

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

http: www.fresnocss.org

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 36 No. 3

March 2018

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 1st, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

**PROGRAM: PROPAGATION OF SUCCULENTS FROM SEED
AT THE UC DAVIS BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY**

PRESENTER: ERNESTO SANDOVAL

Ernesto and Company have been experimenting with various techniques for propagating succulents from seed and want to share these techniques and tips for better seed germination. If you haven't tried growing from seed or if you are looking for ways to perhaps increase your success rate, Ernesto thinks you'll appreciate this visual tour of propagation of plants much Welwitschia, Aloes, Cacti, Dorstenia, Othonna, Mesembs and more.



Ernesto has been Director over the last 27 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. He has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity-filled gardens. 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.

Let's give Ernesto a warm welcome back!

Plants: Ernesto will be bringing plants for purchase.

~~ DINNER ~~

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

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

**Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, February 28th
to make reservations.
Phone: (559) 999-0017
Email: rfojas96@gmail.com**

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

This month our club activities kick into high gear. First up is the Fresno Home & Garden Show at the Fresno Fairgrounds, March 2-4. We always need members to help out, even if it's just for a couple of hours. This is a big event, attended by thousands of people. It provides great exposure for the club. See Robert Scott for more information.

On Saturday, March 24th, we'll have an information table at the Clovis Botanical Garden's "Spring into your Garden Festival" and plant sale. The event is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., but there is a members-only buying opportunity from 9 to 10 a.m. It would be nice if several members would volunteer to staff the table. You just have to greet the public, hand out information about the club, answer questions on succulents, etc.

Last month a technical glitch prevented Eunice Thompson from presenting her program. She felt terrible about it but these things can happen. To make partial amends she donated a bunch of plants to the raffle. This month we will hear one of our favorite speakers, Ernesto Sandoval. I hope we see many of you there.

In this newsletter we present an article by Roz Tampone that she wrote last fall after entering plants in our annual show, which we held in September last year. I hope you will read it and be inspired to think of entering the June show this year. Maybe you think you don't have plants worthy of entry. But survey your collection; select a few plants to spiff up and see how they look. Or employ your artistic side and make a dish garden or enter a painting or a craft. It's fun!

We're still looking for someone to take over the refreshment duties at the monthly meetings. This means getting the box of supplies out of the storage room, making coffee and helping clean up the table after the meeting. It doesn't mean that you have to bring goodies. On that subject it's been suggested that we do as many other club do and assign refreshments alphabetically. Let's give it a try. For this month, we ask members with surnames beginning with A through C bring goodies for the break.

Thanks very much to Karen Wood and Henry Coggan for vacuuming the room last month. It was a big help.

See you at the meeting, *Sue*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF PAUL MITCHELL:**

Saturday, March 3; 1:00 p.m.

**Unitarian-Universalist Church of Fresno,
2672 E. Alluvial, Fresno**



Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Board Meeting February 5, 2018

Meeting called to order by President Sue Haffner at 6:02 pm. In attendance were: Rob Scott, Cindy Duwe, Rosanna Rojas, Roz Tampone, Fred Gaumer, Marilyn Carter, Bil Gale, Polly Dunklin, Michele & Craig Roberts and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent: Jim Brummel.

Items on the agenda:

Officer reports:

President: Nothing new to report.

Vice-President: Discussed upcoming speakers. Ernesto Sandoval will be speaking in March.

Treasurer: Michele gave a review of 2017 finances.

Affiliate Representative: No report.

Old Business:

2018 Home & Garden Show, March 2-4

Vendors

Advertising

Club Sale table

Sell T-shirts and books

Sign-ups will continue at next meeting.

Bus Trip: Various locations were suggested including Ruth Bancroft Garden and Poot's Nursery. No decisions as to location or date yet.

Affordable Meeting room

New Business:

Clovis Botanical Garden "Spring into your garden" is March 24th, 9-2. Sue represents the club. Others are welcomed to attend.

Spring (or Summer) Picnic,

Book Sale.,

Refreshments at monthly meetings (assign A-Z?),

Officer Gifts, Plants or pots.

