

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

[http: www.fresnocss.org](http://www.fresnocss.org)

Vol.22, No. 11

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

November 2013

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

## PROGRAM

### How I Built My Cactus Garden!

Presented by: Mark Muradian

*We are fortunate to have our own club member, for this month's program:*



Constructing his large outdoor cactus and succulent garden required moving many yards of soil and tons of rock. Mark's solution: use a bulldozer and forklift. Mark's presentation will show the step-by-step process of how large plants are moved and how they were planted in his cactus garden, the winter protection he has devised, and his unique style of urban plant salvage.

Mark is a third-generation farmer working on the same farmland in the Central Valley that his family has owned since 1915. He has been in the cactus hobby close to 30 years and a member of our club and for 18 years he has created beautiful and unique pottery that can stand alone as artwork, or become a home for your favorite show plants.

**Mark will be bringing his unique pottery for purchase.**



**Mediterranean Restaurant**  
4631 North Fresno Street  
Fresno (226-7856  
(Corner of Gettysburg & Fresno)  
[www.fresnomediterranean.com/MediterraneanMenu2011.pdf](http://www.fresnomediterranean.com/MediterraneanMenu2011.pdf)

**DINNER**  
**5:00 P.M.**

Contact Charlene Stebles by  
Wednesday, November 6 to make  
reservations. Phone: (559) 299-1039  
Email: [ronandcharlene@comcast.net](mailto:ronandcharlene@comcast.net)  
Members are invited to attend.

**FROM THE PREZ ...**

Hi, all,

Can you believe it's November?! I can't. So far, we haven't had any clue of November weather, but I presume it will be coming soon. It's time to start thinking of where to stash your plants for the winter. When the leaves of your succulents start to turn yellow and drop, it's a sign to slow down your watering. Adeniums will warn you in that way. While some leaf succulents will survive winter temps on your patio, others will need to be kept warmer. Madagascan succulents can generally be considered tender, so bring them indoors or put a heater of some sort in your plant house. (Mine come into the kitchen and spend the cold months on a baker's rack or in the greenhouse window.)

Mark Muradian is our presenter this month, with his program on the construction of his raised cactus beds. Some of us have seen this before, and it's very entertaining. True, most of us don't have the space for gardens on such a scale, but his ideas, ways and means, products used, etc., are all very thoughtful and may encourage us to try something a little out of the norm.

We will be voting this month for our 2014 officers, also. I want to thank those members who have agreed to stand for office. The organization would grind to a halt if members declined to help out in this way.

As you will read in the meeting minutes, the board of directors has voted to recommend Frank and Marian Orvis for the honor of Life Members. Marian has been our Refreshments Chair since time immemorial; she has also served in various offices in the past; Frank has been our box wrangler for the show and sale for years. They both can always be counted on to help out with club activities. Life Members retain all voting rights and may still hold office, they are just relieved from having to pay dues.

His report is elsewhere in the newsletter, but I would like to thank Rudy Rulloda for his conscientious service as Fair Coordinator this year. He got the passes distributed and maintained the schedules. He coordinated with Jennifer Waite, Floriculture Chairman, as well. Thanks, Rudy.

In December we will have our Christmas party potluck and silent auction. There will be signup sheets at this meeting for the potluck part of it. It will be Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at the DHHSC. Make plans to join us. We always have a good time.

See you at the meeting.

*Sue*



**FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT:** I would like to thank the club for giving me the opportunity to line up the programs for this past year. I had a great time doing it, and got to speak to several presenters I didn't previously know. Also, the programs were those that I would enjoy most. I hope the members enjoyed the year as much as I did.

