

# On The Dry Side

## Greetings from the President

Dear fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

What do you think about this weird weather we are having what with rain in June, cloudy skies and cold weather? Our succulents are very affected by how much and the quality of the light they are getting so I assume our coolish weather is affecting them too. A part of me is missing the sun but another part is so very glad to not have the heat. I can work all day in my garden and not have it affect me drastically. I know summer is on the way... so I have to be patient for it to come in its own good time.

Last month our speaker was Brian Kemble from the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek. He shared with us information about the family - Mesembryanthemumaceae which is a huge big family of succulents - and showed us pictures and talked about a number of members of the genus Mesembryanthemum many of which are ice plants. He has worked with succulents of many kinds for many years and is an expert. I was very interested in what he had to say but personally, I want to see pictures of the plants rather than the flowers, especially in this category. Generally I do prefer to see the plants rather than the flowers because the flowers so often are very, very similar and quite small. I love the variety in succulent plants... colors, textures, shapes, sizes, appearance, growing characteristics. My collection has mostly soft succulents rather than cacti (which often have large spectacular flowers).

I'm looking forward to our June in-person Membership meeting (June 18) because our speaker this month is our fellow society and board member, Jorge Quinonez, who will tell us about Succulent Terrestrial Bromeliads. I don't think I know anything about that category of succulents, so I anticipate learning something new. The Mini-Show will feature Gymnocalycium in the cactus category and Mesembs like Lithops, Conophytum, etc. in the succulent category. Please bring your favorite plants in these categories to share with your fellow members who will vote which plants they like best. The winners receive raffle tickets as prizes. It's a really fun way to learn more about these kinds of plants.

I hope you are doing well in this weird weather regardless. I'm sure it will be very hot soon enough. See you at the Grange Hall on the 18th.

Your President,  
Mary Louise Cross



Photos By Paolo Albert

# APPROVED MINUTES

**May 3, 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, Stan Verkler, Peter Beiersdorfer, Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of April 5, 2022: Mary Cross. Accepted with one correction.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Report accepted as presented. Lou was commended for his complete and thorough report. Net profit from the Spring Show is \$1,120. Procedures for handling cash, memberships, and purchasing purple ribbon prizes need to be tighter. Nancy and Lou will get together before the Fall Show to help effect this. Jorge will provide a form to future judges to help them pre- calculate mileage. Show judges' pay will be capped at \$250, the same as for speakers at General Meetings.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Report accepted as presented. Board agreed that a membership directory will be printed (after April, when many renew); Nancy will print half as many as last year, about 50 copies. We will provide member name, year they joined, email, phone #, and the city in which they live.

Program: Jorge Quiñonez. 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*. Arnie and Jorge will remind Gary and Ellen about bringing the plants. Jorge will send Brian's bio to Nancy for the newsletter. Jorge sent out a program update to all, through year end.

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross. No updates from Cheryl

Spring Show & Sale: All. Mary apologized to Nancy and Dave for not ensuring that the wooden tables were placed in the correct way in storage. They had to move the tables at the end of the event. We will not use the wooden tables again as they are falling apart. Mary will ask for a second person to accept the key, with her, to also ensure that everything is returned to its exact place for Celeste.

Vendors: Peter. Vendors used less table space than planned. We had too much sales space for the numbers of customers who attended. We cannot expand the numbers of vendors without attracting more people to the Sale. David and Peter began discussion about a small vendor table and Peter explained how the smaller vendors handle pricing their plants. This is another potential membership perk, and a different kind of way to participate in the Sale. Mary will add this idea for discussion at the next Board meeting.

Publicity: All. Seemed to be better this time. Facebook ads targeted people looking at gardens, and older people. No one knew whether the ads were cost effective.

A number of people attended the Sale thanks to Tom's column and radio interview.

Our sandwich board sign was destroyed when someone knocked into a pole. Lyn is willing to create something taller and more visible, with a name and address.

Arnie put up about 15 signs & posters in Aptos. Some attendees mentioned seeing something in the La Selva library. Board agreed that we should place more emphasis on this for future shows.

