

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

www.fresnocss.com

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, May 4th, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno



Presentation by

ROB SKILLIN

I have been growing cacti and succulents for nearly 40 years, and have been involved in various local societies for most of that time, starting with the San Diego C&SS in the 1970's,

then to the Santa Barbara and Bakersfield clubs. I currently belong to the Central Coast C&SS of which I was a founding member, first President and first Show and Sale Chairman. I have also been involved with the CSSA as a member of its Board of Directors, and am a CSSA certified Judge.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I enjoy photography and travel. These interests have come together in a wonderful way during my botanical explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa, Madagascar and the Middle East. I have several programs based on these trips, and I speak regularly to clubs in northern and southern California. Many of my photographs have been published as illustrations for articles and covers of the Journal and Haseltonia, as well as the Timber Press Book of Succulents of the World.

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

Rob will be bringing a nice selection of plants for purchase!

~ DINNER ~

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

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

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

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

We have several fun events coming up this month. First is our picnic on Saturday, May 20th, at Mark Muradian's and Patty Miller's home. We had a great time there last year; they were terrific hosts. Newer members who have never been out to the ranch to see Mark's fabulous cactus beds owe it to themselves to take advantage of the opportunity. There will be signup sheets at this meeting. More information can be found elsewhere in this issue.

Also on the calendar this month is our bus trip over to the Central Coast Club's big show and sale on Saturday, May 27th. If you haven't already signed up to go you will have a chance at this meeting.

I spent the morning of April 22nd at the Water Wise Plant Give and Take at the CSUF greenhouses. It was a fun time, seeing hundreds of people passing through to collect the free plants. I had brought a car load of plants and cuttings, most to give away at our club table. Most were gone after the first hour. Thanks to those who donated the plants: Viv and Ken Shinkawa, Alice Rodriguez and non-member Lisa Marin.

Roz Tampone has donated several boxes of books to the club. She had received these from a friend in the Master Gardener program. It appears to me that the books may have come from Scotty's Desert Plants, a nursery that operated out of Selma some years ago. Our club used to buy plants from Scotty's for resale. They are duplicates of those in the club library, for the most part. We will probably put these in a silent auction or on the raffle table. Thanks so much, Roz!

Last month, those present voted to have a judged show this year. I believe some members felt a bit of trepidation when the question was called; a number of people abstained. I understand this uncertainty; this is something that we haven't done before. But let me remind you of what we're supposed to be about, from our Bylaws: "Article II Purpose. The purpose of this club shall be the advancement of knowledge of cacti and other succulents among the membership and the general public. The club is dedicated to environmental protection and preservation of natural habitats and to the propagation and distribution of these fascinating and unique plants, many of which are threatened or endangered.

"The club shall strive to foster good fellowship and establish cordial relations and provide support for other groups with compatible interests in horticulture.

"It shall be non-sectarian, non-partisan and non-profit."

How better to advance the knowledge of cacti and other succulents among the membership and the general public than to have a show of specimen plants. Ann Bierbower, Show Chair, is hard at work on the mechanics of the show, and we should have a schedule available soon. There are a lot of details to be dealt with; we hope that we can count on all of you to help in any way you can.

In the meantime, we have a picnic and a bus trip!

See you at the meeting.

Sue



MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2017 FCS&S BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. at the home of Doris Hooten and Tom Meyer by President Sue Haffner.

Present were: Ann Bierbower, Craig and Michele Roberts, Fred Gaumer, Dennis Anderson, Don Winton, Mary Drumheller and Susan Cook. Absent were Rosanna Rojas and Robert Scott.

Officer Reports:

President: Sue reported that at our April meeting, a member had his vehicle broken into in the parking lot with some property being taken. Ideas for better security were discussed.

Vice-President: No report because Rosanna was absent. The problem we have with the microphone we use at the meetings was discussed because Rosanna was to look into purchasing a replacement but Craig volunteered to have a look at it to see if he could repair it.

