



ON THE DRY SIDE

NOVEMBER 2025

Dear fellow MBACSS members,

My Fall clean up is very different this year since I no longer have a big yard and large collection of plants. My 9 x 12 deck is full of plants, but I can much more easily maintain and take care of the ones I have now. I had a new problem with one of my Echeverias this Fall – mold! I have never had mold on my plants before. The internet said to isolate the plants and make sure there was good air circulation and one of the diy things to do for it was make a mixture of milk and water and spray it on the affected leaves which I did and then wiped them all clean and dried them. (I didn't want to use a commercial fungicide) It looked great and I was hopeful. But...I haven't been able to do much out there for a while and I checked the plant yesterday – totally covered with mold!! I needed to spray it every other day or so I guess. Anyway, I learned another good lesson at the expense of a formerly beautiful Echeveria :(I hope you don't have to learn the lessons by killing your plants!

Our October membership meeting was a bust last month due to me not following up on telephone message I got from the Grange Hall which resulted in our not being able to even get into the parking lot let alone the meeting hall. Fortunately, our group is pretty forgiving and willing to adapt so we spent our time in the nearby park socializing, discussing our own plants and examining and purchasing plants that our speaker, J.D. Wickert, brought to show us and sell. Also, some folks brought some interesting freebies to give away and for us to talk about. I'm sorry to any of you who came expecting to hear a very interesting talk about how plants move around to new habitats. I will try harder in the future to keep up with my phone messages and make sure we have a place to meet.

Our November Membership meeting speaker will be Steve McCabe who will keep us updated on what is happening in the world of Dudleya and beyond. But before that we will have our election of Board Member Officers for 2025-27. We will accept nominations from the floor (for folks who have personally agreed to run for election) for all the positions in addition to those already nominated. See later in the newsletter for the list of current nominees. For the Show and Tell, members are invited to bring their favorite plant to show and talk about And, as usual, we will have our plant drawing/raffle during the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Louise Cross, President
MBACSS



APPROVED MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2025

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Call to Order: Mary Cross.

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

Minutes of 9/7/2025: Mary. September minutes reviewed for 'to do' items and accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Lou. Accepted as presented. No expenses this month other than for Show & Sale; took in \$205 for membership, netted \$989.70 for S&S. The Club would have been just over break-even but due to donations we made a little money. We continue to be on track to be profitable this year.

Lou explained a mix-up about form and registering with the CA Dept. of Charities and possible re-characterization for doing so. He will be researching what must be done/filed in order to make the State happy with our current articles of incorporation while insuring we are in compliance. The Board thanked Lou for his efforts.

Chairpersons' Reports:

Membership: Lyn. Now 24 new members in 2025. Seven new members at the S&S, 1 renewal.

Sunshine Committee: Mary. No updates.

Programs: Jorge. Fall Show & Sale: All. Some concerns. We did not get enough volunteer sign-ups on i-volunteer. A new category will be added to that program that allows folks who are at the Sale all day to be 'floaters' and assigned as needed. The sign-up hopefully attaches a greater level of commitment. We may re-visit the per-person numbers of plants brought for the Show. Other shows of art, etc. prohibit submitting the same item more than once. There were three 'mini-talks' and they were good...and the lapel mic worked well. This information is for documentation purposes and will be dealt with in January. A new committee to deal with S&S issues is being formed and will either decide or make recommendations to the Board on these issues, as well as explore alternate S&S/general meeting venues including the Prunedale Grange (Corralitos Grange is \$1500/year for 10 months (\$150/meeting or \$50/hour)), resolve the one vs. two show issue, and handle advertising. A S&S is a lot of work for a few people, and we had little to no profit (without donations). With more money, we could afford judges (\$250 honorarium, each), and more field trips. If we had had judges at the S&S, we would have lost money. Several people commented that the food was very good and they were grateful: thanks to Lyn and Lou.

Oct. program is J.D. Wickert on "How Plants Get Around", Jorge brings raffle plants. Nov. is Steve McCabe, and the election. December is the holiday party; Lyn volunteered to do the food (kudos and thank-yous to Lyn for taking this on!!). Jorge is working on programs for next year including some 'hands-on' program/s (maybe in April to make something for Mother's Day?), Jaan on photography, low water plants/landscaping locally, staging plants to look like their habitat.

CSSA: Jorge. Jorge gave Nancy suggestions for the Club vote for officers. CSSA has their own newsletter (also named 'On the Dry Side'), collecting articles from around clubs around the U.S. They have used some of Nancy's articles.

