

# On The Dry Side

## Greetings from the President

Dear fellow MBACSS members,

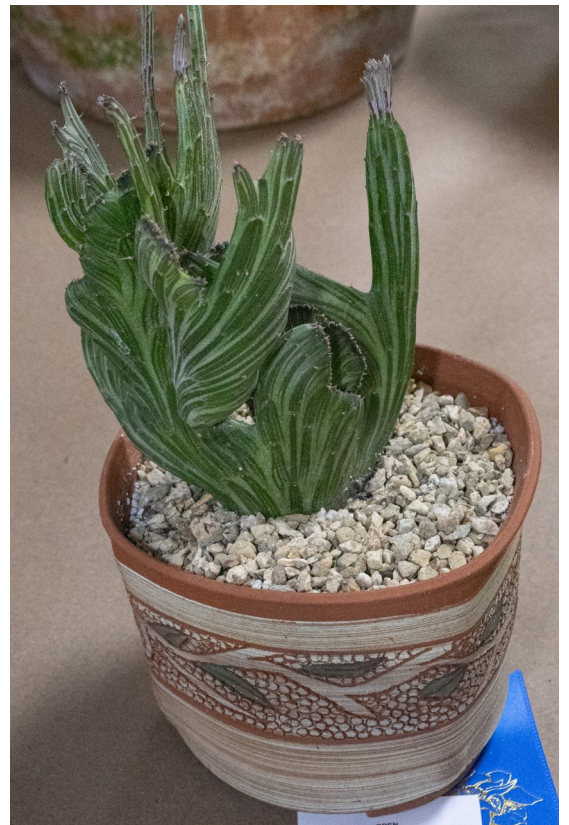
Happy belated 4th of July and Happy Summer! I'm a bit confused with this summer...some of us are being burned up with the heat and some of us have mostly clouds for much of the day. I hope you are adapting to whatever is going on in your neck of the woods and that your succulents and cactus are thriving.

At our June membership meeting our attendance was low due to a combination of competing activities: Father's Day, the annual sale and show in San Francisco (which evidently was a tremendous success!) and some competing local activities. Regardless, the faithful attendees were well informed about Succulent Terrestrial Bromeliads by our speaker and fellow member, Jorge Quiñonez. His research provided us with a well-organized and interesting presentation.

At our July meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>, we will hear from J. D. Wikert, a grower from Lodi who will share information with us about Senecios. I haven't heard a talk on that genera yet so am looking forward to learning new stuff. I have several unusual plants that are Senecios and can always use more knowledge to help them thrive.

Anyone who would like to understand how MBACSS functions is invited to attend the Board meetings (which are open to all members). Feel free to contact me for the Zoom ID. We meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7:00pm on Zoom. It would offer you an opportunity to get to know your board members and maybe even participate in making the meetings more inclusive and interesting. Or if you have a topic you would like to learn more about at a membership meeting, please let me know and we will try to find ways to present it.

Mary Louise Cross,  
MBACSS



Photos By Paolo Albert

# APPROVED MINUTES

**June 7, 2023**

June 7, 2023, 7:05 – 8:33 p.m.

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

Members present: Mary Cross, Lyn MacDonald, Lou Falek, Arnie Figueroa, Jonelle Verdugo, Nancy Thomsen, David Kurtz, Jorge Quiñonez, Stan Verkler, Peter Beiersdorfer, Cheryl Albert, and Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of May 3, 2023: Mary Cross/Meryl Abramson. Accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Report accepted as presented. Lou noted one additional expense, to the CGCI which provides the Club's insurance. The tax return is filed. Anyone who would like to see it e-mail Lou.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Lyn sent out the rest of the laminated badges to members who did not get theirs. Nancy will try to have the rosters at the next general meeting.

Program: Jorge Quiñonez. We do not have a speaker for the June meeting, so Jorge will speak about succulent terrestrial bromeliads. Nancy will then show "how to drill a ceramic or clay pot". At this meeting, Mary will handle the mini-show, and Arnie will handle the raffle.

The Board agreed to hold the "Company Store" August program at Naomi's house in August.

CSSA Affiliate: Jorge Quiñonez. Jorge is attending the meeting in Colorado Springs. There is a National Annual Membership meeting on June 10 via Zoom, between 1-2 p.m. PDT.

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross. Cheryl sent a card to Lyn, Gary Stubblefield, and Jonelle.

Library: Jonelle Verdugo and All. Stan will help go through the books and suggests that we resolve issues of what we keep/give away by October. Jonelle has a current list of all books in a Google document spreadsheet. We could have 'The Library' as topic at a general meeting.

Old Business: All. A member complained that in the newsletter, all plants should be identified. It was agreed that naming the genus as a minimum would be fine. Stan/Naomi/Jorge would help with the identification.

Board meetings will continue being held on zoom on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

New Business: All. Arnie spoke more about the Club's possible involvement at the County Fair, the second week of Sept. He will provide more details at the next Board meeting, and write up a short summary for the newsletter.

Next field trip: More ideas were raised. David, Stan and Arnie will decide where the next trip will be, and set a date.

Fall sale and show: David will write a blurb in the newsletter encouraging small vendor participation. If there is little interest, the Board will not push for it.

Nancy's deadline for newsletter submission is a.s.a.p.

Adjournment: Mary Cross

## CLUB STUFF

### **Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale August 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2023**

Hello participating clubs!

It is time again for our hobby's largest event of the year. A little competition, a little shopping, and a lot of comradery! Come join your fellow plant enthusiasts in the **Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale held this year on August 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2023.**

Sale- AUGUST 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2023. 8am to 5pm each day.

Show- AUGUST 5th & 6th, 2023. 8am to 5pm each day.

