

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.org>

Vol.23, No. 11

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

November 2014

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

## Speaker:

### NICK WILKINSON

This month's program will feature Nick Wilkinson, the owner of **GROW** which is a small retail nursery located in the East village of beautiful Cambria, California. They have specialized in rare and unusual succulents as well as handmade pottery, Tillandsia's (Airplants) and mineral specimens from around the world for nearly 10 years and have given several presentations to the Fresno CSS over those years.



***Let's give Nick a warm welcome back to our club!***

Nick Wilkinson

**GROW**

2024 Main St. (Thru the Garden Shed)

Cambria, CA. 93428

(805) 924-1340

[www.grownursery.com](http://www.grownursery.com)

**PLANTS: Nick will bring a nice selection of plants and pottery for purchase.**

~ DINNER ~

**Toledo's Mexican Restaurant**  
367 E Shaw Avenue, Fresno  
(559) 438-3030. Menu:  
<http://toledosmexicanfood.com/menu/>

**Begins at 5 pm**  
Members are invited  
to attend.

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

**FROM THE PREZ ...**

Hi, all,

I assume you are enjoying our cooler weather. Our plants and gardens sure are. If you look closely you will see that a lot of your plants are pushing out new growth—the South Africans, for sure, but other plants, as well. The angle of the sun has changed so you will find that you may have to move your plants to brighter locations. I just finally took down my summer shade cloth and put it away, a chore that is usually done before this. I think the hot summer fried my brain.

My thanks to everyone who was involved with the Fresno Fair. Your time and effort is much appreciated. It might be my imagination, but I think entries were down this year. When someone asked me about it, I just said that this past summer had done a number on peoples' plants. "Perhaps it did a number on the growers, too," she said.

I spent Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Clovis Botanical Garden's water-wise gardening event. It's always fun to meet the public and talk about the plants and the club. I gave away a lot of plants and cuttings. Thanks to Madeleine Mitchell and Rudy Rulloda for donating them. Madeleine and Ruth Saludes gave talks on succulents, and Marian Orvis worked as cashier at the plant sale. The Garden is preparing for the development of several new garden areas. If you haven't visited for a while, be sure to stop by.

Marian Orvis has volunteered to return as Refreshments Chairperson. What good news! Thanks, Marian!

**Webmaster wanted:** Vickie Veen has told us she is stepping down as Webmaster, so we need to find a replacement. Vickie has done an outstanding job with our web site. (If you don't believe me, check out the web sites of some other cactus & succulent clubs.) Thank you so much for your great work, Vickie. We're sure we have some members who know about web pages; I hope one of you will volunteer.

We have the election of 2015 officers this month. The ballot is elsewhere in the newsletter. Nominations for the various offices can be made from the floor during the business meeting.

The signup sheets for the December Christmas party will be available again this month. If you didn't get a chance to sign up in October, you can still do so.

To alleviate the congestion at the far side of the meeting room, we're going to move the library down closer to the stage and move the raffle/plant opportunity table to the rear of the chairs. There was too much confusion last month, as these two activities impinged on the sale tables. We'll see how this works.

This month Jo Ann Caufield will bring the book collection that belonged to the late Karen Nichols. It includes a lot of the classic cactus and succulent titles, including works in German. Members will have the opportunity to look them over and buy any they would like.

As you can see, we're having a busy meeting this month. Hope to see you there!

*Sue*



Photo:  
Madeleine Mitchell

**There was a bit of chaos last month around the plant sale area, as members began selecting plants before all of them had been brought in or the seller set up to do business. Rob Skillin expressed a bit of displeasure about this to some of us after the meeting. This month let's try to be more restrained; wait until all the plants are on the tables and the seller is present before starting to shop. *Thanks for your cooperation.***

**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.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@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu) ; Refreshments, Position Vacant; Librarian, Madeleine Mitchell, 638-2784, [madeleine43@comcast.net](mailto:madeleine43@comcast.net); Webmaster - Vacant; Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net) .

**FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT CLUB BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2014**

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

**Attendance:** Rosanna Rojas, Vice President; Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Robert Scott, Treasurer; Larry Homan, Board Member; Dan Gale, Board Member; Carole Grosch, Board Member; Nell Lemke, Board Member; Rudy Rullloda, Board Member; Tom Meyer, Board Member.

**Absent:** Fred Gaumer, CSSA Affiliate Representative

**Visitors:** Polly Dunklin, Mary Drumheller, Doris Hooton

**Officer Reports:**

Sue Haffner advised the board that Joanne Caufield will bring books donated to the club by Karen Nichols to the November and December meetings. The books will be part of the silent action held during the December dinner and meeting.

Rosanna Rojas informed the board that Nick Wilkinson will be the guest speaker at the November meeting. She also has invited Steve Frieze to be the guest speaker for the January 2015 meeting.

**New Business:**

Sue announced that the 2015 Show and Sale will be held the first weekend of June which is June 6 and 7.

Follow up of new members was discussed. A letter, a phone call was brought up. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Larry Homan stated that he believes we should provide an Information table at each of the monthly meetings. This will be discussed at the November Board meeting.

The Budget for 2015 was read and reviewed by the board. It was agreed to raise the payment of Officer Gifts from \$275.00 to \$325.00. The money for Photo Supplies (\$150.00) is to be moved into the Newsletter and Postage category bringing that total to \$700.00. It was decided to raise the Speakers, Motel and Dinner fund from \$2,610.00 to \$3,000.00. There was a motion made by Carole Grosch to accept the 2015 Budget as amended. The motion was seconded by Rudy Rullloda. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

The yearly memberships and donations to Tree Fresno and Clovis Botanical Garden are up for renewal. The yearly donation of \$100.00 to DHHSC and the Discovery Center are also due.

Rosanna Rojas moved that the above-mentioned memberships and donations be paid. Carole Grosch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Duwe, Secretary

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~ NO BOARD MEETING IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER ~

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**LIBRARY NEWS:** There are some overdue books; please return them at this meeting. The library will not be available in December due to our Christmas party. Remember, you may check out 2 books at a time and keep them for a maximum of 2 months. There is a \$2.00 fine per month for overdue books. I will also be bringing the club sweatshirts and long sleeved tee shirts. You may try them on before purchasing.

*Madeleine Mitchell*



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** *Carmen Linares (4<sup>th</sup>); Karen Willoughby (7<sup>th</sup>); Sue Haffner (14<sup>th</sup>); Josie Thomas (16<sup>th</sup>); Dan Gale (17<sup>th</sup>); Cindy Duwe (20<sup>th</sup>).*

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Mary Ann Villegas has a new email address: [maryann@maracast.com](mailto:maryann@maracast.com)



Below is the budget approved by the Board of Directors:

**Calendar Year – January 1 thru December 31, 2015**

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	700.00
Office Supplies & Expenses	200.00
Officer Gifts	325.00
Potluck, Christmas	300.00
Potluck, July	300.00
Printing—Roster, Flyers, Handouts, Postcards	650.00
Raffle Plants (9 flats @ 85.00)	765.00
Room Rent	825.00
Show & Sale Expenses	1,000.00
Speakers, Motel, Dinner	3,000.00
Storage Unit Rent	529.00
Tee Shirts (New)	500.00
Web Hosting	62.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,956.00</b>



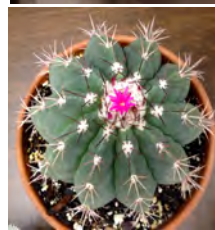
The Sept.-Oct. *Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.)* is a special issue devoted to cultivars and hybrids. Articles cover new cultivars of aloes, gasterias, haworthias, agaves and other plants. If you are already a member of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, you have received your issue. If you're not

a member—you should be! See Fred Gaumer or the CSSA website ([cssainc.org](http://cssainc.org)); you can order a copy of this issue, v.86, no. 5, through the website.



Thanks to Larry Homan for filling in so ably for Fred last month on the Brag Table. Fred had been robbed of his voice by a very bad cold. We trust that he is feeling better by now.