On the Dry Side: Nancy. Paulo Albert took pictures at the Show and these will be in the newsletter. 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.

Old Business: All. David wrote an article about the member-to-member plant exchange concept and sent it to Nancy for the newsletter.

Board Elections/Appointments: No members have come forward to compete for a spot on the Board. The nominations to date are as follows: Nancy for President, Lou for Treasurer, Jorge for Programs (and CSSA), Meryl for Secretary (and Raffles), Dave Autore and David Kurtz for Members-at-Large. Mary will be Past President, and the Board thanks her for six years of service! Lyn will continue at Membership, Cheryl at Sunshine, Diane S. as Website Manager. We still need a Vice President and one Member-at-Large, as well as a Librarian. The V.P. position primarily runs the Board meeting if the President is unavailable. The S&S Committee will replace Nancy as S&S Manager.

Adjournment: Mary.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

WILD DUDLEYA ADVENTURES WITH STEPHEN MCCABE: EXPLORING FOR NATIVE SUCCULENTS, PLUS GROWING TIPS

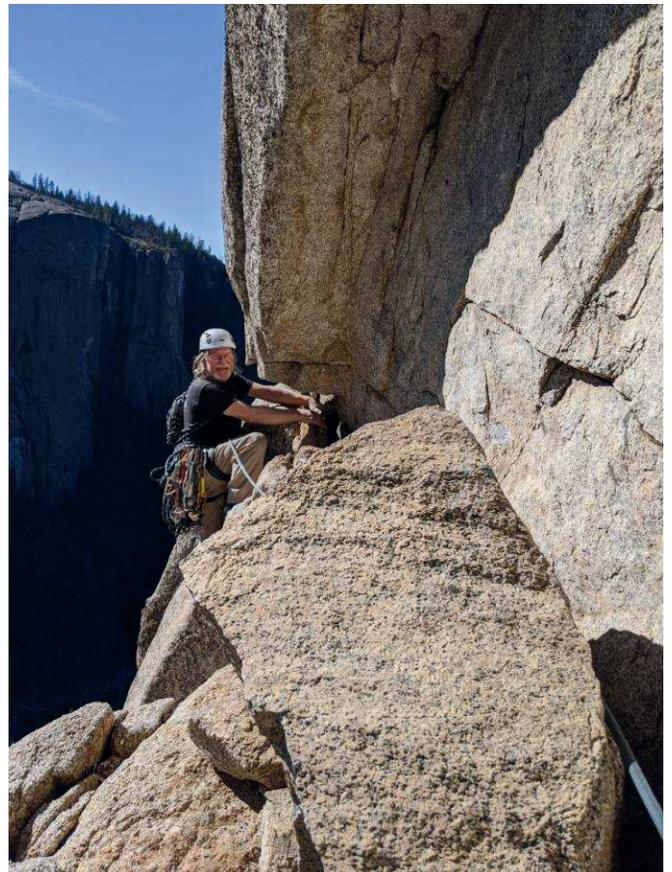
Unexploded bombs, steep cliffs, sketchy boats, and wild bulls are just some of the challenges Stephen faced in 40 years of research on Dudleya, a.k.a liveforevers. Documenting what may or may not be new species have taken him to 15 Pacific coast islands and many rocky habitats in California and Baja California. The botanical and horticultural aspects of the talk are intended for a general audience of hobbyists, though Dudleya fanatics will enjoy botanical tidbits and hearing about newly named species.

Biography

Stephen Ward McCabe, Emeritus Director of Research at the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz, has developed and selected cultivars of Dudleya, Manzanita, monkey flowers, and other plants. He has been a member of the Monterey Club almost since its inception and he is a Fellow of the Cactus and Succulent Society of San José. His publications include the Dudleya section of the Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California. He has published eight articles in the Cactus and Succulent Journal and has spoken at six international Conventions/Symposia.



Caption: New cultivar: Dudleya 'Burgundy'. Photo by Ken Blackford.



Caption: Stephen climbing towards dudleyas. Photo by Justin Marion.

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.

Here is the slate of nominees:

President: Nancy Thomsen
Vice President: _____
Treasurer: Lou Falek
Secretary: Meryl Abramson
Member-at-Large: David Kurtz
Dave Autore

CSSA Affiliate Representative: Jorge Quinonez

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 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.

DUES

As we get close to the end of the year, we also get close to the time to renew our memberships. Memberships are due January 1, 2026. The best way to renew is to visit our website mbsucculent.org and pay online. You will be able to pay in person at the meetings. See Dave at the entrance for forms. We will not be able to answer any membership questions at the November meeting.

