

A P R I L 2 0 1 7

# On the Dry Side

Newsletter of the Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society



## President's Message

### BIG NEWS!

**MBACSS meetings return to the VFW Hall in Watsonville.**

For the first quarter of 2017, we met the Live Oak Grange (known as "The Green Grange") because of an unexpected dramatic increase in the facility fee at the VFW Hall. Other groups that had been meeting at the VFW also moved to alternative locations. Then, the VFW leadership reversed that fee increase and invited the MBACSS and other groups to return.

The board's review of members' location confirmed that the VFW site was close to being centrally located, so the board quickly decided on our return to that site. We now have an agreement that ensures that we could continue to meet at the VFW Hall through 2017, and hopefully in future years.

Come to the Show & Sale on May 20-21. NO MEETING IN MAY!

## Save the Date!

### MBACSS Meets

**April 16, 2017**

Gathering @ 12:00

Potluck @ 12:30

Program @ 1:00

### Board Meets

**April 16, 2017**

Board @ 11:00

Members always  
welcome to attend

### Future Meetings

**Third Sundays**

Veteran of Foreign  
Wars, Post 1716  
1960 Freedom Blvd.  
Visitors welcome!

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Photos by Fred Valentine.  
See more photos on page 7.

# Minutes of the Board Meeting, March 2017

Recorded by Stan Verkler and edited by Tom Karwin

**Board Members in Attendance:** Naomi Bloss, Tom Karwin, Linda McNally. Gary Stubblefield, Stan Verkler, Manson Waters

**Board Members Absent:** Jeff Brooks, Sharon Luchessi, Ruth Pantry

**Approval of Minutes:** The board approved the minutes of the February meeting as published.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ruth Pantry emailed the current financial report in advance.

**CSSA Report:** The Cactus & Succulent Society of America Annual Show & Sale will be on July 1–3, 2017, at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, CA.

**Program:** Manson Waters reported that Robin Stockwell will be our speaker for the March meeting; Rob Skillin will be scheduled for July or August; Peter Beiersdorfer might be the speaker for the June meeting, subject to his schedule. Manson indicated that he will resign as program chairperson, and that a new chairperson will be needed. Tom Karwin asked Manson if he could provide a list of previous speakers, including their dates and topics, for the Society's historical records.

**Sunshine Committee:** In Sharon Luchessi's absence, there was no report.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Meeting Facilities:** Tom Karwin reported that the Society might be able to hold its meetings again at the VFW Hall, in Watsonville. David Ambriz, previous post commander, had contacted Naomi Bloss to indicate changes of both leadership and fees, and invited the Society to again hold its meetings at the VFW Hall. The board immediately supported returning to that site, and agreed to invite comment from the members during today's meeting.

**2017 Budget:** Due to the press of other business, the board had limited discussion of the 2017 budget, and agreed to continue this discussion at the April meeting. Tom Karwin will propose a budget for 2017 based on actual expenses during 2016.

**Education Contribution:** Tom Karwin noted that typically the Society has budgeted educational contributions of \$1,000 per year, but for various reasons has not actually expended those amount in 2015 or 2016. After discussion of various possible contributions, the board agreed to allocate \$1,000 in support of propagation and conservation of the UCSC Arboretum's succulent collection. The board elected to ask the Arboretum what supplies are needed, and then contribute those items in kind. Possibilities include soil amendments, pots, tools, plant tags, etc. This approach would ensure that the Society's contribution would be used as intended, would minimize the Arboretum's administrative overhead.

**Mini-Show & Raffle:** In Jeff Moore' absence, Stan Verkler agreed to manage the March Mini-Show, and Gary Stubblefield agreed to purchase plants for the April raffle.

## NEW BUSINESS

**2019 CSSA Convention:** Gary Stubblefield reported on the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society (CCCSS), during which CSSA Executive Director Gunnar Eisel attended to discuss plans for the 2019 convention.

Gary reported that plans are still in development. Housing in San Luis Obispo is limited in quantity and rather high in cost, particularly during the tourist season. CCCSS has invited MBACSS to co-host the convention, but has not yet specified the functions that MBACSS would be asked to perform. However, co-hosting would not involve a financial contribution.

