, Land of the Copiapoas

Presented by Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich



Copiapoa longistaninea

Similar to the coast of Namibia, the coastal and inland regions of northern Chile, known as the Atacama, is mainly watered by amazing fogs, "the Camanchacas." These fog-fed regions, in two of the driest deserts in the world, have some of the most interesting cactus and succulents to be found anywhere. The Atacama of northern Chile has an endemic genus considered by many to be one of the most dramatic to have ever evolved, the Copiapoa. This ancient genus is also believed to be tens of thousands of years old, and there are those who feel it might well be on its way out! The ocean currents that affect the coastal Atacama have changed considerably over the last hundreds of years, and now its only source of moisture is primarily from consistent dense fogs. Some of these areas rarely, if ever, get rain and the plants that have evolved there live almost entirely off the heavy condensation from the Camanchaca.

There are many different Copiapoa species ranging from small quarter sized subterranean geophytes to giant 1,000-year-old, 300-head mounding clusters. Thanks to Rudolf Schulz's excellent field work and his two comprehensive Copiapoa books, we have all been introduced to these amazing plants. Having worked with Rudolf in Chile, I can honestly say that the genus Copiapoa is without comparison! Now, having visited Chile numerous times over the last 20+ years, I have become familiar with most all of the representatives of this genus. With this presentation, I hope to taxonomically introduce you to most of the Copiapoa species as well as show their relationships and synonyms. Along with the Copiapoa, we will also encounter many other genera including the Neochilenias, Neoporterias, Eriosyce, Eulychnias, Trichocereus, as well as many of the other Chilean succulents. Chile also offers some of the best lunar landscapes, geologic formations, and spectacular beaches to be found in all of South America.

This last August 2018, I had the pleasure of leading a group of 20 crazy cactophiles in seven four-wheel drive trucks. Our objectives were to see most of the fantastic plants and spectacular scenery that are to be found in this the land of the Camanchaca. Most of our group were very young adults (25-35yrs), and they all wanted to see and know how us old timers (Rudolf, Woody, Ritter and Charles) used to do our explorations to the wild and seldom seen places of Chile. Not only did we take them on very bad roads, the kind of dusty, dirty two tracks we used to have to maneuver, we also had them camp out in the middle of nowhere with the scorpions. No restaurants, no showers, no beds, and no bar! These camp-outs were exceptional as we could often see, without light pollution, the Southern Cross and the Magellanic Lights until the Camanchaca fog slowly blanketed our campfire discussions. What an incredible trip it was! The energy of the young people and my memories of the last 20+ years in Chile made this an epic adventure, one I will never forget! Join me at the meeting, and hopefully you'll share our exhilarating experience and the overall magic of this wonderful arid region,

July's Mini-Show Selections

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information from Wikipedia

Cactus

Opuntia, Tacinga, Miqueliopuntia, |
Cylindropuntia, Micropuntia

Opuntia, commonly called prickly pear, is a genus in the cactus family, Cactaceae. Prickly pears are also known as tuna (fruit), sabra, nopal (paddle, plural nopales) from the Nahuatl word nōpalli for the pads, or nostle, from the Nahuatl word nōchtli for the fruit; or paddle cactus. The genus is named for the Ancient Greek city of Opus, where, according to Theophrastus, an edible plant grew and could be propagated by rooting its leaves. The most common culinary species is the Indian fig opuntia (O. ficus-indica).

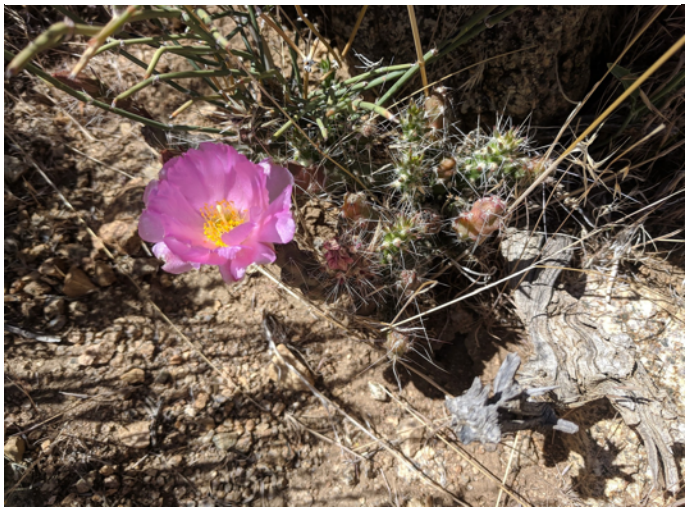
Tacinga is a genus in the cactus family Cactaceae, native to northeast Brazil . Once thought to be monotypic, the genus now comprises four species.