*Charlene Stebles*



**NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH**

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

**FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING****OCTOBER 7, 2013****President Sue Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.****Members Present:** Cindy Duwe, Treasurer; Fred Gaumer, Brag Table; Madeleine Mitchell, Board member; Dan Gale, Board member; Nell Lemke, Board member; Rudy Rulloda, Board member; Carole Grosch, Board member.**Members absent:** Charlene Stebles, Vice President, Treasurer; Rosanna Rojas, Board member.**Visitors:** Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Paul Mitchell**Old Business:**

- ★ Madeleine Mitchell moved and Dan Gale seconded the motion to continue donating money to Discovery Center, Clovis Botanical Garden and Tree Fresno. Passed unanimously.
- ★ The following people agreed to run for the Board for 2014 election: Tom Meyer, Rudy Rulloda, Larry Homan.
- ★ Sue reported that the Member's Sale Night went well. There were many people that attended and bought plants.
- ★ Sue asked that Rosanna look into having Jennifer Waite, Floriculture Superintendent for the Big Fresno Fair, make a presentation to the club next year.

**New Business:**

- ★ Dan Gale moved and Carole Grosch seconded to approve the 2013 Budget. Passed unanimously.
- ★ It was decided to have the annual Show and Sale on the weekend of June 7-8, 2014, at the same location in the Sierra Vista Mall, Clovis, CA.
- ★ Mary Drumheller and Nell Lemke announced that the Christmas Party will be held on December 5, 2013, at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing room. They will have a signup sheet at the November meeting.
- ★ Marian and Frank Orvis have notified Sue that they are retiring from their job as Refreshment Chairpeople. They have worked many years in this position and provided food and drinks for many meetings.
- ★ Dan Gale made a motion and Carol Grosch seconded that the club donate \$25.00 to the Succulent Shack each month that the club uses their shop for the Workshop meetings. Passed unanimously.
- ★ Fred Gaumer moved and Dan Gale seconded to nominate Frank and Marian Orvis as Life Members. Passed unanimously. The members will vote on this at the November meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Duwe, Secretary

**Proposed Budget**

**Calendar Year – Jan 1, 2014 thru Dec 31, 2014**

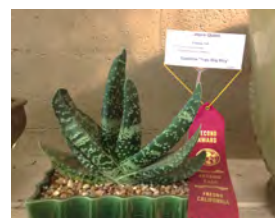
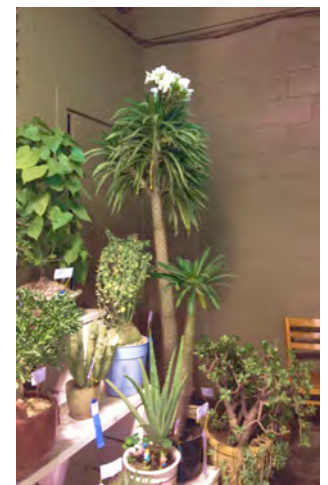
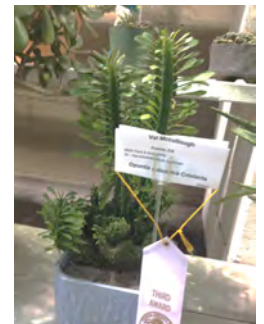
Bank Charges	45.00
Annual Donations	400.00
Bus Trip	800.00
CGCI Liability Insurance	150.00
CGCI Membership @ 2.25 per member	250.00
CSSA Affiliate Fee	100.00
CSSA Journal	55.00
Hospitality Supplies	100.00
Library Books & Binding	400.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	400.00
New Member Binders	100.00
Newsletter and Postage	550.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	200.00
Officer Gifts	275.00
Photo Supplies	150.00
Potluck, Christmas	300.00
Potluck, July	300.00
Printing – Roster, Flyers, Handouts, Postcards	650.00
Raffle Plants (9 flats @ \$85)	765.00
Room Rent	825.00
Show & Sale Expenses	1000.00
Speakers, Motel, Dinner	2610.00
Storage Unit Rent	529.20
Tee Shirts (New)	500.00
Web Hosting	62.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11516.20</b>

