

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.org>

Vol. 30, no. 6

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

June 2013

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



Oxalis obtusa Oxalidaceae

PROGRAM:

South African Bulbs

PRESENTED BY:

Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto will be talking about his experience growing South African bulbs and about their diversity in both foliage and flower as well as their horticultural needs, and some of the reasons why South Africa has so many of them! There are more than 1,200 species of native bulbs in Cape Province at the southern tip of Africa, which have the similar weather conditions like our central coast. They can thrive in water-conserving gardens and in containers. Some of the plants include: Ammocharis, Boophane, Crinum, Ferraria, Haemanthus, Lachenalia, Nerine, Oxalis, and Strumaria.

Ernesto Sandoval grew up in Los Angeles and was introduced to landscaping by his father. He is the Director of the Botanical Conservatory at UC Davis, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Botany. Ernesto is in charge of student interns, employees, and volunteers, leads tours through their greenhouses, and teaches upper division courses, and maintains the plant collections at UC Davis. He often guides some wonderful field trips during breaks with the undergraduate Botany Club to view rare and significant plants in the wild. Ernesto also gives presentations to many cactus and succulent societies.

Let's give Ernesto a warm welcome back to our club.

Plants: Ernesto will be bringing plants for sale from the UC Davis Conservatory. Proceeds will benefit the Botanical Conservatory Program

Ernesto Sandoval, Director
UC Davis Botanical Conservatory
College of Biological Sciences
Department of Plant Biology
jesandoval@ucdavis.edu



Lachenalia carnea

Photos by Ernesto



Epiloxene capensis
Hyposidaceae

Thai Royal Orchid
6735 North First Street, #110, Phone: 431-0132
S/W corner of Herndon & First Streets
www.fresnohub.com/thai-royal-orchid-menu.html
Dinner begins at 5:15 P.M.

~ DINNER ~

Contact Charlene Stebles by
June 5th to make reservations.
Phone/message 299-1039
Email: Ronandcharlene@comcast.net
Members are invited to attend.

FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING**MAY 6, 2013****President Sue Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.**

Members Present: Charlene Stebles, Vice President; Joyce Quinn, Treasurer; Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Fred Gaumer, Brag Table; Madeleine Mitchell, Board member; Dan Gale, Board member; Rudy Rulloda, Board member; Nell Lemke, Board member; Carole Grosch, Board member.

Members absent: Rosanna Rojas, Board member.

Visitors: Paul Mitchell

Officer Reports:

- ★ Joyce reported that the club has \$8,974.00 in its account. She resigned as Treasurer effective June 3, 2013.
- ★ Charlene reported that the speaker for June will be Ernesto Sandoval from UC Davis. The August program will be a panel of 3 speakers. They will be discussing, "Getting Ready for the Fair." Rob Skillin will be the speaker for November.
- ★ Madeleine made a motion to split the speaker fee three ways and pay for the dinner of each speaker for the August program. Motion seconded by Joyce. Passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- ★ Cindy reported on the upcoming Show and Sale. Signup sheets were discussed. Startup time will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 31, 2013.
- ★ Paul Mitchell placed an announcement on Channel 24 about the Show and Sale.
- ★ Membership Committee Chair proposal was discussed.
- ★ Cindy will investigate places to visit on the bus trip. This will take place in September.
- ★ Rosanna will pass around signup sheets for the July 4th picnic at the June meeting.

New Business:

- ★ Security for the speaker's sale plants was discussed.
- ★ Suggestions included covering the sale table during the program, having a Board member sit at the table once the plants have been placed, asking the members to not try to buy until there is a person behind the table to take the money.
- ★ It was decided to continue the discussion at the next Board meeting.
- ★ A letter was received from Petra Crist expressing her pleasure at being the speaker for May. She would like to return next year.
- ★ Sue announced the Super Big Succulent Sale on May 25th. Lee Eby will be selling his plants at 1325 Nipomo St., Los Osos, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Duwe, Secretary



Charlene Stebles (12th); Frank Orvis, Carolyn Unruh (13th); Larry Homan (21st); Joy Anema (23rd); Sue Loucks (29th).

