

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

REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

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

ZOOM MEETING: ID: 835 8877 6358

Passcode: 345007

"AMAZING ADROMISCHUS"

Presented by

J.D. WIKERT



Adromischus cooperi
(Photo credit –
eakspeasy on Flickr)



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 100 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 is president for the Stockton Club and is trying to grow the club back after the Covid hiatus.

J.D. will provide a broad overview of the genus *Adromischus*. 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 *Adromischus* in their natural habitat.

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

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

Club Dinner for July 6th :**Blast And Brew – 799 W. Palmdon Drive
(South East corner of Palm and Herndon)****Dinner at 4:45****Please call or text or email Rosanna, 559-999-0017 for reservation****FROM THE PREZ:****Hi Members,**

We did it! We made it through another Annual Show & Sale!

I always worry if everything will go well, and most of the time it does. Other times you just have to roll with it and make changes on the fly. This year went really well, and everyone had a great time. It's always nice to hear vendors say they enjoy our event and club. It's even better hearing from the public about how much they love the event and how well it's run. It's these reviews that help us grow each year and we did grow this year. We had huge crowds of people, and that showed in the sales. We brought in 6 thousand more than last year, with a total of \$54,278! An incredible amount for our event.

We were able to do this as a small group stepped up, putting in the hours to set up the building and making sure checkout was staffed all weekend. Thank you everyone who volunteered, you made a huge difference and really helped everything to run smoothly. I really appreciate everyone who showed up to help!

This year we were down a few vendors but also had some new vendors join the event. Was great to have new vendors that offered unusual items. Every vendor brought in amazing products that the public gobbled up. Lots of bare tables by Sunday afternoon, always a great site! Thank you to the vendors for filling their tables with wonderful plants and pottery.

The Show this year featured all types of stunning specimens and was wonderful to see the assortment on display. It was great for the public to see a wide variety of plants. This year 4 people took the prizes for Best in Show. Jose Soto won Best Novice Cactus and Best Novice Succulent. Bill Gale won Best Advanced Cactus and Best Succulent. Naomi Bloss won Best Open Cactus and Best Open Succulent. Peter Beiersdorfer won Best Cactus Collection and Best Succulent Collection. These 4 winners dominated with their amazing plants. It was wonderful to see all the blue ribbons given out as well. Everyone who entered plants did a stunning job growing and displaying their plants.

Though we had a wonderful display of plants, the number of plants on display was smaller than last year. I really encourage everyone to enter plants for next year. Talk to the people who entered plants to hear how fun and easy it is!

Thank you to Karen Willoughby, the Show Chair, for all your hard work in planning and running the Annual Show. Everything looked great!

The Annual Show & Sale is a lot of work to plan and run but worth it when hundreds of people who love cacti and succulents can come together to socialize, and of course, buy plants. Welcome to the new members who joined at the event. Hope you all enjoy the club, no better place to be than with other hoarders...I mean enthusiasts!

Thank You,

Robert Scott



JULY BIRTHDAYS

Casey Tomasetti (2nd)

Carolee Clayton (10th)

Burma Gunther (18th)

Rosanna Rojas (19th)

Marcia Rosenberg (21st); Carole Grosch (31st)

A sunshine card was sent to Melanie Salwasser this month. We hope to see her soon.



We had many new members join since the last newsletter. Here they are, grouped by city:

Welcome!

Fresno: Alexis Valentin, Andrew Rettig, Angie Muniz, Anthony Aguirre, Bryan Robinett, Daniel Antonio-Casillas, Guillermo Sandoval, Heather Wood, Charisse Cline, Jeremy Stahler, Jeanette Heinrichs, Mary Grewe, Micah Garrison, Pam Flores Escobar, Pat New, Rebecca Landucci, Ryan Hoyt, Sandy Sirias, Casey Tomasetti

Clovis: Barbara Brown, Jefferson Birrell, Sue Bohigian.

Madera: Luke Schafer, Cathie Kirk.

Sanger: Coco Magallon, Raquel Martin.

Fowler: Oscar Hernandez, Lourdes Hernandez.

