

September 2024



Monterey Bay Area
Cactus & Succulent
Society

On The Dry Side

Greeting fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

What a good time I had at the Fall Sale and Show! We had much better attendance due to the amount of promoting we did with news releases, flyers, radio and TV announcements and flyers that appeared in lots of locations around our area and you members telling and inviting your friends and relatives. So, as anticipated, our more intense promotion resulted in more attendants who spent more money! We did make a small profit that eases our financial fears. Regardless, we need to do even more promotions for the Spring sale which is happening on Easter Weekend 2025.

The volunteers were outstanding! Your generosity in giving of your time and effort to our success is very, very much appreciated. If you did not get your "token of appreciation" (a gorgeous cup designed by our own Diane Salewski), please come to the next membership meeting (September 15) or contact Nancy Thomsen directly.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at our membership meeting on the 3rd Sunday of the month (September 15). At the Corralitos Grange Hall, 165 Little Corral Way, Corralitos. Help set up the tables and chairs at 11:30sh, bring your own lunch 12—12:30 including a meeting to let you know what is going on, 12:30sh to 1:30sh for our speaker will be Russel Ray who will talk to us about Nature's Geometry: Succulents. Again, we will have Show and Tell which means you bring a favorite or interesting plant that you can tell us about. As usual we will have our plant raffle. Good Stuff! See you then.

Mary Louise Cross, President



Photos By
Paolo Albert

APPROVED MINUTES

August 4, 2024 7:01 – 7:40 p.m.

Call to Order: Nancy Thomsen.

Members present: Nancy Thomsen, Diane Salewski, David Kurtz, Jorge Quiñonez, Peter Beiersdorfer, Daisy Szeto, Meryl Abramson.

Call to Order: Nancy.

Minutes of July 7: Nancy/Meryl. Minutes accepted as presented. Action items reviewed.

Treasurer's Report: None at this time; Lou on vacation.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: None at this time. Lyn on vacation.

Programs: Jorge. August meeting will be at the Country Store at Naomi's house. There will be no raffle and no Show & Tell. Sept. Program: Adromischus.

Sunshine Committee: Nancy. Two cards to be sent. Meryl to contact Cheryl.

CSSA: Jorge. No updates.

Old/New Business: All. Fall Show and Sale. Nancy noted that the Press Release will go out this week to all news organizations. Post cards will go out next week to our mailings lists and the old San Jose mailing list. Meryl reported progress with Affiliate Groups' promotion of our event. Peter B. passed out about 50 flyers at the S.J. membership meeting offering \$5 off purchases at our show. We are NOT buying Facebook advertising. Jorge will likely provide a potting demonstration. Board decided that Demo area will be used by vendors to promote a favorite plant. There will be a whiteboard at the table and vendors can schedule a time, perhaps every hour on the hour, with a 10-minute discussion limit. Peter B. and Diane have generously funded the volunteer gifts again this year, and they are ready. Friday will open for set-up at 10/10:30; Nancy will open at 8 on Saturday, and 8:30 on Sunday.

New Business: Fall Show: All. Jorge recently spoke to the Stockton Club. He gave an updated talk on bromeliads.

Adjournment: Nancy.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

SEPTEMBER MEETING

September 15, 2024

Russel uses the Fibonacci sequence of numbers to look at the shape of plants, the number of plant ribs, the number of spines in areoles, golden angles, phyllotaxis (the divergence angle), golden triangles, Fibonacci triangles, golden squares, golden rectangles, circles, fractals, and, most fascinating to him, golden spirals. He brings a selection of live succulents showing nature's geometry and will have copies for sale of his book, "Nature's Geometry: Succulents," a soft-cover book with over 600 pictures in 174 pages, discounted to \$25 at the meeting.

Russel is from Kingsville, Texas, where he was born and then raised mostly by his paternal grandmother. He has lived in the San Diego area since April 1993. He has been self-employed his entire life, mostly as a "serial entrepreneur" specializing in getting companies through startup and growth phases. He has owned businesses in grocery export, antique restoration, roofing, landscaping, international & wireless telecommunications, heating & cooling, computer sales, writing & editing, typing & desktop publishing, construction, real estate agent, real estate investing & renovating, project management, business consultant, home inspector, photographer, and author.

A short Russel Ray timeline:

1962—Received his first plant, a heartleaf ivy (*Philodendron cordatum*), from his first grade teacher.

1966—Got started in photography as a volunteer elementary school events photographer.

1968—Created a 100-square-foot cactus rock garden in his grandmother's yard.

