

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

www.fresnocss.com

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Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

August 2016

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 4, 7:00 pm. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

PROGRAM: Landscaping with Succulents

PRESENTER: Peter Walkowiak

In this talk I will give you my perspective from a landscaper and designer point of view. There are many well-done succulent landscapes, but a large number of poorly executed landscapes that are also being installed. Drawing on my many years of experience, I will take you through a step-by-step process that will break down the whole project. There are a number of phases that must be followed so that you do not waste money or time. These are:

- 1) Site evaluation
- 2) Landscape design
- 3) Hardscape
- 4) Soil preparation
- 5) Plants and boulders
- 6) Irrigation
- 7) Final design elements



In the talk I will take you through several jobs from start to finish as well as current pictures. You will see before, during and finish pictures of each landscape. Each step and stage will be explained using the pictures to go with the narration.

Graduated from U.C. Cal Poly, Pomona in 1985 with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Worked for nursery operations for the next 15 years as nursery, production and section manager. Operated a landscape business for 12 years with the last six years focused on succulent landscapes. At this time, I started propagating succulent plants from my collection. Two years ago I switched from landscaping to running my nursery, PW Plants, which specializes in South African euphorbias and caudiciforms.

My interest in succulent plants really began in college. By the time I graduated I had well over 100 plants in my collection. When I heard there was a succulent plant show in Balboa Park, I joined the San Diego CSS on the spot, and soon joined the Palomar CSS and the CSSA. I am now a member of all the southern California CSS's. I am currently the president of the Palomar CSS, which is the San Diego North County club. I also serve on the boards of the San Diego CSS and the CSSA, and I am show chair for San Diego's two shows, Palomar's one show and co-chair of the Intercity Show, which is the world's largest succulent show.

My collection now numbers well over a thousand plants. About half are cacti; the others are Euphorbias and caudiciforms. I have owned some plants for over 30 years.

~ DINNER ~

BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
715 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno (559) 570-1900
www.bjsrestaurants.com/menu

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

**Contact Rosanna Rojas by
Wednesday, August 3,
to make reservations.**
Phone: (559) 999-0017
Email: rfrojas96@gmail.com

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

August already—can you believe it? The year is more than half over. As I write this we are in for a very hot week. Keep an eye on your plants. Sometimes if a plant seems to be drooping in the heat don't assume it needs water. Hold off and see if it perks up by morning when it's cooler. Mist your plants if you feel that might help; you can find mist nozzles for a hose at most garden shops.

We have a new (for us) speaker this month. Peter Walkowiak is a well-known grower, exhibitor and vendor in southern California. Let's all turn out and give him a warm welcome to our club.

The club **bus trip** is this month—Saturday, August 13th. We're going south to the big InterCity Show and Sale at the Los Angeles Arboretum in Arcadia. This is probably the biggest cactus and succulent show in the world, with at least a thousand eye-popping plants on display. We still have a few empty seats, so if you're interested get in touch with Karen Willoughby (pkatwillabee@gmail.com; 304-9219). We always have a great time.

Rob Scott would like to get a committee together to work on finding a new venue for our annual show and sale. We definitely have outgrown the Sierra Vista community room and need a larger space. We need the input from anyone who has thoughts about this.

In September we have our annual **Member's Sale Night**, in lieu of a regular meeting. If you would like to sell, you need to sign up at this meeting. Each vendor is assessed a \$10 fee that goes to pay for the hundreds of postcards we send out advertising this event, as it's open to the general public. Vendors should start now stockpiling small bills for change and boxes for your customers.

Later on the horizon is the **Big Fresno Fair**, October 6th-16th. Read Rudy Rulloda's comments elsewhere in the newsletter. Every year I urge members to try entering a few plants in the cactus and succulent division. It's fun—and you can win premiums (\$\$). For more information, go to www.fresnofair.com and click on 'Competitive Exhibits.'

It sounds like we have a lot of activities coming up, doesn't it? We hope you'll participate in all of them. See you at the meeting! **Sue**



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!! Our esteemed Paul Mitchell, who has operated our plant opportunity table for many years, has stated his intention to retire after the current year. We will need someone to take over this function, and Paul suggested that we open it up to volunteers. If you are at all interested in doing this job, be sure to talk to Paul and find out what all is involved. This is a feature of our meetings that our members and visitors enjoy very much. I know we all thank Paul for his many years of service.



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**JULY 11, 2016****President Sue Haffner called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

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

Officer Reports:

Sue paid the quarterly storage bill and the bill for the Newsletter and postage.

