

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 37 No. 8

August 2019

**NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 8TH, 7:00 P.M. (DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.)
REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
1084 WEST BULLARD, FRESNO (NEAR NW CORNER OF PALM AND BULLARD)**

Oaxaca by Steven Frieze

When I think of Mexico, I imagine dry sandy desert-like conditions. I also think of a drug infested country rife with violence that spills out into the streets making it dangerous for residents and visitors alike. Much to my surprise and delight, Oaxaca was none of the above. It is an area filled with extraordinary bio-diversity with a people that are warm and welcoming. Our group was able to find numerous botanical niches that contained a large number of different and distinctive cacti and succulents including Tillandias. We will take a tour of these areas and investigate the plants life that exist in each of them. We also had the opportunity to enjoy some of the local culture and visit some of the wonderful artisans and the local mescal breweries.



Steven Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. Steven was one of the original partners of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent nursery and is now a co-partner of Floratopia, an exotic plant nursery specializing in Tillandsias. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to other exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Brazil, and Rica.

Prior to his retirement, he was an administrator for the California State University system serving as the Executive Director of the Office of Institutional Research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member. He also functions as the Director of the Positive Psychology Lab at the same institution where students get the opportunity to design and execute psychological research studies.

Steven will be bringing a nice selection of plants for purchase

~~ DINNER ~~

Rosa Linda's Mexican Restaurant
2057 West Bullard Avenue, Fresno

[MENU](#)

(Located in the shopping center on the southwest corner of Bullard & West.)

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

Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, August 7th
to make reservations.
Phone: 559.999.0017

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

We're back in business after our month off. I hope you all are having a pleasant summer, despite the heat. We're meeting on the second Thursday this month because the church is using the meeting room on the first Thursday. They have a Bible school every year during the last week in July, and this year the last week in July includes August 1-2. (Looking ahead, this will not be a problem in 2020.)

Ahead of us, in September, is our Members' Sale Night. Any member who wishes to sell plants, pots or other hobby-related items will need to sign up this month. Due to space issues, each vendor is limited to one table. The fee for each vendor is \$10.00. We will also have a club sale table; anyone may donate a plant or two (or more.)

Earlier this summer, while we were on hiatus, we were contacted by someone who needed to disperse her stepfather's plant collection. I asked Larry Homan to check this out, and he reported that some of the plants were worth accepting, though most were quite large. Larry did take custody of a 5-6 foot tall branched *Pachypodium lamerei*, among other plants. Our intention is to sell this specimen in September. Larry was going to haul it to the Members' Sale Night, but now is not able to, so we need someone with a truck and a dolly to bring in the plant. If you can help with this, please let us know. We'll have a photo of the plant for the September newsletter. And I want to thank Larry for rescuing the plants for the club.

Keep an eye on your plants during this hot weather, especially in the muggy stretches we've had where it doesn't cool off at night the way we expect it to. You need to be careful with watering; it can be easy—and distressing—to overwater. Even if a plant appears to droop in the heat, wait to see if it perks up by morning. When in doubt about watering, don't. A lot of cacti and succulents go into a semi-dormant state during summer. They will resume active growth when temps recede in the fall.

Hope to see you at the meeting, **Sue**



THE BIG FRESNO FAIR



It's not early for club members interested to exhibit your cacti and succulents at the Big Fresno Fair. There are several steps you must take. First, you need to obtain the 2019 Exhibits Handbook, which has your entry form and division number and classification number. The Handbook is available at the Fresno Fair business office at 1125 Chance Ave, or by calling the office (559-650-3247) and have the Handbook mailed to you, or log on to www.FresnoFair.com and complete the entry form. Second, if you don't know the classification of your plants, bring them to the club meetings and some members will properly identify your plants. Third, be sure your plants are free from infestation. Jennifer Waite, Superintendent, will remove your plants from exhibit.

The Fair starts on Wednesday, October 2 through Monday, October 14, 2019 from 11 am to 11 pm. The club will need plants monitors throughout the Fair. A shift consisted of two hours, where you'll meet and public and answer their questions about caring cacti and succulents. You're not required to know all about cacti and succulents. Once your shift is completed, you can spend the rest of the time at the Fair. I'll have the sign-up sheets at our September and October club meetings. If you sign up for a shift, you'll received parking and admission passes. However, if you sign-up for four hours or more, you'll take a photo at the business office and later be issued a badge and you'll receive only parking passes from me.

Rudy Rulloda, Fresno Fair Coordinator



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

*Rudy Rulloda (2nd);
Howard McLachlin (10th)
Sherrie Evans (13th)
Francis Cardenas (22nd);
Nicki Bradford; Lisa Brew (28th)*

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**Say Hello To This New Member:** Javier Veliz, Fresno

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We have membership badges on the welcome table for Merri Larson, Robbie Boyer and Amanda Boyer

BOARD MEETING: The August board meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 12th, at 128 W. Peace River, Fresno; 6 p.m. (The cross streets are Audubon and Del Mar.) Members are welcome to attend.

AUGUST WORKSHOP: The workshop this month will be Tuesday, August 13th, at the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library. We have the meeting room reserved from 6 to 8 p.m. The library system has a new system for reserving meeting rooms; you can only reserve one month at a time. So it is likely that the workshop may be on different week nights—not on Wednesday, as it appears that this evening is reserved for computer game players. This month we'll look at genera that begin with M and N.

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**COMING EVENTS**

**August 10-11, 34<sup>th</sup> Inter-City Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale**, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia CA  
(see flyer elsewhere in the newsletter)

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August 16-17, Friday & Saturday, California Rare Fruit Growers Plant Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia CA;
Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The above events are free, with paid admission to the Arboretum.

SUCCULENT PLANT SYMPOSIUM

The 36th Huntington Succulent Plant Symposium will be Saturday, August 31st, at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Speakers include Andrew Siekkinen (Succulent Bromeliads); Alberto E. Areces-Mallea (Cacti of the West Indies); Ron Kaufmann (Relationships between botanical gardens and plant collectors); Karen Zimmerman (Huntington Desert Collections); and Paul Hoxey (Cacti of Peru).

Registration is \$85; includes early entrance into the Huntington, continental breakfast, lunch and the afternoon refreshment break in the nursery area.

8:30-9:00 a.m. – registration and breakfast;
9:00 -3:00 p.m., or so – programs in the Ahmanson Classroom;

Later in the afternoon – shopping in the Huntington nursery, touring the Desert Garden, etc. There is also a silent auction, the proceeds of which go to offset some costs of the event.

The grounds close at 5 p.m.

If you would like more information, get in touch with Sue; sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu

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**NEW NURSERY:** There's a new cactus and succulent nursery in southern California—Never Enough Cactus, 11226 Christy Ave, Lake View Terrace, CA 91322. They are located just off the 210 freeway at the Wheatland exit. (This is on the way to Pasadena, if the area is not familiar to you.) They're open on weekends, 9 a.m to 4 p.m.

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WANT TO SHOW OFF YOUR GARDEN? The *Fresno Bee* has been publishing photos of local gardens, greenhouses, etc, in the Thursday Home & Garden Section. Email your photo to: features@fresnobee.com

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, rfrojas96@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.

CCSA CONVENTION MUSINGS

A half dozen club members registered for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America convention held last month in San Luis Obispo. Hosting a convention is a big job for any club, even an enthusiastic and flourishing club like the Central Coast Cactus & Succulent Society. Of course, the host club receives directions and a budget from CSSA. Still, San Luis Obispo is a much smaller city than those usually chosen as convention sites. The CCCSS was up to the job, however.

The Veterans Memorial Building was a perfectly adequate venue for the programs, rare plant auction and the social events that make up any convention. The plant sale was under a large tent out in the parking lot.

