

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 36 No. 8

August 2018

**Next meeting: Thursday, August 2, 2018; 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

Succulent Adventures in Southern Namibia

Presenter: Peter Beiersdorfer



Namibia is a country of exquisite beauty with fascinating, expansive landscapes and enthralling succulents, including many caudex forming plants. Peter's talk will describe the sights and experiences during a three-week, self-guided trip to the deserts of southern Namibia. He will show plants photographed in habitat and rarely seen



in presentations, such as *Othonna furcata*, *Pelargonium crassicaule*, *Avonia papyraceae*, *Cyphostemma bainsii*, *Adenia penchuelli*, and *Laryleachia cactiformis*. Spectacular wind-swept dunes in the Namib desert are host to the rare and aptly named *Monsonia ignorata* and *Euphorbia namibensis*, while baobab-like *Moringa ovalifolia* and *Aloidendron dichotoma* dot the mountains. The fog-swept coastal areas feature lava outcrops that are home to *Psammophora modesta*, and huge lichen fields. Not to forget the amazing and wonderful *Welwitschia mirabilis*, some up to 1500 years old! The talk includes playful works of art at the desert lodges and unexpected encounters with desert animals.



Peter has undertaken 9 trips to southern Africa. His passion for South African succulents started during his first visit to the area in 2003. However, he has grown cacti since moving to Livermore 25 years ago, where he works at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory as a physicist. He is a participant and contributor to the shows and sales of five cactus and succulents clubs in northern California.

PLANTS: Peter will be bringing plants for purchase.

~~ DINNER ~~

**BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse
715 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, (559) 570-1900**

[Menu](#)

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

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

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

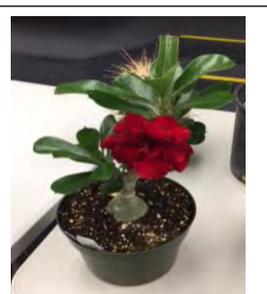
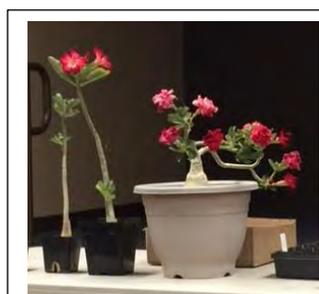
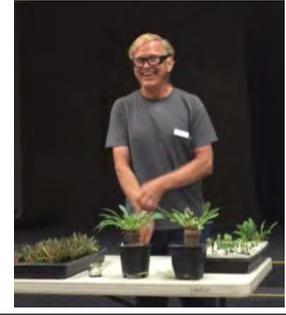
As I write this we're in a midst of a hammering summer heat wave. We need to keep an eye on our plants, as they may be showing signs of stress: yellowing, leaves turning inward, etc. Move potted plants into more shady areas, if possible. Maybe throw a piece of shade cloth over a plant in the ground. I have noticed some of my agaves are showing tight centers; they will relax when the temperatures moderate—we all will.

We had a very enjoyable and informative program last month; many thanks to Tom Meyer, Karl Church and Bill Gale for their presentations. The large audience seemed very interested and attentive.

In September we will have our annual Member's Sale Night, wherein, in lieu of a regular program, members who wish to sell plants, pots, etc. can have space to sell. Sellers will be restricted to 2 tables, due to space limitations in the room, even if you bring your own tables. If you have only a few things to sell, you can share a table with someone else. If interested, you can sign up at this meeting. Once we know how many sellers there are we can come up with a room layout.

Just a housekeeping note: we need to vacuum or sweep the room after our meetings. I want to thank Jim Brummel for bringing his shop vac last month. It *seems* that our gravel, etc., was too much for the DHHSC'S old vacuum, so now we need to supply our own. If any of you have such a vacuum that you are no longer using and would like to donate it to the club, it would be gratefully received.

Hope to see you at the meeting, *Sue*



Photos by
Karen Willoughby

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Fresno Fair – Update

By Rudy Rulloda, Fresno Fair Coordinator

With the opening of the Fresno Fair around the corner, there are several items need to be addressed:

Fresno Fair will receive your plants on Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30, 2018. Judging will take place on Tuesday, October 2 at 9 am. Judges will judge on the following criteria – cultural perfection (60%), nomenclature (10%), degree of maturity (10%), staging (10%), and difficulty of culture (10%) making a grand total of 100%.