Rosanna reported that the speaker for August will be Peter Walkowiak, October will be a video presented by Madeleine Mitchell and a Silent Auction, November will be a presentation by Robert Scott.

Robert Scott reported that the current balance in the club treasury is \$16,113.88. The club sale table made \$753.00 at the Show and Sale. The net for the club from the Show and Sale was \$4,414.84.

Robert paid the club dues for the California Garden Club in the amount of \$386.50.

Old Business:

The Board discussed the new table/check-out arrangement for the Show and Sale, early shoppers, raffle for volunteers. Robert Scott would like to have a committee on finding a new show and sale venue.

Karen Willoughby announced the total signups for the Bus Trip stand at 25. The club has until July 30 to decide to go or cancel. Refunds for drop outs if they give a week's notice was approved.

Polly Dunklin informed the Board that 8 new members signed up to join the club at the Show and Sale. Total membership stands at 136 people.

New Business:

The Member's Sale to be held September 1, 2016 was discussed. Two table vendor limit will be decided after the signups at the August meeting. It was decided that the club tables will not be needed again this year.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Duwe, Secretary



BOARD MEETING - MONDAY, AUGUST 8th, 6:00 P.M.,**3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno****All members are welcome. Board members should attend.**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY:
Rudy Rulloda (2nd);
Howard McLachlin (10th);
Lucy Mays (18th); Ashley Ouimet (19th)
Lisa Brew (28th); Alicia Cobian (30th).

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**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Phil Freeman, Clovis; Jill Heckroth, Fresno

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BIG EVENT THIS MONTH

Southern Inter-City Show & Sale,
August 13-14, Los Angeles County Arboretum,
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA.

BOOK SALE, Aug. 12-14; Betty Rodriguez
Regional Library, 3040 N. Cedar; sponsored by
 the Friends of the Betty Rodriguez Regional
 Library; hours: Friday & Saturday, 9-5;
 Sunday 12-5. Five dollars for a bag of books! Bring
 your own bag (any size) and fill it!

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**CSSA:** We often see this set of initials when we're doing any kind of reading or research on cacti and succulents. It stands for Cactus & Succulent Society of America, our parent organization. We are an affiliate of this national society. A number of our club members are also CSSA members. We receive six issues of *Cactus and succulent journal*, which is generally considered the foremost publication on the subject. The current issue (May-June) contains the yearly offering of ISI sale plants; an article on *Hechtia lanata*; "Pushing the limits with cacti & succulents in cold climates"; Elton Roberts' article on the forms of *Echinocereus fendleri*; and "Beginner's guide to *Frailea*", by Tom Glavich (worth the cost of the issue all by itself.)

If you are really interested in succulents, you should join CSSA. Check the website: [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org).

**THE BIG FRESNO COUNTY FAIR** is around the corner. The club will be needing plant monitors starting Wed, Oct. 5 through Sun, Oct. 16.

Volunteers will be watching plants, handing out club information, and answering questions about club plants and club activities from the public. A shift consisted of two hours and those signing up for four or more hours will need to have your photo ID, which you'll only need parking tickets. Once your shift is done, you can enjoy the rest of the time at the Fair.

I'll have the sign-up sheets at the Aug/Sep club meetings.

**Rudy Rulloda, Chair**

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BOOKS: Former member Mike Emigh has presented the club with cactus books from the collection of the late Dr. Sigmund Schanderl. (If you attended the rained-out 2015 club picnic at Doris Hooton's home, you met Dr. Schanderl. He was very interested in cacti and the Deutsch Cactus Garden at the Discovery Center.)

Two of the books will be added to the club library: "The Great cacti" by David Yetman (2007); and "Illustrated encyclopedia of cacti" by Clive Innes and Charles Glass (1991). The other books will be available in the upcoming silent auctions in October and December.

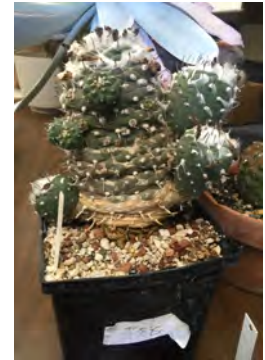
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**THE LATEST FROM JOHN PILBEAM:** Prolific author John Pilbeam's latest book is "Small Opuntias", due soon from the U.K. We will get a copy of this for our club library when it becomes available.