Field trips are a feature of CSSA Conventions. All the Fresno attendees opted for the private garden tour, figuring that if we wanted to go to Hearst Castle, Lotusland or Montana de Oro State Park, which were some of the other destinations, we could go anytime. But we can't just walk into someone's yard without an invitation.

And what yards they were! We started in Morro Bay and worked our way back to SLO, visiting four yards that displayed how wonderfully succulents grow in the cool, moist climate. Three of the gardens had been created by Nick Wilkinson's landscape business, Botanica Nova; the Morro Bay garden was the work of the owner, who has his own landscape business. They all were spectacular, with specimen plants in attractive settings. Two of the gardens showed individual tweaks created by their owners. It was a fun day.



Photo credit: Laurel Woodley

Programs began on Thursday and went on through Saturday. Speakers included Attila Kapitany, Brian Kemble, Doug Dawson, Kelly Griffin, Greg Starr and several others. Topics included succulents of Australia, gasterias, cacti of Chile, mesembs, dudleyas, aloes, cacti of Peru, aloes, agaves, haworthias, and more. A first (for me) was to see drone photography in one of the programs. The audiences were engaged and asked a lot of questions.



Photo Credit: Loring Manley
CCCSS

(Continued on next page.)

Thursday evening featured the rare plant auction, with Woody Minnich and Steve Lovecky as auctioneers. There were some amazing plants available and most went for eye-popping bids. There also was a silent auction. Fred Gaumer donated a tray of small *Ariocarpus bravoanus* plants he'd grown from seed—and it went for \$550! The auctions raised a record amount, with the money slated for the CSSA Research Fund.

The convention banquet was held Friday evening. Every attendee got to select a small plant, each in its handmade pot. The offer of a free plant is now a tradition at CSSA conventions, but they're usually in plastic containers. Kudos to the Central Coast club for coming up with all those handmade pots. The evening speaker was Dr. Jim Mauseth, who delivered the most serious, scientific talk of the convention. He has been studying cactus physiology for years, doing research that I'm not sure is being replicated by anyone else. It was very interesting.

Members of the local club worked hard to show the 300+ attendees a good time, and it was appreciated by all, I'm sure. For me, one of the great things about these get-togethers is that I get to visit with people I only see every two years.

The next convention will be in 2021, with the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society as host.

Sue



Photo Credit: Laurel Woodley



More photos on following page



Photo Credit:
Laurel Woodley

SOME OLD USES FOR EUPHORBIA SAP

Removing ink from paper: A Dutch missionary who ran out of paper while working in South Africa, found that he was able to reuse paper he had already written on by washing it with euphorbia sap.

This doesn't work with modern ballpoint pens, but South African researchers tried it on an ink-written note from 1933. Within an hour the old ink was barely visible and the procedure did not damage the paper.

Stealing cattle: Since at least the 19th century, stock thieves have used euphorbia sap to obliterate marks of ownership. Euphorbia sap is used to wash the cattle brands; the animal's hair falls out and re-grows with a different hue and pattern, hiding the brand.

(From: *Veld & flora*, June 2019)



FOG – A TEMPORARY HOME FOR MICROBES

We know that there are arid areas when it hardly ever rains but where the vegetation is watered by ocean fog that can blow in even up to 200 miles. It condenses into tiny droplets that land on plants, etc. So what's in this fog? Ever ask yourself that?

The droplets of water in fog can also harbor bacteria and fungi and when blown by breezes can transport these microbes to new locations. Fog droplets may coalesce to form larger droplets that deposit themselves and their microbes on land or animals.

A common feature researchers found was that marine and terrestrial microbes mingled within the droplets in their own little worlds. Could these microbes ever perhaps change the microbial composition of the land visited by that fog?

