

On The Dry Side

Happy December!

This has been a year of renewal for the club. After months of not being able to meet due to COVID, we figured out how to hold meetings online before finally resuming in-person meetings. Our president was never able to take office due to COVID and family. It is our fortune that Mary Cross volunteered to be acting president for the remainder of the term. Mary was unaware of the extent of the job she stepped into, but has guided the club and learned along the way. Before COVID, Board of Directors meetings were held immediately before the membership meeting, due to the challenges of the last two years, Board meetings moved to the first Sunday of every month online. These meetings are open to all members. If you want to join, send a message to a board member and they will send the link to the meeting.

Before we resumed in-person meetings, we were informed that our former meeting location was no longer going to be available. Luckily, we found a new meeting site that even better meets our needs at the Corralitos Grange.

After cancelling three sales, we had a very successful Fall Sale in our new Watsonville location. Though we have had to skip several of our favorite activities, including the Country Store, we will be holding our popular Holiday Party this month. This year instead of a potluck, the party will be catered! Find more details for this event on page 4. Please come early.

We had an election of board members at the November meeting. The list of new board members is on page 3.

The photos in this edition are from our Mini Show in November. Check out the winners and more photos on page 5.



APPROVED MINUTES

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

Board of Directors Zoom Meeting Approved Minutes

November 7, 2021 —11:00 – 12:00

Call to Order: Mary Cross called the meeting to order at 11:05.

Board Members Present: Naomi Bloss, Jorge Quinonez, Mary Cross, Roger Lane, Gary Stubblefield, Stanley Verkler, Thomas Karwin, Lyn MacDonald, Nancy Thomsen.

Member Visitors: Jonelle Verdugo, Mel Foster, Arnulfo Figueroa, Lou Falek

Minutes: Minutes for the October 3, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as presented.

Chairpersons' Reports

Treasury: Roger Lane Reported October Income: from Dues: \$70 and the Raffle \$110. October Expenses were: Raffle Plants \$150, Speaker Honorarium \$200, Glavich books and Plants \$915, Library Cabinet \$862, Garden Club Dues \$415.25, Corralitos Grange Fee for November: \$150, Projection Screen at VFW \$300, Data Plan for iPad/barcodes \$54.09, Coffee supplies for meeting \$48.82. We need to keep the Treasurer Reports in a document repository. A committee consisting of Roger Lane, Lou Falek, Naomi Bloss, Jorge Quinonez was formed to explore possibilities for investing a portion of our money in an income earning account and changing to a different bank.

Membership: Lyn MacDonald reported she asked Nancy Thomsen to put the Membership renewal form in the November and December newsletters. She also will send emails to all the members including forms. It was affirmed that members who paid in October 2021 will be considered fully paid for 2022. Members who joined prior to October will need to renew for 2022.

Nancy will print a new membership roster in February for distribution to the members. Lyn and Nancy will work on this. Creating an electronic way for members to pay rather than by check will be explored by Roger Lane, Nancy Thomsen.

Sunshine Committee: Cheryl Albert was not present, but Mary reported that a long time member, Jeannie Echenique had a stroke. A sale of her collection will be next weekend and we are asked to promote it and support the sale

Program: Annie Wolf was not present, but the Board discussed program plans for Nov. & Dec.

November: Once again we will have a "Bring your own lunch" lunch with everyone wearing masks. Categories for the Mini-Show will be: Mamillaria Cactus, and Senecio and Othonna succulents. Arnie Figueroa agreed to be in charge of the Raffle. Gary Stubblefield will bring 30 plants for the raffle. The election will take place while members are eating lunch. Members will be invited to register if they want to attend the Christmas party/auction and to volunteer to help with decorations, sign ups, set-up & tear down, the auction, etc. Mary will bring sign-up sheets for volunteers. Stan will bring a flyer with info about volunteers needed. The speaker will be Brian Kemble, the curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, who will talk about South Africa's Garden Route especially about Aloes, Gasterias, Euphorbias.

A policy for reimbursing speakers was discussed and approved: Local speakers (from within 100 miles one way) will be given honorarium of \$150. Speakers from over 100 miles away one way will be given \$250.

December: Volunteers are asked to be at the Grange Hall at 11am to help set up. Newly elected Board Member Officers for 2022-23 will be officially installed. We will have a catered Holiday lunch of Turkey/Ham, 4 side dishes, salad and desert. Naomi and Stan are organizing the auction and will ask Peter and Jaan to assist. Members are invited to bring 3 plants valued at \$25 or more to auction, (be sure to put your name on your plants) with 75% of sales going to the member and 25% going to the Society (Or members can donate plants with all proceeds going to the Society). There will be a gift exchange: each member attending is invited to bring a plant or related item (e.g. pots, tools, books) worth \$15 to exchange for another gift of equal value.

CSSA: Jorge Quiñonez explained the CSSA election for Board members, described who was running and

HOUSEKEEPING

CONGRATS TO OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the November Membership in-person meeting at the Corralitos Grange Hall, after a couple of changes to the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, the following people were elected in an uncontested election to the Board:

Mary Louise Cross	President
Nancy Thomsen	Vice-President
John Guzik	Secretary
Roger Lane	Treasurer
Lyn MacDonald	Membership
Arnulfo Figueroa	Director at Large
Mel Foster	Director at Large
David Kurtz	Director at Large
Jorge Quiñonez	Affiliate Representative
Thomas Karwin	Immediate Past-President

Thank you all for being willing to serve the Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society for the years 2022 & 2023.

