

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

www.fresnocss.org

Vol. 30, no. 5

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

May 2013

**NEXT MEETING: May 2; 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 P.M.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 N. Fresno Street, Fresno**

PROGRAM

Winter Growers of South Africa

Presented by Petra Crist

Succulents grow in almost all parts of the world and have different cultivation needs depending on rainfall availability, which mean many grow in different growing seasons. There are succulents that thrive in winter conditions, "winter growers", and go into a dormant state during summer. That's one of their attributes, because they generally come from the winter rainfall areas of South Africa, largely the southwest corner. The weather conditions of which essentially are similar to southern California. Some of these winter growing plants are Adromischus species, Aloes, some Crassulas, Othonnas, Pelargoniums, Sarcocaulons and Tylecodons. Petra Crist will talk about these growing conditions.

Petra was interested in succulents while living in Germany and became even more of a succulent lover as soon as she moved to California in 1994, and after her husband took her to Huntington Botanical Garden. This was the event that caused her real addiction to succulents.

In March 2009, Paul and Petra purchased property in Rainbow Valley, a suburb of Fallbrook on the east side of Interstate 15 about 5 miles south of Temecula to build Petra's 1 ½ acre nursery where they built a 2,900 sq. ft. greenhouse, the first of many other large greenhouse and shade houses. Petra is well known for her skill in growing difficult plants, for her broad collection of African and Madagascan plants, and for the exotics she sells at local cactus and succulent shows. She is a member of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society and a frequent speaker for many other Cactus and Succulent Societies.

Let's give Petra a warm welcome back to Fresno.

PLANTS: PETRA WILL BRING A NICE SELECTION OF PLANTS FOR YOU TO PURCHASE.

For more information: Rare Succulents - 562-618-7250

www.rare-succulents.com



Sal's Original Mexican Restaurant
7476 N Fresno Street, Fresno
(NE corner of Fresno and Alluvial)
559) 438-3030 - Seating in patio
Dinner begins at 5:15 p.m.

~ DINNER ~

**Contact Charlene Stebles by
May 1st to make reservations
Phone/message (559) 299-1039
Email: ronandcharlene@comcast.net
Members are invited to attend.**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

Hi, all,

Can you believe that it's almost May already—and time to turn our attention fulltime toward our Show and Sale on June 1 and 2 at Sierra Vista Mall. We need all of you who can to turn out to help with the various aspects of the event. Signup sheets will be available at this meeting and show and sale matters will be the substance of the business meeting.

- Vendors: if you will be selling plants, pots, or whatever, we need to know now how much table space you will need. Remember that the vendor/club split is 75/25. If you haven't notified Cindy Duwe yet, be sure you do.
- Club sale table—this is the table for donations that benefit the club: plants, pots, books, decorative items, etc. You can put a price on these items or we can price them for you. All proceeds go to the club. We will need help with pricing items and also need people to staff the table to answer questions, etc.
- Cashier's assistance—you don't have to know how to run a cash register to assist here; you can pull tags, which is a big help.
- Customer assistance—this involves helping customers pack their purchases and helping them out to their cars, if they need it. A couple of garden carts and wagons will be welcome for use on these two days.
- Security: this involves keeping watch over the show plants, vendor plants and just generally monitoring the area.
- Information table—this is the front table, a welcome table, really. It's nice to have a couple of members at a time sit at this table, smile and welcome the customers. If asked questions you can't answer, you can always refer the questioner to someone else.
- Show plants: we have a non-competitive display of interesting cacti and succulents. Consider preparing a display of all your favorite mammillarias, for instance, or aloes, or agaves. Use your imagination. Vendors need to remember that they are obliged to have a plant for the show table.

Here is the timetable for show set-up (come to this meeting for the final word):

Friday, May 31

Setup—arranging tables, helping vendors bring in their plants (helpers are eligible to shop later that evening).

Saturday, June 1 and Sunday, June 2:

All of the above, plus:

Food for vendors and show workers: donations of food and drinks for both days. Rosanna Rojas is in charge.