Since the Fresno Fair will start on Wednesday, October 3 and our club meeting will be on Thursday, October 4, the list for plant monitors will be provided at our September club meeting. Volunteers will answer questions from the public about the plants (need not be an expert on plants), distribute information on caring of succulents and cacti, and club flyers about our club and its activities and events and membership application. Plant monitors will need to provide two hours at the plant area in order to receive a parking permit and entry ticket to the Fair grounds. Once your two hours are up, you are free to enjoy the fair. However, if you signed up for over six hours, on different days, you'll have to take your photo at Jennifer Waite's (Superintendent) office (at the Greenhouse) for your badge. You'll only receive parking permits. Those who sign up for Wednesday, October 3, I'll mail your parking permit and entry ticket to you. The rest I'll hand out parking permits and entry tickets at our October club meeting. At least one or two volunteers are needed for each two hours shift.

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### MAMMILLARIA PECTINIFERA

This is a beautiful, distinctive little mammillaria. Its tightly packed tubercules and comb-like spines on a short cylindrical stem give it an overall white appearance. The flowers are whitish to shell pink, 2-3 cm. in diameter.

*Mammillaria pectinifera* is native to two small areas in the state of Puebla, Mexico. It has for years been considered threatened in habitat due to mining of rock for construction, rubbish dumping, cattle grazing and illegal collecting. A 2017 research study found genetic problems in the extant population which could lead to its extinction. The species is protected from export on Appendix I of CITES.

Some books describe the species as hard to grow. However, Elton Roberts writes: "I keep the plants dry over the winter; have them in my regular soil mix. Since getting rid of the limestone and changing from alkaline water to acidic water the plants have grown very well. Give a good watering and then allow the soil to dry before watering again. I give the plants good light and a little shading from the afternoon heat. The white spines reflect most of the heat back away from the body and the bright light keeps the plant growing good with nice dense spines. The habitat of the plants is at about 6,200' elevation. I have not had any problems with the plants taking temperatures down to 35F as long as the soil is dry." **Sue**



(Photos by Elton Roberts)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Rudy Rulloda (2<sup>nd</sup>); Howard McLachlin (10<sup>th</sup>); Jeanette Heinrichs, Sherrie Evans (13<sup>th</sup>); Jourdain Solis, Ashley Ouimet (19<sup>th</sup>); Frances Cardenas (22<sup>nd</sup>); Bob Carter, Nicki Bradford (25<sup>th</sup>); Lisa Brew (28<sup>th</sup>); Rosa Reitzel (31<sup>st</sup>).



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SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to Alice Rodriguez on the passing of her mother.



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**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

RanDee Banovich, Clovis  
Shellie Estes, Clovis  
Jackie and Darien Medlock, Fresno

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VISITORS LAST MONTH:

Jamie Slater, Kathleen Sebetka, Jackie Medlock,
Kayla Thomas, Janet Joslin, Alexander Ginther,
Robert Castro, Michael Braun, Sandra Armendariz.

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Attendance last month: 80

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BIG EVENT THIS MONTH

**33rd Annual Inter-City
Show & Sale**, August 12-13,
Los Angeles County Arboretum
301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days
www.intercityshow.com

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**MASTER GARDENER TRAINING:**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Master Gardener training class, through August 31<sup>st</sup>. For information and applications: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno> 559.241-7535

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LIBRARY BOOK SALE: August 10-12, Betty Rodriguez Regional Library, 3040 N. Cedar, Fresno; hours: Friday & Saturday, 9-5; Sunday, 12-5. FILL A BAG FOR \$5.00!

BOARD MEETING:

Monday, August 6th; 6:00 p.m., 3733 N. Sierra Vista. Any member is welcome to attend.

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**ADENIUMS:** If you are looking for more information on adeniums after last month's program, check out Mark Dimmitt's adenium page: [www.adenium.tucsoncactus.org](http://www.adenium.tucsoncactus.org) Mark Dimmitt is rightfully called 'Mr. Adenium' in the U.S. He was among the first to publicize these plants and is one of the authors of "Adenium: sculptural elegance, floral elegance."

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There's a little-known Internet site where you can find information on world sites: coordinates, altitude, zoom-in maps, even the weather: www.fallingrain.com/world/index.html Choose the country, then the state, then the town.

