

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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

Vol. 32, No. 2

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

February 2015

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 5, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 P.M.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

PROGRAM:

SOUTH AFRICA, The Klein Karoo to the Little and Great Karoo

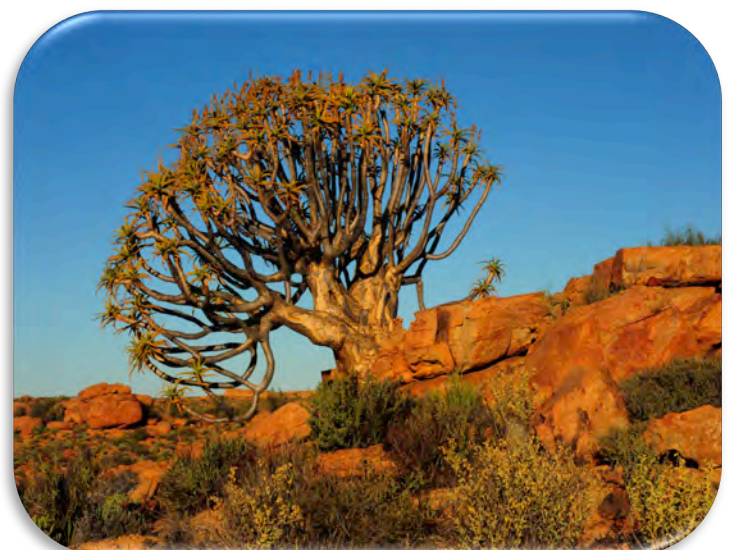
BY: Woody Minnich

Nowhere in the world is there a more floristic region than that of South Africa. The diversity of plants, from the monocots to the dicots, is just fantastic. From the bulbs and grasses to the abundant succulents, never is there a time when flowers aren't present. Besides the great wealth of very specialized and often endemic succulent plants, there is also a wonderful array of curious animals. The lizards, snakes and tortoises are first to grab your attention, while the often secretive mammals range from the small meerkats to the rambunctious baboons and numerous large herbivores. None of these are to be missed! There are also very specialized and often numerous populations of insects. These striking creepy-crawlers are like the plants—everywhere! South Africa is a magnificent place of color, form and texture. Life is everywhere and there is never a dull moment. No matter how many trips one makes to these areas, finding something intriguing and beautiful is always easy.

The region of South Africa from Uniondale to Oudtshoorn, to Ladismith, to Montague, is commonly called the Klein Karoo. From this region south and west, one travels through the Little Karoo and the Great Karoo. Heading north, you eventually merge into the southern reaches of the well known Richtersveld. It is here we will conclude our presentation near the peaceful little town of Springbok. Needless to say, the richness of plants and animals from this area is far greater than one presentation can show. Thus, the second part to this South African adventure (part 2) will cover the Richtersveld and north to the Orange River, the famous land of the Nama people, "Namaqualand, Land of the Halfmens".



Gibbaeum heathii



Aloe Ramosissima

(continued on following page)

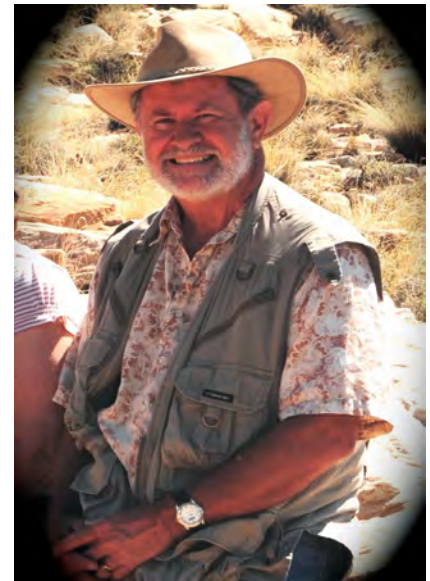
In South Africa, the sheer number of succulent plants is astounding and the niches they inhabit are most unique and fascinating. Some of the genera we will see from this expedition include: *Aloe*, *Avonia*, *Anacampseros*, *Conophytum*, *Crassula*, *Cotyledon*, *Dioscorea*, *Gibbaeum*, *Glottiphyllum*, *Haworthia*, *Larryleachia*, *Lithops*, *Monsonia*, *Pachypodium*, *Pelargonium*, *Quaqua*, *Senecio*, *Stapelia*, *Tylecodon*, as well as many other seldom seen or rare genera. The non succulent plants are also a feature of this area, ranging from the numerous bulbs to the breathtaking proteas. As is often the case, the time of the year can make an incredible difference in the way plants appear, thus modifying their color, size and shape. We made this trip in South Africa's winter-spring, August 2008. The colors created by the stress of winter were often spectacular, and it's amazing the number of plants that choose to produce their beautiful flowers during this season.

