

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

fresnocss.com

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 37, No. 4

April 2019

NEXT MEETING: April 4, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

NEW MEETING LOCATION: REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

1084 West Bullard, Fresno (near the NW corner of Palm and Bullard.)

The Succulent Flora of Limpopo, KZN and Mpumalanga

by: **Rob Skillin**



Adenia fruticosa and Rob

Limpopo, KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga are the 3 provinces of South Africa which comprise the northeastern corner of the country. They are adjacent to the countries of Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Swaziland.

The succulent flora there is adapted to a subtropical, summer-rainfall regime and is generally totally different than that found in the winter-rainfall areas in the western portions of the country such as Namaqualand and the Richtersveld. The diversity of succulent flora is very high, and comparable to the western areas.

Rainfall varies from lows of 4 to 8 inches in the very northern tip of the country, to highs over 40 inches in the Drakensberg Mountains, which run parallel to, and inland from the eastern coastline. Rain frequently occurs as thundershowers throughout these northeastern areas.

Temperatures are generally mild; highs ranging from 77 - 90 degree with lows of 45 – 60 degrees. Maximum highs of 113 – 117 are only occasionally felt. It rarely freezes in the winter, except in the Drakensberg Mountains, where snow is possible.

Rob Skillin visited this part of South Africa in November, 2018, and his program will feature euphorbias, aloes, stapeliads, summer-growing bulbs from various different families, adenias, pachypodiums, haworthias and other succulent plants.

Biography: I have been growing cacti and succulents for 41 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.

Plants: Rob will bring an assortment of nice plants to offer for sale!

~~ DINNER ~~

High Sierra Grill House
2003 West Bullard Avenue
Fresno, (559) 435-8500
[Menu](#)

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

Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, April 3rd
to make reservations:
Phone: (559) 999-0017



FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

The “springy” weather seems to be hanging on, doesn’t it. I never thought I’d complain about the rain, but it seems that every time I think I can get out and pull some weeds, it rains again. Still, it’s good to know that we’re officially beyond the drought—at least for this year..

We had the Home & Garden Show since the previous newsletter. Many thanks to those members who helped with the event. The consensus was that attendance was down from last year. The weather was no doubt a major factor in this, as Friday and Saturday were wet and chilly. Oh, well, spring weather isn’t always predictable.

Karen Willoughby and Dwight Horiuchi helped me at the Clovis Botanical Garden’s “Spring into your Garden” event on March 16th. I thank them very much. Having worked this event a number of times before, I thought it seemed slower than usual. It was a nice day, so I wonder if people were at home working in their own yards. There were a lot of interesting plants for sale—and they’re still for sale. The garden is open Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (945 N. Clovis Ave; at Clovis and Alluvial.)

Our club picnic is this month: Saturday, April 13th. Dennis Shamlian has generously offered to host the event at his ranch, which is situated on Blackhawk Lake in the Coarsegold area. Some of you may not recognize Dennis, as he is usually late to the meetings, having a busy dental practice. He has been collecting cacti for a long time and we will be able to tour his greenhouses, which should be interesting.

We always have a good time at our picnics: great food, visiting, looking at plants. What more could succulent fiends want?

Given the distance, it would be a good idea to car-pool, as much as possible. Remember to bring a folding chair or two.

Club bus trip: Cindy Duwe is in the midst of planning our bus trip, May 25th. If you are at all interested in going, get your \$45.00 fee to her as soon as possible. Checks will not be deposited until we decide whether or not the trip is a “go.” You will have the opportunity to see a great show and shop for great plants, as well.

See you at the meeting, *Sue*



CLUB BUS TRIP: Saturday, May 25th; destination: San Luis Obispo, to the Central Coast Club's annual show and sale. We made this trip a few years ago and everyone had a great time. We leave at a sane hour of the morning (7 a.m.) and get back to Fresno when it's still light (important when you're sorting out your boxes of plants!)

Fee: \$45.00; members have first priority, but you can bring a guest if the seats are available. So far, only a few people have paid; we need to have commitments from more people in order for the trip to be a "go."

Cindy Duwe is in charge: cindyduwe@yahoo.com ; 10790 East Elkhorn Avenue, Kingsburg CA, 93631. Get in touch with her if you have any questions.