**FAIR REPORT**

Club members who exhibited plants at the Fair this year were: Bill Gale, Sue Haffner, Joyce Quinn, Rudy Rulloda, Rebekah Carlson, Val McCullough and Chuck Thew. They all won ribbons. Congratulations to all! Judged Best Cactus was *Oreocereus celsianus* and Best Succulent was *Calibanus hookeri*, both grown and exhibited by Pam Margosan. The number of entries was approximately what it was the year before, though there were fewer exhibitors.

~~~~~

**Thank You** – Now that the 2013 Fresno Fair is over and on behalf of the FCSS Club, I wish to give a special thank you for Dennis Anderson, Susan Cook, Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Cynthia Duwe, Veone Gale, Bill & Billy Gale, Sue Haffner, Bruce & Polly Hargreaves, Val McCullough, Paul & Madeleine Mitchell, Joyce Quinn, Tony Sharp, Vivien Shinkawa, and Charles Thew for their participation in meeting the public and informing the public about cactus and succulent. In addition, they informed the public about our club. **Rudy Rulloda, Chair**





Carmen Linares (4<sup>th</sup>); Karen Willoughby (7<sup>th</sup>); Sue Haffner (14<sup>th</sup>); Josie Thomas, Leighton Gould (16<sup>th</sup>); Dan Gale (17<sup>th</sup>); Cindy Duwe (20<sup>th</sup>); Clare Midgley (29<sup>th</sup>)

~~~~~

**Visitors last month:** Nancy Peterson, Kalyn Hill.

~~~~~

**Sympathies:** member Vic Yesne passed away October 1<sup>st</sup>. He had been a member for two years and always seemed to enjoy the meetings. We sent our sympathies to Joyce and the rest of the family.

~~~~~

Sunshine cards have been sent to Rudy Rapisura, Janet Moos and Madeleine Mitchell.

~~~~~

Former member Joyce Kurth has plants for sale: 559-439-6770.

~~~~~

**BIG EVENT THIS MONTH:** San Gabriel Valley C&S Society Winter Show, Nov. 2-3, L.A. County Arboretum, Arcadia. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

~~~~~

**CSSA MEMBERS:** your latest journal includes your 2014 renewal form. Hope you didn't throw it away.

~~~~~

**NEW IN THE CLUB LIBRARY:** "The Splendid Sansevieria," by Juan Chahinian.

**REFRESHMENTS CHAIR**

Marian Orvis has informed us that she would like to retire as Refreshments Chairman for the coming year. Here is an opportunity for another member (or members) to step in to perform a service for the club. The refreshments person brings the supplies for the refreshments table: paper plates, hot/cold cups, eating utensils, napkins, etc. In cold weather, heat water in the coffee urn (kept in storage at DHHSC) and provide instant coffee, tea, cocoa. In hot weather, provide sodas of choice. Encourage members to provide refreshments; cleans up the area after or close to the end of the meeting. Any expense receipts should be submitted to the Treasurer for reimbursement. Talk to Marian if you are interested.

**CLUB WORKSHOP:** Wednesday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m., at Doris Hooton's and Tom Meyer's home, 3733 N. Sierra Vista. We thank Doris and Tom for their hospitality. Subject:

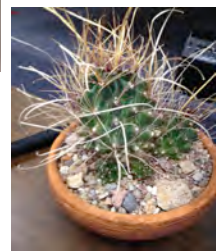
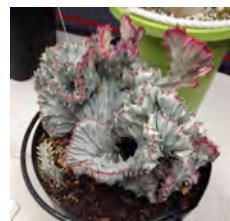


