

On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

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President's Message

The summer is upon us in full heat! Note that even our drought-tolerant cacti & succulents need water on hot days.

Please check p. 8 for an invitation to send your garden photos to share with the Society's members in this newsletter.

I'll see you at the July meeting! We're awaiting confirmation for fine speaker. Watch for an emailed bulletin, coming soon.



Epiphyllum Blossom
by Fred Valentine



Lobivia arachnacantha
by Fred Valentine



Save the Date!

MBACSS Meets

July 16, 2017

Gathering @ 12:00

Potluck @ 12:30

Program @ 1:00

Board Meets

July 16, 2017

Board @ 11:00

Members always
welcome to attend

Future Meetings

Third Sundays

Veterans of Foreign
Wars, Post 1716
1960 Freedom Blvd.
Watsonville, CA

Minutes of the June Board Meeting

Recorded by Stan Verkel and Edited by Tom Karwin

Board Members in Attendance: Naomi Bloss, Jeff Brooks, Tom Karwin, Stan Verkler, Sharon Luchessi, Linda McNally, Ruth Pantry, Gary Stubblefield,

Board Members Absent: Manson Waters

Approval of Minutes: The board did not meet in May, so there was no minutes to approve.

Treasurer's Report: Ruth Pantry presented the current financial report, which is available to members upon request. She also reported (a) payment to the California Garden Clubs for liability insurance (provided by McDaniel Insurance Services, LLC) for the Society's two show & sale events during 2017 and (b) payment to the Veterans for Foreign Wars for use of the VFW hall for the Society's meetings through December of 2017.

Report of the Spring Show & Sale: Ruth Pantry reported on this event's income and expenses. Gross sales were dramatically lower than for the Fall Show & Sale, and some expenses were somewhat higher, but overall the event produced a \$472 loss. The following board discussion focused on recent changes in publicity, compared to earlier practices. While much of the publicity was like that for previous sales, efforts for this event did not include an article in the *Santa Cruz Sentinel* or direct mailing of the familiar ¼-page reminder card on green paper.

Tom Karwin reported efforts to upgrade publicity materials to reflect the graphic quality of materials produced by other CSS groups, and emailing such materials (on May 2nd), rather than by direct mail. Some felt that the prospective customers were accustomed to the familiar cards on green paper and failed to recognize the new materials they received.

Other factors that might have depressed sales include an erroneous date for the event on the website of the San Juan Bautista Chamber of Commerce (we advised the Chamber of this error on May 2nd, well before the date of the event), and a competing public event in San Juan Bautista on the date of the event.

The board agreed to publicize promptly the 2017 Fall Show & Sale (September 30 & October 1), and to establish the dates for the 2018 Spring Show & Sale (April 29-29) and the 2018 Fall Show & Sale (September 15-16). Gary Stubblefield will confirm these dates with the City of San Juan Bautista and advise the San Jose CCS for coordination with their events.

The board agreed to review plans to publicize the Fall Show & Sale. Sarah Martin offered to design an announcement for the 2017 Fall Show & Sale, drawing on both the "traditional" design and efforts to reflect more contemporary design standards. This card, once approved by the board via email, should be printed and distributed appropriately as soon as possible.

Sharon Luchessi agreed to convene a committee of interested persons at her home for a brainstorming session.

CSSA Report: Jeff Brooks reported that The Cactus & Succulent Society of America's Annual Show & Sale will be on July 1-3, 2017, at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA. Naomi Bloss will announce this event to the members and encourage CSSA members to secure a show pass from her for admission to the event.

Program: Tom Karwin, with the board's approval, appointed Sara Martin as Program Chairperson, replacing Manson Waters. She reported tentative plans for programs for July (Rob Skillin), August (Country Store) and September (Peter Beiersdorfer).

Sunshine Committee: Sharon Luchessi will send a get well soon card to Manson Waters, who had knee surgery recently.

2017 Budget: Tom Karwin has proposed a budget for 2017 based on actual expenses during 2016. The board will consider approval of this budget during its July meeting.

Education Contribution: The board is awaiting information from the UCSC Arboretum's Director Martin Quigley to guide action on the Society's 2017 Education Contribution of up to \$1,000 for the UCSC Arboretum's succulent collection, in the form of supplies needed by the Arboretum. The Society has budgeted educational contributions of \$1,000 per year, but for various reasons has not actually made contributions in 2015 or 2016. Future budget discussions will include consideration of possible allocations of these funds.

2019 CSSA Convention: Gary Stubblefield reported no new information about the anticipated role of the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society (CCCCS) as host of the 2019 CSSA Convention, or a possible co-hosting role for the Society.

2017 Santa Cruz County Fair: Sharon Luchessi will report to the members regarding opportunities for them to show their plants at the Fair.

Adjournment: 12:00 p.m. (or a little later).

