

On The Dry Side

Dear fellow MBACSS members,

Happy Spring (I think!) Very confusing that the sun is shining, and it is beautiful out as I write this but we had snow and soft hale yesterday! Winter doesn't seem to want to let go. Well, I'm ready for it! And am also looking forward to our Spring Show and Sale which is next weekend!!! It seems to have come up very very fast this year. Each time we do a Sale and Show I get some new plants for my collection and learn a lot as well, I have a good time seeing folks from previous sales, learning from the plants you bring to the Show as well as the plants the vendors bring to sell, talking to the attendees and vendors, etc. So I wish you sunshine and lots of good feelings, and I hope to see you at the Portuguese Hall some time next weekend.



At our March 19 membership meeting about 40 members enjoyed an interesting talk by Author and plant grower, Fred Dortort who shared with us knowledge about "Grit Dwellers and the Quartz Fields in Africa." He also had copies of his book as well as a variety of plants from his collection for sale. As usual we also had a time of "Show and Tell" during which several members shared with us plants from their collections and told us interesting stuff about them; and again, a lively Plant Drawing/Raffle was at the end. Interesting and much fun.

If any of the members would like to attend the Board meetings (which are open to all members) feel free to contact me for the Agenda and the Zoom ID. We meet on the first Sunday evening of the month at 7:00pm on zoom. It would offer you an opportunity to learn more about how our society works and participate in making the meetings more inclusive and interesting

Mary Louise Cross,
MBACSS



Photos By
Paolo Albert

APPROVED MINUTES

March 3, 2024

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

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

Diane was welcomed to the Board Meeting as the Club's new webmaster. Welcome, Diane!!

Notes of Feb 4 presented in lieu of minutes. Mary Cross. Notes accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lou Falek. Accepted as presented. Discussion about Plant Raffle at General Meetings: members are buying fewer tickets and it is costing the Club money each month. Vote on issue resolution tabled until next Board Meeting.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn MacDonald. Board agreed not to raise membership rates. Lyn is trying to simplify getting membership renewals.

Sunshine Committee: No report.

Programs: Jorge Quiñonez. There was a mix-up with raffle plant providers for February meeting. Stan was our speaker and the presentation was well-done and well-received. In March, we will have a Show & Tell, not a Mini-Show. Fred Dotort is our March speaker; he has encyclopedic knowledge and has written a book about succulents.

New Business, Spring Show: All. Diane is creating ways to advertise the Show. The flyer was translated into Spanish which should also be helpful in attracting customers. We will have more vendors than the fall show, and Peter provided a table request and layout. We will be providing potting classes as a draw on Saturday and Sunday (possibly Saturday @11 and @2 (if two presenters), Sunday at 12 or 1). Pros/cons of having a judged show were discussed; the Board voted for a non-(professionally) judged show; the public will vote. Nancy has set up i-volunteer, and David will assist her if needed. Jorge provided the Board a list of alternative venues and these will be explored for next year. We are looking to clear more money from our shows, by increasing attendance as well as reducing our costs. Members interested in helping explore or having knowledge of possible community venues should please let a Board member know.

For information and comparison of venues:

Portuguese Hall, which we currently rent for our shows, costs the Club \$4,600 per show, which includes \$600 for the Friday, since we sell. There are 10,000 square feet of *usable* space, exclusive of stage, restrooms, kitchen, and a large parking lot; all these facilities are important, and used. The Hall provides approx. 70 (6 ft? tables).

