

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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

Vol. 34, no. 5

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

May 2016

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

### **PROGRAM: THE NEEDS OF SUCCULENTS ABOVE AND BELOW AND IN AND OUT OF CONTAINERS**

**Presented By: ERNESTO SANDOVAL**



I'll discuss what plants need above ground as well as below ground such as the sunlight/temperature combo and pH as well as a comparison of potted and in ground plants.

**Biography:** Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals and Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout the State and elsewhere since that group of plants is his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

**Plants: Ernesto will be bringing an assortment of succulents and other satiating selections of less common plants for enthusiasts and collectors to benefit the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory!**

**For more information: Ernesto Sandoval, UC Davis Botanical Conservatory**  
[jesandoval@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jesandoval@ucdavis.edu)

~ DINNER ~

BJ'S Restaurant & Brewhouse  
715 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, (559) 570-1900  
[www.bjsrestaurants.com/menu](http://www.bjsrestaurants.com/menu)

Begins promptly at 5:00 p.m.  
Reservations under Fresno Cactus Club.  
Members are invited to attend.

Contact Rosanna by Wednesday  
May 4th, to make reservations.  
Phone: (559) 999-0017  
Email: [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com)

## FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

We have a fun event coming up this month—our combined picnic and garden tour. This is the first time we've melded the two functions together, but it should be a lot of fun. Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, we'll have our picnic out at the Muradian ranch. Those of you who have not seen Mark's cactus and succulent gardens have a real treat. Members who have been in the club awhile probably have seen Mark's slides of how he constructed the beds (it's nice to have access to a bulldozer and forklift.) With any luck a number of plants should be in bloom. Bring your cameras!

See elsewhere in the newsletter for more picnic information. Be prepared to sign up at this meeting to bring a potluck dish to the picnic.

Also in this issue is information about the bus trip we are planning in August. I hadn't mentioned it previously, as we had so many other things going on. Read Carole Grosch's article about the InterCity Show. We've reserved a 35-passenger bus which we hope to fill. Your check holds your seat.

The club rosters went out last month to everyone with an email address. Polly will bring some paper copies to this meeting for those who don't have email. By keeping the roster in digital format it is much easier to update with additions and corrections. Thanks, Polly, for compiling and maintaining this file.

We had a good turnout last month for Keith Taylor's fascinating program. The audience was really engaged and Keith had to spend quite a while answering questions after his demonstration. That's the kind of participation that makes the meetings lively and interesting. This month's speaker is one of our favorites, Ernesto Sandoval from U.C. Davis. We always look forward to his presentations.

See you at the meeting! **Sue**



## ALOE ARENICOLA

This South African species is one of the creeping aloes. The illustration shows a mature plant, while the smaller drawing at the left shows the juvenile form of the plant. This is very distinctive, with thin, creeping stems with small, very succulent, almost triangular leaves. The internodes between the leaves are much longer and more obvious in the young plants. The species forms dense, medium-sized shrubs consisting of many creeping stems. The leaves are bluish green with many white spots on both surfaces.

The name *arenicola* means "inhabiting sandy places", as it is found in the arid coastal strip along the northwestern Cape coastal belt from Lambert's Bay in the south to the mouth of the Orange River to the north. The species is vulnerable, due to mining activities and grazing.

(Illus.: Jeppe, "South African Aloes")



# FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

## APRIL 11, 2016

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

**Attendance:** Rosanna Rojas, Vice President; Fred Gaumer, CSSA Board Affiliate; Cindy Duwe, Secretary; Tom Meyer, Board Member; Polly Dunklin, Board Member; Mary Drumheller, Board Member; Karen Willoughby, Board Member; Ann Bierbower, Board Member; Carole Grosch, Board Member

