

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 42 No. 11

November 2023

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 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: 842 2626 1729 Passcode: 787115

California Cholla Changes

Recent research and name changes in the *Cylindropuntia* of the Californias

Speaker: Michelle Cloud-Hughes



Summary: The chollas (*Cylindropuntia*) are a vital component of many southwestern ecosystems, providing habitat and food for a diverse array of wildlife and plants. Recent research into the genetics and morphology of the chollas has led to an improved understanding of the evolutionary relationships within the genus.

In the first part of my talk, I'll relate the highlights of our prickly cholla research expeditions, the ongoing trials and tribulations of making valid scientific name changes, the current names for our California and Baja California chollas, and the many questions still to be addressed. The second part of my talk will cover the exciting story of our recently published *×Cylindronia robertsii*, the first documented intergeneric hybrid between *Cylindropuntia* and *Grusonia*. Although originally suspected of being an intergeneric hybrid, this extremely rare cactus was named *Grusonia robertsii* until our recent genetic and morphometric work was able to verify its *Cylindropuntia* × *Grusonia* parentage.



Speaker Bio: Michelle Cloud-Hughes is a botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in the desert flora and ecosystems of North America. She began her career working for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University, working mainly in the California deserts. In 2010 she started her company, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration, and since then has worked on rare plant surveys and other botanical research and restoration projects throughout the southwestern U.S. and Mexico. She is an authority on the

genus *Cylindropuntia* and an author of *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*, a rare California endemic and the most recent addition to California's cactus flora. Most recently, she and her fellow chollistas published *×Cylindronia robertsii*, the first documented intergeneric hybrid between *Cylindropuntia* and *Grusonia*.

FROM THE PREZ:**Hi Members,****November Meeting: Elections**

Our November meeting is fast approaching and with us back in-person our Annual Election for 2024 club officers can take place at the meeting. Since the start of the pandemic, we have rolled over our Officers and Board Members due to the issues taking place and not meeting in person. We are going back to the first set of Board Members that were to have their terms ended during the Pandemic. The group consists of Bill Gale, Cindy Duwe and Craig Roberts. All of them have served for longer than what their terms called for and we can't thank them enough for their participation in running our club. *Thank you, Bill, Cindy and Craig!*

With Board Members terming out, we needed to look for other Club members who would like to be on the Board to help. Up for election for 2024 is Carolee Clayton, Jess Hull, and Jose Soto. If elected, they would be joining the remaining Board Members Dominic Ortiz, Sue Haffner and Christeen Abbott-Hearn. We will also have the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasure up for election. The current officer holders have all agreed to run again, President- Robert Scott, Vice President- Rosanna Rojas, Secretary- Karen Willoughby and Treasurer- Michele Roberts. At the November Meeting we will hold an Election for these offices for the coming 2024 year. Every member who is current on their dues will be able to cast a vote. Please come to be part of this process as we get ready for 2024!

December Holiday Party

It may not feel like it, but winter is on its way, and so is our Annual Holiday Party. The Holiday Party will be on December 7 in place of our normal meeting. This year we have decided on a Pasta and Salad buffet for our Holiday dinner. The buffet will consist of Shrimp Scampi Pasta, Grilled Chicken Alfredo, Spaghetti with Meatballs, Caesar and House Salad, Garlic Parmesan Breadsticks, and of course apple and pumpkin pie. We will also have a variety of drinks to choose from. Tickets for dinner will be \$10.00 per person and will be sold at the November meeting. Please see Rosanna at the meeting or mail in your payment. The ticket form will be attached to the newsletter. Members and their families are welcome to attend. The Holiday Party is always a joy to attend, plus the Silent Auction will be taking place at the party!

Holiday Silent Auction

This year we are going to have our Silent Auction in person. In the past, we had the Silent Auction during the Holiday Party and will be trying it again this year. Items will be placed around the room, with papers to record the bids during the event. Once the time has been called, the final bid wins and you will be able to pay and take your items home that evening. Before the Holiday Party I will send out a list of items with pictures to entice you to attend to bid on some amazing items.