Visiting this kind of succulent-rich expanse truly opens one's eyes to the diversity of the plants we love so much. Seeing them in habitat also helps to give us the knowledge needed to better cultivate them successfully in the greenhouse and garden. Hopefully, for those of you unable to travel to these special places where so many succulents grow, this presentation will allow you to gain insight into some of the secrets found, while being in South Africa's wild places.

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950s. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: *Adenium*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Copiapoa*, *Cyphostemma*, *Fouquieria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Lithops*, *Mammillaria*, *Melocactus*, *Pachypodium*, *turbinicarpus* and pachycauls in general.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, now live in New Mexico, between Albuquerque and Santa Fe. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught graphics, art and architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of our hobby and thus is an honorary life member of nine C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 47 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



Plants: Woody will have plants for you to purchase.

For More Information: Woody Minnich, Cactus Data Plant Plants
4 Vida Del Agua, Edgewood, NM 87015-6517 505-281-5884;
cactusdata@msn.com.

Toledo's Mexican Restaurant
367 East Shaw, Fresno
(559) 224-0975
Menu:
<http://toledosmexicanfood.com/menu/>

DINNER

Begins at 5:00pm

Members are invited to attend.

Contact Rosanna Rojas by
Wednesday, February 4, to
make reservations.
Phone: (559) 999-0017
Email: rfrojas96@gmail.com

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

We had a great turnout for the meeting in January, and I think everyone enjoyed Steve Frieze's program. We always appreciate scenes of South Africa and the amazing botanical resources found there. We will have a continuation of these views this month with Woody Minnich's superb photography and very informative narration.

The big event we have coming up is the Fresno Spring Home & Garden Show, March 6-8, at the Fresno Fairground. I have asked Robert Scott to be in charge of arranging the setup and enlisting the vendors. We will have signup sheets at this meeting, so if you wish to sell plants or plant-related items, be sure to sign up and indicate how much table space you would like to have. We will do our best to accommodate you.

There are a few changes this year in the Junior Exhibits Bldg: as you come in the west door the African violet club will be the first booth on your right; then FCSS; next, Fresno Bonsai; the orchid society will be at the end. The Butterfly House exhibit will not be in the building this year. On the one hand, the clubs on the right side of the room will each have more space; on the other hand, there is no question that the absence of the butterfly attraction will have an effect on foot traffic. We've brought up this issue with Jennifer Waite and she has promised to discuss with the Home & Garden Show operators how we can better advertise the organizations and sales in the building.

We always need members to help out at this event—clerking, cashiering, setup and clean up. We hope that many of you will be able to spare an hour or two. We will have gate passes, as well as badges that will get you onto the grounds. You can put in some time for us then tour the rest of the attractions. The Home & Garden Show is an exceedingly popular event in this area, bringing in thousands of attendees. It provides extraordinary visibility for the organizations involved.

On the subject of publicity, Carole Grosch has been asked to do a monthly spot on "KSEE Central Valley Today" about issues related to gardening. It will air at 3 p.m. on either Tuesday or Thursday. The first show will be Feb. 3rd, we think. While it's only 7 minutes, she will try to squeeze in some mention of upcoming events.