**BRAG TABLE:** The following members brought plants for the October Brag Table: Fred Gaumer (*Othonna herrei*); Sue Haffner (*Dyckia marnier-lapostollei*); Madeleine Mitchell (*Haworthia truncata*, 12 years old, *H. truncata* 'Lime Green', 7 years old); Polly Hargreaves, *Stapelia gigantea*); Bill Gale, *Pachypodium brevicaule*, *Melocactus*, *Adenium obesum*); Bruce Hargreaves, *Haemanthus albiflos*); Roz Tampone, two succulent-decorated pumpkins. Thanks to all of them.



**Photos:**  
Mary Ann Villegas

**WORKSHOP:** Wednesday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista; all members welcome. The subject is a bit free-form this time; bring any plant you wish. We had several interesting discussions last month.

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**FOR SALE:** specimen plant of *Monadenium elegans* x *M. torrei* (wild X), in a Jim Stephenson pot. Call Jack Fleming, 559-227-9915.

**FAIR REPORT:** Another Big Fresno Fair has come and gone. Thanks to all our members who worked to make the cactus and succulent display looking its best. Among the exhibitors were Bill Gale, Rudy Rulloda, Sue Haffner, Val McCullough, Chuck Thew, Doris Hooton, Cindy Duwe, Tom Meyer and Marilyn Murray. Judged Best Succulent was Bill's fantastic *Operculacaria decaryi*; Best Cactus was an amazing *Espostoa lanata* shown by Pam and Dennis Margosan. Rudy Rulloda was in charge of recruiting members to monitor the area during the Fair, and he extends his thanks to them below. We appreciate the participation of each one of you. It can be fun talking to interested (and interesting) folks who visit the exhibits. New this year was that the Fair braced the temporary fence that protects the exhibit area—a good thing, as when hordes of school kids start leaning on the fence it used to come close to collapsing. I hope that all of you who haven't yet entered plants in the Fair took a good look at the entries. Then I hope you surveyed your own collections with an eye to what you might enter next year. I'll bet you could find a few plants that measure up.



Sue

Photos by Donna Joe and Rosanna Rojas



On behalf of the **Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society**, I wish to give a thank you to Cori Aunger, Ann Bierbower, Susan Cook, Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Cindy Duwe, Veone, Bill, and Billy Gale, Sue Haffner, Doris Hooton, Val McCullough, Tom Meyer, Paul and Madeleine Mitchell, Shirley Nakamura, Natalie Nugent, Rosanna and James Rojas, Viv and Ken Shinkawa, and Charles Thew for their time and effort for watching and informing the public about our plants and club events and activities during the Fresno Fair.

**Rudy Rulloda, Chair**

## ***Adromischus***

by Carole Grosch

As part of the Crassulaceae family, this genus from South Africa has a wide range of shapes, colors and textures...there's something for everyone. Give them good-draining soil, light shade in summer, shelter in winter, and enjoy.

As though you don't need an excuse to add new plants to your collection....Here are just a few:



*Adromischus cooperi* are also known as "Plover Eggs", are slow-growing with grey-purple blotched leaves about 1" long and undulating.. Tubular flowers are pink. Keep on the dry side between watering, less water in winter. Hardy to 20 degrees.

[\*Adromischus cristatus\*](#) "Crinkle-Leaf Plant" is compact and slow- growing with triangular undulating pale green leaves covered in tiny hairs. The tubular flowers are green, tipped with red, and bloom in spring, atop 8" long stems. The plant has aerial roots and is hardy to 25 degrees.



*Adromischus triflorus* f Skittery Kloof. A compact plant with rounded slightly crinkled pale green leaves. The attention-getting maroon highlight the leaf margins. Protect from frost.

*Adromischus marianae herrei*. A raised texture can be felt on the white-flecked leaves of this slow-growing plant. The maximum height is around 4". Often the leaves have a red margin, adding interest. Flowers are a light pink and bloom mid to late summer. Good container plant.



*Adromischus marianae 'Red Mutation'*. The elongated deep red to purple leaves are striking and would make a good focal point in any container. Leaves have a rough texture, flowers are pale pink or white and bloom in mid to late summer.