Treasurer: No report because Robert was absent. Sue did report that our room dues at DHHSC will be going up in July but we are not aware of by how much at this point in time.

Secretary: I reported that our FaceBook Page now has 2,700 “likes” which means we reach a great number of people about club events and meetings through social media.

Old Business:

Member’s sale night: Will be moved to the October 5th meeting since it is just a regular meeting on our schedule. We were to go to the Discovery Center for that meeting but this will be postponed to another date in the future.

“Coffee in the Garden”: Reminder that this will be on April 29th from 10-2 at the home of Jeff and Marilyn Carter.

Spring picnic: Will be held May 20th from 11-3 at the home of Mark Muradian and Patty Miller.

Bus Trip: Michele stated that she had 17 reservations so far. This will be a rather short trip in comparison to others because we will not be making a second shopping stop. No available locations for a second shopping opportunity between Fresno and SLO were located by Michele.

Workshop venue(s): The Betty Rodriguez Regional library will be the location for the April and May workshops. We will decide whether we want to keep this location in the future.

2017 Show and Sale: There was a lengthy discussion of the financial goals and vendor relationships with regard to the show and sale.

Show chairperson will be Ann Bierbower. Additional committee chairs will be decided in the future. Sale chairperson will be Robert Scott. Further information on this will be discussed at a future board meeting.

Due to the lengthy discussion regarding the show, no new business topics were discussed at this meeting and it was adjourned at 7:25 by President Sue Haffner. Next board meeting will be May 8th at the usual location.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Willoughby, Secretary

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

*Fred Gaumer (2nd);
Vickie Veen (5th);
Valerie Kissler (7th);
Don Winton (10th);
Tom Meyer (11th)
Madeleine Mitchell (28th).*

Visitors last month: Henry Coggan, Rachel Bermio, Brian and Susan Nagles

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No sunshine cards were sent this past month. If you know of any member who is under the weather, let Carole Grosch know ([cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net)).

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Special event: Roz Tampone and Melanie Sarkisian will present a hypertufa workshop, Saturday, May 13th, at the Clovis Botanical Garden. To register for this free class: <http://ucanr.edu/summer2017aecpre-reg>.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**May 6-7, Sacramento C&S Society Show & Sale**, Shepard Garden Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento; hours, Saturday: 9-5 (sale); 10-5 (show); Sunday, 9-4.

**May 20-21, Monterey Bay C&S Society Show & Sale**, 10 San Jose St., San Juan Bautista; Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4.

**May 20-21, Carmichael C&S Society Show & Sale**, Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael; hours: Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-3.

**Central Coast C&S Society Show & Sale**, Ludwick Community Center, 864 Santa Rosa, San Luis Obispo; hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4.

**SPEAKER SCHEDULE FOR 2017**

May 4<sup>th</sup> – Rob Skillin  
June 1<sup>st</sup> – Michelle Cloud Hughes  
July 6<sup>th</sup> – Peter Walkowiak  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Doug Dawson  
September 7 – TBD  
September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> – annual show and sale  
October 5 – members' sale nite  
November 7 – Peter Beiersdorfer  
December 7 – Xmas potluck

*Rosanna*

**The May Board Meeting will be Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. Board members should make an effort to be there, as we will need to do planning for the show and sale. Any interested member is welcome to attend.**

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CLUB T-SHIRTS: Club t-shirts will be available again at this meeting.

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We depend on the members to bring snacks to the monthly meetings. So, if you can, please bring a food item to share. Thanks!

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Last month a member's car was broken into during the meeting and some property was stolen. The car was parked on the north side of the DHHS, by the dumpster, probably out of range of the credit union's security cameras.

If you come late to the meeting you may be advised to park under the lights at the EECU; they have security, both cameras and personnel, in place.



