

## Minutes for the Long Beach Cactus Club Meeting – November 3, 2019

The November meeting of the Long Beach Cactus Club was called to order at 11:00 am by President **Krystoff Przykucki** at Rancho Los Alamitos, CA and he welcomed 60 members along with our guest speaker **Jeff Chemnick** as well as **Janet Becker** representing Rancho Los Alamitos.

**Scott Bunnell**, VP/Social Media  
**Henry Angulo**, Treasurer  
**Andrew Lander**, Newsletter/ Scorekeeper  
**Gary Duke**, X-mas Party Chair  
**Regina Fernandez**, Social Media/Publicity

**Nan Halbert**, Secretary  
**Amelia Angulo**, Social Media/Publicity  
**James Lemos**, Inter-City Show Chairman  
**Jim Hanna**, Vendor Coordinator  
**Rose Bank**, Social Media/Publicity

### Announcements

**Krystoff** introduced **James Lemos** as our new president for 2020. Our Xmas party this year will be at **Sue Birch's** house despite renovations and limited parking. All members who are attending should sign up on the Xmas party sheet and will receive an e-mail with more details.

Auction Committee Chair **Gretchen Lewotsky** is looking for suggestions for a location and date for our annual plant auction which is usually held in September. More space is needed for the auction so if anyone knows of larger locations available please let her know. More volunteers are needed as well.

**Jeff Chemnick** presented his slide and narrative presentation about Cycads and why we are talking about them.

A Cycad is anything with a fleshy trunk that a machete can be thrush into! Many plants qualify and only have Latin names. Jeff has been working at Lotusland and Aloes in Wonderland near Santa Barbara giving tours for many years as well as looking for cycads in Mexico and Columbia. They tend to be tropical with 100 new ones discovered in the last few years. They consist of male and female plants. It is very difficult to tell the difference although sometimes they shed pollen within the seed cones. Cycads are slow growing and no easy way to date them. All plants cycads are poisonous and contain toxins and prefer a steep cliff and hot expose for an

optimum growth environment. The greatest threat as with many plants is poaching and habitat destruction. Cycads are very diverse and can even grow in snow!

Cycads must be some of the oldest plants on earth although there is no way of telling the true age. They have a sweet smell from the cone and brown or reddish leaves which eventually turn green. Many are found in Columbia and are inaccessible now. Jeff loves to lead plant paparazzi tours with lots of subjects to photograph. Some cycads grow one leaf at a time and as a result are close to extinction. Some of the same plants were photographed over 3 trips and eventually fall over from growth. They can be propagated by seed and maybe a leaf which will not produce a true stem. South Africa is an amazing place to go and everywhere you go there are fascinating plants and succulents. International organizations are working together from countries all over the world to preserve the cycads.

Our guest speaker **Jeff** announced the Mini-Show winners which included **Richard Salcedo**, **Gary Duke** and **Jim Hanna**. Jim swept his category and showed a plant that was approximately 35 years old!

**Henry Angulo**, Treasurer announced that it is important to bring a dish to share to the Xmas Party. There is a signup sheet available if you would like to attend.

Raffle winners were announced numerically by **Krystoff** and **Nelson Fernandez**, our new Historian was welcomed with a choice of a free plant or a metal spike for breaking up brick and rocks. Other members with November birthdays, new members and other raffle winners were also welcomed.

**Krystoff** thanked all members and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Nan Halbert** – LBCC Secretary