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**New Member:** Valerie Kissler,  
Fresno

WELCOME

**Late renewals:**

Dennis Shamlan, Fresno  
Jack Loughmiller, Fresno

**Visitors last month:** Carole Wolak, James Rojas, Donna Jo.

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Sad news:

Member **Dianne Molloy** passed away suddenly last week. She had not been a member for very long, but she was very enthusiastic about her plants and was always

displaying their pictures on her phone. Our sympathies go out to her family and friends.

“April is the cruelest month” is the opening line of a famous poem. Well, this past April took some prominent people in our hobby: **Guy Wrinkle**, plant explorer and dealer, died on April 20th; **Sam Williams**, 90, passed away on April 24th. He and his late wife, Dorothy, did many programs for our club years ago. Both were very active in the CSSA, as well as the Sacramento and Carmichael clubs; **Frank Bloss**, husband of Naomi Bloss, died on April 26th, as they were setting up the Monterey Bay club’s show and sale in San Juan Bautista; he was 80; potter **Kathy Hendig**, 68, lost her battle with cancer on April 30th. She did a demonstration for us a few years ago; her pots are beautiful and distinctive; she was very talented.

No sooner had I finished the above than I heard that **Sylvia Hardaway** had passed away. She and her late husband Jerry ran Henrietta’s Nursery on Brawley Avenue for years.

Our sympathies go out to their family.

CLUB WORKSHOP: Wednesday, June 19th, 6 p.m., at the Succulent Shack, 1302 N. Wishon, Fresno. Subject: genera E, F and G. Of course, you can always bring plants that look great; those you want advice on or you want identified. By the way, the Succulent Shack has an attractive and informative newsletter. You can pick up a hard copy at the shop, or you can see it on their website: www.thesucculentshack.com

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**Marian Orvis, Sue Haffner, Madeleine Mitchell and Larry Carlberg** helped out at the Water-Wise gardening event on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a fun annual event that merits the club’s support. People flock in to pick up free plants and talk to groups that promote drought-tolerant gardening. Larry found a real treasure among the donated plants—a bombax caudex.

**Pull-tabs for charity:** Vic Yesne is collecting pull-tabs of recyclable aluminum cans as part of a benefit supporting Valley Children’s Hospital. He would like members to save their tabs and pass them on to him.

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NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH

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**July is our summer potluck picnic**—on Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, this year; location: 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Doris Hooton’s and Tom Meyer’s home. We will have signup sheets at this meeting for you to list what you’ll bring. We also hold the Adenium Orgy and the silent auction then. Put it on your calendars.

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BIG EVENT THIS MONTH: San Francisco Spring Plant Sale Extravaganza, June 8-9; hours 9-5 both days; County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park, 9th & Lincoln Way. Many plant societies will be participating: S.F. Succulent & Cactus Society, bromeliad society, also begonia, gesneriad, orchid, epiphyllum, and geraniaceae societies.

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**COOKBOOKS:** The Special Collections Department of the Henry Madden Library, CSUF, has received a collection of locally produced cookbooks. These have considerable historical interest. I’d like to ask if any of you know of cookbooks issued by local organizations, churches, clubs, etc., please get in touch with me. Thanks, **Sue**

## Getting to know you . . .



### Rudy Rulloda

Rudy grew up on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, well known for its tropical vegetation. In fact, his introduction to dealing with plants and working outside for extended periods, came during the summer months of his high school years when he worked in the pineapple fields with his classmates.

After graduation from Leilehua High School, Rudy moved to Fresno and attended Fresno City College. He roomed at a boarding house for college students owned by Dr. and Mrs. Kallmann (now deceased.) It was through them he was invited to attend his first Fresno Cactus and Succulent Club meeting when it was being held at the Best By Far building.

A transfer to Fresno State was next in Rudy's educational progression and he moved around the block to Mrs. Cleveland's boarding house for college students. It was a fortuitous move. Mrs. Cleveland's son, Richard Angelich, had an extensive cacti collection of cereus, echinopsis (Paramounts), lobivias and opuntias in the backyard. Because he lived and worked in Washington State, Richard was only able to visit once a year. Mrs. Cleveland, and then, at her request, Rudy, took care of the son's collection.