FCSS BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 11, 2019

Meeting was called to order by President Sue Haffner at 6:00 p.m. Present were Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Rob Scott, Cindy Duwe, Fred Gaumer, Jim Brummel, Rosanna Rojas, Bill Gale and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent was Marilyn Carter.

Officer reports:

President: CVMD contract

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

Treasurer: Report given.

Membership: There are still many people who have not renewed.

Old Business:

Home & Garden Show: Event was discussed.

Bus Trip: Will still be 5/25 even if only a week prior to our show and sale.

Picnic: It will be 4/13. More info regarding this will be forthcoming.

Clovis Botanical event "Spring into your garden: Sue, Karen and Dwight Horiuchi will represent the club at this event.

June Show & Sale: Advertising popcards available for distribution with more to be ordered. Fred will be contacting possible judges for this event.

New Business:

Storing club tables at Redeemer Lutheran church

What else: No other new business.

Next Board Meeting will be April 8th. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. If you would like additional information regarding any of these topics, please speak to a board member. Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary



AEONIUM

Aeoniums are looking their best these days. They love the rain we've had this winter/spring. Your dry, shriveled specimens have burst forth showing their attractive foliage.

At first glance, aeoniums resemble echeverias. Both are rosette succulents, but aeoniums tend to have thinner leaves with barely visible "teeth" on the leaf edges and are also more likely to grow vertically on stems. Rosettes can vary from an inch to a foot in diameter. When it blooms, the entire rosette elongates into a conical inflorescence of massed yellow, cream or pink flowers. Each rosette dies after blooming, but not all rosettes on a plant bloom at the same time.

The genus *Aeonium* is native to the Canary Islands, with each island having its own combination of species. Most grow on north-facing cliffs, rather than in the full sun. Other species are found on the Cape Verde Islands and Madeira, with an adjunct population in east Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. The Canary Islands have a Mediterranean coastal summer-dry/winter-wet climate that is very similar to coastal California. Some aeoniums have escaped from cultivation and have naturalized in areas of the California coast.

Soon, when the weather warms up, your aeoniums will start looking "puny", their foliage beginning to dry up. Decrease watering and place the pot out of the sun. Eventually the leaves will curl up into tight cones to conserve moisture during summer. This is true if you are growing a species plant or a hybrid based on certain species. At the same time, there are some aeoniums that remain open and in at least semi-active growth during summer. I have a hybrid called 'Kiwi' which I water all summer and I know of other plants that are watered all year around. If your plants have gone into dormancy, though, maybe misting is good enough to keep them through until the following winter.

Aeoniums are not difficult to grow; are not fussy about potting mix, except that it drains well. They can withstand low temperatures, but need protection from hard freezes. Propagation is by stem and leaf cuttings.

Sue

(Ill. From "Designing with succulents", by Debra Lee Baldwin)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
Marth Duran (3rd);
Pat Schroyer (4th);
Rob Scott (11th) Viv Shinkawa,
Ann Bierbower (13th);
Bruce Hargreaves, Jan Donovan,
Bob Levinson (18th)

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**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:**

Bob Levinson, Clovis; Mary Anne MacDonald, Kathleen Sebetka, Jannette Bautista, Sis Brown, Patricia Alvarado, all of Fresno; Naomi, Lisa & John Bloss, Watsonville; Dwight Horiuchi, Selma (welcome back!)

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VISITORS LAST MONTH: Tony Carrasco, Janay Conley, Rachel Lewis, Charles & Becky Morales, Honey Grigsby, Nydia Rodriguez, Sam Cisneros.

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**In Our Thoughts:** We just heard the shocking news that Tom Meyer passed away March 24th. He had been in the hospital awaiting heart surgery when he died suddenly. As of this time, we have no word of services, but

his mom, Doris, is foremost in our sympathies. Tom was a prominent member of the club for years and was a resource person when it came to plants. He did a lot of the physical work of the club--we depended on him and his truck. He also did handyman services for other members. He will be remembered by so many of us.

Marilyn and Jeff Carter; Rosanna Rojas.

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Board Meeting
Monday April 8th, 6:00 p.m.,
3733 North Sierra Vista, Fresno
Any members is welcome to attend.

