

On The Dry Side

Greeting fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

Happy new year to you each and all!

Each year at this time I try to look back to evaluate the previous year and look forward to the next. I am pleased to say I believe MBACSS lived up to it's mission in the last year and continued to grow in our understandings, our service, our commitments to our communities. The plant sales and show, the club activities and the many interesting speakers helped us grow in our knowledge of succulents from around the world, plus the personal relationships that began and grew this year all added up to a very successful year. The big truth surrounding each event and activity is that none of it could have happened without the generous involvement and commitment of our member volunteers. I give a BIG SHOUT OUT of THANK YOU to each of you who participated in the meetings in some way, or volunteered to do anything this year. Each little thing that a member contributes to the group makes our society better and, in my mind, more successful. You did a good job in 2023 for which I, as the President and a members, am very grateful.

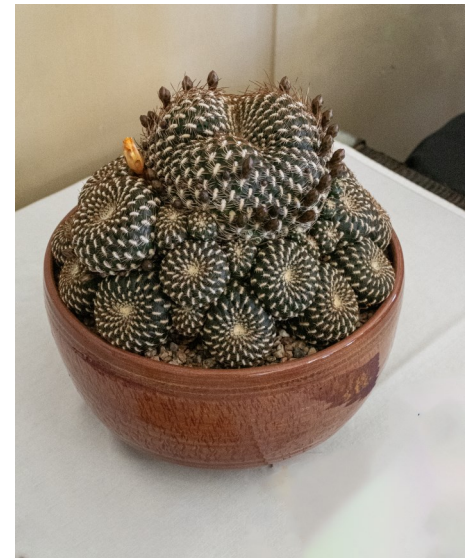
The Board is working on the 2024 schedule of events and activities and creating new ways that we can grow our society by developing new ways to promote our sales/shows to a larger audience, imagining ways to make the sales more interesting to the attendees, and continuing to grow as a team to support and build up our efforts to share succulent/cactus information with our local communities. There is no end to the ways we can improve but we always need ideas and support from the membership – our volunteers! If you have any topic you would like to explore, or if you have a skill that would help us be better (like: publicity, library, computer-tech, helping with mini-shows and/or raffles) please talk to a board member at the next meeting to offer your help and ideas. I thank you in advance for your generosity and concern for our society.

Congratulations and an additional "Thank You" to the folks who were willing to run for election to our Board. The new leaders are listed on the back page.

David Kurtz is our Interim Librarian. We need another one or two members to help out. You do not need to be an expert to serve this position. We need at least one librarian at every meeting so having two or three means one or more can be at each meetings. Please contact me if you are interested.

Gratefully,
Mary Louise Cross, President
Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society

Photos By
Paolo Albert



APPROVED MINUTES

December 6, 2023

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

Members present: Mary Cross, Nancy Thomsen, Jorge Quiñonez, Lyn MacDonald, Lou Falek, Thomas Karwin, Stan Verkler, Peter Beiersdorfer and Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of November 1, 2023: Meryl Abramson. Action items from the minutes reviewed. Minutes accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Report accepted as presented.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Lyn agreed to continue as our Membership Chair!! At General Meetings, Dave Novarina has volunteered to greet members at the door. We have a total of 194 members; in 2023, we have added 73 new members.

Sunshine Committee: Mary Cross. Our former treasurer, Roger Lane, has been in the hospital.

Programs: Jorge Quiñonez. Jorge has provided an initial 2024 program. Andrew Hazlett will do grafting again in January. Stan will do potting in Feb. Fred Dotart in March, talking about grit dwellers.

Mini-shows will continue as Show and Tell, 2 raffle tickets for each plant presented. Tickets continue as 6 for \$5, no \$25 plants for now. 25 plants, not 20, for the raffle.

Holiday party: There are 64 confirmations so far. Lyn has reserved the caterer. We discussed food and drinks. Lydia Q, with two helpers, is in charge of decorations. Peter will run the auction, and live auction plants will be set up across the stage. A table next to the stage will be set up for clerks to record final prices. No Library this meeting.

Plants: For the live auction, People who bring plants for the live auction must bring plants with a minimum value of \$30. There is a limit of 3 plants per person; donor receives 75% of maximum bid value and the Club receives 25%. If a person brings more than 3 plants, 100% of bid goes to the Club.

