

Volume 33 Issue 9  
September 2019

# On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area  
Cactus & Succulent Society

## Contents

Contents	1
President's Message	1
August Board Minutes	2
September Program	3
MBACSS Calendar	4
September Mini-Show	5
Officers, Chairs	5
Member Update	5

## President's Message

During the September meeting we will focus on preparations for our 2019 Fall Show & Sale, scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> in San Juan Bautista. This is our major fund-raiser for the last quarter of the year, and a significant part of the first of our purposes:

1. Promotes a friendly exchange of ideas and information about the study, collection, culture and propagation of cacti and succulents;
2. Conducts activities such as programs, field trips, and speakers, and maintains a library;
3. Fosters scientific study of cacti and succulent by supporting grants and special projects by qualified investigators.

We have been doing quite well in all three of these areas. We are having a fine series of speakers. The presentation during our September meeting is a change of pace that will be interesting and educational. We'll soon look differently at our plants!

This year we are addressing Purpose #3 by making a substantial contribution to the CSSA's Research Program. We should receive a report of that program's achievements and information on how the CSSA used our timely contribution to support research. (We should also receive a report of the research findings.)

We return now to the first of our purposes, which we pursue every month through our meeting activities, and twice each year through our Show & Sale events. Sure, these occasions are vitally important fund-raisers, but they are also educational sessions, designed to encourage interest in collecting, growing and propagating succulents.

As always, we need your support to make the Show & Sale a success. See the Members Update section of this newsletter for a call for your volunteer participation.



An Arizona Garden scene at  
Stanford University

## Save the Date

### MBACSS Meets

September 15, 2019  
Gathering @ 12:00  
Potluck @ 12:30  
Program: 1:00

### Board Meets

September 15, 2019  
Board @ 11:00  
Members welcome

### Future Meetings

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

# Minutes—August Board Meeting

Board Members Present: Naomi Bloss , Mary Cross, Tom Karwin, Lidia Hernandez, Sharon Lucchesi, Sarah Martin, Jorge Quiñonez, Gary Stubblefield

Absent: Stan Verkler

Meeting called to order by Tom Karwin

Minutes from May 2019: Approved as published in On the Dry Side, June 2019.

## Chairpersons' Reports

**Treasury:** Lidia Hernandez reported that she provided a check to the CSSA Research Program, for the Society's educational contribution for 2019. The check has not yet been cashed by the CSSA.

**Membership:** Mary Cross recommend sending postcards for the Show & Sale using Bulk Mail rather than First Class to reduce postage costs.

**Sunshine Committee:** Sharon Lucchesi mailed "Get Well" wishes from the Society to MBACSS Members Rae Dean Soito and Karen Valentine.

**Program:** Sarah Martin reported our speaker for September will be Russell Wagner, who will bring his high-powered microscope. We will get magnified views of some of his plants, mostly conophytum types.

**CSSA:** Jorge Quiñonez attended the Affiliates' Meeting at the CSSA Convention. The health of the CSSA was discussed. Participants shared ideas related to encouraging young people, outreach, recruitment and retention. Gift memberships also were discussed. The 2021 CSSA Convention will take place in Denver, Colorado.

There was also discussion about adding "How To" articles to newsletters. The Board discussed whether or not such articles are appropriate for a newsletter, or for other channels, e.g., the website or Facebook page.

## Old Business

The Franchise Tax Board has identified an issue with Society's state tax return for 2018. Tom Karwin has written to the Franchise Tax Board resolve a miscommunication issue.

## New Business

Jorge Quiñonez suggested investing a portion of our fund balance in a CD or Money Market account through Wells Fargo (our bank). Even an interest rate of 1.9% could yield a decent return. This would only be a portion of our monies, so as to maintain liquidity as needed. The board was receptive to the concept. More discussion will be on next meeting's agenda.

## Fall Show & Sale

Peter Beiersdorfer has invited prospective vendors to the event. The board is awaiting his report on their responses. Vendors must be current members of MBAC&SS in order to sell.