COMING EVENTS

April 13th, Club Picnic

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**April 13-14<sup>th</sup>, Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale, San Juan Bautista Community Hall, San Juan Bautista, CA**

[www.mbsucculent.org](http://www.mbsucculent.org)

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April 27-28th, San Jose Cactus & Succulent Society

Spring Show & Sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Ave, Sunnyvale Ca

sjicactussucculent@gmail.com

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**This year's Convention will be held close to us:**

July 17-20 in San Luis Obispo. You need to be a CSSA member to register and attend the programs; you can register for a single day if there is a particular speaker you wish to hear.

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Of course, if you really love cacti and succulents you should join CSSA. You receive the quarterly *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, the foremost publication in the hobby.

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**Have you ever wished you could see and hear some of the programs** presented at CSSA Conventions? Well, now you can. After some years of work, the CSSA has finally produced videos of presentations at the 2015 and 2017 conventions: [www.cactusandsucculentsociety.org/cssaarchives/ConventionVideos.html](http://www.cactusandsucculentsociety.org/cssaarchives/ConventionVideos.html)

They can be downloaded or viewed on YouTube.

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SHOW AND SALE COMING UP IN JUNE: so we need to start stockpiling boxes for the sale. Beer and soda flats are best, but any cardboard boxes will do. Ask the produce guys at the market, or ask someone stocking shelves if you can have a box or two (you have to hurry, as they tear them up right away.)

MARCH BRAG TABLE: Some very nice plants were on display last month. Fred Gaumer shared *Puna bonnieae*, *Turbincarpus valdezianus*, *Strombocactus disciformis*, *Pleiospilos nelii*, *Lithops dorothea* and *Cheiridopsis umdauensis*. Brian Nagles brought *Crassula perforata*. Bill Gale showed *Euphorbia millii* crest, a white *millii* and *Euphorbia francoisii*. Marilyn Carter brought a nice echeveria hybrid. Dan Gale exhibited *Strombocactus disciformis*, three Madagascan euphorbias, *Agave utahensis v. eborispina*, a double white adenium and *Pachypodium gracilis*.

We thank all those who brought plants and would like to encourage the rest of you to contribute to this educational aspect of the meeting. As always, thanks to Fred for emceeing the table.



Photos by:
Karen Willoughby

MARCH WORKSHOP: A lively group met for the workshop on March 20th. We looked at plants in genera starting with D (Dudleya, Dorstenia, Denmoza, Dioon) and E (Echinocereus, Echinomastus, Encephalartos and a ton of euphorbias). Bringing plants for discussion were Cindy Duwe, Sue Haffner, Dennis Anderson, Jack Fleming, Bill Gale, Karl Church, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. Dan also brought some seed flats to show how seedlings grow together. He also gave away *Aloe wickensii* seedlings and citrus fruit. An enthusiastic discussion of potting mixes followed. We also enjoyed Veone Gale's birthday cake. Many happy returns, Veone!

The April workshop will be Wednesday, April 17th, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. All members are welcome. The subjects will be genera in F and G, and pots, potting and tools .

Photos by:
Cindy Duwe



If you have any of the winter-blooming bulbs in your collection, either in the ground or in pots, you know that they just love all this rain we've been having. Bulbs in the ground are taller and more floriferous than ever.

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresno.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, rfrojas96@gmail.com; Treasurer, Michele Roberts, 646-5257, robertshowse@comcast.net; Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5264, sueh@mail.fresno.edu; Refreshments, Nancy Jobin; Librarian, Marilyn Carter, 977-6611, mkc3253@gmail.com; Webmaster, Vickie Veen, vickieveen@gmail.com; Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, cgg266@comcast.net.



IT'S PICNIC TIME!!

Saturday, April 13th, at Dennis Shamlian's lakeside ranch in the Coarsegold area. The club will supply the meat and table service. You can bring a potluck dish. There will be signup sheets at this meeting. We always have a good time at our picnics--not just eating and visiting, but Dennis has 5 greenhouses we can look through, as well as outdoor plantings. If you would like to fish in the lake, bring your own tackle; a license is required.

The address is: 42340 Patrick Avenue, Coarsegold (Blackhawk Ranch), It is 35 minute's drive from Blackstone and Herndon. It is in Blackhawk Ranch, adjacent to Yosemite Lakes Park (not far from Fred Gaumer's residence).

