

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 42 No. 5

MAY 2023

IN-PERSON MEETING: THURSDAY, MAY 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)



“Propagation: From seed to stem, and everything in between”

By: Robert Scott

Continuing the discussion of propagation, as who doesn't want more plants? Robert will be going over all the different ways that cacti and succulents can be propagated. From the simple like taking cuttings, to the advanced, like creating new hybrids. Robert will give us the tips and tricks to help us increase our collections. The sky is the limit when it comes to propagation.

Robert's passion for plants took root when his Grandma taught him how to grow vegetables as a little kid. Since that moment of seeing seeds erupt from the ground and growing under his care, he's been hooked. The world of plants fascinated him with all the different shapes, colors and how complex they really are. He would read every gardening book he could get his hands on, absorbing as much information as he could. He would grow anything he could, and he did! He loves bulbs, pond plants, orchids, houseplants, veggies, and of course cacti and succulents. Really loving all plants! He's one of those people that when asked what "is your favorite plant?", he would rattle off a list a mile long.

So, when going to school the obvious choice was to major in Orthodontics. That didn't last long, and he changed to Pre-Veterinary. All the while taking Plant Science classes for fun and getting top grades. Finally, he changed his major and earned a degree in Plant Science with an emphasis in Plant Health from Fresno State University. He loved his time in college taking plant classes like Pathology, Weeds, Soils, Nematology, Tissue Culture, Pesticides, Crop Science, Plant Identification, Entomology, Propagation, Ornamental Horticulture and many more. Robert worked at local plant nurseries for 9 years, giving him lots of experience solving plant issues. He eventually wanted a retirement plan and that took him to the Fresno County Agricultural Department. For 5 years he was an Ag Inspector, working on pesticide safety and regulation, issuing phytosanitary certificates, and inspecting local farmers markets. Robert recently joined Caltrans as an Environmental Scientist, ensuring that every aspect of the environment is studied, monitored, and protected before and during any projects.



Robert loves sharing his plant knowledge and has been doing so for many years now with the club. This is currently his third year as President and ninth year as Sale Chair running the Fresno Home & Garden Show as well as our Annual Show & Sale. Robert has also been a Board member and Treasurer in our club. We are very grateful to have someone with a passion for sharing their knowledge be a part of our club.

~~ **Robert will be bringing plants to sell.** ~~

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

In just a few short weeks on **June 10 & 11**, we will be coming together at the Fresno Fairgrounds for the Club's Annual Show & Sale! **We must have volunteers!** This is the largest event the Club puts on all year, and we need help to make it happen.

- Setup is on Friday June 9, we need people able to move tables around and place tablecloths. Setup starts at 10am and takes the most physical work.
- On June 10 & 11 we need people to help with checkout. This would be scanning barcodes and taking payment, as well as packaging purchased plants. It's not hard work and it's really fun, we just need the people to do it. Without people helping with checkout, the lines get long, and people leave. We have to provide customer service to keep people returning.
- For our Show portion, we need people to help Clerk Saturday morning and monitor the Show plants the whole event (Check out Karen's article for details).
- The end of the event is on June 11, we need help with cleanup as well, mainly folding tablecloths.

If you would like to volunteer, please message me or Karen, or fill out the volunteer form that was sent with your newsletter. **Please volunteer as much as possible.** You will also receive Club Bucks (cash vouchers to use on purchases) for your time, and we provide snacks!

Plant Show

Please read the article by Karen about the plant show portion of this event. We need help in this area and her article explains that, along with how you can show plants. I encourage everyone to show their plants and all the hard work you've put into them. It's a great experience, it's a lot of fun and a great learning opportunity.

Member's Early Sale

Current members will be able to participate in an early sale on Friday evening from 5pm- 6:30pm. This is a perk for members to be able to go shopping before the doors open to the public on Saturday morning. This year there is **one requirement** for any member wanting to shop early to bring **5 boxes** with them. We go through a lot of boxes and if you want to shop, you need to bring the boxes to help. Doors close at 6:30pm so come early to have a longer time to look.

Boxes!!!

Speaking of boxes, we need boxes! **Lots of boxes.** Please start saving boxes and bring them down to the Fairgrounds on Friday from 10am to 6pm. You can flatten them to save space and we can re-tape them at the event. We could also use lots of newspaper to help with packing. Please don't bring boxes to the meeting, the few of us who do all the work have carloads of items to take for setup and we just don't have the room. Coming to the Fairgrounds is easy as you will be able to pull into the Fairgrounds and park right next to the building on that Friday!

Donations for Club Sale Tables

If you have extra plants, cuttings, pots, books, garden items, etc. and would like to donate to the Club now's your chance. The Club has tables at the Sale where everything that's donated is sold with 100% of the profits going back to support the club. If you have items you would like to donate, please bring them during setup on that Friday.

(Continued on next page.)

The Annual Show & Sale has grown every year and it keeps getting better. Please participate and volunteer as many hours as you can. Hobby Clubs like ours only survive when the members participate and want to see the club do well. Without support, clubs fade away.

That's a lot of information and more will be coming to your inbox. For now, please continue to spread the word for the event. We will have more flyers, postcards, and business cards at the meeting for you to take and pass out. Give them to everyone you know and post flyers on community boards.

May Meeting

Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting in May. I will be our speaker for the month, and I have a fun presentation for you that's full of information. We will try again to have a Zoom hybrid meeting to offer all of our members a chance to experience the meeting. We have had technical issues the last few months and are working to solve the problems. Thank you for your patience in this matter.

Thank you,

Robert

Karen's Show Information

I would like to invite and challenge members to enter plants, collections, dish gardens, etc. in our upcoming show in June. You can also enter artwork, photography or educational exhibits. You could win ribbons and bask in the glow of showing off your plants! Please make sure your plants are pest free and cleaned up. You can enter in almost any kind of pot. We are not fussy about staging or kind of pot as long as they are as clean as possible. Show plant entry time is Friday, June 9 from 11am to 4pm. You will be able to drive right up to the building for drop off. Please ask me or Rob your questions about showing.



I also need volunteers to act as Clerks on Friday during entries and on Saturday morning during the judging process. Clerks would assist me in receiving plant entries and the placement of plants in their classes for judging on Friday. Saturday morning, Clerks would assist the judges in placing ribbons. Clerking is fun and easy. Please let me know if you would be interesting in helping out. This is an opportunity to learn about judging and to assist the judges in their judging duties. It's fun and educational.

Looking forward to seeing all your great plants!

Club Dinner for May 4th :

Blast And Brew – 5:00pm

799 W. Palmdon Drive (South East corner of Palm and Herndon)

Reservations under Rosanna Rojas or Fresno Cactus Club

Please email, call or text Rosanna/559-999-0017 by Wednesday, May 3rd, if you are attending the dinner.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

Fred Gaumer (2nd)

Bill Gale (2nd)

Vickie Veen (5th)

Mary C. Arellanez (10th)

Patty Miller (12th)

Susan Nagles (13th)

Charlie Nelson (23rd)

Brian Nagles (24th)

Lynne Rayner (27th)

Madeleine Mitchell (28th)

NEW MEMBERS: Kristine and Rolan Chris Nolasco,
Fresno

WELCOME

COMING EVENTS

May 5-7, Sacramento C&S Society Show and Sale

Hours: 9-5 daily, Shepard Garden & Arts Center
3330 McKinley Blvd, Sacramento

www.sacramentoccss.com

May 20, Santa Barbara C&S Society Show and Sale

Hours: 10-3; <https://sbcactus.org/show-and-sale>

May 20-21, Carmichael C&S Society Show and Sale

Hours: Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-2:30

Carmichael Park Clubhouse
5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael

www.ccandss.com

May 27-28, Central Coast C&S Society Show & Sale

Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4

Nipomo High School
525 N. Thompson Ave, Nipomo

www.centralcoastcactus.org



Now that we have been able to get out in the yard (after hacking down the weeds) some of us have been able to inventory our plant collections to see what survived this astonishingly wet winter. For me, it was sad to see that several show plants were history, but I know that others have lost specimen plants that they had grown for years. We can try to be philosophical, I guess, and say this just makes room for new ones.

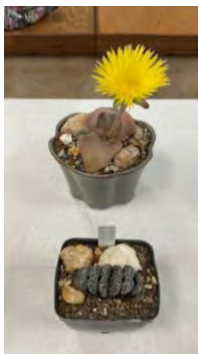
Jose Soto brought examples of the various readily available commercial potting mixes for cacti and succulents to show on the Brag Table last month. I know that some of us have our favorites. Some of us buy a bag of mix and amend it with extra perlite or pumice. Then, sometimes, after you've used a product for years, you find that it has changed. Sometimes it's just a bad batch. On the other hand, sometimes the distributor decides to "improve" their product by fiddling with the composition. A few years ago, a company added fertilizer to their perlite. (Why??) A local home and garden supply firm (no longer in business) used to sell bags of their "special mix." Since each one seemed different, some of us figured it was just what they swept up off the floor at the end of the day.

