

# On The Dry Side

With all that is going on in this country, I don't want to write this newsletter. But I have one job in this club and I'm going to do it. That is a paraphrase of one of my favorite quotes from the movie Galaxy Quest. We had a nice meeting last month. We asked and answered many questions from many members on many subjects - from identifying plants to caring for certain types of plants to how to deal with sick plants and how to propagate. We had more members attend this meeting but we still need outreach to help other members attend. The video meeting is challenging at first but once you get into the meeting it's great to chat with other members.

This is a photo of a Succulent Christmas Tree that member Shirley Amadon and her neighbors created. They started with tomato cage for the structure and filled it in to create this festive "tree."

Some of the board members send me newsletters from other clubs and organizations with lots of articles and information. I have to tell them I cannot generate 10 pages of content alone. I need support from members. If I don't get anything from others, you will be stuck with my stories. I am asking again, pick a subject that you know something about and write an article or tell a story.

Nancy Thomsen  
Newsletter Editor



Succulent Christmas Tree by Shirley Amadon

# MINUTES

**By Sharon Lucchesi**

January 3, 2021 —11:00 – 12:00

In attendance: Mary Cross, Sharon Lucchesi, Jorge Quinonez, Gary Stubblefield, Tom Karwin, Nancy Thomson, Roger Lane, Annie Wolf, Peter Biersdorfer, Sarah Martin Segal. Absent, Joseph Hidalgo, Stan Verkler, Naomi Bloss

Call to Order, 11:07 Mary Cross

Introductions and Welcomes Happy New Year to All Mary Cross

Minutes of December 2020 Sharon Lucchesi

Gary Stubblefield moved to approve December 2020 minutes as posted in newsletter. Sharon Lucchesi, second it- Mary Cross requested to change status of her presidency to "acting" president. She will "act" until Joseph is ready to return to the post before his term is completed at the end of this year. All voted in favor of this change.

Chairpersons' Reports

Treasury Roger Lane

Even though we had a "lean" meeting year in 2020, Roger has been busy with making payments for web page, State and Fed taxes, our own Zoom account, and Calif garden club/insurance. "The Treasurer presented a report of current financial status. The report is available to members upon request." Tom Karwin received a membership card from the Garden Club, and will keep it for us, if need be.

Membership Mary Cross

Reminder: Members who paid for 2020, will be automatically renewed for 2021. New members, for 2021, \$15.00 for the year. This will be posted on the web page, Sharon will communicate this to Anita.

Phone Calling Committee Naomi Bloss

Mary Cross will see if Naomi Bloss and Cheryl Allen were able to make phone calls to members, just to "check in."

Sunshine Committee Sharon Lucchesi

Mary Cross was able to make contact with Randy Bennett, member who sadly lost his home in the CZU complex fire. The wheels are turning slowly-but he does have a trailer to live in.

Program Annie Wolf

Discussion as to programs: Annie suggests that since there are so many opportunities to attend online events via other societies/clubs, that we keep our programs to members. It was decided that for January meeting, presentation by Anita Crawley & Gary Stubblefield, February: Roger Lane & Sharon Lucchesi, March: Peter Biersdorfer (if back in the states). April: Annie Wolf. Annie may also have a presentation in the work by Miles Anderson on propagation.

CSSA Jorge Quiñonez

The CSSA offers Zoom presentations every month. A great way to learn from experts from experts

## MINUTES CONTINUED

### Old/New Business

Portuguese Hall      Mary Cross

Our show dates for the year 2022 are set with the Portuguese Hall. They at this time have a deposit for the 2021 shows. After much discussion, it was decided that the planned show for Spring 2021, will be postponed due to still unknown situation with pandemic. There was discussion of possibly holding sale in parking lot, but too many variables involved. We will "wait and see" what Fall 2021 brings. Tom Karwin moved to advise Portuguese Hall of April Show postponement, second by Sarah Martin Segal—All in favor: all

### Discussion as to ways for club to sell plants/items

Gary sells at Farmer's Market, Sarah offered to make a Facebook Buy/Sell/Trade page for members to use.