Miqueliopuntia a genus of cactus containing a single species, Miqueliopuntia miquelii, which is native to the Chilean coasts of South America.

Cylindropuntia, containing species commonly known as chollas, native to northern Mexico and the Southwestern United States. They are known for their barbed spines that tenaciously attach to skin, fur, and clothing.

Micropuntia/Grusonia pulchella, also known as sagebrush cholla, is a tuberous species of opuntioid cactus from the Mojave Desert of central Nevada, eastern California, northwestern Arizona and western Utah. Grusonia pulchella has at various times been included in Opuntia or placed in a separate genus Micropuntia.

Micropunta pulchella/Grusonia pulchella
photographed at Pipeline Canyon, NV by Mbdfar



Succulent

Euphorbia, Jatropha, Monadenium,Pedilanthus

Euphorbia is a very large and diverse genus of flowering plants, commonly called spurge, in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae). Some euphorbias are widely available, e.g.,poinsettias. Some are collected and highly valued for their unique floral structures, e.g., the crown of thorns plant (Euphorbia milii). Euphorbias from the deserts of Southern Africa and Madagascar have evolved physical characteristics and forms similar to cacti of North and South America, so they are often incorrectly referred to as cacti.

Jatropha is a genus of flowering plants in the spurge family, Euphorbiaceae. The name is derived from the Greek words *iatros*, meaning "physician", and *trophe*, meaning "nutrition", hence the common name physic nut. Another common name is nettlespurge. It contains approximately 170 species of succulent plants, shrubs and trees (some are deciduous, like Jatropha curcas). Most of these are native to the Americas, with 66 species found in the Old World.

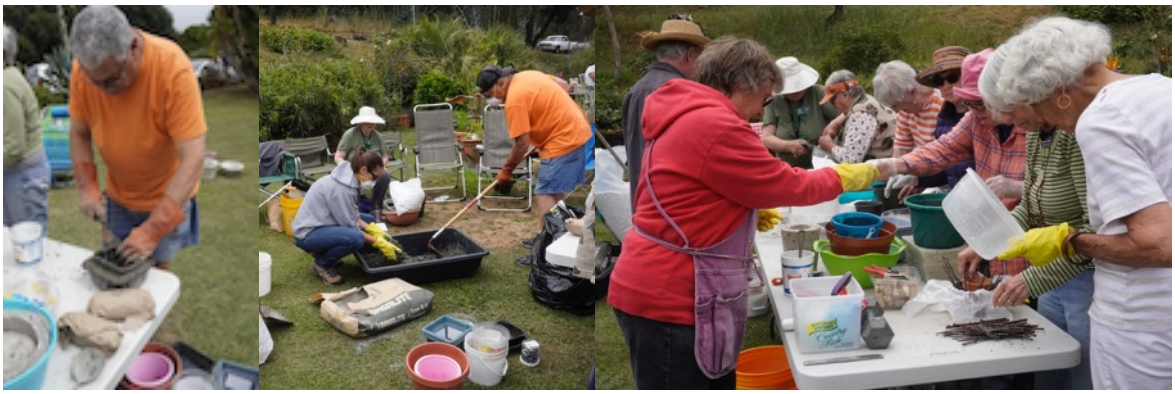
Monadenium: a genus now identified as Euphorbia