For anyone wishing to donate items, I will be accepting them at the November meeting, or you can bring the items to the Holiday Party. If you plan to bring the items to the Party, please email me a photo so I can send it to the membership to entice them. We accept all types of items like plants, cuttings, seeds, books, top dressings, pots, garden items, home decorations, holiday items, and anything else you can think of. Please think about donating items to this really fun Silent Auction and participating in bidding.

(Continued on following page.)

Membership Renewal

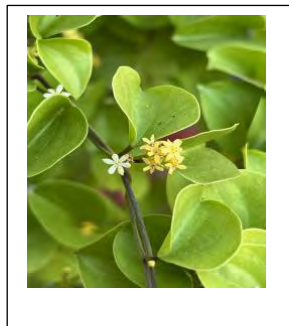
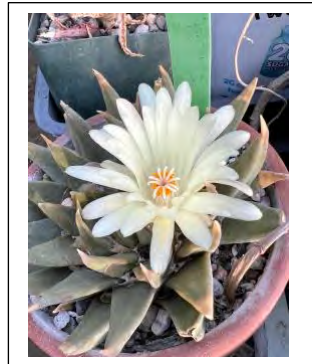
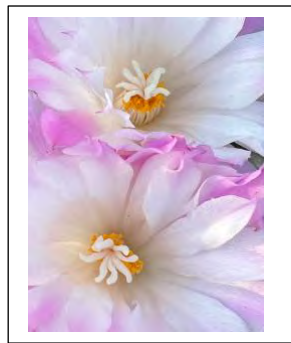
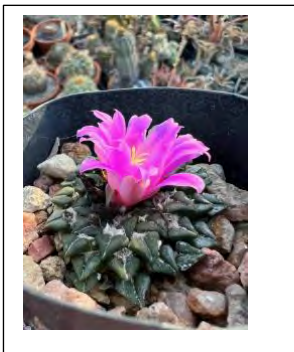
With the end of the year approaching, it's time to renew your membership. Starting at the November meeting, we will be taking in renewals for 2024. We will have updated forms that we need everyone to fill out for their renewals. We will have forms at the meeting, or you can print out the form yourself. Please see Christeen or me for help with renewing.

The November meeting will be busy with elections, Holiday Party tickets and renewals, along with a great presentation. Our member, Bryan Robinett, will be selling plants at the meeting. He has a wonderful variety of both cacti and succulents.

See you at the meeting! **Robert**



Rob's photos from the workshop are of blooming ariocarpus plants, plus closeups of Rob's blooming Dioscorea. **Sue**



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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jaan Lepson (6th)
Karen Willoughby (7th)
Sue Haffner (14th)
Bill Gale (18th)
Cindy Duwe (20th)
Nancy Jobin (24th)
Gabriel Pena (24th)
Bryan Clark (28th)

New Members

Karen Wood (welcome back!)
Victor Dominguez
Pam Estrada
Linda Bender
Patty Riley
Robin Gonzalez

Welcome

A get- well card was sent to Karen Willoughby, and we hope she will be back to meetings soon.

Fresno Fair Report: Congratulations to Roz Tampone, who won Best Succulent with a nice *Euphorbia decaryi*. Other club members who showed plants were Rosanna Rojas, Rudy Rulloda, Sue Haffner, Lynne Rayner and former member Val McCullough. All won blue ribbons. Best Cactus was a large, well-grown Peanut Cactus (*Lobivia silvestrii*) shown by non-member Brenda Fennell. (This person has been showing plants at the Fair for years. She really should join our club!)

CLEANING CLAY POTS: In our hard-water area it's inevitable that our clay flower pots will become encrusted with mineral salts residue. While some growers like the looks of such pots many want to know how to clean them.

First, clean as much dirt from the pot as you can, using a brush or a hose.