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Did you lose your pickle fork? A small fork, similar to a pickle fork, was left on the refreshment table last month. I'll bring it this month so it can be reclaimed. **Sue**

JULY BRAG TABLE: Fred Gaumer showed *Gymnocalycium eurypleurum* and *Haworthia truncata v. maughanii*; Linda Lopez brought in *Monanthes polyphylla* and a euphorbia no one could identify; Eddie Etheridge showed *Pelargonium particulatum*; Mary Ann Villegas displayed *Pilocereus ulei*; Larry Homan showed *Puna bonniae*, *Ariocarpus retusus*, *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus elephantidens* and *Turbinicarpus jauernigii* (big and small); Madeleine Mitchell brought *Echeveria cante* (3 yrs old); Bill Gale displayed *Astrophytum myriostigma*, a *Gonolobus* and *Dioscorea elephantipes*; Jack Fleming brought in a *Pachypodium succulentum* with seed pods; Theresa Flemming exhibited an “uber cool” *Brachystelma barbarae* in a Mark Muradian pot; Bruce Hargreaves showed a *Euphorbia handiensis*; Larry Carlberg displayed a *Euphorbia fortuita*; Ann Bierbower brought *Copiapoa barquitensis* ‘Lizard Skin’, James Rojas showed three haworthias he had received from Mary Drumheller; Alyssa Ortega displayed a very nice dish garden, and Mark Muradian brought in a large *Boophone haemanthoides*. Thanks to all of them. We appreciate their sharing their special plants.



JULY WORKSHOP: At the July workshop we looked at plants in genera starting with K and L, including *Kalanchoe*, *Lithops* and *Leuchtenbergia*, among others. Dan Gale brought in a flat of fascinating variegated plants. Anne Vanderslice distributed a handout on how to clean clay pots, which is summarized elsewhere in the newsletter. Dan gave everyone a small Golden Barrel plant. Thanks, Dan. We had a lively discussion of plant pests and how to treat them. We heard that Rob Scott recommends Sevin™ for treating aloe mites—which can infect haworthias and gasterias in addition to aloes. A drench with Bayer Tree and Shrub Insect Control works against mealy bugs. Red spider mite likes hot, dry, dusty conditions. If you notice a cactus showing yellow stipples on the epidermis or what looks like dry, crusty patches at the growing point, suspect spider mites. When looking for products for treating plants, always look at the labels, as mites are not insects and some common insecticides won’t work against them.

The August workshop will be Wednesday, August 17th, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. All members are welcome. The genera under study are those starting with M and N. Discussion topic will be potting.





Cereus Peruvianus – The Least and Best Known Cactus

Author: Daiv Freeman of CactiGuide.com

As the owner/creator of a website dedicated to the identification of Cacti, I run into lots of people who ask for my help identifying a particular cactus plant. Often times the mystery plant is not a cactus at all, such as an Agave or Euphorbia, but that's a subject worthy of its own article.

This article is written to address a particular cactus plant that is simultaneously one of best known and least known species in the entire cactus family. It is *Cereus peruvianus*. This plant or rather the identification of it is the cause for a great deal of confusion. The source of this confusion is multi-faceted and this article will examine those reasons.

To start with, whenever you run into the name "Cereus", there's a good chance you are dealing with a plant that has not received much attention by those who scientifically study and classify cacti. Most experts agree that cereus is one of the least understood genera of the entire Cactus Family. It is also one of the oldest names in the family, described by Philip Miller in 1754¹ it dates back to 1625. From the beginning up until the 1920's, nearly every columnar cactus was given the name cereus. Today there are 34 species that are officially accepted to belong to the genus *Cereus*, but there are over 500 species or synonyms that were once classified under *Cereus* that are now either no longer accepted or have been reclassified as a separate genus.

The name *Cereus peruvianus* has been applied to both *C. hildmannianus* and *C. repandus* which are both recognized as legitimate species today. The trouble is, neither of them resemble the many plants that we see labeled as *Cereus peruvianus*. Therefore the logical conclusion would be that these plants are simply not properly identified and through due diligence, we should be able to find their true name. Yet what we find is that the best choice of names turns out to be *Cereus peruvianus*! Sound absurd? That's because it is.

It is my belief that these cacti are almost certainly a product of cultivation and do not exist in the wild. Because there are so very many people who like to grow plants, but couldn't care less about proper names or origins, tracing back to parent plants is no longer an option. That is short of comparing the plants DNA. However, the guys with the laboratories and know-how at their disposal to study the DNA have been studying unusual and uncommon species such as *Aztekium* or *Eulychnia*.

