



ON THE DRY SIDE

OCTOBER 2025

Greeting fellow succulent lovers and MBACSS members,

Fall is certainly here and we are speedily heading for the end of this year. The Fall Sale and Show is now in the history books. We again made a small profit (that is partly why we can continue) and one reason we can say it was profitable. I very much enjoyed it, from the reactions of folks at the entrance when they were offered a free plant, to the wonderful variety and quality of the vendors offerings, to the healthy and very tasty lunch for volunteers, to the outstanding plants that you members brought to the show for everyone to vote one, to the short informational talks by members, to volunteering for the Plant Hotel, and especially getting to know more about you members who volunteered as we worked together to make this event a success.

Our next membership meeting will, as usual, be at the Corralitos Grange Hall in Corralitos on Sunday October 19 and will feature a talk by J.D. Wikert on "How Plants Get Around". This should prove to be an interesting topic to help us understand more about our plants and how they grow. Again, we will have a "Show and Tell" time for you to show us a favorite plants and tell us a little about it so we can each grow in knowledge and understanding of our plants and our plant drawing will provide us with the opportunity to acquire a new plant for the cost of a raffle ticket.

In November we have our bi-annual election of new Officers. Please seriously consider how you can serve the Society as one of the officers or committee members/chairs. For more information about what is required for each of these positions, see the article in another part of this newsletter. Maybe you could provide just the new element that we need to become a more vibrant and interesting organization.

Thank you for considering how you can contribute.

See you on Sunday,
Mary Louise Cross, President



APPROVED MINUTES

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August 3, 2025 7:00-8:26 p.m.

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

Members present: Mary Cross, Dave Autore, Nancy Thomsen, Peter Beiersdorfer, David Kurtz, Jorge Quiñonez, Lou Falek, Lyn MacDonald, Diane Salewski, Tom Karwin, Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of 7/6/2025: Mary. July minutes reviewed and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Lou. Accepted as presented. Lou is still nursing some of Naomi's plants for the next raffle or for the Fall Show & Sale.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn. Two new members, 14 new members total so far this year, 152 total members. Lyn needs a non-personal email connection through the website. Who takes care of this?

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

Programs: Jorge. July program was very well-received. Mary reminded everyone to come via email; attendance was about 35 people.

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

CSSA: Jorge. There is a webinar August 16. Videos of the convention are available.

New Business: All. David Kurtz has not yet found someone to run a member-to-member plant exchange. Since this can be a great community-builder, and could be a meeting instead of having a speaker, David was encouraged to write something up for the newsletter. David and Jorge will discuss and agree on a date for a general meeting likely next year. Fresno does something similar.

The issue of future shows was discussed. One show or two? Should we change the venue? Jorge and Nancy looked at the Salinas Rodeo. They require security; one room looked too large, another too small. It appears that all other local clubs present one sale per year, except for San Jose which does two. Fresno has a second show, but it is member-to-member only, like the plant exchange above. Rent for Portuguese Hall is close to \$5000 for each show.

New projector? Discussed; our projector was top-of-the-line 15-20 years ago. New one now about \$800-\$1,000, less on the used market. A bulb replacement will be expensive, so we may hold off on a decision until the bulb blows. Discussed a new, more potent sound system as a better option. Lou will research for the next Board Meeting.

Stan gave Meryl a box and bags of award ribbons from past shows. Several members of the Board have Club items and Meryl will compile a list so we can track who has what. If you have any Club-owned items, please let her know.

Fall Show and Sale: All. Preparation will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 12. Mary will bring the key and make coffee. We will give away plants again, but only as supply lasts. Several members have agreed to prepare and bring 2" give-away plants (400 are currently promised). Peter suggested we give away any left-over plants from the Country Store. Board agreed to continue the 10-minute talks which were well received and attended, especially Jan and Peter. Mary will get speakers again, a speaker for every 1.5 hours. Mary will ask Paul to bring the mike for announcements. We are reminded to sign up on i-volunteer, bring boxes and newspapers. Nancy will have the press release out next week. Lyn/Meryl will do mass emails.

Mary will send postcards again, including out to the San Jose list; Diane S. will ask permission for the S.J. list first. The Board directed Mary to please use a bright colored paper for the postcards so they will stand out. Food for volunteers: pizza on Friday, Saturday salads, Sunday left-overs. Lyn/Lou will bring food and drinks. Two dozen donuts or equivalent are requested for each morning, and will be an i-volunteer sign-up. Nancy will bring flyers to the Country Store meeting. All who have signs and banners, please bring these.

