

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## *Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

Vol. 36 No. 9

September 2018

Next meeting: See below.



## FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBER'S SALE NIGHT

Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm to 8:15 pm

Hundreds of locally grown plants and handmade  
pottery for sale!

**Bring a box to hold plants!**

Join our Email List to stay up to date on plant sales  
Email us at- [FresnoCSS@yahoo.com](mailto:FresnoCSS@yahoo.com)

FRESNO CACTUS &  
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

MEMBER'S  
SALE NIGHT

SEPTEMBER  
6<sup>TH</sup>

PLANTS AND  
POTTERY FROM  
LOCAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERS!

CASH ONLY!  
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**FROM THE PREZ ...****Hi, All,**

Well, we've finally broken through the long stretch of 100-degree days and are at least in the 90s. If you examine your plants closely you'll see that many of them are starting to perk up and put on a small spurt of growth. The winter growers are responding to the length of the day to put out foliage or buds. The cycle continues ...

This month is our Members' Sale Night. It's always a lot of fun to see what others have for sale. The way it works is that you pay the individual vendors. There will be plants, pots, books, rocks, etc., for your browsing pleasure. Bring small change, checkbook and a box. The sale is open to the general public.

The Fresno Fair is on the horizon, 3-14 October, as you will see in Rudy Rulloda's article below. As always, I urge you to consider entering some plants in the cactus and succulent classes. The display is always of great interest to the public and is an advertisement for our hobby. The Floriculture schedules are online at [www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com) or you can refer to Rudy's column to find out how you can get a Fair premium book. Please consider signing up to be a display monitor; you receive a gate pass and a pass to park in the Maple-Butler lot.

Later in October is the Clovis Botanical Garden's Water Wise Plant Sale & Fair, Saturday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>. This is an opportunity for anyone who wishes to sell plants to have a table there. Call Georgia Porcella at 559-287-2320 to find out more information. Our club also usually has an information table at this event.

I've been neglectful in not thanking Nancy Jobin for volunteering to take over refreshment duties from Frank and Marian Orvis, who handled the responsibilities for many years. Thank you so much, Nancy. And thank you, also, to all of you who bring goodies to the meetings.

*Hope to see you at Sale Night. Sue*

**Members Sale Night will be September 6, 2018!**

Starts 6:30pm to 8:15pm at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center

This year we have a lot of members wanting to sell. So, lots of wonderful plants and pots will be available. Please spread the word for this event and remind people to bring a box and plenty of cash! *All sales go through each vendor and the majority will only take cash.*

Vendors, setup is from 6:00pm to 6:30pm. We will not be able to get into the room before that time. Please bring only the amount of product you can setup during those 30 minutes. Also remember your cash and change, all sales go through you. Vendors will also be charged \$10 for the night. We are full so no new vendors will be added.

Please print off flyers and post at your job, Church, Group meetings, etc. Also visit our Facebook page to share the flyer from there. Hope to see all of our members there supporting each other!

*Any questions please contact Robert Scott.*

**Rob Scott**

**FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING - AUGUST 6, 2018**

Called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Sue Haffner. Present were Rob Scott, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Dominic Ortiz, Michele & Craig Roberts, Jim Brummel, Fred Gaumer, Mary Drumheller and myself, Karen Willoughby. Rosanna Rojas was absent.

**OFFICE REPORTS**

President: Letter from CVMD read and discussed.

Vice-President: Tom Glavich will be our speaker in October and Roz Tampone in November per Sue.

Treasurer: Michele presented our current financial statement and balance.

Affiliate Rep: No report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Member's Sale Night

Vendor's fee

Flyer

Club Sale Table

Bus Trip

Clovis Botanical Garden sign in cactus garden. This is to commemorate the contributions of Herb Thorne. It was proposed and agreed upon to authorize a 13" square marble marker for the garden in Herb's memory.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Shop Vac or Industrial vacuum purchase was discussed. Prices for Industrial machines will be obtained before a decision is made.

Temperature in the meeting room was discussed with several possible remedies discussed including the use of fans.

There was a request from the Fresno Home & Garden club for a speaker for next year and I volunteered to do this.

By-law wording revision to comply with 501(c)(3) status was approved.

Nominating committee will be needed in another month or so for the 2019 slate of candidates.

