

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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June 2022

IN-PERSON MEETING: THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 P.M.)
REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH
1084 WEST BULLARD, FRESNO (NEAR NW CORNER OF PALM AND BULLARD)



“All About Aloes”

By Robert Scott

Aloes are a large group of succulents with a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and color. Making them Robert’s favorite type of succulent. Robert will be taking us through the genus Aloe, showing a few of the 560 different species and how to care for them in the Central Valley climate. Aloes offer something for everyone, with miniatures to giant trees 40 feet tall. They can provide an explosion of color in the yard with unique colorful blooms every year. They really are the ultimate succulent!

The allure of cacti and succulents has fascinated people for hundreds of, if not thousands of years. However, Unlike some other horticultural endeavors, through collecting and fostering an interest in the cactus and succulent hobby is fairly new. This program focuses on the people, the changing American landscape, and curious set of events that have shaped our hobby as we find it today.



Robert is now on his third year being the President for our Society. He was elected right before the pandemic started and has kept our group going through it all. He’s also the Sale Chair, responsible for planning and running all our group’s plant sales. Robert first learned about plants as a little kid from his grandma. They would grow a vegetable garden together and that lead to growing lot of other things. He loves to try growing everything he can, with some favorites being water plants, bulbs, orchids, hoyas, houseplants, and of course cacti and succulents. His favorite succulents are the aloes, as they come in all different looks, have spectacular blooms, and can be crossed to make new hybrids. Robert received his bachelor's degree at Fresno State in Plant Science-Plant Health. He was an Agricultural Inspector with the County but recently left that position to work at Caltrans in Environmental. We are fortunate to have someone like him in our Society, putting in the hard work to keep everything running.

FROM THE PREZ . . .



Hi Members - *The June meeting has been moved to June 9th*

Our 2022 Show & Sale is (almost) here!

On June 4th & 5th, we will be in the Commerce Building at the Fresno Fairgrounds with the largest plant sale and show we have ever put on! This year we have 13 vendors, both local and from around the State. They include Dennis Anderson, Mary Drumheller, Bill Gale, Nancy Jobin, Tony Sharp Pottery, Susan Cook, Karl Church, Peter Beiersdorfer & Jaan Lepson, Desert Roots Nursery, Steve Frieze, Naomi Bloss, Jim Smith, and Gary Duke. There will be plants and pottery for everyone!

Show Information

June 3rd is setup for this event. We will be starting at 10am moving tables and setting up the room. If you're able to help move tables and place tablecloths we could use some help. Vendors can start setting up their tables starting at 11am and have till 6pm. For those donating items to the Club's table, you have between 12pm-6pm to drop them off. As a reminder, if you have any cuttings, plants, pots, or books you would like to donate then the club can sell those items at its table. 100% of everything sold goes back to the club. This is also the same time for you to drop of your plants that you would like to enter in our judged show. Bring your plants between 12pm-6pm to have them entered into the show. If you have been collecting boxes, you may drop them off at any time during setup. For all drop offs, you can enter the fairgrounds and drive right up to the Commerce Building. You will be entering the gate on Chance Avenue that is just south of the Chance Main Gate and then driving around to our building. I will also be sending a map out in an email. We can always use more volunteers to help, if you would to join us please let me know!

Show Plants

We've had a lot of questions concerning how to show plants. Hopefully I can help you put your mind at ease and make the process easy for you. We would love for everyone to show at least one plant to get your toes wet. First, pick what plants you would like to enter. Look for plants that are healthy, are plump, have great color and most important are your favorite. Plants can be common, you are showing off how well you grew it, not how rare the plant is. Now to get them pretty. Wash off your plant to get any dirt, dust, or cobwebs off. You can even use paper towels, toothbrush, or Q-tips to get the debris off. A lot of us keep our plants in plastic pots and that works. You can be as simple or elaborate as you want. You can use plastic, terra cotta, or ceramic, just have to make sure the pot is clean and not breaking a part. Use brushes and paper towels to scrub your pot clean. If you want to upgrade your pot, do it as soon as possible so the plant has time to settle and gets a watering before the show. A lot of people will use a top dressing to finish off the look. A top dressing is a smaller rock or pebble to cover the surface, so you don't see soil. This is part of staging your plant, putting the finished looked together. You can also add large rocks to the pot to make it look like a natural setting. You can place the plant off to the side and have it nested against some cool larger rocks, like it was growing in nature. You can also have the plant in the center with just a top dressing, make it very clean and elegant look. The choice is up to you and make it fun!

(Continued on next page.)

You want to also do your last watering a few days before the event so the plant dries and doesn't get water all over the tables. I would do a last watering by May 31st, a few days to dry out. Now everyone gets scared when they don't know the name of their plant. Don't worry about it! When you bring your plant, we will help you put a name on the entry form and help you place it in the correct category. Remember, this is fun so do not stress. Once you enter one show you will be hooked! Any questions please contact Karen or me.

Member and Volunteer Benefits

This year we want to give back to the volunteers. When you work 2 hours, you will receive a \$5 coupon to use towards your purchase. If you work 4 hours, you will get a \$10 coupon to use. It's a max of one \$10 coupon a day, even if you work more than 4 hours. You only get your coupon after your shift. What's really awesome is these coupons don't expire. You can hold on to them for any sale the club has so you can find the perfect plant.