July's Mini-Show Plants

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information by Wikipedia

Melocactus

Melocactus (melon cactus), also known as the Turk's cap cactus, is a genus of cactus with about 30-40 species. They are native to the Caribbean, western Mexico through Central America to northern South America, with some species along the Andes down to southern Peru, and a concentration of species in northeastern Brazil.

In 1753, Carl Linnaeus named the first species as *Cactus melocactus*. When the genus was separated from *Cactus*, the pre-Linnaean name *Melocactus* was used. Acting on the principle of priority, in 1922 Nathaniel Britton and Joseph Rose resurrected Linnaeus' *Cactus*. However, the 1905 Vienna botanical congress had already rejected the name *Cactus*, so this name was not available, and *Melocactus* is the correct genus name.

Mature plants are easily recognizable by their cephalium, a wool- and bristle-coated structure at the apex of the plant, containing a mass of areoles from which the small flowers grow.

Since the red, wool-coated cephalium of the plant is similar to the Fez hat of the Turkish male citizens during late Ottoman Empire, one name for the plant is Turk's cap cactus.



Melocactus glaucescens, photo in Bahia, Brazil
by Marcio Roberto Oliveira (2013)

Stapelia

Stapelia is a genus of low-growing, spineless, stem succulent plants, predominantly from South Africa with a few from other parts of Africa. Several Asian and Latin American species were formerly included but they have all now been transferred to other genera. The flowers of certain species, most notably *Stapelia gigantea*, can reach 41 cm (16 inches) in diameter when fully open. Most Stapelia flowers are visibly hairy and generate the odor of rotten flesh when they bloom; a notable exception is the sweetly scented *Stapelia flavopurpurea*. Such odours serve to attract various specialist pollinators including, in the case of carrion-scented blooms, blowflies of the dipteran family Calliphoridae. They frequently lay eggs around the coronae of Stapelia flowers, convinced by the plants' deception.

The hairy, oddly textured and colored appearance of many Stapelia flowers has been claimed to resemble that of rotting meat, and this, coupled with their odor, has earned the most commonly grown members of the Stapelia genus the common name of carrion flowers.

A handful of species are commonly cultivated as pot plants and are even used as rockery plants in countries where the climate permits. Stapelia are good container plants and can grow well under full sun and light to moderate watering.



Stapelia gigantea

June's Mini-Show Winners

Reported by Jeff Brooks

Cactus: Ferocactus

Dish Garden

- 1— Bill Ashen (below, top left)
- 1— Mary Cross (below, top right)
- 3— Jeanine Echenique

Novice Cactus

- 1—Bill Ashen- Ferocactus sp.

Intermediate Cactus

(No entries)

Advanced Cactus

- 1—Ellen Stubblefield- Ferocactus latispinus (below, bottom)
- 2—Gary Stubblefield- Ferocactus variegata form

Succulent: Kalanchoe

Novice Succulent

- 1— Lila Rampone- Kalanchoe pumila (below, top)
- 2—Jeanine Echenique- Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterflies'

Intermediate Succulent

(No entries)

Advanced Succulent

- 1—Ellen Stubblefield- Kalanchoe 'Pink Butterflies' (below, bottom)
- 2—Gary Stubblefield- Kalanchoe tomentosa 'Fuzzy'



MBACSS Calendar for 2017

MONTH	PROGRAM	CACTUS MINI-SHOW	SUCCULENT MINI-SHOW
1/15	Jeff Moore's New Book <i>Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation</i>	Any columnar cactus must be 12" or taller	Aeonium
2/19	Martin Quigley: Future Fantasy: The succulent collection at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum	Mammillaria, Escobaria	Euphorbia
3/19	Brian Kemble: North East Mexico	Rebutia (inc. Sulcorebutia), Echinopsis (Lobivia)	Aloe
4/16	Robin Stockwell New Book - <i>Succulents: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Designing and Growing 200 Easy-Care Plants</i>	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum	Haworthia
5/20-21	MBACSS Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
6/18	Naomi Bloss Early Days of MBACSS	Ferocactus, Blossfeldia	Kalanchoe
→ 7/16	TBA	Melocactus	Stapelia
8/20	Country Store	No Mini-Show	
9/17	Peter Beiersdorfer	Rhipsalis	Adenium, Pachypodium
10/15	TBA	Echinocereus, Parodia	Echeveria
9/30 & 10/1	MBACSS Fall Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista		
11/19	TBA	Opuntia, Opuntiads	Gasteria
12/17	Christmas Party	No Mini-Show	

RELATED EVENTS ELSEWHERE IN CALIFORNIA (AND BEYOND)

This calendar lists CSS shows & sales in central & northern California, major events in southern California, and CSSA events.