Gary Stubblefield has given the layout of the event to Peter. Gary will be travelling and will not be at the event. Lidia Hernandez. will meet the table rental company for deliveries on Friday and pick up on Monday.

Remember to have checks made out to the MBACSS, not to Lidia Hernandez.

Gary Stubblefield asked for someone to place six Show & Sale signage in San Juan Bautista, Jorge Quiñonez kindly accepted this task. Gary will deliver the signs to Jorge.

We also discussed creating either bookmarks or business cards with our MBAC&SS meeting/show information—not sure we would have the time to create this before 2019 Fall show.

Happy News~Our Sarah Martin Segal is with child. Baby is due mid-January.

Meeting adjourned 12:15 PM

## September's Program

# Adventures in Succulent Microscopy

By Russell Wagner with Sarah Segal

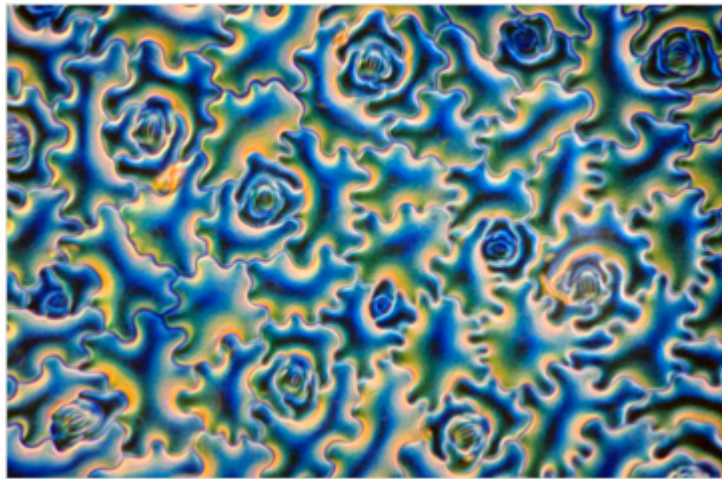
Feeling Experimental? Well, this month we are bringing you an entirely new program in the history of succulent-club programming! Russell Wagner teams up with Sarah Segal to present "Adventures in Succulent Microscopy," a live endeavor to explore the microcosm available to anyone who owns a succulent plant.

Of course, every succulent grower keeps a 10x loupe handy for observing mealy bugs, the fine fuzz on gibbaeum, the wily hairs of Kalanchoe, or the split anthers of a cactus flower spilling pollen. Or do they? Well, if you haven't explored the easily accessible micro-world of succulents, let's put some cactus spines under a digital scope and see what there is to see!

Here's the deal: Russell will bring ten things to look at under the scope, and you, the audience, are tasked with bringing in at least one thing to show off under magnification: the subtle sheen of a plant's skin, the tiny flowers of some rare bulb, an infestation of spider mite? You decide! Let's discover together the beauties and horrors of the seeds and hairs, the petals and pustules, of our favorite plants. You'll never look at your plants the same again! We may not have time to look at everything brought in, but we can get some ideas, at least, or where to begin.

Russell plans to just *talk*—to share thoughts and ideas with the club about the evolution of these microscopic structures, and the weird and varied ways we all can explore and enjoy our collections up close and in person. To re-discover our plants, to enjoy them in new ways, so even the same old collection always has something new to offer, takes creative play, and that's just what we're going to do.

Added bonus: bring in *your* favorite loupe, microscope, or hand lens and show us how *you* like to view your plants close up!



The surface of a succulent leaf shows the stomata and patterns  
(Slide from Wikipedia, not from Russel Wagner.)

### About the speaker

Russell Wagner, former editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal, works in consumer electronics in San Francisco, where he currently enjoys building marijuana vaporizers with Pax Labs. Although his background is in chemistry, and his job title (entirely unearned) is "engineer," his passion and vocation remain with succulent plants and bulbs. His specialties, as a protege of Steven Hammer, are rare mesembs and geophytes, and he's impressed by anything (among plants) tiny. You can imagine why a microscope would strike his fancy!