**Absent:** Robert Scott, Treasurer. **Visitor:** Vickie Veen

### Officer Reports:

- Sue brought up the possibility that new members receive plants at their first meeting.
- Rosanna Rojas stated that there has been good attendance at the pre-meeting dinners.
- She further stated that the last speaker, Keith Taylor, expressed the desire to return for another meeting.
- It was brought up that some of the club members might be willing to do a program presentation for a monthly meeting. Ernesto Sandoval will be the speaker for the May meeting and Steve Frieze will speak at the June meeting.
- The club roster was sent to the members having e-mail on April 7, 2016. Polly will send updates as they are received.
- The Spring Garden Tour and Picnic is set for May 14, 2016 at the home of Mark Muradian and Patty Miller. The address is 2731 Avenue 8 ½, Laton, CA. It is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. Please bring a dish to share, a beverage and a chair.
- Ann reported on the June Show & Sale. It will take place at the Sierra Vista Mall, Clovis, CA. Setup will be on Friday June 3. The actual Show & Sale will take place on Sat. June 4<sup>th</sup> and Sun. June 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Polly will send out postcards for the event 2 weeks before. Sue wants a colorful poster made up to send to other clubs.
- There will be matching stickers placed on receipts and holding boxes to facilitate the buyer getting their box from the holding table.
- It was moved by Ann that the members who help clean up receive opportunity tickets. Second was made by Carole. Motion passed unanimously.
- Vickie Veen reported on the Bus Trip. It is to take place in August and will be to the Intercity Show & Sale. More information will be forthcoming.
- Ann announced that the t-shirt sale is going well. She is planning to have the t-shirts available at the May meeting.
- It was suggested that the club have a Silent Auction at the October meeting.

### Board Meeting:

The Board Meeting will be held on May 9, 2016 at the home of Doris Hooton and Tom Meyer at 6:00 p.m. The address is 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Duwe, Secretary

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Fred Gaumer (2<sup>nd</sup>); Vickie Veen, Jack Loughmiller (5<sup>th</sup>); Valerie Kissler (7<sup>th</sup>); Don Winton (10<sup>th</sup>); Tom Meyer (11<sup>th</sup>); Maxwell Rocha (14<sup>th</sup>); Ron Stebles (17<sup>th</sup>); Charlie Nelson (23<sup>rd</sup>); Madeleine Mitchell (28<sup>th</sup>)



~~~~

**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Don Winton, Fresno  
Ashley Ouimet, Fresno

~~~~

**Visitors last month:** Ashley Ouimet, Rod Parigan, Susan Tanielian, Cheyne Phillips Lopez, Kathy Phillips and Don Winton.

~~~~

**TEE SHIRTS:** The new club tee shirts will be available at this meeting. We owe many thanks to Ann Bierbower, who did all the work with the orders. She will also have some extras for you to purchase.

~~~~

**BOXES:** We need boxes for the June Show and Sale. Bring any you have to the meeting and Tom will take them for storage.

~~~~

**BATTERIES:** the DHHSC used to accept small used batteries for recycling, but no longer. Susan Coulter suggests that we try Lowes, Home Depot, OSH or Best Buy to see if they will accept them.

~~~~

**Clay pots sticking together?** Sometimes if you have clay flower pot stacked up for any length of time you may find them hard to separate. You might try putting strips of newspaper or coffee filter papers between the pots in order to prevent this.

~~~~~

**BOARD MEETING:**

**THE BOARD MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, MAY 9<sup>TH</sup>, 6 P.M., AT 3733 NORTH SIERRA VISTA, FRESNO.**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND; BOARD MEMBERS SHOULD ATTEND.**

**COMING EVENTS:**

**May 7-8, Sacramento CSS Show & Sale,** Sacramento Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd; hours: Sat. 9-5 (sale), 10-5 (show); Sun. 9-4. [www.sacramentocactus.org](http://www.sacramentocactus.org)

**May 14 (Saturday): CLUB PICNIC (information elsewhere in the newsletter)**

**May 28-29, Central Coast C&SS Show and Sale,** Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo; hours, 10-4 both days; [www.centralcoastcactus.org](http://www.centralcoastcactus.org)

~~~~

**Invitation to Enter the 2016 Swedish Festival Flower & Garden Show Competition**

I would like to invite you and your members to consider entering the Kingsburg Swedish Festival Flower & Garden Show Competition to be held May 20-21, 2016 with check-in on Thursday, May 19th, from 3:30 to 7 p.m. Last year we had a very successful event with over 40 entries and we would enjoy having you participate.