(From: *Pacific horticulture*, Spring 2019)

BORZICACTUS SAMAIPATANUS

By Elton Roberts



Some twenty-odd years ago I joined the Stockton cactus club and soon thereafter saw a painting of *Borzicactus samaipatanus* in a book and asked if anyone had the plant for sale. One person said that they did and—how lucky for me. For since then I do not believe I have seen a plant on a sales table. I do not remember the size of the plant I got at the time but it was not in the best of condition. In time it grew and became a wonderful part of my collection.

The thing that drew me to the plant was the flower; I had to see for myself if it was really true that a red flower would have a white border around each flower petal. When the plant first set buds I watched every day and finally the flowers opened. What a sight! was wishing that the flowers were as large as saucers so I could see them better. Every time I see this plant in bloom it takes me back to when I was very young and watching my mother making lace. I guess that was called tating and I do not see it anymore. The lace would go around different things that she would make or buy that needed fancying up.



The plant's stems are described as growing to 1.5 meters long and to 4 cm. in diameter. They clump from the base and have spines that are from whitish to yellow to brown or gray. My plants have yellow spines and that gives the plant a yellowish green look. The branches are erect at first and as they grow become heavier and in time hang straight down except for the last 20 to 30 cm of the stem. That part curls upward and to me gives the plant character.

The flowers are to 4 cm long and to 2.1 cm in diameter so you see they are not all that large. Usually the plant opens clusters of flowers. I said usually. They cluster all blooms at the same time. Flowers are red with a white fringe around each petal. The plant blooms when it feels like it, from spring to late summer. That is when I've seen it in bloom.

I have had the plants where they got some rain on them over the winter. Some complained and others took it just fine. I have since moved them to larger hanging pots and I keep them dry over the winter. They are under cover of a roof with the sides open all year. They have taken at least 20 degrees of frost in the time I've had them. I give them my regular soil mix and they grow right well in it.



HAWORTHIOPSIS



Fig. 50. A cultivated plant of the zebra-banded form of *H. attenuata* var. *attenuata*, widely cultivated, but rare in its natural habitat.

The genus *Haworthiopsis* was established in 2013 by Gordon Rowley to accommodate the species formerly classified under the subgenus *Hexangulares* of the genus *Haworthia*. It includes some of the species most popular among collectors and growers, with some species, such as *attenuata* and *limifolia*, grown commercially in large numbers.

The species in this genus are generally very easily distinguished from the species retained in *Haworthia*. Most members of the genus *Haworthia* have softer and very succulent leaves, while the species of *Haworthiopsis* generally have harder and tougher leaves with a thicker epidermis, occasionally also having leaf fibers.

Like most plants in the aloe-like genera, the species in the genus are variable, succulent plants displaying a wide range of shapes, sizes, colors and textures. The plants may be few-to many-leaved, and either be stem-less or stemmed, with the leaves compactly arranged around the elongated stem (as in *H. coarctata*). In some species the plants are solitary and rarely offset, while other species proliferate from the base to form dense clumps. In some species the plants also spread by sending out underground stolons, with offsets emerging a short distance away. Roots vary from being thread-like to swollen and thickened to aid in retaining moisture.

Variation of leaf characteristics in *Haworthiopsis* is immense, and the leaves may vary from species to species or even within a species. Typically the leaves are arranged in rosettes; in some cases the leaves appear in spirals around an elongated stem. They often have tubercles scattered on either the lower or on both leaf surfaces. A few species have windowed areas on the leaves, as well.

If you have studied or read much about haworthias, you know that their taxonomy has been in flux for some time. This rearrangement of the genus, based on DNA studies, stands for the present time. South African botanist, Sean Gildenhuis, has divided *Haworthiopsis* into seven sections, which was published in *Aloe* 53:1, 2017, from which these pictures are taken. He allows that this division may be provisional:

Section *Attenuata* (*H. attenuata*);

Section *Haworthiopsis* (*H. coarctata*, *fasciata*, *glauca*, *longiana*, *reinwardtii*);

Section *Koelmaniorum* (*H. koelmaniorum*);

Section *Limifoliae* (*H. limifolia*);

Section *Tessellatae* (*H. granulata*, *tessellata*, *venosa*, *woolleyi*);

Section *Trifariae* (*H. pungens*, *nigra*, *scabra*, *viscosa*);

Section *Virescentes* (*H. bruynsii*, *sordida*).



Fig. 106. A cultivated plant of *H. limifolia* var. *glaucophylla* (Venter 13700) from Three Sisters. The plants are similar to var. *ubomboensis* but have rosettes of glossier and firmer greyish-green coloured

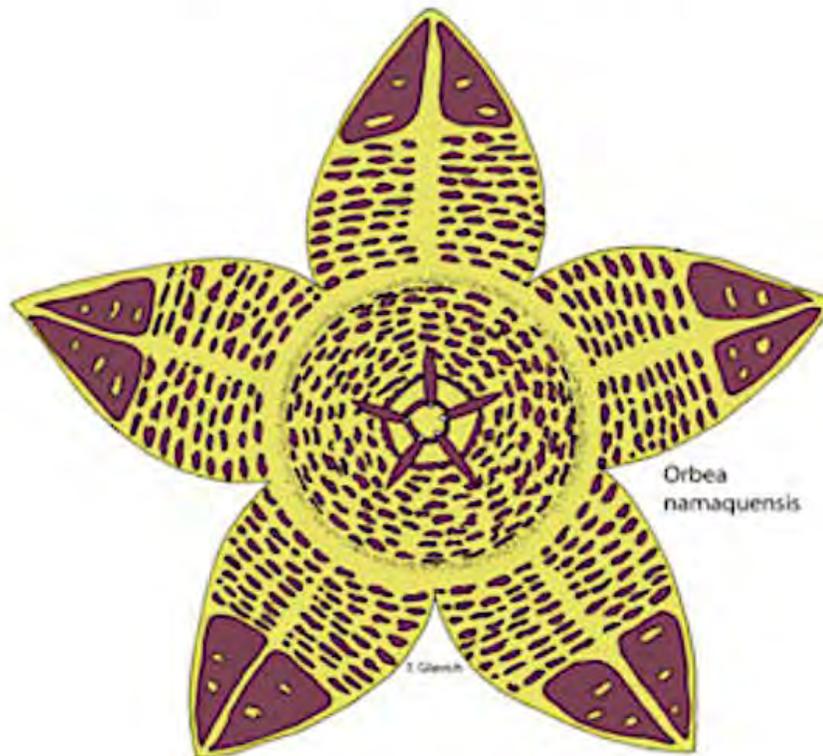
Haworthias are among the most popular plants among succulent growers. There is even a specialty society devoted to their study (www.haworthias.org), which issues 3 journals per year. Each issue contains interesting articles and photos of drool-worthy species and cultivars, and also articles on related genera, such as *Gasteria* and *Aloe*.

Most haworthiopsis species are of fairly easy culture. Some have more special requirements. It's a good idea to read up on these plants, utilizing books in the club library. Their habitats include both summer and winter rainfall areas of South Africa, as well as the area of crossover between the two zones. Some have more pronounced dormant periods, while others appear to be in active growth most of the year.

Sean Gildenhuis (mentioned above) was announced as a speaker at the just-concluded CSSA Convention in San Luis Obispo. However, he has been unable to get a visa to visit the U.S., despite many months of trying. Brian Kemble and Kelly Griffin stepped in to fill his scheduled talks and did very well. Both reminded us that—in reference to the above—the plants don't care what we call them.

Sue

**34th Annual Inter-City
Cactus and Succulent
Show and Sale**



August 10 - 11 2019 9 AM to 5 PM
LA County Arboretum 301 N Baldwin, Arcadia

www.intercityshow.com

626-821-3222

Free with Arboretum Admission