### Plants for sale

Russell is also among the Bay Area's premier growers of rare and unusual plants. His sale table is always filled with the most unusual and inaccessible seed-grown rarities, and this month he will have on offer a few recent seedlings, as well as a handful of mature specimens. Sale methods are simple: You pick the plants. Russell names the price. You're going to find \$3 plants next to \$100 plants, and everything in between.

Don't be shy: this is your opportunity to ask as many questions as you like, especially about the harder-to-grow mesembs and bulbs. Because if there's one thing we know about Russell, he likes to talk about plants!

# 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, Graptophyllum
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, Hattoria
July 21	Woody Minnich—Mexico, The Hidden Treasures of Coahuila and 20 Years in the Atacama, The Land of the Copiapoa	Opuntia, Tacinga, Miqueliopuntia, Cyllindropuntia, Micropuntia	Euphorbia, Monadenium, Jatropha, Pedilanthus
August 18	<b>Country Store</b>		
September 15	Russel Wagner with Sarah Segal—Adventures in Microscopy	Paordia, (Notocactus), Gymnocalycium, Blossfeldia	Crassula, Kalanchoe
October 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	<b>Christmas Party</b>		

## Plant Raffle Provider Schedule for 2019

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



# September's Mini-Show Selections

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information from Wikipedia

## Cactus

Parodia (Notocactus), Gymnocalycium, Blossfeldia



*Parodia magnifica*,  
Huntington Desert Garden



*Gymnocalycium baldianum*



*Blossfeldia liliputiana*

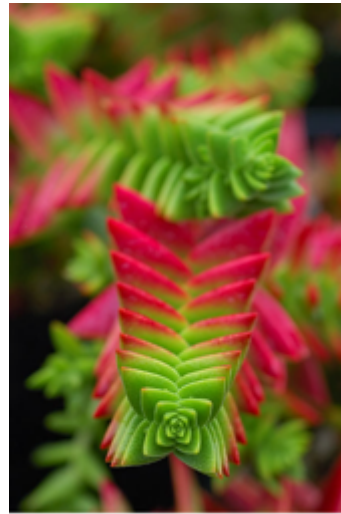
**Parodia** is a genus native to the uplands of Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. This genus has about 50 species, many of which have been transferred from *Eriocactus*, *Notocactus* and *Wigginsia*. They range from small globose plants to 1m tall columnar cacti. All are deeply ribbed and spiny, with single flowers at or near the crown. Some species produce offsets at the base.

**Gymnocalycium**, commonly called chin cactus, is a genus of about 70 South American species of cactus. The genus name *Gymnocalycium* (from Greek, "naked calyx") refers to the flower buds bearing no hair or spines. Their main area of distribution is Argentina, part of Uruguay, Paraguay, southern Bolivia and part of Brazil. Most species are rather small varying from 4 to 15 centimeters in size.

**Blossfeldia** is a genus with only one species, *Blossfeldia liliputiana*, native to N.W. Argentina and S. Bolivia. It grows at 1,200–3,500 m altitude in the Andes, typically growing in rock crevices, and often close to waterfalls.

## Succulent

Crassula, Kalanchoe



*Crassula ovata*



*Kalanchoe blossfeldian*



*Kalanchoe beharensis*

*Crassula* is a genus of succulent plants containing about 200 accepted species. They are members of the *Crassulaceae* family (stonecrop) and are native to many parts of the globe. Cultivated varieties originate almost exclusively from species from the Eastern Cape of South Africa. *Crassulas* are usually propagated by stem or leaf cuttings.