Sunday afternoon cleanup: we need to have a crew to break down tables, fold table covers, vacuum, clean and sweep as needed. If anyone can loan a shop vacuum for Sunday afternoon it would be much appreciated.

What else can you do?

Boxes—we always need appropriate boxes (beer and soda flats are best); berry boxes; medium sized boxes of all sorts.)

Publicity—you can help by placing our show and sale flyers in public places (libraries, shopping center bulletin boards, etc.) There is a copy of the flyer with this newsletter. You can also tell your plant friends about our event.

Everyone is encouraged to select an area where you would like to work and sign up at this meeting. Cindy and other show chairpersons can answer your questions.

The Show and Sale is the club's big fund-raising opportunity of the year and your participation is essential. *Thanks in advance!*

See you at the meeting, *Sue*



A friendly reminder: we all appreciate the giveaway cuttings, fruit, magazines, etc. that members bring to the meetings, not to mention the goodies members bring for the refreshments table. But, please, before you leave the meeting, check to see if there are leftovers that need to be picked up. Marian clears the club items off the table early; final cleanup is not her responsibility. Last month someone left a half-eaten cake along with a carving knife. Madeleine took custody of the knife and will bring it this month. (She also has a square black plate, but she isn't sure if it is from our meeting; she'll bring it, anyway.) We have a real nice meeting room (and they let us keep our library there); let's clean up after ourselves and not abuse the DHHSC's hospitality. Thanks. *Sue*

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 8, 2013

Meeting called to order by President Sue Haffner at 6 p.m. at Joyce Quinn's home.

Present were: Sue Haffner, Fred Gaumer, Rudy Rulloda, Nell Lemke, Carole Grosch, Madeleine Mitchell, Joyce Quinn, Dan Gale, Rosanna Rojas. **Absent:** Charlene Stebles, Cindy Duwe. **Visitors:** Susan Cook, Paul Mitchell, Veone Gale, Bill Gale, Doris Hooton.

Programs – no report.

Treasurer—Treasurer Joyce Quinn reported that we have \$9,000.28 on hand. She spent \$91.71 for club rosters, \$73.01 for flyers and posters. She reminded everyone that postcards must be 4 ½ inches or less to qualify for postcard postage.

Old business:

- * Clovis Botanical Garden event--Sue Haffner reported on this. It was suggested that the club buy its own pop-up shade structure. We need to watch for sales on these.
- * Proposed Membership Committee Chair—the job description was discussed. This led to a discussion of the club binders. Is it necessary to issue updated pages each year? It was agreed that the binder should contain basic club information that does not require constant updating. Members should be encouraged to review their binders if they have questions about policies and practices.
- * **June Show and Sale**—Show Chair Cindy Duwe was absent but we agreed to emphasize work details and sign-up sheets in the next newsletter and at the May meeting.
 - Publicity: we discussed getting together a PSA in Spanish for radio stations; also discussed trying to find out if there is a local Hmong language newspaper which might carry an announcement.
 - Club sales table—we need to encourage members to donate plants and other items to the table.
 - Information table—newer club members need to be asked to help with this.
 - Sue reported that the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society had sent an email inquiry about our show and sale.

Spring garden tour—no report.

Bus trip—no report.

Summer picnic—will be held on Thursday, July 4th, at Doris Hooton's and Tom Meyer's home.

New business:

- * Sue and Fred reported that Herb Thorne has moved from his home and has a lot of plants and pots that need to find new homes. He would like the club to help sell them. We will have a schedule a work day for members to clean up the plants and get them organized.
- * Water-wise garden event, May 4th—We will share a table with the Native Plant Society. Members should be encouraged to donate their water-wise plants and bring them to the site of the event on Saturday morning.

Adjourned at 7 p.m.