Bakersfield: Sherry Kelley.

Tulare: Guillermo Cardenas.

Firebaugh: Veronica Navarro.

Name badges will be available at this meeting for those who ordered them.

Hats off to our novice exhibitors at the show:

Alexis Valentin, Jose Soto, Melanie Salwasser, Cindy Duwe, Rosalinda Hernandez and Roz Tampone.



Jose won Best Novice Succulent (*Euphorbia abdelkuri*) and Best Succulent Cactus (*Gymnocalycium saglionis*)

Congratulations! And kudos to all of them for their Blue Ribbons.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP—and show your plants at the Fresno Fair. You have to pay a \$1.00 fee for each entry, but you win premiums for each ribbon.

Go to www.fresnofair.com; click on “participate”; from the drop-down menu select “competitive exhibits” and scroll down to option #4 Floriculture. There you will find all the show schedules and the dates for entry and pickup.

The Fair runs October 4th to 15th this year.

This is why we do it.

By Fred Gaumer

As the annual show and sale was winding down late on Sunday afternoon Bill Gale and I were hanging around waiting for the hour or so left to hurry up and get out of there. Bill is approached by two women. They looked like a mother and daughter or maybe a grandmother and granddaughter. It seemed to me that the younger had taken the other to see what a magnificent show the Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society could put together. The woman more advanced in age walked up to Bill and asked him if he was the Bill Gale who had entered so many wonderful plants. He said he was. This is the time when I wish I would have had a video recorder handy. I don't remember exactly what she said but part of what occurred was the awestruck look on her face and the precise delivery. She looked up at him and without blinking or having a loss for words she said something like:

“Bill Gale, your plants are so beautiful, you must love them very much. And you must love them so much that you are willing to bring them here and share them with others”.

Bill said thank you and something else. I don't remember what it was. But the look on his face was one of those looks that you have so few times in your life.

WINNING SHOW PLANTS



Avonia Namaquensis
Best Open Succulent
Naomi Bloss



Operculicarya decaryi
Best Advanced Succulent
Bill Gale



Euphorbia abdelkuri
Best Novice Succulent
Jose Soto



Gymnocalycium saglionis
Best Novice Cactus
Jose Soto



Tephrocactus geometricus
Best Advanced Cactus
Bill Gale



Astrophytum myriostigma strongylogonum
Best Open Cactus
Naomi Bloss

*Photos by
Robert Scott*



Best Cactus Collection
Peter Beiersdorfer



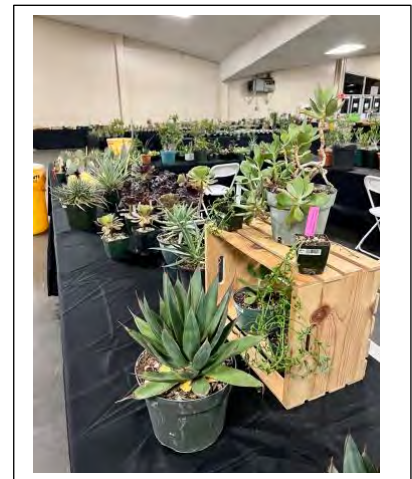
Best Succulent Collection
Peter Beiersdorfer



SHOW & SALE PHOTOS



*Photos:
Robert Scott*





*Photos by
Robert Scott*



POTTING MIX INGREDIENTS

Most of us use pretty much the same potting mix, year after year. We stir up our trusty stew of materials and go on from there. But, every once in a while, we're traumatized when some ingredient we have relied upon is no longer available. What do we do then? I thought the following excerpt by Dick Kohlschreiber from an old issue of *The Epigram*, the newsletter of the South Bay Epiphyllum Society, addresses the problem:

"About a month ago, I went to the nursery where I usually get the ingredients for my epi soil mix and found that they didn't have any leaf mold. The story I got was that Kellogg, the main supplier for leaf mold in this area, had lost their supplier of leaf mold and they didn't consider it a big enough seller to find another supplier. I stopped at 4 other nurseries and none of them had leaf mold for sale. I have always considered leaf mold to be one of the essential ingredients in the mix I like. It provided the acidity that the mix needed, and I always thought it added some "richness" to the mix. It broke down slowly and added some moisture to the mix.