Only CSSA members will be allowed to register for the convention and to attend lectures. However, individuals who volunteer for at least 12 hours could attend the convention's lectures. Both CSSA members and non-members will be able to shop for plants, etc. at the convention. Tom Karwin indicated that the Society could co-host the convention if its functions are specified; otherwise, MBACSS members could volunteer as individuals under guidelines and supervision provided by CSSA or CCCSS.

**MBACSS Spring Show & Sale (May 20-21, 2017):** Naomi Bloss will announce opportunities for members to participate in this event by bringing plants to sell or display, or volunteering for various assignments. There will not be a general meeting in May, because the show & sale schedule on the same day as the Society's regular meeting day.

**Call for Speaker:** Tom Karwin announced that the Monterey Bay Master Gardeners would like a speaker on cactus & succulents for its 2017 MG Smart Gardening Fair on May 13, in Pacific Grove. Because the MBACSS Show & Sale will happen less than one week after that date, none of the board members would be available as a speaker. Tom Karwin will respond to the MBMG invitation.

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

Preview of April's Program

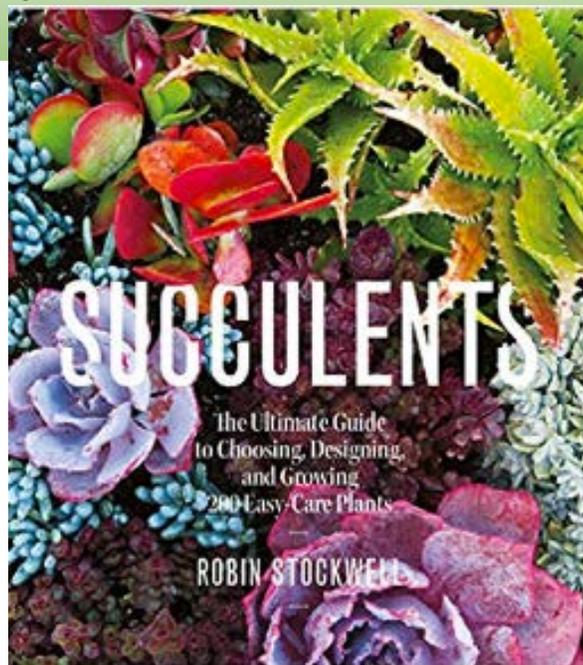
# Succulents: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Designing and Growing 200 Easy-Care Plants

by Robin Stockwell

This month's speaker, Robin Stockwell, has worked with succulent plants for 45 years, and is known to many MBACSS members as the proprietor for many years of Succulent Gardens, a retail store in Carmel's Barnyard Shopping Village, followed by Succulent Gardens, The Growing Ground, on Elkhorn Road in Castroville. That facility, now under new ownership and named Succulent Gardens—Nursery and Demonstration Gardens, is the site of the annual Succulent Extravaganza, which Stockwell originated.

Stockwell has shared his knowledge of succulent plants in public presentations for various groups, including Cabrillo College's Horticulture Lectures and the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show; surprisingly this will be the first time he speaks to the MBACSS. He has not shared the topic of his talk in advance, but there is a good chance that at least part of his talk will focus on his highly regarded new book, *Succulents: The Ultimate Guide to Choosing, Designing, and Growing 200 Easy-Care Plants* (2017).

In recent months, the MBACSS Library has had copies of this book for purchasing or borrowing. The Santa Cruz Sentinel recently published Kathryn McKenzie's review of this book. Click [here](#) to read that review.