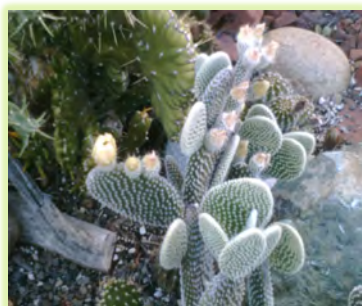
"Eventually, they passed on," remembers Rudy, "and I moved to Clovis and took some of the plants and placed them in the ground outside, enhancing the landscape area. Before planting the plants, I spent several days mixing lava and river rocks into the landscape." His cacti now include astrophytum, austrocephalocereus, borzicactus, carnegiea, cereus, cleistocactus, coryphantha, discocactus, echinocactus, echinocereus, echinopsis, epiphyllum, espostoa, ferocactus, gymnocalycium, lobivia, lophocereus, mammillaria, opuntia, oreocereus, quiabentia, rebutia, tephrocactus, thelocactus, turbinicarpus and uebelmannia.

"My favorite cacti are echinopsis, gymnocalcium, lobivias, mammillaria, opuntias, turbinicarpus and uebelmannia, says Rudy. "When the flowers are out, the flying and crawling insects are doing their job of pollinating. The cacti are easy to grow and will take care of themselves."

As for succulents, Rudy's collection include adenia, adromischus, agave, aloe, bursera, calibanus, crassula, dyckia, echeveria, euphorbia, gasteria, graptopetalum, graptoveria, haworthia, hoodia, hoya, kalanchoe, pachyphytum, portulacarias, pseudolithos, sansevieria, sedum, sempervivum, stapelia, and yucca. Only a few succulents are in the landscape; most are in pots and protected from the elements.

"My favorite succulents are adenia, adromischus, echeverias, euphorbias, pachyphytum and portularcarias. When the flowers are out, the hummingbirds are fighting to get at the flowers," he says.

A club member for twenty-five years, Rudy is currently serving as a board member and chairperson for the Fresno Fair. He has been a club vendor for the past seven years and in 2003 served as club secretary.



Rudy uses his bare hands to work with his plants, unless he is working with cacti, in which case he has a "let it be" attitude until the babies come up and take over. When caring for his plants, he finds weeding takes up much of his time, except during summer, when watering is a priority.

"I tried to adhere to the suggestions of the guest speakers on how to grow cacti and succulents," says Rudy, "and it became very expensive. Most of [my] plants are not for show because they are outside and take a beating from the elements, but they do come up."

*Carole Grosch*

## THIS 'N THAT

**NEW IN THE CLUB LIBRARY:** "Echinocereus" (2011) by John Pilbeam. Prolific author Pilbeam's next book is on agaves. It's almost ready for publication. If you would like to be notified by email when it's available, send him an email: [jpilbeam@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jpilbeam@tiscali.co.uk)

**Cactus Explorer no. 8** is available now for free download: [www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/explorer8](http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/explorer8). You can also access the previous issues (plus an index to issues 1-7). This publication put together by Graham Charles has interesting articles, photos, ads, and news of the cactus and succulent world.

**Aloe, v. 50, no 1-2 (2013)**, double issue, contains the proceeds of the international conference on aloes, held in 2012. The volume is dedicated to John Lavranos. *Aloe* is the journal of the Succulent Society of South Africa.

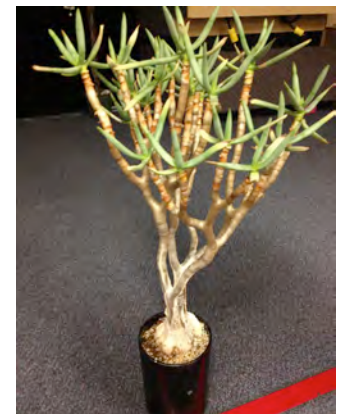
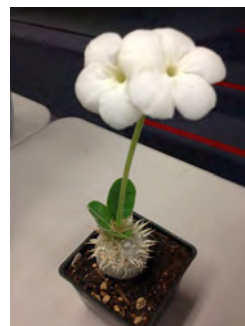
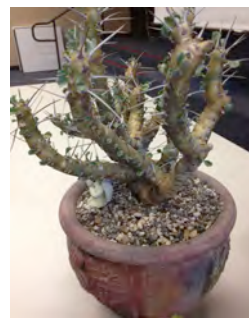


**MORE CACTUS ABUSE:** It isn't enough that you see cacti with strawflowers glued onto them, now your eyes are assaulted by Kosmic Kactus™ patented by Altman Specialty Plants. These are clumps of *Mammillaria vetula ssp gracilis* (sometimes called *M. fragilis*) spray-painted DayGlo colors. Presumably the normally white-spined plants can grow through the paint, but the new offsets won't be purple, orange or magenta (of course).