Dinner- Saturday AUGUST 5th.

Social hour at 5pm

dinner at 6pm

Elevated taco bar including dessert and soft drinks

MUST Pre-pay by check or money order mailed to

501 San Luis Rey Road Arcadia, CA 91007.

Priority is given to show participants.

Absolutely no begging at the last minute (sorry), please plan ahead.

Our Show & Sale will be in the same wonderful Location:

The LA County Arboretum

301 N Baldwin Ave Arcadia, CA 91007.

Advanced Arboretum tickets required for those not personally entering plants or volunteering.

Parking- Volunteers and anyone staying all day, please park in "employee parking". Every spot we can free up is a spot for a customer or two. This year, the Arboretum Gate monitors will be enforcing this request.

Thank you to all participants !

### **From The Librarians**

The club has an extensive library of books on cacti, succulents and related subjects. Books may be checked out at meetings. The bulk of the books are available at every meeting. We keep them on site at the grange hall. You are welcome to peruse the books before meetings. There is a librarian available at every meeting to help answer questions and take suggestions. The club is starting to acquire new books and The Librarians excited to share them with members. If you are having problems with a plant or just love a variety, there is at least one book for you!

We have a new acquisition for our library. This book, called Chasing Centuries, is about the Agave species that grow in the Arizona area and how those plants were used by native inhabitants. This is from the publisher of the book;

*"Chasing Centuries is a one-of-a-kind travel-history book that takes the reader along on an exciting and little known adventure at the crossroads of archaeology and botany. Travel with author Ron Parker as he explores the depth and duration of human/agave coevolution across the desert southwest, and discovers unusual agaves apparently associated with archaeological sites long since abandoned by residents of extinct ancient cultures. These agaves appear to be anthropogenic cultivars; living archaeological relics developed and planted by indigenous pre-Columbian Native Americans, and many are still growing exactly where they were planted hundreds of years ago."*

# JULY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Sunday, July 16, 2023**



## Senecio

J.D. Wikert

Our speaker this month will be J.D. Wikert. He has been actively propagating succulent plants for 15+ years. He will be speaking on the succulents of the genus *Senecio* (including the updated taxonomic revision). J.D.'s presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of many of the more readily available species.

J.D. is a fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in the Central Valley and lives in Lodi, California. Previously, he worked in Florida sampling fish and doing lake restoration. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 100 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has figured out how to kill many succulent species and mostly grows the ones he can keep alive. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies, and is currently trying to resuscitate the Stockton Cactus and Succulent Society after a long Covid hiatus.

J.D. has a number of presentations on succulent plants that he has given in the past, so if you like the current talk but would like more, feel free to request any of the others from this list: *Adromischus*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia*, *Sedum*, and *Stapeliads*. He also has a general talk on succulent care and a new presentation on watering succulents. J.D. has developed these talks to teach himself more about these cool groups of plants, but by no means considers himself an expert. J.D. also spends way too much time on Facebook in various succulent plant groups.



# JULY MINI SHOW

## July Mini Show

### Cactus -- White Globose Mammallaria

Mammillaria, one of the largest genera in the cactus family (Cactaceae), contains about 250 known species. Most mammillaria are native to Mexico, but some come from the southwest United States, northern South America, Central America and the Caribbean. There is an extraordinary diversity of form among them, and many have magnificent spines. The plants are usually small, globose to elongated, the stems from 1 to 20 centimeters (1/2 to 7+3/4 inches) in diameter and from 1 to 40 cm (1/2 to 15+3/4 in) tall. Numerous species are commonly known as globe cactus, nipple cactus, birthday cake cactus, and fish hook or pincushion cactus though such terms may also be used for related taxa. The forms featured at our Mini-Show in July will be the round globe shaped and white spined varieties, such as *M. gracilis*, *M. hahniana*, *M. esseriana*, *M. calacantha*.



### Succulent -- Columnar Shaped Euphorbia

*Euphorbia* is a very large and diverse genus of flowering plants, commonly called spurge, in the family Euphorbiaceae. Euphorbias range from tiny annual plants to large and long-lived trees. The genus has roughly 2,000 members, making it one of the largest genera of flowering plants. Some euphorbias are widely available commercially, such as poinsettias at Christmas. Some are commonly cultivated as ornamentals, or collected and highly valued for the aesthetic appearance of their unique floral structures, such as the crown of thorns plant (*Euphorbia milii*). Because of characteristics that are similar to members of the Cactaceae family, they are often incorrectly referred to as cacti. The forms featured at our Mini-Show in July will be the columnar shaped varieties of *Euphorbia*, such as *E. mammilaris*, *E. pseudocactus*, *E. petagona*, *E. lactea*.



## 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

### 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](mailto:cherylalbert@charter.net)). She will send a card from the club to cheer them up and let them know we are thinking of them.

### 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:

#### **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

#### **November 19, 2023**

Speaker - Daisy Szeto

Topic - Workshop - Make a Succulent Wreath

Mini Show Plants - Grafted Cacti & Thorny Madagascar plants

### **Future MBACSS Sales**

#### **Save the Dates**

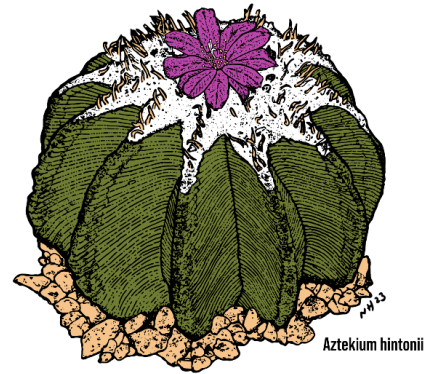
Here are the dates of the upcoming sales for 2023 and 2024

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

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

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

# 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.