CHANGE TO THE BY-LAWS

In order to make a change to the By-Laws, it is required that the suggested change be printed in the newsletter the month prior to the vote at a regular membership meeting. Therefore, the following suggestion is presented for your consideration and approval:

"Should we change the by-laws to create a new permanent Board Position of "MBACSS Founder" to which Naomi Bloss would be installed?"

The change will be decided by a two-thirds vote of the members in attendance at our next membership meeting in January 2022.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you or some other member you know is sick, had surgery, is grieving a loss or in any way needs some support or good cheer, please contact Cheryl Albert (831-760-1894 or cherylalbert@charter.net). She will send a card from the Society to bring you "sunshine" and let you know we are thinking of you.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN AT OUR MEETINGS?

Our Program Chair person, Annie Wolf, does a good job of getting us knowledgeable, interesting, and informative speakers for our meetings. But some of our members have expressed an interest in more participative and practical meetings as well as speakers. This could be to especially help newer members learn about growing and caring for their plants. In the recent past we have had other activities to help us learn such as a panel of longtime members who could answer plant growing and care questions, creating pots from on hand materials, garden tours of members gardens, a workshop creating cement pots, and dealing with bugs in your garden. Is there something you would like to learn more about? Is there a speaker you think would be interested in hearing and learning from? Are there particular kinds of plants you would like the group to feature to learn about? Would you like to learn more about the other members of our society through group activities? Maybe you have expertise that you could share with the other members. Please come to the Membership Meeting on the third Sunday of each month to let the Board know what your suggestions and requests are.

HOLIDAY PARTY

Sunday, December 19, 2021

We are preparing for the traditional MBASSC Holiday Party at Corralitos Grange. This year lunch will be catered, so members planning to join in the festivities need to **RSVP by December 12th**. Please, e-mail Mary Cross at crossmarylouise@gmail.com to RSVP.

Date: Sunday December 19, 2021

Set-up will begin at 11:00 AM.

Many hands make light work. Members are invited to help set up tables & chairs, decorating, and other tasks.

Our holiday lunch will begin serving at 12:00 PM. We will have a catered lunch of Turkey/Ham, 4 side dishes, salad and dessert.

Volunteers willing to help serve are welcome. Please let us know if you want to help.

Holiday Raffle: New and returning members who have paid their 2022 dues will receive raffle tickets for Holiday Raffle. *MBACSS will provide plants for the raffle.*

You can get your raffle tickets at our member's table at the door, as well as a paddle for the live auction.

*Please bring **cash or checks** for the auction. We are unable to process credit cards at the grange due to poor Internet.*

Live Auction: Starts at around 1:15 PM

Members are invited to bring up to 3 plants valued at \$25 or more to auction (be sure to put your name on your plants) with 75% of auction sale price going to the member and 25% going to the Society. Or, members can donate plants with all proceeds going to the Society.

Gift exchange: Each member attending is invited to bring a plant or related item (e.g. pots, tools, books) worth \$15 to exchange for another gift of equal value. Names will be drawn from a hat.

Masks are required to be worn when you are not eating. Thank you!

Lyn MacDonald / Falek MBACSS Membership Coordinator



Happy Hanukkah

Bring cash or checks

There is no reliable phone or Wi-Fi service so we cannot accept credit or debit cards. Please have small bills for dues and auction as we will have limited cash on hand for making change. If using checks, bring at least 2 checks for dues and auction items.

NOVEMBER MINI SHOW

The Mini Show plants for November came from the Mammillaria, Senecio and Othonna families. Here are the winners and some photos of the plants by Paolo Albert.



Novice
Cactus: John Guzik
Succulent: Monica Moran

Intermediate
Cactus:
Succulent: Cheryl Albert

Advanced
Cactus: Roger Lane



Mini Show Categories

A Novice has been a member of MBACSS for 5 years or less.

The Intermediate category is for people who have been members for 6 or more years.

The Advanced group is for anyone who sells at any CSAA plant sale, is a professional grower or who wishes to move up voluntarily.

These are general guidelines. Feel free to enter in whichever category you think is appropriate.



*Thank
you
Stan
and
Paolo*



LEADERSHIP

Officers and Chairpersons for 2020 - 2021

Officers

President - Joseph Hidalgo
Acting President - Mary Cross
Vice President - Naomi Bloss
Secretary - Stan Verkler
Treasurer - Roger Lane
Membership - Lyn MacDonald
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large
 Gary Stubblefield
 Sarah Martin-Segal
 Nancy Thomsen
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin

Chairpersons

Librarians - Jonelle Verdugo and Mel Foster
Mini-Show - Stan Verkler
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Thomsen
Photography - Paul Albert and Fred Valentine
Programs - Annie Wolf
Publicity - Sharon Lucchesi
Raffles - Gary Stubblefield
Sale Floor Manager/Liaison - Peter Beiersdorfer
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks
Webmaster - Anita Crawley