*Kalanchoe* is a genus of about 125 species of tropical, succulent flowering plants in the family *Crassulaceae*, from Madagascar and tropical Africa. Most are shrubs or perennial herbaceous plants, but a few are annual or biennial. The largest, *Kalanchoe beharensis*, can reach 20 ft tall, but most species are less than 3 ft tall. *Kalanchoes* open their flowers by growing new cells on the inner surface of the petals

# California's Public Cactus & Succulent Gardens

Some of our members could provide a quick overview of this topic, but for those less familiar with California's public resources for those who appreciate cacti & succulents, here goes.

This write-up was inspired by a recent article in the September issue of *Martha Stewart Living* about the restoration of the "Arizona Garden" on the campus of Stanford University. Reportedly, this work has been going on slowly since 1998 under the leadership of Julie Cain, assisted by a team of volunteers. The San Francisco CSS has provided expertise and lots of cuttings. The garden's current coordinator is Christy Smith, who told our own Sarah Martin about this article.

This garden was developed in the early 1880s. It has been several years since I visited this garden, and found it looking a bit neglected and sparse, at that time. I'm now inspired to see the improvements that have been accomplished.

You can read the brief article about its current status as "an oasis of sustainability and staying power" by clicking on this [link to the article](#).

The article mentions the Stanford garden's original designer, Rudolph Ulrich, a talented and very active garden designer and developer in the 1870s and 1880s. In addition to his work on Stanford's Arizona Garden, he also created a cactus and succulent garden at Monterey's Hotel del Monte, which is now the site of the Naval Postgraduate School. He developed another cactus and succulent garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park; that garden appears since to have been replaced. He provided the creative energy, artistic vision and hard work for several other gardens in California. For more info., click this [link to the article](#), "Rudolph Ulrich's Arizona Gardens," in *Pacific Horticulture*.

The article includes this interesting perspective on the design of California's public cactus and succulent gardens:

There are many spectacular dry gardens to be seen in California today, including the Desert Garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino and The Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, but these gardens are twentieth-century creations, and both are laid out in a naturalistic style. The Arizona gardens are true Victorian gardens, unique in their time for their formal layout and for the many rare plants they displayed. To visit the restored Arizona Gardens at Monterey, Stanford University, and Golden Gate Park is to walk back through time into the flamboyant horticultural past of the Gilded Age.

The Desert Garden at the Huntington Botanical Gardens is a "must-see" for the avid—or aspiring—cactus and succulent gardener. It features more than 2,000 species of succulents and desert plants in sixty landscaped beds. Quoting from the website: "The most significant collections are agave and related genera (*Agavaceae*), aloe (*Aloaceae*), terrestrial bromeliads (*Bromeliaceae*), cacti (*Cactaceae*), echeveria, crassula, sedum and related genera (*Crassulaceae*), euphorbia (*Euphorbiaceae*), and fouquieria (*Fouquieriaceae*)."

For an overview of this extraordinary installation, browse to this [link on the Huntington's website](#).

Finally, the Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery, in Walnut Creek, provides a stunning display of cacti and succulents that is relatively nearby for Monterey Bay area gardeners. At 3.5 acres (the Huntington's Desert Garden's 10 acres), the Bancroft Garden offers an accessible experience with a great range of plants, very well grown.

The Bancroft Garden opened its new Visitor & Education Center in late July 2019, providing a space for workshops and various public events.

For more info, visit this [link to the Bancroft website](#).





## 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

One of the important assignments for volunteers at the Fall Show & Sale involves staffing the check-out process. The jobs include operating the cash register and boxing the customer's newly acquired treasures. This work is both easy to do and enjoyable because it involves conversing with gardeners that are happy with their new plants.

Other assignments include exit security, managing the plant hotel, roaming the sales floor to respond to questions and monitoring the show plants to discourage handling.

There is also a need for help in closing down the event at the end of the day on Sunday. A small crew of energetic volunteers makes quick work of this activity.

Please come to the September meeting planning to volunteer for the Fall Show & Sale, which will be on October 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Remember, this is your Society and you can help make it succeed!



### On the Dry Side

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