

Minutes of the Long Beach Cactus Club – February 2019

The February meeting of the Long Beach Cactus Club was called to order at 11:00am by President **Krystoff Przykucki** at Rancho Los Alamitos, CA on Feb. 3, 2019.

Welcome by Krystoff with almost 50 members present along with the following LBCC Board members: **Krystoff Przykucki**, President, **Scott Burnell**, VP/Social Media, **Henry Angulo**, Treasurer, **Nan Halbert**, Secretary, **MA Bjarkman**, CSSA Liaison, **Jim Hanna**, Vendors, **Tanisha Herr**, Membership, **Kimberly Hartwig**, Librarian, **Rose Bank**, Social Media /Publicity, **Amy Angulo**, Social Media/Publicity, **Gary Duke**, X-mas Party, **Mike Martin**, Rancho Garden Committee and **Karenn Ohlinder**, Mini-Show. **Stacy Mungo**, our city council rep was also in attendance along with our guest speaker, **Ernesto Sandoval** and his wife and baby.

Krystoff announced the agenda: speaker, raffle, Mini-show results, break, membership meeting and finally May Plant Sale Committee meeting. It is very important that we vacate the Rancho by 1:00pm. Our monthly raffle offers free plants to new members, birthday folks, etc. with a wide variety of beautiful plants provided by Jim Hanna.

Speaker – Ernesto Sandoval from UC Davis– A presentation on The Inside and Outside of Succulents along with Other Desert Dwellers!

Ernesto presented many impressive photos from his trips to Baja along with information on the structure of cacti. This included the breakdown and scientific process of a life cycle. Some interesting facts stated about cactus pertained to their likeness to a bagpipe in water storage, only being native to the Americas, waxy stems helping to seal moisture, photosynthesis and the protection from sunlight with a pithy cover and DNA or genetic flukes creating fan like shapes.

Also noted was the interesting question, “What is the propose of spines?” We learned that one of the main functions of spines are to radiate and reflect heat, protect from mammals and also to create a layer so that air around the plant can maintain a boundary with sun and wind protection.

We also learned that stress during photosynthesis, as well as drought and environmental stress, and drainage problems produce color and interesting pigmentation. They can also produce plants with more experience and character. Also, accordion bundles regulate moisture loss and conservation. Spine loss occurs with age. These are all interesting points to ponder as we are encouraged to explore and learn more and more about cactus. Also, thanks to Ernesto for the plants that were included in our special raffle following his presentation.

Stacy Mungo, our city council rep, made a brief statement about the city working on a program to convert all street medians to drought tolerant plants. The past programs encouraging residents convert grass to drought tolerant plants is not working as well as anticipated and sometimes this results in using even more water. They are now lobbying the Water Commission to repurpose our medians through the city with cacti. Fourteen years is the time frame for this project and have it finished for the Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028. We are all encouraged attend a Water Board meeting, find out more information, and support this plan.

Kim Hartwig, our Librarian, also announced her resignation. If anyone is willing to take over her position and bring books from our library collection to future meetings, please contact Krystoff. Thank you to Kim for all of your years of service and happy trails in your future travels!

Karenn Ohlinder announced the winners of the Mini Show starting with the novice category. Many plants were beautifully staged and presented by our members. Winners included Amy, Tanisha, Jim Tanner, Henry, Alden, Dean, Mike, Krystoff, Regina, Andrew, Gary James, Gary Duke, Jim Hanna and several others. Everyone is in agreement that all plants seem extremely happy due to the recent rains.

It was noted that **Duane Mills** is the responsible person at the Rancho for the temperature and any other problems with the Bull Pen Room.

Part of our rent at the Rancho is participating in and working on the care and maintenance of the Cactus Garden located down the path to the left as you enter the Rancho parking lot. We are in need of regular weekly volunteers. Information about volunteering and the registration process can be obtained at ranchosalamitos.org. Fill out an application, wait for an approval, and then go through the orientation process. Volunteers work in the Cactus Garden on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 am to 12:00 along with our member coordinator, **Mike Martin**, who volunteers there on a regular basis. Mike is very knowledgeable about the history and needs of the garden. We need more people to work in the garden for now. **Janet Becker**, Garden Curator at the Rancho, handles the beginning process for volunteers. Let Krystoff know if you are interested in volunteering or contact Janet at the Rancho. Jeff Preston and Rose Bank have offered to help.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50pm

May Plant Sale Committee – last 3 Minutes of time remaining

Henry Angulo will be the Chair of the May Plant Sale Committee and is working with **Pam Young** of the Rancho. The question was posed to the group present “Is everyone comfortable with this show and sale at the Rancho on May 18th and 19th?” It was agreed the sale will be these 2 days. Henry noted that the sale would be advertised from 9-1 but vendors could stay until 5pm when the Rancho closes. According to Jim Hanna some vendors may not return this year due to complications/challenges. It was made clear that we need professional vendors, not just friends with some plants to sell. Ken Shaw handled vendors last year and he needs to be contacted to get his information for this year. Someone needs to start now to get our vendors lined up. It needs to be clarified with the Rancho that vendors can set up on Friday. It was decided that Amy will handle the flyers for the sale and MA will contact Gunnar to get our show dates up on the CSSA website.

Krystoff thanked all members for coming. The meeting was adjourned until our next meeting on March 3.

Submitted by Nan Halbert, LBCC Secretary