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Another of interest:

[www.maps-of-mexico.com](http://www.maps-of-mexico.com)

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Here's the latest view of the Orvis' sad end of the blooming Agave bovicornuta. You can see from the photos below it is nearing maturity as the base leaves are turning red.



JULY BRAG TABLE: Bruce Hargreaves brought *Trichocereus pachanoi*; Brian Nagles exhibited *Cyanotis somaliensis*; Ana and Oscar Ramirez brought two crested plants, an echeveria and *Sedum treleasei*; Bill Gale showed two crests: *Euphorbia trigona* and *Pachypodium gracilis*; Mark Muradian brought *Aztekium ritteri*, *Obregonia denegrii* and *Ferobegria x grusonii* from Jurgen Menzel; Fred Gaumer showed *Senecio deflersii*, *Sarcocaulon crassicaule*, *Frailea castanea* (two of 'em) and *Gymnocalycium bodenbenderianum*; Nancy Jobin brought an adenium with a red bloom showing 4 layers of petals (a "quad"); Dan Gale exhibited a flat of pachypodiums, a crested euphorbia, x *Myrtilocalycium* 'Polyp', and a monstrose *Leuchtenbergia principis*. (Looks like it was a night for crests and monsters.)

Thanks to all who brought plants, and to Fred for serving as emcee.



JULY WORKSHOP: A lively group met on July 18th for the workshop. We were to examine plants in genera beginning with N and O. Bringing examples were: Jack Fleming, Sue Haffner, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Dennis Anderson, Tom Meyer and Dan Gale. We looked at *Neochilenia*, *Neoporteria*, *Notocactus*, *Operculacaria*, *Opuntia* and *Ortegocactus*. Also on display: *Adenium*, *Abrometelia* and *Euphorbia*. A spirited discussion about how to deal with scale on plants veered close to being rowdy. Hey, guys, when everyone is talking at once, we can't hear what anyone is saying. (I hope we didn't frighten our visitors.) Jack brought plants of "Cuban oregano" to give away and Dan brought *Agave americana* v. *mediopicta* fa. 'Alba' plants and pads of a small growing *opuntia* to share. Thanks, guys. We will look at plants in genera starting with P and Q (even tho there's only one genus in Q for both cacti and succulents: *Quiabentia* and *Quaqua*.) The August workshop will be Wednesday, August 15th, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. All members are welcome.



Photos: Brag: Karen Willoughby
Workshop: Cindy Duwe

The 2018 CSSA Show by Fred Gaumer

I really like this show. And this year it was especially good. The Huntington is always a treat and the weather was exceptional, with temperatures in the mid 80's! This would have been a great year to visit the gardens. There is a gathering of succulent growers in January when the temperatures are cool and the aloes are in bloom. But this is the season to see cacti and other summer active plants at their best. As you pass through the main entrance the succulent garden is off to the left and down a hill. July is usually not the month you would like to have your eyeballs bugging out and your tongue swinging in the wind from looking at the magnificent specimens. (Sorry, if you are too young to remember the Warner Brother cartoons.) Around every turn is something else to admire and visualize it in a pot in your back yard. My scheme for beating the heat is to go to the art museum for a look at some of the world's greatest works of art or continue on through the gardens for a view of nature's art. Although there is a definite slope down to the cactus garden, I don't recall there being a noticeable incline to make it back around to the main entrance. At the end of the loop is the Chinese Tea Garden where my mind could drift away for hours. And there's more, a cloud forest green house that only lacks exotic birds and screaming monkeys, a children's garden where Alice and a rabbit would not seem out of place, a sea of lawn without a piece of litter and no blade of grass pointing off at an odd angle and so much more..... Hats off to the Huntington crew!!



It really is a special place but we're here for the CSSA show. There are no categories for beginner or advanced growers only an open class. The people who bring their plants here must have the feeling that theirs' are the best. I don't mean to say that they puff up and walk with an air of superiority but they must have a quiet assuredness that their plants for display are something special. I am amazed as they pass me with a cart load of treasures! I always see something I have never seen before because of rarity or difficulty of cultivation or degree of maturity. There is no pre-registration so most of the cards telling the categories, what kind of plants they are, and who owns them are filled out on tables outside the show room. As the plants sit in boxes on these tables they are given their final grooming. Then off to the show bench they go. There are so many super beautiful plants that there is surely a real challenge for the judges.

