

# On The Dry Side

Greeting fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

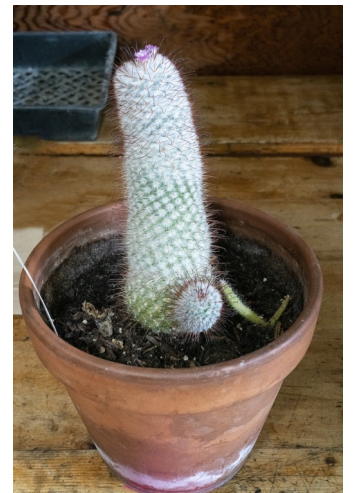
My Aeoniums are going crazy these days with sunny colors, beautiful flowers, and lots of new growth! The Crassulas, Cotylidons, Senecios, Gasterias, and other winter growers are doing well also. I am tired of the rain by now but am very happy with how my collections is weathering winter this year. It is amazing how much better things do when I pay more attention! And don't water too much! Hey, I am willing to learn new behaviors and procedures if it helps my plants.

Our February Membership Meeting was very enthusiastically attended by almost 30 members and several members brought in plants to the "Show and Tell" portion of the meeting. They also participated with our speaker Stanley Verkler in his demonstration about potting mixes, pot sizes, re-potting, etc. It was fun and informative. Thank you Stan for an interesting and fun meeting.

For our March Membership Meeting we will have a Show and Tell activity again. Please bring in a plant you want to show to the group and tell a little bit about (like latin name, where you got it, why you like it, questions you have about it, etc.). We also have a well know speaker, Fred Dortort. Be sure to read all about him later in this newsletter. We are trying some new things with the plant drawing/raffle so come to check it out.

Since there will be no general Membership Meeting in April, all of you are invited and expected to attend and participate in our Spring Sale and Show. Like in the Fall this show will not be judged but folks are invited to bring in plants they are proud of and want to show off to be displayed and voted on by the attendees. We will have more vendors than the last show and some new activities as well. Please see the article on the Sale/Show in another part of this newsletter. Those who want to volunteer are invited to go to the "iVolunteer" website or check out our revised website ([mbsucculents.org](http://mbsucculents.org)) for more information. Please tell your friends and family members about this fun and informative event. I look forward to seeing you there.

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



Photos By  
Paolo Albert

# APPROVED MINUTES

February 4, 2024

## Call to Order

Mary Cross

Attending: Lou Falek, Lyn MacDonald, Jorge Quiñonez, David Kurtz, Tom Karwin, Peter Beiersdorfer, Nancy Thomsen, Daisy Szeto, Mary Cross

## Minutes of January 3, 2024

Meryl Abramson

The minutes were accepted as presented and the items printed in "red" were noted and acknowledged as being completed.

## Treasurer's Report

Lou Falek

The Treasurer's report was accepted as previously emailed to the Board.

Mary reported that the Portuguese Hall will be increasing the price in 2025 for Saturday only to \$2,800. After a discussion, it was decided to table this until next month and discuss it then with the idea of looking for a new venue.

## Chairpersons

### Membership

Lyn McDonald

The Membership report was accepted as reported by Lyn. There was a discussion About producing a paper hardcopy Membership Roster. It was suggested that we Print about 50 and present them at the March meeting for those who attend to take. Lyn suggested that instead of having everyone renew their membership at the same time that she invited everyone to renew on their individual sign-up/anniversary date. It was decided that as the Membership Chair Lyn can do this if it proves to her a viable and more efficient method.

### Program

Jorge Quiñonez

The February meeting will feature Stanley Verkler as the presenter, Daisy will provide raffle plants, and the Mini-Show will again be a Show and Tell with members bringing in and telling the members about their plants and will receive two plant raffle tickets.

### Sunshine Committee

Cheryl Albert

No report

### Affiliate memberships (CSSA, Garden Club)

Jorge Quiñonez

The CSSA Convention will be in San Diego April of 2025

## New Business

### Spring Show & Sale (April 12,13,14, 2024)

Nancy, Peter, Naomi & Board

There was a discussion about possible changes to and/or Re-organizing for Spring Show & Sale. Activities we could incorporate, venues we could explore, giving away free plants, demonstrations, etc.

### Need for volunteers (web master, library, plant raffle, etc)

There was a discussion about the possibility of a new Web master. Peter indicated he discussed this with Diane Salewski from the San Jose Society and she may be interested if the Board agrees. The Board agreed.

There was a problem several people had with power outages in their homes due to the storms in our area and thus were on battery power for the zoom meeting so requested that we make the meeting as short as possible. Then Mary lost her connection with the zoom meeting so the meeting was considered adjourned at about 8:04 or so.

These notes are presented by Mary Cross in place of minutes because Meryl was not at the February meeting.

# MARCH MEETING

March 17, 2024

## Grit Dwellers, Quartzfields and Kokerbooms: Succulent Plants of the Western Cape

At the March 17th meeting Fred Dortort will be presenting a guided photographic tour of some of the plants he saw on his recent trip to South Africa.

