



# ON THE DRY SIDE

AUGUST 2025

Greeting fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

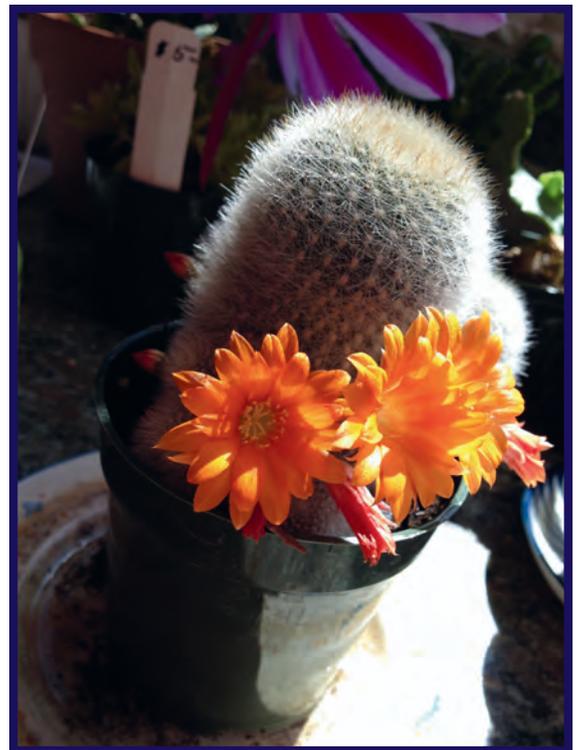
Summer is a particularly good time for me. One of the things I always look forward to and enjoy is our Country Store club event in August. It has evolved a bit over the years but is always fun to see the plants and things fellow members bring to share. We invite members to bring up to three items: succulents, cacti or tools, books, pots, etc. I am still trying to figure which ones I'm going to bring. I'd better not wait much longer since this fun event is next Sunday, August 17, at our regular meeting place, the Corralitos Grange Hall. The fun begins when we see what others brought and continues as we put our raffle tickets in the box at the table that has the items I hope to take home. If I see something I especially like, I get anxious as I wait for my ticket to be drawn from the bucket so I can pick that item to take home! I hope you can come to participate in the fun and take home some new treasures. We will not do a Show and Tell or have our normal plant raffle so we can spend all our attention on the Country Store. We will be able to get promotional flyers for the Fall Sale and Show at the Country Store. Please take a bunch home with you as a way to let your friends, neighbors, families know about it.

Another thing I appreciate about Summer is preparing for and participating in the Fall Show and Sale every September. The Board is planning and preparing for all new and old aspects of this event. We keep trying to find new ways to promote and draw more attendees, more volunteers, more ways to make the Fall Show and Sale an interesting and inviting and fun event for all people. Besides thousands of plants for sale, there are lots of very special show plants that the members and vendors bring to be judged by the folks who attend – you! Beginners will be able to attend short informational talks given by our members on succulent related topics. And, once again, everyone who attends can take home a free gift plant. The Ivolunteer site is up online for members to take responsibility for the success of the event by working as a cashier/packer, door monitor, greeter, distribute flyers, do set up and tear down, ask an expert, etc.

I've heard folks talk about spending some quality time at the Sale and Show and then taking in a local winery tour or enjoying a meal at one of the good restaurants in the area, visiting the Santa Cruz Harbor and Boardwalk or taking in the redwoods while riding the train into the mountains. There are lots of things to do in this area. You could make coming to the Fall Sale and Show a weekend adventure by exploring what else there is to see and do here.

I look forward to seeing you at the Country Store this weekend and the Fall Sale and Show in September!

Mary Louise Cross, President



Call to Order: Mary Cross.

Members present: Mary Cross, Dave Autore, Nancy Thomsen, David Kurtz, Jorge Quiñonez, Lou Falek, Lyn MacDonald, Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of 4/6/2025: Mary. June notes reviewed. There was not a quorum. Dave Autore has agreed to become a Director-at-Large, replacing Peter Shaw who resigned. Welcome Dave!!!

Mary has not received any more information from the San Jose Club about a memorial for Naomi.

Treasurer's Report: Lou. Accepted as presented. We are breaking even, and moving steadily in the right direction. The website problem was resolved.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn. Two new members.

Sunshine Committee: Mary. Several members have been sick and cards were sent.

Programs: Jorge. Jorge is our July speaker and his topic is epiphytes. He is giving this talk in Stockton, San Francisco, and San Jose. Raffle plants will be from Naomi's donations, and Lou will bring them. We will do a Show & Tell as this is still educational; no Mini Show again until someone agrees to run it.