**CYPHOSTEMMA FRUIT:** We've long been warned that fruit of cyphostemmas is poisonous and shouldn't be eaten. But how true is this? Tim Harvey, editor of *Cactus & Succulent Journal*, wrote on a recent online discussion, "I have yet to see an authoritative report on the toxins in cyphostemma fruit. They are clearly designed to be eaten, and I have tried those of the caudiciform species from southern Africa. They probably do contain large amounts of oxalic acid, but that is only dangerous in large quantities. *Cyphostemma uter* fruit taste like cherries!"

## MAY BRAG TABLE

We had a nice selection of plants for Fred's attention at the last meeting. Jack Fleming brought *Euphorbia millii* with pink flowers, *Cyphostemma woodii*, *Cyphostemma hypoleucum*. Bill Gale showed *Pachypodium rosulatum gracilis*, *brevicalyx*, *Cyphostemma saundersonii* and some blooming *P.lamerei*, *lamerei compactum*, and an adeniun. Fred Gaumer brought *Othonna herrei* and *Adromischus marianiae halli*. Anthony Thomas displayed *Sarcocaulon crassicaulis* and a very nice "Rainbow cactus" (*Echinocereus rigidissimus ssp rubrispinus*). Bruce Hargreaves showed *Tylecodon paniculatus* and *Pachypodium succulentum*. Madeleine Mitchell brought a haworthia that defied identification. Thanks to all of them.



## LEDEBOURIA

*Ledebouria* is one of the more popular of the genera of South African bulbs, famous mainly for its attractive foliage. They are described as deciduous or evergreen bulbs in the Hyacintheae family. Forty or sixty-some species (authorities vary) are native to sub-Saharan Africa, the island of Nossi-Bé on the northwest coast of Madagascar and the southern tip of India. Ledebourias are found mostly in areas of summer rainfall, with a few native to winter rainfall areas, in subtropical savannas and grasslands. Species have 1 to 20 leaves that are partly or fully developed at flowering and are erect, spreading or depressed, sometimes spirally twisted, fleshy or leathery, smooth to hairy, green to purple with or without darker green to purple markings.

The genus has a confused taxonomic history, with some species being referred to *Scilla*, which is chiefly a genus of the northern hemisphere. Because the plants in habitat display such variations in foliage, over 102 species have been published in four different genera, including *Drimopsis* and *Resnova*. Later revisions have consolidated this number down to the present 40-60. In addition, a few species originally described as ledebourias have been separated into other genera.

The most common species in cultivation is *Ledebouria socialis* (synonyms: *L. violacea*, *Scilla socialis*, *S. violacea*). You see it in the collections of many cactus and succulent growers. It is native to the transition zone between the East and West Cape in South Africa, in medium grained soil to deep well-drained humus-rich sandy soil. It is usually found in the shade in evergreen woodland. Various forms are found but all are epigeal (exposed) bulbs, having erect bloom stalks with small flowers with strongly reflexed tepals. Some forms have mottled green or silvery foliage, with a number of forms having been given cultivar names.

Culture of *Ledebouria socialis* is easy. Keep the bulb exposed above a well-drained mix. During the summer growing season the plant can be watered freely and fertilized occasionally. While it is generally recommended it be given a dry winter rest, it doesn't seem to mind being watered once in awhile. Propagation is by division or seeds. Two different clones are required for seeds to be set.

(Ills from *International cactus adventures*, January 2013)



**High Country Gardens rescued!** In a previous newsletter I reported that this nursery, well known for offering drought tolerant plants, had closed. Well, it has been rescued by American Meadows, and will continue to sell plants online. The founder, David Salman, is still with the firm, writing the catalog being one of his responsibilities. So perhaps they will once again issue their paper catalogs.

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Interested in local gardening information online? Go to examiner.com, in the search box type "Fresno gardener", and get a list of local events and garden blogs. The fifth item down is a blog written by Cynthia Eayre, horticulture instructor at Fresno City College and Clovis Adult School. Ms. Eayre spoke to us at the "Spring into Your Garden" event and picked up information about our June Show and Sale.

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**Google** "California for beginners" and get a funny map of the state.

# **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](http://www.fresnocss.org) or Visit us on Facebook**