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. Mary will schedule an in-person meeting in the next few weeks. If you are interested in running for the Board, please contact Mary.

On the Dry Side Newsletter: Nancy encourages articles and pictures from all. Have a plant that 'died' and then came back? Tell us about it! If you visit an arboretum, have a special plant, or snap a picture of a great yard, please send pictures to Nancy at editor@mbcss.org or nembuno@gmail.com. Jorge will send some pictures of his plants in bloom.

Adjournment: Mary.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

APPROVED MINUTES

OCTOBER 2025
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September 7, 2025 7:01-8:10 p.m.

Call to Order: Mary Cross.

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

Minutes of 8/3/2025: Mary. August minutes reviewed for 'to do' items and accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Lou. Accepted as presented.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn. Sixteen new members in 2025, 39 in 2024. May be a result of membership dues price hike. 153 members total. If you are new and have not picked up your badge, please do so. Board agreed to let Membership Chair use discretion in creating the more permanent green badges, which are expensive and are for those who attend and volunteer. We had a grant from Driscoll to pay for these, and the grant ran out.

Sunshine Committee: Mary. A member is having surgery and should receive a card.

Programs: Jorge. Evaluated the August program, the Country Store. A suggestion was made to hold the meeting outside on the other side of the building where it was cooler. Program was fun, we had about 22 people, several who do not regularly attend General Meetings.

Fall plant sale in Sept. so no program. Oct. is J.D. Wickert on "How Plants Get Around", Nov. is Stevie McCabe, and the election. Jorge to bring Oct. raffle plants. For 2026, Jorge will plan and schedule more 'Hands-On' meetings. Lou will be unavailable for the November meeting, so Jorge should please collect a check for the speaker honorarium and raffle plants from Lou for each provider.

CSSA: Jorge. Elections are currently in progress, votes due Nov. 1. Jorge will send info to Nancy so she can vote on behalf of the Club.

Old Business: All. David Kurtz has written something up for the newsletter about the Member-to-Member Plant exchange and will send it to Nancy for the newsletter. Meryl will re-send the list of which members are storing what things for the Club.

We need members to run for the election for the next board, who have the skills and interest to do so. The Nominating Committee will meet informally at the Sale so that we can approach potential board candidates to determine their interest. If you have an interest, please contact a Board Member.

Fall Show and Sale: All. The County Fair is also next weekend but the hope is there is time for the Fair and for the Show/Sale. If you are a vendor or member and would like to give a mini-talk, please contact Mary.

Volunteers: Only about 21% of the volunteer slots are taken. Lots of people sign up the last week before the show, and lots of members volunteer who don't sign up. Peter will ask vendors for one shift per day of sale.

Nancy distributed the press release a couple of weeks ago, and gave out lots of posters/flyers at the Aug. meeting. Please distribute these! Someone agreed to take pictures of the Hall and storage and send them to Lyn before we set up. Lyn will print these out and laminate them, so we'll know where everything belongs after the Show & Sale, and we can keep these for the long term.

Mary sent out postcards, including the San Jose list from Diane S.; Peter had software for labels (thanks, Peter!) This added 300 more to the 1500 cards also sent.

Lyn sent out the Show entry forms and will have extras. No limit on numbers of plants for the Show. Mary will have a table for the old CSSA journals and it was suggested she bundle 4 or 5 journals for \$1. Nancy needs some pots for the Show winners and will ask a vendor for some. Jorge and Lydia have purchased drinks. Dave Autore will bring some pots and a drill and set up at a Show boundary table. Lyn will bring a monitor in case it's needed. Mary will remind Paul to bring the sound system and also the new lapel mic purchased by Dave Autore.

We have about 500 free plants committed for donation. The donated 2" plants must be labeled "gift plant" and Peter will run off some labels. Mary requested that un-labeled plants be placed against the wall so we can add the sticker.

PLEASE BRING BOXES!

On the Dry Side Newsletter: Nancy encourages articles and pictures from all. Have a plant that 'died' and then came back? Tell us about it! If you visit an arboretum, have a special plant, or snap a picture of a great yard, please send pictures to Nancy at editor@mbcss.org or nembuno@gmail.com. Jorge will send Nancy some humorous pictures and succulent jokes. We will also place a copy of the By-Laws into the newsletter.

