

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.org>

Vol.23, No. 3

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

March 2014

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

PROGRAM

"In Search of Rare American Cacti"

Peter Beiersdorfer will present a talk entitled "In Search of Rare American Cacti". Puerto Rico hosts some of the most enchanted succulent forests in the US, including those formed by thousands of *Melocactus intortus* or by the stately *Consolea rubescens*. Several species, such as *Leptocereus quadricostatus*, are endemic to Puerto Rico, which means they are found nowhere else on earth. A small island off the coast of Puerto Rico is home to the rarest American cactus species, with apparently only one small cluster of plants left in the wild. The talk illustrates the quest to photograph all the native species of cacti in the commonwealth and introduces all US cacti native to the Caribbean.



His accent notwithstanding, Peter Beiersdorfer was born in California, and now lives in Livermore. He has a Ph. D. in physics, and, after having visited Puerto Rico multiple times, in 2012 went to work for several months in the Chemical Physics Program at the University of Puerto Rico. He is a member of several Bay Area cactus and succulent societies, and for the past four years has been serving as the sales chair of the semi-annual show & sale of the Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose.

~ Please give Peter a warm welcome back to Fresno! ~

Peter will bring plants for sale, including some native to the Caribbean.

BJ's Brewhouse
715 East Shaw, Fresno
(559) 570-1900
Menu:
<http://www.bjsrestaurants.com/menu>

DINNER
Begins at 5:00pm

Members are invited to attend.

**Contact Rosanna Rojas by
Wednesday, March 5, to make
reservations.**
Phone: (559) 999-0017
Email: rfrojas96@gmail.com

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

Has this weather been crazy, or what? It's hard to know what to do—put your plants out or keep them under cover; cut back frost-killed foliage or wait even longer; dump dead-looking plants or keep them awhile longer *just in case they're not really dead*. As we're supposed to get some rain this coming week, I intend to push planters out onto now-empty benches just so they can get some watering. I really doubt we're going to have any more temperatures low enough to cause damage. (Famous last words? I hope not!)

At the same time, I've had more plant damage this year than I'd had in a long time. That early December freeze was really special—it whacked plants that had survived a number of previous winters, including some euphorbias I'd grown from seed (now all in the green bin.) A number of plants are alive but will take a few seasons to outgrow their damage. Oh, well, that's the way it goes. Gardeners always face changes every season; nothing is ever static in a garden or a plant collection.

Now that we've reached March, our spring activities are getting into gear. The Home and Garden Show information is elsewhere in the newsletter. This event is valuable for the exposure it gives the club. The Clovis Botanical Garden Spring Into Your Garden event is at the end of the month. Last year, Carole Grosch, Fred Gaumer and I had a good time chatting with visitors on what turned out to be a nice day. If you'd like to help out with this, let me know. Information on this is elsewhere in the newsletter.

We're planning a spring garden tour for April 12th. Larry Homan has been working on this and has some members' gardens lined up. There will be more information on this in the next newsletter.

We're also beginning to get organized for our Annual Show and Sale, June 7-8 at Sierra Vista Mall.

Refreshments: We need to modify how we have been handling refreshment duties. We will store the supplies (paper plates, etc.) at the DHHSC so the responsible persons won't have to haul them back and forth. **Then we will have a monthly signup sheet for those willing to do refreshment duties for just that month.** It occurred to us that the reason we hadn't gotten anyone to volunteer to take over Marian Orvis' job is that members were reluctant to sign on to what sounded like a permanent job. This way, you can help with it just once in awhile. Marian can let you know what's involved.

Name badges and members' binders: I want to encourage members to wear their name badges. We have a number of newer members and we all need to get familiar with each others' names. If you don't have a badge, or need a replacement, see me. New members also receive club information binders. If you don't have one, see Tom Meyer at the front table.