Sue Haffner (for Cindy Duwe)

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@csufresno.edu; Programs, Charlene Stebles, 299-1039, ronandcharlene@comcast.net; Treasurer, Joyce Quinn, 270-5520, j_quinn@att.net; Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@csufresno.edu; Refreshments, Marian Orvis, 226-0145, mforvet@comcast.net; Librarian, Madeleine Mitchell, 638-2784, madeleine43@comcast.net; Webmaster, Vickie Veen, vickieveen@gmail.com; Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, cgg266@comcast.net .



Happy Birthday: Fred Gaumer (2nd); Vickie Veen (5th); Tom Meyer (11th); Don Martin (15th); Ron Stebles (17th); Rebecca Lindquist (18th); Charlie Nelson (23rd); Madeleine Mitchell (28th).

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Cindy Duwe hurt her back moving heavy furniture by herself (never a good idea, Cindy!) ... Don La Mont is making slow but steady progress after surgery. He is going to "New Wrinkles" rehearsals and hopes to help out at the Master Gardeners' Spring Home Tour.

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Visitor in April: Phyllis Brown.

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**Former member Blanche Milhahn** (237-8796) has plants, pots, rocks, etc. for sale. Blanche's parents were among the founders of this club, and her dad had what she figures must have been the first cactus and succulent nursery in this area. She also has greenhouse benches and shade cloth (new and used) for sale, including one wide piece that she had a tent store stitch together. She also has landscape-sized plants. Give her a call if you're interested.

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COMING EVENTS

May 4-5, Sacramento C&S Society Show and Sale, Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento; hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4.

May 18-19, Carmichael C&S Society Show and Sale, Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael

May 25-26, Central Coast C&S Society Show and Sale, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo; hours, 10-4.

June 1-2, OUR SHOW AND SALE!

June 8-9, San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show and Sale, County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park, 9th and Lincoln Way; hours, 9-5 (This is part of the San Francisco Spring Plant Sale Extravaganza involving a number of societies in various areas of the facility).

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### 2013 FRESNO FAIR

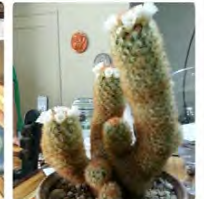
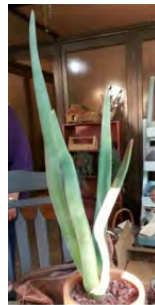
Holy cow! Can you believe that it's May already and those of you who were exhibitors in last year's Fair have received cards in the mail notifying you of the availability of this year's Fair premium books. The Fair runs October 2-14<sup>th</sup> this year. You may request a book to be sent to you, or you can download the appropriate sections when the book is posted on [www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com). Rudy Rulloda reminds members that it is never too early to think about entering the fair and getting your plants ready.

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Newsletter submittal deadline: May 24

APRIL WORKSHOP: A lively group met April 17th at the Succulent Shack for the monthly workshop. Mary Drumheller brought an odd, upright aloe (maybe *Aloe parallelifolia*, a Madagascar species). We looked at various other plants members had brought, and talked about fertilizers. Several people said they use Miracle-Gro tomato fertilizer; Rudy Rapisura has a 0-26-28 product; Dan Gale uses a dilute 10-30-20 from Dow. Polly Dunklin has taken advice from Dan and now mists her adeniums every morning. Several of her plants set seed pods over the winter.

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The May workshop will be May 15th, 6 p.m., at the Succulent Shack, 1302 Wishon.



Photos on this page by
Janet Moos and Jason Kabeary

APRIL BRAG TABLE: we had a nice selection for Fred's commentary. Charlene Stebles brought a white adenium she had found at Home Depot; Jack Barkley brought a large fairy garden he had made; Sandi Chandler brought a "What is it?"; Bill Gale displayed an adenium with a double flower; Joyce Quinn showed *Gasteria* 'Peg's Big Boy' and 'Green Ice'; Dennis Anderson brought *Echinopsis oxygona* Anderson's hybrid with a yellow flower; Fred Gaumer displayed *Phyllobolus resurgens*, *Ceraria pygmaea* and *Notonia hebdingii*; Sue Haffner brought *Haworthia* cv 'Kegan' and *Mammillaria dixanthocentron*; Madeleine Mitchell displayed an *Uncarina decaryi* that she got five years ago from the Huntington; Robert Scott showed a large mammillaria, a variegated gasteria, *Gasteria glomerata* and *Haworthia cuspidata* variegated.