### A NEW NAME FOR A WELL-KNOWN CACTUS

One of the most recognizable of all the cultivated cacti is the 'Golden Barrel', known for a long time as *Echinocactus grusonii*. Native to Guanajuato, Hidalgo, Queretaro and San Luis Potosi, Mexico, a heretofore-unknown location was discovered in Zacatecas in 2005. It grows among bushes and shrubs, on stony soil or rocky slopes on the edges of ravines. Despite being grown by the millions in nurseries all over the world, the plant is becoming rare in habitat.

As we know, researchers have been analyzing the DNA of cacti for several decades, at least, and the latest research has revealed that *E. grusonii* is more closely related to *Ferocactus* than to *Echinocactus*, especially to *F. hystrix* and *F.*

*glaucescens*. As the chloroplast DNA indicates that *grusonii* is a hybrid between *Ferocactus* (the mother plant) and an *Echinocactus*, it is likely that it may, if these findings stand, be established as a new genus. The Spanish succulent researcher Joel Lode has proposed the new name: *Kroenleinia grusonii*. The generic name honors Marcel Kroenlein (1928-1994), former director of the famous Jardin Exotique de Monaco. (This is all preliminary, though. Who knows what further research may bring. This preemptive naming may all be in vain.) In the meantime, you can still call it what you will. The plant won't mind.

### OKAY, SO THERE'S A NEW IDENTITY FOR A SUCCULENT, AS WELL



*Aloe aristata* is a familiar plant to succulent growers. It is native to a wide area of South Africa, areas where conditions vary widely from hot and dry to moderate and cool where temperatures frequently drop below the freezing point in winter with summer rainfall up to 30 inches per year. The plants are stemless and usually occur in dense groups of up to 12 rosettes. It bears many leaves the upper and lower surfaces of which are dark green with scattered small tuberculate white spots. It also has small, soft spines; blooms in November. Its appearance in habitat can change, due to the differing conditions in various locations. Many growers have commented that it looks more like a haworthia than an aloe.

DNA studies of the alooid genera (*Aloe*, *Haworthia*, *Gasteria*, *Astroloba*, *Chortolirion*, *Poellnitzia*) have been ongoing in recent years and have revealed that *A. aristata* is indeed an "odd duck." It's not closely related to other aloes or to haworthias, either. A monotypic genus, *Aristaloe aristata* has been proposed for it.

Allelopathy = suppression of growth of a plant by a toxin released from a nearby plant of the same or another species. There are various scientifically verified examples of this. The Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) produces an allelochemical, juglone, which affects some species but not others. The leaf litter and root exudates of some eucalyptus species are allelopathic for certain soil microbes and plant species.

Someone at the workshop stated that this was true of saguaros. I was surprised, as I had never heard of this before—that the saguaro actually secreted some chemical that killed or retarded the growth of neighboring plants. The reference book I always go to for cactus information, "The cactus primer", by Gibson and Nobel (1986) does not have "allelopathy" or related words in the index. However, when I read the Wikipedia article on allelopathy, I found that its definition has expanded to include resource competition. The saguaro, I believe, simply out-competes its neighboring plants for the scarce resources of their habitat. It is, literally, the "800-pound gorilla" in the neighborhood, much more efficient at utilizing moisture and nutrients, to the detriment of other plants.

We are familiar with the concept of "nurse plants", usually shrubs or small trees, under whose shade and protection the tiny cactus seedlings survive and grow. At the bases of many large saguaros you can find the dried, dead remains of their nurse plants, having been starved to death by their charges. (Kind of sad, isn't it.)

Handy hint: alcohol disinfectant wipes, the kinds found in first aid kits, are useful for cleaning your plant tools. Keep a supply with you, wiping down the blades of your cutting implements. Look for the wipes that have an alcohol content of at least 70%. *Sue*

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015**

The Election of Officers 2015 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, Susan Cook, Fred Gaumer and Mary Ann Villegas contacted 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***

- Mary Drumheller
- Polly Dunklin
- Carole Grosch
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_