"Winter Seed Growing". Last month we studied *Ariocarpus* and looked at some fantastic plants. All members are welcome.

~~~~~



**OCTOBER BRAG TABLE:** Fred Gaumer brought *Ferocactus sinuatus papyracanthus*, *Ariocarpus hintonii* and *Avonia quinaria* in a cute necklace pot. Linda Lopez showed her 3-headed *Brighamia insignis* and her *Euphorbia lactea* crest that she de-grafted and is now growing on its own roots. Sue Haffner brought *Euphorbia genoudiana*, *E. razafinjohanii* and *Duvalia corderi*. Bill Gale brought *Euphorbia stenoclada* and *Pachypodium lhosy*. Madeleine Mitchell exhibited *Euphorbia decaryi*, *Aloe descoingsii* and *Monadenium ritchiei*. Bruce Hargreaves brought *Euphorbia antisyphilitica*. There are always some people who bring plants but who don't sign the sheet. Fred wonders: are you in the Witness Protection Program? Also: someone last month brought a *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* in a glazed pot and then departed, leaving it behind. Sue Haffner has it and will bring it to this meeting.



## Getting to Know You...

### Mark Muradian

One can pretty much say that Mark comes by an interest in plants naturally. He is from Kingsburg, lived there his whole life and grew up on a third generation family farm, where he farms fruit and nut trees.

A member of FC&SS since sometime in the early 1980's, his interest in cacti began when he saw his mother take cuttings from established plants. He would do the same and started his own plants. "When I get into something, I really get into it," he says. He has been involved with the hobby for about 30 years.

That would explain the "I Love Cacti" license plate on his truck.

Barrel cactus are one favorite, but there are many more. Mark has a twenty-foot tall saguaro cactus with ten foot arms. "It doesn't get cold enough to damage it," he says, "but saguaros need a lot of support."

A friend told him about the club, back when meetings were held at the Best By Far restaurant on Clovis Avenue. Mark came to a meeting, joined the club, and went on to serve for two years as Vice President Program Chair, and gave several presentations to our club as well as to other clubs, including the 2005 National Convention in Scottsdale. He served as the court-appointed expert for planting and orienting cacti in the Deutsch Garden. (A tree service did the moving.) His property was on the Hanford Garden Club Tour. One of the things people seemed to like most about the property was, "you did all this by yourself!"

"My programs are not necessarily the most scientific programs," he says, "but they are entertaining and the video programs are constantly moving."

The audience is fully engaged; the sights and sounds pull in the viewer, you hear the local dialect, you can hear and almost feel the rumbling of the bus, while you observe local animals, birds, and of course, plants, in habitat.

Past programs include trips to Peru, Bolivia, Argentina, Chile, and Yemen. (The Yemen program was given while clothed in the local couture, i.e., dressing like a Yemeni man, which added even more interest and flavor to the presentation.)

If you don't make the trip in person, this might well be the next best thing.

Where Mark has plants, he has pots. "I'm not an artist, I put pots together," he says. This was an interest that came about when he was a boy and his father let him operate a kiln to make his first pot. He didn't use clay again until 1995. Once he started, he went all out.

He has been creating pots for about 18 years. "Luckily," he says, "the style of my pots go well with cacti and succulents." He sold his work at our annual Show and Sale as well as other venues; artist Margaret Hudson purchased one of his pots at a Show and Sale one year and his work has appeared in books by Debra Lee Baldwin.

For the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mark will give a program about his raised cactus beds. A variety of his pots will be available for purchase, perhaps as a new home for that special plant.





## ARIOCARPUS: HOME GROWN CACTUS TIPS

By Elton Roberts



Most cactus collectors consider ariocarpus the top of the line in collectible cacti, and the plants come with prices to match: from about \$7.50 for a small, seed-grown *A. fissuratus* to hundreds of dollars for mature plants. Clumped, crested and monstrose plants will often sell for whatever price the owner sets.



Rarity (these are mostly slow plants in cultivation), and oddity drive the passion for ariocarpus, and while they might be popular because of their shape and spinelessness, peer pressure also plays a role: if you do not have an ariocarpus or two, you do not have a good collection! Fortunately, there are nine species or subspecies to choose from, and most people want all nine. In years past you could buy large plants, most field-collected. Those were flat-topped plants still dirty with silt from the ground they were plucked from. They also had very little wool, in contrast with the wonderfully woolly seed grown plants now available. In fact, it is getting fairly easy to find seed grown plants that match the sizes of the collected plants of yesteryear, and I'm sure the ones left in nature are glad for that.