Thanks to all the exhibitors.



Our speaker for the nite, Bruce Hargreaves with his Baobab shirt.



Getting to Know You

Nate Bell

One of life's pleasures is to reconnect with old friends. A former member of FC&SS for several years, Nadine "Nate" Bell rejoined the club last month after a few years' absence. "I want to be with like-minded plant people," she explained, and even brought to the meeting a box of succulents to give away.

Growing up a native of Redondo Beach, life was good for Nate. Her father worked in the aerospace industry and her mother stayed at home, which, as she put it, was, "a wonderful thing." She learned to fish, was taught to appreciate all kinds of music, played the flute, and was introduced to art. In her early school days, instead of napping during the scheduled rest period, she would talk to the other children. To prevent that, her teacher set her up with paints and paper, then let her paint. Nate was hooked. From then on, painting, whether with oils, watercolors or acrylics, became a big part of her life.

She experienced gardening firsthand while growing corn with a boyfriend. She enjoyed the experience, loved being outside and later said she always wants to live in a place where she can grow tomatoes.

After high school, came junior college with the intention of studying to become a nurse, but instead Nate earned a degree in Fine Arts, and then enlisted in the army. "I enjoyed basic training," she remembers. "It was like Bill Murray in the movie, *Stripes*. I went to Texas for medic school, and then was sent to Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska. I thought I'd never see civilization again. But you know, the people are the best there that I have ever known, mainly because of the weather. They are always willing to help."

During her time in Alaska, she assisted in delivering babies. It was also during her army tour that she met her husband. They moved to Fresno in 1983.

Along with Nate's love of art come screen printing, silk screening, stone etching and drawing the human figure. Sculpturing is a favorite activity and she equates pottery making with the practice of yoga. She has created many a pot for her plants and loves working with clay.



Georgia O'Keeffe was a strong influence; it was through O'Keeffe's paintings of the southwest and the enlarged blossoms of plants in New Mexico that Nate came to appreciate cacti and succulents. Not only does she grow them; she paints them. You might say that watercolor and still life pulled her into plants. Her works have adorned the walls of the Cayucos Gallery, an army hospital, and various nurseries. She has had showings at the Saroyan Theater, a Clovis gallery, and the Fresno Fair. During the club's Show and Sale event in past years, she set up her easel and painted while show attendees watched. For past club meetings she conducted collage demonstrations.

Nate first became interested in the FC&SS after seeing a notice about it in the paper; some of her fondest memories are the club trips. "I like caring sharing people, like those who are in our club," she said.

Other activities Nate enjoys are crocheting and sewing, often to re-purpose clothes by customizing the garment. She has won fishing trophies and tournaments, also skies, plays golf and tennis. Both she and her husband have been members in a dart league. She makes jewelry, practices photography, collects stuffed bears and now wants to try her hand at making a blooming cactus quilt.

Sharing space in Nate's garden are profusely blooming roses, "King of the Garden," she calls them. "I like anything with stickers." She grows a variety of tomatoes, vegetables, cacti and succulents, all possible subjects for a canvas. Garden art in the form of frogs, butterflies, birds and dragonflies nestle in beside plants and blooms.

Her goal as a painter, potter, artist and gardener is, "to open the eyes of those who never experience the beauty of the everyday world."

Welcome back, Nate.

Carole Grosch

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society



Show & Sale

Sierra Vista Mall

Southeast corner at Shaw & Clovis Aves

Saturday June 1st

10 AM – 6 PM

Sunday June 2nd

11 AM – 5 PM

Exhibition of unusual plants

Vendors offering quality cactus and succulents for sale

Demonstrations and Presentations

Experts on hand to answer your questions

www.fresnocss.org or Visit us on Facebook