Then soak the pot in a solution of vinegar and water for as long as you think necessary.

Lastly, scrub any residue from the pot and rinse.

EPONYM = a person after whom a discovery, invention, place, etc. is named. We encounter a lot of eponyms in botany: for instance, *Echinocereus engelmannii*, named in honor of George Engelmann, a German-American botanist who explored the flora of the Western deserts (he has other plants named for him, as well); or *Yucca whipplei*, named for A.W. Whipple, a leader of the U.S. Mexico Boundary Survey after the Mexican War. This was an immensely important project, which produced maps and surveys of the flora and fauna of the West. Well, you get the picture: eponyms in botany are not bestowed in a frivolous manner, but recognize an individual related to the discovery of the plant.

Now there is a movement afoot to stop naming plants and animals after persons. This seems to have its origin in recent years as the naming of places for Confederate officers or slaveholders has come under scrutiny. Some ornithologists began questioning whether birds named in the 19th century should be renamed. This movement has now gone international, with this statement: "We believe that naming species in honor of real people is unnecessary and objectively difficult to justify ... The earth's biodiversity is part of a global heritage that should not be trivialized by association with any single human individual, whatever their perceived worth." (from a sub-group of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.)

There has been some push-back about this from the ICZN and the International Association of Plant Taxonomy, but I expect we'll hear more about this contentious issue.

KAREN OSTLER'S INSECTICIDE RECIPE: our October speaker uses this mix as a spray, to a gallon container add:

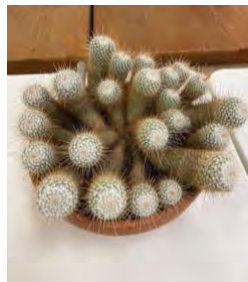
1 ½" of Dawn dishwashing soap
 1 bottle of rubbing alcohol (16 oz?)
 1 bottle of vinegar (16 oz?)
 Fill with water

The Master Gardeners have a new blog:

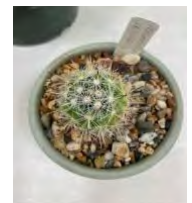
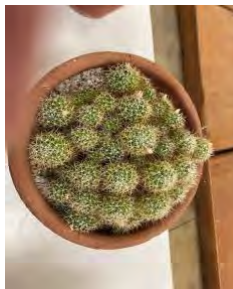
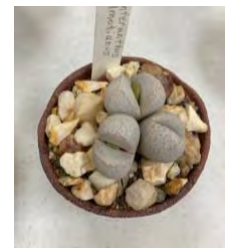
<https://ucanr.edu/FresnoGardeningGreen/>

Garden advice and ideas; Elinor Teague's column.

OCTOBER BRAG TABLE: We had an overloaded Brag Table last month. It sure made Fred earn his salary! In line with the program, there were many mammillarias, not to mention a range of other interesting plants. Those showing plants were Dan Gale, Fred Gaumer, Dennis Anderson, Ana Ramirez, Bill Gale, Mary Drumheller, Eddie Etheridge and Jess Hull. Many thanks to all of them. *Sue*



Photos:
Karen
Willoughby



OCTOBER WORKSHOP: A small group met online for the October workshop. We discussed several issues. One member was going to be gone for seven weeks and was advised to give potted cacti one last watering. Plants in the ground should be fine.

Another member wondered if this was the right time of year to take a cutting from his tall euphorbia. He was advised to go for it and was given some advise about handling the cut pieces.

Save up your plant questions for the next workshop. *Sue*

SELDOM SEEN SUCCULENTS: TAVAREZIA

Tavaresia is a small genus of stapeliads comprised of only two species, *angolensis* and *barklyi* (pictured.) It is a stem succulent with angled stems armed with bristle-like spines which are needle-sharp but soft when wet. It forms clumps of stems which can be either tightly packed or open, depending on how much sun it gets.

The flowers are spectacular, large tubular blooms which arise from the base of the stems which widen to the mouth where the lobes flare. They are cream in color with maroon stripes on the outside, mostly cream with maroon spots inside.