Annie Wolf explained to us how the Fresno Society had a successful online auction. She will investigate what it will require and how to set such an auction for MBAC&SS

Schedule for Raffle Plant Providers      Jorge Quiñonez

n/a

Schedule for Plants for Monthly Mini Shows      Stan Verkler

n/a

Recruit Librarian      Board

We are still in need of a Librarian. (Anita C. currently is storing books at her home.) A Publicity Chair, and Show Chair, still have openings.

Next Board meeting: February 7, 2021 11:00 Zoom

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Lucchesi

Editors note: At the end of this meeting, I was selected to fill Sharon Lucchesi's seat as Member-at-large on the board.



# MEETING

**January 17, 2021**

The January meeting we will return to garden tours with presentation by Anita Crawley & Gary Stubblefield. These tours are a great way to get ideas and to ask questions about the gardens we see. Here are a couple of pictures of gardens to put our presenters on the spot and get our members excited about seeing gardens.



MBACSS is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86141656979?pwd=V0ptYm1PTHd6SGJ0UUhxU3BVWXI1UT09>

Meeting ID: 861 4165 6979

Passcode: 102694

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Passcode: 102694

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdLUC6CED4>

# 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.



# A PLANT PROJECT

**By Nancy Thomsen**

In the spring, we helped a friend get packed up for her move to Boston. We started in her backyard where she had several empty planters that she wasn't taking so she asked for them to be part of the dump run. As we started loading them in the truck, I realized I was going to keep them. They were inexpensive and dirty and I didn't have any planters this big, but I would figure something out. You can see them in the back of the truck and the spread out in the yard the day we got them. There were also some yard art pieces. I left them in the yard for some time and then decided to paint the little pagoda thing. I cleaned it off, found some black spray paint and went for it. It turned out pretty good. Then one beautiful Sunday morning, while in the yard I wondered if the spray paint would work on the planters. I did a quick cleaning on one of the big planters and hit it with the spray paint. It worked. So I painted that shoddy looking planter with the black paint and it was transformed. So I bought more spray paint and painted several more planters and transplanted some of my problem children plants into them. Some took off in their new roomy environments and others moped. Now everyone is content in their new homes.

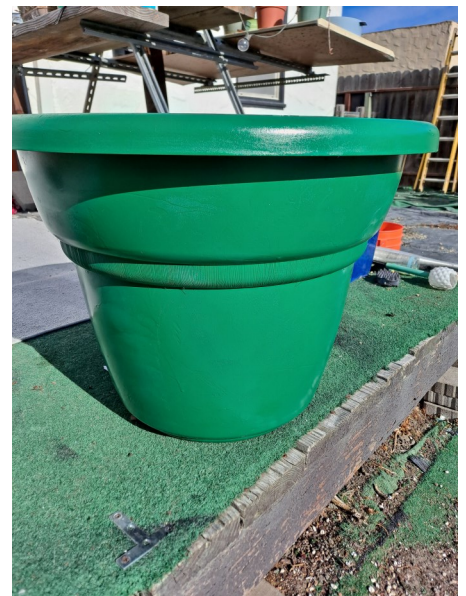


I documented the last planter I painted. It was a particularly dirty container. I sprayed it with the hose and scrubbed it with a brush, but it was still dirty, but that doesn't matter.



I use this Rustoleum brand. After this I tried a different brand thinking they are all the same. They are not all the same. This Rustoleum brand worked much better than the other brand. It covers everything in one coat and then you only need touch ups.

This is the planter before, after one coat and the finished product. At first I was concerned about drips, but soon realized no one can see the drips. If they bother you, you can take it more slowly than I do. The three photos are of the same spot for comparison. I did put a plant in this, but that story is for next month. I was surprised how easy this is and how nice the finished product turns out. I have these in several bright colors and just put in a shelf so I can see all of them at once.



# 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  
Nancy Thomsen  
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin