

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## *Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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This month's ZOOM Speaker is our own Peter Beiersdorfer....

So let's give him a great big virtual round of applause!

### Plants of the central Southern Andes

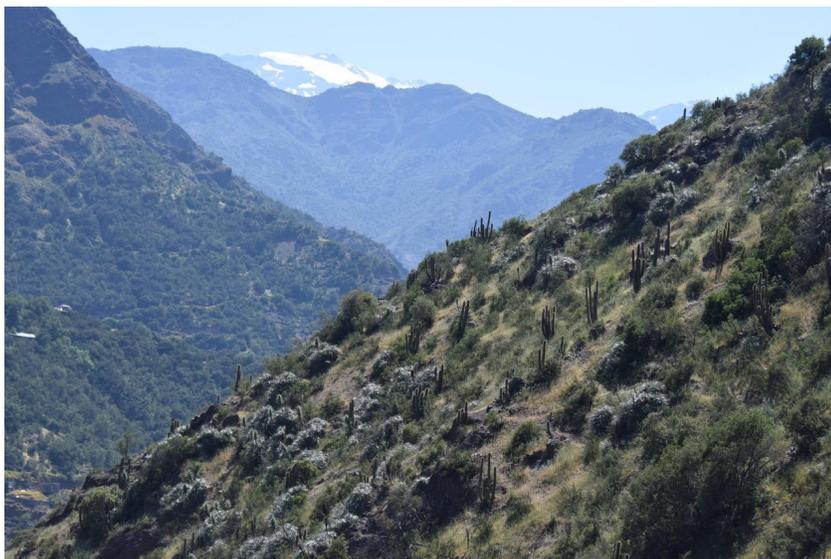
Peter Beiersdorfer

At the center of the Southern Andes lies Aconcagua, which at 22,837 feet is the highest mountain in the western hemisphere. Santiago de Chile is located to the west and Mendoza, Argentina, is located to the east of Aconcagua. While this region is known to many for its wines, it is also the source of many plants found in our gardens and in our succulent plant collections. In his talk, Peter will take us to both the western and eastern Andean foothills as well as to the high-altitude alpine areas in the middle. His presentation will include colorful *Alstroemerias*, man-sized *Soehrensias* and tree-sized *Trichocereus*, dainty flowering bulbs, and superb *Puyas* in bloom.



Peter retired from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory less than two years ago. Since then Peter has traveled twice to Chile during the flowering season to explore and photograph its succulent flora. These trips followed two earlier trips to Argentina. He still hopes to return again to Chile and Argentina this coming fall or winter, provided that air travel resumes and is safe. Peter has an extensive collection of succulent plants at his home in Liver-

**ZOOM Meeting**  
**Thurs Aug 6th**  
**Check your email**  
**For Details**



## FROM THE PREZ...

Dear FCSS Membership,

It's hard to imagine that August is almost here and that we have gone through most of the Summer all ready. Time doesn't slow down, even in a quarantine. Staying busy helps, and caring for plants sure does just that! Whether it's watering, repotting, or just admiring our plants, it takes time. I'm sure we are all grateful to have a hobby that keeps us occupied right now.



Speaking of things to do, our next Zoom meeting is [August 6th at 6:30pm](#). We are excited to have Peter Beiersdorfer and Jaan Lepson present for us this month. Their talk is titled: "Plants of the Central Southern Andes ". Peter and Jaan have presented to our club many times before and have always been wonderful. Please let other members know so they can get involved with the Zoom meetings.

**The meeting code is: 889 6656 0915**

I will also be sending out another email closer to the meeting date that will have more information on how to join the meeting. If you're having trouble with Zoom, please contact a Board Member and we will help you.

In the last newsletter I mentioned that we are still waiting to hear from the Fairground on the status of our Show and Sale, if we can have it this year. I haven't heard from them as of yet but was told we would hear more by [August 1st](#). Once I hear from them I will send out an email letting the membership know. Having heard that the Fresno Fair is going to be a drive-thru this year, it's not looking good for our event. We would all love to be able to have our Show and Sale but with everything going on it would be extremely difficult to put it on this year. We are waiting for the official word from the Fairgrounds before making a final decision. The board will do what's in the best interest of our membership and keeping ever safe.

I hope all of you are staying busy and most importantly staying healthy. Hope everyone can join the Zoom meeting [on August 6th](#). Zoom can be a little different at first but it's easy and great way to still experience a club meeting.

Take care,  
Robert Scott

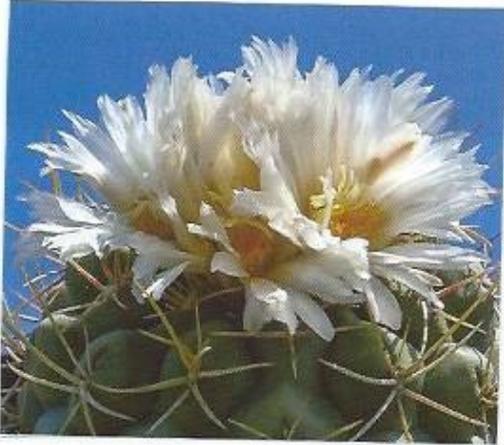
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Not looking like there will be a fair this year, This came in on 7/31

**VIRTUAL FRESNO FAIR:** Because of Covid-19, the fair will have "virtual" exhibits. If you wish to enter a plant you do it online. You will be sent an entry card of the sort that is usually displayed on the plant. The owner photographs the card and plant digitally and uploads to the entry program where it is judged and the photo is displayed with a virtual ribbon. Departments will not be open and no staff or volunteers can participate. Keep checking the fair website, [www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com).



## THELOCACTUS HEXAEDROPHORUS



This species of *Thelocactus* is a welcome addition to any general cactus collection. It is globular, sometimes tending to columnar, usually single headed. It features large tubercles, an epidermis glaucous green to bluish gray, with strong spines. The single, straight central spine is reddish, with 4-6 straight, reddish to gray radials. The areoles are on top of the tubercles which have a distinct groove. The spine clusters grow from the base of the areoles. Flowers are white with a pink mid-stripe or sometimes pure white or pinkish. Fruits are green to magenta, becoming dry at maturity, dehiscent at the base to release the seeds.

Habitat is limestone soils in savannah and grasslands in the states of north central Mexico.

Pot culture presents no difficulties. It needs strong light and good air circulation. The species is fairly slow growing and can live a long time. My several plants are old, bloom reliably and set seed.

Sue

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## THE PERSIAN CARPET PLANT

*Edithcolea* is a monotypic genus (meaning it contains one species, the aptly named *grandis*.) It was first discovered growing in what was then British Somaliland by Miss Edith Cole back in 1895. Since that first discovery, populations have been found in many parts of east Africa, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Yemen (including Socotra.)



The common name aptly describes the spectacularly lined and spotted 4" flowers. The five-lobed corolla is flattish or saucer shaped, with a small rounded tube in the center containing the corona. The plant in habitat is described as decumbent—that is, the stems bend down to the ground but lift up at the ends. The five-angled stems are armed at the angles with hard brown very acute spine-like teeth. Different plants may display blossoms with varied patterns.

*Edithcolea* can be a frustrating plant to try to grow. You feel such elation when a plant blooms, only to find later that it has turned into a pile of mush. It certainly isn't the easiest of the stapeliads .

It helps to keep in mind that the plant comes from very hot, mostly dry regions, growing amid rocks and grass which provide some protection from the direct sun. It's not helpful to try to encourage fast growth. Exposure to good light and dry conditions will produce hard growth, the stems almost chocolate brown.

The potting mix should be very well drained (the water should run right through.) Some growers have good results with the plant in small hanging pots. Keep on the dry side from, roughly, November until at least mid-March. Protect from temperatures below 50 degrees.

Propagation is generally by seeds or cuttings. Seeds are occasionally available from specialty dealers. Plants are sometimes found at the larger plant sales.

Sue

### Club access:

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**Introducing** a new feature **“What I’ve Been Up To...”**  
Until we can actually meet up Face to Face this will give us a way  
to share what we have been doing during “Stay at home”. Send  
Your Story to Carole Grosch - [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net)

Below are some photos that were also submitted,  
and on the next page are the stories from our members.



These pictures are from  
Marlyn Carter...  
(see next page)



The picture below is from  
Rosanna Rojas, see her story  
On the next page...



## **What I've been up to.....**

Club members weigh in on how they have been spending their time, 'lo these past pandemic months:

### **Christeen Abbott-Hearn**

"I have to say that I'm really missing the club meetings for the social aspect and for the plants! I have lots of succulent clippings that I've trimmed off my plants that I would normally take to the meetings to give away. They are piling up.

"On the flip side I'm missing picking up clippings of plants I don't yet have at our meetings and the events. I've enjoyed the Zoom meetings but really miss everyone. Stay healthy everyone. Looking forward to getting together again!"

### **Karen Willoughby**

"I have enjoyed working on my plants but there has been too much worry and too much food! I have enjoyed the Zoom club meetings, my exercise class via Zoom, reading and way too much TV."

### **Marilyn Carter**

"I have actually enjoyed being "shelter in home". It's given me opportunity to get some quilting projects done. I have also spent more time in the garden. My SIL from Kansas sent me some sunflower seeds I planted early this spring. They are blooming now. I love the dark orangish red ones."

### **Sue Haffner**

"This summer has had its good and bad aspects. The good: my cacti have bloomed more profusely than ever this year and more have set seed than ever before. Is the weather responsible--the up and down temps, the rainfall intervals? Or could it be that I'm just paying more attention?

"The not so good: I've had a lot of plants get sun scorched this year. If you catch it early you can move the plant into a more protected area and the yellowed patch on the plant will return to green."

### **Rosanna Rojas**

"It has been a very interesting several months. Learning to use curbside deliveries for groceries, Zoom for Zumba class, CSSA webinars, Club Meetings and Church.

"Having to stay home has given me the motivation to really clean up and organize my plants. I look forward to watering and spending time outside. I have had time to fertilize, even repot. Have gained a new appreciation for having the foothills and mountains so close for frequent drives for a change of scenery! I am lining up speakers for next year too for our Club. Praying for all to be safe and for a vaccine."