Well, nothing gets succulent growers more exercised than potting mixes. Many prefer to create their own from basic materials. Many years ago, when I was on the CSSA board, we had a member, Mac Clarke, a retired chemical engineer. He was fond of saying that you could grow plants in ground up old rubber boots, as long as the drainage was good. (I don't think anyone took him up on that.)

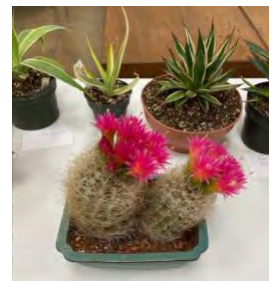
When you find a mix that seems to work for you and your plants are doing well, don't change your mix just because someone recommends a different one. But if it seems that your plants are just sitting still, perhaps they need a boost. Introduce a new potting mix with a few plants and see how they adapt before repotting your entire collection. Of course, when you bring a new plant home you should consider repotting it into your mix as soon as feasible.

Anyway, thanks to Jose for bringing those samples for us to think about. *Sue*

APRIL BRAG TABLE: We had a large selection of Brag Table plants last month: agaves, blooming pachypodiums, echeverias and blooming cacti. It was a treat to see them. Bringing plants were Dan Gale, Bill Gale, Rob Scott, David Madrigal, Mary Drumheller, Mark Muradian, Eddie Etheridge, Fred Gaumer, Jess Hull and Jack Fleming. In addition, Jose Soto brought examples of four major commercial cactus growing mixes to display their different consistencies. Many thanks to all of them. *Sue*



*Photos:
Karen Willoughby*





(Illus from Llife.com)

EUPHORBIA CYLINDRIFOLIA

Euphorbia cylindrifolia is a small species from Madagascar and gets its name from its sub-cylindrical leaves. Two forms are found in cultivation: *ssp tubifera*, which forms a nice tuber or caudex, and *ssp cylindrifolia*, which spreads by underground stems (stolons). Despite its exotic origin, it is not difficult to grow. A shade plant inhabitat, it produces longer stems and greener leaves grown in shade. More sun will produce shorter stems and leaves which display reddish or brownish coloration. Plants kept dry over winter will likely shed their leaves, though sparce watering will help retain their foliage.

Euphorbia cylindrifolia ssp cylindrifolia (pictured) makes a nice dish garden plant. Its spreading underground stems appreciate a wide, shallow container. It is propagated by cuttings. Cuttings of the other form, *ssp tubifera*, do not form a caudex, so that plant has to be propagated by seeds. **Sue**



OBREGONIA DENEGRII



(Illus from Llife.com)

Obregonia denegrii is a monotypic genus (that is, it has only one species), closely allied to *Ariocarpus*, from which it differs in its leaf-like, horny tubercles and its funnel-shaped white flowers. It is found in the Rio Guayalejo Valley in the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico in only two localities that are relatively close to each other. It grows on shaded slopes in gravelly, mineral-type soils. Because it is an endemic species—not found anywhere else—it was put on Mexico's endangered species list in 1981.

Obregonia denegrii has a globose, flattened, grayish green body that can grow to 4" to 6" in diameter (sometimes larger). The stem terminates at the base in a strong, turnip-like root, and much of the plant is drawn down into the ground. The areoles at the tip of the tubercles bear 2 to 4 weak spines that soon fall. The flowers emerge from the areoles after the plant measures at least 1 ½" in diameter and have developed white wool at the crown. When the plant is filled with water, the tubercles spread out from the body, and fold up during periods of drought.

This plant is not easy to grow on its own roots. It requires very good drainage, a sandy loamy potting mix, and watering only in the hottest periods of the year. Many hobbyists grow grafted specimens. In cultivation it should be kept fairly shaded, as it is susceptible to sun-scorch, especially in spring when it is not yet in full growth.

Propagation is by seed.

Sue

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FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY 2023 SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 10th – 10 am to 5 pm
Sunday, June 11th – 10 am to 4pm

**Huge variety of cacti, succulents,
supplies and handmade pottery!**

FREE PARKING & ADMISSON

**2023
SHOW &
SALE
—
JUNE
10 & 11**

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HAND TO ANSWER
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