The plant sale is super great as well. There are plants that I have never seen for sale before and often at surprisingly reasonable prices. The plants being sold are top notch, some for beginners and some for more experienced growers. There are lots of choices of fantastic pots offered for purchase. Some are small, some not; some expensive, some are not. All will last more than a lifetime if you don't drop them. Quite unlike some plants you might buy.

I might mention that show opens on Saturday morning. All the trophies and ribbons are given. There is an award table crowded with spectacular entries. But, the sale opens on Friday morning. To avoid getting in the way of vendors still setting up and also to keep a passageway open for the Huntington staff, the people (the herd) there to buy plants are kept across the street until opening time. If, while you are standing in line, you notice there are people behind you with helmets on let them by. When they announce that the sale is open try to keep up. If you fall do your best to protect your head and upper body. If you are anywhere near the edge of the stampede try to roll out of the way. And be prepared to spend more money than you planned. Many vendors had to re-stock for Saturday morning!

This event and the winter gathering is free to CSSA affiliated cactus and succulent societies with your club badge and a sticker from the Huntington. Like all shows and sales, it is moved forward by volunteers. I volunteered to help. I did a little bit of arranging show plants into their proper categories and correcting display cards, picking up litter, answering questions, guiding people to the plants of their dreams, and kept an eye out in the sales area. Clothing with cactus prints were very fashionable there that weekend! All tasks were very easy. And for these very easy jobs I got a cool t-shirt, a nice lunch, a chance to view the sales area before the herd arrived. There is no shopping or gathering of sale plants before opening. But I was in the sales area in a protected position as the mighty herd approached.

MAN, THOSE MANGAVES!

Mangaves are intergeneric hybrids between a *Manfreda* and an *Agave*. The first known hybrid was identified by Carl Shoenfeld of Yucca Do Nursery in Hempstead, TX. In the late 1990s, he was botanizing in Mexico and collected seed from a plant he called *Manfreda undulata* (possibly *M. variegata*). When the seed germinated in his nursery, two of the seedlings showed incredible vigor, compared to the rest of the bunch. Grown to maturity, the plants developed 3' wide clumps of broad, thick leaves with intense burgundy spotting. During a visit to Yucca Do, Tony Avent of Plant Delights Nursery saw the plants and suggested that a nearby *Agave celsii* must have crossed with the parent *Manfreda* in the wild. Tony and Carl coined the name *X Mangave* to designate the hybrid, making it the first documented hybrid between *Manfreda* and *Agave*. This first hybrid was given the name 'Macho Mocha' and was introduced in 2004 by Yucca Do and Plant Delights.



(Photo from the Plant Delights spring 2018 catalog.)

Now there are many *X Mangave* cultivars available. Tony Avent has a breeding program at Plant Delights, and he is working with Hans Hansen of Walters Gardens in Michigan, the nation's leading grower of wholesale perennials. Hansen is crossing manfredas with various agaves and oversees a tissue culture program.

Opposite is 'Electric Cheetah', a new introduction, a hybrid created from *Agave bovicornuta* and a manfreda. It forms a 10" tall by 2' wide rosette of glossy green leaves with large purple spots. The leaves are edged with tiny bright red teeth.

Mangaves are much faster growers compared to their pollen parent agaves. They can reach flowering size in 2 to 7 years, compared to between 7 and 25 years for agaves, depending on genetics. The hardiness of mangaves is also dependent on their genetics. Cultivars developed from *Agave attenuata*, for instance, might not be frost tolerant in our area. Generally these plants die after flowering, some producing offsets, some not. They can be grown in the ground or in pots.

An early cultivar, 'Bloodspot' (or 'Blood Spot'), which some members have, is a hybrid of Japanese origin, a cross of *Agave macroacantha* and *Manfreda maculosa*. Below you can see pictures of Mary Ann Villegas' plant, which bloomed several years ago. The main rosette is still alive, surrounded by many offsets, some of which have bloomed, themselves. Other offsets formed on the bloom stalk. Her plant is outside under a tree and only gets covered if frost is forecast.

Many mangaves are available from Plant Delights Nursery (www.plantdelights.com). In 2009 Yucca Do Nursery closed and has been transformed into Peckerwood Garden, a botanical conservancy, in Pine Island/Hempstead TX (part of the Houston metro area.) It appears to be an interesting place to visit if you're down there (www.peckerwoodgarden.org). Sue

