

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 36 No. 5

May 2018

**Next meeting: Thursday, May 3, 2018; 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**



Pyrenacantha malvifolia and Rob

Kenya, Land of Tropical Succulents

Presented by: Rob Skillin

Kenya is a small country in tropical east Africa bisected by the equator. Weather conditions are uniformly warm (70°-90°) and humid along the sandy plains bordering the Indian Ocean. Temperatures are cooler on the higher elevation savannas in the central area (55°-77°), and hot (75°-95°) on the arid northern plains.

In these warm areas there is a great abundance of succulents, many of which are common in enthusiasts' collections – and the weather conditions found here give an important insight into their successful cultivation.

The Great Rift Valley cuts through the country north to south, with many major volcanic features associated with it – these areas can have a much a much higher elevation (Mt Kenya is 17,057') and range from temperate

to very cold. There are two well-defined wet (monsoon) seasons; October through late November, and late March to early June. Along with Tanzania to the south, Kenya is well known for its many world-class wildlife reserves and national parks, but wild animals are not limited to these areas and can often be seen throughout the country.

This month's program will be presented by Rob Skillin and feature habitat photos of the succulents of Kenya from a wide variety of plant families.

Rob's Biography: I have been growing cacti and succulents for 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!

Plants: Rob will be bringing a nice selection of plants for purchase.

(Continued on next page.)

~~ DINNER ~~

SAL' MEXICAN RESTAURANT
7476 North Fresno Street
Fresno, (559) 438-3030
Menu

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

Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, May 2,
to make reservations:
Phone: (559) 999-0017

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

Here we are, approaching mid-year and feeling a little bite of summer already. Of course, this comes as no surprise to us, does it? Those who have long been gardening in the Valley know that it's now time to gird up for the hot season. I hope you have your shade structures already deployed and that you're monitoring your plants for sunburn and similar damage.

As was announced at the last meeting, we have been officially notified by the IRS that our application for 501c3 status has been successful. We believe this means that any donations to the club are tax-deductible. Thanks to Cindy Duwe who got this effort underway. In recent years it had seemed that we had been asked about this every time we turned around. Well, now we are.

Our annual spring/summer picnic is this month—Saturday, May 19th—at Mark Muradian's and Patty Miller's home down in Kings County. I hope many of you can come. If you haven't seen Mark's raised cactus beds and other plantings, you owe it to yourselves to visit. The picnic is a potluck, so we will have a sign-up sheet at this meeting. There is further information elsewhere in the newsletter.

This month's meeting will be the last one before our Show and Sale. Rob and Karen will be looking for even more members to volunteer at least a couple hours during the weekend of June 2-3. You'll have fun; I promise! See you at the meeting,
Sue



The bloomstalk of Frank and Marian's Agave bovicornuta keeps pushing skyward.

Is your agave blooming? If so, and if you can rescue any seeds from the bloomstalk, the CSSA Seed Depot is always looking for some.

Talk to Sue Haffner.

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Board Meeting April 9, 2018

Called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. In attendance were the following: Dominic Ortiz, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Michele & Craig Roberts, Jim Brummel, Marilyn Carter, Fred Gaumer, Rosanna Rojas and myself, Karen Willoughby.

OFFICER REPORTS:

President: No report

Vice-President: Rob Skillin will be our speaker in May.

Treasurer: As reported by Michelle. Still no invoice from DHHSC for room rental has been received.

Affiliate Rep: No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

PICNIC: Will be May 19th at the home of Patty Miller & Mark Muradian. More info will be in the newsletter.

BUS TRIP: Cindy Duwe reports the bus trip will be 9/22 to UC Davis with a stop at Poots Nursery too. More info to come.

CLOVIS BOTANICAL GARDEN SIGN: No decision yet by the garden re: design yet.

MEETING ROOM: No bill received yet. Other venues are still being investigated.

NEW BUSINESS:

IRS LETTER: Sue passed around copies of the letter the club received from the IRS granting the club 5013c status. Discussion of how to acknowledge donations.