## Look at a Book

by Suzy Brooks, MBACSS Librarian

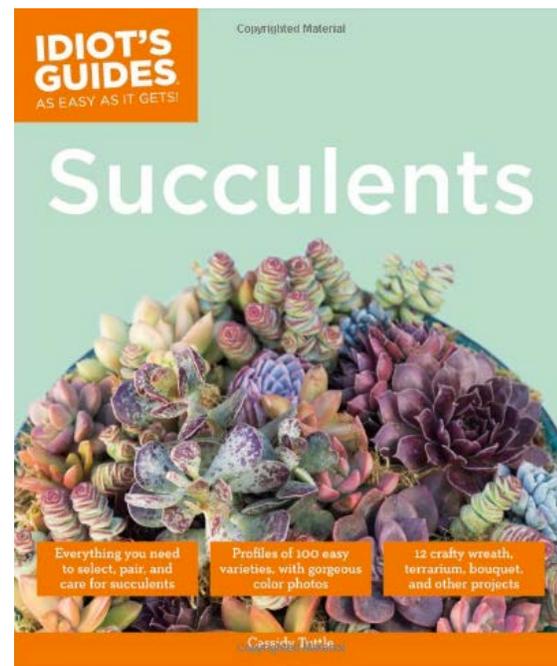
A newly acquired book available from the MBACSS Library is Cassidy Tuttle's *Idiot's Guides: Succulents*, a 2015 addition to seemingly endless series of very basic books in many fields. When exploring unfamiliar plants, even very skilled gardeners can find value in a fundamental overview.

The book addresses the following topics:

- Everything needed to select, pair, pot, and care for succulent plants.
- Snapshots of 100 of the most popular varieties of succulent plants, including care, color, hardiness, pairing, and a full-color photo for each.
- 16 beautiful craft projects with how-to steps and color photos, including picture frames, wreaths, terrariums, centerpieces, and bouquets.
- Tips on successfully propagating new succulents from existing plants.
- Extensive advice on choosing pots and unique planters, repotting succulents, and pairing varieties for maximum impact.
- An index of succulents by color and height that gives readers another tool for selecting the succulents that will look.

Tuttle is the author of two other books on succulents:

- *Growing Succulents Indoors: A detailed guide for taking care of your succulents indoors* (2014)
- *Propagating Succulents: A guide to propagating succulents*



# 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	Peter Beiersdorfer	Ferocactus, Blossfeldia	Kalanchoe
7/16	Rob Skillin	Melocactus	Stapelia
8/20	Country Store	No Mini-Show	
9/17	TBA	Rhipsalis	Adenium, Pachypodium
10/15	TBA	Echinocereus, Parodia	Echeveria
TBA	MBACSS Spring 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
4/1-2	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 <sup>st</sup> Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA Arboretum, Arcadia
7/26-30	CSSA 37 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention, Tempe, AZ
9/2	Succulent Symposium, Huntington Botanic Gardens, San Marino, CA

# April's Mini-Show Plants

Selections by Jeff Brooks, Information by Wikipedia.com & Wikimedia Commons

## Cacti

### Ariocarpus, Astrophytum

**Ariocarpus** is a genus of 8 species of succulent, subtropical plants of the Cactaceae family.

The name comes from the ancient Greek "aria" (an oak type) and "carpos" (=fruit) because of the resemblance of the fruit of the the genus in acorn form.

The genus comes from limestone hills of Rio Grande in the south of Texas (*Ariocarpus fissuratus*) and also the north and the center of Mexico with strong sunshine exposures.

*Ariocarpus* are endangered and quite rare in the wild.



*Ariocarpus retusus*



[\*Astrophytum ornatum\*](#)

**Astrophytum** is a genus of six species of cacti, native to North America.

These species are sometimes called living rocks, though the term is also used for other genera, particularly *Lithops* (Aizoaceae). The generic name is derived from the Greek words *ἀστρον* (*astron*), meaning "star," and *φυτόν* (*phyton*), meaning "plant."

## Succulents

### Haworthia

**Haworthia** is a large genus of small succulent plants endemic to Southern Africa (Mozambique, Namibia, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa).

The plants can grow solitary or can be clump-forming. Most species have firm, tough, fleshy leaves, usually dark green in color, whereas others are softer and contain leaf windows with translucent panels through which sunlight can reach internal photosynthetic tissues.

Their flowers are small, white and very similar between species. But their leaves show wide variations even within one species.