The August program is the Country Store, to be held at Grange Hall; no raffle. Weather permitting, we will be outside. Please bring no more than 3 plants or plant-related items. Fall plant sale in Sept. so no program. Oct. is J.D. Wickert, Nov. is Stevie McCabe, and the election.

CSSA: Jorge. Sale held about 2 weeks ago at the Huntington. Monthly Zoom talks continue, accessible on YouTube. The CSSA national newsletter used two articles from our newsletter.

New Business: All. David Kurtz discussed his proposal for a member-to-member plant exchange. Board agreed this could be a fun meeting, possibly in January or Feb. or maybe as a replacement for the Country Store. The Club does not make much money on that event (\$135 last year). Exchanges are done in other clubs as a way to sell, barter or trade, to share surplus plants or downsize. David will look for someone to run this.

The issue of future shows was discussed. One show or two? Should we change the venue? Board members are going to look at the Salinas Rodeo, the Capitola Mall, and the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds as options. Jorge agreed to do research for the next Board Meeting as to how much money made, number of shows, and dates held by other clubs.

Fall Show and Sale: All. We will give away plants again, but note that only as supply lasts. We voted to not give volunteer incentive gifts for this show. Board agreed to continue the 10-minute talks which were well received. We need to bring a mike for announcements.

Other Business: All. Who will run for the Board? Mary's time is up. Nominating Committee will be the current President, V.P., Secretary and Treasurer. Vote is in November.

Do we need a new projector? Things we can try without a purchase discussed.

Mary will continue to write a beginner's article for the newsletter, people have commented their appreciation.

Adjournment: Mary.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

## A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO DYCKIA

By Tom Glavick, 'To the Point', Vol. 76, No.5

The genus Dyckia is one of the more collectable and more succulent species of the Bromeliad family. The Bromeliads, like Cacti and Agavaceae are a new World family. Like the Cacti they have evolved to cover a huge range of environments, from the Coastal Mountains of Chile, to the plains of Argentina, to the Amazon and the United States.

The Bromeliad Family is one of the monocots, along with Agave and Aloe. It is a very distant relative of these more common succulents and is more closely allied to the Palms, Heliconia, and the non-succulent monocots of the tropics.

All the species and cultivars of Dyckia require the same basic care. The white leaved species can take full sun, while some of the others do best with a bit of protection. All want as much light as possible. Dyckia like fast draining soil. Most species can tolerate some cold, and light frosts are generally not a problem, but a heavy frost can be fatal. They can take full sun when planted in the ground, but prefer some protection from the worst of the heat during the day. The roots are more sensitive to overheating than the leaves, and the cooking of roots in a pot in the sun is the loss of far more plants than any other cultural mistake. There are dozens of species of Dyckia, with more being found.

Propagation of Dyckia from pups is easy. Just wait until the pups are at least a third the size of the mother plant and can be pulled apart by hand. Since Dyckia are wickedly spiny plants, separation of the pups is easiest done from the bottom of the plant. It is also a much more successful method. Cutting of small clumps can lead to the loss of all of the heads.

Dyckia flowers have extra floral nectaries which secrete nectar external to the flowers. These are extremely attractive to ants, and it is rare to see a flower stalk not covered with ants. Ants also get into the flower and are capable of cross pollinating plants unexpectedly.

They are self fertile. If only one plant is flowering seeds will result and can be planted to produce more plants. Dyckia seeds are shiny, but lose their luster when ripe. They should be picked at this point and stored in an envelope until the seeds are open and ready to plant when temperatures are in the 80s from the late spring to late summer.

Edited by Mary Cross



## COUNTRY STORE

The August Meeting will be our annual Country Store.

### How it works:

- Everyone brings up to 4 items to contribute to the store. If you bring more items, please be prepared to take home at least that many items. Items can include healthy, strong plants (does not have to be rare or expensive), books, pots, top dressings, tools, art, or anything related. There are always items left at the end and someone has to deal with them so please do not bring more items than 4 unless you intend to bring home leftovers.
- Items are separated onto tables by category
- Tickets are sold at 8 tickets for \$5.00
- Members put their tickets towards any or all of the tables
- Names are picked raffle style and members get their pick from the items left on the table



This event turns into a fun, loud, social event and we all get to go home with new plants and items to enjoy. The proceeds of the Country Store go to the club to fund future events.