MEETING SCHEDULE: The possibility of taking off July was discussed.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER: New one is needed.

SHOW and SALE

SIGN-UPS? EXHIBITORS? Rob reported on the vendors who are coming to the sale.

Show schedule will be in next newsletter. Fred has secured four judges from the Monterey club.

PUBLICITY: Various ideas were discussed.

WHAT ELSE? The idea of getting club business cards was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Next board meeting is scheduled for May 7.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

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**MEMBERS' SALE TABLE:** We always have a table at the sale for plants donated by our members. All the proceeds go to the club. If you have some plants you would be willing to donate, they should be clean and the pots should be clean. All are welcome. Talk to Sue if you have any questions.

**REFRESHMENTS:** If your surname falls between G and L, please bring something for the refreshments table. (Of course, even if your name is outside that section of the alphabet, you can still bring goodies if you wish. We won't complain!)



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Fred Gaumer (2<sup>nd</sup>); Vickie Veen (5<sup>th</sup>);  
Valerie Kissler (7<sup>th</sup>); Don Winton (10<sup>th</sup>);  
Tom Meyer (11<sup>th</sup>); Susan Nagles (13<sup>th</sup>)  
Charlie Nelson (23<sup>rd</sup>); Brian Nagles (24<sup>th</sup>)  
Madeleine Mitchell (28<sup>th</sup>)**

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Visitors to the April meeting: Donna Lee Salwasser, Shirley Arve, Trevor Clayton, Alex Hall.

BOARD MEETING

**The board meeting will be Monday,
May 7th, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista.
All members are welcome to attend.**

COMING EVENTS

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

May 10th National Cactus Day – do something nice for your cactus!

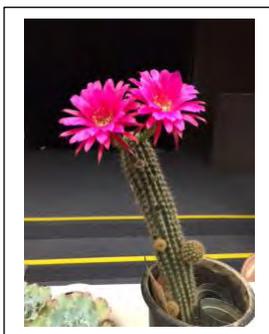
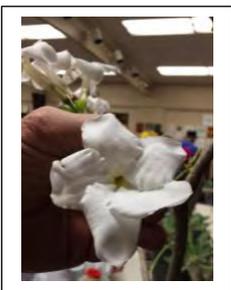
May 19th, Club Summer Picnic!

May 19-20, Carmichael C&S Society, Show & Sale, Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael; hours: Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-3.

May 26-27, Central Coast C&S Society Show & Sale, Ludwick Center, 864 Santa Rosa St, San Luis Obispo; hours, Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4.

JANUARY WORKSHOP: A number of members brought plants to the workshop: Polly Dunklin, Sue Haffner, Eddie Etheridge, Jan Brummel, Jim Brummel, Jack Fleming, Tom Meyer, Bill Gale, Karl Church, Dennis Anderson, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. We looked at gasterias, gymnocalyciums, graptopetalums and haworthias (as the subject of the month was genera starting with G and H). We also looked at other plants: *Sulcorebutia*, *Crassula*, *Sedum*, *Echeveria*, *Pachypodium*, an orchid, *Echinopsis*, *Astrophytum* and *Agave*. Members discussed how they were preparing their plants for summer. Dan brought citrus fruit and strawberries to share, as well as seedlings of *Pachypodium lamerei*. Thanks, Dan!

The May workshop will be Wednesday, May 16th, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. The subject genera will encompass the letters I-J-K. Everyone is welcome. It's a great way to ask your plant questions and get some answers from the experts!