*Haworthia arachnoidea*



*Haworthia cymbiformis*

There are about 151 accepted species of *Haworthia*. However, the actual number and identification of the species is not established; there are over forty species listed as "unresolved" for lack of sufficient information, and the full list reflects the difficulties of *Haworthia* taxonomy; it includes varieties and synonyms to a total of 966, even though it excludes various garden hybrids and cultivars.

# March's Mini-Show Results

Reported by Stan Verkler

## Dish Garden

1. Dot Hurley
2. Mary Cross

## Novice Cactus

1. Dot Hurley—*Rebutia*
2. Dot Hurley—*Rebutia perplexa*

## Intermediate Cactus

1. Sarah Martin—*Rebutia krainziana*
2. Pat Boylan

## Advanced Cactus

1. Jorge Quinonez—*Rebutia heliosa*—graft (tie)
- Ellen Stubblefield—*Echinopsis* (tie)
- Ellen Stubblefield — *Sulcorebutia rausenii* graft (tie)

## Novice Succulent

1. Dot Hurley—*Aloe* 'Christmas'
2. Pat Livensparger—*Aloe* 'Firebird' (tie)  
Mary Cross — *Aloe x nobilis* (Gold Tooth *Aloe*)(tie)

## Intermediate Succulent

1. Suzy Brooks — *Aloe variegata* (Tiger *Aloe*)
2. Suzy Brooks—*Aloe* 'Twilight Zone' (tie)  
Pat Boylan—*Aloe* 'Delta Lights' (tie)

## Advanced Succulent

1. Ellen Stubblefield—*Aloe*
2. Gary Stubblefield — *Aloe tongaensis*

## Shopping for Cacti & Succulents

This page features sources for cactus and succulent plants in the Monterey Bay area and beyond, for reference by the readers of *On the Dry Side*. These are not paid advertisements, although contributions to the MBACSS are always welcome, of course.

Please let us know of sources where you have found good, healthy plants, attractive prices, and helpful advice. We can include your name with your recommendation, unless you prefer to be anonymous. Also, let us know if you find this page to be helpful and if should be continued.

This month we have a special occasion: Rob Skillin's Open Greenhouse Day, at 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande, located between San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria. For directions, use Google or MapQuest, or call (805) 473-0788 or (805) 709-3033.



**Its time once again  
for the Skillin  
Open Greenhouse Day**

Saturday, April 22nd, 2017, 10:00 to 3:00  
Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande

Enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments while touring Rob's personal collection of cacti and succulents. I'll also be selling smaller collectable plants, and larger show-ready specimens. This year I'll be releasing some larger and older plants from my private collection, and there will be several caudiciform species I've never sold before.

For information please call Rob or Terry at (805)709-3033



420 Water Street, Santa Cruz  
<https://diggardens.com/>



2133 Elkhorn Road, Castroville  
<https://sgplants.com/>



14205 Campagna Way,  
Royal Oaks  
<http://www.sistersucculents.com>

# Photo Gallery: Stanford's Arizona Garden

Photography by Fred Valentine



## Officers and Chairpersons, 2016

### 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 — Manson Waters  
 PUBLICITY — Sharon Lucchesi  
 RAFFLES — Gary Stubblefield  
 ROSTER — Ruth Pantry  
 SALE — Gary Stubblefield & Lynda Waters  
 SHOW—Naomi Bloss & Janet Sparks  
 WEBMASTER — Anita Crawley

## Member Update

Welcome to our newest members:

Fred Molnar, Santa Cruz  
 Virginia Bennett, Corralitos

Here are current reminders for all members:

- Beginning in April, we will again meet at the VFW Hall, 1960 Freedom Boulevard, Watsonville
- We will not meet in May, because our Spring Show & Sale will be on the same date.
- Mark your calendar for the Spring Show & Sale, May 20 & 21, in San Juan Bautista.
- Consider volunteering to help at the Show & Sale. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the April meeting, or contact Lynda Waters (listed in your roster).



### On the Dry Side

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society  
<http://mbsucculent.org>