See you at the Fall Show & Sale!!!

Adjournment: Mary.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

HOW PLANTS GET AROUND: FLYING, HITCHHIKING, AND OTHER COOL METHODS

Our speaker this month is J.D. Wikert. He will present on the interesting ways plants use to distribute themselves across the landscape. Be prepared for laughs and learning!

J.D. is a soon to be retired fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in California's Central Valley and lives in Lodi California. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 150 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for around 20 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies.

You might have seen J.D. speak in a previous meeting on *Adromischus*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Sedum*, *Senecio*, *Stapeliads*, a general Succulent Overview, watering succulents, and a succulent quiz.

J.D. will bring plants to sell at the meeting. He can take cash or Venmo.



Every two years the club holds elections for officers and members of the Board of Directors (Board). The board meets every month to plan the direction of the club. The board meetings are currently held by video conference on the 2nd Sunday of each month. The next election takes place at the November 2025 general membership meeting to be held Sunday, November 16, 2025 at the Corralitos Grange in Corralitos, CA starting at 12:30 pm.

Below is the description of each elected office:

PRESIDENT presides at all regular and special meetings of the membership and meetings of the Board, and appoints special committees as required

VICE-PRESIDENT presides at meetings in the absence of the president and undertakes the duties of president in all respects when the president is ill, has resigned or is otherwise unavailable

SECRETARY keeps the minutes of regular and board meetings and attends to the correspondence of the Society

TREASURER receives and keeps all the Society's funds and keeps full and adequate records of all receipts and disbursements, Assists the membership chair in collecting annual dues

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE (three) attend board meetings and represent the views of the general membership

At the November general meeting, every member in good standing will be given a ballot. Ballots will be collected and counted at the meeting and the results will be announced. Board members begin their 2 year term on January 1, 2026.

Now that the business is over, let's talk about what this means. Every organization needs direction – a path forward. The Board is responsible for that in this club. Every two years there is an opportunity to add new members to the Board. New members bring much needed new ideas and enthusiasm. I understand that it's not easy to volunteer for something like this. I know! But we need you! We need your ideas and experiences. The position of Director-at-Large is a way to get started. Your only duty is to show up to board meetings and membership meetings. Please consider joining the board. Say YES when asked.

If you are not ready to jump on the Board, we have other positions that need to be filled.

Librarian – We want to have a library committee of sorts. Several people who can be available at meetings. You are not expected to be an expert, just pick some books from the library, display them, and help members check books out and in.

Mini Show – We have moved to a Show and Tell for every meeting, but we think it's time to have a Mini Show some months. This job involves choosing species for cactus and succulent, setting up the show table (we have the supplies), tabulating the votes and announcing the winners.

Sunshine Committee – This person or group sends get well and sympathy cards to members as well as thank you cards to our speakers.

Show Manger – Naomi Bloss was our Show Manager for many years. With her passing, we need a new Show Manager. This person takes responsibility for the show floor. Janet Sparks helps with the plants and can be a fountain of information. This person should be knowledgeable about the plants in the show.

FALL SHOW AND SALE 2025

We had our Fall Show and Sale last month. As usual, our guests were excited to find new plants, talk to our experts and examine the plants in the show. The event cannot happen without volunteers. I want to thank some of those volunteers.

Thank you to Peter B. for organizing the sale and Janet for organizing the show plants.

Thank you to Lyn and Lou who donated and prepared the food. As usual it was a feast enjoyed by all.

Thank you to the members who volunteered. These events are our main club events and the only time we ask the entire membership to help out.

Thank you to the vendors who brought their plants and helped with anything I asked from them.

Thank you to everyone who brought plants to give away.

Thank you to Dave N. for doing ... everything.

Thank you Mary C. for spending time at the front door all weekend.

I'm missing some folks, but be assured, I appreciate all the help that weekend.



THE SEVEN QUICKEST WAYS TO KILL YOUR CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS

By Lyle Moomaw for "Points of Interest," September 1991

reprinted in "To The Point" July/August 2004

Edited by Mary Cross

#1. Don't ask questions of other people who grow that plant

Just because they've got huge plants of that type in the greenhouse doesn't mean they actually KNOW anything about growing that plant.