## MINUTES CONTINUED

Mary will connect with the Master Gardener's Group and other gardening groups. The CSSA Calendar of Events did not note our sale, though Jorge had contacted them. We will continue to notify all five or so local cactus & succulent clubs, as well as notify radio and tv for publicity on their community calendars.

Food: Mary and Meryl. Too much food at previous sale, too little for this sale. Kudos to Abby Blair for handling Sunday lunch. Next time, Mary will assign different people to handle different meals. Arnie noted that Driscoll will provide a couple of cases of berries as a healthy snack for the fall show. People felt that the pizza was smaller, less tasty, and had less topping than last year, even though it came from the same restaurant.

CSSA & Affiliates: Jorge Quiñonez. The Board received an email 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.

Library: Jonelle Verdugo and David Kurtz. Discussion about buying new books and the current lack of room. A method for culling and keeping was agreed upon; we will sort based on how often a book has been checked out and yet keep it based upon the book's value. Arnie agreed to keep some books as we decide what to do with them. Meryl volunteered to be the third librarian, for now.

Old Business: All. The discussion on changing the time of the Board Meetings will be deferred until next month.

New Business: All. Arnie would like to start and head a committee to create a nicer succulent & cactus display at the Santa Cruz fairgrounds for the County Fair. There are cash prizes! His Mother-in-Law is head of the Horticulture Dept. there. Mary is interested. This could be great publicity for the Club. Timing is approximately mid-September.

Arnie will contact David and Stan to arrange the next field trip. It will likely be local to encourage more participation. Details to follow.

Nancy's deadline for newsletter submission is Friday, May 12. A link to "To the Point" will be added, so all can read it.

Adjournment: Mary Cross



# JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Sunday, June 18, 2023**

**"An Introduction to Terrestrial Bromeliads:  
An Overlooked Group of Succulent Plants"  
By Jorge Quiñónez**

Jorge Quiñónez is a school psychologist with a remarkable collection of succulent plants that he has been nurturing for approximately 10 years. Inspired by captivating habitat pictures featuring plants resembling agave or aloes alongside cacti, Jorge expanded his botanical pursuits three years ago by delving into the cultivation of succulent terrestrial bromeliads. These unique plants belong to a captivating group that often goes unnoticed by many growers and collectors. In this discussion, we will provide an insightful overview of succulent terrestrial bromeliads, exploring approximately half of the main genera within this fascinating plant group. Additionally, we will delve into valuable cultivation tips to assist fellow enthusiasts in their journey.

## **How to drill a drain hole in pottery**

Nancy Thomsen will be giving a demonstration on how to drill a hole in pottery like mugs, bowls, vases. Learn what items you need and how to use them. You can bring an item to drill. The demonstration will be after the presentation at the June meeting. This demonstration is for drilling pottery only, not glass.



# JUNE MINI SHOW

## June Mini Show

### Cactus -- Gymnocalycium



**Gymnocalycium**, commonly called chin cactus, is a genus of about 70 South American species of cactus. The genus name *Gymnocalycium* (from Greek, "naked calyx") refers to the flower buds bearing no hair or spines. Their main area of distribution is Argentina, part of Uruguay, Paraguay, southern Bolivia and part of Brazil. Most species are rather small varying from 4 to 15 centimetres in size. In cultivation they are popular for their easy flowering habits, and the flowers are generally brightly coloured. Where temperatures fall below 10 °C (50 °F) they must be cultivated under glass with heat. (Wikipedia)

### Succulent -- Mesembs

Photos from Brian Kemble



The **Aizoaceae**, or fig-marigold family, is a large family of dicotyledonous flowering plants containing 135 genera and about 1800 species. They are commonly known as ice plants or carpet weeds. They are often called vygies in South Africa and New Zealand. Highly succulent species that resemble stones are sometimes called mesembs. (Wikipedia)

