

On The Dry Side

Greetings from the President

Dear fellow MBACSS members,

Well, Fall is here whether we like it or not! The weather continues to be confusing and not quite what we normally are used to. But I'm doing some Fall cleaning in my yard which is proving to be quite productive, and I think will prove very good in the long run for my collection. My rearranging efforts pointed out to me plants that needed to be repotted and even several plants that were dead that I hadn't noticed! What a shock and surprise to me as I keep thinking I'm a pretty attentive gardener. But, while succulents and cactus need little care, they do need care. I will be more careful in the future.



About 25 people participated in the Country Store at our August meeting at Naomi Boss's home. As in previous years, the Country Store was a chance for us to share plants with each other (Cacti and Succulents) as well as miscellaneous stuff like tools, books, equipment, etc. There was a large variety of plants donated by the members and the drawings were lively and fun. The folks went home with their new plants after having a good time.

And as you know, the September event is our Fall Sale and Show at the Portuguese Hall in Watsonville. You have all been sent copies of the flyer and postcard that you are invited to copy and share with your neighbors, families and friends or to put up copies of the flyers in local stores or offices to help promote our event. The more people come, the better our sale will be. Volunteers are still needed in all areas. I am needing volunteers to help on all three days in the kitchen where we will have food for the vendors and volunteers. Also, of course, you can bring your own personal plants from your collection to show and be judged by the attendees. Those who get the most votes, will be eligible to win prizes of beautiful pots provided by the vendors. See you at the Sale!



Mary Louise Cross,
MBACSS

Photos By Paolo Albert

APPROVED MINUTES

August 2, 2023

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

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

Minutes of July 5, 2023: Meryl Abramson. Accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Treasury report will be provided later this week, Lou was on vacation. We have received the \$1,000 from Driscoll, thanks to Arnie. Arnie will e-mail Mary an address so that Mary can write them a thank-you. Lou needs to send the balance due to Portuguese Hall for our September Plant Sale. Mary will connect with Lou to make sure this is addressed.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald/Nancy Thomsen. The current roster is now available in spreadsheet only (not printed) form. This will be e-mailed to everyone.

Programs: Jorge Quiñonez. Jorge reported about the CSSA Conference. He believes that Annie, Roger and Naomi also went. Affiliates attended from all over the U.S. Notes from the Affiliates' meeting and some basic information about starting a club were e-mailed to the Board. Lots of other clubs also had trouble getting their sales dates onto the CSSA calendar. We are now on there for our fall sale as well as for our 2024 sale dates.

The Affiliate Rep. was always paid something to go to the CSSA Conference, but no one knew how much is reimbursed. An article must be written for the newsletter for this to happen; Jorge and Mary will speak with Naomi to try to figure out the reimbursement.

CSSA Zoom talks continue every 2 weeks and are very popular. As members, we can all sign up; Nancy publishes the link in the newsletter.

August meeting, the Country Store, is confirmed at Naomi Bloss' home, 134 Trabling Rd. in Watsonville. No mini-show or raffle. People are needed to help set-up at 11:30, please come early. David and Dave will help direct traffic. Mary will announce at the meeting that we need a publicity person to promote the show. Lou will bring tickets and cash; we agreed on 8 tickets for \$5. Mary will make coffee. Lyn will bring 3 buckets, one for each table. In the newsletter, Nancy will note for all to please bring their lunch. Nancy will print out some large flyers and some smaller ones, and members will be asked to pass these out to friends and places of business. Nancy will re-send the pdfs for these to all members as not everyone received theirs. Lyn will create an e-mail to encourage all members to share the pdfs, and to place a copy on Facebook, Instagram, or wherever they use social media, and to please place it repeatedly.

Categories for the Country Store are: Cacti, Succulents, Other (books, dressing, tools, pots, etc.) Stan reviewed the original concept for this annual Country Store: it is a chance for members to share with each other; please bring clean, healthy, attractive plants. Lunch will start at 12:00, the raffle starts at 12:30.

Our **October** speaker has cancelled; new speaker TBA. Gary will bring the 20 raffle and 2 premium plants, and label them. In **November**, Daisy will lead a wreath-making workshop. There will be no mini-show or raffle that month. Jorge is trying to schedule 2024 speakers.

The Board agreed that we should start the General Meetings with the mini-show, so that more people will participate. People can vote during lunch. Just before the speaker, the winners will be announced. Mini-show location will be moved closer to the lunch tables, perhaps where Stan had it last time. Winners have their own raffle, for the 2 premium plants.

MINUTES CONTINUED

August 2, 2023

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross. No updates.