March Board meeting will be moved to March 12th. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm. If you would like further information on any of these items please speak with an officer or board member.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

BOARD MEETING:

Monday, March 12th, 6 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno.

All members are welcome to attend.

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.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

**Michele Roberts (3rd); Veone Gale,
Claudia Carlson (22nd); Janet Brumm (28th)**

COMING EVENTS

Fresno Home & Garden Show, March 2-4; Fresno Fairgrounds; hours: Friday 11-7; Saturday 10-7; Sunday 10-6

Orange County C&S Society show & sale, March 22-24, Anaheim United Methodist Church, www.occss.org

Clovis Botanical Garden "Spring into your Garden Festival", Saturday, March 24; hours, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Monterey Bay Area Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista Community Hall, 10 San Jose St, San Juan Bautista; hours, Saturday 9-5; Sunday 9-4. www.mbsucculent.org

And if you're looking into the future, this year's **Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference** will be held in St Louis, June 21-24; www.hscactus.org/mid-states

Roz Tampone will be presenting two programs at the Home & Garden Show: "Hypertufa", Friday, March 2nd, 1:00 p.m., and "Container Gardening", Sunday, March 4th, 1:30 p.m. These will be in the Junior Exhibit Bldg, where the garden societies are having their shows and sales.

A Box Wrangler steps forward: Charlene Stebles offered to store the boxes and flats we will need for our June Show and Sale. Be on the lookout for suitable boxes and bring them to the club meetings. Charlene will collect them. Thanks very much, Charlene.

When you travel off to plant nurseries or to shows or gardens why not **share your photos** with the rest of us? We would all love to see them. We could use a few in the newsletter now and then or distribute them to the membership. Email them to: Mary Ann, maryann@maracast.com or Sue, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu.

NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE: We had a nice selection of Brag plants to look at. Fred Gaumer brought *Phyllocactus bulbocalyx* and *Phyllobolus resurgens*; Bill Gale contributed *Sarcocaulon herrii* and a billbergia; Mark Muradian exhibited *Pachycormus discolor* and *Echinocereus lindsayii*; Nancy Jobin brought two blooming adeniums; Dennis Anderson showed *Ferocactus fordii*, *Pachycereus pringlei* and *Machaerocereus eruca* (the "Creeping Devil"); Charlene Stebles brought a blooming euphorbia; Madeleine Mitchell showed an interesting *Escobaria strobiliformis*; Roz Tampone displayed a heart-shaped hypertufa pot with an aloe and some haworthias growing in it. Very nicely done. We thank all those who brought plants and to Fred for keeping things organized. Let's all try to bring something of interest to this month's table.

CLUB WORKSHOP: We had great participation in the February workshop. Bringing plants for discussion were Dennis Anderson, Karen Willoughby, Val McCullough, Henry Coggan, Nancy Jobin, Roz Tampone, Polly Dunklin, Sue Haffner, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Eddie Etheridge, Jack Fleming, Tom Meyer and Dan Gale. We looked at plants in genera C and D: *Copiapoa*, *Coryphantha*, *Cleistocactus*, *Cereus*, *Cintia*, *Ceraria*, *Cussonia*, *Cymbidium*, *Cyphostemma*, *Coleocephalocereus*, *Dyckia*, *Dudleya*, *Denmoza* and *Dorstenia*.

The March workshop will Wednesday, March 21st, at Doris Hooton's home, 3733 N. Sierra Vista, 6:00 p.m.



New in the club library: "Soft Succulents" by Jeff Moore; 290 pages; color photos on every page; a very useful book on some of the leaf succulents that are commonly grown.

All things Melocactus: here's a website that will tell you all you want to know about melos: www.melocactus.eu/en/index.html

March 2, 3, & 4 - The Fresno Home & Garden Show is fast approaching!

This event which is held at the Fresno Fair Grounds brings in thousands of people, making it a wonderful opportunity to promote our club.

At the February meeting we had sign-ups for volunteers to help work this event. It's not too late to sign up and we can always use the extra help. If you would like to work for a few hours please contact Robert. We will also have sign ups at the March meeting. Volunteers get a pass for free admission to the event, as well as free parking. The club provides lunch for the volunteers every day! Please think about donating a few hours to help the club. It's fun and easy work!