Fred is the author of *The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World* as well as numerous articles for the Cactus and Succulent Journal. He's made many trips to South Africa looking for and photographing unusual, spectacular, and increasingly, endangered succulent plants. For this presentation he'll be focusing on plants from the Western Cape regions of the country, covering the Little (Klein) Karoo, the Tankwa Karoo, parts of Namakwaland and the Knerverslakte quartzfields, along with some other adjacent, succulent-rich areas. Many of the succulents that grow here specialize in very odd habitats, some of which extend for miles and others for only a few square feet. This last trip, in April and May, came towards the end of the dry season, for most of this vast area is in the winter rainfall zone. Many succulents are huddled down or even pulled underground at this time, but many of them also have decided on this time of year as their flowering season. The "tour" is also going to feature a number of photos from earlier trips, made in the South African winter and early spring, when some of the same plants are at their growing peak. The contrast may be quite enlightening for those of us who strive to grow some of these choice, often dwarf, species. Over the past twenty-plus years Fred has had the opportunity to visit some rarely travelled regions, in the company of several highly knowledgeable people, and he is looking forward to sharing some of the sights and plants he's seen with other succulent enthusiasts.





## EDUCATIONAL STUFF

### Beginner's Guide to: Clustering Mammillaria

From an article by Tom Glavich in the November 2014 "To The Point"

Mammillaria is one of the larger genera in the Cactus family, and one of the most variable, with some members remaining as solitary columns for their entire lives, some remaining as fingernail size solitary globulars, some clumped and heavily spined with hooks, straight sharp spines, or feathery soft spines. The genus has been separated into series of genetically related but unsettled groups of plants but most of the series have clustering species.

The secrets to good growth are a continued supply of fertilizer during the growing season, strong light, and maintenance of a clean and insect free growing environment. The white and densely spined species want full sun and do best in a pot unprotected (except from prolonged heavy rain) all year long. Mammillaria grow well in a variety of potting mixes. Equally good plants have been grown in everything from commercial cactus potting mixes to completely inorganic mixes nearly pure pumice. Most have fairly short root systems and they do best in shallow pots. Deep pots with an organic potting mix can hold too much water and encourage rot.

Mammillaria have relatively short dormancies and will grow when the weather is warm. When the weather warms the plants need to be fed regularly. Early growth can often be seen in March and plants will still be growing into November. To preserve a robust and uniform plant appearance, early spring and late fall growth should be allowed to proceed with minimal fertilizer. In warmer regions many Mammillaria can be grown in the ground. They make great additions to any succulent garden.



The appearance of white mealy bug egg cases (M.'s worst enemy) on the tips of the spines or the appearance of ants means that mealy bugs are sucking the sap and life out of the plant. Immediate treatment is required with thorough washing and spraying with an insecticide.

Propagation of M. clusters is easy. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season (April to early November). Let them dry for a few days and replant in clean potting mix (pure pumice is even better). Rooting is rapid with short white roots generally appearing after a couple of weeks. Also, they are one of the easiest species to grow from seed. Simply place seeds on top of damp potting mix, covered with a light coating of gravel and placed in a plastic bag in bright light (but out of direct sun). Germination usually occurs in a week or 10 days. The seedlings

can stay in the plastic bag for several weeks until they get large enough to survive unprotected. Then they should be removed to a still shaded but brighter and drier environment. Show quality plants can often be grown from seed in just 4 or 5 years. Best results are obtained when the seeds are started in late March or late May.

## SPRING SHOW & SALE

# Spring Show and Sale

## April 12, 13, 14

The Spring Show and Sale is next month. The link for sign-ups is active. 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. The **Plant Hotel** position can be active for a few minutes and then quiet for awhile.

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 use the QR Code to sign-up.

[mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer\\_spring\\_2024](https://mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer_spring_2024)



## *People's Choice*

We normally have a judged show at the spring sale, but this year we will have another People's Choice show. We received positive response from the last show so we're doing it again.

Please bring up to **5 plants** of your choice for the show. The public will be voting, so make them your most appealing plants. Plants need to be at the show by Friday evening and can be picked up Sunday afternoon. Winners will receive prizes.

## CLUB NEWS

### Upcoming meetings:

#### **March 17, 2024**

Presenter: Fred Dotort  
Topic: Grit Dwellers, Quartz Fields  
Mini Show: Show & Tell

#### **April 12, 13, 14, 2024**

Spring Show and Sale

#### **May 19, 2024**

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

#### **June 16, 2024**

Presenter: TBD  
Topic:  
Mini Show: TBA

#### **July 16, 2024**

Presenter: Peter Beiersdorfer  
Topic: The Land of Copiopo  
Mini Show: TBA

### **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**

## Welcome and Thank You

We have a new webmaster - Diane Salewski  
A very big *Thank You* to our past webmaster Anita Crawley for keeping us going all these years.  
Diane has hit the ground running and is doing a great job! Check out the website

Here are some other positions we need:

### **Librarian**

This is an important job and we need at least one more (two is better) to volunteer. At least one librarian needs to be at every meeting to open the library book case and be available to check out and check in books from members. If you regularly come to meetings, this is the job for you.

### **Show and Sale Leaders**

We need a few members to help organize the show and sale.

### **Volunteer Wrangler**

This person sets up the iVolunteer site and helps members volunteer. At the sale, this person makes sure each position is filled. This part can be shared with others.

### **Publicity**

If you have any experience with getting the word out, we need you. Can you write a press release? We need you.

**Please contact me, Nancy, if you can help.**

[nembuno@gmail.com](mailto:nembuno@gmail.com)

# 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 -  
Sale Floor Manager - Peter Beiersdorfer  
Show Managers - Naomi Bloss  
Assistant Floor Manager - Janet Sparks  
Sunshine Committee - Cheryl Albert  
Webmaster - Diane Salewski  
Greeter - Dave Novarina

See our website for more information

[mbsucculent.org](http://mbsucculent.org)

Our next membership meeting will be:

**Sunday, March 17, 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