For the silent auction, please bring plants with retail value between \$5-\$30. This year we will have an early deadline for bidding on these plants, which will end before we start the live auction, to make things simpler. Payment

We will have a plant exchange. If you bring something (and please bring a nice, healthy 4" minimum size plant), you will get a ticket, and your name goes into a bucket for later choosing. Bring one, get one, plants only please.

Old Business: Election All Board Members were re-elected; Daisy Szeto, Peter Shaw and David Kurtz are Directors-at-Large.

David will be the 'Interim' Librarian, until someone else steps up.

New Business: Mary received an email looking for someone with a large plant collection to interview for a book

Mary noted that our sales are now on the JGM Plants website.

Peter created a web page that will help promote future sales. Thank you, Peter!!! This will also be discussed next Board Meeting.

Adjournment: Mary Cross

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

JANUARY MEETING

December 17, 2023

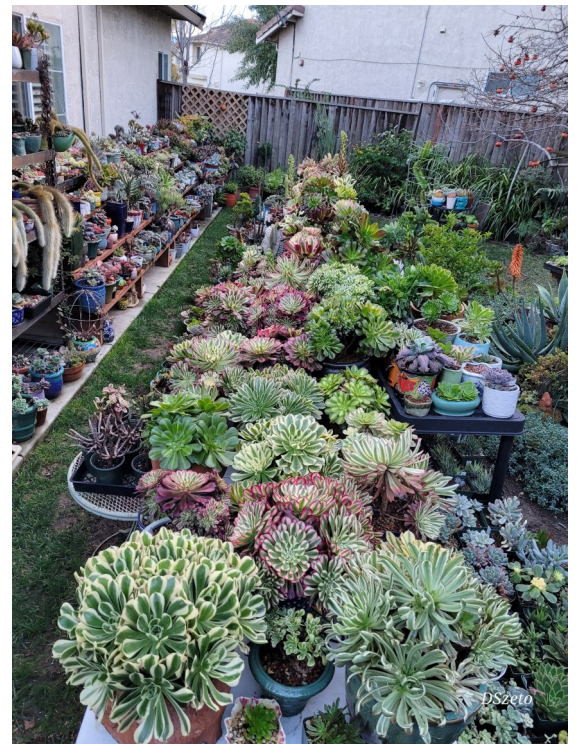
Andrew Hazlett

Our next meeting will on Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024 at noon. Andrew Hazlett will be the featured speaker. The title of his talk is "The Fun of Grafting Cactus: Basic and Advanced Techniques."

This presentation builds upon Andrew's previous workshop conducted last year. Andrew will commence by illustrating the fundamental principles necessary for successful cactus grafting. This includes a detailed overview of the essential tools, root stock, and scions required. Gaining a solid understanding of how grafting works and what to watch for simplifies the basic grafting process.

In the latter part of the talk, Andrew will delve into advanced grafting techniques. With a grasp of the basics, attendees can explore pushing the boundaries in grafting, particularly for rare cacti propagation or artistic endeavors. The art of grafting opens up possibilities such as propagating *Astrophytum caput-medusae* or creating a dynamic living totem pole. We will explore the creative possibilities and push the boundaries of what can be achieved through the enjoyable practice of grafting cactus.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: Andrew Hazlett stands out as one of the most accomplished cactus grafters in the greater Bay Area. He sells his expertly grafted cactus on eBay as a part-time gig.



My aeoniums are definitely loving this wet and cool weather -- Daisy Szeto

NEW NEWS

Dues

If you have not done so before, it is time to renew your membership.

You have several ways to renew, but the online option is the best. You can also use the form on this page and bring a check to a meeting or send a check in the mail.

If you joined at the fall sale or in September or later, your membership is good through 2024.

There will be self-serve renewal forms available at the next meeting. There will be a greeter to show you the forms and how to renew in person. We do not have a way to know if you have renewed, so please work that out before the meeting.

If you have questions, email Lyn @ MBACSS.membership@gmail.com



MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

PLEASE PRINT

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____

Renewing ____ New Member ____

(required to receive newsletter)

Payment by: Check ____ Cash ____ CC ____

Type of Membership:

Single \$15 per year _____

Couple \$20 per year _____

Existing Members renew your membership by online or by mailing a check to:

Lou Falek, Treasurer
76 Nunes Road
Watsonville, CA 95076

Pay online:

<http://mbsucculent.org/membership/>

New Members may bring dues to the first meeting they attend and give them to the Membership Chair