The whole notion of publicity has undergone a sea-change in recent years. More and more, people are accessing information on different platforms. Once upon a time, a note in the local newspaper was paramount; now, not so much. We still send public service announcements to the community calendar pages of the TV stations and hope they will list them. At times we've sent announcements to the Spanish language TV and radio stations, and we may need help drafting one this year. If you are active on Facebook or other similar social networks it would be helpful if you could mention our events or refer your Friends to our club website. It all helps.

Well, weather-wise we are still "treading water", so to speak. Will we get more frost? Will it ever rain again? It's probably still too early to cut back your frost-nipped plants. In the meantime, we've had an extended period of cold, dark days while the rest of central and southern California enjoys a lot of sun. (A friend once characterized it as living at the bottom of a basin of cold, greasy dish water.) This, too, shall pass.

Remember to renew your membership this month. See you at the meeting! *Sue*

NAME BADGES: we have a number of name badges for the new members who ordered them. Please check the front table where Tom has them all set out. After all, we want to know who you are! This goes for all members: please wear your name badges. If you didn't order a badge, but would like to do so, they are \$7.00 each. Pay our Treasurer, Robert Scott.

SIGNING IN: a lot of members are forgetting to sign in when they arrive. Please remember to do this; the book is on the front table. We like to keep a count of our attendance. *Thank you.*

SUMMARY OF BOARD MINUTES, JANUARY 12TH, 2015

Present: Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Cindy Duwe, Fred Gaumer, Sue Haffner, Larry Homan, Tom Meyer, Rosanna Rojas, Rudy Rulloda; **absent:** Carole Grosch, Robert Scott; **visitors:** Dan Gale, Doris Hooton.

Programs: Rosanna reported that all months are booked except June.

Spring Home & Garden Show: as Robert Scott had suggested last year that he had some ideas as to how the club's space should be configured, Sue said she had asked him to be in charge this year. She relayed some updated information she had received from Jennifer Waite. There will be more space for the clubs, as the butterfly house will not be in the building. This led to a discussion of the impact this would have on foot traffic. There needs to be more signage outside. We will get more information on this.

Chairmanships:

Annual Show & Sale: Cindy Duwe and Polly Dunklin
 Fair Display: Rudy Rulloda
 Facebook: Mary Ann Villegas
 Hospitality: Tom Meyer
 Librarian: Madeleine Mitchell
 Membership: Polly Dunklin
 Photographer: Mary Ann Villegas
 Publicity: Carole Grosch, Sue Haffner, others
 Publications: Sue Haffner, Carole Grosch, Mary Ann Villegas
 Raffle: Paul Mitchell
 Refreshments: Marian Orvis
 Rules & Parliamentarian: Sue Haffner
 Webmaster: vacant
 Workshop: Mary Drumheller

Spring Home Tour: Larry Homan offered to explore this; a number of venues were suggested.

Bus Trip: Cindy Duwe will look into setting up something.

Memorial donation: Sue suggested the club make a donation in memory of Don La Mont. We will get more information.

Officer gifts: Cindy said Tony Sharp wanted to know if we still want him to make pots as officer gifts. Yes, we do!

Larry Homan suggested the club adopt some ongoing project. He would like us to come up with ideas.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted: Sue Haffner

Is this the
same man
in both
photographs?

San Gabriel
Cactus &
Succulent
Society Holiday
Party



Our
FCSS
Holiday
Party





*Marilyn Green (7th);
Mary Drumheller (8th);
Lola Sutherland (10th);
Paulette Rapisura (14th);
Rose Rowe (17th); Pat La
Mont Danielle Jeschien
(19th); Jean Richter (22nd);*

*Alice Rodriguez, Dale Kitchen (25th);
Jim Brummel (26th).*

~~~~

**Visitors last month:** Domenic Ortiz, Lisa Orbeta, Diana McGrath, and Kenny Elder.

