

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

1084 West Bullard, Fresno (Near NW Corner of Palm and Bullard)

J.D. Wikert will present the cactus genus Gymnocalycium

J.D. will provide a broad overview of the genus *Gymnocalycium*. The presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of many of the more readily available species. Be ready to answer when J.D. asks where in the world do you find *Gymnocalycium* in their natural habitat.



You might have seen J.D. speak in a previous meeting about *Haworthia* a few years ago. He also has presentations on *Adromischus*, *Aloe*, *Dudleya*, *Gasteria*, *Sedum*, *Senecio*, *Stapeliads*, a general Succulent Overview, watering succulents, and a succulent quiz.



J.D. is a fisheries biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on restoration of habitat for salmon in California's Central Valley and lives in Lodi California. Previously, he worked in Florida sampling fish and doing lake restoration. He is a self-trained succulent hobbyist and usually has more than 150 flats of plants in his back (and side) yards. J.D. has been actively propagating succulent plants for around 20 years and has figured out how to kill most succulent species over that time. He is a member of both the Sacramento and Stockton Cactus and Succulent Societies, and just finished a three-year stint as president for the Stockton Club.

~~ J.D. will bring plants to sell at the meeting. He can take cash or Venmo. ~~

FROM THE PREZ:**Hi Members,****Fresno Home and Garden Show**

The Sale this year was wet! There is always at least one day of rain for the Home Show but this year, it rained both Friday and Saturday. The rain stopped the crowds, and we didn't have the foot traffic as previous years. I walked the Fairgrounds on Saturday, there were booths standing in water and people were soaked. Despite the rain the Sale went well and still brought in \$10,000 in sales. We couldn't have done it without our volunteers, only way we could man the registers and package plants. HUGE THANK YOU to our volunteers! Thank you to everyone who brought boxes as well, we had enough to last the whole event. I hope everyone had fun!

Annual Show & Sale – June 8 & 9

Our Annual Show & Sale is just around the corner! This year our event will be June 8 & 9, the second weekend in June. We will again be at the Fresno Fairground but will be in a different building from previous years. We will be in the Junior Exhibits Building at the Butler Entrance. It's the same building we are in for the Home & Garden Show. We were forced to move buildings this year, but we will make the most of it. This building is large, and we will be using all of the space to put on an amazing event.

Please mark your calendars to attend. We need a lot of volunteers to run an event of this size and encourage everyone to work a few hours. As we get closer more information will be coming out but it's never too early to start promoting. Find the attached flyer and start sending it to every group and person you know. Spread the word so that our event grows! We will have flyers and postcards at the meeting to hand out.

The event is Saturday 10am to 5pm. We will have our early member sale on Friday evening. This is for club members only and a great chance to shop early. **Please start saving boxes** as they can be dropped off all day June 7 or at the members only sale.

This is our biggest event of the year, please plan on attending and volunteering if possible.

Annual Plant Show

At our Annual Event we have a judged plant show, and we would love for everyone to participate. This is your time to show off the plants you have worked so hard to care for. Don't worry if you don't have the expensive pots or the rare plants. **Every plant is special because it's grown by you!** Show off your hard work. Any cactus, succulent or related plant may be shown. If you're new to showing you will be placed in the Beginners category and your plants will be judged with other beginners, **don't be scared**. They just need to be in a clean pot and the plant should be clean and free from major damage. That's it, very simple and a lot of fun to participate in the show. Please, please, please consider showing, you won't be disappointed, so take that leap.

Now is the time to start looking at your plants to think which ones you would like to show. Find those plants that mean a lot to you and are the stars of your collections. These are the ones to start "babying". Don't forget to water, maybe move it into a clean pot, don't let them sunburn. Mainly watch them so that they continue to look their best for the June event. I'm notorious for burning a plant before showing it off, so don't do that. This is a fun part of growing, so show off your plants!

