

Minutes for the Long Beach Cactus Club – August 4, 2019

The August 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 71 members and guests, some of them as far away as San Diego as well as the attending LBCC Board members and guest speaker **Gunner Eisel**.

Scott Bunnell, VP/Social Media

Henry Angulo, Treasurer

Andrew Lander, Newsletter/ Scorekeeper

Tanisha Herr, Membership

Gary Duke, X-mas Party Chair

MA Bjarkman, CSSA Liaison

Nan Halbert, Secretary

Amelia Angulo, Social Media/Publicity

James Lemos, Inter-City Show Chair

Rose Bank, Social Media/Publicity

Jim Hanna, Prize Plants

Mike Martin, Rancho Garden Committee

Announcements

Henry Angulo discussed the rules regarding the room where our meetings are held at the Rancho and requested that all members please respect the space and kitchen area. Please do not use any restroom other than the one in the lobby and do not open or take anything from the cabinets.

James Lemos spoke about the Inter-City Show and how we need approximately 10 more volunteers. Times and availability will be accommodated for all members and please remember to wear LBCC t-shirts to the show. It is very important for all members to participate as we are the smallest of the 3 clubs. The profit from the Inter-City Show is split between the three sponsoring clubs and this income is what provides the funds to pay for our speakers during the year. T-shirts are available for \$15 though Amy. Please bring your favorite plant and do not be intimidated. 9-5 Thursday and Friday are setup days and the show is Saturday and Sunday, August 10th and 11th. Please bring as many plants as possible. Judges will award ribbons based on the integrity of the plants and any size, large or small is welcome. Sunday plants can be picked up at 5:01pm. Plants can be transported by other members and email James for help. Ivan offered to transport plants and food and beverages will be provided for all volunteers. Members will be able to shop early and take photographs and learn new information about plants. It will be a lot of fun and all members are encouraged to attend.

Janet Becker from Rancho Los Alamitos thanked **Loyd Wilcox**, **Jeff Preston** and **Mike Martin** for working in the Cactus Garden from 9-12 on Tuesday morning. We also have a second Puya getting ready to flower. Since this only happens once every 10 years it is worth a walk in the garden to take a look!

Gary James and **Gary Duke** received a special lifetime membership award for helping to keep our club alive. **Hank Warzybok** received this same award at the June meeting and was a past president for 11 years.

Andrew Lander will be contacting members about new articles and pictures in the newsletter. He also shared his mother's plant which has bloomed after 5 years.

Krystoff recognized new members, Craig, Angela, Rene, Lauren and Jen who found out about LBCC on Instagram as well as Russell Ray who drives from San Diego for our meeting. All member receive a free plant!

Gunner was amazed and overwhelmed at the large membership and how rapidly our club has grown. His program, *Astrophytum Revisited*, Starr Cactus of which there are 6 species, 2 of which he spoke about. They are found in Starr, Texas which consists of about 200 acres with a small population overtaken by peyote buttons that are harvested and regrow after being cut. Many grow up to 6 feet tall and experience puckering if overwatered. Make sure GPS is turned off if you take a picture of plants in habitat as they will be removed if discovered. Super Kabuto or helmet in Japanese is the name given.

Hawthoria and *Adromischus* plants sold for \$1400 at CSSA convention this year. Each plant has different markings and will turn out differently depending on snow, barnacles, ooibo, Tortoiseshell variegation, areoles and typically have 8 or 5 ribs. Some have 4 or even 3 ribs and are even less common. Lots of beautiful flowers and some have frilly flowers in about 3 to 4 years.

Gunner was a music teacher for 43 years and presented music from an Agave Digeridoo with a 9 inch bell from a Sonoran Agave made by Machu Didgeridoo. Gunner thanked everyone and welcomed everyone to look at this plants.

Gunner Eisel and **MA Bjarkman** announced the winners of the Mini-Show which included Crystal and Linda in the Beginner Category, Krystoff and Mike Martin in Intermediate and Gary Duke in the Advanced Category.

Gretchen Lewotsky will be the Chairman of the Plant Silent Auction which will be from 10-12 at Rancho Los Alamitos on September 15th.

Tanisha Herr collected money from new members and raffled off the remaining plants to club members with birthdays in August and winning numbers.

Krystoff thanked all members and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1pm. Our next meeting will be September 1, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Halbert
LBCC - Secretary