~~~~

RENEWALS: Many of you have not yet renewed your memberships. You can do so at this meeting.

~~~~

**Our sympathies go out to Lisa Brew,** whose brother, Marvin David Brew, passed away in December.



~~~~

Last month our speaker, **Steve Frieze**, showed views of a nursery he had visited in South Africa, the Peckover Nursery. Their website is: www.flora-africa.com. Ralph Peckover is a prolific author on plants and his articles can be accessed via the website.

~~~~

Another interesting site is: [www.plantzafrica.com](http://www.plantzafrica.com), sponsored by SANBI (South African National Biodiversity Institute). You can search the site for information on all sorts of plants.

~~~~

www.friendsofsoqotra.org is a new site devoted to the island of Socotra. It is still in the process of being built, but has a lot of information on it.

~~~~

Reminder: you can bring household batteries for recycle to the DHHSC; there is a container on the lobby desk.

~~~~

Orchard Supply Hardware stores accept fluorescent tubes for recycling, 3 at a time.

Several club members attended the Huntington Desert Forum last month. They reported that it was a beautiful day, the gardens looked great, the new construction very impressive.

Speaking of the Huntington: the opening banquet of the CSSA Convention this year (June 15-19) will be held in the new convention room at the Huntington. Convention information can be seen here: www.cssa2015.com.

~~~~

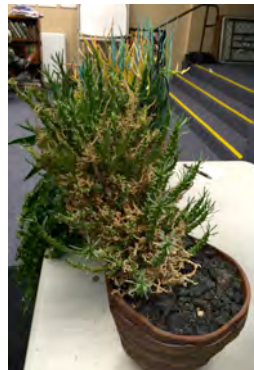
**BOARD MEETING: Monday, Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. Any member may attend; board members should attend.**

