

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.org>

Vol.23, No. 8

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

August 2014

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

## CULTIVATION BASICS

Presented by **ROBERT SCOTT**

The Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society welcomes its current treasurer, Robert Scott, as this month's speaker.

Robert has a passion for all things plant related. His desire to learn about plants began at a young age, specifically when his Grandma taught him how to grow a vegetable garden. It was from this point on that things spiraled out of control.

Robert's passion for horticulture and his thirst for more knowledge eventually led him to Fresno State, where he received a degree in Plant Science/Plant Health in 2011. It was during these college years, that he began working in the plant nursery field. Since then, he has accumulated over 10 years of plant experience.

In 2008, Robert became a California Certified Nursery Professional (CCNPro), and in 2011, he earned his Agricultural Pesticide Control Advisor license (PCA). In addition to serving as the treasurer for the Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society, Robert is also the current president for the Central Valley Chapter of the California Turtle & Tortoise Club. Robert credits these reptilian friends for sparking his initial interest in cacti and succulents several decades ago. He first started growing Sedums, Opuntias, and Aloes to use for animal food and habitat landscapes. But thanks to Nick Deinhart, it wasn't until a few years ago that Robert *really* caught the cactus and succulent bug.

Like most club members, Robert's current plant collection has grown to include hundreds of diverse plants. In his personal collection, he grows Haworthias, Gasteria, Ariocarpus, Cyphostemma, and a few types of cactus. Growing these plants can be a challenge in the Central Valley, however Robert finds that learning how to meet each plant's special needs is truly a fun experience. Though he says it is difficult to choose a favorite, Robert admits that Aloes may in fact be his first choice.

For this month's meeting, Robert's presentation will consist of several different topics that he hopes will appeal to both the "newbies" and the experienced growers. Topics covered will include: soil types, pot types, how to re-pot, when to water, and propagation (cuttings and seed). Robert will tell you that he isn't an expert, yet there is no doubt that he is excited for the opportunity to share his experience and knowledge about what has worked for him while growing cacti and succulents.



**DINNER:** BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse  
15 East Shaw Avenue, Fresno  
(559) 570-1900

Contact Rosanna Rojas by Wednesday, August 6th to make reservations. Phone: 999-0017; Email: [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com)  
Begins at 5:00 P.M. Members are invited to attend.

**FROM THE PREZ ...**

Hi, all,

I hope you are surviving this summer. Most of our plants are also hunkered down, as we are, waiting for the heat to abate somewhat. Think fall!

The heat may have contributed to a smaller than usual turnout at our picnic. As we had cancelled the 2013 picnic because of excessive temperatures, I got a number of calls from members asking if we were going to cancel this year, too. Now, we have had our annual picnic in July for ages but it might be time to consider an alternate month for the event. Please think about this and let your officers know your views. The picnic is a lot of fun and it would be a shame to do away with it.

Looking ahead: September is our Members' Sale Night. Those who wish to sell plants, pots, books or other hobby items need to sign up at this meeting. Tables are \$10; you can share with someone and only pay \$5. If you wish, you can donate items to the club sale table. We will also have a signup sheet for refreshments.

Later in September is our bus trip. We're going north this year, instead of south. Our destination is the U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden, with a shopping stop at Annie's Annuals in Richmond. It should be a fun day. As indicated elsewhere in the newsletter, you need to sign up before August 15<sup>th</sup>, as the botanical garden needs to know how large our group will be.

We should have an enjoyable program this month. Come out with your questions for Rob. See you there!

*Sue*

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**The Big Fresno Fair is around the corner.**



For those wishing to participate and haven't received your Entry Form, there will be extra forms in the August club meeting. The deadline for these forms is September 6 and the Online Entry Forms on September 8.

The Fair begins on the 1st through 13th of October and we will be needing plant watchers to watch the plants and answers questions from the public. The watch is at least 2 hours. Participants will have free parking and admission passes. Those participants with more than two hours will have photo ID badges. There will be a sign up schedule in the September club meeting.