#2. Put your plant on a fixed watering schedule

Why water it when it needs it? After all, it's going to use the same amount of water despite the monsoon last week or the five days of 110 degrees weather since you watered it last.

#3. Assume that the plant is happy where you first put it

That cold, gloomy corner on the north side of the basement NEEDS that Agave to brighten things up, and no matter what, you can make it grow there despite what centuries of evolution have adapted that plant to do.

#4. Don't inspect your plants too closely

Three months of unnoticed mealy bugs aren't really going to bother anything are they? And my, that sun scar really set off the green of the non-shriveled leaves, don't you agree?

#5 Never buy literature or search the internet on the plants you grow

These things are written by eggheads for eggheads. Besides, you should enjoy the challenge of keeping your plants alive by yourself.

#6. Use whatever soil is available for transplanting

If I dump enough fertilizer into the peat muck Mr. Opuntia will be just fine.

#7 Treat all your plants alike

They're all green, right? And they've all got leaves, sort of. Hey, the plant has grown hard all of its life and now it's time to relax and give it the African Violet treatment.

Obviously this isn't everything bad that you can do to your plants, but it's a good start.

If you can avoid killing your plants quickly, you can usually correct whatever may be killing them slowly. But, when all else fails, call another CSSA (MBACSS) member and commiserate together. I'll bet they know someone who killed a plant just like you did!

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

October 19, 2025

Speaker: J.D. Wikert

Topic: How Plants Get Around

Mini Show: Show and Tell

November 16, 2025

Speaker: Stephen McCade

Topic: New and Old Adventures in Dudleya

Mini Show: Show and Tell

December 21, 2025

End of Year Banquet and Auction

FUTURE MBACSS SALES SAVE THE DATES

Here are the dates of the
upcoming sales for 2025:

Spring 2026 - April 25, 26

Fall 2026 - Sept 26, 27 (tentative)



Why don't cacti ever get into arguments?

Because they don't want to get into a prickly situation.

I tried to hug my cactus after a few drinks last night...

Turns out, it was the sharpest decision I've ever made.

My succulent told me it needed more space...

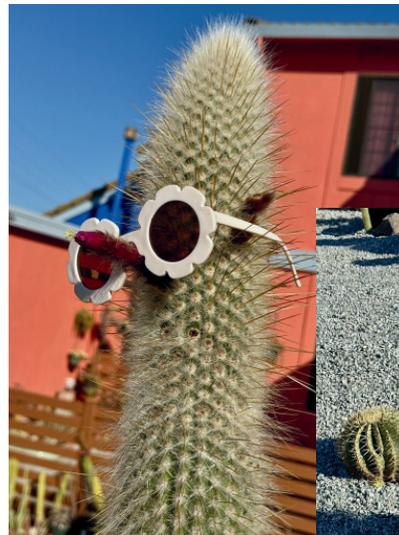
So now it's on Tinder.

Why don't succulents ever gossip?

Because they know how to keep things in the desert.

I asked my cactus how it feels about me.

It said, "I'm stuck on you... but not in a good way."



OFFICERS

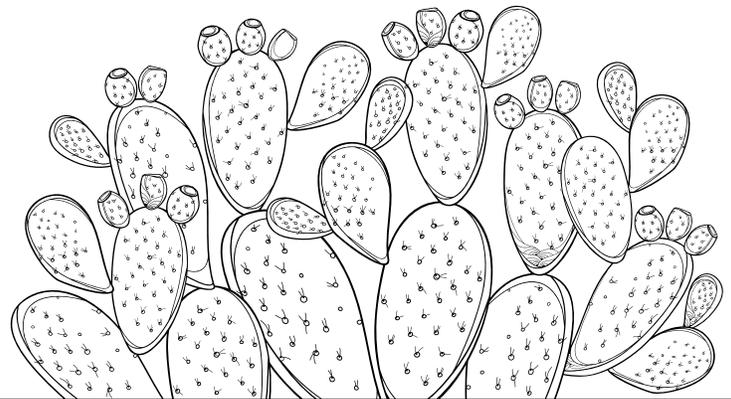
President - Mary Cross
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen
Secretary - Meryl Abramson
Treasurer - Lou Falek
Membership - Lyn MacDonald
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large
David Kurtz
Daisy Szeto
Dave Autore
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin
Founding Member - Naomi Bloss

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



Our next membership meeting will be:

**October 19, 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