

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

www.fresnocss.com (new website)

Vol. 33, no. 10

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

October 2015

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 1, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 P.M.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHS), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno

PROGRAM: "Growing Cactus and Succulents"

PRESENTER: Robert Scott

Robert Scott is our club's Treasurer and also happens to be our speaker this month. He has chosen to give a talk and demonstration on "Growing Cactus and Succulents", a general way of growing them in our climate. He will hit on subjects like: growing from seed and cuttings, when to water, what kind of soils, repotting, light requirements, and growing cactus and succulents in the landscape.

Robert has been a member of the club for several years now and our Treasurer for two years. He has a degree in Plant Science- Plant Health from Fresno State and has worked at local nurseries in town for over 10 years. Recently he decided to open his own nursery business, Desert Roots Nursery. He wanted to mainly deal in drought tolerant plants, considering the drought that we are currently experiencing. His main focus is cactus and succulents, providing common and unusual types that will do well in our climate. He also offers a wide variety of Tillandsias or Air Plants, a very versatile group of plants that can be grown on a windowsill or in decorated plant terrariums. Landscape size specimens and other drought tolerant types of plants will be available once he opens his physical location in town.

Along with the plants, he has also designed cactus and succulent themed metal artwork that can be used around the home. This summer he has participated at both the River Park Farmer's Market on Tuesday evenings and the Clovis Farmer's Market on Friday evenings, selling a wide variety of plants and also spreading the word about our club.

Bring a notebook and pen, with lots of questions!

FOR PURCHASE: Robert will be bringing a large quantity of plants for sale including Air plants, terrariums and metal designs.



~ DINNER ~

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
715 East Shaw, Fresno
(559) 570.1900
Menu: www.bjsrestaurants.com/menu

Begins at 5:00pm. Reservation
under Fresno Cactus Club.
Members are invited to attend.

Contact Rosanna Rojas by
Wednesday, Sept. 30, to make
reservations. Phone: (559) 999-0017
Email: rrojas96@gmail.com

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

Our plants are telling us that fall is on the way—even if it doesn't feel like it on some days. The winter growers are waking up and putting out new foliage and flowers (or flowers first, followed by foliage, in some cases.) The length of the day and night, the angle of the sun—these are signals to many of the Southern Hemisphere succulents and bulbs that it's time to do their thing. Velthemia, Haemanthus, Tylecodon, Pelargonium, Oxalis, Chasmanthe, Othonna, Ornithogallum and Massonia are among those I see starting into their growth cycle.

Member's Sale Night last month was a mob scene. I hope the vendors felt their efforts were worth it. If you have any thoughts or suggestions about how we might streamline this event, please let one of the officers know.

October is the month of the Big Fresno Fair, a local tradition with which our organization has long been associated. In the olden days we used to put up a landscape garden in the old Wine and Roses Building, and it was always a fun Saturday when we got together to do the work. We don't have that opportunity any more but we've been well-known for contributing to a spectacular display of cacti and succulents in the competitive classes. The competition is open to the general public, but our members usually take most of the ribbons. I've always thought of the display as an advertisement for our club and hobby, which is why I still lug plants down to the Fair every year, even though most of mine are small. You can help by signing up to serve a few hours as a docent at the exhibit. It's always interesting to talk to the public; they'll consider you an expert—after all, you're the one behind the fence! Talk to Rudy Rulloda at the meeting, sign up for a stint at the Fair, and get a gate pass and, maybe, a parking pass, too.

See you at the meeting, **Sue**

BUS TRIP MUSINGS: We had a fun bus trip on Sept. 19th. Thirty-four members and friends had an enjoyable opportunity to get out of town for a day of plant shopping and some botanical education. Poot's Nursery was a last-minute addition to our itinerary, and I'm sure they were glad we came, as our members bought a lot there. We were on a tight schedule, though, so couldn't spend much time at the nursery. We had to get to UC Davis by a certain time—Ernesto was expecting us. Missing our first turn on campus required Ernesto to rescue us and this turned into a more exciting than anticipated route to the Botanical Conservatory. Our driver showed that he really knew how to maneuver the bus! Once we gathered in the greenhouse, Ernesto and his associate Barry Rice divided us into two groups and led us through the various collections. It was a bit dismaying to see evidence of mealybugs on the plants. They had apologized in advance for it, as they are re-evaluating the "neonics"—the pesticides containing Imidiclopid. (I hope they can start treating these plants with something soon.) They had also set out a nice selection of sale plants, which our people fell upon with relish.

