

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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NEXT ZOOM MEETING: THURSDAY, JULY 1st, 6:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 822 1504 0803 Passcode: 651603

"Aloes On My Mind: Exploring Aloe Hybrids One Generation at a Time"

Presented by Karen Zimmerman



I have been the Succulent Plant Propagator for the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens for 20 years. I take care of, propagate and grow the many tens of thousands of succulents in our potted Desert Collections.

I've always been drawn to growing plants. The first plants I grew from seed were pine trees. A small local nursery gave my best friend and me an envelope of pine seeds, and I can still remember the deep excitement and awe when they germinated! We were 10 years old. I also remember years later, my mother pointing to the rear of the yard asking,

"Karen, where did that tree come from?" That Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*) was as tall as the electric lines by then.

I still get that same "Christmas morning" excitement when a batch of new aloe hybrid babies germinate. It's even better when they start to develop some character, often very early with the first true leaf. Despite careful breeding for specific traits such as color, size or toothiness, unexpected anomalies can appear in any breeding, especially given how complicated these aloe hybrids have become with generations of species and crosses in the mix. The standouts are, of course, the ones I crave!

Photography is another great love of mine, and I find it pairs well with horticulture. It is easy to overlook small details, and you can really see them through a lens up close.

I love to share tiny wonders.



From the Prez...



Hi members,

I hope all of you survived the insane heat that hit the valley last week. It was brutal! It's always stressful wondering if a plant will survive those temperatures. I moved a few plants under the patio and others got covered in shade cloth. For others it was just hoping for the best. The greenhouse got to 125 degrees. I had two box fans going inside of it and having that airflow is key in the heat. Everything looks like it survived the heat wave, now just have to wait for the next one to arrive.

Moving your plants or covering them with shade cloth can help them survive the intense heat. The issues come once the heat is over and moving the plants back into the sunlight. If you moved a plant to the patio for a few days and then moved back to the full sun, you could end up burning your plants. In the course of just a day or two the plant tissues can become thinner/weaker to sunlight. So you actually end up burning the plant after you save them. Move your plants back slowly, over the course of a few days back into the intense sun. Slowly move them to a bright location each day so the tissues thicken. You could use pieces of shade cloth as well. Move the plant and cover with a double layer of shade cloth. Give a few days and go to a single layer, then a few more day until you remove the cloth. You have to slowly build up the sun tolerance of the plant. Moving plants back into full sun takes time but it's much better than having burnt plants.

Thank you to everyone who donated and bid on plants for the Summer Silent Auction. The club brought in over \$1200! We couldn't have done it without your support.

As everyone knows the community is starting to open up. In the next few weeks the Board will be getting together to discuss how the club will get back to in person meetings. It's not a simple thing and we will be figuring out what will be best for the members. We want to be in person while keeping all the members safe. Once that is figured out you will receive emails on how in person meetings will be implemented.

Take care,

Robert

JULY BIRTHDAYS:**Norma Forbes, Carolee Clayton (10th);****Laverne Cottet (12th);****Burma Gunther (18th);****Rosanna Rojas (19th);****Marcia Rosenberg (21st);****Jessica Evans (24th);****Gloria Conlin (26th);****Carol Grosch (31st)**

NEW MEMBERS: We added quite a few new members at the Home & Garden Show in May. We hope to meet them at upcoming in-person meetings:

Chenoa DeFreece,	Adrienne Durant,
Evangelina Gonzales,	Steve Harness,
Stacey Kodama,	Elisa Llabres,
Taylor McConnaughey,	Lily Mukai,
Kristine Novasco,	Donna Schiefer,
Jeri Taylor,	Jeff Tyrrel,
Redel Valera,	Robin Van Dyke

All are from Fresno, except Steve Harness, who lives in Clovis. *Welcome!*

SUMMER AND SUCCULENTS:

When you look over your plants during this extra-hot weather you may see them trying to protect themselves by folding their leaves. Aloes and even agaves in full sun try to reduce the area exposed to the sun by shrinking in upon themselves. You might want to protect them with pieces of shade cloth.

On the other hand, my cacti are blooming as never before. Still, most of our plants hunker down in semi-dormancy to await the cooler temperatures of fall.

Also, be aware of how hot pots can get when in the full sun. Plant roots can cook inside. Try to shade the pots. *Sue*

Newsletter submissions are due by the 20th of each month.

FRESNO FAIR REPORT

The Big Fresno Fair 2021 will be an in-person event and will start on Wednesday, October 6 to Sunday, October 17. The club urges members to participate in showing their plants, even if it's only one plant. However, members wishing to participate should acquire the 2021 Exhibitor Handbook, which can be obtained at 1121 Chance Avenue, Fresno or online at www.fresnofair.com. There is a big change in the succulents division: all of the classes have different numbers. It's time to look over your collection. If you don't know the name of your plant, bring it to the club meetings and members will provide you the names.