"Since I really needed to have some mix, I decided to try something new. There is a new product called "Cocoa Mulch" which is made from the hulls of cocoa beans. It's being sold as an "organic garden mulch" to be used around roses or other flowers and vegetables, and as a soil conditioner and fertilizer. It is an organic fertilizer with 3-1-3 ratio and has a pH of 5.4. I think the pH was the thing that convinced me to try it as a substitute for leaf mold. When you open the bag, there is a strong smell of cocoa.

"So, my new recipe for my soil mix is:

- 2 parts of planter mix (composted peat)
- 2 parts small perlite
- 2 parts cocoa mulch
- 1 part small redwood bark"



"The mix comes out a little lighter with the cocoa mulch, but, so far, I haven't seen any problems with my plants. There are a few disadvantages of using cocoa mulch. It is slightly more expensive than leaf mold. And I've also noticed that when you first water the mix with the cocoa hulls, the water from the pot comes out brown. I don't know if it would stain a concrete floor or wood. So, if you have your pots on a concrete patio, watch for staining after you water."

I guess the lesson from the above is that, if you can't get an item anymore, you will have to find a substitute. Remember that, when you come up with a new mix, don't go overboard and pot up everything in it. Put a few plants in it and see how they do, given your usual growing practices, watering, etc.

Pumice used to be almost unavailable locally—and it still is in bulk—but small bags can be found in garden shops. The larger, coarse pumice is hard to find, but a call to Riverside Nursery and Landscape Supplies (7864 W. Shaw Ave.) revealed that they plan to receive the #3 and #4 perlite in September, 4 cubic foot bags at \$25.00. If that price holds, that's a good buy.

Other growers use poultry grit in their mixes, cat litter or the various products sold for absorbing petroleum products from garage floors. Before outing any of these in your mix, give it the 'slump test'—place some on a shallow dish of water and see how long it takes to disintegrate. If it holds up pretty well, it may work in a mix. If it turns to mud, don't use it—except in the cat box. Avoid perfumed or clumping cat litter, also. They have additives that are no good for plants.

Good luck!

Sue



A GOOD CACTUS FOR BEGINNERS: *Parodia leninghausii*. This is a plant found in most general collections and is easy to find in garden shops. It is not difficult to grow and puts up with a lot of abuse.

First described in 1895, it has been in cultivation for a long time. Most of us old-timers in the hobby have known it as *Notocactus leninghausii*, but it has undergone a number of name changes over the years. Native to southern Brazil, it has a light green body with 30-40 ribs and many closely set areoles which bear twisty golden spines. The plant is globular for its first 4-5 years, then becomes columnar with the head tilting toward the light. The citron-yellow flowers appear in mid-summer from the lower side of the head. This is a large growing species, getting up to three feet tall and prefers a large pot or free root run. Mature specimens offset freely from the base.

Parodia leninghausii is closely related to other species also native to southern Brazil: *claviceps*, *magnifica*, *nigrispina*, *schumanniana* and *warasii*. (Illus from Llife.com) **Sue**

SANSEVIERIA HALLII



(Illus from Wikipedia)

This plant has been commonly called “Baseball Bat” for the shape of the leaves, which resemble a tongue in the younger stage, or a baseball bat. The leaves are rough to the touch, up to two feet long, recurved backwards, and arise from a very thick underground rhizome. Young leaves display a conspicuous cross-banding which seems to fade as the leaves mature. The flowers appear just above ground level, which suggests that a mammal may be the pollinator.

Sansevierias with similar leaves have been distributed as “Leopard Bat”, “Blue Bat”, “Lundi Bat”, etc. The plants come from Zimbabwe or Botswana or Mozambique in southern Africa. The great variability of sansevierias has accounted for a lot of confusion regarding plant identities.

The plant is easy to grow but perhaps should not be “pushed” with too much water and fertilizer. Bring the plant inside if freezing temps are forecast. **Sue**

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