The directions the property are:

- Take HWY 41 North to Yosemite Springs Parkway, (Madera) - (30.44 miles)
- Turn Left on Yosemite Springs Parkway at signal light - (0.1 miles past Rd.8081)
- Turn Left on Patrick Avenue (past Hillside Market) (turn left at the church) - (0.1 miles past Tracy Lane)
- Continue straight down the hill on the paved road to the gate (which will be left open)
- continue onto dirt road 1 mile and turn left into 42340 Patrick avenue at the green gate
- continue around gazebo and continue up the hill and then down to the lake - (Approximately 1 mile)
- parking area will be indicated.

Please bring a folding chair or two.



We only have 2 months till our biggest Annual Show & Sale the club has ever had!

This event just keeps getting bigger and better that we have moved to the Fairgrounds. June 1 and 2 we will be in the Commerce Building off of Chance Avenue. Karen and I have been working on this event since our last Show & Sale, 10 months ago. It takes a lot of time and energy to make sure this event runs smoothly. We can't do that without help from the members. At the April meeting I will have sign-ups for different positions that are needed during the event. We have a position for everyone! The positions we need filled are listed below:

Check out- Using the iPad to "ring" customers up and take payments. The iPads work like a typical smart phone and very easy to use. Using a calculator type of program you enter the prices and it will give you a total to charge. It's simple and we train everyone.

Packaging- Once customers purchase their plants we need people to help package the plants into paper/ plastic bags or boxes for the customer to take.

Plant Hotel- This year we will have a large area dedicated to holding the plants that customers have already purchased. They can leave their new plants with us so they can go look at the show plants or even go buy more plants. We need someone to watch this area and help the customers. The member would put a numbered sticker on the box and a matching number sticker is given to the customer. This way the customer gets back the same plants they leave with us.

Show Area Monitors- In the Show Plant Area no one is allowed to touch the show plants or bring plants into this area. We need people watching the entrance to stop anyone who may have their recently purchased plants with them and direct them to the Plant Hotel. Monitors will walk around or be seated in the Show Area to watch the plants, making sure no one is touching.

Show Clerks- We need 4 Show Clerks at the start of Saturday morning. They would need to be at the Fairgrounds at 7:30am. These Show Clerks walk around assisting the judges during the judging. Placing ribbons, holding papers, etc. Don't worry if you feel you don't have the plant knowledge or skills to help. We all have different skills and are here to help each other. During the setup and take down of the event we need people that are able to stand up and move tables, place tablecloths, and help vendors unload/ pack. We know this is a time commitment and we are thanking every volunteer with "Show Bucks". When a person works a 2 hour shift, they will receive \$5 in Show Bucks. Working all day you will receive \$10 and working both full days you will get \$20 in Show Bucks. These Show Bucks will act like a discount coupon that you can apply to your purchase during the event. We want you to be able to get the plant types you want with a discount from us. If you decide not to use the Show Bucks at the event, you may use them at any meeting and get the dollar amount in raffle tickets. You can email or call Robert if you would like to volunteer. Sign-ups will be at the April meeting.

Also at the April meeting, we will have more marketing material available. Flyers, postcards, and business cards. We encourage everyone to take what they can use. Give postcards to your family and friends. Take some to your church, clubs, classes, meetings, and doctor's offices. It never hurts to ask if you can leave some cards. Post flyers in your neighborhood, local shopping center, on community boards, and even by the drive thru at Starbucks. Anywhere you can think of, make it easy for you and able to remove once the event is over. Getting the word out is the only way we get customers. Please tell everyone you know and share on social media. We encourage every member to volunteer. The Annual Show & Sale is the largest fund raiser the club puts on. Without your help this event can't take place and the club loses valuable funds it needs to stay open. We all enjoy our meetings and speakers each month, but those cost money. Please put in some time to give back to the club you enjoy.

Plant Show: Another fun event that members can participate in our judged Plant Show. This a great opportunity to show off your favorite plants and all the hard work you do to keep them happy. You may even win a ribbon! Showing plants is open to all members and at all skill levels. We have classes for Novice, Advanced and Open members. So even if you started growing plants 6 months ago there is a class for you. Judging of plants happens in their own classes so Novice won't be up against Advanced entries. It's a really fun way to participate in a club event and get your feet wet.

