

Minutes for the Long Beach Cactus Club - April 7, 2019

The April meeting of the Long Beach Cactus Club was called to order at 11:00am by President **Krystoff Przykucki** at Rancho Los Alamitos, CA and he welcomed almost 50 members as well as the attending LBCC board members.

Scott Burnell, VP/Social Media

Henry Angulo, Treasurer

Andrew Lander, Newsletter/ Scorekeeper

Tanisha Herr, Membership

Regina Fernandez, Social Media/Publicity

Mike Martin, Rancho Garden Committee

Nan Halbert, Secretary

MA Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison

James Lemos, Tri-City Co-Chair

Rose Bank, Social Media/Publicity

Amy Angulo, Social Media/Publicity

Karenn Ohlinder, Mini-Show Chair

Also in attendance was our guest speaker **Rob Roy McGregor** along with **Ambyr Hardy** from Rancho Los Alamitos.

Announcements

Henry Angulo, Treasurer and May Plant Show and Sale Chairman stated we have a total of 14 vendors lined up, however we still need volunteers in all aspects of the sale. We need do everyone's help to make our plant show and sale are a success.

MA Bjarkman, our CSSA Liaison, gave information about the national convention in San Luis Obispo, July 17-20, and she suggested carpooling for the four hour drive. She encouraged all members to attend the convention as it is very close and only takes place every other year. She invited us to check out the Southcoast CSS show and sale this afternoon which is only 30 minutes up the road on Crenshaw. She also showed us Gary Duke's brand new book which he will have available for us at our next meeting and show.

April 28th will be our May meeting so please note that there are 2 meetings this month!

James Lemos, InterCity Co-chair reminded us that the Inner City Show, August 10-11, needs volunteers also. We are responsible for supplying one third of the help which involves every aspect of the show and sale. Bring your plants to the biggest show in the world which will be held at the Arboretum in San Gabriel. Call or email Krystoff if you want to help contact and arrange car pools for transporting plants back and forth from the Inter-City show. Krystoff can send club member rosters to anyone with an email. Last year we made \$5,000 from this show and we use the money to pay for speakers and other club costs incurred throughout the year. LBCC members can enter as many plants as they like and there will be experts there to help with plant identification and clerking if you are in doubt of the proper ID of any plant.

Karenn Ohlinder, Mini-Show Chair and our guest speaker **Rob Roy McGregor** were the judges of our mini show this month.

Tanisha Herr, Membership Chair offered name badges and memberships to those that are interested. Dues are required from each member and name badges will be optional at the cost of \$5. Tanisha will offer membership rosters with phone number and email address to those that are interested in this information for coordinating plant transportation and anything else.

Tanisha will also be sending out the newsletters to everyone so please let her know if you did not receive one at Successstufflb@gmail.com

Ambyr Hardy from the Rancho and **Mike Martin**, Rancho Garden Chair welcomed all members and thanked them for working in the Rancho Cactus Gardens. Rancho Los Alamitos is a historic site and needs the highest caliber of volunteers to protect the integrity of the site. If interested you can contact ambyr@ranchoalosalamitos.org. You will need to fill out an application and attend an orientation to qualify. It is mandatory to volunteer a minimum of four hours per month. How the garden relates to the Rancho is important to know if you wish to fill this position.

Regina Fernandez, Publicity Chair, handles publicity with Facebook and Instagram. Please like our page and join the Facebook group. Post pics and share and you will get full photo credit. There are many different levels and opportunities to share and permission will always be requested first.

Amy Angulo, Publicity Chair, will have t-shirts by the next meeting and you need to sign up if interested in buying one then. They are navy in color with a wonderful logo designed by Amy. Thanks and appreciation to her for putting in the time to make this design and all her hard work.

Free Plants were given out to members with April birthdays and others for extra work they are doing for the club.

Next meeting: Sandy Chase will be our guest speaker at our next meeting, April 28. Her topic will be The Sweet, the Foul and the Awesome Asclepiads!

Rob Roy McGregor, our guest speaker began by asking for the members who received hot nailed and cut plants at his last presentation. Jean Dare had numerous heads from her hot nail plant and Rose had 3 pups on her cut plant. Rob proceeded with his pictures and suggestions for a one day adventure to the Mohave Preserve in the Mohave Desert where he went on a trip 4 years ago to Red Canyon finding numerous plants. Those deciding to make a one day trip to can plan on a four hour drive which is about 240 miles. Spectacular sunrises, photo opportunities, hikes and unforgettable experiences await those willing to depart home at around 4am and head east! Maps are available of the area from Highway 15 starting at Baker, CA. Kelso Dunes and Providence Station are some of the outer lying areas waiting to be explored. Also a weatherproof National Geographic map of the area with dirt roads is available at gift shop.

This area consists of 1.6 million acres designated by the CA Protection Act, with some private property but mostly open areas. Originally, Indians lived here off of springs and outer lying areas. Today, April, December and the next 6 weeks are ideal times for spotting blooms. Unique areas include the Granite Uplift and the Dome area which has many types of plants to offer for those that are willing to explore make the trip.

Rob is attempting to put together a map showing specific plants and in what area they are most likely to be found. One of these area is Kelso Dunes which covers 35 square miles and has a sandy base and which can be challenging. Rob has noted that areas with electrical lines around are sometimes the best places to find plants. Crested Ferocactus are huge and exciting to find along with Echinocereus, Yucca and Opuntia. These plants clump and crest together which is unusual while surviving off of heat and condensation from rocks and some rainfall. His favorite plant which he has been able to locate and check on during numerous visits is believe to be about 5 years old. This is a spectacular area with breathtaking beauty and even has the remains of a cedar forest that was destroyed by a lightening fire. Numerous types of Yucca, Joshua trees with blooms and Echinocereus growing from granite with varying flowers are everywhere! Some plants are difficult to ID and have many different subspecies. Old mining equipment which was built out of the cinder cone with red and black lava rocks is covering the surrounding area but please remember this is a national park and nothing can be removed legally! Red and black volcanic rock is abundant and a giant volcanic rock tent with surrounding lichen is also in the area. Also, an old rail way station, Kelso Depot with the front facing the rail way. Snow can even be found near the Dome and remarkably these plants can tolerate it! Some of the very large Ferocactus which happen to be Rob's favorite can reach up to 9 feet tall and have red and yellow spines on the same plant. These gentle giants can be found at an elevation of about 3 to 4,000 feet. So all in all, the Mojave has something for everyone, you just have to find it!

Hole in the Wall is the remains of a volcanic eruption with fantastic colors and shapes. The survival instinct of Hole in the Wall abounds and gives visitors a rewarding and relaxing feeling with a giant sigh and "pause in life" feeling from the natural environment. Tranquil areas and camping spots are selfmade with primitive sites and no fees. Open plains have numerous plants in clumps everywhere with shrub lets hidden in crevices which may leave one with the feeling that there is so much out there that is undiscovered! Spring time is the best time of year for cool weather, colorful blooms and accurate ID. Rob wishes for all of us to visit this habitat in our "own backyard" within a couple of hours drive. Two main areas are the 40 and 15 freeways for easy access to the Mohave Desert.

Krystoff informed the membership that his son has been accepted to Yale University and he will not be seeking the office of President next year. October will be the next election for a new president.

Karenn Ohlinder announced the winners of the April Mini Show in the Novice, Intermediate and Advanced categories. See them on our website. Remaining plants were raffled off to members. The meeting adjourned and Krystoff thanked all members and reminded us again that we have 2 meetings in April and our next meeting will be Sunday, April 28th.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Halbert - LBCC Secretary