Photos by
Karen Willoughby

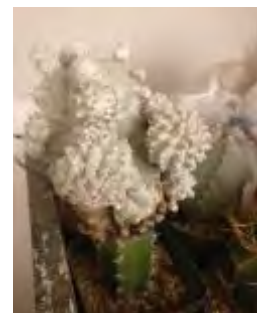
APRIL BRAG TABLE:

The following brought plants for display last month: Fred Gaumer (*Turbinicarpus alonsoi*, *Monsonia crassicaule*, *Coryphantha palmeri*, *Haworthia pygmaea* v. *argento-maculosa*); Karl Church (*Euphorbia polygona* ‘Snowflake’); Ann Bierbower *Mammillaria lenta*, *Epithelantha unguispina*); Charlene Stebles (*Mammillaria leutheyi*); Linda Lopez (*Monanthes polyphylla*); Henry Coggan (*Euphorbia polygona* ‘Snowflake’); Bill Gale (*Pachypodium rosulatum* x *densiflorum*); Dennis Shamlian (variegated aloe hybrid); Jack Fleming (*Aloe* ‘Hummingbird (his hybrid)'); *Euphorbia* GM211 (*gorgonis*); Rudy Rulloda (*Aloe succotrina*, *Aloe striata*). Thanks to all of them. Please consider bringing something for the table next time.

CLUB WORKSHOP: We had a lively workshop meeting at the Betty Rodriguez Library. We were to examine plants in genera beginning with F and G, and we did look at fraileas, ferocacti, fockea, gymnocalyciums, gasterias, xgastroleas, and others. Those bringing plants were Karl Church, Jack Fleming, Bill Gale, Dennis Anderson, Ann Bierbower, Henry Coggan, Sue Haffner, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. Also on display were aloes, euphorbias, mammillarias, astrophytums and a cycad. Jack showed how he puts netting over aloes and gasterias to deter unwanted pollinators. Dan displayed the astrophytum species, including *A. caput-medusae*, the newest discovery. He also brought a tray of astrophytum seedlings.

Members talked about their greenhouses, shade cloth, what’s blooming. Dennis said his echinopsis hybrids were putting on quite a show. Roz Tampone had hail at her place which pitted a lot of her succulents. That was the day that the eastern area of Fresno/Clovis was pounded with 2 inches of rain in about an hour, while the rest of the city was mostly dry. Tom Meyer said his pachypodiums are still in the greenhouse, until the weather settles down. Henry asked about how to deal with sunburn on cacti. That can come about when you change a plant’s orientation. Any burn marks on a cactus are permanent but over the years will become less noticeable. Dan brought a tray of *Aloe marlothii* seedlings to give away, as well as citrus fruit. Thanks, Dan.

The May workshop will be Wednesday, May 17th, 6:00 p.m., at the library, 3040 N. Cedar, Fresno. All members are welcome. Genera under discussion are those beginning with H and I. As for a program topic, Henry expressed an interest in a grafting demonstration, and perhaps Bill or Jack can be persuaded to oblige.



Photos by
Henry Coggan

CLUB PICNIC

Make plans to join us Saturday, May 20th, 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, meat (tri-tip); iced tea and water. 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 sign-up sheet at this meeting. Also, please bring a folding chair. (If you have a smallish folding table, please bring it if you have room.) We will have a silent auction.

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. Turn left onto Denver; proceed about a mile; turn left on 9th 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: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., or so. We plan to start the picnic around noon.

Questions: Sue 292-5624, Mark 584-9118

CENTRAL COAST BUS TRIP

We've reserved a 35-passenger bus for a May 27th trip over to San Luis Obispo to the Central Coast Club's big show and sale. The cost of a seat is \$40.00 and there is still room for you. Remember that those who helped out at the Home & Garden Show can take the trip at a lower price, as a thank-you for your hard work. Check with Robert about this.

We will leave at 7:00 a.m. from the Walmart parking lot at 3680 W. Shaw, planning to get over to the show around its opening time, 10:00 a.m. The Central Coast Club is fairly new, but from the beginning it had experienced and dynamic members who put on an annual show that has only gotten bigger each year. For our club members who like to hit the road, it is one of their favorite destinations. You owe it to yourself to see this show!