## FALL SHOW AND SALE 2025

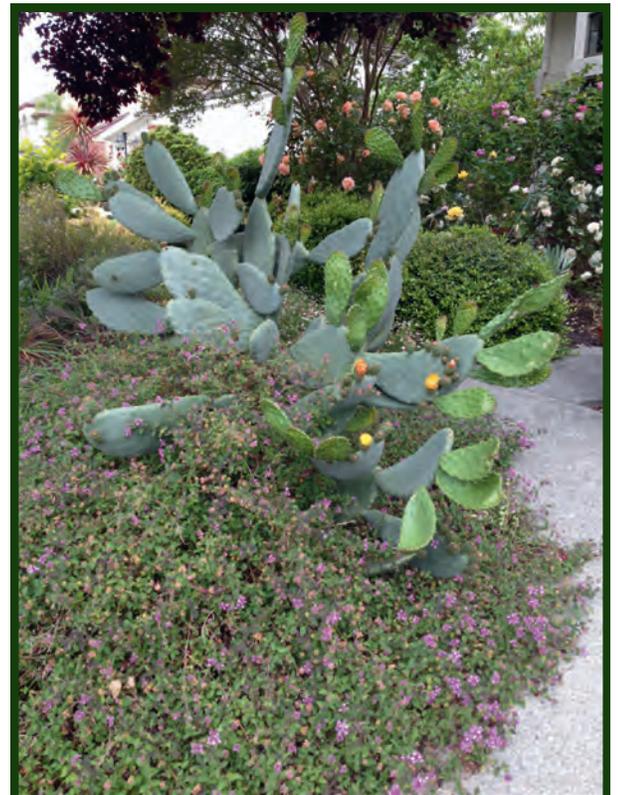
Our Fall Sale is just a month away. As always, we need volunteers to make this event a success. These sales are where the club gets its funds to continue bringing you great speakers and programs as well as the End of the Year party and auction, the monthly plant drawings and pays for the grange hall where we have meetings. These sales are very important to the club. The club needs you.

We need your help -

- Work a shift at the sale
- Promote the sale - a flyer is attached for you to post on social media, send to friends and family or print and post at local stores, libraries or work spaces. Many people who come to the sale were referred by a friend, so please tell your friends and neighbors about the sale.
- Bring show plants - the show is a People's Choice show, our guests will vote on their favorites. Please bring plants for the show on Friday. An entry form is attached so you can fill it out before you get to the show. There will be entry forms at the show as well. Bring your showiest plants because the winners get prizes.
- Be a customer - there are so many beautiful plants available at the sale, you are bound to find something you can't live without.

Click here to sign up to volunteer:

[MBCSS iVolunteer Sign Up](#)



## UPCOMING MEETINGS:

**August 17, 2025**

Country Store

**September, 2025**

No Meeting

Fall Show & Sale

**October 19, 2025**

Joseph Hidalgo

Intro to Asclepiads

## FUTURE MBACSS SALES SAVE THE DATES

Here are the dates of the  
upcoming sales for 2025:

**Fall 2025 - Sept 13, 14**

**Spring 2026 - April 25, 26**



## EDITOR'S NOTE:

I lost most of the plant photos for the newsletter due to operator error. I asked the board to send some photos for the newsletter. Meryl Abramson and Jorge Quiñónez sent several photos each. Thank you so much Meryl and Jorge.



## OFFICERS

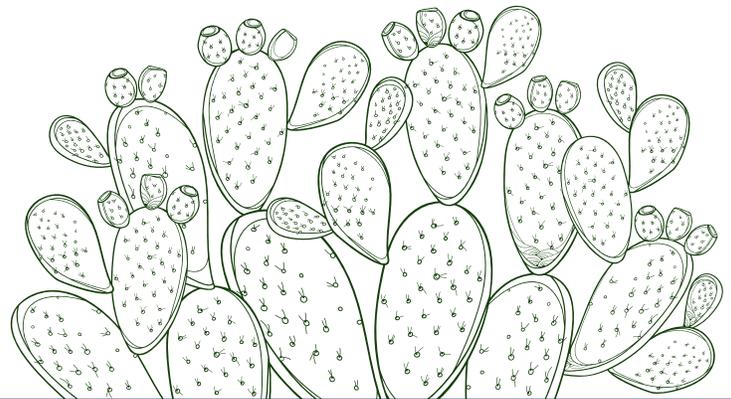
President - Mary Cross  
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen  
Secretary - Meryl Abramson  
Treasurer - Lou Falek  
Membership - Lyn MacDonald  
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez  
Directors at Large  
David Kurtz  
Daisy Szeto  
Dave Autore  
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin  
Founding Member - 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  
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:**

**August 17, 2025  
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