There is no entry fee. Prizes total over \$500 with many more prizes this year. Submissions may come from individuals, clubs, or groups. A panel of experienced horticulture and floral design judges anonymously rate and select winning entries within each category. A category for *youth participants (12 and under)* has been added this year as well.

Please free to contact me if you have any questions. Registrations received by May 14th will be given five additional opportunities to win a participants' raffle prize valued at \$25. Here are the online registration and guideline links. Register online:

Show & Competition Information and Guidelines

Sincerely,

Tim Alexander, Coordinator  
Kingsburg Swedish Festival Flower & Garden Show c/o For the Birds Garden Gifts  
1332 Draper Street  
Kingsburg, CA 93631

## CLUB PICNIC

Make plans to join us Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at Mark Muradian's and Patty Miller's home, 2731 Avenue 8 ½ down in Kings County. If you haven't seen Mark's fabulous raised beds of cacti and other plantings you need to take advantage of this opportunity.

The club will supply table service, sandwiches or cold cuts (we haven't decided yet); iced tea, water and wine will also be provided. If you would prefer a different beverage, feel free to bring your own. You need to bring a potluck dish—appetizer, side dish or salad, dessert. There will be a signup sheet at this meeting. Also, please bring a folding chair. Your family and friends are welcome.

### Directions:

Take Hwy 99 south; at Selma take exit 118 Hanford/Corcoran; turn right onto Highland Ave./ CA 43.

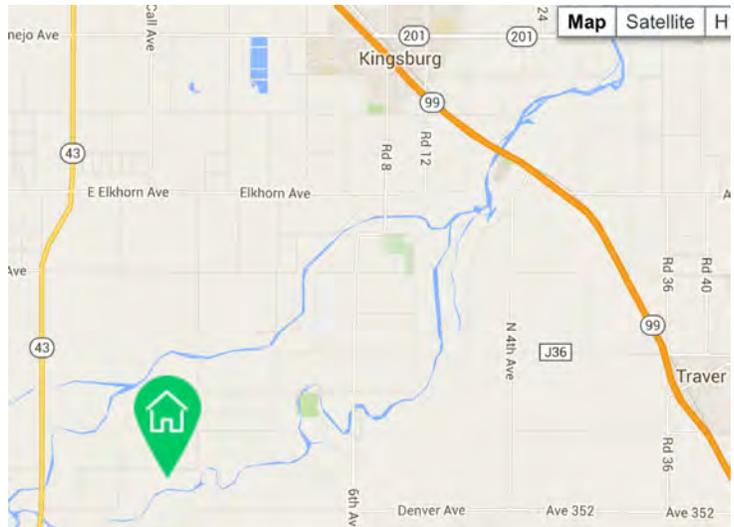
Proceed about 10 miles on Hwy 43; when you cross the Kings River bridge, be alert for a left turn on Denver Ave. Patty and Mark will put out a sign or balloons.

Turn left onto Denver; proceed about a mile; turn left on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue; go up to Cairo; turn right. Avenue 8 ½ is the next right turn. You'll see Mark's saguaros directly ahead.

Trip time: about 40 minutes from Fresno.