Tavaresia has a wide distribution in the arid and semiarid regions of tropical and subtropical Africa south of the equator. The two species have never been found growing together. *T. angolensis* is recorded from the coastal region of Angola, found in sandy areas on low outcrops of rocks among dunes, usually within 60 km of the coast. *T. barklyi* is found from Angola and Namibia, along river valleys across northern South Africa, to Botswana and Zimbabwe, usually in stony locations in crevices or around the bases of spiny shrubs or trees.

The genus was established by Welwitsch in 1854. He dedicated it to Jose Tavares de Macedo, the Portuguese official whose ministry assisted his travel. (Angola had been a Portuguese colony from the late 19th century until independence in 1975.) Twenty years later another explorer described the same genus as *Decabelone*, and you may find this name in some plant books, but it is invalid.

These plants are not too difficult to grow. Indirect light is best, a gritty soil mix, sparingly watered, hardy to about 40 degrees. Propagation is by seeds or cuttings. The flowers are not as stinky as other stapeliads.

(Illus. from www.worldofsucculents.com)

Reference: Bruyns, P.V. (2005) Stapeliads of southern Africa and Madagascar, Umdaus Press, Hatfield, South Africa.

* * *

**ASTROPHYTUM ORNATUM**

Astrophytum ornatum is the largest species in the genus, globular when young, but becoming columnar with age, reaching as much as 6 feet in height. It is also the fastest growing of the genus.

It is characterized by cross-bands of woolly white scales, and is probably the most fiercely-spined of the astrophytums. The flowers are yellow.

It is the southernmost of the genus, native to the highlands of the Mexican states of Hidalgo, Queretaro and San Luis Potosi, where it is locally abundant in wild canyons and limestone cliffs. Its habitat is threatened by mining activities and by goat grazing.

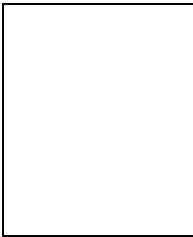
This species is probably the easiest astrophytum to grow. I planted one in an outdoor bed where it gets full sun, rain, frost—whatever—and it has survived for years.

(Illus: www.mountaincrestgardens.com)

Sue

2024

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society



Membership Application: New or Renewal

Annual Membership Renewals Due by January 1st

Single Membership with email newsletter ___ X \$20.00 = ___

Single Membership with paper newsletter ___ X \$30.00 = ___

Family Membership with email newsletter ___ X \$30.00 = ___

Family Membership with paper newsletter ___ X \$40.00 = ___

New / Replacement Name Badges \$5.00 EA. # of Badges ___ X \$5 = ___
(Make sure name/s are printed legibly below)

Total \$ _____

Checks payable to: Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society (FCSS)

Mail to: FCSS – 1890 Nelson Way Kingsburg, CA 93631

INFORMATION FOR CLUB USE ONLY: No personal information will be given out to other parties

Please write legibly

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Check if changes

Contact Phone _____

Email _____

Birthday(s) Optional – Month & Day _____

In the event of a medical emergency at a club function, please list someone we can notify and get personal information from for medical services.

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Please read and complete for the Cactus Corner Newsletter

By signing the form below, you give your permission for the use of photographs in the club newsletter and/or to be used for educational purposes including publications, exhibitions, club website and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

No Thank You Yes, I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions noted below.

Signature _____ Date _____

F.C.S.S Holiday Party - Dinner Order Form

December 7th, 6:00pm

Pasta and Salad Buffet - \$10 per person

Pasta: Shrimp Scampi Pasta, Grilled Chicken Alfred, Spaghetti with Meatballs,

Salad: Caesar and House Salad,

Garlic Parmesan Breadsticks,

Apple and Pumpkin Pie

Names: _____

of dinners: _____ Total: _____ Paid: _____

Mail Form with check to Rosanna Rojas: 128 Peace River, Fresno, CA 93711

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