

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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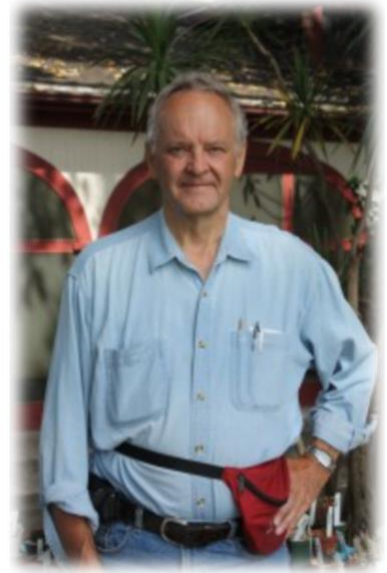
**IN-PERSON MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)**  
**REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH**  
**1084 West Bullard, Fresno (Near NW Corner of Palm and Bullard)**

## "Dudleyas and Tylecodons: Mediterranean Climate Plants"

By Gary Duke

Gary Duke is an incumbent on the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. He currently assists with auditing the CSSA finances each year and also is a member of the Honors Committee. He has been collecting cacti and succulents for over 50 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas.

He is a retired Air Force Officer with a doctorate degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever-expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Cactus Society.



Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California, including being invited to speak at the Huntington Botanical Gardens and at the Denver Cactus and Succulent Society. He has traveled to Aruba, Peru, Baja Mexico, and Bolivia twice and just recently returned from Argentina and Chile to see cacti and succulents in habitat.

**Club Dinner for March 2<sup>nd</sup>: DiCicco's**  
**7038 North West Avenue**  
**Reservations under Rosanna Rojas or Fresno Cactus Club**  
**5:00 pm**

**FROM THE PREZ:****Hi Members,****The Fresno Home & Garden Show is this weekend, March 3-5!**

This year we have 8 vendors selling their plants and pottery making it a great time to start your spring purchases. We hope all of our members are able to make it out to the event to support our club. Come say "Hi" and maybe even find a few plants you absolutely need. We can always use a little more help with this event by packaging up sales and talking to the public. Anyone who volunteers will get into the Home & Garden Show for free and get free parking. To add to the incentives, members who volunteer will also get club bucks to use on their purchases. If you would like to volunteer for a couple hours, please contact me. For those who have signed up already to volunteer, please remember to come to me at our meeting on Thursday to pick up your entrance and parking pass. Any questions about the sale or on volunteering, please let me know.

The Home & Garden show runs March 3 to the 5th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Winter Damage to plants:**

This year has been hard on our plants. The amount of rain we've gotten has been incredible for our area and adding a few frosts has made this a year to remember. Winter isn't over yet which was apparent with these latest storms. Hopefully you haven't lost too many plants this year to the weather. This time of year is hard because we want to go into Spring mode but just aren't there yet. Unless a plant has gone completely to mush there is still hope. If you have a plant that has gone soft or started to rot, now is the time to pull off pups or make cuttings. All cuts should be made until you see green healthy stems. Anything brown will continue to rot. I would apply sulfur to any cut areas and just leave them laying out to dry in a sheltered place out of the weather. Cuttings and pups can last for months so lay in a dry place and wait for warmer temperatures to come. If there are good sections or pups on a plant, it is worth doing the work to see if you can save some. For large plants in the ground that have rot, it is best to try and cut the rot out. Unfortunately, it rarely works to just wait and see if the rot stops especially if the weather remains moist. Cut out any rot and sterilize your knife with alcohol between each cut, again remove anything brown until you see all green. Apply sulfur to the wound to help prevent further rot. The hard part will be trying to keep that wound dry. When a storm comes, protect that wound anyway you can to keep it dry and then remove the covering in warm dry weather. You don't want to trap any moisture in the wound area. It's much like a wound on your body. You want the area to breathe but stay clean. Just remember that it is normal to lose plants during extreme weather. We do our best but can't save them all. Gardening is trying, learning and trying again.

We are heading into the Spring season and it is a busy time for our club. The Home & Garden Show is here soon and our Annual Show & Sale will be here before we know it. We are already working on those plans and will give you more information as it is available. We really encourage everyone in the club to participate and help with the running of events. It is always a fun and great way to give back to ensure our club keeps going.

Hope you all stayed safe in this crazy weather. See you at the meeting and the Home & Garden Show!