1/14	Desert Forum, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA
4/29-30	Show & Sale, San Jose CSS, Sunnyvale
4/29	Plant Sale, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA
5/6-7	Spring Show & Sale, Sacramento CSS, Sacramento
5/13	Annual Show & Sale, Santa Barbara CSS, Santa Barbara
5/20-21	Show & Sale, Carmichael CSS, Carmichael
5/27-28	Annual Plant Show & Sale, Central Coast CSS, San Luis Obispo
6/3-4	Summer Show & Sale, Fresno CSS, Clovis
6/10-11	Show & Sale, San Francisco CSS, San Francisco
6/30 - 7/2	CSSA Annual Show & Sale @ Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino
8/12-13	31 st Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA Arboretum, Arcadia
7/26-30	CSSA 37 th Biennial Convention, Tempe, AZ
9/2	Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA

Look at a Book

Addition to the MBACSS Library, reported by Suzy Brooks

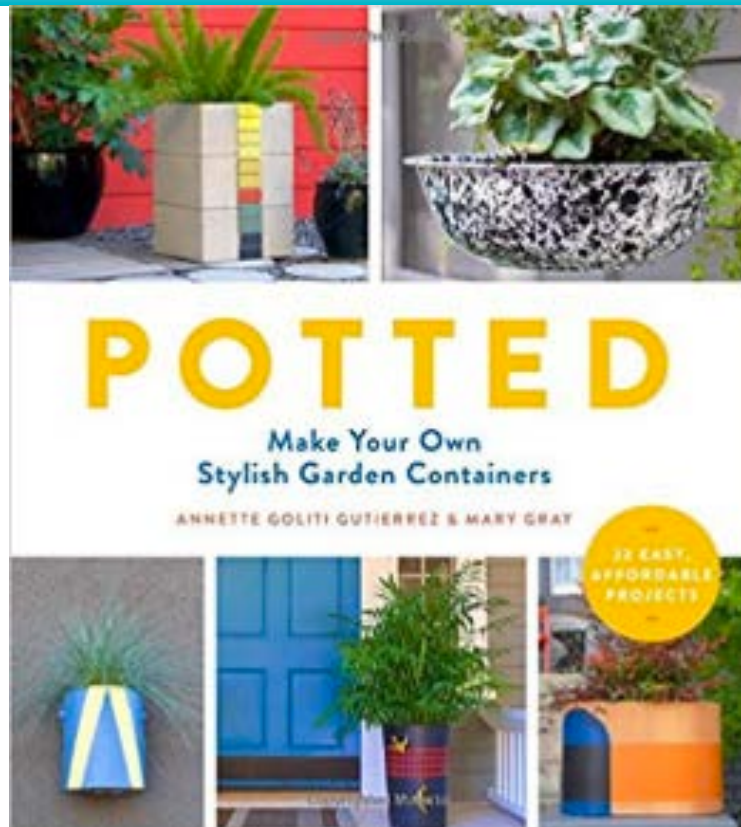
Suzy: “Some neat things, some cheesy.”

Amazon: Outdoor style often comes at a high price, but it doesn't have to. This lushly designed guide empowers you to create your own show-stopping containers made from everyday materials such as concrete, plastic, metal, terracotta, rope, driftwood, and fabric. The 23 step-by-step projects are affordable, made from accessible materials, and most importantly, gorgeous. They include new spins on old favorites, like the cinderblock garden made popular by design blogs or hanging planters made from enamelware bowls, along with never-before-seen ideas like a chimney flue planter and wall planters made from paint cans. Packed with color photographs and simple instruction, *Potted* is for anyone who wants to turn an outdoor space into a stylish oasis.

Reviewers: “The pages of this hardworking book are chock full of ideas, with masterful instructions that make aspirational projects totally within reach.” —Johanna Silver, Garden Editor at *Sunset* and author of *The Bold Dry Garden*

“If you want a weekend project, these fun and colorful designs add oomph to any outdoor space!” —Baylor Chapman, author of *The Plant Recipe Book*

“With imaginative 'doable' projects, detailed instructions and inspiring lifestyle shots, your house, porch, yard is sure to become more colorful and plantastic with Annette and Mary's creative guidance.” —Justina Blakeney, thejungalow.com