Club rosters: We put out a roster in booklet form every year. This is now the job of the Membership Chairman—my job, in other words. I will get to it when I can. In the meantime, would someone be willing to design a cover? We've had some nice covers in the past few years, but producing anything artistic is not in my wheelhouse, as they say. I will bring a printout of the membership so you can check for errors and also let me know which information to include in the roster.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank those members who come early and help get the room set up for the meeting. Tom Meyer and James Rojas were busy with this last month. Thanks, also, to the members who help put away the chairs and straighten up the room when we're finished. We need to leave the meeting room as shipshape as we can.

See you at the meeting. Sue

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@csufresno.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, rfrojas96@gmail.com ; Treasurer, Robert Scott, 960-3665, Rob_scott85@yahoo.com ; 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 .

FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 10, 2014

President Sue Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Robert Scott, Treasurer; Rosanna Rojas, Vice President; Fred Gaumer, Brag Table; Nell Lemke, Board Member; Tom Meyer, Board Member; Larry Homan, Board Member; Rudy Rulloda, Board Member; Dan Gale, Board Member; Carole Grosch, Board Member

Officer Reports:

Robert Scott, Treasurer reported that he is obtaining totals for the new year and will have those ready at the next meeting.

Rosanna Rojas, Program Chairperson reported that the next program for March will be Nick Wilkerson.

Old Business:

- **Dan Gale** reported that he is obtaining helpers for the Home and Garden Show to be held at the Fresno Fair grounds on March 7, 8, 9, 2014. There are no commercial vendors. He asked members of the club to bring show plants to have on display.
- **Larry Homan** reported on the Spring Garden Tour. He has gotten three members to open their gardens for the Spring Tour. The members are: Vickie Veen, Dennis Anderson, and Charlene Stebles. The tour is tentatively scheduled for April 12, 2014.
- **Cindy Duwe, Secretary** had no report on the Bus Tour.
- **Cindy Duwe, Secretary** reported that four commercial vendors have been contacted to sell at the upcoming June Show and Sale to be held at Sierra Vista Mall, Clovis, CA. The room has been reserved and paid for.
- **Sue** reported that the club donates to the CSSA Convention Speakers fund. This was discussed and the item was tabled until closer to the actual event which takes place in 2015.
- **Sue** reported that no one has volunteered to take over Refreshment Chair.

New Business:

- **Sue** reported that the Clovis Botanical Garden "Spring into your Garden" event will be held on March 29, 2014. The club will have a table and chair and will hand out information on the club and the June Show and Sale.
- **Sue** reported that the Master Gardeners are having a Gardening Conference at the Ramada Inn on February 22, 2014. Sue prepared 400 envelopes with Ferocactus seeds to be included in the conference gift bags.
- **Sue** indicated that the dues need to be restructured. The standing rules must be updated to do so. It must be put before the members for a vote.
- **Fred Gaumer, Brag Table** asked if we can include articles from other clubs in our newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Duwe, Secretary

BOARD MEETING:



TUESDAY, MARCH 11th, 6:00 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. Any member may attend. Board members who are unable to attend should let the President know in advance. If anyone has agenda items, they should forward them to Sue Haffner.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Chuck Thew (3rd); Larry Carlberg (15th); Jenny Swartzbaugh (20th); Karen Ocheltree (21st); Veone Gale, Claudia Carlson (22nd); Natalie Nugent (30th).*

~~~~~

**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Linda Olivas, Fresno  
 Lucy Mays, Fresno  
 James Rojas, Fresno

*WELCOME*

~~~~~

Visitors last month: Bill and Brian Poot, Linda Olivas, Lucy Mays, Carlos Maciel.

~~~~~

**New phone number:** Susan Cook, 559-261-2313.

~~~~~

Hanging them up? In Marek Warszawski’s column in the Feb. 18th *Fresno Bee*, we read: “Paul Mitchell, Reedley College’s public-address announcer since 1953, is hanging up his vocal cords. How do all those scores get in the paper? Because folks like Mitchell care enough to call them in. For decades, in his case.”

~~~~~

Former member Retha Long, Dos Palos, is selling her property and has a lot of growing supplies and books to get rid of. She and her late husband Paul were longtime vendors at the northern California cactus and succulent shows. She is planning on moving in the next month or so. Give her a call if you’re interested: (209) 392-3530.