Top pics: Cindy Duwe
Bottom pics: Karen Willoughby

JANUARY BRAG TABLE: Fred Gaumer displayed *Echinocereus ferreirianus v. lindsayi*, *Euphorbia obesa* and *Neoporteria senilis*; Bruce Hargreaves showed *Ariocarpus agavoides*; Debra McFarren brought *Notocactus haselbergii*; Rudy Rulloda showed *Neoporteria senilis* and *Parodia quechua*; Marilyn Carter brought some nice echeverias, *gibbiflora* and *imbricata*; Roz Tampone displayed a new aeonium cultivar, 'Mardi Gras'; Eddie Etheridge showed *Gymnocalycium damsii* and *G. umburmanii*; Bill Gale brought *Pachypodium decaryi*, *P. densiflorum* and *Echinocereus ferreirianus v. lindsayi*. Many thanks to all of them. Members are always welcome to bring plants to the Brag Table. Thanks, as always, to Fred for his lively presentation of the "bragables".

CLUB PICNIC

Make plans to join us Saturday, May 19th, 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, an entree (we haven't decided what yet); iced tea and water. If you would prefer a different beverage, feel free to bring your own. 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.

We will have a silent auction, so you're invited to bring something to donate, or at least be prepared to bid.

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.

We encourage members to carpool, so there will be a signup sheet for this, also.

Hours: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., or so. We plan to start the picnic around noon.

Questions: Sue 292-5624, Mark 584-9118

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### ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

by Karen Willoughby

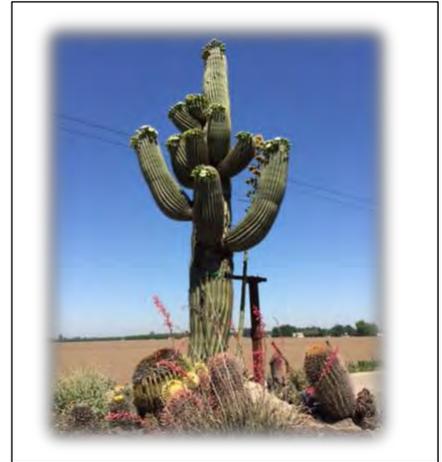
Our second annual show & sale is swiftly approaching. I would like to encourage and challenge everyone to enter at least one or two plants. It's your chance to show off your beautiful plants, win a ribbon, admire other's plants and learn from more experienced growers and exhibitors and purchase new plants, pots and supplies.

If you don't know what your plant is and in which class to enter it, no worries. We will have experts on hand to help you ID and enter the plants in the correct class. Please clean up your plants and pots before entering them. Remove debris from the pot (and spider webs or pet fur) and add a fresh layer of top dressing if used.

Also, consider volunteering at some point during the show and sale. We always need willing bodies at set up and take down and during the event in numerous ways be it sitting at the educational table, cashiering, boxing up purchases, manning the plant hotel, monitoring the show and sale for wandering hands, helping in the kitchen and generally being a friendly presence to encourage the public to ask questions and learn about our fabulous plants and club.

This is our big fundraiser for the club and even though it does seem like we just did this.....September wasn't that long ago....We are back on track with our June events after the show & sale last year.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there! It is always a busy but fun weekend! Please contact Rob or myself about volunteering. We will have sign-up sheets at the May meeting. Let's make this annual event one to remember!



**\*\*\* SHOW SCHEDULE \*\*\*****DIVISION I: CACTI, Individual Potted Specimens**

- 1 ) Ariocarpus, Obregonia
- 2 ) Aztekium, Epithelantha, Geohintonia, Gymnocactus, Ortegocactus, Pelecyphora, Strombocactus, Turbinicarpus
- 3 ) Coryphantha, Echinomastus, Escobaria, Neobesseya, Neolloydia
- 4 ) Thelocactus
- 5 ) Astrophytum
- 6 ) Echinofossulocactus, Ferocactus
- 7 ) Echinocactus
- 8 ) Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
- 9 ) Ancistrocactus, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Toumeyia
- 10 ) Opuntia, Pereskiaopsis, Pterocactus, Tephrocactus
- 11 ) Mammillaria - small, 6" and under pot diameter
- 12 ) Mammillaria, large
  - a) 6"-10" pot diameter
  - b) 10" and over pot diameter
- 13 ) Columnar cacti
- 14 ) Copiapoa
- 15 ) Arequipa, Denmoza, Matucana, Oroya, Submatucana
- 16 ) Eriosyce, Horridocactus, Islaya, Neochilenia, Neoporteria, etc.
- 17 ) Acanthocalycium, Echinopsis, Lobivia, Mila
- 18 ) Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
- 19 ) Eriocactus, Malacocarpus, Notocactus, Parodia, Wigginsia
- 20 ) Gymnocalycium
- 21 ) Buiningia, Discocactus, Melocactus, Uebelmania
- 22 ) Epiphytic cacti
- 23 ) Crest, Monstrose (any with >33%)
- 24 ) Variegates
- 25 ) All other genera
- 26 ) Grown from seed by Exhibitor

**DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS, Individual Potted Specimens**

- 27 ) Argyroderma, Dinteranthus, Lapidaria, Lithops, Pleiospilos
- 28 ) All other Mesembs
- 29 ) Stapeliads: Caralluma, Huernia, Pseudolithos, Trichocaulon, etc.
- 30 ) Other Asclepiads: Brachystelma, Fockea, Gonolobus, Raphionacme, etc.
- 31 ) Andromischus, Crassula
- 32 ) Curcubitaceae: Gerrardanthus, Ibervillea, Kedrostis, Zygosicyos, etc.
- 33 ) Adenia
- 34 ) Dorstenia

- 35 ) Bombax, Ficus
- 36 ) Dudleya, Echeveria, Graptopetalum, Pachyphytum, Tacitus
- 37 ) Orostachys, Rosularia, Sedum, Sinocrassula
- 38 ) Cotyledon, Tylecodon
- 39 ) Aeonium, Greenovia, Kalanchoe, Monanthes, Sempervivum
- 40 ) Composites: Kleinia, Othonna, Senecio, etc.
- 41 ) Aloe
- 42 ) Gasteria (may include variegates)
- 43 ) Astroloba, Haworthia
- 44 ) Euphorbia, from Madagascar
- 45 ) Euphorbia, not from Madagascar
- 46 ) Other Euphorbiaceae: Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.
- 47 ) Adenium, Pachypodium
- 48 ) Portulacaceae: Anacampseros, Avonia, Ceraria, Talinum, etc.
- 49 ) Sansevieria (may include variegates)
- 50 ) Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
- 51 ) Boswellia, Bursera, Commiphora, Fouquieria, Pachycormus
- 52 ) Cissus, Cyphostemma
- 53 ) Agave
- 54 ) Beaucarnea, Calibanus, Dracaena, Nolina, Yucca
- 55 ) Bromeliaceae: Bromeliad, Dyckia, Hecthia, Tillandsia
- 56 ) Dioscorea
- 57 ) Pedaliaceae: Pterodiscus, Sesamothamnus, Uncarina
- 58 ) Crests, Monstrose (any with >33%)
- 59 ) Variegates
- 60 ) Bulbs
- 61 ) Bonsai Succulents
- 62 ) All other genera, pachycaul
- 63 ) All other genera, non-pachycaul
- 64 ) Grown from seed by Exhibitor

**DIVISION III: ARRANGEMENTS**

- 65 ) Cactus Collections (at least 4 individually potted specimens)
- 66 ) Succulent Collections (at least 4 individually potted specimens)
- 67 ) Dish Gardens
- 68 ) Miniatures (3" inside pot diameter or less - cactus or succulent)

**DIVISION IV: ALLIED INTERESTS**

- 69 ) Photography, Crafts, etc.
- 70 ) Educational

## SHOW INFORMATION

### PURPOSES OF THE SHOW

- To advance the knowledge of cacti and succulents, their habitat, and role in nature.
- To further the appreciation of these fascinating and unique plants through display to members and the general public.
- To produce better growers and better plants by identifying and recognizing superior plants.

### EXHIBITOR CLASSIFICATIONS

The show is open to members of the Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society.

- NOVICE: Competing for under 5 yrs in CSSA-affiliated shows, or have not won a Division award.
- ADVANCED: Members no longer qualifying for the above class.
- OPEN: Nurserymen, or persons earning a substantial income from the sale of plants.