After a too-short visit, we left campus and drove to Vacaville and Morning Sun Herb Farm, which is out in the country. We ate our lunches at their picnic tables then shopped for more plants—they have a lot of succulents and drought tolerant varieties. Aside from a couple of patches of slow traffic, it was an enjoyable day and I think everyone had a good time. We owe a ton of thanks to Cindy Duwe and Polly Dunklin for taking care of all the many details. Good work! **Sue**

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, rfrojas96@gmail.com; Treasurer, Robert Scott, 960-3665, Rob_scott85@yahoo.com; Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.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 SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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

Attendance: Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Rosanna Rojas, Vice President; Fred Gaumer, CSAA Affiliate; Tom Meyer, Board Member; Mary Drumheller, Board Member; Rudy Rulloda, Board Member; Polly Dunklin, Board Member; Carole Grosch, Board Member; Ann Bierbower, Board Member **Visitors:** Susan Cook, Doris Hooton, Linda Olivas. **Absent:** Robert Scott

Officer Reports: President: Sue Haffner informed the Board that the bill for web hosting on the Cactus Mall starting August 31, 2015, is \$62.00.

She informed the Board of an idea from the Central Coast Club for presenting an opportunity ticket to each member that brings a plant to the opportunity table.

Sue also suggested a Suggestion Box for the Hospitality table at each monthly meeting.

Karen Willoughby, Facebook page, requests photos from members for the page.

Vice President: Rosanna Rojas informed the Board that Tom Glavich is unable to be the guest speaker for the October meeting.

Old Business: Member's Sale Night. It was suggested that a sandwich board sign be placed on the street announcing, "Cactus Sale."

Cindy Duwe reported that there are 35 people signed up for the Bus Trip.

Ann Bierbower has 4 pages done in the landscape portfolio. She requested members send her photos of their yard showing drought tolerant plantings.

The Nominating Committee is Mary Ann Villegas, Rosanna Rojas and Linda Olivas.

The Fresno Fair is October 7- 18, 2015. Members entering plants must sign up by September 14, 2015 on line.

Sue asked for a volunteer to design a logo for the new batch of t-shirts.

New Business: Clovis Botanical Garden Water Wise Plant Sale is October 17, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Sue will bring cuttings to give away to the public at the FCSS table. She asked for volunteer(s) to help.

The Christmas Party will be held on December 3, 2015. Mary Drumheller and Polly Dunklin are co-chairpersons.

The Summer Picnic month was discussed. This item was tabled until next Board Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Duwe, Secretary

BOARD MEETING



The October board meeting is our annual budget meeting; Monday, Oct. 5th, 6 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista. All members are welcome to attend; board members should attend. We will be discussing the budget for 2016.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Karl Church,
Jason Kabeary, Mary Westenrider
(2nd); Paul Mitchell (9th);
Marian Orvis (20th).

~~~~~

#### SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Shirley Nakamura, Fresno (welcome back!)  
Dixie Lopez, Clovis  
Douglas & Teresa Gentry, Fresno

~~~~~

Victor Asadourian passed away August 13th, at the age of 87. He was an early member of our club. He sketched the Joshua Tree logo that appears on our older name badges. I remember him supervising our Fresno Fair display in the old Wine and Roses Building, keeping a steely eye out while smoking a cigar.

~~~~~

The *Fresno Bee* in the August 30<sup>th</sup> issue had an article on how the State Controller's office attempts to locate heirs for abandoned estates. A long example in the article concerned our **former member Roger Viçon**, who moved back to France in the fall of 2008. He passed away several months later, leaving a Fresno bank account behind. The Controller's Office located his old neighbors, who had moved, and from them found out about his sister in France.

~~~~~

The **Tephrocactus Study Group** no longer issues a paper journal. Articles and photos are now on its web site: www.tephro.com.

~~~~~

**Cactus Explorer**, no. 15, the *Echinocereus dasyacanthus* issue, is now available for download: [www.cactusexplorers.org.uk](http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk).

~~~~~

Is Adenium sap toxic? Someone online claimed that it contains compounds similar to cardiac glycosides, so that the plants should be handled with care. Still, succulent growers have grown them for a long time, as well as euphorbias, which also have noxious sap. Just use common sense; wash your hands after handling the plants. If you have known allergies, you might want to use gloves.

COMING EVENTS

Cactus & Succulent Society of San Jose Fall Show & Sale, Oct. 3-4, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Way, Sunnyvale; hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-4.

~~~~~

**"Birds & Bodacious Botany"**, children's spring event, Clovis Botanical Garden, Sat. Oct. 3, hours: 9 to noon.

~~~~~

Big Fresno Fair, Oct. 7-18.

~~~~~

**Bakersfield C&SS Show & Sale**, Oct. 10-11, East Hills Mall Center Court, 3100 Mall View Rd; hours, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 11-3; dealers: Nick Wilkinson, John Matthews, Rob McGregor; potters: Marlene Tasuno, Kim Manfredi.

