

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

fresnocss.com

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 41, No. 9

September 2022

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST --- MEMBER'S SALE NIGHT

DOORS OPEN 6:00PM

REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

1084 WEST BULLARD, FRESNO (NEAR NW CORNER OF PALM AND BULLARD)



FRESNO CACTUS &
SUCCULENT SOCIETY

**Member's Sale
Night
September 1**

Club Members will be
selling their home-grown
plants!
Come find unusual plants
at great prices!

CASH ONLY

Doors Open at 6pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church
1084 W. Bullard Ave. Fresno, CA 93711
www.fresnocss.com email: fresnocss@yahoo.com

Please bring a box
Visit us on Facebook & Instagram

FROM THE PREZ . . .

Hi Members,

This heat has been relentless, with plants and people having a hard time. When heat waves last for weeks at a time, it's brutal on everything. Living in the Valley, we know it can be hot till October or even longer. Hopefully this extreme heat breaks soon. So, while we might all be sweating, we have something to look forward too and that's the Member's Sale Night.

Member's Sale Night! This is a fun event where our own club members bring plants they have grown and pots they have made to sell. We haven't been able to have this event since 2019, which makes this even more special. In the past this event drew in large crowds of people, both members and the public. With the responses we are getting, this will be no exception. For vendors only, you can start setting up at 5:15pm that evening. This will be after the tables are placed and the room is ready. No one other than vendors and Board members will be allowed inside the building before 6pm. If you are not a vendor and are trying to make early purchases, you will be told to go outside and line up with everyone else. Our vendors need time to setup and don't need distractions. Everyone wishing to purchase will need to line up outside to wait for the doors to open at 6pm. This is when sales can start, and the event officially opens. No boxes are provided so please bring your own to hold items. If you have extra boxes, please bring them to help others who may have forgotten to bring a box. Doors are open 6-8pm, giving everyone plenty of time to shop. If you haven't been to a Member's Sale before, all transactions are done with the individual vendor. Meaning you will go to the person selling the items to pay. Therefore, this is a CASH ONLY event! So, bring those Benjamin's and be ready to live off ramen noodles for the month.

The more we spread the word of this event, the more people come which will benefit the vendors and the Club. Please tell your friends, family, and anyone who makes eye contact about the Member's Sale Night. It's a fun event where you can find great homegrown plants at even better prices. We also have two amazing potters, Tony Sharp and Mark Muradian selling their pottery. The flyer for this event was sent out in an earlier email but will also be in this newsletter. You can find event information to share on our Club's Facebook and Instagram pages.

This event does draw a lot of people and with 17 vendors the room will be full. We are encouraging everyone to wear a mask when inside the building. We don't want anyone to become sick at our event and to protect people who may have health issues.

Hope to see all our members there at this last big event of 2022. Remember to bring a box and cash, I will be accepting tips.

Thank you,

Robert

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



*Ed Armbruster (9th);
Jack Fleming (11th);
Susan Cook (12th);
Polly Dunklin (20th);
Claudia Carlson (23rd);
Linda Olivas (24th);
Craig Roberts (27th);
RozTampone (28th)
Polly Hargreaves (29th)*

New Member:
Joe Soto, Sanger

Welcome



PLASTIC POTS

If you've been growing plants for years, no doubt you have an accumulation of plastic pots. The old, hard, non-recyclable plastic pots from many years ago remain sturdy and useful for ages, but the newer, flimsier, recyclable pots tend not to last very long. They're considered disposable, I guess.

The brittleness of plastic pots isn't caused by heat, but by radiation-induced chemical reaction caused by exposure to ultraviolet rays.

An interesting discussion of this subject occurred on the Pacific Bulb Society online list recently when someone asked about sources for white plastic pots. This inspired a thread about how white pots fall apart faster than do green or black pots.

Bob Nold (Denver, CO) stated that light-colored plastics could be made more UV stable by the addition of zinc oxide to their chemistry, which is often done with higher value items such as patio and garden furniture. But the "cheapo" plant pots aren't worth the added expense.