Rudy Rulloda, Fair Coordinator

FUTURE EVENT**Southern Intercity Show & Sale**

August 14-15

Los Angeles Arboretum

301 N. Baldwin Ave

Arcadia, CA

More information will be forthcoming as the time nears. This is likely the largest cactus & succulent show in the world and the sale is enormous, with vendors from all over California and a few from out of state. The Arboretum is an easy exit from the 210 freeway.

ISI PLANTS

The latest issue of *Cactus and Succulent Journal* (Summer 2021) presents the ISI plants for this year. The aim of the ISI (International Succulent Introductions) is to propagate and distribute new or rare succulents to collectors, nurseries and institutions. Proceeds from the sale of the plants go entirely to support the program, which is run out of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Among this year's offerings are: *Pereskia horrida*, *Agave 'Switchblade'*, *Aloe vaotsanda*, *Dioscorea sylvatica*, *Euphorbia royleana*, *xTavieria 'Ruth Bancroft'* and many others. www.media.huntington.org/ISI/ISI2021/catalogindex.html

JUNE WORKSHOP REPORT

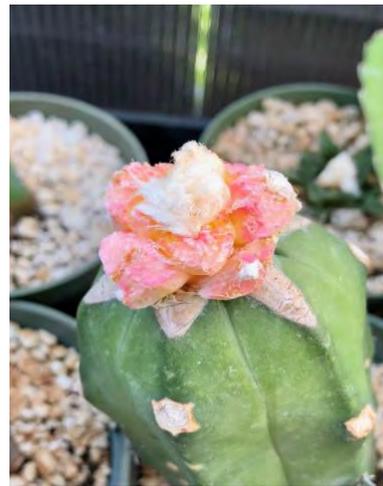
As the June workshop opened, we discussed the upcoming heatwave and how to get our plants through it with minimal damage. Members asked about shade cloth, watering and dehydration effects on succulents. Dominic Ortiz, Rosanna Rojas and Rob Scott brought show-and-tell plants. Dominic said that, next month, he will provide a video tour of the Deutsch Garden at the Discovery Center.

The July workshop will be Wednesday, July 21st, at 6:30.

Sue



Photos by
Rob Scott



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AGAVE FILIFERA



Agave filifera is a small species, a clumper, which can form small clusters up to three feet across. The individual rosettes are small, up to eight to twelve inches high by fifteen to twenty-four inches in diameter. Leaves are dark green, narrow, straight or slightly curved. They have no marginal teeth but instead display curly, white fibers along the edges.

For a long time there has been disagreement among taxonomists as to *A. filifera*'s place in the *Agave schidigera*-*Agave multifilifera* complex. There are many similarities in appearance and growth form, and *filifera* has several officially described subspecies. Various compact forms of these are available from specialty nurseries.

Agave filifera has a limited distribution across central Mexico. Greg Starr, in his agave book, describes a search for this species in the mountains of the state of Querétaro. Plants he found were growing on and among rocks in very shallow soil.

This is a nice little agave for growing in pots, in the ground or in a container with other succulents. It has the added attraction of its spike of salmon-pink flowers. The rosette will die after blooming but the plant will produce a number of offsets which can be detached and propagated.

It is of easy culture, frost tolerant, not fussy about soil or water. The leaves can blush red in response to stress—excess sun, too little water, or cold temperatures.

Sue



PARODIA PENICILLATA

Karen Willoughby sent us these photos of her blooming *Parodia penicillata*. What amazing blossoms! The species is native to Salta Province, Argentina. Local people are known to collect this plant to grow in pots and gardens just for the flowers.

The plant has either yellow or white glassy spines in thick tufts like paint brushes from each areole. This is attested by the specific name (*penicillate* = having, forming or resembling a small tuft of hairs.) It makes a globular stem up to 5-6" wide by up to a foot tall, often clustering. In some habitats it hangs down from steep cliffs.

Parodia penicillata is of easy culture; flowers in 3 to 4 years from seed.

Sue



Monadenium Dorstenia Pilosocereus Pachypodium Welwitschia Jatropha Rauhia Zehneria Pyrenacantha Melocactus Pseudolithos Agave Gerrardanthus Avonia

Ariocarpus Astrophytum Turbinicarpus Adenia Adenium Pterodiscus Zygosicyos Euphorbia Fockea Crassula Cissus

Cheridopsis Conophytum Othonna Cyphostemma Haworthia Gasteria Aloe Kedrostis Ledebouria Sesamothamnus Sansevieria Bowiaea Raphionacme etc. etc.



Rob & Terry invite you to the Skillin ranch for

OPEN GREENHOUSE DAY

A day of fun, food, friends and PLANTS, on **July 24**

Greenhouse opens for tours starting at 9:00

Plant sales at 10:00

Raffle at 12:30

- Free Raffle Plants!
- “Terry’s Famous” Complimentary Taco Bar and Free Refreshments!
- Silent Auction of larger specimen plants (I need to make room for the new!)
- A wide variety of Sales Plants – everything from smaller to very large – all interesting, rare, well-grown and affordable!
- And of course – Greenhouse & Botanical Garden Tours!

