

ON THE DRY SIDE

MARCH 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's starting to feel like spring and we are only a few weeks away from our Annual Spring Show and Sale. This year we are sharing a new space with the Bonsai Kai of Santa Cruz. We are all very excited about this new venue. It is a large space attached to the Capitola Mall – the former Sears building. Promotional postcards will be available at the next meeting for you to post or hand out to friends, family, coworkers and neighbors. Start getting your special plants ready for the show. It's a People's Choice so bring your showiest plants. There is a prize for the plants with the most votes. Check out the Show page in this newsletter.

The speaker for the March membership meeting is Carl Carter. He will be talking about Bolivia. It sounds like an interesting and educational presentation. There will be a Show and Tell for anyone to bring a plant and share and tell its story. There will also be our usual plant raffle - 6 tickets for \$5.00. It is fun to go home with a new plant.

I am pleased to report that I have not killed any plants over the winter. I tend to kill something over the winter, but this has been a mild season and I have been careful with my plants. Though growing cacti and succulents is a hobby for me, I have learned quite a bit about them from the speakers at meetings and talking to vendors at the sales. Though I suspect we all kill a plant now and then. I do have one plant that I think is dead, but unless it melts, I usually take the suspected dead plant out of its pot and let it breath. Sometimes the plant rejuvenates and sometimes it doesn't. I do not throw plants away easily – you never know with cacti and succulents.

See you Sunday at the next membership meeting,
Nancy Thomsen
President

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MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order: Nancy Thomsen

Members present: Nancy Thomsen, Jon Lubbe, Mary Cross, Lyn MacDonald, Lou Falek, Jorge Quiñonez, Dave Autore, Diane Salewski, Stan Verkler, Meryl Abramson.

Minutes of 1/4/2026: Approved.

Treasurer's report: Lou. Accepted as presented. Lou has paid the California sales tax for 2025 (\$5300).

Membership Report: Lyn. We have 6 new members so far, plus 3 from year end. Lyn will follow-up with vendors and others who have not yet paid.

February Meeting: Jorge. Joseph Hidalgo demonstrated staging plants how they look in nature.

Meeting updates: Lyn will bring another laptop in case of problems. Dave A. will bring his camera, to help Albert take pictures of members socializing, as well as of the plants.

March meeting speaker is Mark Beckstrom. There will be a Show & Tell.

Future Member Perks: All. The Club has some extra funds, so the Board discussed some possible member perks. Ideas included bringing Joseph back, subsidizing some pots, and members doing a hands-on planting and dress. Field trips are another option: there are several potentially interesting succulent yards and nurseries near-by. Diane talked about a Club visit to Lotusland many years ago that was a lot of fun. Field trips and programs would not be on the same day.

Spring Show & Sale: Stan and Committee. The Committee met with the Bonsai Club in January, with many follow-up communications. The postcard and posters should be approved in the next two weeks. The second meeting will be Feb. 13 at the Aptos Library. One concern is that now only MBACSS will rent and insure the event. We are a non-profit and Bonsai is not. They will still pay half the rental, and for their own tables, chairs and food.

Friday will be set-up at 1:00 or 3:00 and there will be pizza for volunteers
Saturday the show will be 10-5, and Sunday from 10-3 or -4.

Re:PR for the event; Diane is coordinating this. Helen of the Bonsai Club has contact people in media, radio and will put the word out.

New Business: All. The sound system has not been working. Lou bought a new system that he and Lyn have donated to the Club. He will bring it to the next meeting. It has a clip-on mike and seems to work well. A big "thank you" to Lyn and Lou!!!

Adjournment: Nancy.

Respectfully submitted by Meryl Abramson

MARCH SPEAKER

CARL CARTER

A VISIT TO THE HIGHLANDS OF BOLIVIA



Join us as Carl takes us on a breathtaking journey through the rugged heart of Bolivia. From the surreal, shimmering expanses of the Salar de Uyuni to hidden high-altitude valleys, discover how unique cacti thrive on isolated desert islands.

Carl will highlight diverse plant material and scenery, focusing on specialized xeric habitats. Beyond cacti, he will cover Tillandsia, Deuterocohnia, Puya and other plants adapted to the unique environments of the Andes. Don't miss this vivid exploration of South American flora and the stunning landscapes that shape them!



SHOW & Sale

WHEN:

Saturday, April 25 - 10am to 5pm
Sunday, April 26 - 10am to 4pm

WHERE:

41st Ave, Capitola Mall, Capitola

VOLUNTEERS:

Because we are working with another club and a different location Lyn will be handing out lanyards with our club name and logo on them that identify MBACSS vendors and volunteers for customers to know what club we represent. Also we have been very lucky at our other location to have a big kitchen available on site. This year the food area is limited. Lyn is setting up a food tent to serve you morning snacks and lunch. If you want lunch and coffee & snacks, you need to sign up as a volunteer. Those that sign up as a volunteer on ivolunteer.com will get a lanyard which gives you access to the food tent. The food tent is for MBACSS vendors and volunteers only.

We start at 10AM instead of 9AM, so shifts are 1.5 - 2.00. The slots are arranged so that volunteers are able to grab a bite to eat in the food tent before or after their volunteer slot. Lyn will make sure you are well fed with a healthy delicious selection of food. Please help us by grabbing a bite to eat before your volunteer time slot, not during it. This goes for shopping as well! Again, this is a new location and we need volunteers following the schedule they signed up for. Thank you!



SHOW:

People's Choice. Every guest who visits the show receives some stickers to put on the tag for their favorite plants. On Sunday, the dots are tallied and winners receive a prize. Every member is encouraged to bring a plant on Friday afternoon to put in the show. The plants can be picked up Sunday afternoon. Maybe you will win a new pot!

PUBLICITY:

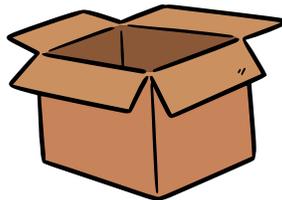
Postcards are available for any member. We will have them at the meeting for you to take to hand out, mail or post. The artwork will be attached to this email for your use.

CLUB NEWS



save your boxes!

Please start saving boxes to be used during the Spring Show and Sale April 25th & 26th



UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 15, 2026

Speaker: Carl Carter

Topic: Bolivia Talk

Mini Show: Show and Tell

April

Spring Show & Sale

No Meeting

SHOW & SALE DATES:

Spring 2026

April 25, 26

New venue - Capitola Mall

Fall 2026

September 26, 27

LEADERSHIP

2026 OFFICERS

President: Nancy Thomsen
Vice President: Jon Lubbe
Secretary: Meryl Abramson
Treasurer: Lou Falek
Membership: Lyn MacDonald
Affiliate Representative: Jorge Quiñónez
Directors at Large:
David Kurtz
Dave Autore
Diane Salewski
Immediate Past President: Mary Cross
Founding Member:

CHAIRPERSONS

Librarian: David Kurtz
Mini-Show: Tyson Curtis
Newsletter Editor: Nancy Thomsen
Newsletter Designer: Leia Dilley
Photography: Paul Albert
Programs: Jorge Quiñónez
Raffles: Meryl Abramson
Sales Floor Manager: Peter Beiersdorfer
Assistant Floor Manager: Janet Sparks
Sunshine Committee: Cheryl Albert
Webmaster: Diane Salewski
Greeter: Dave Novarina

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

mbsucculent.org

MEMBERSHIP MEETING INFORMATION

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

Location:
Corralitos Grange
165 Little Corral Way, Corralitos.