1973—Became fascinated with the Fibonacci sequence of numbers and how they are expressed in nature.

2017—Retired and started learning the scientific names for all his favorite plants.



Triangle



Square



Circle Tephrocactus Geometricus



Star



Spiral

EDUCATION

Submitted by Mary Cross

Beginner's Guide to Grafted Crested Cacti

From an article by Tom Glavich
In "To The Point", May-June 2015

Crested cacti are often some of the most visually intriguing members of any collection, and one that always attract attention and comment and can generate "plant lust" from novices and advanced growers alike. Cresting takes place when the apical meristem (the group of cells at the very top of the plant that control the shape and organization of the plant body) have a genetic defect that causes the cells that make new growth stretch from a single point into a line. The exact cause of this is a mystery, as is the occasional tendency of a prize specimen to suddenly revert to normal growth.

Many crested plants do just fine growing on their own roots. These are often species that normally have strong root systems and grow relatively slowly. When there is a mismatch between growth and root strength, the plant can try to pull so much energy out of the roots that the roots wither and die with the rest of the plant quickly following. Several excellent growers have said that they grow roots, and the plant takes care of the rest. With crests, this is important advice.

The solution to weak roots is to graft the crest onto a strong root stock. There are quite a few available and when pressed, nearly any ceroid type cactus will do. One of the most commonly seen materials for grafting is *Hylocereus undatus*. This is a fast growing, fast rooting tropical plant, often used for red caps (*Gymnocalycium variegated* cultivars). But with normal neglectful care it will quickly rot out and it is not cold tolerant. More permanent grafts can be made with other easily obtained grafting stocks. Some of the best are: *Harrisia jusbtii*, *Cerus jamaru*, *Stenocereus pruinosus*, and (for small seedlings) *Pereskia spathulata*, however other species can be used and work well.

The grafting process for crests is the same as any other grafts, but generally somewhat easier. Grafting cacti techniques are well described in many books, articles and You Tub demonstrations. The keys to success are to keep the cut surfaces as sterile as possible, cut the rootstock back so that the drying surfaces do not lift the scion and use rubber bans to hold the scion in place without squashing it. Keep the rootstock moist and well fed prior to and after grafting. The scion usually shows signs of new growth about two weeks after the graft.



After graft care of crests is also important. A purchased grafted stock plant is virtually always in a pot that is much too small. You are growing roots, and all of the ceroids want root room, fertilizer, and water. Rootstock starving causes the loss of many grafted plants. When bringing a purchased grafted specimen home, it is best to inspect it for insects and then immediately repot it into a bigger pot in better growing media.

Growing grafted crests can be more challenging than some of the easier cacti, and takes more patience and closer observation for insects and other cultural difficulties, but the rewards are those of having unique specimens. No two crests are identical.



CLUB NEWS

Upcoming meetings:

Sept 15, 2024

Presenter: Russel Ray
Topic: Nature's Geometry:
Succulents
Mini Show: Show and Tell

Oct 20, 2024

Presenter: TBD
Topic:
Mini Show: Show and Tell

Nov 17, 2024

Presenter: J. D. Wikert
Topic: Gymnocalycium
Mini Show: Show and Tell

December 15, 2024

End of the Year Membership Party
Corralitos Grange
Holiday meal
Live and Silent Auctions



It has been just over a week since our annual Fall Show and Sale. Saturday was one of the busiest days I have seen at our sales. Sunday was also busy. The total sales were higher than last spring and that doesn't happen. Spring sales are always higher than Fall sales. For this sale, many members used their unique talents and creativity to promote the event. We sent a press release to local media. Members posted flyers in libraries, stores, medical offices. Members talked to friends, family, co-workers. Members posted and shared the event on social media and with other clubs. Several members (I'm not naming names because I will miss someone) paid for advertising on social media. All of your efforts led to the success of the sale.

I want to thank all the members who volunteered. We cannot put on these events without your support. Last spring, the volunteers received a special T-shirt. For this sale, the volunteers received a beautiful, specially designed mug. That is a small token, but know that you are all appreciated. I also want to thank (you know who you are) the folks who helped me get through Sunday.

We all owe a big Thank You to Naomi Bloss and Peter Beiersdorfer. Naomi sets up the show. Peter is in charge of the sale. Without them, we would not have these events. Thank you!

Nancy Thomsen
Sale coordinator

Future MBACSS Sales Save the Dates

Here are the dates of the upcoming sales for 2024

Spring 2025 - Apr 19, 20

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 - Meryl Abramson
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, September 15 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