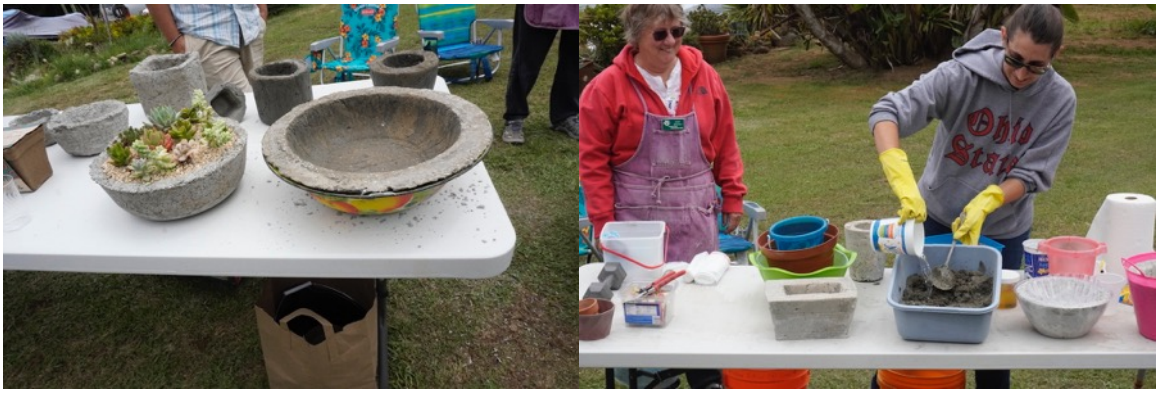
Pedilanthus: a genus now identified as Euphorbia

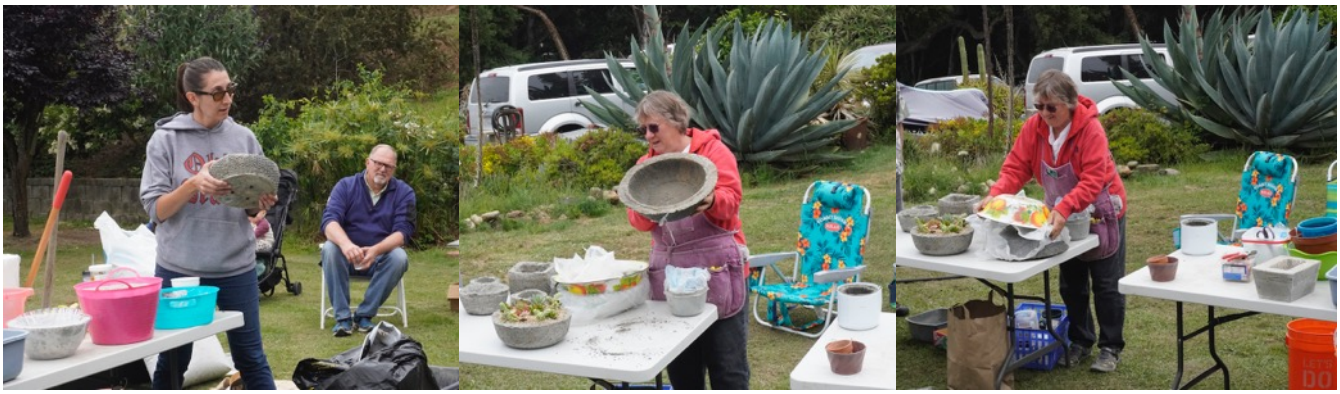
Monadenium heteropodum at the University of California Botanical Garden