I will be sending out a "How to prepare your plant" document, to help you prepare. *See you at the meeting!*

Thank you, Robert

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Pat Schreyer (4th)
Robert Scott (11th)
Rod Heinrichs (11th)
Ann Bierbower (13th)
Viv Shinkawa (13th)

Jan Donovan (18th)
Bruce Hargreaves (18th)
Alexis Valentin (20th)
Ryan Hoyt (26th)

NEW MEMBERS

Michael Dolan
 Kerren Cotton
 Denise Hamilton
 Tonantzin Ortiz
 Jordan Seale

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 12-14, Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale; Portuguese Hall, 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville; hours: Fri. members only, 3 – 6, Saturday, 9 – 5, Sunday, 9 – 3; mbacsspresident@gmail.com

April 20, Fresno Master Gardener's Home Garden Tour, <https://ucanr.edu/sites/mgfresno/>

April 27-28, San Jose Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale, Santa Clara Fairgrounds, Fiesta Hall, 344 Tully Road, San Jose; hours: Saturday, 10 – 5, Sunday, 10 – 4; www.csss.org

“The Plants used to make the world’s best mezcal are disappearing” – This is a very interesting Washington Post article about how the demand for mezcal has brought about a shortage of the best native agaves in Mexico. The story follows a mezcalero on a harvesting trip. You can google the title or use this link: www.washingtonpost.com/world/interactive/2024/mezcal-mexico-wild-agave

STOMATIUM

Stomatium is a genus of small mesembs, all native to the arid interior of South Africa. The generic name is from the Greek for “open mouth,” which refers to the leaf shape. They are closely related to *Faucaria*, the so called “Tiger Jaws” with which they sometimes hybridize. There are 39 recognized species.

Plants form small to medium clumps that tend to die down in the center, gradually forming a ring of rosettes. The leaves are triangular, olive green to gray, reddish or purple (or turning reddish when stressed), with small white teeth on the margins. The scented white or yellow flowers appear in spring, open at mid-day and close at night.

Stomatiums are active in the summer; should be kept drier in winter. They are not difficult in cultivation, not fussy about potting mix—except that it should be well-drained—and are frost tolerant.

(Photo of *S. suaveolens*: www.succulentguide.com)

If you thirst for ever more videos of cactus collections, just google cookies cacti.

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW?

Spring has sprung. Temperatures have been yoyoing up and down but your plants have gotten the nudge: it's time to get it together for another season.

Blooming now: aloes (though their season is winding down); haworthias; gasterias; kalanchoes; *Veltheimia* and other bulbs.

I hope you've put some of your potted succulents out to get a bit of rain. If your plants have been stowed in a low-light situation for winter, bring them gradually into the sun. Sudden changes in exposure could result in sun damage.

Another chore that a new season brings is repotting. If you have plants stretching—or even splitting—their plastic pots, or if the plastic pots crumble in your hands, it's time to get busy putting those plants in new pots. They will appreciate it.

MARCH BRAG TABLE: We saw a lot of interesting plants on the Brag Table. Bringing items for show were Robert Scott, Jess Hull, Dan Gale, Linda Lopez, Mark Muradian, Fred Gaumer, Bill Gale, Eddie Etheridge, Roz Tampone and Jordan Seale. Notable was Linda's huge *Cyphostemma juttae* (lugged in by Jaan Lepson), a double-trunked behemoth that she originally acquired years ago as a small plant in a four-inch pot. Thanks to all of them. All members are invited to participate. *Sue*



WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

Rob is announcing the winner of the special raffle plant, *Eulychnia castanea spiralis*. David Madrigal was the winner (David is in the red jacket.) You can see his reaction!



Photos by Robert Scott



Additional photos on page 6.

SUCCULENT PEPEROMIAS



The genus *Peperomia* contains many species grown as houseplants, mainly for their foliage-fleshy leaves of many varied shapes and sizes. There are, however, some species of interest to succulent growers. These extra-succulent plants are found in micro-habitats in Andean regions of Peru and Ecuador. Many grow on rocks (lithophytes) and feature small, thickened leaves which bear “windows”.

Peperomia dolabriformis is a forest-dweller which forms a small to medium sized shrub with thickened stems and succulent yellow green hatchet-shaped leaves.

The translucent windows along the top edges of the leaves allow light to penetrate and assist in photosynthesis. (This is a modification that is evident in other succulents, as well, such as *Lithops*, *Haworthia* and *Bulbine*.)

Other succulent peeps include *P. asperula*, *P. ferreyrae*, *P. graveolens*, *P. congesta* and *P. nivalis*.



(Photos:
www.worldofsucculents.com)

Perhaps the most extreme form of the succulent peeps is exhibited by the tiny *P. columella*. Plants may reach 7” in height and have ½” heart shaped, windowed leaves clustering tightly along the stems.