Always check for a recycling symbol on pots you put in the blue bin, and make sure to rinse out the soil before deposit.

Sue

EVENTS THIS MONTH

Huntington Succulent Plant Symposium

Saturday, Sept. 3; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rothenberg Hall

\$100, inc. continental breakfast and lunch

For tickets and program:

www.huntington.org/events/succulent-plants-symposium

Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Society Fall Show & Sale; September 16-18

Portuguese Community Hall, 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville

Hours: Fri. 3-6 p.m.; Sat. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.;

Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FRESNO COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/gardening_classes/

You can find classes presented by the Master Gardeners

BIG FRESNO FAIR, Oct. 5-16

<https://www.fresnofair.com>

For the Cactus and Succulent Show schedules click on the link and go to participate > competitive exhibits > floriculture.

Mailed entry forms are due Sept. 9th; online entries, Sept. 12th.

For more information: 559-650-3247, ext. 1110, or tcollins@fresnofair.com.

AUGUST BRAG TABLE: We had a nice Brag Table last month. The following brought plants: Fred Gaumer (Lithops otzeniana, Copiapoa hypogaea 'Lizard Skin', Copiapoa dura and Avonia quinaria ssp alstonii); Cindy Duwe (Copiapoa laui, C. esmeraldana, C. lembckeii, C. hypogaea, C. cinerea and C. krainziana); Dennis Anderson also brought copiapoas (hypogaea 'Lizard Skin', laui, cinerea and krainziana). Dan Gale displayed a cycad, Encephalartos horridus, and Copiapoa lembckeii; Bill Gale brought two euphorbias, E. cremersii and E. viguieri; Nancy Jobin brought a ferocactus for identification. ***We thank them all.***



Photos by:
Karen Willoughby



Echinocereus pacificus

By Elton Roberts

Echinocereus pacificus is a wonderful plant and still it is seen very seldom in collections. The plant comes from northern Baja California not too awful far below the California- Mexican border. In times past the plant has been listed as a variety of Echinocereus triglochidiatus and E. polyacanthus. Now they are standing on their own again till some lumper gets a hold of them again. The plants will make clumps to 60 cm in diameter in habitat. I have not given my plants free run of a large area, so I have not seen a clump that large. I guess that my largest plant is probably a bit over 32 cm in diameter. In habitat the stems will get to 30 cm tall where my plants are much shorter than that. Being confined to containers my tallest plants are only about 17 cm. The flowers on my plants do not go along with the description of flowers to 6 cm in diameter. The Echinocereus book says 3 to 6 cm in diameter. My plants throw flowers that are 3 to 4 cm in diameter. Color wise you could say that the flowers are a true Christmas flower as it is a brilliant red with the green stigmas. In the photo of the single flower the stigma looks like an eleven-fingered hand being offered for help.



This is another Baja plant that can take a lot of cold if kept dry over the winter. It lives in a winter rain area but in cultivation I prefer to keep it dry over the winter anyway. The plants have taken temperatures down to 9 F here and shown no damage. In the heat of summer, the plants seem to go dormant, as it may be too warm here at times for them. In habitat the temperatures are kind of buffered by the coastal temperatures and so it does not get to the 110 + that we can get here and also in the greenhouses the temperatures can reach 128 + -. They grow at an elevation of about 2300 feet and that also helps temperature wise. I give my plants my regular soil mix and the plants also need acidic water for best growth and health. It also encourages the plants to bloom more. I am going to try to remember to show a top view of the plants and also a side view. I think that will help with identifying plants a bit easier. I know a lot of people buy plants from Home Depot and places like that and the names are wrong, or people pull the tags then do not get them back in the correct pot. So hopefully that will help.



EUPHORBIA BUPLEURIFOLIA



Illus: Llifile.com

It's not quite certain when *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* was discovered. It was first reported at the Royal Botanical Garden Kew in 1791, and published in 1797.

Writing in *The Botanical Magazine* in the 1820s, the famous botanist Sir William Hooker said, "Among the many curious forms of this extensive and varied genus [*Euphorbia*] which exist in South Africa, [*E. bupleurifolia*] is perhaps the most remarkable, having a thick succulent bulbiform stem, marked all over with the scars occasioned by the falling away of the old leaves, giving a reticulated appearance to the surface."