We are hoping many club members want to share their talent. We hope to have a lot of cacti/succulent demonstrations throughout the entire Fair. You don't have to be a long time club member to participate. A sign up sheet will be at the September club meeting.

**Note:** Jennifer Waite will be at this meeting and is going to give a brief presentation about the Fair.

***Rudolfo Rulloda, Chair***



**BOARD MEETING:** Monday, August 11<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno.  
All members are welcome to attend; board members should attend.

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**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@csufresno.edu](mailto:sueh@csufresno.edu); Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com); Treasurer, Robert Scott, 960-3665, [Rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:Rob_scott85@yahoo.com); Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@csufresno.edu](mailto:sueh@csufresno.edu); Refreshments (vacant); 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 JULY 10, 2014

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

**Members present:** Rosanna Rojas, Vice President; Robert Scott, Treasurer; Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Fred Gaumer, CSSA Affiliate Representative; Tom Meyer, Board Member; Rudy Rulloda, Board Member; Nell Lemke, Board Member; Carole Grosch, Board Member; Larry Homan, Board Member.

**Members absent:** Dan Gale, Board Member

### **Officer Reports:**

**Sue Haffner** announced Member's Sale Night will be September 4, 2014 at the DHHSC room starting at 6:30 p.m. This event is open to the public.

**Rosanna Rojas** will have sign up sheets at the August meeting for food and refreshments for the Member Sale Night. She announced the following speakers are scheduled: Robert Scott, August; Rob Skillin, October; Nick Wilkenson, November; Woody Minnick, February, 2015; Greg Starr, April, 2015.

**Robert Scott** reported that the annual Show & Sale was a success. The event grossed \$12,156.19. The club netted \$3,573.04. He also stated that the iPad and Square were very helpful by making it possible for the public to use credit cards.

### **Old Business:**

**Cindy Duwe** gave a brief report on the annual Show & Sale. She also updated the Board on the upcoming Bus trip. It will be held on September 20, 2014. She has chartered the bus and contacted the Botanical Garden at UC Berkeley and Annies's Annuals & Perennials in Richmond, CA for tours.

**Sue** mentioned that we need to consider another, hopefully cooler month for the Picnic. The month of May was suggested and will be brought to the members at the next meeting. Sue announced that we now have a new business to make the name badges for new members. We are now using Ace Trophy Shop. Rosanna Rojas made a motion to lower the cost of the badge from \$9.00 to \$7.00. The motion was seconded by Carole Grosch. Sue advised the Board that the DHHSC wants one of the members of the club to have a key to close and set the alarm for the building at the end of the meeting. After discussion it was decided someone from the club will be in charge of this.

The January, 2015 meeting is scheduled for January 1, 2015. The date of the meeting was moved to January 8, 2015.

No one volunteered to head the refreshment committee for the August meeting. It was decided that we need a permanent person to get people to bring refreshments.

It was decided that the club will participate in the 2015 Fresno Home & Garden Show.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Duwe, Secretary



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Rudy Rulloda (2<sup>nd</sup>); Brooke Parichan (5<sup>th</sup>); Howard McLachlin (10<sup>th</sup>); Frances Cardenas (22<sup>nd</sup>); Lisa Brew (28<sup>th</sup>).

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**Sympathies:** Our sympathies go out to Rod and Brooke Parichan, who lost their wife and mother, Cynthia, on July 8<sup>th</sup>.



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Remember that if you know of a club member who needs a card or a phone call, get in touch with Carole Grosch, 349-9375, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net)

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**Correction:** Karl Church’s email in the roster is wrong; it should be: [64kkmj@gmail.com](mailto:64kkmj@gmail.com)

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**REFRESHMENT TABLE:** No one volunteered to see that the refreshments table is stocked with napkins, plates, etc., so we could use some help. (Of course, your donations of goodies are always welcome!)