~~~~~

NEW IN THE CLUB LIBRARY: Two new books will be available this month: “Cultivation of Bursera: Frankincense of the Americas”, by Jason Eslamieh; and “Organ Pipe Cactus”, by David Yetman. The latter is an ethnobotanical treatment of *Stenocereus thurberi* by an author who is an authority on the large columnar cacti.

COMING EVENTS

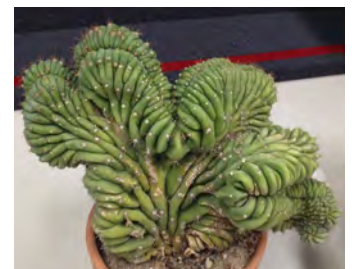
Saturday, March 8th, Plant Give & Take, VFW Post 8900, 3585 N. Blythe Ave.; 9 a.m. -- ?

March 28-30, Orange County C&SS Spring Show and Sale, Anaheim Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd, Anaheim. Hours: Fri. and Sat., 9-5; Sunday 12-4. For more information: (562) 587-3357.

April 5-6, Cactus & Succulent Society of San Jose Spring Show and Sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Ave., Sunnyvale. For more information: (408) 951-5904.

~~~~~

**JANUARY BRAG TABLE:** Last month Fred Gaumer brought some great plants: *Pachycormus discolor*, *Idria columnaris*, *Phyllobolus resurgens*, *Othonna herrei*, *Adromischus herrei marianiae*, *Haworthia magnifica v. splendens*, *Echinocereus ferreiranus v. lindsayi* and *Adromischus cristatus v. schonlandii*. Bruce Hargreaves brought *Aloe descoingsii ssp augustina*. Dennis Anderson displayed *Mammillaria zeilmanniana* and *trichocereus spachianus* crest. Susan cook showed *Astrophytum caput medusae*. Thanks to all of them. We love looking at these great plants! Don’t be shy about bringing in some of your plants when they’re looking good.





The Spring Home and Garden Show is coming up March 7-9 at the Fresno Fairgrounds. It's a huge event, with thousands of attendees. It provides great exposure for any organization or business. The garden clubs will again be located in the Junior Exhibits Building, at the south end of the grounds, just to your right as you enter the Butler Avenue gate.

Dan Gale (787-2415) is in charge and can answer any of your questions. If you would like to be a vendor, be sure to get in touch with him; I believe there is still room for more vendors.

Set-up is Wednesday and Thursday, March 5-6; again, get in touch with Dan to see when he'll be needing help with this.

The show opens on Friday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, at 11 a.m. Hours are: Friday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

We need to have a nice show to advertise our hobby and our organization. Some of the other clubs in the building are holding judged shows and/or putting on demonstrations or workshops. Most of them will be selling plants, as well. All show plants must remain on display until 6 p.m. on Sunday.

We have gate passes to give away, but if you will be working for any length of time, be sure to get a home and garden show badge. This will get you onto the grounds at any time. Ask Dan about getting one.

Parking: during set-up (Wed. and Thurs.) Gate 7, off Butler Ave., should be open. You can drive in there and park behind the building if you can find a space. Once the show opens on Friday, you will have to either park in the street or use the lot at the SE corner of Maple and Butler (you'll need your badge.) From there you can catch the trolley to the front gate. If you have to drop off something in the Junior Exhibit Building during the run of the show, use the Chance Avenue entrance. You can drive onto the grounds before the show opens to the public, but you have to finish your business quickly and leave. On Sunday, Gate 7 should be open and you can drive in and park behind the building. But, if all else fails, you can pay \$5.00 and park in the Butler Avenue lot.

Again, this event provides a great opportunity to publicize our club and our upcoming June show and sale. We had signup sheets at last month's meeting, but I'm sure Dan could use a few more members to volunteer for duty. *Sue*

**Water bottle sprinkler caps:** Paul Mitchell announced at the last meeting that he would send a bulk order for these if members were interested. A number of people raised their hands. Paul has received the caps and they will be available at the meeting. These are handy for watering delicate seedlings or other small plants, and fit on top of most plastic bottles. Oddly enough, they're kind of hard to find.



**TYPEWRITERS:** If you have an old typewriter, manual or electric, that works, and would like to get rid of it, it can come in handy for an upcoming exhibit at CSUF on the evolution of technology as it relates to printing. Bring it to this meeting and I can take custody of it. The University would be glad to acknowledge any donations and, if you wish, send an official letter and gift form for your tax purposes.

Website for the exhibition: [www.turningpagesfresnostate.com](http://www.turningpagesfresnostate.com) *Sue*