Novice- Members who have been showing for less than 5 years. If a Novice wins a Division award they are moved to the Advanced class the next year.

Advanced- Showing for more than 5 years and/ or having won a Division award.

Open- Only for nursery professionals, or persons earning a substantial income from the sale of plants.

So you're interested in showing but are still a little nervous. Well don't be, it's all about having fun and being proud of your plants. Just need to get your plants ready to show! Don't worry if you don't have expensive pots or rare plants. Use the pots you have available. Pots can be plastic, terra cotta, ceramic or even stone. Pots just need to be clean and not broken. Wipe down or scrub pots to get dirt off. Even use Goo-gone for stubborn tag residue. Next is cleaning up the plant. Remove dead

leaves, spider webs or anything else that takes away from it's beauty. Clean up the top dressing by removing any weeds or debris. Can also add more top dressing to give a finished look. It's really easy to make your plants look their best. We will be posting details about having a small class on how to get your plants ready. You can bring your plants and we will help you get them ready for the show. Plants for the show will have to be delivered to the Fresno Fairgrounds on Friday May 31 to be entered in. You have all day to enter them and lots of people to help with plant identification. It may sound like a lot to do but it's really fun to participate. Members enjoy showing off their plants and I encourage all new members to enter their plants as well. You won't be disappointed!

Karen and I are here to help with any questions you may have. Don't hesitate to contact us. We hope to see you at the April meeting and please find time to volunteer at our Show & Sale. The dates are Saturday June 1st 9am to 6pm and Sunday June 2nd 9am to 4pm.

Thank you, Robert: 559-960-3665, rob_scott85@yahoo.com and Karen: 559-304 9219, Pkatwillobee@gmail.com



MAMMILLARIA (=MAMILLOPSIS) SENILIS

By Elton Roberts

Mamillopsis senilis or *Mammillaria senilis* (whichever one you want to call it) is one of the most popular and widespread mamms in cultivation. I think that like most cactus it comes and goes in fashion. It seems like plants go in popularity in cycles of anywhere from 10 years to as long as 25 years. I think that one thing that helps bring about this cycle is wholesale growers. They throw on to the market

100,000 of a plant and if that plant is not too hard to grow people will have it for years before it dies and needs to be replaced. In the meantime the plant can seldom be found for sale. About 10 years ago *Mammillaria senilis* was a hot item, now you seldom see the plant on sale benches. It is the same with *M. plumosa*.

The plant is one of those that takes hold of you and does not want to let go. I have seen several women who wore sweaters to a cactus nursery walking around with hooked- spined mamms hanging from the sweater. It is easier to dislodge one of these from your fingers than to remove it from a sweater.

The flowers are described as to 6 cm in diameter; the flower in the photo is 5 cm in diameter. The flower color is variable from an orange-red to a deep red to yellowish white. Habitat elevation is from 7,000 ft to 9,200 ft, so the plants can take quite a bit of cold. If dry, the plants can take temperatures to 10 F. For those who live where the winter temperatures dip into the upper 20s only a time or two you can get by with giving a light drink. Being from those altitudes, the plant is forming buds for early spring blooming and the drink helps. In the heat of summer use caution watering, as the plant goes dormant. I know a lot of collectors that have killed the plant in the summer and wanted to know why. When plants are dormant, be it in the winter or summer, they do not need to be watered.



If you want to keep your plant happy, make sure that you keep the soil acidic. To keep the dense spination, give as much light as you can.

(from a blog post, February 2007)

Mammillaria senilis is widespread in the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico at the altitudes mentioned above. Plants are sometimes covered with snow in winter. The small heads (5.9" tall, 2.3" wide) bear 30-40 radial spines and the same number of central spines; the lowermost centrals are hooked. It can form large clumps. The flower is adapted to pollination by hummingbirds, which was one of the original reasons for creating the genus *Mamillopsis*. Sue

You are invited to Open Greenhouse Day

A day of fun, food, friends and PLANTS!
At the Skillin Ranch in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co.
Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

- Greenhouse tours
- Terry's famous taco bar
- Refreshments
- Sales Plants- everything from starters to show stoppers
- Free raffle at Noon – two plants - free ticket to each attendee – no purchase necessary, but must be present