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**Loran Whitelock (1930-2014):** old timers in the club will remember Loran, who did several programs for us on cycads years ago. He died May 14<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84. He established his Cycad Gardens in 1972 at his home in Eagle Rock CA, eventually amassing one of the most extensive cycad collections in the world. A prodigious traveler, he studied cycads around the world and produced an encyclopedic work, “The Cycads”, published in 2002 by Timber Press. Several members of our club had the privilege to visit his amazing garden years ago. Preceded in death by his wife, Eva, in 2007, Loran had already laid the groundwork for his entire collection to be donated to the Huntington Botanical Garden after his death. He was also working with Duke Benadom on a 2-volume update to his cycad book. Duke says that v.1 will soon be published and v.2 will follow. Those of us who attend the Huntington Succulent Symposia will remember Loran sitting up in the front row with Duke at all the programs.

**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

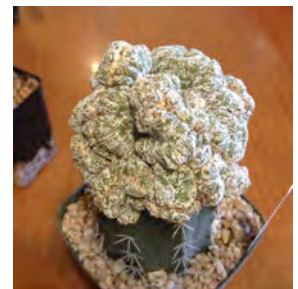
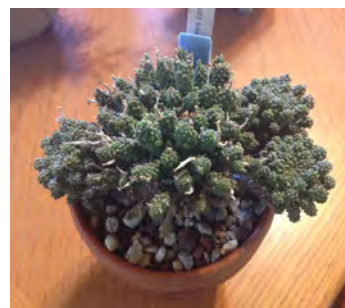
**August 9-10, InterCity Show & Sale** (see elsewhere in the newsletter)

**August 21-24, Book Sale, Fresno County Library’s** annual book sale, Sierra Vista Mall, Clovis

**August 30, 31<sup>st</sup> Succulent Plants Symposium,** Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1101 Oxford Rd, San Marino CA 91108; registration and continental breakfast, 8:30 a.m.; program in the Ahmanson Classroom, 9:00 to 5:00, includes silent auction. Fee: \$75.00, includes lunch. Deadline, Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>. For more information, see Sue or check the CSSA webpage (click on the Facebook button)

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**CLUB WORKSHOP:** Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. All members are welcome. Bring a plant that has a story behind it. (Or bring anything that looks good.) At the July workshop we examined a number of medusoid euphorbias, most brought by Jack Fleming. We talked about salvaging half-dead plants. Larry Homan said he had saved plants in perilous shape by soaking them in fungicide. If you can get to the plants before all the cell walls collapse, there is a chance of success.



## Getting to Know You...

### Karl Church

If you went to our Show & Sale, there's a good chance you noticed a large amount of plants for the club to sell or to give away. Karl Church was responsible for delivering many of these; he brought a pickup truck full of plants to the event.

As one of our newer members, Karl, joined FC&SS last year, but his interest in plants is not new. Beginning as a youngster, he helped his parents plant 4-inch plugs of dichondra grass; soon he had a green yard. Encouraged by success, he moved on to growing potatoes. "Next thing I knew - potato plants were everywhere," he remembers.

It was a sign of what was to come.

Karl was born in Madera and grew up in the Valley. He graduated from Fresno State as an art major, "but I never used it," he says. "Viet Nam interrupted my plans. I ended up being stateside the whole time, working as a finance clerk at Fort Ord, then going to finance school when I was based at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. There are absolutely the best people in Indianapolis."

After his military service, Karl returned to Fresno. He worked for a finance company, then attended Fresno City College to become a radio technologist, a job he enjoyed largely because it helped people in the community.

After living in Kingman, Arizona, for a time and enjoying what that area had to offer, Karl returned to the Valley and lived in Hanford, where he worked as a substitute teacher. He found he liked teaching and for the next twelve years taught junior high school science in Orosi, before retiring.

He has put his post-retirement time to good use.