Bring your check to this meeting or contact Michele or Craig Roberts, 559-645-5257 or 599-908-1167, or email: robertshowse@comcast.net. The deadline to pay and reserve your seat is May 24th. All aboard!

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

CSSA 37th Biennial Convention

Celebrating the Beauty of the Desert *written by Fred Gaumer*

Where I live, the mail is delivered to a bank of mail boxes about a quarter of a mile from my house. It is only a slight exaggeration to say that I am only interested in picking up the mail on even numbered months. That's when I am expecting the CSSA Journal to be in the box. It is sometimes late and I become anxious and put together a suspect list of who I think has got my Journal. The people at the post office seem nice but it looks to me like there is a large turn-over of personnel down there. And I get my Journal 5 days after people in Fresno get theirs. If the postal workers are reading it first they have found the way to seal it up in the plastic cover like nothing has happened. I am tempted to go there and ask, "Hey, Al, have you heard anything about a new *Anacampseros* discovered in southern Namibia recently?" and watch for his reaction.

We get more than our share of catalogues. There are some that I do look at but would never buy anything from them. Mainly because I hope that after no response from me for a few years they would give up. Or I could buy that T-shirt that says something about a large methane release in the vicinity to throw them a bone because I admire their tenacity. And when are credit card companies going to realize I don't want another card? Save a tree and lighten the load for the postal workers who have more important things to do. (Like read my journal!)

So, last week as I was passing through the kitchen I noticed the mail setting on the counter and even though it was only sticking out a little bit. There it was! It is light yellow and from across the room I could see a wonderful drawing of a ferocactus! (Steve Plath does it again! Remember the *Agave utahensis* in '99?)

The brochure is a thing of beauty. Inside it tells of the scheduled speakers from around the world and the field trips and banquets and the costs of everything. Not mentioned is the smile you will have on your face while there. They have cut the length of the conventions from a week to four days to make it more inviting to more people. It's in late June so it's a perfect time to escape the Fresno heat and spend some time in the Phoenix, Az. area. There is no mention of a really great plant and pottery sale but there will be one. You will see something that you cannot go home without.

Also, there will be an auction. At this auction there will plants that may be a once in a life time opportunity to obtain. I heard from a reliable source that Steven Hammer, The Mesemb Master, is going to play piano at the banquet. He rocked 'em hard a few conventions ago.

I'm getting excited already.



OPUNTIA –

The miracle plant: extracts of prickly pear are being used to ease symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's. The phytochemicals extracted from the plants have been shown to interfere with the development and buildup of sticky proteins associated with these diseases, making them less toxic to neurons, according to *Pacific Horticulture*, spring 2017.

Cactus water: this beverage is made from tunas, the fruit of the prickly pear cactus (nopal), which is puréed with water and then filtered and sometimes flavored and sweetened with sugar. It's promoted for its supposed anti-aging and skin-revitalizing effects, which one company, Cali-water, attributes to "rare and potent" betalains (types of antioxidants) in the plant. It's also said to "cleanse" and "detox" the body (though your body doesn't need to be cleansed or detoxed), reduce eye puffiness, improve athletic performance, and even help hangovers.

Preliminary research shows some potential benefits from the cactus itself and some of its constituents (such as taurine), but the beverages remain untested. (*University of California, Berkeley Wellness letter*, April 2017.)

Sue

ALOE MITE



Ernesto Sandoval discussed aloe mite last month and showed pictures of how it can damage plants. Now a member has found aloe mite in her plant collection.

This pest causes damage that shows up as abnormal growths on the plants. It is sometimes called "aloe cancer" or "aloe gall". It really isn't curable and affected plants should be discarded. The pest can also spread through a collection, even to aloe-related genera such as gasteria and haworthia. Be alert to any abnormal-looking growth on aloe foliage or bloomstalks.



**Photos from
Dave's Garden**

Free online journal: *Cactus Explorer* #18, April 2017, is now available for download. Articles cover *Melocactus* and *Discocactus*, among others. Just search the Internet for "cactus explorer".