

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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NO MEETING THIS MONTH.

AS OUR MEETING FALLS ON THE 4TH, WE DECIDED TO CANCEL THE MEETING FOR THIS MONTH.

NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 7:00 P.M. (DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.)

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY



FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

As our regular meeting night is on July 4th, we decided to forego a meeting this month. There will be no board meeting or workshop, as well. We'll take up again in August.

The next event on our calendar is the Members' Sale Night in September. Because of space limitations, vendors will be limited to a single table. If you wish to be a vendor, you will have the opportunity to sign up at the August meeting.

The Fresno Fair is on the horizon, October 2-14. You can pick up a premium book at the Fair office, 1121 S. Chance Ave. The various show schedules are also online at www.bigfresnofair.com. Deadlines for submission of mail entries is September 7th; for online entries, September 9th.

Keep an eye on your plants during the summer heat. If you see signs of over exposure to the sun, move the plant into a more sheltered location.

See you in August. **Sue**



FCSS BOARD MEETING JUNE 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. In attendance were: Marilyn Carter, Jim Brummel, Rosanna Rojas, Rob Scott, Craig & Michele Roberts, Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Fred Gaumer and myself, Karen Willoughby.

Officer Reports:

President:

Vice-President: Upcoming programs and no meeting in July. Steve Frieze will speak in August.

Treasurer: Michele reported on our financial status.

Affiliate Rep: The Huntington event June 28-29 was discussed.

Old Business:

Webmaster: It was moved and seconded to pay Vicki Veen to continue to provide this service.

Membership: Craig discussed some membership issues and purging unpaids.

Show and Sale: The show and sale was discussed with various problems and solutions being discussed. Competitive versus merit judging was discussed and will be reiterated to the judges at the next show. Rob to send out evaluation forms to the vendors. We have reserved the Commerce Building for the show and sale next year.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. We will not be having a board meeting in July. Next board meeting is August 5th. As always, if you would like further information on any of these subjects, please speak to a board member.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

**Photos:
Karen Willoughby**



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Norma Forbes,*



*Carolee Clayton (10th);
Laverne Cottet (12th);
Burma Gunther (18th);
Rosanna Rojas (19th);
Marcia Rosenberg (21st);
Jessica Evans (24th);
Patricia Alvarado (25th).*

SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS

Alex Gonzales, Joe and Lisa Nishimoto and Farrin Scheidt, all of Fresno; Merri Larson, Porterville; Robbie and Amanda Boyer, Exeter; Ronnie Ochoa, Tulare. *Welcome to the club!*

UNCOMMON SIGHT: Ruth Saludes says that an *Agave parryi* is in bloom at the Clovis Botanical Garden. While this is a common landscape plant in our area, it's unusual to see it in bloom.

CURIO OR CURIOUS?

Sometimes I think they're just messing with us. Now we hear that DNA studies have taken apart the genus *Senecio*. Of special interest to succulent growers is that some of the most popular South African species have been split into a new genus, *Curio*. The "String of Pearls" is now *Curio rowleyanus*. Other closely related species, *citriiformis*, *talinoides* and even the "Candle Plant" (formerly *Senecio articulatus*) are now in *Curio*. The white, woolly succulents previously included in *Senecio* are now another new genus, *Caputia*. *Caputia haworthii* and *C. scaposus* are the most well-known.

Mercifully, the botanists left *Othonna* alone. Well, they did reclassify the succulent-leaved scrambling species (*Crassothonna*), but the thin-leaved caudiciform species are still othonnas. For now.