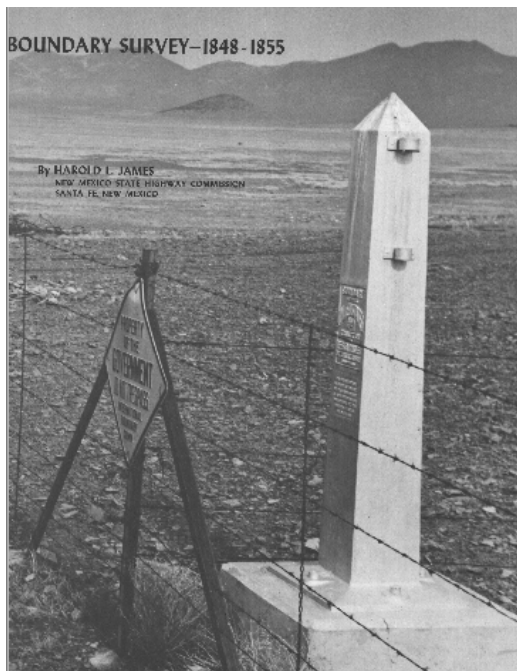
Once again, Karl is a Master Gardener for Tulare/Kings County. He first took the training during his teaching years, but found it difficult to fit those responsibilities into his busy schedule. Once he was no longer teaching, he again qualified as a Tulare/Kings Master Gardener and is working the phones on the Helpline.

Karl has lived in Dinuba for the past seven years. No grass grows in his front yard and he has almost no annuals. Most of his plants are bi-annual or perennials.



**JULY PICNIC:** We had fun at the July picnic, even though turnout was smaller than usual. The food and fellowship were great, and the silent auction brought in \$109.25. Some gorgeous Adeniums showed up for the “Orgy”. Yes, it was hot, but a brisk breeze was blowing and, overall, the evening was quite bearable.

We’ve been holding the picnic in July since ancient times, but I now think we need to reconsider this. If we moved the event to a different month we would no doubt have better participation. Think about this and let your officers know what you think.



Monument No. 69 on the international boundary south of Cloverdale, Hidalgo County, New Mexico

**SOME HISTORY:** Okay, I know that school is out for the summer, but sometimes a bit of history is interesting in how it relates to our plants. In 1848, at the conclusion of the Mexican War, President Polk appointed members to the U.S.-Mexico Boundary Survey. Defined by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the Survey (1848-1855) was to determine and explore the true boundary between the nations. *Ferocactus emoryi* is named for Maj. Wm. Emory, Boundary Commissioner, naturalist, and author of the final report; *Opuntia engelmannii*, after Dr. George Engelmann, author of “Cactaceae of the Boundary”; *Yucca torreyi*, after Dr John Torrey, author of “Botany of the Boundary”; *Cylindropuntia whipplei*, after Lt. Amiel Whipple, topographic engineer; *Agave schottii*, after Arthur Schott, naturalist, surveyor, and topographic artist; *Agave parryi*, after Dr Charles Parry, surgeon and botanist; *Datura wrightii*, after Charles Wright, botanist; *Stenocereus thurberi*, after George Thurber, botanist; and *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*, after John

Bigelow, surgeon and botanist. The final report of this prodigious effort was published in 3 volumes (1857-59) and remains a vitally important work of botany, zoology, paleontology, ethnology, etc. **Sue**

**Our bus trip this year will be Saturday, September 20th, to the U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden, then a shopping stop at Annie's Annuals, a huge nursery with lots of succulents and many other kinds of plants. The trip will be \$35.00 per person, which includes admission to the botanical garden.**

**The garden people need to know by August 15th how many of us will be on the trip, so be sure to attend the August meeting and sign up. If you are not able to attend the August meeting, send your check, payable to FCSS, to Cindy Duwe, 2167 E Turnberry, Fresno CA 93730 or contact her with any questions at: cindyduwe@yahoo.com.**

*Sue*

### **Tentative Schedule for Bus Trip on September 20, 2014:**

- 6:00 a.m. - Board bus in parking lot of Wal-Mart located at 3680 W. Shaw Avenue (cross street, Brawley).
- 7:30 a.m. - Rest stop at McDonalds in Los Banos.
- 8:00 a.m. - Board bus and continue to Berkeley.
- 11:00 a.m. - Tour University of California, Berkeley, Botanical Garden. We are signed up to take "Plants of the World " tour.
- 12:00 p.m. - Visit the garden store, eat lunch (bring your own), rest, etc.
- 1:00 p.m. - Board bus and travel to Richmond to visit Annie's Annuals & Perennials.
- 2:30 p.m. - Board bus. Travel to Los Banos for dinner at Espana's Restaurant.