~~~~~

Intermountain Nursery 23rd Annual Harvest Arts & Peace Festival, Oct. 10-11, 30443 N. Auberry Rd, Prather; hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4.

~~~~~

**Water-Wise Plant Sale & Fair, Clovis Botanical Garden**, October 17, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.; the garden is also selling used gardening books. If you have any to contribute, you can drop them off at the Garden, Wed.-Sun., 9-4.

~~~~~

I was surprised to see big pots of **Pereskia grandifolia** for sale in local garden shops. It's been a long time since I've seen a pereskia for sale, and don't ever recall seeing this one, even though its flowers are among the showiest of the genus. *Pereskia* is a genus known as one of the 'primitive cacti', so called because their line is ancient and they really don't look like cacti. They resemble leafy shrubs, but check the areoles; you'll see long serious-looking spines. The 17 species range from Mexico down to Brazil. **Sue**



Photos
from
Wikipedia





The Big Fresno Fair is finally here. Exhibitors should be checking their plants for pest infestations and noting that the planters are clean. If an entry requires a special watering schedule, please leave a note for a staff person to water your plants as specified. The Fair will be receiving plants on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 & 4, all day. There will be staff to assist you to bring in your entries and place them in the proper classes. Judging will be Monday, Oct. 5, starting at 10 a.m.

We still need plant monitors to watch the plants and meet the public. Knowledge about all the plants is not needed. You can distribute information sheets on plant care and also those about our club. There will be a signup sheet at our meeting night. Free parking and admission tickets will also be available to match your time as a volunteer.

Rudy Rulloda, Chair

Big Blowout Moving Sale

Cedar-Clinton Friends of the Library
Book Sale
4150 E. Clinton Ave. 559-442-1770
(SW corner of Cedar and Clinton)
Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday Oct. 3
10am to 4pm

The Cedar-Clinton Library will be having a BIG BLOWOUT MOVING SALE. In December, they will be moving to the new Betty Rodriguez Regional Library at Cedar and Shields. **To reduce their book inventory, they will "LOAD A RECYCLABLE BAG" with books. You pay only \$5.00.** There are fiction, non-fiction, gardening, how to, history, cookbooks, tabletop, paperbacks, and children books on sale. Come early on Friday, October 2 for the best selection.

WORKSHOP REPORT: We discussed potting mixes at the September workshop. Here's what some people use:
Bill Gale—Miracle Gro and perlite;
Vickie Veen—uses Peter Walkowiak's mix: perlite + pumice (60%); decomposed granite (20%); compost (20%). The perlite is #3, the large size bits; compost is from Lowe's;
Polly Dunklin and Susan Cook—both use Kellogg's Patio Plus and perlite;
Mary Ann Villegas— Dr. Earth Pot Of Gold Organic All Purpose Potting Soil from Orchard's and pumice from Willow Gardens;
Jack Fleming—coir with perlite or pumice; gets supplies at the hydroponics store;
Gail Blank—4 parts cactus mix, 1 part Pro Mix and perlite;
Robert Scott—potting soil and perlite in different ratios, depending on what he's potting;
Dennis Anderson—15% sifted potting soil, the rest is grit and other inorganics;
Dan Gale—uses different materials for different plants; for adeniums, 50% potting soil and 50% perlite/pumice.
We also looked at a number of plants (and a turtle) that the attendees brought for display.

The October workshop will feature genera starting with M-N; the discussion topic will be "Winter Growers": Wednesday, Oct. 21, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. All members are welcome.



Photos
by
Mary
Ann
Villegas

Photographs from the Bus trip taken by Roz Tampone:



Some of the happy bus trip members.



Ernesto in a deep discussion about plants.



Perfect match!

TURBINICARPUS VALDEZIANUS: This is one of the prettiest species of this genus of miniature cacti. The young plants are spherical with a turnip-like thickened root; are usually 3-5 cm. high and 1-2 cm in diameter. Most plants are solitary, rarely forming 3-5 headed small mats. Tubercles are light green, arranged in 8 and 13 spiral, hatched-shaped in cross section. It has 25-30 spines, white, feathery, closely pressed to the stem. Flower is 18-20 mm long, reddish-violet with pale violet mid-stripe, tinged with dark green. The type locality is Coahuila near Saltillo at the foot of limestone hills at about 1500 meters elevation. The species was first published by H. Möller in 1930 after it was sent to him from Mexico by his sister-in-law, Mme L. Valdez, after whom he named it. Several decades later Möller's son and grandson rediscovered the species. Glass and Foster noted in *Cactus & succulent journal*, v. 49:4 (1977) that, outside of the Saltillo area, only the "albiflorus" form is encountered. The turbinicarpus species are not difficult to grow. Elton Roberts writes: "I give the plants a more open and fast-draining soil. I keep them dry over the winter. I have the plants in a cold house and they have taken temperatures down to 25 degrees F."