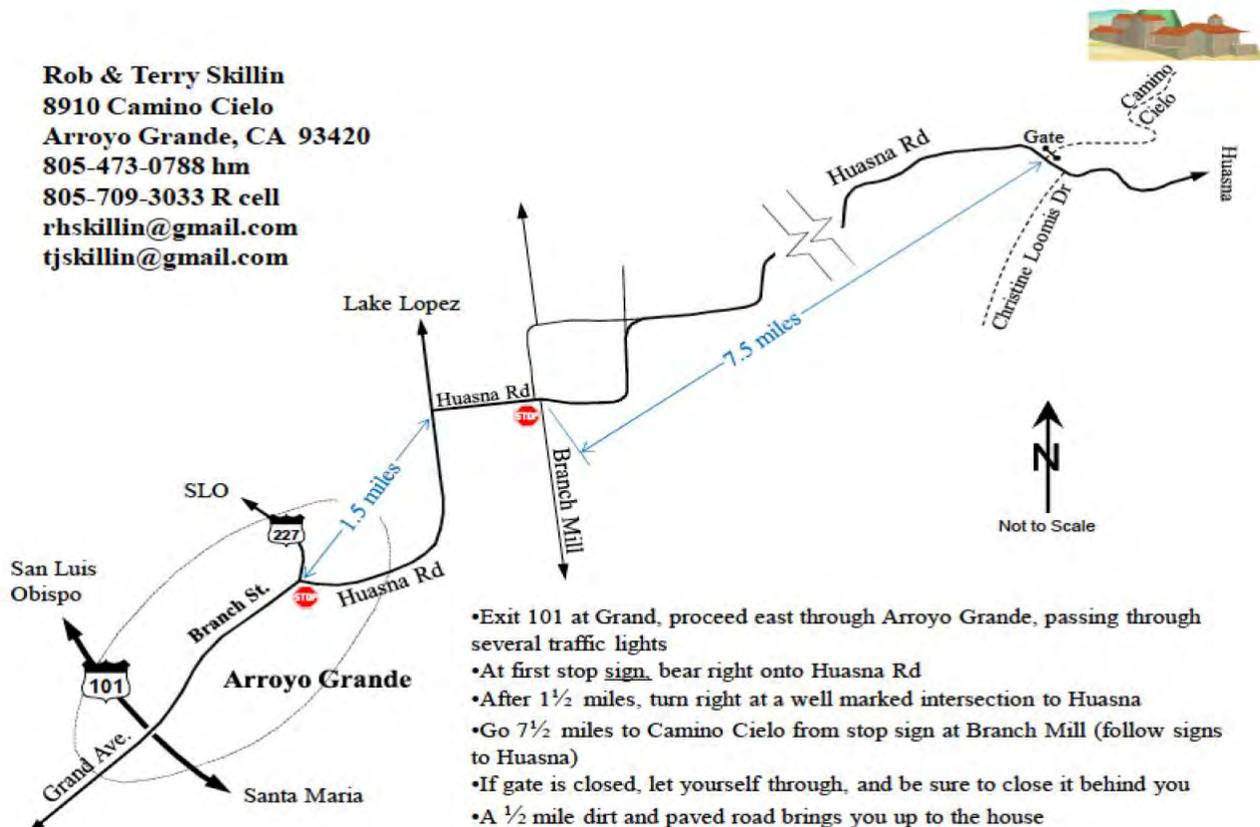


Aloe ramosissima
2 gallon pot

Pachypodium fihersenense
2 gallon pot

Call Rob or Terry at 805-709-3033 for information

Rob & Terry Skillin
8910 Camino Cielo
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420
805-473-0788 hm
805-709-3033 R cell
rhskillin@gmail.com
tjskillin@gmail.com



- Exit 101 at Grand, proceed east through Arroyo Grande, passing through several traffic lights
- At first stop sign, bear right onto Huasna Rd
- After 1½ miles, turn right at a well marked intersection to Huasna
- Go 7½ miles to Camino Cielo from stop sign at Branch Mill (follow signs to Huasna)
- If gate is closed, let yourself through, and be sure to close it behind you
- A ½ mile dirt and paved road brings you up to the house