

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com/>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 35, No. 11

November 2017

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 2nd, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

“Succulent Tidbits from Around the World”

Presented by: Peter Beiersdorfer

Succulents are as varied as the places in which they grow. In this presentation, Peter Beiersdorfer will introduce succulent plants from locations around the world, including regions that are rarely thought of as being home to succulent plants. He will discuss plants from the Rhine Valley of Germany, the Swiss Alps, the Skeleton Coast of Namibia, the highest mountain of Spain, the badlands of Argentina, and islands off the coast of North Carolina. Each region has its own specialty, such as aeonium forests, Welwitschia rivers, creepy cacti, wildflower meadows, and the world’s largest quiver tree forest (*Aloidendron dichotomum* aka *Aloe dichotoma*). It’s a talk not to be missed.

Peter’s interest in succulents started in his childhood with his grandmother’s plants: Easter lily cacti, epiphyllums, haworthias, and sansevieras. His collection at his home in Livermore now encompasses several thousand plants. He works as a physicist at Livermore and UC Berkeley – trying to understand the x-ray emission from the corona of the sun and other stars, among many topics. He travels regularly to explore succulent flora around the world.



Aeonium Urbicum

Plants: *Peter will bring a variety of plants for sale.*

~~ DINNER ~~

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

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

Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, November 1,
to make reservations.
Phone: (559) 999-0017

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

November already—can you believe it? We've had so many activities pushed into the back end of the year that some of us have had little time to breathe. And here we are: almost at the end.

Our election of 2018 officers is our chief order of business at this meeting. I want to thank several members who came forward to volunteer to serve on the board. We welcome their enthusiasm.

In December we'll have our potluck Christmas party at DHHSC. Rosanna will have a signup sheet available at this meeting for dishes to bring. We will also have a silent auction and installation of 2018 officers. Make plans to be there. We always have a lot of fun—and great food!

One of our longtime members, Marian Orvis, was honored by Tree Fresno for 32 years of service to that organization and to the community. In a nice ceremony on October 19th, Marian's contributions were recounted. She and Frank were there at the very beginning of Tree Fresno and supplied significant support for it when it was needed. Well done!

Still in harness, Marian was at Clovis Botanical Garden on Oct. 21st, representing the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Ann Bierbower and I set up a table for our club. Ruth Saludes was also there to assist visitors in the garden. It was a chilly day, as it turned out, but it was fun to meet the public, including some new members of our club.

The Members' Sale Night, held last month instead of September, seemed to go well. I know that some of the vendors did very well. We do collect \$10 per vendor to help pay for the postcards we send out advertising this event, and \$130.00 was collected.

Normally we would publish next year's budget in this issue of the newsletter, but we spent the October board meeting discussing the show and sale, instead. The budget will be dealt with at this month's board meeting. I'd like to remind everyone that any member is welcome to attend board meetings.

"Real gardeners buy at least 10,000 plants over the course of a lifetime without having any idea where they'll put them once they get them home" – Anonymous.

See you at the meeting,

Sue

SHOW WINNERS

Here are the winning plants from our September show: Best Advanced Succulent: *Euphorbia poissonii* (Bill Gale); Best Advanced Cactus: *Astrophytum ornatum* (Ann Bierbower); Best Novice Succulent: *Euphorbia francoisii* (Polly Dunklin); Best Novice Cactus: *Mammillaria lenta* (Vickie Veen); Best Open Succulent: *Ceraria namaquensis* (Naomi Bloss); Best Open Cactus: *Mammillaria spinosissima* crest (Mark Muradian); Best Succulent Collection: Jim Smith (haworthias); Best Cactus Collection: Peter Beiersdorfer (tephrocacti). Congratulations to all our exhibitors!



Minutes of the FCSS Board Meeting October 9, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. Those in attendance were: Polly Dunklin, Mary Drumheller, Domenic Ortiz, Jim Brummel, Val McCullough, Craig & Michele Roberts, Cindy Duwe, Ann Bierbower, Susan Cook, Robert Scott, Rosanna Rojas and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent was Dennis Anderson.