We are also still taking spots for club members who would like to sell at the Home Show. This event brings in a lot of people so it's a great way to sell your extra plants. If you only have a small amount of plants to sell this is your only chance until the Members Sale Night in September. Please contact Robert if you would like to be a vendor.

Thank you, Robert Scott

559-960-3665 rob_scott85@yahoo.com



Thoughts About the FCSS Show and Sale by Roz Tampone

When I heard that the FCSS bus trip was going to the Central California Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale in San Luis Obispo, I was delighted. It was the first succulent and cactus show I had attended besides the Fresno Fair. While I was there, I realized all the hard work that went into making that show and sale go smoothly.

With that in mind, I was a little unsure of how ours would go. But, I was pleasantly surprised with the success of our show this past weekend. I don't think people realize all the planning that goes into making a successful event. Getting the venue, contacting the vendors, ordering tables, tablecloths, ordering ribbons, gathering boxes, publicity, getting judges, designing and printing the order forms for the plant sale, set-up on Friday, food sign-ups for the weekend, contacting members to work the show, and clean up at the end. I'm sure I left many things out, but that just gives you an idea of how much planning and preparation goes into making a show and sale.

Since this was our first show in 55 years, I thought it was very professionally done, showcasing the many beautiful and unusual plants that club members own. The venue of the Clovis Veteran's Memorial Building was a spacious location. In addition, the quality of the plants and pots for the sale was stunning. Congratulations to Ann for all of her hard work organizing the show. And, to Robert for organizing the amazing plant sale. Thanks to everyone else that helped out and made light work of the weekend.

Well, what do you think of this? I have a suggestion for future FCSS plant sales and shows. What if every club member would donate a 2-4 hour shift to making this event possible. As a member of the Sunnyside Garden Club, when they have their biennial flower show at the Sunnyside Country Club, **every member** has to join a committee. As a Master Gardener, it's not required but we are highly encouraged to help with the annual Spring Garden Tour. We know that some people will have other commitments for that weekend, or may be sick or unable to participate. But, we have close to 130 members, and I bet only 40 members came to help out at the show and sale. If every member volunteered just a few hours to help, it would make it easier for those organizing the event. It seems like a small donation of time for all the knowledge we receive from the speakers and club members at the meetings and workshops! I would encourage everyone to think about what they can do to make the show and sale successful.



BURRO'S TAIL

Sedum morganianum is a deservedly popular plant for hanging baskets. Its pendant stems are covered with spirals of fleshy, cylindrical, pointed green to gray leaves. On mature plants stems can be over a yard long, but are usually shorter. The rose-colored flowers appear on long pedicels at the stem tips when the drooping stems have reached at least 10" long,

The "Burro's Tail" or "Donkey's Tail" is easy to grow—but not easy to maintain, given the proclivity of the leaves to drop at the slightest provocation. You are frequently left with naked stretches of stem after a plant has been jostled. (Save those dropped leaves, though, as they will root.) It's probably wise to give the plant a protected location. At Lotusland they have large specimens hanging from tree limbs with translucent plastic overhead covers to protect plants from birds and squirrels.

Also called "Burro's Tail" is the closely related species *S. burrito*. Once considered a hybrid, further study has shown it to be a true species. It differs by having rounder leaves and more rigid stems which make an effort to grow outward before assuming a pendulous habit. These characteristics make it easier to handle and less likely to lose its leaves. (The photo opposite is of a nice specimen of *burrito*.)

Sedum morganianum is a "mystery plant", as it is only known from cultivation. It was found in the 1930s growing as a cultivated plant in a village in Veracruz, Mexico. No one has found it in habitat, though many have searched. It is assumed, by its growth habit, that it is either epiphytic or a cliff-dweller. Ray Stephenson, the founder of the Sedum Society, suggests that all currently grown plants are clones of the original discovery. The specific name honors Dr Meredith Morgan, one of the first people to grow it after its discovery.