### SHOW RULES

- The number of entries by any member or in any class is not limited. Members may submit multiple entries in the same class. No entry may be entered in more than one class.
- Exhibitors must own the plants shown for at least six months, except displays & dish gardens.
- Vendors who sell at the show must exhibit at least 10 plants in the show.
- Plants must be free from pests, diseases, and insecticide odor.
- All plants must be properly named on the entry card. Plants may be listed by genus if the species is unknown.
- Grafted plants are accepted in any class, with stock and scion to be judged as a whole. Hybrids must be so labeled and may be entered in either of their parents' groups. Cristate, monstrose, and variegated plants may be entered as such or in their appropriate category. Grafted plants should be noted on entry tags.
- Categories may be combined or separated at the discretion of the Show Committee.
- Division IV, Allied Interests, operates as a family division. Children and spouses are encouraged to participate.
- The Show Committee will settle all disputes and all decisions will be final. The Show Committee will consist of the Show Chair, the Clerks Chair, and the Club President.

### JUDGING

- Judging takes place Saturday from 8:00 until done. The Show opens to the public around 10:00. Novice and Advanced plants will be judged against other plants entered in their respective categories, while Open plants will be judged against perfection. Plants of equal merit may be given equal awards.
- Condition and cultural perfection are the most factors in placing, followed by size and degree of maturity. Rarity of plant and difficulty of culture are also factors, followed in importance by staging and nomenclature.

*DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL*

### AWARDS 2017

- Awards are chosen by the judges. No cash awards will be given. Exhibitors receiving the awards below will receive a ceramic pot suitable for cacti or succulents.

Best Cactus - Novice

Best Succulent - Novice

Best Cactus - Advanced

Best Succulent - Advanced

Best Cactus - Open

Best Succulent - Open

Best Cactus Collection (Class 65)

Best Succulent Collection (Class 66)

Best Allied Interests

### SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Chair: Karen Willoughby

Club President: Sue Haffner

Clerks Chair: Marilyn Carter



**HESPEROYUCCA WHIPPLEI:** When you drive over the Grapevine down to Los Angeles you have no doubt noticed this plant on the hillsides and the road cuts at the top of the grade. Its bloom stalk rises high above the other chaparral type vegetation of the area. “The Lord’s Candle” is one of various common names for it.

*Hesperoyucca whipplei* was named by Engelmann in 1892, but has been included in the genus *Yucca* for many years. Only recent DNA investigation has shown that Engelmann was correct and that the plant is in a separate—though closely related—genus. The specific name honors Lt. Amiel Weeks Whipple (1818-1863), an army surveyor and topographic engineer who helped map the West. A number of plants were named after him.

The plant is native to southern California and Baja California, Mexico, mainly found in chaparral, coastal sage scrub and oak woodlands at altitudes from sea level to about 7,000'. Like the rest of the California flora, it has adapted to fire, sprouting quickly

from the remains of burned plants. It forms a stemless cluster of rigid leaves, up to 3' long but usually smaller, which end in a sharp point. The leaf edges are finely saw-toothed. The bloom stalk grows rapidly and can reach the height of 9' but is usually shorter. It produces a large number of white to purple blooms which are pollinated exclusively by the California yucca moth.

*Hesperoyucca whipplei* is used in xeriscaping in Southern California but is reportedly difficult to cultivate out of its normal range. **Sue**

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COIR: What is this product that some people are experimenting with in their potting mixes? Coir is a byproduct of the coconut industry, the fibers that are separated from the husk of the coconut, soaked to loosen, then dried. The resulting product is a crumbly material that retains moisture yet is resistant to rotting and decomposition. It is appropriate as a substitute for peat moss. Would you use coir in a cactus mix? No, but you might try it in a mix for epiphytes or some other leaf succulents.

From Debbie Barker, Roseville
Better Gardens Club



From Golden
gardens e-news,
the newsletter of
the California
Garden Clubs, Inc.