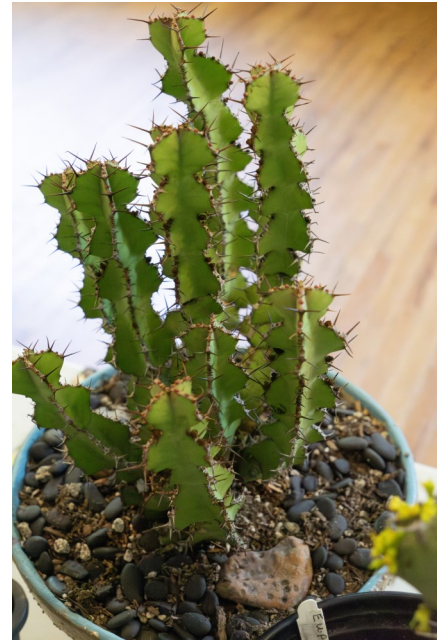


On The Dry Side

Greetings from the President

Dear fellow MBACSS members,

Can you believe it...the kids are already going back to school! Does summer get shorter or is it just that I'm getting older? Anyway, my summer growing succulents are very happy these days and my winter growers are resting nicely. I've had to do some research to determine which are which and how to best take care of them with their different needs. The internet is very helpful in this endeavor but the books I read have much more detailed information. Just in case you didn't know it, our Society has a very nice library with a wide variety of books that members can check out and take home with them. At the next in-person meeting at the Grange Hall, be sure to check it out.



At our July meeting on the 16th, we heard a very interesting talk with slides by J. D. Wikert, a grower from Lodi who shared information with us about Senecios and the Taxonomy concerning identifying and naming succulent genera. I was pleased that he did not talk over everyone's heads and he did not talk down to those of us who are not as knowledgeable. As with most speakers, he brought some plants to sell as well. J.D. is noted for selling very healthy plants, at below premium prices! Thanks J.D. We hope to see him again next year some time talking to us about a different genera.

I, personally am very much looking forward to our August meeting and the Country Store. We are meeting at the home of our founding member, Naomi Boss, on 134 Trabing Rd. in Watsonville and hope many, many of you will attend. As in years before, the Country Store is a chance for us to share plants with each other (Cacti and Succulents) as well as miscellaneous stuff like tools, books, equipment, etc.

Bring your own lunch and drink as we eat lunch together and have a little meeting. Buy some tickets, have some fun! I hope to see you then.

Mary Louise Cross,
MBACSS



Photos By Paolo Albert

APPROVED MINUTES

July 5, 2023

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

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

Minutes of June 6, 2023: Mary Cross/Meryl Abramson. Accepted as presented with one change: August meeting is "Country" Store.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Report accepted as presented. Raffle cash was about \$55. Jorge had speaker fees and raffle plants.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Two new members in June for a total of 156 members, 96 singles and the rest family.

Program: Mary Cross. June meeting had about 20 people; it was Father's Day and the succulent sale in S.F. We forgot to do Nancy's piece about drilling pots. Mini-show had only 3 entries.

Jorge: J.D. Wikert for **July**, speaking about Senecios. Changing mini-show to white globose mammillaria for cacti and columnar euphorbias (South Africa) for succulents. Gloria will supply regular raffle plants and Daisy will supply premium plants. It was noted, again, that premium plants are only for the participants of the mini-show. Two tickets to the first prize winner, 1 ticket for the second prize winner. This has nothing to do with the raffle.

We should try out the neck mike for the speaker at the next meeting. Stan will confirm with Naomi that we are holding the August meeting/Country Store at her house. Mary will get the coffeepot from Gloria and set up coffee at the next meeting.

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross. No updates.

Old Business: Library: Jonelle, David, Meryl. Mary thanked Jonelle for preparing a current list of all library books. David will write a review of new books for the newsletter, in part to generate interest for the Library. This will be added to the job description for the Librarian. A dozen or so books should be out on the table at each meeting, possibly connected to the speaker topic or mini-show plants. Stan and David will meet at 11:00 at the next meeting for Stan to review Library's content so we can decide what to sell/give away.

New Business: All. Driscoll has awarded the Club \$1,000. Many thanks to Arnie for applying for and securing this.