Officer reports:

President: Domain name: Sue reported that our club web page domain needs to be renewed. Vicki Veen is looking into renewing it for a number of years. We lost our original one some years ago because the renewal notification was sent to someone who was not active in the club and it was missed. **Vice-President:** Speaker for November will be Peter Biersdorfer.

Treasurer: Robert did not have current bank balance because he is still working on the paperwork wrap-up from the show and sale.

Secretary/Facebook Chairman: I reported that we now have 2867 likes on our page and that traffic volume was high after the show and sale with many complimentary comments made by those who attended and for the show pictures that were posted.

Affiliate Rep: Sue had a copy of the CSAA board ballot that was in a recent copy of the journal. It was discussed and all members were reminded to vote and mail in their ballots.

Old Business:

Show and Sale Wrap-up:

Venue: It was agreed the location and facilities for the show and sale were excellent. Ann spoke about the need for more room and tables for the show in the future. We voiced our appreciation to Domenic Ortiz and his crew of volunteers who were exceptionally helpful in set-up for both the show and sale. Different venues for next year's show and sale (June 1-3 2018) were discussed in some depth. The exact location for the show and sale next year have yet to be determined.

Checkout procedures: The changes that were instituted worked very well and the longest wait for customers was 20 minutes. The invoice procedure instituted this year worked very well.

Financial report: The club made a profit in the amount of \$7,436.68 as reported by Rob. Expenses for both the show and sale were discussed.

Changes: Several Issues were discussed especially as to the need for better exterior signage for the show and sale and also more room and tables for the show as we had over 300 entries.

Members' sale night: The sale was again a very enjoyable and successful event.

Postcards: Polly reported she sent out 435 reminder cards for this event. She collected monies from the member vendors to offset the cost which was \$72.16 for the club.

New Business:

Clovis Botanical Garden October 21st event: They will be having a Water Wise Plant Sale on this date. Sue will be at the club table for this event and anyone else is welcome to come help too.

(Continued on next page.)

Nominations for 2018: The officer slate will remain the same except for Robert Scott stepping down to finish Michele Robert's board member slot and she will assume the position of treasurer. Ann Bierbower will be leaving the board. Cindy Duwe and Bill Gale will be joining as members of the board.

Anything else?: The high cost of renting our current meeting location was discussed and the need to find an appropriate but less costly location for our meetings was discussed in length. Several members were going to do some investigating around town in this regard. It is important that we find a place that will allow us to keep our library there because having the full library available for borrowing is an important benefit for members.

November board meeting on November 6th will be the annual budget meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m. by President Sue Haffner.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Willoughby, Secretary

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 6th; 6 p.m., 3733 North Sierra Vista Avenue, Fresno

This will be our annual budget meeting. All officers and board members should be present; any club member is welcome to attend.

CLUB WORKSHOP: At the October workshop we looked at plants beginning with S and T: *Senecio*, *Seyregia*, *Sansevieria*, *Stapelia*, *Thelocactus*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Tylecodon*. Bill Gale brought an outstanding display of tillandsias growing (and blooming) on a chicken wire frame. Besides Bill, others with plants to show included, Vickie Veen, Ann Bierbower, Sue Haffner, Susan Cook, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. We also looked at other interesting plants. Dan brought young adenium plants to give away. The November workshop will be Wednesday, Nov. 15th, 6 p.m., at the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library, 3040 N. Cedar in Fresno. We will look at plants starting with U, V and W. We always have a good time at the workshops; more of you should make it a point to join us. You can bring your questions; find out what's going on in other members' collections; hear news of the hobby, etc.



