

# On The Dry Side

## 2020 Is Almost Over

As the end of the year approaches, we have another chance to get together for an online meeting. We will meet **Sunday, December 20 at 11:00**. Jorge will send reminders for the meeting that include the link to get you in. You will also find the link in the newsletter. See page 3 for more information on the meeting.

Zoom meetings will be with us for at least the next 6 months. With that in mind, the board wants to help everyone join the meeting. It can be tricky and scary. I still have problems sometimes. If you want to join the meeting but don't know how to get started, please contact a board member to help walk you through it. The meeting will be available 30 minutes early to help get members into the meeting. The board is here to help you so please ask for help.

Nancy Thomsen  
Newsletter Editor



# MINUTES

**By Sharon Lucchesi**

MBAC&SS Board of Directors Meeting~November 29, 2020 11:00am

Present: Joseph Hidalgo, Naomi Bloss, Jorge Quinonez, Sharon Lucchesi, Roger Lane, Mary Cross, Sara Martin-Segal, Nancy Thomsen, Gary Stubblefield. Absent: Annie Wolf

New Business:

A Quorum was met.

Sad to report that our President Joseph Hidalgo will no longer be able to perform his duties as president of the MBAC&SS. We wish he, and his family the best during this most difficult time. Thank you for your past duties, Joseph. It was decided unanimously by the board to elect member, Mary Cross to the immediate position of president of the MBAC&SS. Mary will have support from Jorge Quinonez, and to others on the board, if need be, since Naomi, our current V.P. is unable to step into the presidential position.

Sharon Lucchesi moved for MBAC&SS to purchase its own Zoom account. Second by Sarah M-S and Mary C, all voted in favor. Roger L will look into purchasing said account~Jorge Q to help, if it is needed.

Librarian is still needed. Mary C will ask Suzy Brooks to write a blurb as to tasks the librarian has. Per our discussion, store, maintain, catalog book. Make available to membership-assist in checking books out and ensuring their return. Appeal will be included in December newsletter and well as at the December Zoom meeting.

Show dates for 2022 discussed, dates chosen are as follows:

Spring: April 22,23,24

Fall: September 16,17,18

Mary Cross sent in the necessary form and fee to the Secretary of State for the maintenance of our non-profit status.

Program: December 20, 2020 monthly meeting. A Q&A, members may present their questions to a panel. Tentative panel: Naomi Bloss, Roger Lane, possibly Ann Wolf and/or Jorge Quinonez.

Meeting to begin at 11:00

Meeting adjourned 12:10PM

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Lucchesi

# MEETING

**December 20, 2020**

This holiday Zoom program will feature three veteran members that will take questions submitted by you through the Zoom Chat function. Please think about questions that may focus on cacti and other succulents, cultivation, home landscaping and more. For information as to how to access the chat function, please see <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203650445-In-meeting-chat>. Once the chat window appears, look at the base of the window and you will see the word "Everybody". Immediately below that word, please type your question. The panelists will then verbally answer your question in the order received.

The club purchased its own Zoom account. We have been using the San Francisco Club account and the Monterey Bay Club board decided we need our own account.

This is the latest link I received for the meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87110618532?pwd=ZkR5T2tmS3NLMlpzMHRrWWhtMm13QT09>

It helps if you install the Zoom app before you try to get in. You can find it in your app store. When you get into Zoom, you will be asked to type your name. This will be on the screen with you so we all know each other. When you get in, you still are not completely in. I use a tablet or my phone and on the bottom of the screen is a row of icons. If you are using a computer, the icons may be in a different location. You will need to select both sound and video so you can be seen and heard. After that we will all be excited with you that you made it. If you have problems, you can call me and I will attempt to help. If I can't, we can try Jorge or Tom or Sharon or someone else to help us.

**Nancy Thomsen 831-905-3357**

# OTHER STUFF

## Librarian

The club is looking for a new librarian. You don't have to wear your glasses on a chain around your neck to take this position. The club has an extensive selection of books that need to be available to the membership. The board is working on an actual job description, but the basics are:

- An interest in cacti and succulents
- Space to keep the library (at least 168 books)
- When we start in person meetings, the librarian will bring a selection of books for the members to peruse. (I spelled that correctly on the first try) The librarian will also check books out to members. So you need to keep track of that
- The librarian needs to attend most if not all meetings
- If you want to get to know the members, this is a great way to do that

## Newsletter Sections

I have been thinking about new sections for the newsletter since I took the job last year. I think the newsletter should be for the members. I have some ideas and I want to hear yours.

### **I Thought It Was Dead**

Members send in photos and a short story of a plant that looked dead but revived itself or you revived it

### **I Got This Plant at a Meeting and Here is Today (it needs work)**

Back when we had in person meetings, we bought or won raffle plants. Probably half of my plants came that way. Now many of them are bigger and maybe blooming. I think it would be fun to show off these plants.