Next board meeting will be September 10th. There being no further business to discuss, meeting was adjourned at 6:56. Further details regarding any of these subjects can be discussed with any board member if desired.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

**BOARD MEETING**

Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., 3733 North Sierra Vista, Fresno

Any member is welcome to attend.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

**Debra McFarren, RanDee Banovich (1<sup>st</sup>);  
Mazie Dees-Preston (2<sup>nd</sup>);  
Jason Kabeary (4<sup>th</sup>);  
Cheryl Berman, Ed Armbruster (9<sup>th</sup>);  
Karen Wood (10<sup>th</sup>); Jack Fleming (11<sup>th</sup>);  
Susan Cook (12<sup>th</sup>); Polly Dunklin (20<sup>th</sup>);  
Claudia Carlson (23<sup>rd</sup>);  
Craig Roberts (27<sup>th</sup>); Roz Tampone  
(28<sup>th</sup>); Polly Hargreaves, 29<sup>th</sup>**

**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS**

Scot, Leann, Alexander and Marilee Ginter;  
Ali Milne; Jim Simpson; Carrie and Nicholas Wise,  
all of Fresno. *Welcome!*

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**SOME EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Conejo Cactus &  
Succulent Society End-of-Summer Sale; Elks Lodge,  
158 N. Conejo School Rd, Thousand Oaks CA;  
hours, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Friday and Saturday, September 28-29: Succulent  
Extravaganza, Succulent Gardens, 2133 Elkhorn Rd,  
Castroville CA; speakers, workshops, sales  
[www.sgplants.com](http://www.sgplants.com) (831) 632-0482**

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The International Crassulaceae Network is a website  
which sorts and illustrates species of all the many  
genera in this family: *Crassula*, *Echeveria*,  
*Graptopetalum*, *Sedum*, *Kalanchoe*, *Pachyphytum*,  
etc, and all the hybrid genera, such as *xGraptoveria*.  
[www.crassulaceae.ch](http://www.crassulaceae.ch)



**Refreshments:** If your last name begins with M  
through O, please bring some goodies for the  
refreshment table. Of course, even if your  
name is not in that range, feel free to contribute.

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**Many succulents use a water-saving strategy**  
called crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM).  
The carbon dioxide needed for photosynthesis  
is collected at night when temperatures are  
lower and water lost is reduced. This can lead  
to many of the plants having a sour, acid taste.  
Sadly, this does not seem to deter snails, slugs  
or, yes, the occasional rodent.

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**Is there any way you can retrieve a plant name  
from a faded tag?** Sometimes you can turn the  
label this way or that in good light and make  
out at least part of the writing. Another person  
suggested putting the label in a copier on the  
darkest setting and maybe it can pick up words.  
Or you could examine it under a black light. A  
foolproof way to keep your plant IDs is to  
repeat the name on the end of the tag that  
goes into the soil. Out of the sun, it won't fade.  
You can always pull it up to check. (Or use a  
second tag and push it down into the soil.)

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Not enough gnomes in your garden? You can find  
many more and other garden art at:  
[www.gardenfun.com](http://www.gardenfun.com)

**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com); Treasurer, Michele Roberts, 645-5257, [robertshowse@comcast.net](mailto:robertshowse@comcast.net); Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Refreshments, Nancy Jobin; Librarian, Marilyn Carter, 977-6611, [mkc3253@gmail.com](mailto:mkc3253@gmail.com); Webmaster, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com); Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net).



**AUGUST BRAG TABLE:** Fred Gaumer showed *Adenium pechuelii*, *Sarcocaulon paniculatum*, *Adromischus marianiae* 'herrei', *Avonia ustulata* and *Cheiridopsis namaquensis*; Jack Fleming brought *Cyphostemma bainsii*, *Cyphostemma juttae* (Dan Bach clone) and *Euphorbia decepta*, 3 types; Brian and Susan Nagles exhibited *Sedum hispanicum*, *Echeveria* 'Big Red' and *Sedum* 'Little Missy', both in very clever novelty containers; Oscar and Ana Ramirez showed *Mammillaria spinosissima* ("Red Headed Irishman") and *Opuntia vulgaris* variegated monstrose; Bruce J. Hargreaves brought *Cynanchum marnierianum*; Eddie Etheridge exhibited *Cyphostemma currorii*; Bill Gale showed *Echinocereus viridiflorus*. Thanks to all of them. We always enjoy looking at other peoples' great plants. And thank Fred for presiding with his usual wit and wisdom.



**AUGUST WORKSHOP:** At the August workshop the 15 attendees looked at plants in genera that began with P: *Parodia*, *Peperomia*, *Pygmaeocrepus*, *Pachypodium*, *Pterodiscus*, *Puna*, *Pseudolithos* and *Pentagonanthus*. Bringing plants for discussion were Dennis Anderson, Tom Meyer, Sue Haffner, Jack Fleming, Bill Gale, Karl Church, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. We also looked at other plants: *Didieria*, *Adenium*, *Stapelia*, *Euphorbia*, *Gasteria*, *Echinopsis*, *Weingartia*, *Malacocarpus* and *Ferocactus*. Jack showed a cyphostemma that had psyllid damage. We know that psyllids go after fruit, and the cyphostemmas are in the grape family. Dan brought mandarins to share and also young plants of *Adenium arabicum* (Yemen) to give away. It was suggested that those who took them should bring them in periodically so we can check on their growth. Nancy Jobin brought a delicious fruit bar dessert. Thanks, Nancy!