Adjournment: Mary Cross

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

CLUB NEWS

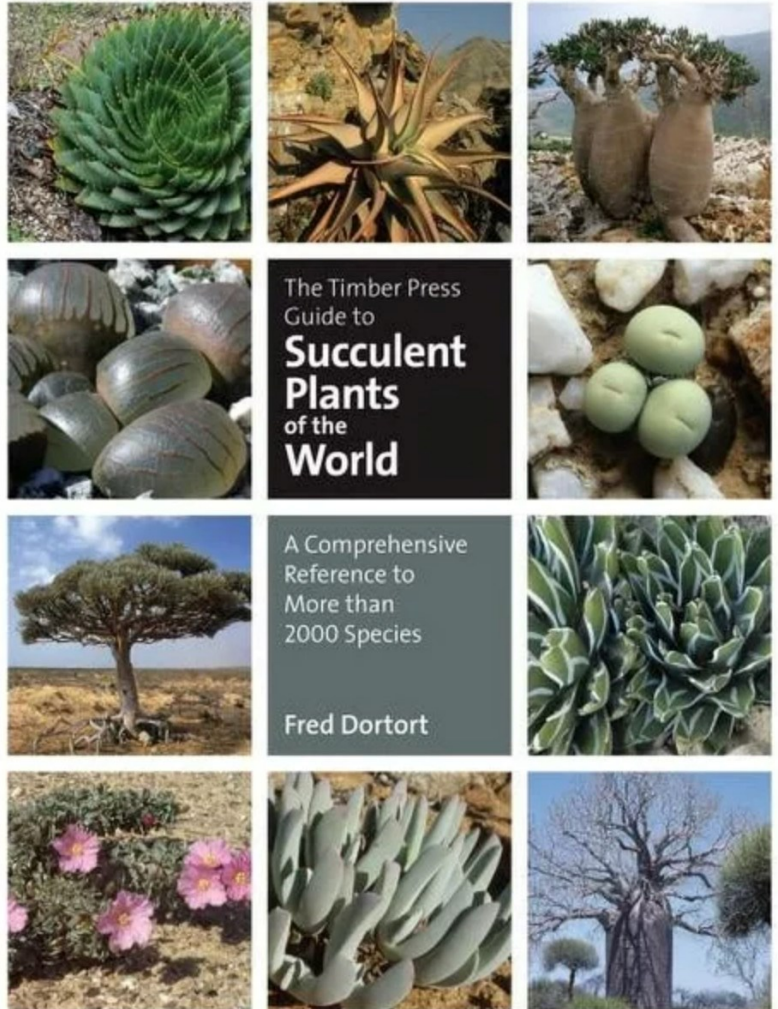
The Monterey Bay Area Cactus and Succulent Society would like to thank Fred Dortort for his kind and generous contribution of his awesome plant book to our library. At the March meeting Fred gave a presentation and slideshow on 'Grit Dwellers, Quartzfields and Kokerbooms: Succulent Plants of the Western Cape'. At that time Fred made the book donation. The following is a brief review of the book.

A Succulent Reference for All: A Review of "The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World"

For budding beginners to seasoned collectors, "The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World" by Fred Dortort is a new addition to the MBACSS library. This comprehensive reference dives deep into the fascinating world of succulents-friendliness. Introductory chapters explore the natural history and cultivation of succulents, laying a solid foundation for understanding these unique plants. Subsequent chapters delve into individual succulent families and genera, providing detailed essays on each species.

What truly sets this book apart is its extensive content. Imagine having detailed descriptions, climate information, and cultivation requirements for over 2,000 succulents, all accompanied by stunning full-color photographs - most showcasing the plants in their natural habitats! Dortort caters to both novice and experienced growers by including familiar favorites like Aloe vera alongside more exotic finds like Kalanchoe nyikae.

"The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World" is an accessible and visually captivating resource that will undoubtedly become the go-to guide for succulent enthusiasts for years to come. Whether you're just starting your succulent journey or are a seasoned collector, this book is a valuable addition to our plant library. The book will be available from our lending library at upcoming Society meetings.



SPRING SHOW

People's Choice

We normally have a judged show at the spring sale, but this year we will have a People's Choice show as we have in the Fall Show. We received a positive response from the last show so we're doing it again. Every guest will receive small dot stickers to place on the entry form of their favorite plants. The dots will be tallied and the winner get a prize. Bring the plants that stand out. This one is about curb appeal.



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.



SPRING SHOW & SALE

Spring Show and Sale

April 12, 13, 14

The Spring Show and Sale is this weekend. We still need volunteers. Lunch is available for free for all volunteers. We don't ask much of our members, but we need you to help at the sales. If you can't decide what position to take, you can be a rover. Those folks work with Nancy to fix problems as they arrive. That may be helping to take someone's plants to the car or covering for someone who needs a break or tracking down someone who wandered away from their post or any other stuff that comes up. Another perk for volunteering is getting to talk to members and vendors on an informal basis and getting to know them. Sitting around the lunch table is a great way to start a conversation with several growers and members.

You will receive a postcard in the mail with a \$1 off coupon. Bring it with you when you come to the sale or give it to a friend to use. Please present the coupon before paying for your purchases. You have received the poster in email, please use that to invite your friends and family.

This sale we will have 3 presentations on repotting plants. Stan will give his presentations on Saturday at 11am and 1pm. Jorge will give his on Sunday at 11am. These presentations will be in the hall near the stage. Let your guests know to be there for one of these.

See you this weekend!

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

mbcss.ivolunteer.com/volunteer_spring_2024



CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

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 Copiopoa
Mini Show: TBA

August 18, 2024
Country Store
No speaker
No mini show

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.

Raffle Manager

This position is great for an outgoing member who comes to most meetings. The Raffle Manager sells tickets and calls winners. It is a fun position. No expertise necessary.

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

Future MBACSS Sales Save the Dates

Here are the dates of the upcoming sales for 2024

Spring 2024 - Apr 12, 13, 14
Fall 2024 - Aug 30, 31 Sep 1

LEADERSHIP

Officers and Chairpersons for 2024 - 2025

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

Our next membership meeting will be:

Sunday, May 19, 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