Next, we are allowing club members to shop early. From 6pm to 7pm on Friday, you can come and shop early before the public does Saturday morning. Early shopping is only open for this hour so please come close to the start time to shop. We do ask that you don't come at 7pm expecting to shop for an hour, none of us wants to stay late after being there all day. If you do come to this early member sale, please drive into the Fairgrounds and park wherever you can around the building. Now this is a member only sale, do not bring your friends or tell people who are not members. This is a perk of membership.

This is the biggest event of the year that the club puts on. Lots of people put in many hours of hard work to make the show and sale run. Please help us by telling everyone you know about the event. Post and give out our postcards and flyers to everyone you meet. We want this event to be huge and bring in a lot of people. Also help by donating items to the club table, participating in the show, and even bringing extra boxes. Even just showing up and supporting the work we all do to keep this club running is a great thing. We hope to see all our members there!

See you soon!

Robert



JUNE BIRTHDAYS



Carolyn Unruh (13th)
Russal McLachlan (17th)
Larry Homan (21st)
Sue Loucks (29th)

If your birthday is in June but not on our list, it's because we don't have that information. If you would like your birthday acknowledged, let us know.

New member: Fran Loewen, Parlier.

Name badges: If you have ordered a new or replacement club badge, they will be available this weekend at the Show and Sale.

COMING EVENTS:

June 18 – 19, San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society Show and Sale, San Francisco County Fair Bldg. 1199 9th Avenue; hours: Sat, 9-5; Sun, 9-4.

July 1-3, Cactus and Succulent Society of America Annual Show and Sale, Huntington Library, Art Galleries and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino; hours: Friday (sales only), 10-5; reservations strongly recommended; go to www.huntington.org for tickets; Sat. and Sun., 10-5; the grounds are open to the public with paid admission; timed admission tickets are required on weekends for both visitors and members. (All this is because the Huntington has been inundated with visitors in recent years, leading to serious parking problems and other issues.)

August 5-7, Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale, Los Angeles County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA; hours: Friday (sales only), Sat and Sun, 9-5; free admission with paid Arboretum admission

A WEBSITE OF INTEREST

A succulent plant forum with various subdivisions is www.agaveville.org. Give it a look.

SUCCULENTS IN THE MOVIES

I love the greenhouse scene in “Minority Report”, the Tom Cruise sci-fi film released in 2002. When I first saw it, I was amazed at the plants that fill Dr Hineman’s greenhouse: tree aloes, a welwitschia, adeniums, euphorbias, carnivorous plants, pachypodiums, dorstenias and many more (including some nasty CGI ones.) You can almost feel the humidity in the beautifully shot scene. The producers must have scoured every succulent nursery in the L.A. area to fill that greenhouse. To watch the 8-minute scene featuring Cruise and Lois Smith, google “Minority report plants.”

Should you peel the dried leaves of yucca plants? I used to do this, thinking it made the plants look neater, more sculptural, but then I read somewhere that this was not a good idea. The dried leaves strengthen the stem and protect it from sunburn and insect damage.



This photo of a yucca in a botanical garden shows a plant with skirts of dried leaves covering its many stems. I used to think this was so unsightly, but I’ve revised my thinking.

By the same token, I don’t rake up every dried leaf that falls in my yard, either.

They have their uses as food and cover for various creatures, from birds down to bugs. I do draw the line at welcoming snails, though. But they make their appearance without an invitation. Just yesterday a pile of them were feasting on an echinopsis flower. I wonder how it tasted.

And what’s going on in your yard? *Sue*

MAY BRAG TABLE: As we get back to our regular meeting routine, we welcome back Fred Gaumer and the Brag Table.

Bringing plants this time, beside Fred, were Bill Gale, Nancy Jobin and Jess Hull. Fred brought *Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus elephantidens*, *Echinocactus parryi*, *Haworthia koelmanniorum* and *Ceraria namaquensis*. The ariocarpus was just about perfect and large for that species. I thought I knew all the echinocactus species (there aren't very many) but *parryi* was a new one, to me. Look at the spines on that thing. The haworthia is one of the more beautiful ones with its deep purple/brown color.

Bill showed a very nice *Euphorbia trichadenia*, *Adenium 'Dorset Horn'* and *Epithelantha micromeris ssp unguispina*. The epithelantha is grafted, leading to the multiple heads. The leaves of *Adenium 'Dorset Horn'* twist like the horns of Dorset sheep. It's a miniature *obesum* mutation, most unusual.

Nancy Jobin brought a nice pot of *Monadenium ritchii*. I'll bet she'll have some small plants for sale this weekend!

Jess Hull showed two nicely staged plants, *Mammillaria hernandezii* and *Cyphostemma uter*. As Jess is a new club member, we really appreciate his enthusiasm and hope he'll continue to show his plants.

How about the rest of you? The Brag Table awaits. Sue



Photos by
Karen Willoughby





FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 2022 SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 4th – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, June 5th – 10 am to 4pm

Amazing plants and handmade pottery for sale!
Rare and unusual plants in a judged show!

FREE PARKING & ADMISSON

CASH, CHECK & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

2022
SHOW &
SALE

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