## CLUB NEWS



Hello MBCSS members and friends. The Santa Cruz County Fair will be held September 13 – 17th in Watsonville, California. We are encouraging members to enter plants in floriculture department which has a wall outside the department building dedicated to cacti and succulents. Entering plants is similar to our shows at our biannual sales events. The official fair guide, which will contain details and rules, is currently being created and will be published mid to late summer. There has been poor representation of cacti and succulents the past several county fair's and I think we can make a difference. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Figueroa (831) 726-6634

### **MBACSS Members selling at Spring and Fall Sales**

The Board of Directors is considering making it possible for members to sell plants and other items at our Spring and Fall Sales. Other Societies, such as San Jose, have been doing that for some time. For this purpose a few tables would be made available in the sales area where members could put the items they have for sale. Members could offer a limited number of plants for sale (25 or fewer). The Society would get a percentage of the sales price and you'd keep the rest. You would have to take turns with other member sellers to tend to the tables and interact with the buyers. You would also be expected to volunteer to help out some with the sale by helping with cashiering, watching over the plant hotel and other duties. This could be an opportunity for members to part with some of their extra plants and to make room for acquiring new plants for their collection. Depending on the level of interest from members the MBACSS may facilitate member sales at an upcoming plant sale. All the details will be worked out when a decision is made to proceed with this. In order to gauge the level of interest in this idea we ask that you send email to David Kurtz <[dkruz1@gmail.com](mailto:dkruz1@gmail.com)> to indicate your interest or to ask questions.

### **Cactus and Succulent Society of America**

MBACSS is an affiliate member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. The CSSA distributes their electronic newsletter, "To the Point," to all affiliate club members at no charge. To get your free copy, use the link below and fill out the appropriate information. You will get information about Cactus and Succulents as well as about other events and activities in the Succulent world.

Use this link to sign up for the CSSA newsletter  
<https://mailchi.mp/eef901b778cf/z8k1tpng1v>

## CLUB NEWS

### Upcoming meetings:

#### **June 18, 2023**

Speaker - Jorge Quiñónez

Topic - Terrestrial Bromeliads

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 and 2024

**Fall 2023 - Sep 15, 16, 17**

**Spring 2024 - Apr 12, 13, 14**

**Fall 2024 - Aug 30, 31 Oct 1**



**56TH ANNUAL**

# **CSSA SHOW & SALE**

**JUNE 23-25, 2023**

**THE HUNTINGTON  
LIBRARY, ART MUSEUM,  
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**FOR TICKETS:**  
**HUNTINGTON.ORG**

**MORE INFO:**  
**CSSASHOW.COM**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH PAID ADMISSION OR HUNTINGTON MEMBERSHIP. ADVANCE ONLINE TIMED ENTRY RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED ON WEEKENDS FOR BOTH VISITORS AND MEMBERS. NO WALK-INS. FRIDAY RESERVATIONS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

**Hours 10 AM to 5 PM**

**1151 OXFORD ROAD, SAN MARINO, CA**

**INFORMATION 626-405-3571**

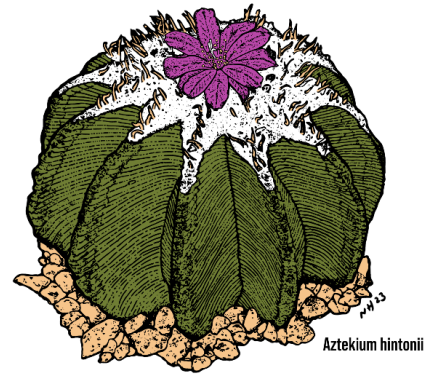
Open to the public with paid admission or Huntington membership  
Advance online timed entry reservations are now required **ONLY** on weekends  
for both visitors & members. **NO WALK-INS.** Limited daily capacity.

Friday sale reservations strongly recommended.

Go to the [huntington.org](https://www.huntington.org) website for tickets

See [www.cssashow.com](https://www.cssashow.com) for further details

# 37<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Advanced tickets required for LA County Arboretum Admission and the sale/show is free. The SALE is open on Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 5pm. The SHOW & SALE is open Saturday & Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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!

# 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, June 18, 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.