Fall sale and show: Nancy will be in charge. There will be 2-hour shifts instead of three. She will get all of the food in on Friday, for making sandwiches. This is not a judged show, we will need fewer tables. Discussed having judged (spring) show on Fridays for the convenience of judges who travel to us. *Stan will give Peter the name of a potter who he met.* We discussed having one, not two, sales in a year, although we have already reserved and purchased space for two in 2024. To be discussed further next month; several other clubs present only one sale each year. Discussed signs, banners, publicity, and increasing overall sales. To increase sales, how do we make this a more memorable experience? (Food trucks? Activities for kids? Speakers? Demos? Entertainment?) Could some of the local nurseries be vendors? (And, they could help promote the sale by having flyers by their registers). *Stan will reach out to Baja Cactus in Corralito's.* Do we check for competing events in local community calendars? (Hard to do, as we have to book space one year in advance, and we cover multiple communities). Most felt our biggest failing is advertising. Discussed finding a young member to handle social media, or hire someone to do this as it is a big job. *Stan knows someone, he will find out what they charge.* **Small vendor possibility:** David received only one interested party as a response to his notice in the newsletter. The concept of a small, multiple vendor table will no longer be pursued; if someone has a few plants to sell, they can bring (sell the club) plants for the raffle (20 regular or 2 for premium). Note: San Francisco club sale had 4,000 people attend and \$275,000 in sales (!) However, San Jose's sales were also down.

Next field trip: UCSC Arboretum discussed, Saturday date needed. Richard Deming offered to host a garden party at his home. *Stan, David, and Arnie will discuss and return next month with some dates and a decision about destination.*

Adjournment: Mary Cross

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson 7/19/23

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, August 20, 2023

August Meeting: Country Store August 20th 12:00pm

Our August meeting will be the annual Country Store held at Naomi Bloss' house in Watsonville. This event is a club favorite and we encourage everyone to join in on the fun.

How it works:

- Everyone brings 4-8 items to contribute to the store. This can include healthy, strong plants (does not have to be rare or expensive), books, pots, top dressings, tools, art, or anything related.
- Items are separated onto tables by category
- Tickets are sold at 8 tickets for \$5.00
- Members put their tickets towards the table they'd like to be drawn to choose from
- Names are picked raffle style and members get their pick from the items left on the table

This event turns into a fun, loud, social event and we all get to go home with new plants and items to enjoy. The proceeds of the Country Store go to the club to fund future events

- Bring a chair
- Bring a snack or lunch
- Bring a box to take home your new plants
- Come early to wander through the greenhouses

134 Trabing Road, Watsonville

Take the Buena Vista Exit off Hwy 1

From the south head away from the hwy to Trabing Road

From the north head across the hwy to Trabing Road

Turn left on Trabing and right on Azure Lane

THANK YOU



THANK YOU!

Driscoll's

\$1,000 Grant

Last year the club received a \$1,000 grant from Driscoll's, the berry company in Watsonville. We used that to buy name badges for our active members. We bought nice plastic magnet badges for any active member who requested one.

Last month we received another \$1,000 grant. This year the board has specified that we use the funds for field trips. Our Field Trip committee has been working on new trip ideas for several months. The club will use the funds to pay for some parts for the trip, for example, lunch or fuel or entrance fee. We appreciate the support.

THANK YOU!

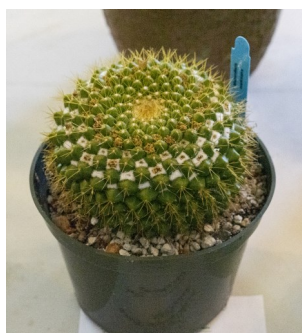
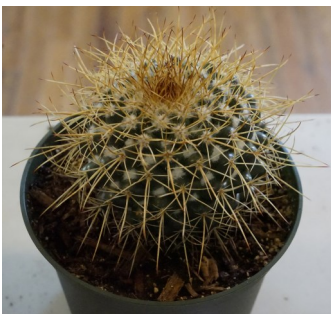
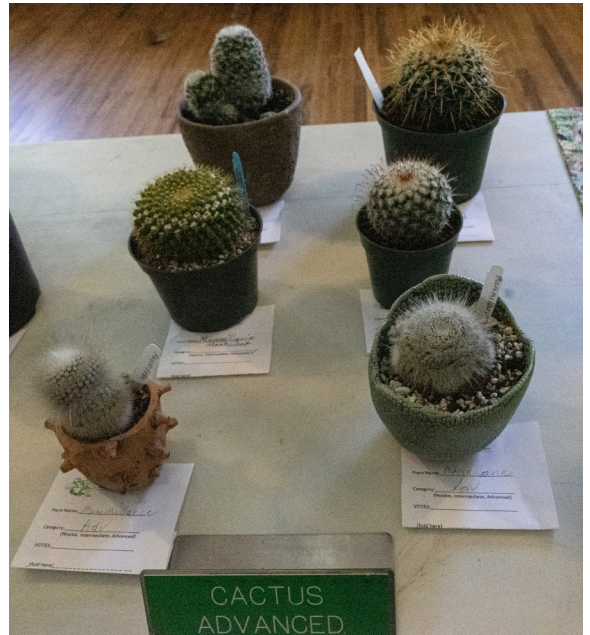
Arnie Figueroa