BIG EVENT THIS MONTH

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA
BIENNIAL CONVENTION
SAN LUIS OBISPO, JULY 17-20

For more information, see the Convention website: www.cssaconvention.com. Even if you are not registered you can still patronize the plant sale, Thursday through Saturday. 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. You can see the list of vendors on the website (includes a lot of potters.) The Convention venue is the Veterans Memorial Bldg. 801 Grand Ave, San Luis Obispo. The Convention is sold out, but if you would still like to register, let me know. *Sue*

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August -- Steve Frieze
September -- MEMBERS' SALE NIGHT
October -- field trip to the Deutsch Cactus Garden
November -- Peter Beiersdorfer
December -- Holiday Party

BIODEGRADABLE PLASTIC FROM OPUNTIA

An experiment to help tackle the world's plastic problem is being carried out in a lab at the University of the Valley of Atemajac, near Guadalajara, Mexico. *Opuntia* leaves are being used to produce a biodegradable, non-toxic plastic. Yes, there are other biodegradable plastics, one made from corn, for instance. But the *Opuntia* is much more economical to grow, not needing nearly the amount of resources (water, fertilizer) that corn requires.

Indigenous peoples of the Southwest used *Opuntia* not just for food, but found the "goo" in the leaves useful as construction glue and as a binder for paint. (Thanks to Karen Willoughby for this tip.)

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, frojas96@gmail.com; Treasurer, Michele Roberts, 645-5257, robertshowse@comcast.net; Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.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.

JUNE BRAG TABLE: Fred Gaumer brought *Acanthocalycium glaucum*, *A. ferrari* and *Haworthia springbokvlakensis*; Dan Gale showed *Astrophytum caput-medusae*, an ariocarpus hybrid (*agavoides x retusus*) and a double-flowered adenium; Mark Muradian exhibited two nice crested plants, *Euphorbia lactea* and *Mammillaria spinosissima*; Bill Gale brought *Euphorbia viguieri*, *Pachypodium baroni v. windsori* and a lithops.

We thank them very much for their participation.



Photos by
Karen Willoughby

JUNE WORKSHOP: We had a lively workshop on June 19th. Bringing plants for discussion were Ruth Saludes, Sue Haffner, Eddie Etheridge, Dennis Anderson, Bill Gale, Jack Fleming and Dan Gale. We looked at *Kedrostis*, *Larryleachia*, *Leuchtenbergia*, and *Lobivia*. Members also showed off *Adeniums*, *Tillandsia*, *Euphorbias*, *Cyphostemma* and *Pleiospilos*. Iced tea and cake were served. Dan brought strawberries and grapes to share. Thanks, Dan.

The next workshop will be in August. That month's newsletter will have the information.



Photos by:
Cindy Duwe



AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

We had a great show and sale on June 1-2. Sales brought in a record amount and we had a huge crowd, especially on Saturday. Some of the customers returned on Sunday to shop even more. Many thanks to all those members who helped with every aspect of the sale, including those who worked all weekend helping to sell Tom Meyer's plants. Tom's mother, Doris Hooton, was the leading vendor, getting a nice check from the club.

We noticed what worked and what needs work. We are going to abandon double-tagging for the vendors and go to barcodes, as have all the clubs which hold large sales. Michele and Craig Roberts spent many days sorting and tabulating plant tags (and found a number of tags that could not be identified as to vendor). Barcodes and scanners will make for a more accurate count. We will be investigating this in the upcoming months. If any of you happen to have expertise in this, please let us know.

The show featured some beautiful plants. The winners were:

Best Cactus (Open) Elton Roberts (*Pelecypora aselliformis*)

Best Succulent (Open) Naomi Bloss (*Avonia quinaria*)

Best Cactus (Advanced) Bill Gale (*Echinocereus viridiflorus ssp canus*)

Best Succulent (Advanced) Bill Gale (*Pachypodium rosulatum*)

Best Cactus (Novice) JoAnn Caufield (*Mammillaria aureilanata*)

Best Succulent (Novice) JoAnn Caufield (*Raphionacme flanaganii*)

Best Collection (Cactus) Peter Beiersdorfer (Mammillarias)

Best Collection (Succulent) Peter Beiersdorfer (Lithops)

Best Allied Interest Jaan Lepson (photograph of a saguaro against the night sky)



Some of us—and I include myself—had some trepidation about moving our event down to the fairgrounds. Would our customers follow us down there? Would we be all by ourselves all weekend down in that big area? We needn't have worried. As mentioned above, we were mobbed. And we were hardly by ourselves, as a number of other things were going on at the fairgrounds that weekend: the reptile and pet expo, a Spanish language women's expo, two weddings and something else. A lot of people were milling around. The reptile people dropped in to see us with their snakes and lizards. We were not lonely.