The next workshop will be Wednesday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. All members are welcome to attend. The genera under discussion will be those in R and S.

**Sue**



## Fresno Fair – Update

The Big Fresno Fair is days away for its opening and club members participating in the Fair must be aware of the timeline: Entry Deadlines (Hard Entries – Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and Online Entries – Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>). Fresno Fair will receive your plants on Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30, 2018. To avoid Midway traffic, if you use Chance Gate, use the Butler Gate and park at the back of The Greenhouse. Judging will take place on Tuesday, October 2 at 9 am. Your plants must be free of infestation and plant containers clean.

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 and October club meetings. Duties for the volunteers - 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). 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. Please have your current mailing address in our club database. The rest I'll hand out parking permits and entry tickets at our October club meeting. At least one or two volunteers (or one volunteer with one guest as a volunteer) are needed for each two hours shift. Hours for volunteering are: 11am-9pm (M-F) and 10am-8pm (Sat-Sun). If you can't make it to the club meetings and volunteer for two hours, email ([hi77cc@gmail.com](mailto:hi77cc@gmail.com)) and I'll place your name on the list.

**Rudy Rulloda, Fresno Fair Coordinator**

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## MATELEA CYCLOPHYLLA

*Matelea cyclophylla* is a popular plant in collections, due probably to the publication of Gordon Rowley's 1987 book, "Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents." Prior to that, the plant was featured mainly in scientific journals, where it had been published under various names. Rowley called it *Gonolobus cyclophylla*, perhaps unaware that it had been transferred to *Matelea*. Among collectors it is better known as *Gonolobus*.



The plant grows an unusual above-ground caudex with a corky surface that brings to mind the fissured caudices of dioscoreas. The caudex can grow up to 12" in diameter. It usually produces an annual vine that can reach over 9', though some plants in habitat produce more than one growing point. Shiny heart-shaped leaves are produced in two ranks at the nodes. The vine is deciduous during the dry season (November to March). Flowering occurs during the rainy season with the small blossoms exhibiting colors from burgundy to light green. They have an odor attractive to flies, a characteristic of most asclepiads. The greenish-gray seed pods are 5" to 8" long. They ripen during the dry season, often taking six months or more to mature.

The range of *Matelea cyclophylla* is reported from western Jalisco to western Oaxaca but may continue into Chiapas or farther south. It is native to tropical deciduous forest, growing near shrubs, which support the vines. Cultivation is relatively easy as long as it is kept dry during dormancy and protected from freezing temperatures.

Reference: Mostul, B. and M. Chazaro. 1998. "Matelea cyclophylla: some recent notes on a popular asclepiad caudiciform from Mexico", *Cactus and succulent journal* 70: 301-303.

## A NAME FOR ALL REASONS

Identity is as very important factor in our physiological makeup. Being recognized makes that little “me” inside of us feel especially good. Remembering a person’s name has become an invaluable aid in the business world and on a social level.

Plants also have legal names, and these names are an invaluable aid, too, when it comes to discussing these botanical beauties. Frequently, plants, like people, are tagged with a nickname because of their appearance or their place of origin. Although this is sometimes helpful to draw the mental picture, it can be confusing because these common names are not the same in different areas.

Scientific names for plants have been in use since the mid-eighteenth century. Carolus Linnaeus (Karl von Linne), a Swedish naturalist, (known by his Latin name, since his work was done in Latin) devised the classification system for plants based on flower parts. The result of this standardized terminology (binomial = two names) is that minimal space is used to convey the necessary information.

Most plant family names end in *aceae* (*Cactaceae*, for example). A family is then divided into genera (plural of genus). The first name (capitalized) is the genus (*Gymnocalycium*), and the second name (not capitalized unless it is a hybrid) is the species (*pflanzii*). The species may be further divided into subspecies or varieties (*Gymnocalycium pflanzii ssp zegarrae*).

Species names are selected for various reasons. They are often named after the place where they are found (*Decaryia madagascarensis*). The ending – *ensis* is added to the name of the place. They are also named for men by adding – *ii* to the last name (*Fouquieria purpusii*). If the name ends in a vowel or an r, then only one *i* is added to the name (*Aztekium ritteri*, *Lithops lesliei*). For a woman, – *iae* is added to the name (usually the last name, occasionally the first name = *Mammillaria theresae*). Again, if the name ends in a vowel or an r the *i* is dropped and just the – *ae* is added. If the plant is named in honor of a man or a woman, then – *ianus* is added to the name. Sometimes you will see – *iana* or – *ianum*, as the ending has to agree with the gender of the genus.