*Thank you,*

*Robert*



### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

*Marilyn Carter (2<sup>nd</sup>)*  
*Michele Roberts (3<sup>rd</sup>)*  
*Rebekah Rogers (11<sup>th</sup>)*  
*Veone Gale, Claudia Carlson (22<sup>nd</sup>)*  
*Roel Luga (23<sup>rd</sup>)*  
*Janet Brummel (28<sup>th</sup>)*

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### NEW MEMBERS

Abby Johnson  
 Roel Luga  
 Melissa Madrid  
 Rosie Madrid  
 David Madrigal  
 Katie Trujillo

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*Welcome*

### COMING EVENTS:

***CSSA 2023 CONVENTION: The Cactus and Succulent Society of America 2023 Convention will be held July 12-16 in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Succulents With Altitude" is the theme, hosted by the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society. For details: [www.cssaconvention.com](http://www.cssaconvention.com)***

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### RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

The Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery is a 2.5 acre dry garden in Walnut Creek, CA established by the late Ruth Bancroft. It features more than 2,000 cacti, succulents, trees and shrubs native to California, Mexico, Chile, South Africa and Australia. It is well worth a trip to see, as you can go up and back from here in a day.

[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

The Garden has recently instituted a series of webinars which are conducted by experts on the staff, including a series called "Dry Garden botany." The latest one, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, was on the

mesembs. Coming up are two on cacti, barrel & globular (March 15<sup>th</sup>); columnar & opuntoid (March 22). There is a fee for these, reduced if you are a member.

Each month you can watch a video on the website which features plants currently in bloom, led by Brian Kemble, curator of the garden. The videos vary in length from 12 to 22 minutes, depending on how many plants are in bloom. All the previous videos are archived on the website:

[www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden/whats-in-bloom/](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/garden/whats-in-bloom/)

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***Crassula 'Morgan's Beauty'*** was created years ago by Dr. Meredith Morgan of Richmond, CA from a cross of *Crassula perfoliata* v. *minor* (once known as *C. falcata*) and *C. mesembrianthemopsis*. Dr. Morgan also raised a seedling that had deeper pink flowers and longer

stamens. He sent those to Hummel's Exotic Gardens and Johnson Cactus Gardens where they were sold as 'Morgan's Pink.' You might still find plants with that name, but 'Morgan's Beauty' is the correct name.

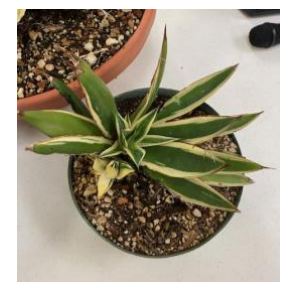
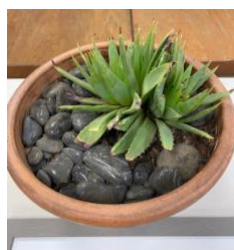
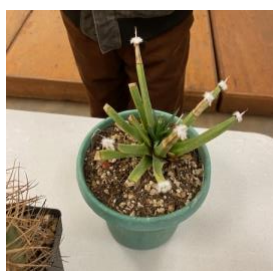
'Morgan's Beauty' is a compact plant with thick, fleshy silver-green leaves that closely crowd the stems. It grows to about 4 inches tall and equally wide, with large terminal clusters of fragrant pink flowers.

Some care is required in its culture, as the closely-packed leaves make ideal hiding places for mealy bugs. It is also susceptible to fungal diseases and may exhibit rust spots on the foliage. Be careful not to overwater.

**FEBRUARY BRAG TABLE:** We had a very interesting array of items on the Brag Table last month. Dan Gale brought a nice collection of variegated agaves (guiengola 'Creme brulee', 'Blue Glow', pilosa, potatorum variegata, 'Blue Glow' striata; ovatifolia variegata, Sea Star', 'Snow Glow'.) Dennis Anderson displayed some gymnocalyciums (spegazzini ssp armata, artigas, friedrichii, vatteri, and denudatum.) Bill Gale showed a big gymnocalycium and Euphorbia aeruginosa. Jack Fleming brought two crested euphorbias, 'Green Elf' and E. leucodendron. Nancy Jobin also brought a crested euphorbia, E. flanaganii. Bruce Hargreaves showed a double-headed Aloe polyphylla that he found at Lowe's (!) and a nice framed photo of A. polyphylla that he bought at a thrift store. We thank all of them for their participation.

Brag Table emcee Fred Gaumer was home with a cold that he did not wish to share, so Mark Muradian stood in for him. *Thanks, Mark. Sue*

**Photos:  
Karen  
Willoughby**



**Lekhala kharatsa (Sesoatrho)****Spiral aloe (English)*****Aloe polyphylla* (Latin)****By Bruce Hargreaves**

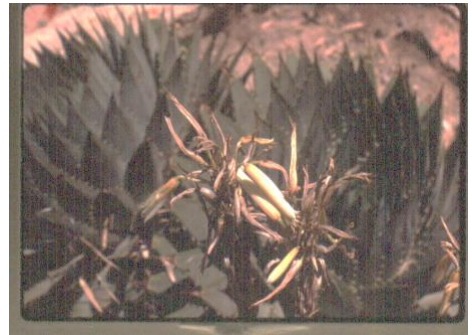
This unusual aloe is found only in the mountains of Lesotho. It is a protected species, and I was in charge of protecting it back in the 80s when I was chairman of the Lesotho Protection and Preservation Commission. (At the time I was teaching botany at the National University of Lesotho and was in charge of their herbarium and botanic garden.) Despite our efforts, people continued to buy uprooted specimens on the roadside. Beverley, a former Peace Corps Volunteer, managed to cultivate it artificially at the University of California at Santa Cruz and it is available in the US, although it is very expensive.