Old Business: Library: Stan reviewed our books and feels that all of them are worthwhile. There are several duplicates, and these can be sold for about \$15/book.

Field Trips: David, Stan and Arnie need to decide on two Saturday dates to give to the Arboretum, and then present a date to the Club.

New Business: All. Mary suggested that the newsletter and deadlines be added to each board meeting agenda. Mary/Nancy will write a thank you to Driscolls in the newsletter and Arnie will print some newsletters and spread them around common areas at work. This way we can thank Driscoll's by acknowledging their generosity to all of our members, and Driscoll's can see that we are doing so.

County Fair: Same weekend as our plant sale. The books are printed. Arnie encouraged participation.

Fall sale and show: Driscoll's will be supplying some berries. Food: Nancy requests that sandwich material be available for the whole weekend. Stan agreed to help with food. We agreed that 30 tables need to be rented (Nancy), with a request for 10 a.m. delivery. (Note: 80 tables for vendors, rest for the show. Wooden tables from the Hall are no more.) I-volunteer is updated and Nancy will open it up for volunteers after the meeting. Nancy made a form for keeping track of when money is given to Lou. We need an entry form for the plants that will be displayed (though judged only by show participants, not professional judges). Lyn will contact the Feed Store regarding signs, and she will create a cactus sign with the address to help direct people to the show. Jorge will place an ad on Facebook, should cost between \$300 - \$400. The person Stan knows who could do publicity fell through.

Election Committee needed. The by-laws dictate that we form a 3-person election committee before November, to elect officers for the club. There were no volunteers, and this issue will be brought up at the next meeting(s).

Adjournment: Mary Cross

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson 8/7/23



CLUB STUFF

Nominations Needed

The board has appointed a Nominating Committee for new board members. We will be electing board members near the end of the year to begin a 2 year term in January 2024. We need you because many of our current board members cannot or will not be running for re-election.

When a member of the nominating committee asks if you will run for a position, please consider saying "Yes!" It is way to meet people in the club and help steer the club. If the same people are on the board every term, there will be no new ideas, no new input. We need your ideas and your energy and your excitement. You do not need to be a plant expert to run for office.

Please say "YES." It will be a fulfilling experience. --Editor

PRESIDENT presides at all regular and special meetings of the membership and meetings of the board, and appoints special committees as required.

VICE-PRESIDENT presides at meetings in the absence of the president and undertakes the duties of president in all respects when the president is ill, has resigned or is otherwise unavailable.

SECRETARY keeps the minutes of regular and board meetings and attends to the correspondence of the Society.

TREASURER receives and keeps all the Society's funds and keeps full and adequate records of all receipts and disbursements and assists the membership chair in collecting annual dues.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR collects all dues, compiles an annual list of current members, and distributes the membership list to all members.

AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE maintains contact with Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and the California Garden Clubs Inc., and reports pertinent information to the board and the general membership.

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (three) attend board meetings and represent the views of the general membership.

All officers serve for terms of two years.

The President of the Society may be elected to that office for no more than two consecutive terms.

FALL SHOW AND SALE

September 15, 16, 17, 2023

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MBACSS Fall Show and Sale

Shifts available in all areas

Cashier

Plant Hotel

Door Monitor

Show Monitor

Kitchen Helper



Use the link or code below to sign-up

<https://mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer fall 2023>

The Fall Show is a Peoples Choice Show

It is judged by the public, our customers. We encourage members to bring some of their favorite plants to the Portuguese Hall on Friday starting at 12:00 noon. Every plant needs an entry form. Winners in each category receive a prize (usually a pot from one of the potters at the sale)

OCTOBER MEETING

Holiday Wreaths Workshop With Daisy Szeto

\$45/ wreath

For the October membership meeting Daisy Szeto will be helping us make our own succulent holiday wreaths. All the supplies will be provided by Daisy which will include a 10 inch wreath and all the cuttings. You may bring additional cuttings or holiday decorations you wish to incorporate.

NOTE - You must RSVP directly to Daisy by October 16 by phone (831-900-3434) or email (daisy.szeto@soho.com).

The fee is \$45 per wreath which you pay directly to Daisy at the event. This event is open to our MBACSS members as well as friends

daisy.szeto@zoho.com

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

September 15, 16, 17

Fall Show and Sale

https://mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer_fall_2023

October 22, 2023

Speaker - Daisy Szeto

Topic - Workshop - Make a Succulent Wreath

Mini Show Plants - Mamalaria & Aloe

November 19, 2023

Speaker - TBA

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 for 2023 and 2024

Fall 2023 - Sep 15, 16, 17

Spring 2024 - Apr 12, 13, 14

Fall 2024 - Aug 30, 31 Sep 1

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.