Names are also selected because they describe the plant’s growth habit, flower size or color, or body features (*Neoporteria grandiflora* = “large flower”). If a plant is a hybrid (a cross between two different species), the name is capitalized and appears in single quotes (*Echeveria ‘Blue Curls’*). Double quotes signify a common name (*Frithia pulchra* “Purple Baby Toes”). Occasionally two different genera are crossed. This new genus is then identified by placing an X before the new name (*X Graptoveria* = a cross between *Graptopetalum* and *Echeveria*). A name becomes legitimate only after it is validly published. An international code governs botanical nomenclature; it is very formal and systematic. We may sometimes tear our hair out when plant names are changed, but taxonomists are scientists who take their work seriously and do not react out of whim. They have to defend their decisions before panels of other scientists.

Knowing the botanical names of plants is helpful for many reasons, especially when you are looking for that certain plant. Understanding what some of the Latin and Greek terms mean will help you to remember the names of your plants and to tell you something about the plant if you have not seen it (*tomentosa* means “hairy”; *retus* means “blunt”; *stigm-* means “spot”). Become acquainted with your plants because “What’s in a name” can tell you many things.

**Sue** (suggested by an article by Peg Spaete)

## 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual CSSA Show & Sale 2018

This year's Show & Sale out performed even last year's event in total sales, auction revenue and show participation. Thanks to all the volunteers from our local, and not so local, affiliate clubs, CSSA Board members and CSSA members, this year's show ran like a well-oiled machine. Whether you volunteered for 2 hours or for all three days, your help was very much appreciated. I hope it was a fun experience for you and that you will consider helping out again next year. Remember, your name is on my LIST!

Thank you to Jim Folsom, Danielle Rudeen, Melanie Thorpe and the HBG Botanical Staff who provide the venue space & support to the CSSA every year for our Annual Show & Sale.

Thanks to our Sale's Committee, Tom Glavich & Jim Hanna, the plant sales were the best ever! A special thank you to all those who worked in the sales area: vendors, cashiers, BSA Troop 359 and the security team for keeping things running smoothly. Thank you to the Show Committee for all their hard work both prior to & throughout the event: Gunnar Eisel, Tom Glavich, Tim Harvey, Karen & Martin Ostler, Sandy Chase, Manny Rivera, Bonnie Ikemiura, Kathleen Misko, Mary Brumbaugh, Rebecca Mallonee, Evelyn Stevens, Rosalie Gorchoff and Jim Hanna. Thank you, Tom, for designing this year's T-shirt. It was a hit!

There were 52 entrants and 639 entries in this year's show, many for the first time. Total High Points went to Rob Skillin (from Central Coast), 82 points; High Points Succulents to Rob Skillin, 54 points; and High Points Cactus to Karen & Martin Ostler, 51 points. This year we enjoyed two commercial displays stunningly created by Desert Creations & California Cactus Center. Tim Harvey treated us to an informative commemorative display honoring the late, John Lavranos, world-renowned botanist and field explorer. Moving our Trophy display to Banta Hall allowed the winning plants to be viewed more easily. Our Judges this year were John Trager, Steve & Julie Plath, Tim Harvey, Artie Chavez, Karen Ostler and Mike Buckner. Manny Rivera, Head Clerk, and his twelve clerks assisted our judges Friday evening. This is a fun, informative experience for those new to the hobby.

Also, in Banta Hall, and surrounding our cactus show plants, was a wonderful illustrated art exhibit titled, "Out of the Woods: Celebrating Trees in Public Gardens". Those visiting the exhibit stayed to enjoy our show. Next year there will be an art exhibit, again, but the works will be of cactus & succulents and will compliment our show perfectly.

There was a record number, 70, of attendees at the Saturday night "Chili Buffet", put together by our Hospitality Committee, under the direction of Bonnie Ikemura and her band of crockpot chili makers, Sandy Chase, Karen Ostler, Barb Hall and Bonnie. This year, Jim Folsom, the HBG Botanical Director, gave the CSSA a gift of an open bar during the dinner & auction. Thank you, Jim! Thanks to everyone who helped Bonnie feed the masses during the weekend. We all enjoyed seeing Buck & Yvonne Heminway, who were visiting from South Africa! They are missed. Both the Silent & Live Auctions were highly successful, bringing in \$4300 for the CSSA Research Fund. Thank you, Karen, for setting up the auction and Tori Wilson, Margie Wilson and Cliff Meng for handling the bids & finances. Last but not least, kudos to our auctioneers, Woody Minnich, David Tufenkian & Mike Buckner for making it a fun auction.

I look forward to the 54<sup>th</sup> Show & Sale at the Huntington next year and I hope many of you will be there to make it the best show ever.

***Barbara Hall, CSSA Show Chair***