Winning Entries – MBACSS 2017 Spring Show

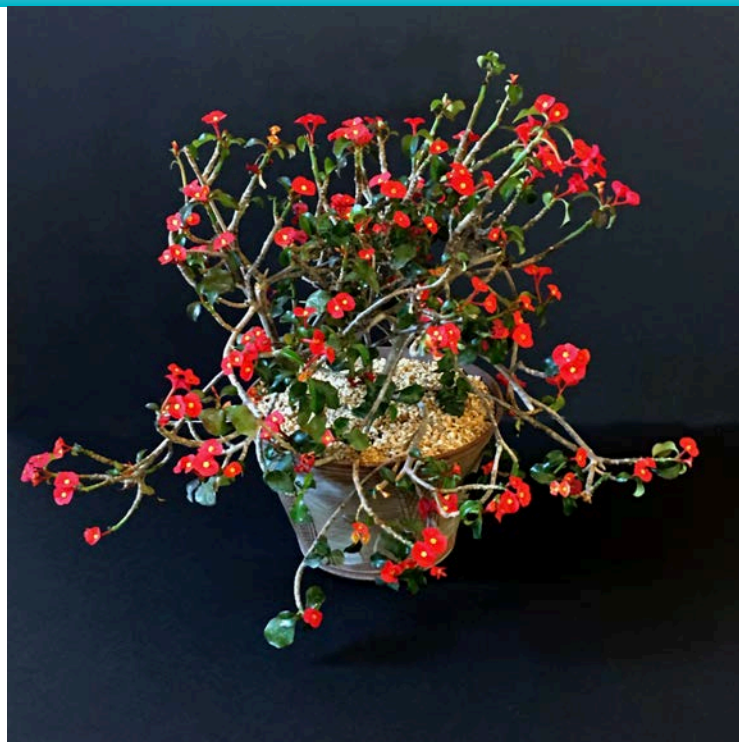
See next page for More Photos.

- Best Open Cactus — Elton Roberts
- Best Open Succulent — Naomi Bloss — Operculicarya
- Best Intermediate Cactus — Richard Deming
- Best Intermediate Succulent — Suzy Brooks
- Best Novice Cactus — Karen Waterman
- Best Novice Succulent — Karen Waterman

Additional awards were made for genus categories.

Judges Selections (incomplete list)

- Naomi Bloss — *Ceraria pygmaea*
- Naomi Bloss — *Euphorbia geroldii* (pictured)
- Naomi Bloss — *Dinteranthus pole-evansii*
- Lori Borelli — *Echeveria nodulosa*
- Sarah Martin — *Gymnocalycium vatterii*
- Linda McNally — *Graptopetalum amethysti*
- Elton Roberts — *Puna chayarioides*
- Elton Roberts — *Astrophytum capricorne*
- Richard Rowe — *Aloe 'Delta Dawn'*



Images from MBACSS 2017 Spring Show

Photos by Fred Valentine

During our Spring Show & Sale, judges chose the winning entries in numerous classes, which are based on genera and groups within genera, and also honored outstanding specimens without class categories as Judges' Selections. Immediately after the judging, Fred Valentine, assisted by Stan Verkler and Tom Karwin, photographed the Judges' Selections.

Fred photographed these plants against a black background to provide a uniform setting and eliminate any background distractions. This page displays a random few of these exceptional plants, following the selections in the June issue of *On the Dry Side*. The full set of photographs will be available soon on the Society's Facebook page and website.



'In the Namib'
Peter Beiersdorfer



Aloe 'Delta Dawn'
Richard Rowe



Aloe brevifolia
Karen Waterman



Echeveria nodulosa
L. Poorelli.



Puna chayarioides
Elton Roberts



Astrophytum capricorne
spp. niveum
Elton Roberts

Officers and Chairpersons, 2017

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT — Tom Karwin
 VICE PRESIDENT — Naomi Bloss
 SECRETARY — Stan Verkler
 TREASURER — Ruth Pantry
 MEMBERSHIP CHAIR — Linda McNally
 AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE — Jeff Brooks
 DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE
 — Gary Stubblefield
 — Manson Waters
 — Sharon Lucchesi
 IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT — Stan Verkler

CHAIRPERSONS

LIBRARIAN — Suzy Brooks
 MINI-SHOW — Jeff Brooks
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR— Tom Karwin
 PROGRAMS — Sarah Martin
 PUBLICITY — Sharon Lucchesi
 RAFFLES — Gary Stubblefield
 ROSTER — Ruth Pantry
 SALE — Gary Stubblefield & Lynda Waters
 SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks
 WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

Blossoms from Members' Gardens

This new feature of *On the Dry Side* invites MBACSS members to share their photographs of blossoms of their cacti & succulents. We anticipate that members often see pleasing blossoms on their plants, but the blossoms are short-lived and not well timed for Show & Tell at our meetings. The solution is to take a snapshot and send it in for publication in this newsletter.

With today's automatic digital cameras, sharing your garden highlights in this way does not require photography expertise, but follow these basic guidelines:

- For best light take the photo in the early morning or late afternoon.
- Fill the frame with your the plant or blossom.
- Hold steady!

Today's garden photo shows Fred Valentine's *Thelocactus* in bloom. See p. 1 :of this newsletter for more pictures from Fred & Karen's garden.

We also encourage members to share both their photos and articles about their gardening experiences. This is your newsletter!



On the Dry Side

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://mbsucculent.org>