Photos
By
Cindy
Duwe

We have no Brag Table report this time because we had no Brag Table last month. However, this month we are back to normal, so bring some interesting plants to display.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

**Carmen Linares (4th);
Karen Willoughby (7th);
Nancy Jobin (11th); Sue Haffner (14th);
Cathy Seeto (15th); Dan Gale (17th);
Cindy Duwe (20th).**

SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Carol Qualls, Caruthers
Jan Donovan, Fresno
Edie Chaney, Fresno
Susie Markarian, Fresno (Welcome back!)

Several of our members are recovering from surgery or undergoing various treatments and we wish them all speedy returns to health.



EVENTS THIS MONTH

October 28-29, Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
Show & Sale, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail
Gardens Dr., Encinitas; hours, Sat. 9-5; Sun. 10-3.
www.palomarcactus.org

**November 4-5, San Gabriel Valley Cactus &
Succulent Society** 24th Annual Winter Show, Los
Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave.,
Arcadia; hours: 9-4 both days.
www.sgvcss.com

The club library will be back in business this month, so be sure to return your books.

The latest issue of *Aloe*, the journal of the Succulent Society of South Africa (v. 53, no. 1) is a monograph: "Haworthiopsis—an illustrated taxonomy" by Sean D. Gildenhuis. *Haworthiopsis* was established by Gordon Rowley in 2013 to accommodate the species formerly classified under the subgenus *Hexangulares* of the genus *Haworthia*. It includes many of the most familiar haworthias grown by hobbyists.

COW'S HORN AGAVE

Agave bovicornuta is a very attractive landscape plant for our area. It's a medium-sized, non-offsetting species that usually grows wider than tall (about 2-3' tall by 3-4' across) but frequently smaller. The broad leaves are deep green to light or yellowish green, 18-24" long by 4-6" wide, with two sizes of yellow, orange or brown teeth along the margins. These create intricate bud prints.

As you can see in the photo, which is from Frank and Marian Orvis' yard, the plant will begin to send up a 16-23' bloomstalk in the autumn, once it has reached maturity. The stalk will grow slowly over winter then pops out with numerous short side branches bearing bright yellow and green flowers clustered at the branch ends. As this species does not offset, blooming represents the end of its life (except for seeds.)

Agave bovicornuta is native to the rocky slopes of oak and pine forests in eastern and southern Sonora, southwest Chihuahua and northern Sinaloa in the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico, at altitudes of 3000 to 6000 feet.

Given its habitat, the "Cow's Horn" is hardy to around 20 degrees. Although drought tolerant, it grows better when given supplemental water in summer. Plants placed in full sun in our area can be subject to sunburn, so are best grown in filtered light or at an eastern exposure.

If you're interested in agaves generally, you should consult "Agaves: living sculptures for landscape and containers" by Greg Starr, or other books on this subject in our club library.



Sue

FRESNO FAIR REPORT

The display of cacti and succulents at the Fair this year looked very nice. Even though entries were a bit down from last year, I don't think the public noticed. Congratulations to Dwight Horiuchi, who won Best Cactus with *Ariocarpus agavoides*, and Bill Gale, who won Best Succulent with *Operculicaria decaryi*. Bill also won sweepstakes in succulents; Sue Haffner won sweepstakes in cacti.

Other club members who exhibited plants were Rudy Rulloda, Val McCullough, Cindy Duwe, Chuck Thew, Alyssa Ortega and Roz Tampone. They all won ribbons.

As was true last year, some classes had no entries: Class 21 (*Espostoa*); 33 (variegated cactus); 37 (cactus collection); 41 (*Ophthalmophyllum*, *Conophytum*); 59 (*Othonna*, *senecio*); 61 (*Aeonium*); 67 (*Graptopetalum*, *Pachyphytum*); 68 (*Sedum*, *Sempervivum*); 82 (*Calibanus*). The lack of entries in some of the leaf succulent classes can probably be attributed to the heat spells of this past summer. I know that plants of mine that had never been heat-scorched before showed a lot of damage this year.