The photo shows the unique bloom stalk that is peculiar to peperomias. It looks like a club emerging at the tips of the stem. In some species the stem will elongate when the plant is preparing to bloom. The plants are mainly wind pollinated. (I was told years ago that you could set seeds on peeps by grasping the bloom stalk and running your fingers up to the tip. The stalk will turn brown if you’ve been successful.) Most pep growers snip off the bloom stalks.

The succulent peeps (with the exception of columella) are generally easy to grow, though care should be taken when watering. Use a well-drained mix but be careful not to overwater. Keep from temperatures below 50. Propagation is by cuttings or seeds.



Sue



(Illus: <http://aloe-aloe.com>)

ALOE TANGERINE

Dan Gale brought a very nice blooming plant for the Brag Table in February, an aloe hybrid of *A. arborescens* x *A. ferox* called ‘Tangerine.’ These two species are native to more or less the same area, the southeastern coast of South Africa, and natural hybrids between them have been documented by many observers.

The origin of ‘Tangerine’ is a bit obscure. It apparently occurred as spontaneous seedling in the Huntington Botanic Garden. Eventually the Huntington propagated it and it was offered as an ISI plant in 2003 (ISI 2003- 14). From there it made its way into cultivation. It’s a robust plant whose beautiful yellow-orange flowers appear in late winter to early spring.



The ISI—International Succulent Introductions—is a program whereby plants are offered for sale. Some of these are plants new in cultivation, or are rarely available, or other plants that are not as widely grown as they deserve to be. The Huntington handles the ISI program for the U.S. The 2024 ISI list will be published later this spring. (<https://huntington.org>)

ALOE CREAMSICLE

Here is another Aloe *arborescens* x *A. ferox* hybrid, ‘Creamsicle,’ created by Brian Kemble, curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden and longtime aloe expert.

Brian writes, “By using the much less common yellow flowering forms of the two species, I intended to make a hybrid with yellow flowers. However, the resulting plant has pale orange buds which become yellow as they mature—so I decided to call it ‘Creamsicle.’” The photo (by Brian) is of a plant in bloom in February at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. The Ruth Bancroft Garden is well worth a visit: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org. **Sue**

TREASURER'S REPORT		-----	FEBRUARY, 2024
Income:			
Memberships			\$320.00
Badges			15.00
Silent Auction Payment			96.00
Raffle Proceeds			93.00
	Total		\$524.00
Expenses:			
Room rent			-\$125.00
Speaker fee			-350.00
Raffle Plants			-260.00
Monthly Charges (Zoom/Verizon)			-62.82
Badge			-6.00
Printing (Postcards/Newsletters)			-200.34
Postage for Newsletter			-13.60
Water for Home & Garden Show			-14.67
	Total		(1,032.43)

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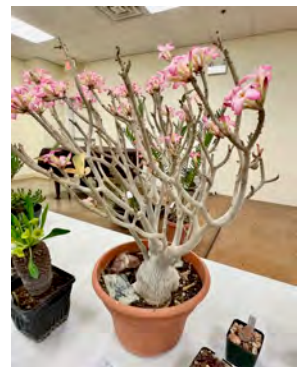
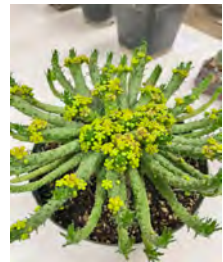
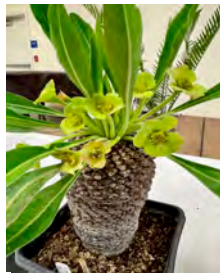
Webmaster, Vickie Veen, vickieveen@gmail.com;

Refreshments, Nancy Jobin



Additional beautiful plants from the Brag Table

CLUB DINNER
 Thursday, April 4th - 4:45 pm
 DiCicco's Italian Restaurant
 7038 N. West (West & Herndon)
 Call, text or email Rosanna Rojas for Reservations
 (559) 999-0017





FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 8th

Sale 10 am to 5 pm. Show 10:30 am to 5 pm

Sunday, June 9th

Sale & Show 10 am to 4pm

**Rare plants & handmade pottery
Experts available for questions**

FREE ADMISSION

See our Website & Facebook Group for updates!

**2024
SHOW
& SALE**

JUNE

8 & 9

FCSS WEBSITE



FCSS FACEBOOK



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