

On The Dry Side

This month our program for the February in-person membership meeting will include two of our long time members, Naomi Bloss and Stan Verkler who will demonstrate and talk about soil mixtures and potting and/or re-potting plants and how to get your show plants ready.

There are many different mixes that can work for our succulents and cacti; some with things like sand, perlite, or pumas, some with almost no potting soil but all grit, etc. You can mix your own or purchase mixes.

Potting plants is almost a science in that the considerations are many; such as color combinations, size, shape and color of pots and plants, top dressings, decorative items or stones to add interest and balance out the plant. Re-potting is necessary for most plants as they age and can be challenging. Bring your questions and learn more about this interesting aspect of growing succulents and cactus. Or you can bring plants that you have a problem with, want to identify, or want to better care for. Plants need to be contained in plastic bags to prevent any bugs from migrating to other members plants. We can all learn from each other's questions and experience so bring your curiosity as well as your own experience and questions.



Remember to bring your own lunch. We will discuss having a potluck now that Covid is less virulent. California has removed the mask mandate, so we can meet "mask free" this month.

The mini-show will feature *Farocactus* in the cactus category and *Pelargoniums* in the succulent category. Bring your plant or up to three plants in these categories early so other members can see your plants and vote on the plants they like best. Dish gardens are also invited to show.

Show and Tell plants are also invited – something you grew from seeds, recuperated from some problem, a plant you particularly love and want to share with others, a plant that involves a story you want to tell, etc.

See you there!
Mary Cross
President

APPROVED MINUTES

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

Board of Directors Approved Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2022 —11:00 – 12:00

Call to Order; Mary Cross called the meeting to order at 11:03am.

Attendees: Nancy Thomsen, Roger Lane, Lyn MacDonald, Tom Karwin, Arnulfo Figueroa, Mel Foster, David Kurtz, Stan Verkler, visitors: Lou Falek

Minutes of December 5, 2021: John Guzik (edited by Mary Cross) Minutes were approved with one spelling correction

Treasury: Roger Lane reported that the total income from the Holiday party/ Auction is not complete due to confusion about amount to be donated to the club for some of the sales. Draft report: Income -\$629.22 refund from caterers, \$645 dues, Auction, \$3,650 (incomplete); Expenses – Jan. Rent \$150, CSSA dues \$50, Auction payments (incomplete), plants & party favors \$100, Stan for candies, \$32.97, misc. \$10.93, Sales tax from Sept. Sale \$68.26.

Ad Hoc Investment Committee Report (Tom, Roger, Lou, Naomi, Jorge) Jorge will arrange a Zoom meeting for the group to meet on-line.

New way for members to pay for dues, plants, etc. (Nancy & Roger) They will meet to begin the process. We have to find out if it is possible to do wi-fi at the Grange Hall.

Chairpersons' Reports

Membership: Lyn MacDonald reported there are currently 128 family members with 72 paid and 56 unpaid.

New Roster (Nancy & Lyn) The new printed roster is scheduled to be available at the February in-person Membership meeting.

Sunshine Committee: Cheryl Albert will be told that Gary Stubblefield had to be hospitalized so she can send him a card.

Program: December Holiday Party – Mary reported that we gave the Manager a holiday basket which he was very happy with. Some people were not very happy with the food we provided to everyone for free for the Holiday Party other than that it was generally agreed that it was fun and a good time.

January Membership meeting - Annie Wolf was not present, but Roger indicated Annie had gotten a commitment from Rob Skillen to be our speaker in January. He is known to be an amazing grower in Arroyo Grande and will talk about succulents in Yemen and the Island of Suqutra. Stan said the Mini-Show plants for January will be: Cactus – Stenocactus, Succulents – Conophytum. He will bring the raffle plants.

February Membership Meeting - The plants for the February meeting mini-show will be: Cactus – Farocactus, Succulents – Pelargoniums.

CSSA - Jorge Quiñonez indicated there was nothing new to report

APPROVED MINUTES

Continued

Old Business

Mini-Show plants for 2022 - Stan Verkler will schedule the plant categories for 2 months in advance.

Schedule for Raffle Plant Providers - Jorge Quiñonez will create a list for each month so everyone will know who is to bring them. We will discuss pricing of raffle plants at the next Board Meeting.

Our Screen at the VFW - Mary Cross reported there have been a number of complications with the screen but she will continue to communicate with the men who are willing to take it down. Arnie indicated his friend is still interested and willing to re-install it in the Grange Hall

New Business

Spring Show Chair – Nancy Thomsen volunteered to be the chairperson for the Spring Sale and Show April 22, 23, 24, 2022 at the Portuguese Hall. She will gather a committee. In February, after our Board meeting Nancy will call a meeting to review notes from the Fall Show and a general planning meeting.

Adjournment – was about 12:15pm



FEBRUARY MEETING

February Meeting Program

Naomi Bloss and Stan Verkler

This month, Naomi and Stan will answer questions on plant culture and help members get their plants ready to show at the upcoming Spring Show and Sale. Members are encouraged to bring a struggling plant or a good photo for suggested remedies. Members are also encouraged to bring their show plants for tips, advice and recommendations on presentation.

Naomi and Stan will answer your questions about soil mix, light exposure, watering or any other aspect of cactus and succulent growing. This will be a great time to ask all those questions you think about while out tending your plants. Keep a list on your phone or a pad and pen with you to write your questions. More questions equals more answers.

There will be a plant raffle after the presentation.

February Mini-Show

Ferocactus

Pelargonium

March Mini-Show

Dudleya

Mesemb
Corypantha

Our next in person membership meeting will be **Sunday, February 20** at the **Corralitos Grange -165 Little Corral Way, Corralitos**. There is plenty of parking near the hall and the building is ADA accessible.

We will meet at 12:00 noon for our lunch but come at 11:30 to help set up the room and catch up with other members. We will have a short meeting during our lunch to keep you informed about what is happening in the club. Our program will be from 12:30 to 1:30 or so followed by the mini-show and raffle.

SPRING SHOW AND SALE

April 22 - 24, 2022

MBACSS Spring Show and Sale

By Nancy Thomsen

When: April 22, 23 & 24, 2022

Time: Friday: 2-3 MBACSS Members Only

Saturday: 9 - 5

Where: Portuguese Hall in Watsonville

Friday: 3-5 Open to public

Sunday: 9-3

There will be a new perk for members - we are opening the sale on Friday, April 22 from 2 - 3 pm for members only and from 3 - 5 pm for the public. Members get first pick of the available vendors. If you have friends who want to get a jump on the crowd, they will be able to join and immediately get in to shop.

The show area will be enlarged and organized for a better flow and more display plants. The Spring Show is a judged show so we need more room. Peter Beiersdorfer is in charge of the sale and Naomi Bloss is in charge of the show. If you have any questions you can speak to them at the membership meeting.

I have a few leadership roles filled and a few are pending, but I still need one more. I need a Volunteer leader to communicate with the members who have signed up. We will be signing up volunteers at the February and March membership meetings.

- **Publicity** - Mary Cross
If you have any ideas or connections to media, let Mary know so we can coordinate our efforts. We want to get to as many audiences as possible. That includes newspapers, periodicals, What-to-do lists, etc.
- **Social Media** - Sarah Grandara
- **Volunteer Coordinator**
We need someone to text, email, call or otherwise communicate with volunteers who have signed up
- **Plant Hotel** - I have (just) asked a member to take on leadership
We need helpers watch over the area where customers keep their plants while continuing to shop
- **Food** - I have (just) asked a member to take on leadership
We need a few members to help set up lunch and keep things clean. We may need a volunteer to do some driving.
- **Cashiers**
No experience needed - scan bar codes and take payments via cash, check or card
- **Packers**
Pack purchased plants into boxes - great for anyone who loves to talk about plants!
- **Door Watchers**
Front door watchers - Greet customers and limit the number of customers entering the building. (We are limiting the number of people in the building at one time to 100.)
Back door watchers - Check receipts and watch for unpurchased plants leaving the building

Thank you to everyone who has taken on a role. I really appreciate your help.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of these positions or if you helped in an area last fall and have ideas, talk to me at the meeting or email me at nembuno@gmail.com.

HOUSEKEEPING

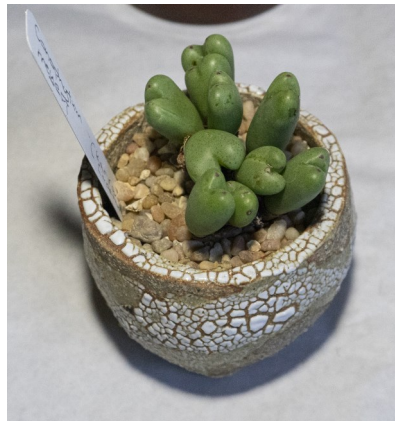
SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a member who 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 club to cheer them up and let them know we are thinking of them.

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 this membership meeting.

Here are some photos from
the January meeting Mini
Show



LEADERSHIP

Officers and Chairpersons for 2020 - 2021

Officers

President - Mary Cross
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen
Secretary - John Guzik
Treasurer - Roger Lane
Membership - Lyn MacDonald
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large
 Arnulfo Figueroa
 Mel Foster
 David Kurtz
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 - Sarah Grandara (Social Media)
Raffles - Arnie Figueroa
Sale Floor Manager/Liaison - Peter Beiersdorfer
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert
Webmaster - Anita Crawley