Entering exhibits in the Fair is fun—and you do win a bit of money. Why not consider it next year? Note the classes that had no entries and start now planning your entries.

Sue

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On behalf of the Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society, I wish to express my appreciation to the following club members and supporters for volunteering as plant monitors during the 2017 Big Fresno Fair: Greg & Cori Auger, Susan Cook, Cindy Duwe, Dan & Bill Gale, Sue Haffner, Dwright Horiuchi, Susan House, Nancy Jobin, Val McCullough, Paul & Madeleine Mitchell, Linda Olivas, Domenic, Liz & Chris Ortiz, Rosanna & James Rojas, Viv & Ken Shinkawa, Roz Tampone, and Charles Thew.

**Rudy Rulloda, Chair
Fresno Fair Exhibit**

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NOVEMBER FUN FACTS: The name 'November' is believed to derive from 'novem', Latin for the number nine. In the ancient Roman calendar November was the ninth month after March. Among many other things, November is Model Railroad Month, Fun with Fondue Month, Peanut Butter Lovers Month, Sweet Potato Awareness Month (Surely we are all aware of sweet potatoes?) November in the Northern Hemisphere is the seasonal equivalent to May in the Southern Hemisphere. Remember that when you are observing your South African plants.

Handy hint: when working in the greenhouse or garden, around water, slip your cell phone in a zip-lock bag and zip it up. Easy to see, turn on and hear.

A powerful rainstorm swept through Death Valley National Park recently, bringing winds of up to 100 miles an hour and fast and furious lightning bolts, said Park Superintendent Mike Reynolds. It only lasted 10 minutes, but the microburst blew the roof off a historic building as well as the windows from several cars. What was most striking, Reynolds said, was watching the dumpsters blowing down the road—an extreme form of trash pickup. (From *High country news*, Oct. 2, 2017.)

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, frojas96@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.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2018

The election of officers 2018 will be conducted at the November meeting. The Nomination Committee is proud to announce its' recommendations, which are shown in the sample ballot reproduced in the adjacent column. Members of the nominating committee, Rosanna Rojas and Cindy Duwe made an effort to contact eligible members to determine if they had any interest in holding elective office. The committee may nominate more than one candidate for the same position if that person expresses an interest and is found to be qualified. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the meeting. Proposed nominees must be qualified under the Standing Rules, demonstrate an understanding of the responsibilities of the office and express a willingness to serve.

We will try to consume as little time as possible with the election process, so as to not interfere with the evening's program. Ballots will be passed out as soon as there has been an opportunity to see if there are to be any nominations from the floor. **Please bring a pencil or a pen with which to mark your ballot.** After all of the candidates have been introduced, we will ask for a voice vote to elect those unopposed candidates. You will then mark your ballot for the remaining unfilled offices, fold it and **after your name is checked from the eligibility list**, deposit your ballot in the ballot box. **Please wear your membership badge for quick identification.** When the balloting is concluded the regular meeting will be continued and the Committee will go to a quiet location and count the votes. Any candidate or their designee will be allowed to observe the counting procedures. A Statement of Results form will be filled out and signed by the election officials. The ballots and a copy of the results statement will be sealed in a large envelope and preserved for a year. It may only be opened by an order from the Board of Directors in the event of some controversy.

The results of the election will be announced at the conclusion of the meeting's program presentation.

SECRET BALLOT

MARK THE SQUARE(S) OF YOUR CHOICE

If you wish to vote for a candidate that has been nominated from the floor you must write their name in the appropriate space provided.

PRESIDENT:

- Sue Haffner

VICE PRESIDENT:

- Rosanna Rojas

TREASURER:

- Michele Roberts

SECRETARY:

- Karen Willoughby

AFFILIATE REPRESENTATIVE CSSA:

- Fred Gaumer

AT LARGE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

VOTE FOR NO MORE THAN FOUR CANDIDATES

- Bill Gale
 Cindy Duwe
 Robert Scott

