

ON THE DRY SIDE

MAY 2026



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We had a very successful show and sale last month at the Capitola Mall. It was so successful that we decided to forgo the fall show and sale. I want to thank the committee for all their hard work and especially Lyn and Lou for being my support group. Also, Dave N., Dave A., Gloria B., Matt S. worked many hours that weekend and deserve your praise when you see them. I have already communicated with the mall about next spring.

I am putting out a small newsletter this month because we put my father in hospice last week and there is so much to do I don't have much energy for the newsletter.

I hope to be at the meeting this Sunday and to see you there.

Nancy Thomsen
President



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MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
Sunday, March 1, 2026

Attending: Nancy Thomsen, Jon Lubbe, Jorge Quiñónez, Lou Falek, Lyn MacDonald, Diane Salewski, Mary Cross

Call to Order: Nancy Thomsen
February Minutes:

Approved Membership: Lyn MacDonald 1 new member 118 total memberships
The board explored the possibility of auto-renew and decided it was not feasible at this time.

Treasurer: Lou Falek The club made a \$40 profit on the raffle at the February meeting

Spring Show and Sale We still have some postcards to distribute It was decided to buy 3 banners - one for the Show, One for Checkout and a full color banner with the club name - to be used at the sale. The cost was less than \$100.

Insurance: the mall management had questions about our insurance rider. Lou worked with the mall and our insurer and gave the mall the information. Lou is waiting to hear back from management.

Volunteers: Vendors will be asked to sign up for volunteer shifts as opposed to being asked during the sale.

May Membership Meeting: Repotting Workshop

Old Business:
None

New business:
Lyn received an email from someone who is selling their house and wants to advertise it to the club because it has an extensive succulent garden. The board decided to not do this.

CSSA:
No new information

Adjourned

MAY MEETING

REPOTTING WORKSHOP: GET READY FOR GROWTH!

It's the perfect time of year for your plants to thrive! Join us for a workshop focused on repotting.

WHAT TO BRING:

- One plant you wish to repot.
- A new, appropriately sized pot for your plant.
- (Optional but encouraged) Extra pots of any kind to share with others.

WHAT WE'LL COVER AND PROVIDE:

- A discussion on different types of potting mixes and suitable pots.
- We will provide basic cactus potting mix.
- We will have some new 3.5" to 5" plastic square pots available for free for those who don't bring their own.
- Plenty of time for Q&A!



BEGINNER'S GUIDE

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE THELOCACTUS

By Tom Glavich

From "To the Point", November/December 2004

Thelocactus are spectacularly beautiful cacti with dense multicolored spines, well-shaped tubercles, and large colorful flowers. They have been a favorite with collectors since they were first discovered. They are not particularly hard to grow, requiring only as much light and heat as possible during their growing season. Producing a good sized, well spined show plant is well within the range of all growers. However, growing a large, unscarred plant with perfect spines is a significant challenge, requiring a least a few years of work, and careful handling and repotting. The key to success with Thelocactus is avoiding sudden changes in environment. In the spring, water should be introduced gradually, and fertilization should be continued at a constant level, tapering off in late August or September, depending on where you live.

Thelocactus is a small genus in the cactus family, with only 11 or 12 species. In addition to the species, there about the same number of recognized subspecies and a large number of questionable varieties that can be found in older reference books, seed lists and collections. There is tremendous variations in the appearance of some species because some populations were isolated from others by many miles and have their own microclimate and soil chemistry; all favoring the development of local forms. Many of these have picked up unique names over the years. Most of the local forms are only available as seed. It is well worth trying several of them. Thelocactus never disappoint.

In habitat they are found from Central Mexico to Texas, mostly in the Chihuahuan Desert, but extending into pine forests in Chihuahua and brush lands, and thorn scrub in the western part of its range as well as grassland in the Rio Grande Plains region in Texas. The altitude range is also large, with some species living at sea level, while others reach to 7200 feet in the Pine Forests of the central Mexican mountains.

Thelocactus bicolor has the largest range, extending from central Chihuahua in the west into Texas in the north, and as far south as San Luis Potosi. This species is a great example of what a large range can do to shape and size. Thelocactus bicolor subspecies is found over the full geographic range. It generally has dense spines that are red and white, yellow, and reddish purple and white, etc. depending on the locality. Although generally solitary, it clumps with age. In habitat it is usually 2 to 6 inches high and can grow to 5 inches in diameter. Some Thelocactus bicolor varieties (commodus, pottsii), are not considered legitimate botanical varieties but they nonetheless represent cultivated forms of bicolor and are worth seeking out and growing.

(Note: The author says, "If you grow no other...Thelocactus hexaedrophorus is not only the best of the Thelocactus, but one of the best of all cacti.")

Edited by Mary Cross

CLUB NEWS

The Board of Directors of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent wish to honor the following long time members with a lifetime membership:

Ellen Stubblefield

Eddy Livermont

Larry Livermont

Congratulations and thank you for your continued support of the club!

Our librarian and board member, David Kurtz, has resigned from his positions. We will see him at meetings, and we wish him well.

We could use two librarians to attend meetings and put out books on the meeting subject. They check books in and out of our club library.

A new board member at large will need to be appointed. Board members attend board meetings and give input on club decisions.

Contact a board member if you are interested in becoming a club librarian or a board member at large. These are great opportunities to become more involved in the club.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

May

Topic: Repotting workshop

Mini Show: Show & Tell

June

Speaker: TBA

Topic: TBA

Mini Show: TBA

SHOW & SALE DATES:

No Fall 2026 Show and Sale

See you next Spring!

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:
Dave Autore
Diane Salewski
Vacant
Immediate Past President: Mary Cross
Founding Member:

CHAIRPERSONS

Librarian: Vacant
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.