### **Where To Find Supplies?**

### **What Soil Does This Plant Need?**

These are not the only ideas. Let me know if you have something to share with the club. Send photos and a short story and I will put them in upcoming newsletters.

# MEET THE PANEL

## Panelists

### Naomi Bloss

Naomi started learning about and growing succulents when she lived in Washington, DC in the early 70's. She was invited to join a club and eventually helped organize the first regional Succulent/Cactus conference there. The family moved to California in 1980 and she insisted she have a greenhouse here! After a while she and several others started the MBACSS Club which began officially in 1986. Their first show and sale was at the Capitola Mall in Capitola. Next the shows and sales were moved to El Jardin's in San Juan Bautista for several years. She and her husband started "California Succulents" and she has sold succulents from there for many years. One of her many services to the club is to organize, get judges and run the Succulent Shows at the Spring and Fall Show and Sales.

She pretty much likes all succulents, especially mesembs. Many early plants she got from other club members, meetings and sales. She is very much into growing plants by seed now and is very good at identifying what plants are even if you only have a good picture instead of seeing the plant in person. And she is willing to answer any question about any aspect of succulent growing, propagating, people who are experts in some aspect of the field, and books about succulents that she is familiar with.

### Roger Lane

Roger first became interested in succulents in about 1985. At that time the shows featured about 70% cactus and only 30% other succulents so his first interest was cacti. He is a hobbyist with a large collection but not an official grower. His specialty now is plants from Madagascar such as Aloes, Pachipodiums, and other smallish plants. He also like Euphorbias from any country. A prize in his collection is a hugh Cyphosemma. (ask him about it!)

He is especially interested and experienced in traveling to other parts of the world to see plants in habitat and also loves to keep learning new information and about new plants, their features, where they come from, how to propagate them, etc. When he discovers a new plant he goes to his books to research their care, identity, etc. and/or may ask a fellow collector for information. Roger is the current Treasurer for the Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society and also belongs to other Succulent clubs.

### Stan Verkler

Stan has been interested in succulents since he was 5 years old and was supported in this by his parents as he was growing up. He is interested in all kinds of succulents. He moved to Santa Cruz and by 1991 had room to have a collection. He bought plants at the Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society show and sales, became a member, and his collection grew. He learned whatever he could at the meetings and eventually decided to become a small grower. Several years ago he was the President of the MBACSS Board of Directors.

Traveling to learn more about plants in habitat has been especially interesting and fun for him. He especially likes the Sunoran dessert plants, environment, scenery, etc. and other more isolated places in the United States where one can see where plants are growing naturally, their climates, landscapes, etc. He has also traveled to several other countries to do the same. He highly recommends utilizing the MBACSS Library to grow in your knowledge. He is open to any question about his experience and personal knowledge and books to use to do research, and learn.

### Question Suggestions

What is this plant? Where can I find \_\_\_\_\_? What book will tell me the most about \_\_\_\_\_? What is wrong with my plant? How do you get rid of (name a pest)? What does "monocarpic" mean? Where is a good place to see (e.g. Dudleyas) in habitat? Where can I learn more about \_\_\_\_\_? How do they identify what category a plant goes in? How much should I water my plants? And how often? Should my plants be fertilized in the winter or non-growing months?

Or any other question you can think about to help you with your plants.



# A PLANT PROJECT

**By Nancy Thomsen**

I was going through storage last weekend. I moved almost 7 years ago and some stuff has been in storage all that time. I went to clear out some stuff and find a few things. I found most of what I was looking for but as I was closing the door, I noticed the rusty red wagon. I grabbed that too and left. I immediately had a plan for that wagon - plants.



The next day we went to the nursery and I bought a box of plants for the wagon. My goal was to have a variety of colors, textures and shapes. This is what I eventually bought.

A few days later on a sunny warm afternoon, I started my project. I drilled holes and put in some weed block to catch the soil.



Then I added soil and plants. The wagon is shallower than I thought so the plants will not have much room to grow down. I originally planned to put nine 4" plants in, but stopped at 7 and added a couple of 2" plants. It is not a show piece now, but it will be fun to have the little wagon full of plants and watch them grow.

# LEADERSHIP

## Officers and Chairpersons for 2020

### Chairpersons

Librarian - OPEN  
Mini-Show - OPEN  
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Thomsen  
Photography - Paul Albert  
Fred Valentine  
Programs - Annie Wolf  
Publicity - Sharon Lucchesi  
Raffles - Gary Stubblefield  
Sale Floor Manager/Liaison - Peter Beiersdorfer  
Show - Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks  
Webmaster - Anita Crawley

### Officers

Acting President - Mary Cross  
Vice President - Naomi Bloss  
Secretary - Sharon Lucchesi  
Treasurer - Roger Lane  
Membership - Mary Cross  
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez  
Directors at Large  
Gary Stubblefield  
Sarah Martin-Segal  
Sharon Luccesi  
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin