

On The Dry Side

Greetings from the President

Dear fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

Well, Spring has come in with a bang and kept me busy with weddings, graduations, and trips here and there. There's a lot to see in our beautiful state and I've been blessed with road trips up and down the state. I never seem to give myself enough time to stop at succulent gardens but maybe, now that some of the earlier Spring activities have been completed, I'll be able to do that also. I wasn't able to go with the group for the field trip the end of March but plan on attending the next one. I hope you can also.

Our April membership meeting, of course, didn't happen because of our Spring Sale and Show. We had a pretty good turn out and I very much enjoyed seeing some of you during the sale and seeing the beautiful and interesting plants you brought for the judged show. I am always so inspired to see what you have done with plants I may or may not have and I feel encouraged and happy to learn something new by talking with other attendees about what they are or are not doing. I got some lovely new plants and good tips on dealing with the dreaded mealy bugs! I hope it works as they are a constant problem in my small collection.

I look forward to seeing you on the 21st at the Corralitos Grange Hall.

Mary Louise Cross, MBACSS



APPROVED MINUTES

April 5, 2023

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

Members present: Mary Cross, Lyn MacDonald, Lou Falek, Arnie Figueroa, Jonelle Verdugo, Nancy Thomsen, David Kurtz, Thomas Karwin, Jorge Quiñonez, Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of March 1, 2022: Mary Cross for Meryl Abramson. Accepted as presented. Nancy requested that "Draft" be removed when copy is finalized.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Report accepted as presented. Lou noted that the costs for raffle plants (for Members' raffle and (premium) mini-show raffle) are reimbursed by the Society. Please provide a receipt of your costs to Lou if you have provided plants. (Secretary's note: Raffle plants are currently reimbursed at \$4.50 each; Premium plants (2 only) are reimbursed at \$25 each).

Regarding the upcoming Plant Sale: we pay for the hall rental a year in advance, however, before the sale we pay incidentals such as security deposit and any balance owed. Next month: Lou will file IRS paperwork that is due as a non-profit; it is unlikely that we will owe taxes, but we still must file. Sales tax has already been filed and paid. Re Budget: Lou keeps a spreadsheet with all monthly expenses. Mary has electronic copies of previous years' budgets and will send these to Lou.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Lyn has sent everyone, including unpaid former members, an e-mail about the sale. One great response was from Joe Thruskot, see below. We have about 6 additional new members for 2023. Lyn may make a sign for the entrance, that if members want their badges, to see her.

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross for Cheryl . No updates.

Program: Jorge Quiñonez. No April program due to show. May speaker is Brian Kemble of Ruth Bancroft Gardens. Plants for the regular and premium raffle will be provided by Gary Stubblefield. Mini-show featured plants are *Astrophytum* and *Sansevieria*.

Spring Sale: All. Roger has gotten judges for the show and they will be paid. Any volunteers that help with the judging should be at the Hall on Saturday morning before 8 a.m. There will be three cash registers and Lou will bring petty cash. Volunteering starts Friday, April 21, at 10:00 a.m.

Ivolunteer is up and active on the website. Nancy has ordered the tables.

Publicity: Postcards went out. Nancy designed the file, and the mailing guy printed and mailed the cards. It was felt this company was easy to deal with and did a nice job. Members, non-members, and a large database from San Jose were sent postcards; more than 1600 names/postcards were sent.

A copy of the flyer is on the website home page.

MINUTES CONTINUED

On 4/14, Tom's column in the S.C. Sentinel and Monterey Herald will announce the show. He plans to use some large pictures of succulents from previous shows, including one that shows tables full of plants with people browsing that Nancy will send him. Someone, we don't know who (but thanks!) put a meeting announcement in the Sentinel. The Board did not think that taking out an ad for the show is necessary.

On 4/15, Tom will join Joe Thruskot on his KSQD radio show "In the Garden" and will talk about the sale. Thank you to Joe for inviting us.

Social media: Leslie Shores is aware of the need to place show information on Instagram. She has recorded the general meeting on grafting and placed a copy on our Facebook page.

Food: Pizza Friday and likely tamales Saturday lunch, along with some salads, rice, and beans. Thank you to Arnie who will assist with ordering and pick-up at the Tamale Factory. Sunday food will be left-overs. There will be snacks. Gloria will bring the coffee pot. Mary will bring donuts on Sat. and Sunday morning.

Vendors: Peter not present.

Miscellaneous: Mary will bring a clipboard with a form or lined paper, to collect names and e-mail address of interested people. Mary will email people on the mailing list for whom she has only e-mail and not physical addresses.

(Secretary's Reminder from last month:) Signage: Lyn has the inside signs. Nancy has banners. Arnie said that we need a sign at the show to please leave all sale plants at the plant hotel before entering.

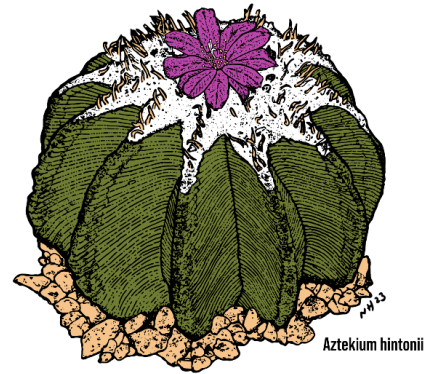
CSSA & Affiliates: Jorge Quiñonez. Jorge will mail the Board a copy of the current "To the Point" newsletter, which reprints articles from other clubs and is very informative. This year's conference is in July.

New Business: All. Field Trip: Arnie Figueroa reported that five people attended the trip to Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. A good time was had by all. Arnie will do a write-up about the trip for the next newsletter. We'd like to encourage members to consider the next one.

Monthly Board Meetings: Board discussed holding the meetings at an alternate time; evening meetings are hard for many. Decision tabled until next meeting.

Adjournment: Mary Cross

37th Annual **Inter-City** **Cactus & Succulent** **Show and Sale**



Save the Date !

Hello Plant Lovers,

Please save the date for the World's Largest Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale. The **Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale** is AUGUST 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2023. Advanced tickets required for LA County Arboretum Admission and the sale/show is free. The SALE is open on Friday the 4th from 8am to 5pm. The SHOW & SALE is open Saturday & Sunday the 5th & 6th from 8am to 5pm.

We have 23 Vendors from CA & NM with every possible type of succulent plants, handmade pottery, top dressing, & tools.

We have World class exhibits of rare and exotic as well as extremely mature specimens that can't be seen anywhere else!

We also have world class judges choosing our Trophy Table plants.

This is a great opportunity to be around people who love succulent plants and can rattle off just as many fun facts as you can.

For those traveling from afar....Please contact the Arboretum if your group wishes to travel by Bus. We already have commitments from Alaska & Texas. In past years, people have flown in from Japan & India.

For complete info on entering plants, please visit intercityshow.com and view the "plant entry rules". You DO NOT have to be member of any of the host clubs. We welcome ALL succulent plants!

We hope to see you and your plants!

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 2023

Mesembs at the Ruth Bancroft Garden Brian Kemble

The mesembs are well known for their dazzling flowers and also for how cryptic they can be when not in flower, since some of them can mimic the stones among which they grow. They range from tiny to bush-sized, but never larger than this. Some spread out in the fashion of a ground-cover, while others stay in a tight clump, or even are reduced to a single pair of fleshy leaves.

As one might expect from such a large group of plants, the mesembs range from common to rare and endangered, and there are hundreds of species which have never found their way into horticulture. In some cases, this is because they are difficult to keep alive, or are not considered horticulturally desirable, but in many other cases they simply haven't been tried. At the Ruth Bancroft Garden, we have been on the lookout for new species, and over the last decade or so quite a few of these have been incorporated into our plantings. This webinar will look into the various mesembs which we have grown at the garden, highlighting their beautiful flowers and their growing habits.

One of the most popular groups among mesemb collectors is *Lithops*, commonly called "living stones". Although these are truly "plant jewels", they have very specific watering needs, and will not survive our wet California winters if planted outdoors. These will get only a passing mention in our webinar, while other less-known groups such as *Cephalophyllum* will get much more attention, since they have proved successful here. We will look at over 100 species and cultivars belonging to 42 genera. A few of the photos are of greenhouse-grown plants, but the great majority are of plants in the garden.



MAY MEETING PART 2

May Mini Show

Cactus -- *Astrophytum*
Star Plants
Living Rocks



Succulent -- *Sansevieria*
Snake Plants



FALL SHOW AND SALE

Last month we had our annual Spring Show and Sale. Though there were some bumps along the way, we had a successful sale and wonderful show. The Spring Show is a judged show, so everyone brought their best plants. There was a wide variety of beautiful plants from very small to very large in many categories. I was not given the list of winners or the photos yet. I hope to get them in the newsletter next month. (That's a hint to everyone who needs to get me that information)

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

The board of directors extends their appreciation to everyone who helped out at the sale and show. It was great to meet all of the new members who volunteered. Peter managed the sale and Janet and Naomi managed the show. Our membership director, Lyn MacDonald spent almost the entire weekend at the event. She is the hardest working member of the club. Our President Mary Cross worked with the venue (not an easy job) and helped organize the food. Thank you to everyone for all of the hard work and to anyone who watched a door, cashiered, packed, watched the plant hotel, helped in the kitchen, swept the floor, or helped setup and tear down.

I also want to thank the vendors for participating and for all the help at the event.

This is the second time I have chaired this event (or is it the third?) As a group, we learn from every events. If you have any suggestions about the event, please talk to me or any board member at a meeting or send an email.

Nancy Thomsen

DIRECTORY

We will be printing a directory soon. The board of directors has decided to limit the information in the directory to:

Name City Email Phone Original membership year

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

May 21, 2023

Speaker - Brian Kemble

Topic - Mesembs at the Ruth Bancroft Garden

Mini Show Plants - Astrophytum & Sansevieria

June 18, 2023

Speaker - TBD

Topic -

Mini Show Plants - Gymnocalycium & Mesembs

July 16, 2023

Speaker - J. D. Wikert

Topic - Succulent Senecios

Mini Show Plants - Copiopoia & Dyckia or Hechtia
(any terrestrial bromeliads)

August 20, 2023

Country Store

September 15, 16, 17

Fall Show and Sale

October 22, 2023

Speaker - Fred Dotort

Topic - Succulents of

South Africa's Western Cape

Mini Show Plants - Mamalaria & Aloe

Future MBACSS Sales

Save the Dates

Here are the dates of the
upcoming sales for 2023

Fall 2023 - Sep 15, 16, 17

CENTRAL COAST CACTUS
& SUCCULENT SOCIETY

2023 SHOW & SALE MAY 27&28



Alcalafraea Ramoelii

15TH ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Nipomo High School, 525 N Thompson Ave

Saturday, May 27 – 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, May 28 – 10 am to 4 pm

NEW YOUTH GROWER CATEGORY

- Free admission & parking on-site
- Experts available for questions
- Rare plants & handmade pottery sale
- Cash/check/credit cards accepted



CCCSS WEBSITE



CCCSS FACEBOOK

STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH GUIDELINES WILL BE OBSERVED OR EXCEEDED



FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 2023 SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 10th – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, June 11th – 10 am to 4pm

Huge variety of cacti, succulents,
supplies and handmade pottery!

FREE PARKING & ADMISSION

2023
SHOW &
SALE
—
JUNE
10 & 11
—

EXPERTS WILL BE ON
HAND TO ANSWER
YOUR QUESTIONS
—

HUNDREDS OF
IMPRESSIVE CACTUS
& SUCCULENTS
SPECIMENS ON
DISPLAY

FRESNO
FAIRGROUNDS
COMMERCE BUILDING
1121 S. Chance Ave.
Fresno, CA 93702

www.fresnocss.com

FRESNOCSS@YAHOO.COM

LEADERSHIP

Officers and Chairpersons for 2022 - 2023

Officers

President - Mary Cross
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen
Secretary - Meryl Abramson
Treasurer - Lou Falek
Membership - Lyn MacDonald
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large
 Arnulfo Figueroa
 David Kurtz
 Jonelle Verdugo
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin
Founding Member - Naomi Bloss

Chairpersons

Librarian - Jonelle Verdugo
Mini-Show - Stan Verkler
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Thomsen
Photography - Paul Albert
Programs - Jorge Quiñónez
Publicity - Leslie Shores
Raffles - Arnie Figueroa
Sale Floor Manager - Peter Beiersdorfer
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert
Webmaster - Anita Crawley

Our next membership meeting will be:

Sunday, May 21, 2023
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.