## MAMMILLARIA LENTA

*Mammillaria lenta* is one of the beautiful white mammillarias that you see filling large, wide planters in the big cactus and succulent shows. You can be sure that these are veteran, old specimens, as this is not a fast-growing plant.

The species is native to rocky areas of the state of Coahuila, Mexico. You can see habitat photos in books showing it growing in tight spots (the specific name, *lenta*, means "tough".) The plant's white appearance comes from copious amounts of persistent, short axillary wool. The short, white spines are yellowish when young; they turn white with maturity. Areoles have 30-40 white to yellowish radial spines; central spines are absent. It is often found as a single head, but it can branch into nice clumps over time. The heads are globose to cylindrical, 3-5 cm. wide, to 6 cm. tall.

Elton Roberts writes on a blog post: "Depending on where they are growing the heads can be to about 8 cm. tall but usually much shorter. I just went out and measured several of my plants that were grown from seed and some are 7 cm. tall and 8 cm. in diameter for the main head, and are just starting to offset. Others are filling 7 inch pans and have 15 to 20 or more offsets."



The white flowers with a pinkish mid-stripe are produced mainly in summer, but the plant can bloom several times per year. Elton writes: "I give the plant my regular soil mix and keep it mostly dry over the winter. If the plant gets large enough to cover most of the soil in the pot, then you have to be careful when watering or the soil will stay damp too long and the plant can rot off. Give the soil plenty of breathing room. Give the plant lots of light and plenty of heat if you want to keep it compact with dense spine growth."

**Sue**



*Photos by Elton Roberts*



PACHYPODIUM HOROMBENSE

## Pachypodium Horombense

*Pachypodium horombense* is one of the Madagascan pachypodiums, closely related to *P. rosulatum* and *P. densiflorum*. In fact, Rowley first described it as a variety of *rosulatum*, only raising it to species status after more study.

It grows in the southern central plateau area on granite rocks at an altitude of 500 to 1,000 meters. "Horombense" refers to the Horombe mountains.

Plants in cultivation can reach 2 ½ feet tall, with a spread of over 3 feet. The picture at left, from Gordon Rowley's book, "Pachypodium & Adenium", shows a young seedling. This species has some of the most beautiful flowers of the genus, large bell-shaped blossoms borne on 24" long peduncles.

All Pachypodiums are very xerophytic and adapted to withstand intense heat and long periods of drought. The swollen stems contain an internal reserve of water that can tide the plant over the dry season when the leaves have fallen and transpiration is reduced to a minimum. Temperatures in the central Madagascar mountains have been recorded as over 150 degrees on occasion, and these plants are fully exposed to the sun. Some of these species are what are called true lithophytes,

growing in tiny pockets of humus wedged into the rocks. This should give you a clue as to culture: full sun, careful watering, and no over-potting. *Pachypodium horombense* is dormant in winter and will lose its leaves. Be sure to keep it protected from freezing temperatures.

A good source for plants and also cultural information is Highland Succulents: [www.highlandsucculents.com](http://www.highlandsucculents.com)

**Club Workshop, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm.** Subject: variegated plants. All members are welcome. Last month we looked at very interesting caudiciforms. Some of the plants included: *Pyrenacantha malvifolia*; *Ibervillea tenuisecta*; *Stephania perrieri*; *Gonolobus cyclophylius*; *Cephalopetandra ecirrhosa*; *Fockea comaru*; *Pachypodium horombense*; *Pachypodium namaquanum*; *Pachypodium brevicaule*; *Pachypodium succulentum*, *Kedrostis africana*, and a few *Adeniums*.