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO GASTERIA

By Tom Glavich as published in "To The Point"

Vol. 76 No. 2, March/April 2004

Edited by Mary Louise Cross

Gasteria are popular and easily grown plants and have been collected and kept as house plants since the 17th Century. There are no Gasteria species that are really difficult to grow. Gasteria are readily distinguished from Aloe and Haworthia (both very close relatives) by the shape of their flowers. Gasteria flowers are carried on a long scape (leafless flower stalk) generally hang down as they open and have a swollen (gasteriform) portion at the base of the flower. The word Gasteria comes from the Greek "gaster" meaning stomach or belly.

Gasteria cultivation is easy. They are mostly winter and spring growers but exhibit some growth all year except for the hottest part of the summer and coldest and darkest part of winter. They are tolerant of almost any growing mix. They prefer partial shade, particularly in the afternoon; however, the best color is obtained by giving them as much light and sun, short of sun burn as possible.

They vary in size from about an inch to several feet in diameter. Almost all species start out with the leaves in two rows (distichous) although most eventually begin to spiral, either remaining in a distichous spiral, or changing into a rosette. Gasteria have definite juvenile and adult forms, have local variations in appearance and have shape and growth habits that are dependent on the soil type and amount of light.

Typical natural habitats are humus rich, sandy soils. They grow on dry rocky hillsides and often grow under larger shrubs, particularly when young. They can also be found in rock fissures or in the shade of large rocks. The roots are shallow and thick which helps the plants obtain moisture from barely wet soils, and nourishment from decaying leaves and debris from larger shrubs. They are generally free from most pests except "black spot" which is a fungus that attacks many Gasteria. Once a leaf is spotted, the spot will never go away. It is best to pull the leaf off (put it in the trash), and let the plant grow without it. The overall plant shape will soon correct itself. This slows the spread of the fungus, and will help prevent it from spreading to other plants.

Gasteria are readily propagated from offsets at the base, which can be simply pulled off and planted. Leaf cuttings will also root easily.



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

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)

END OF THE YEAR/HOLIDAY LUNCH AND AUCTION

Our December meeting will be our annual End of the Year/Holiday Luncheon and Auction (it doesn't have an official name so I change the name every year).

Date: December 21, 2025

Location: Corralitos Grange Hall

Time: 11:00 am

Lunch: 11:30

Silent Auction: Tables start closing at 12:30

Live Auction Begins: 12:00

Plant Exchange: Throughout the event

RSVP: No later than December 5, 2025

We have not started taking reservations. Membership Chair Lyn will send an email to all members explaining the event and instructions for reserving space. I know we are all busy, but we need to let Lyn know how many people we expect so we will have food for everyone. You don't want to miss this meal. As usual it will be delicious and have something for everyone.

For the plant exchange, bring 1 plant in at least a 4" pot that is mature, healthy, and well established. There will be a drawing and each person who brought a plant will get to pick a new plant to take home.

There will be more and specific information about the event in the next newsletter.

OFFICERS

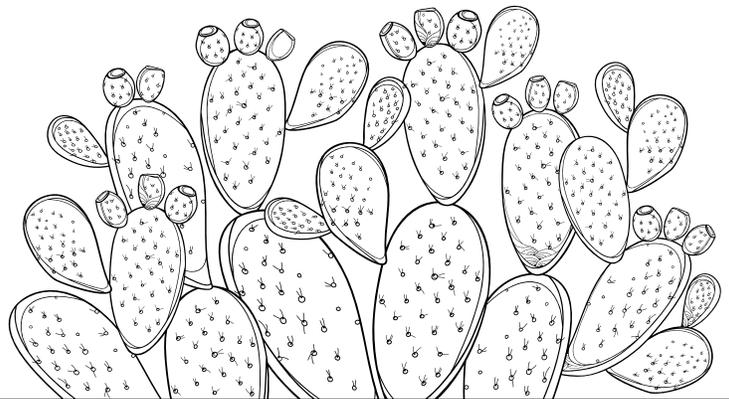
President - Mary Cross
Vice President - Nancy Thomsen
Secretary - Meryl Abramson
Treasurer - Lou Falek
Membership - Lyn MacDonald
Affiliate Representative - Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large
David Kurtz
Daisy Szeto
Dave Autore
Immediate Past President - Tom Karwin
Founding Member - Naomi Bloss

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:

**November 16, 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