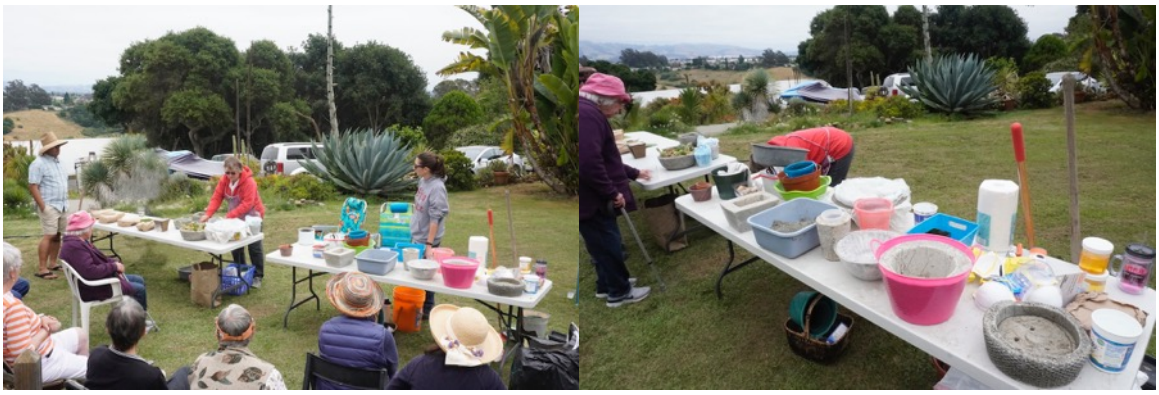
Hypertufa Workshop, June 2019

Photos by Paul Albert









MBACSS Calendar for 2019

Month	Program	Cactus Mini-Show	Succulent Mini-Show
January 20	Stephen McCabe: Succulents under threat: Poaching, fires, disease, and climate affecting Dudleyas	Espostoa, Cereus, Pilosocereus, Cleistocactus, Polaskia	Dudleya
February 17	J.D. Wilkert: Amazing Adromischus	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Aztekium, Discocactus	Aloe
March 17	Brian Kemble – Puyas: Bromeliad Royalty	Ferocactus, Echinocactus, Carnegiea.	Aeonium
April 13–14	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale 10 San Jose Street, San Juan Bautista, CA		
April 21	Stan Verkler – Visit to Namibia	Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Sclerocactus	Echeveria, Pachyphytum. Pachyveria, Graptoveria, Graptophytum
May 19	Peter Beiersdorfer— Journey to Europe's Hawaiian Islands: Volcanos, Aeoniums, and Super-Sized Daisies off the Coast of Northern Africa	Mammillaria, Melocactus	Gasteria, Haworthia
June 16	Sarah Martin & Suzy Brooks —Hypertufa Pots	No Mini-Show	Epiphyllum, Rhipsalis, Ceropegia, Sedum morganianum, Hatiora
July 21	Woody Minnich— #1— Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila #2—20 Years in the Atacama, The Land of the Copiapoa	Opuntia, Tacinga, Miqueliopuntia, Cylindropuntia, Micropuntia	Euphorbia, Monadenium, Jathropha, Pedilanthus
August 18	Country Store		
September 15	TBA	Paordia, (Notocactus), Gymnocalycium, Blossfeldia	Crassula, Kalanchoe
10/5–6	MBACSS Fall Show & Sale 10 San Jose Street, San Juan Bautista, CA		
October 20	Ernesto Sandoval—Forms and Functions of Cacti and succulents Inside and Out along with other Desert Dwellers	Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Escobaria. Pereskia	Pachyforms (Caudiforms, Pachycaulis)
November 17	TBA	Best of your collection! Must be in a 6" pot or smaller!	Aizoaceae Family: See SucculentGuide.com for qualifying genera.
December 15	Christmas Party		

Plant Raffle Provider Schedule for 2019

JAN Peter Biersdorfer (42)	JUL Stan Verkler (30)
FEB Gary Stubblefield (20); Sarah Martin (10)	AUG Stan Verkler (30)
MAR Jeff Brooks (30)	SEP Mary Cross (20)
APR Naomi Bloss(30)	OCT Sharon Lucchesi (10)
MAY JQ (15); Stan Verkler (20)	NOV Jorge Quiñonez (15)
JUN David Kurtz (24-30) epi	DEC n/a

Officers and Chairpersons, 2019

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 — Peter Beiersdorfer
SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks
WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

OFFICERS

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

Members Update

Here is a sample of the many hypertufa plant containers that members created during the June workshop.

Now that the members have gained hands-on experience with this process, they could be prepared to continue to to create new shapes, sizes and decorative details.

There is no substitute for practical experience, and no better motivation for creative urges than early success.

We encourage participants to bring their well-seasoned first efforts to Show & Tell at the July meeting, whether already planted or on display in their own right. We can all learn from your projects.

Given enough enthusiasm, we might have inspiration for another workshop, focusing on advanced techniques.

Let us know!