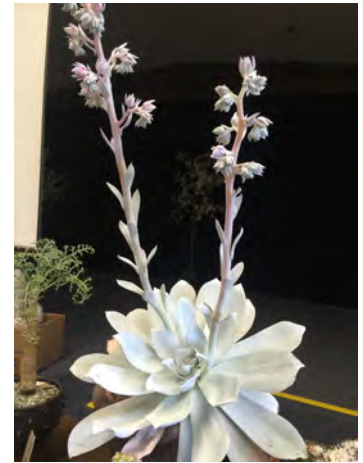
The plants we see carelessly tossed into the classification of *Cereus peruvianus* are all very easy to grow. They tolerate a wide variety of conditions, they can be propagated easily by seed and even more easily by cuttings. They are resistant (indeed impervious) to rot, disease, and infestations; they grow fast and they produce nice large white flowers without any coaxing. You will find these plants in cultivation across the globe. They are in just about every garden center that sells cacti and they are inexpensive. In warmer areas they can be planted in the ground where they obtain massive size over 20 feet high with many branching arms. These qualities make the problem worse as their popularity keeps them spreading around the globe. They show up in the collections of the novice or slightly interested cacti growers, who sometimes are inspired to search for a name for their cactus. What do they find? *Cereus peruvianus*! This brings us full-circle. Perhaps someday the right biology student will decide to do a thesis on the "Origins of Cereus" and we'll all get lucky. In the mean time you can probably get away with using the name *Cereus peruvianus* as everyone will have a good idea of exactly what plant you have based on that name. And if that is the purpose of a name, then *Cereus peruvianus* fits the bill.

Note: 1. Edward F. Anderson *The Cactus Family*, Timber Press, page 142.

Photo: Daiv Freeman

ECHEVERIA CANTE

Echeveria cante is one of the most beautiful and desirable echeverias. When plant hunter Charles Glass first caught sight of it as he climbed rough country in Zacatecas back in 1970, he at first thought he was looking at a big dudleya, one similar to *Dudleya brittonii* or *D. pulverulenta*. But he knew it couldn't be a dudleya. It wasn't the right country. As he approached, he saw it was an echeveria. As it seemed to resemble *E. subrigida*, a plant long in cultivation, Glass logged it as that species. Later, when his "Mexican Log Book" was published in the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, this discovery caught the attention of John Pilbeam, in the U.K., who was doing research for a book on *Echeveria*. He knew that the locality for *E. subrigida* was much farther south. Was this a new species? Subsequent exploration and collection confirmed that, yes, it was a new species. Glass named it for Cante A.C., a Mexican ecological organization that had been instrumental in the establishment of a botanical garden in San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, a project Glass had been working on for years. The plant is known only from that habitat in Zacatecas, in a rocky area of the Sierra de Chapultepec, between Sombrete and Fresnillo. "Cante" is a Pame-Chichimeca word that means "the water that gives life."



Plant: Madeline Mitchell

Echeveria cante has pale bluish green, lavender tinged leaves up to 6" long, the leaves highly farinose (covered with mealy powder) with narrow, sharp, pink margins. Rosettes are 12" to 16" in diameter; the flower stalk is low and spreading with many reddish, powdery flowers. Plants are generally solitary but with years of cultivation may produce offsets. *Echeveria cante* is difficult to propagate from leaves, unlike most echeverias, but occasionally one will root. Culture is not difficult; good drainage, care in watering. As Zacatecas gets most of its rainfall June through September, you can water freely during summer. October through April is much drier. In our area, it is probably a good idea to shield the plant from the full summer sun.



CLEANING UP CRUSTY CLAY POTS

Clay pots help keep soil moist but not soggy; they insulate plant roots against overheating in the summer, and they look attractive with most types of plants. Their porous nature lets them hold air and water to the benefit of the plants growing in them, but it also provides spaces where deposits of calcium, minerals and salts from fertilizers can become trapped. As moisture in the clay evaporates, these residues are wicked to the surface of the pot, where they accumulate in white streaks and bands.

To rid pots of crusty residues and clean them up for future use, a regime of scrubbing and soaking is recommended. First, use a brush to remove as much dirt as possible. Any household brush will work. Once the superficial dirt is brushed away, submerge the pot in a 20 to 25 percent vinegar solution (1 cup 5% acidity white vinegar in 3-4 cups of water) for 20 to 30 minutes. You may see or hear sizzling or bubbles as the vinegar does its work. If the buildup wipes or scrubs off easily after the soak, the pot is done. Otherwise, soak longer. It is recommended to wash the pot in soapy water after all the deposits have been removed.

(From *Organic gardening*, Dec. 2013/Jan. 2014; Ann Vanderslice distributed handouts at the July workshop. Thanks, Anne! You can also find the article online: www.rodalorganicle.com/garden/how-to-clean-terra-cotta-pots.)