### GROWING ARIOCARPUS



Ariocarpus come from southern Texas and northeastern Mexico where they inhabit dry, thorn-scrub deserts. The plants experience intense sunlight and heat in the summer, so I give my plants as much light as I can in my houses\* and provide a soil that is very open and fast draining. I use a potting soil (containing no peat) cut with 60% perlite, which keeps the soil light, doesn't pack and drains fast. In habitat the plants get rain from about mid-June through October and many times into November, and these rains can be some real gullywashers. So I go easy on the water and feeding in the springtime, but come mid-July I give them more water and feed freely with a 20-18-18 fertilizer containing micronutrients, mixed with 1 tablespoon per gallon of water. In the winter most would prefer to be above freezing, when I also tend to keep them bone dry.

Thunderstorms provide most of the water these plants receive in nature, and because every flash of lightening fixes nitrogen (that is, makes a water-soluble form that the plants can utilize), these plants are fertilized with every downpour. Natural rainfall is also slightly acidic, and as such the plants prefer an acidic soil in cultivation, even though they grow in, on or around limestone in habitat.

Years ago I worked in a water treatment plant. The towns that get their water from lakes, rivers, sloughs, swamps and such purify the water by running it over limestone one or more times, which has the side effect of raising the pH. Watering the plants with alkaline water will turn the soil alkaline, which most cacti do not seem to like, so I have to acidify my water periodically to keep the plants happy.

Note: *Ariocarpus agavoides* has quite thin tubercles, so the plant seems to like a little shading in the heat of summer. When I forget to give light shade the tubercles will get burnt at the tips, usually from the areole to the tip of the tubercle.

(From: *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, Jan.-Feb. 2007. The above essay is only a small part of an 11-page illustrated article which examines all the different species in detail, delineating their differences and cultural requirements. It also includes an interesting sidebar on "Tubercle comparisons." You can find it in the club library.)

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2013

The election of officers 2013 will be conducted at the November meeting. The Nomination Committee is proud to announce its recommendations, which are shown in the sample ballot reproduced in the adjacent column. Members of the nominating committee, Charlene Stebles and Jack Fleming, made an effort to contact eligible members to determine if they had any interest in holding elective office. The committee may nominate more than one candidate for the same position if that person expresses an interest and is found to be qualified. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the meeting. Proposed nominees must be qualified under the Standing Rules, demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of the office and express a willingness to serve.

We will try to consume as little time as possible with the election process, so as to not interfere with the evening's program. Ballots will be passed out as soon as there has been an opportunity to see if there are to be any nominations from the floor. **Please bring a pencil or a pen with which to mark your ballot.** After all of the candidates have been introduced, we will ask for a voice vote to elect those unopposed candidates. You will then mark your ballot for the remaining unfilled offices, fold it and **after your name is checked from the eligibility list**, deposit your ballot in the ballot box. **Please wear your membership badge for quick identification.** When the balloting is concluded the regular meeting will be continued and the Committee will go to a quiet location and count the votes. Any candidate or their designee will be allowed to observe the counting procedures. A Statement of Results form will be filled out and signed by the election officials. The ballots and a copy of the results statement will be sealed in a large envelope and preserved for a year. It may only be opened by an order from the Board of Directors in the event of some controversy.

The results of the election will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting's program presentation.

### SECRET BALLOT

#### MARK THE SQUARE(S) OF YOUR CHOICE

*If you wish to vote for a candidate that has been nominated from the floor you must write their name in the appropriate space provided.*

#### PRESIDENT:

- Sue Haffner
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### VICE PRESIDENT:

- Rosanna Rojas
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### TREASURER:

- Robert Scott
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECRETARY:

- Cindy Duwe
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE CSSA:

- Fred Gaumer
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### AT LARGE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

#### *VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN THREE CANDIDATES*

- Larry Homan
- Tom Meyer
- Rudy Rulloda
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_