Sedum burrito was discovered in 1972 growing in habitat in eastern Mexico. As mentioned above it was first thought to be just a variant form, but it was officially described under its present name in 1977.

Good light brings out the best color in the leaves. Good drainage is required; protection from frost; less water in winter. **Sue**

(Photo from "Soft succulents" (2017))

Photos from the workshop.



The bloomstalk of the Orvis' Agave bovicornuta (see the November 2017 newsletter) continues skyward!



SICCOBACCATUS

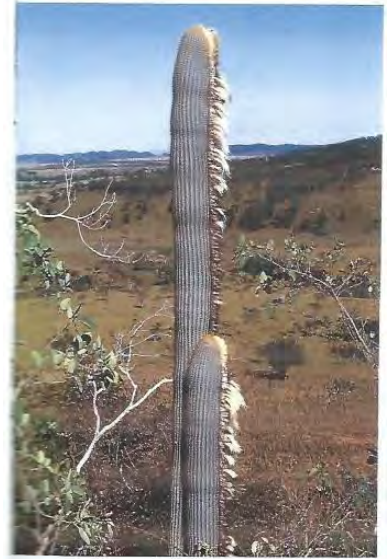
This beautiful blue columnar genus was new to me, found when I was looking through a back issue of the *Cactus and succulent journal* (Jan-Feb 2008). What was new was the name; the first species had been discovered in 1973 and published the following year as *Austrocephalocereus*. Later taxonomists took apart that genus and transferred all the species to different genera (*Coleocephalocereus*, *Espositoopsis*, *Micranthocereus*, *Pilosocereus*.) *Siccobaccatus* ("dry fruit") was established in 1990. Subsequent DNA studies have confirmed that it is a separate genus.

They are solitary columnar plants, bluish with a very woody vascular structure. The continuous, deeply-sunken cephalium begins to develop when the stems reach about 3' in height. It features dense white wool with long yellow or red bristles. In habitat the cephalia are always oriented to the north-west. The white flowers are nocturnal, funnel to bell shaped, pollinated by bats.

Their fruits distinguish them from other cacti. The small blue fruits have a thin, papery wall and remain deeply sunken in the cephalium. When ripe they open at the base allowing the seeds to trickle out into deep fissures of the calcareous rock below. In these hiding places the seeds find suitable conditions to germinate and receive enough protection for their first few years. The seeds exhibit a banana shape that makes them unique among cacti.

Siccobaccatus is endemic to Brazil, growing in broken rocks or limestone outcrops; sometimes at the edge of dry, spiny woodlands, at altitudes of 400-760 meters. They are found in company with bromeliads and such cacti as *Melocactus*. Three species are recognized: *S. dolichospermaticus*, *estesvesii* and *insigniflorus*.) The photo opposite, from the *Cactus and succulent journal*, is of *S. insigniflorus*.

Sue



Cactus and Succulent Society of America - Board Meeting Highlights - January 14, 2018

CSSA held its first meeting of the year on Sunday, January 14 at the Huntington Gardens. We are eager to let our affiliate members know about our current activities and upcoming plans and encourage you to publish this update in your newsletter. Following the December election, the Board welcomes William Wilk, Peter Walkowiak, and Vince Basta as new Directors.

CSSA is pleased to announce that the July, 2019 Convention will be held in San Luis Obispo with the enthusiastic support of the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society. The dates and other details will be announced as soon as contracts are confirmed.

CSSA offers trophies for winners of in the educational display category in affiliate shows. If you would like to offer this trophy, please contact Susan Carpentier at cuervo28@swbell.net and she will provide a trophy to affiliate.

CSSA *Journal* Editor Tim Harvey has compiled a compendium of articles on Aloes that will be sold at the CSSA online shop soon. If well-received, this will be followed by compendia of *Journal* articles on other popular succulent families.

The CSSA website www.cssainc.com is currently undergoing considerable revision and simplification. We are converting to a Google calendar, and are happy to announce your events. In addition, we are unifying the platform to make it easier to keep current. Please watch for these changes and contact M.A.Bjarkman, the Affiliate Chairperson, with your comments or requests. She can be contacted at mabahp@aol.com.