**Hours:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., or so. We plan to start the picnic around 11:30.

Questions: Sue 292-5624 /  
Mark 584-9118



~~ SAVE THE DATE FOR THE INNER-CITY SHOW AND SALE BUS TRIP ~~

## 31st Annual Intercity Show & Sale at the LA County Arboretum

Spectacular, absolutely spectacular is the only way to describe the destination of our August bus trip to the annual Inner-City Cactus Show and Sale at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden. Sponsored by the Los Angeles, Long Beach and San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent societies, hundreds of exotic cacti and succulents will be on display for viewing and purchase. This will be an excellent opportunity to see featured specimens that are rare or endangered in their native habitat.

The show is probably the largest cactus and succulent show in the country; certainly among the largest in the world. Vendors come from the southwest and throughout California. What a wonderful chance to meet club members from other clubs, ask questions and learn. There is something for everyone. "We will have quality cacti and succulents for sale from all over the world," said Shannon, a volunteer at the arboretum. "Plants will have name tags on them. There will also be plant books for sale. If you're going to buy, it's a good idea to bring a box."

The Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is located at 301 North Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA 91007. The 127 plant-filled acres include nine different gardens, natural landscapes, wildlife and historic buildings.

Special thanks go to Vickie Veen and Karen Willoughby for arranging the bus trip for us. Please address questions to Karen, in person at our meetings; by phone or text: 559-304-9219 or email: [pkatwillabee@gmail.com](mailto:pkatwillabee@gmail.com)

***Be sure to wear your FC&SS name badge!***

### **Bus trip details:**

Saturday, August 13, 2016 Cost: \$40 per person. Checks can be sent to Karen Willoughby at 4366 N. Gearhart, Fresno, CA 93726, and will be held until the trip is confirmed.

Depart: Saturday, August 13, 2016, 4:30 AM from 3680 W Shaw Ave, Fresno, Wal-Mart parking lot

Stop 1: 6:30 AM to 6:45 AM Break at McDonald's in Bakersfield

Stop 2: 8:45 AM to 1:30 PM Inter-city Show and Sale, Los Angeles Arboretum. Be sure to be back on the bus by 1:15 PM or plan to be there earlier if you have plants to stow in the bus.

Stop 3: 3:00 PM to 4:45 PM Los Pinos Mexican Restaurant 133 Frazier Mountain Park Road, Lebec

Plans are to return to the Wal-Mart parking lot around 7:15 PM Saturday evening.

More details to come.

***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, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com) ; Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323- 8602, [cgg266@comcast.com](mailto:cgg266@comcast.com)

**APRIL BRAG TABLE:** We had a number of interesting exhibits on the table. Madeleine Mitchell brought a nice blooming *Gasteria baylissiana*; Charlene Stebles brought a white adenium, *Portulacaria pygmaea* and an aeonium; Bruce Hargreaves showed an *Albuca spiralis*; Eddie Etheridge displayed an ariocarpus and two nice hybrid adeniums; Fred Gaumer brought *Echinocereus lindsayi*, *Haworthia truncata* and *Pachypodium saundersii*; Larry Carlberg showed a euphorbia; Ann Bierbower displayed a *Mammillaria pringlii*; Bill Gale brought *Pachypodium rosulatum* and *Pachypodium namaquanum*; Alyssa Ortega displayed a nicely-done dish garden; Robert Scott brought *Kalanchoe manginii*; and Cheryl Berman showed a small Moroccan rug made from agave fibers.



Photographs  
by  
Mary Ann Villegas

**CLUB WORKSHOP:** The May workshop will be Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. Plant genera starting with F and G will be featured; discussion topic: watering.

At the April workshop we looked at plants in the following genera: *Echinocereus*, *Escobaria*, *Echinofossulocactus*, *Eulophia*, *Eriosyce*, *Euphorbia*, *Echinopsis*, *Eulichnia* and *Echinocactus*. We were supposed to talk about vegetative propagation, but we ended up in a spirited discussion of aloe mite, a nasty pest that can affect haworthias and gasterias, in addition to aloes. If you ever spot abnormal growth on any of the above plants in your collection, be sure to take action. Separate the suspected plants from the others and spray with Sevin™ (that's what Rob Scott recommends.)