Turbinicarpus valdezianus, Saltillo

(Photo: Zachar, Milan. The genus *Turbinicarpus* (2004))

Gasteria excelsa

If you like succulents that carry their bloom high overhead and attract hummingbirds, consider this summer-blooming species of succulent from the Xanthorrhoeaceae family.

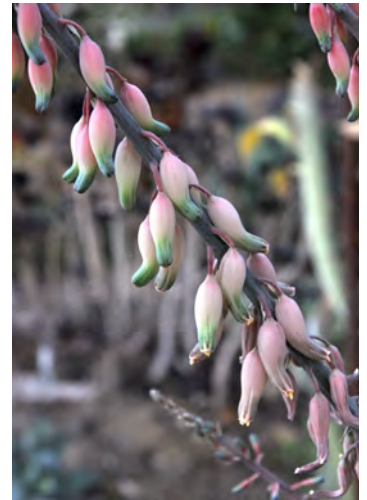
The branching panicle consists of a multitude of racemes (flower clusters) that dangle from the main stem. In fact, it is the flower portion of the plant that contributes to the name; *excelsa* means "lofty" or "high" in Latin. As the plant matures, the clusters can reach several feet in height. The one-inch flowers are multi-colored: pink with a green and off-white striped mouth. The swelling in the lower part of the flower gives rise to the *Gasteria* source of the name as "gaster" is Latin for stomach. The leaves of young plants often are bumpy and spotted, but as the plant ages, these features become less and less until only a few remain. The leaves themselves are distichous (all in one plane) and are of a dark green color, when protected from the elements. If grown in less protected areas, the leaves are often tinged with a reddish/orange color, adding interest to the plant.

The *Gasteria excelsa* is native to the Eastern Cape in South Africa and are not usually exposed to frosts in habitat; however they have been known to survive quite well even when temperatures drop to the mid-twenties Fahrenheit. In its native home, the plant generally grows on embankments or sheer rock faces and is confined to shady undergrowth or exposed south-facing cliffs. Apart from their horticultural use, the plants are occasionally grown by local Xhosa people on roof tops in the Eastern Cape, as they believe them to be a protection from lightning.

Popular as ornamental plants for containers, this species has a large root system and frequently puts off offsets. Another form of propagation is by rooting the leaves or by seed. If rooting, clean sand should be used for this slow grower, but it should flower within 3-4 years.

Protection from our hot summer sun is necessary to prevent burning, but some light exposure will add color and interest to the leaves.

Carole Grosch



SUCCULENT PUMPKINS

Submitted by Roz Tampone

Have you ever thought of tantalizing your succulent whimsy? With Halloween and Thanksgiving just around the corner, I think you might like this craft. If you enjoy creating succulent containers, you'll enjoy making this pumpkin succulent.

Materials:

- Clean 8-12 " pumpkin with a concave top, remove stem (the more unusual the better)
- Sphagnum moss
- Spray adhesive
- Clear gel glue-hot glue gun
- Woody seedpods, acorns, rosehips, nuts in shells
- Few clusters of red berries, pyracantha, red pepper, cottoneaster
- Assortment of small, colorful succulents
- Scissors

Succulents: Aeoniums, crassula, echeveria, graptosedum, haworthia, kalanchoe, assorted sedums

Directions:

1. Coat the pumpkins bowl shape top with spray glue.
2. Press dry moss onto the glue to form a ½' thick bed.
3. Using the hot glue gun, glue the bottoms of the succulent rosettes atop the moss, beginning with the largest succulents, a little off center and adding smaller ones as you work outward.
4. Intermingle with the other dried berries, nuts, cones and acorns.
5. Surround the center rosettes with smaller succulents like sedums.
6. As you add more cuttings, and dry items, aim for balance and variety.
7. You want to have an abundant look with no moss showing. Plus, an eclectic mixture of colors and textures.
8. Using scissors trim the excess moss.

Once or twice a week, spritz the arrangement with water to refresh the leaves and moss. Do not let water pool in the top of the pumpkin. A cool, dry location is best. If you leave it outside, place it on a trivet, not on concrete, where air can circulate. Protect the pumpkin from frost. To salvage the succulents, take cuttings. Or, just set the pumpkin in the garden. You can even slice the top off and plant it.