A great chance to meet up with friends, have an enjoyable day and go home with something new!

We will have boxes available, but thanks if you can bring your own

Cash and Checks only – sorry – no credit cards

Contact: (805)709-3033 (no texts, please) rskillin@gmail.com

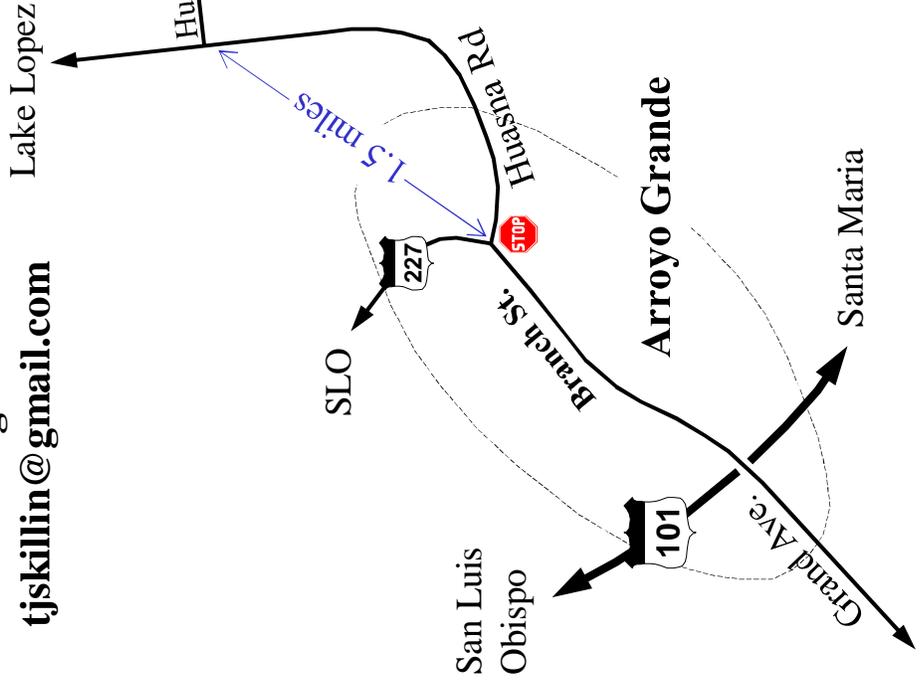
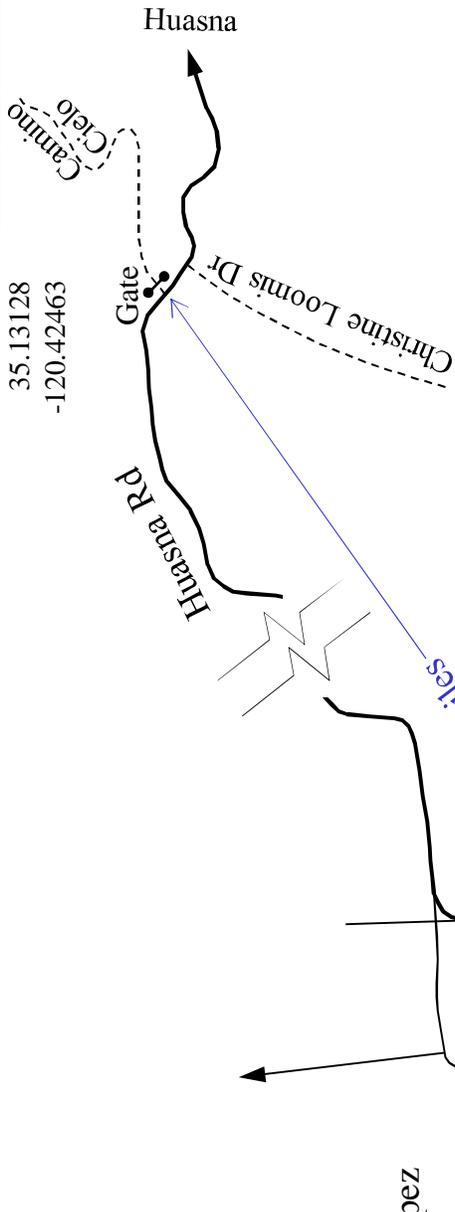
Raffle Plants – free ticket for everyone in attendance, no purchase necessary

- 1) Agave cv Japan – highly ornamental, suitable for pot culture
- 2) Rauhia peruviana – summer-grower w/ interesting flowers
- 3) Sansevieria cylindrica var. patula dwarf ‘Boncel’
- 4) Adenium somalense – caudex attains huge proportions





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- 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