Recently I found it for sale at Lowes at a more reasonable price. It even had two heads. (It rarely divides, but when it does one head spirals in the opposite direction from the other.)

It is difficult to grow in cultivation because it is adapted to the high mountains with steep basalt slopes found in Lesotho. Even at the slightly lower altitude of the University there it would flower, but never set seed even though sun birds, the alleged pollinator, fed on them there.

In 1984 I included them in a lecture at the CSSA convention (later published in the CS Journal) on the succulents in Lesotho which I called Succulents in the Snow. It is again an appropriate subject as the convention will be held in Colorado this year.

The attached picture shows an unusual, yellow-flowered plant. Usually, they are pink to red.



**Club Access: President**, Robert Scott, (559) 960-3665, [rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_scott85@yahoo.com); **Vice-President**, Rosanna Rojas, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@gmail.com); **Treasurer**, Michele Roberts, (559) 645-5257, [robertshowse@comcast.net](mailto:robertshowse@comcast.net); **Secretary**, Karen Willoughby, [pkatwillabee@gmail.com](mailto:pkatwillabee@gmail.com); **Editor/Sunshine**, Sue Haffner, (559) 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); **Publisher**, Mary Ann Villegas, [maryann@maracast.com](mailto:maryann@maracast.com); **Webmaster**, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com); **Refreshments**, Nancy Jobin.

### **Puna bonnieae –**

**By Elton Roberts (originally written in 2006):**

Puna bonnieae was named only about 9 years ago. In 1997 D.J. Ferguson & R. Kiesling described it and named it. That name was Puna bonnieae, along comes E. F. Anderson two years later and changes the name to Maihueniopsis. There was no question about it being a new plant as there was no other plant that looked like it. The plant is made up of many small roundish heads. The description calls for heads to 2.5 cm in diameter, on my plants 99% of the heads are 1 cm to 1.2 cm in diameter. The surface of the heads are made up of squeezed together tubercles and in the center of that is the areole. The spine clusters grow from the areole in the center of the tubercles, the spines lay against the tubercles, so the plant is ok to handle. This plant does not nail you unless you go against the lay of the spines.

The flowers are to 4 cm across, white with a touch of pink, that is hard to see on some plants, to light pink. Some years the plant opens all flowers at the same time and really put on a show. Other years the plant opens one to several flowers. This is one of the years where the plant is opening a flower or two now and then.

Since the plant has a taproot, you will want to have a pot deep enough to accommodate the roots. With a taproot and deeper pot, you have to be careful as to how often you water the plant. If the root stays wet too long, it will rot and take the plant with it. Give a fast-draining soil; I use a 60% perlite to 40% potting soil. Remember that even if you dig down about an inch in the soil of a deep pot, you will not be able to tell how damp the soil at root level is. Do Not Use a moisture meter to try to tell how damp the soil is. Many years ago, I worked in a cactus nursery and was told to use a meter to see if the larger pots needed to be watered. I only did that a few times till I convinced the boss that it was a bad idea. He was showing me one day that there were levels of wet and dry soil all through the pot. As he slid the probe down in the soil it showed dry then real wet. This was most of the way down the soil in the pot. He could not understand why it was wet in layers; it was then that I kind of popped the bubble. I told him that the soil was dry and that the wet areas were where he was going through roots of the plants. That was the last of the moisture meter being used that I saw.

I keep the plants dry over the winter and that is a very good idea because of the taproot. The plant will take 20 or more degrees of frost. If you live in an area where there is high humidity most of the year you might want to get a grafted plant and keep it grafted. My large plant is on its own roots. It is about 18 cm across and about 9 years old.





# FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT SALE

March 3, 4, & 5  
Daily: 10am-5pm

Thousands of amazing plants and  
handmade pottery for sale.

Visit [www.fresnoshows.com](http://www.fresnoshows.com)  
for details and tickets

CASH, CHECK & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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# Fresno Home & Garden Show

## Volunteer Sign-Up

### March 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday

10am – 12pm: Cathie Kirk \_\_\_\_\_

12pm – 2pm: Bryan Clark \_\_\_\_\_

2pm – 4pm: \_\_\_\_\_

### March 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday

10am – 12pm: Mary Arellanez \_\_\_\_\_

12pm – 2pm: Mary Arellanez \_\_\_\_\_

2pm – 4pm: \_\_\_\_\_

### March 5<sup>th</sup> – Sunday

10am – 12pm: Rosanna/James \_\_\_\_\_

12pm – 2pm: \_\_\_\_\_

2pm – 4pm: \_\_\_\_\_