We'll be back in the Commerce Building next year. We had thought to move to the Fine Arts Building, as it's better-lit, but it could never accommodate the crowd we had (or the long line for the cashier.)

Again, a million thanks to all of you who helped that weekend. You're all winners.

Sue

OUR SHOW AND SALE PICS



Photos by
Karen Willoughby



Photos by
Karen Willoughby



THE GRAYBEARD CACTUS

Bill Gale's Best Cactus (Advanced) in our June Show was a crested form of an unusual plant: *Echinocereus viridiflorus ssp. canus*. The species, *viridiflorus*, has long been known as an attractive, hardy green-flowered plant, but the subspecies *canus* is fairly new.

This remarkable white-spined variety was discovered in 1984 by James Jeff Clark, who was exploring the rugged area called the Solitario Dome (near Solitario, Presidio Co., Texas), an area that had not been seriously explored botanically. After reviewing his notes, Clark and several colleagues recognized that this was probably an undescribed taxon.

In habitat *E. ssp. canus* is distinguished by usually solitary stems covered with white spines and its shaggy appearance resulting from spreading central spines (giving rise to its common name "Graybeard Cactus".) No other member of the *E. viridiflorus* complex is known to grow in the Solitario Dome. This subspecies has more spines per areole than does any other subspecies; usually 8-15 slender, flexible central spines and 30-48 very slender radial spines, pure white, mostly appressed to the stem.

Flowers vary from light green to bright golden-green; 2 to 3.4 cm or more long, at first funnel-form, then in a hot greenhouse usually opening widely. The scent is described as "lemony." The flowering season in habitat is mid-March to April, extending into May in some seasons.

Echinocereus viridiflorus ssp. canus is endemic to the Trans-Pecos region, found on ridges and south-facing slopes in areas of unusual geology, such as the Solitario Dome.

(Photo: Powell, A. M. and J.F. Weedon (2004), "Cacti of the Trans-Pecos & Adjacent Areas")

PACHYPODIUM ROSULATUM



Pachypodium rosulatum is highly prized by hobbyists. It grows rapidly into a robust specimen and has magnificent blooms. Most will flower two years from seed.

In general appearance, it displays squat, swollen stems which are covered with conical spines toward the tapered tips, and with yellow flowers held high above the plant.

First described in 1882, the name means 'having rosettes', presumably referring to the leaves that appear at the tips of the branches. It is widespread in Madagascar, from the northwest as well as to the extreme south and up to a third of the southern area. It grows in full sun in pockets of humus or rock crevices in a variety of soils and at altitudes of from 200 to 1400 meters. Indigenous people reportedly use the sap for gum and medicinally as a cure for sores and boils. The picture opposite shows a plant in habitat.

Pachypodium rosulatum bears a resemblance to *P. densiflorum* and *P. horombense*. Itself, it exhibits a number of dissimilar floral structures, indicating different pollination mechanisms, long puzzling botanists. They refer to it as the "rosulatum complex." As a result, a number of sub-species have been identified: *ssp. bemarkahense*, *ssp. bicolor*, *ssp. cactipes*, *ssp. gracilis*, *ssp. makayense* and *ssp. rosulatum*. It appears that the genus may still be undergoing evolution!

This pachypodium is of easy culture. It is recommended to keep it well watered all year around.

Sue

(Photo: Rowley, G. (1999) "Pachypodium & Adenium")