Arnie is a member of our club and a member of the board of directors. He also works for Driscoll's and applied for the grant for us both years. Arnie runs the raffle at our meetings. Please take a moment to thank him when you see him.

JULY MINI SHOW



Here are more photos
from the July Mini Show
featuring
White Globose Mammallaria
Columnar Shaped Euphorbia



CLUB NEWS

Fall Show and Sale September 15, 16, 17, 2023

The Fall Show and Sale is next month. The link for sign-ups is active. By popular demand, the time slots are now 2 hours. We need help in all areas, so there should be a spot for you. The Front Door and Show Monitor positions are sitting jobs. The Cashier and Packing positions are active and you get to see what everyone is buying. The Back Door position includes helping customers take their purchases to their car and checking that nothing slips out unpurchased. If you have never worked at the sale, it is a great way to meet other members, meet and talk to the vendors, check out all the items and plants for sale and take home some new plants.

Use the link below or the QR Code to sign-up.



https://mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer_fall_2023



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

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

August 20, 2023

Country Store @ Naomi Bloss'

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

December 17, 2023

End of the Year Membership Party

Corralitos Grange

Holiday meal

Live and Silent Auctions

Future MBACSS Sales Save the Dates

Here are the dates of the upcoming sales

Fall 2023 - Sep 15, 16, 17

Spring 2024 - Apr 12, 13, 14

Fall 2024 - Aug 30, 31 Oct 1

From The Librarians

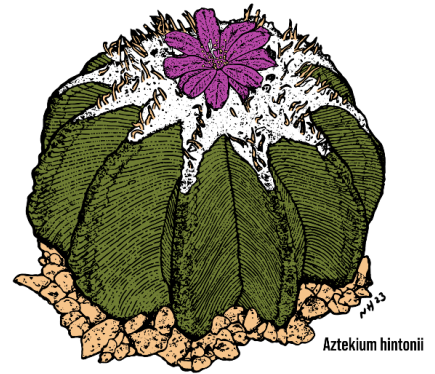
The club has an extensive library of books on cacti, succulents and related subjects. Books may be checked out at meetings. The bulk of the books are available at every meeting. We keep them on site at the grange hall. You are welcome to peruse the books before meetings. There is a librarian available at every meeting to help answer questions and take suggestions. The club is starting to acquire new books and The Librarians are 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 another new acquisition for our library. This book, called 'Agave Spirits: The Past, Present, and Future of Mezcal' by Gary Paul Nabhan and David Suro Piñera, is about the Agave species that grow in Mexico and how those plants are being used for food, fiber and drink. The following is from an online review of the book;

"A thoroughly fascinating dive into all that goes into the spirits, revealing an elaborate web of biological and cultural entanglements, with rich biodiversity in terms of plants, microbes, and even animals, all mediated by skilled human practitioners, carrying out (and refining) cultural traditions. The authors also show how this biodiversity as well as cultural diversity is threatened, concluding with a call to action."

— Sandor Ellix Katz, fermentation revivalist and author of Fermentation Journeys, The Art of Fermentation, and Wild Fermentation

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!

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, David Kurtz
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, August 20 2023
Naomi Bloss Residence
134 Trabing Road Watsonville

Take the Buena Vista Exit off Hwy 1
From the south head away from the hwy to Trabing Road
From the north head across the hwy to Trabing Road
Turn left on Trabing and right on Azure Lane

This event will begin at noon. Come early to drop off your items and browse the offerings.