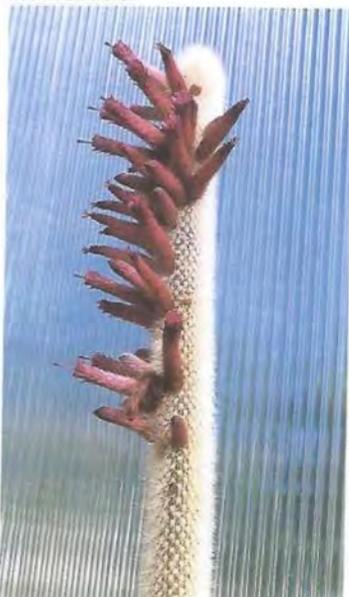


## CLEISTOCACTUS

*Cleistocactus* is a genus of columnar cacti native to the western side of South America from southern Peru down through Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina, mainly on the eastern slopes of the Andes. Depending on the source, you will read that there are 30+, 40+ or even up to 100[!] species, but the latest publication\*, based on molecular studies, puts the species as 27, with 7 subspecies.

This plethora of species is a result of the all the various genera that taxonomists have lumped into *Cleistocactus* over the years--*Akersia*, *Bolivocereus*, *Borzicactus*, *Hildewintera*, *Seticereus*, *Winteria* and *Winterocereus*, as well as several lesser-known ones. The molecular studies referenced above have also restored some of the genera, *Borzicactus*, for instance.

*Cleistocactus* is named for its flowers; *cleisto* means "closed", as the flowers are long tubes with narrow openings, pollinated by hummingbirds. They are brightly colored, usually red, but also yellow, orange, and all shades in between. The tips of the corollas are frequently a contrasting color. The plants form slender, cylindrical stems that branch at the base, growing into clumps; are very spiny, with the spines sometimes so thick they obscure the stems. Some of the species are more prostrate or creeping than upright in form. Their habitat is dry, semi-arid woodland among thorny bushes, or in full sun. Several species, such as *C. ritteri*, are native to deep valleys in a more tropical climate.



One of the better-known species is *C. strausii*, pictured opposite. One of its common names is "Silver Torch", for its beautiful silver or white spines that completely clothe the upright stems. In habitat, northern Argentina and southern Bolivia, it favors rocky slopes in areas of sparse vegetation and can grow to 3' in height. Generally, it will be smaller when grown in a pot. It is hardy to freezing temperatures and can make a nice landscape plant in our area. As in the photo, the flowers tend to cluster on the side of the stem that faces the sun.

It has to be said that cleistocacti are probably not on the usual top-ten list of cactophile favorites. They frequently get too tall when grown in pots. The creeping forms of some species make them hard to handle: should I prop them up or let them sprawl?

These plants can be subject to tip die-back if they're kept too dry for too long. This can wreck the appearance of a nice clump of stems. It is advisable to give them some water all year around. On an online forum, Leo Martin, who gardens in Phoenix AZ, declared that he never lets his *Cleistocactus strausii* dry out completely.

Some other worthwhile species includes *C. baumanii*. It has erect stems with many ribs, closely-set areoles, and thick brown spines. The flowers are orange-red.

*C. ritteri* has thin stems covered with stiff white spines which can reach 5 feet in height. The tubular flowers are yellow.

*C. wendlandiorum*, native to western Argentina, is covered with golden-yellow spines. The flowers are deep orange with the bright green stigma just protruding from the corolla.

You often find the "Silver Torch", *C. strausii*, for sale in the garden shops. Other species usually have to be sought out from specialty growers.

Culture presents no difficulties; well-draining mix and full sun. **Sue**

- Lodé, J. 2015. Taxonomy of the cactaceae, Cuevas del Almanzora, Spain, Cactus-Aventures. (Photo: Subik, R. Complete encyclopedia of cacti)