~~~~

CLUB WORKSHOP: The February Workshop will be Wednesday, Feb. 18th, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. We had a good meeting in January, talking about raising plants from seed, sharing seeds and ideas, etc. We have a good core group of 16-20+ members who regularly attend, and all of you are welcome.

~~~~

**For the Brag Table:** Fred Gaumer brought *Anacampseros comptonii*, *Phyllobolus resurgens*, *Idria columnaris* and *Monsonia crassicaule*. Bill Gale brought an *Adenium* hybrid and a *Hoodia* hybrid. Frank and Marian Orvis displayed their *Veltheimia bracteata*. Polly Hargreaves brought a collection of amazing crocheted cacti made by Bruce's late mother. Mark Muradian exhibited a large *Euphorbia namaquensis* which has been growing for a number of years in one of his early pots. Linda Lopez brought a large pot of *Pelargonium triste*. Thanks to all of them.



## Getting to Know You . . .

### Laverne Cottet

After all her travels, we're fortunate Laverne Cottet (pronounced Cot-tay) ended up in the Fresno area.

Born at the Bremerton Naval Station in Washington State, she travelled with her parents to China, then lived in Manila, Philippines, for two years. Later, she returned to the family farm in Kearney Park, learned to drive a tractor at the age of seven and went to school in the Fresno area. She graduated from Fresno State with an art and music degree.

"Where ever I was, I ended up in the choir or as an organist," she says. Currently she plays the organ at her church in Pinedale.

During the time Laverne lived in New York City, she found she was interested in nursing and got her degree in Occupational Therapy at Columbia University. Then she joined the navy, and was in stationed in the Great Lakes area around Chicago and up and down the East Coast. Just a few of the locations she found herself as OT therapist and hospital administrator were Charleston, South Carolina, Portsmouth, Virginia, Bethesda, Maryland, Philadelphia and New York. "My tours of duty lasted from 2-4 years," she remembers. "I closed a lot of duty stations."

Her work was varied and included treating sports and hand injuries, physical and psychological disabilities as well as heart attack and stroke victims.

Laverne also worked in alcohol and drug rehabilitation units. "Those were some interesting times," she says with a chuckle. "I did like the Northeast and enjoyed seeing the DC Area. I liked Philadelphia; it is there that I retired."

Caring for an elderly uncle brought Laverne back to Fresno and it is here she now calls home.



She is currently a member of the Rose Society, the Iris and African Violet Clubs and the FC&SS. Though she probably has more roses than cacti or succulents, one of her favorite plants is the Easter lily cactus, *Echinopsis*; at one time or another she's had all the different flower colors.

Laverne often attends the dinner before our meetings; other obligations preclude her from attending the meeting on Thursday nights. She does enjoy the summer potluck and can be found at the Show and Sale guarding the show plants.

Needlework, crocheting, and embroidery are all favorite pastimes and she loves doing crossword puzzles.

*Carole Grosch*

**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, Marian Orvis, 226-0145, [mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net); 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).



## DUDLEYA PULVERULENTA

This is the common white-leaved *Dudleya* found along the coast and up to 30 miles inland, from San Luis Obispo County into northern Baja California. It has the widest distribution of any *Dudleya* species.

The stem is thicker than that of any other species and can reach 5" on old plants. As the plant ages, it gradually leans over until it is prostrate to the ground, even hanging down over cliff faces. Its rosette can be 6" to 30" in diameter; usually solitary but sometimes found in odd numbered clumps. The 20 to 50 leaves can be 3" wide and 18-20" long during the growing season and are covered with a powdery white bloom (called pulverulence.) When touched, this

white coating will easily rub off on your fingers, leaving a green spot. This pulverulence is also found on the flower stalk and the flowers. When drops of water fall on the plant, the powder is attracted to the water; it rises and coats the drops on the leaves, increasing the surface tension of the droplets so that they are much larger than uncoated drops, and then it prevents their immediate evaporation. This powdery coating that has washed off the leaves can coat the ground around the base of the plant.

A peculiarity of this species is that by late July or August the lower leaves of plants in the sun start to fold upward and inward toward the center of the rosette; eventually an 18" plant may look like an 8" ball with only a few leaves showing in the center. Plants growing in the shade or on north facing slopes remain open.

The flower stalk is one of the largest in the genus, reaching 4 feet in a good rainfall year. The red flowers are pendant when they first open but after pollination the pedicels curve upward until the flower is upright. (The picture above, from "The Dudleya and Hasseanthus handbook", by Paul H. Thompson, shows flower stalks just beginning to appear on the plant.)

*Dudleya pulverulenta* is reported to be difficult to grow in a pot. It is better in the ground, preferably in a place of partial shade. If it likes the spot it might survive up to 15 years.

*Pulverulent* means "covered with dust or powder". A similar term is *farinose*, "covered by a mealy powder".



## MONVILLEA (CEREUS) SPEGAZZINII



*Monvillea* is a genus of cacti native to Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. Britton and Rose recognized seven species, which have now been transferred to *Cereus* by the authors of the "New cactus lexicon". They are night blooming plants with long, slender, half-erect stems, which often form a thicket.

*Monvillea spegazzinii* (opposite) is a shrubby species, then creeping or ascending, with narrow stems to six feet tall. It has a bluish-green, white marbled epidermis, and four tuberculated ribs. The young branches have usually three stiff black spines; the older ones have five radial spines and one central spine. Flowers are whitish with reddish external petals.

The crested form (below) is the one most often seen in cultivation. Each crested plant is different, some of them becoming very large and convoluted. Most retain the epidermal coloring of the normal plant—a mottled blue-green—while others acquire a distinctly reddish hue. It isn't clear whether or not this is caused by light intensity or by some other factor.

Culture presents no problems: regular watering during the summer often seen in cultivation. dry in winter. Crested plants tend to produce reverted branches, which should be removed.

(Photo credits: *International cactus adventures*, April 2000; right, G. Rowley, "Teratopia," 2006)