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MBACSS

CLUB NEWS

From The Librarians

The club has an extensive library of books on cacti, succulents and related subjects. Books may be checked out at monthly 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 'The "Deserts of California: A California Field Atlas'. Obi Kaufmann, the artist-naturalist who captured California's coasts and forests in his previous field atlases, now delves into the state's deserts with his latest stunner, The Deserts of California: A California Field Atlas. It's not your typical guide; it's an ode to their stark beauty, a journey through their wild landscapes, and a call to explore their hidden depths. Kaufmann's gorgeous watercolors, painted on-site, capture the otherworldly beauty of Joshua Trees, the stark majesty of Death Valley, and the delicate desert flora. He writes movingly about these arid ecosystems, weaving scientific details with personal anecdotes and historical tidbits like the "ghostly grace" of Joshua Trees or the "pulsating silence" of the desert night. The Deserts of California is more than just a look at the present; it's a call to action. Kaufmann urges us to see these landscapes not as wastelands, but as vibrant parts of California's unique biome, threatened by climate change and human encroachment. He inspires us to become stewards of their wild beauty. Whether you're a seasoned desert explorer or an armchair adventurer, The Deserts of California will captivate you. It's a journey through time and space, a celebration of nature's resilience, and a reminder of the magic that awaits in the most unexpected places.

"From Obi Kaufmann, author-illustrator of the best-selling California Field Atlas, comes a grand adventure through time, geography, and ecology in California's deserts. Of a piece with his richly illustrated books The Forests of California and The Coasts of California, this volume features hundreds of vivid watercolor maps and illustrations, blending art and science to breathtaking effect. Journeying through the Great Basin, Mojave, Colorado, and Sonoran Deserts, Kaufmann pays special attention to national and state parks and monuments, and to the dozens of wilderness areas that reveal the underappreciated natural abundance of California's arid lands. From Joshua Tree to Death Valley, these deserts full of life, as Kaufmann evokes them, are perfect places for meditating on our future, and for imagining a California that might thrive beyond the age of climate breakdown. The Deserts of California is a canonical entry into the literature of the American deserts, uniquely colorful and celebratory, and abounding in hope and wonder."

— from the publisher, Heyday Press

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

mailchi.mp/eef901b778cf/z8k1tpng1v

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
cherylalbert@charter.net

She will send a card from the club to cheer them up and let them know we are thinking of them.

CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

January 21, 2024

Presenter: Andrew Hazlett
Topic: Grafting
Mini Show - Show & Tell

February 18, 2024

Presenter: Stan Verkler
Topic: Repotting Cacti and Succulents
Mini Show: TBA

March 17, 2024

Presenter: Fred Dotort
Topic: Grit Dwellers, Quartz Fields
Mioni Show: TBA

April 12, 13, 14, 2024

Spring Show and Sale

May 19, 2024

Presenter: Michiel Pillet
Topic: Cactus Conservation
Mioni Show: TBA

Help Make the Spring Show and Sale a Bigger Success

The Spring Show and Sale is only a few months away. It is time to start working on making it a success. Many of you have expressed a willingness to help with ideas for location, activities, tie-ins with other groups, lots of ideas. Now is the time to gather those ideas and see what we can add to our Spring Sale.

I have two options to get this started. One is to collect ideas by email and then send the collected ideas to the group. The other option is to schedule a video call for any member to join. I think the first option - collecting information by email and then having a video meeting to decide what we can use this time and what we can do in the future is the way to go.

So -----

Please email me this month with any ideas you have for the show and sale or if you want to be involved with making decisions. I will collect them and send out an email to anyone who wants to be involved. Then we can schedule a video meeting to make some decisions.

Nancy Thomsen
Show and Sale coordinator

nembuno@gmail.com

Future MBACSS Sales Save the Dates

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

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
 David Kurtz
 Peter Shaw
 Daisy Szeto
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin
Founding Member - Naomi Bloss

Chairpersons

Interim Librarian - David Kurtz
Mini-Show - Stan Verkler
Newsletter Editor - Nancy Thomsen
Photography - Paul Albert
Programs - Jorge Quiñónez
Raffles - Bill Ashen
Sale Floor Manager - Peter Beiersdorfer
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss
Assistant Floor Manager - Janet Sparks
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert
Webmaster - Anita Crawley
Greeter - Dave Novarina

Our next membership meeting will be:

Sunday, January 21, 2024
Corralitos Grange
165 Little Corral Way, Corralitos.

There is plenty of parking near the hall and the building is ADA accessible.

Doors open at 11:00am

Bring your own lunch starts at 12:00pm

Meeting starts at 12:30pm