### **Tentative 9 p.m. return to Fresno**

#### **BACK TO BASICS: FIRST AID - By Jim Daniel**

What's this, cousin? You say you repotted your *Opuntia microdasys var rufida* without using your bottle warmer tongs? To salvage that 50-cent pot you turned that opuntia upside down and gave the pot a sharp rap on the potting bench to de-pot the sucker? Suddenly you have the urge to scratch an insidious itch between the fingers; then an itch on the nose; than an itch on the back; and on it goes until you are doing a full- fledged scratch shuffle ... The glochids of opuntia are harvested in Mexico, exported to this country where it's sold in novelty stores under the name itching powder.

You can make the repotting job a little easier by wetting the pads and spines with water before handling the plants. When the opuntias are dry, even a brisk wind will blow the glochids around. Now that you've had a glochid bath it's time to take a cool water shower to wash off most of the loose hair-like spines. If you came into direct contact with the plant, some of the spines may have penetrated your epidermis. Best solution for many small spines is to coat the area with rubber cement. After it dries, peel off the rubber cement and this will bring most of the spines and all the hair off the afflicted area. Second best solution is adhesive or scotch tape.

*( Jim Daniel was a longtime San Jose area grower and plant seller. He is now retired to Spokane WA. )*

## Our Annual Plea for Entrants

This 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show is less than a month away. This is one of the stellar events in the Cactus and Succulent World, with a worldwide reputation for the quality and quantity of entries. The Inter-City Show pioneered the concept of Walks and Talks adding an important educational component to the show.

The Inter-City Show has a well-deserved reputation for the place to see one of a kind plants, but more importantly, it has the reputation as the place where plants are grown to standards of excellence that are impossible to exceed.

With this in mind, the Inter-City Show is also one of the easiest and most encouraging to enter. There are three classes, Novice, Advance and Open. Novice is anyone who has won less than 40 first places in recognized shows, Advanced in anyone who has won more than 40, and Open is for anyone who wants to compete at the highest level. This show is one of the main sources of new members for all three clubs. A little know secret is that it is the novice entrants that do the most to encourage new members to join the clubs and to enter future shows. We need more novice entrants.

Entries can be brought in from 1 to 7 on Wednesday August 6, 8 AM to 9 PM on Thursday August 7 and 8 AM to 5 PM on Friday August 8. Judging starts at 5 on August 8th and everything needs to be on the tables by then. There are always plenty of people to help with any identification problems, so don't let a lost label keep you from entering a plant. Advice and help on last minute grooming is always available, and there are plenty of people to help make sure your plants are placed in the right categories. We do everything we can to make this the easiest and friendliest show to enter.

The sale is one of the highlights of the Show.

It will be open from 1 PM on Friday. We have dealers from Northern California, San Diego, Tucson, Phoenix, New Mexico and local specialists. There will be an amazing amount of wonderful plants for sale as well as on the show tables.

We have already heard from people coming from Georgia, Florida, Korea and elsewhere to see the show. Please help make this an event that they will always remember. We have lots of tables to fill. We would like you to attend and bring your friends, and we need you to bring your plants.

Thanks in advance,

The Inter-City Show Committee



29th Inter-City  
**Cactus and Succulent  
 Show and Sale**  
 August 9-10 2014  
 9 AM - 5 PM  
 Los Angeles County  
 Arboretum  
 301 N Baldwin  
 Arcadia, CA