It is a spineless dwarf succulent, usually up to 8 inches tall, with a dark brown, woody main stem, rarely branched. The tubercles are arranged in spiral rows. The deciduous leaves grow in a tuft at the top of the stem, leading to one common name, "Pineapple Euphorbia" (aka "Rabbit Ear Euphorbia"). It is native to areas of the eastern Cape Province into KwaZulu-Natal.

Culture requires the grower to pay attention to the plant, as it may display dormant cycles throughout the year. After at least four weeks it can be forced into growth by repeated heavy watering. New leaves are quickly produced. When the leaves are full sized, flowers should develop. The plants should be kept well-watered until all the flowers are open, and then cut back completely. The plant will use up all the available water and go dormant within four weeks. Once the last leaf has been shed the cycle can be repeated. On the other hand, the plant can also be watered all summer and autumn and be given a longer winter dormancy but this results in a single growth flush per year.

Give a well-draining potting mix. Be on the lookout for soil mealy bugs. It can take low temperatures but protect from freezing. In our climate also protect from direct sun; shade or dappled sun is best. Propagation is by seeds. Grigsby Cactus Gardens crossed *bupleurifolia* with *E. susannae* to form the hybrid 'Cocklebur.'

Sue



GOLLUM? HOBBIT?



There are several popular cultivars of *Crassula ovata* that have been around for years, the quilled-leaved mutations 'Hobbit' and 'Gollum.' They seem to have appeared in commerce in the late 1970s or early 1980s. 'Hobbit' was the first, featuring curled leaf edges and dense foliage. 'Gollum' followed, with leaves folded into tubes with a suction cup disk-like leaf apex (as in the photo.) You will find a lot of confusion online as to which is which. The plant doesn't help, as a specimen can seem to morph from one to the other depending on growing conditions.

But it doesn't really matter, does it? The plants are justifiably popular and easy to grow—and they probably don't care what you call them.

Sue

ALOE DESCOIGNSII

Aloe descoignsii is the smallest aloe, each rosette usually no more than 2 inches in diameter. It was discovered in 1956 in the Fiherenana River Valley of Madagascar (Toliar Province) by French botanist Bernard Descoigns and named in his honor.



Illus: Wikipedia

Going through my files, I found this interesting note on the plant in a back issue of Australian succulent review and newsletter. It isn't signed, but I suspect it was written by Rudolf Schulz, the editor:

"It was a real shock to see *Aloe descoignsii* in habitat! Here were these tiny, shriveled rosettes growing in limestone rubble in one of the driest areas of Madagascar. They clung to the south facing slopes, often under rock overhangs, apparently in an unsuccessful attempt to avoid the strong year-round sun which at latitude 23 degrees south can shine from directly overhead for a part of the year. They looked terrible and it was only the beginning of the dry season! Our guide recommended watering them only once a month as they were prone to rotting. Seeing how they grow in habitat and comparing them to my plants growing in a rich acidic potting mix which is well watered year-round one would be forgiven in assuming that they were two very different plants. My plants are the same size, but the color is dark green as opposed to a dull-grey green and the leaves are never shriveled, even during winter. My plants flower and appear healthy."

"So how does one grow *Aloe descoignsii*? Any way you can seems to be the best answer. Considering how my potting mix is all "wrong," it shows how adaptable this smallest of aloes is. Full sun or dense shade is okay. An acidic potting mix is tolerated as well as its natural limey soil. Water once a month or three times a week. The only requirement seems to be a very well drained potting mix. Make sure the pot being used has large drainage holes and that these are not blocked up with gauze or pebbles.

"So, what type of plant should we try to grow in our collections: an accurate version of the habitat plant or a bloated lush version which only resembles the habitat plant in size and flower? Perhaps growing the species both ways would be an interesting project to aim for." **Sue**

[Schulz, Rudolf] (1994) Australian Succulent Review and Newsletter, 4:3.

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PLEASE SHARE THIS POSTER



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