

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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February 2024

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

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

Cacti & Succulents of the Bolivian Highlands

Wendell S. Woody Minnich 2007-2017

Bolivia, an island in the western regions of South America, is south of Peru and north of Argentina-Chile and west of Brazil. Being squeezed by past Wars with its neighbors, Bolivia is now a small country with no direct connection to the Pacific Ocean. It is mostly made-up of high Andean Mountain environments often divided by deep river gorge valleys. From sea level to altitudes in excess of 24,000 feet, it is well known for its Inca ancestry, high altitude and the beautiful llamas, alpacas and vicunas. Due to it being mostly high in elevation, many of the cacti and other succulents are endemic to very specialized and uniquely created habitats.



When flying into La Paz, the capitol of Bolivia, one soon becomes aware of their first immediate adjustment. As soon as you step off of the airplane, you really feel the altitude of near 14,000 ft. Normally, a few days of acclimation are necessary, thus what better way to see this historically beautiful city, than to just meander verry slooowly from street to street! The people and their culture are pronounced, and the colors and vibrancy of their lifestyle is inspirational. One would think, at this mountainous altitude, the winter temperatures would get very cold and thus prohibit the growth of most succulent plants. Surprisingly, there are numerous cacti and other succulents found growing everywhere. And, if the altitude makes you feels ill, there are always vendors along the cobblestone streets anxious to sell their famed cocoa leaves. Just chew some, dribble the juice down your chin, and soon you'll feel as if you're back at sea level.

From La Paz into Bolivia's more remote regions, one quickly begins to view fantastic scenery from snow covered peaks to deep valleys and sculptured geological formations. Soon the Puyas and columnar Cereus become the dominate vegetation. If curvy winding roads with sheer drop-offs are not to your liking, this may not be the best place for you. Pretty soon, many smaller cryptic genera become visible from the window of your Lanc Cruiser. You totally forget about the rough roads and immediately get excited by more and more species appearing with each and every bend in the road. Sulcorebutias, Rebutias and Weingartias are the most dominant genera, and when they are in flower, they seem to glow with their big electric red, yellow and burgundy flowers. The Echinopsis, Lobivias, Oreocereus and Cleistocactus are also very common and are often found growing in association with numerous Bromeliads and the occasional Echeveria.



(Continued on following page.)

Everyday in Bolivia is like riding a rollercoaster, from sea level to 20,000ft, and from one species of cactus to another. In some areas, the cacti dominate the landscape, and in others, the cacti are as cryptic and camouflaged as chameleons. Hopefully sharing my travels in Bolivia from Lake Titicaca to Sucre, will be as exciting for you as it was for me. For those of you who may never make such a trip, perhaps this presentation can take you to Bolivia without ever leaving home.

Woody's Biography:

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world for over 52 years, as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.



Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. To date, this makes 128 major trips. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants were often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the sold out book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of thirteen C&S societies across the country. He has been president, show and sale chair, newsletter editor, program chair, and plant of the month coordinator. Woody has also served on the CSSA board and numerous societies in many other leadership positions. He is a co-creator, and currently the president, of the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club. With 52 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field (old fart), he has many experiences to share and thousands of photos to show.

CLUB DINNER

Thursday, February 1st - 4:45 pm

DiCicco's, 7038 N. West (West and Herndon)

Call, text or email Rosanna Rojas for Reservations

(559) 999-0017

FROM THE PREZ:

Hi Members,

Fresno Home & Garden Show: March 1-3

The first weekend in March means it's time for the Fresno Home & Garden Show at the Fresno Fairgrounds. This year the event will be March 1st through 3rd, from 10am- 5pm each day. The Club has a booth area in the Garden Society building (Next to Butler) where invited Club Members sell their plants. It's one of two big sales the Club puts on to raise funds for the whole year. To make this event work we ask for Club members to volunteer a couple hours during the weekend, helping to run registers and package plants. Members who volunteer earn Club Bucks, a coupon worth cash that you can use at the Home & Garden Show or at the Annual Sale in June. You will also get free admission and parking for the event. Please think about volunteering a couple hours during the weekend. It's a lot of fun as you get to chat with people about plants, earn Club Bucks, and of course buy plants! Without our members' help, large events like this are a lot harder to continue. Volunteer signups will be at the February meeting and emailed. If you know of a time you would like to volunteer for, please email me.

Boxes Needed

The Fresno Home & Garden Show is a huge event, and we go through a lot of boxes to package customers' plants. Please start saving boxes that are a good shape and size for holding potted plants. We really need boxes, but we cannot take them at the February meeting. None of the Board members have room to hold extra boxes and take them to the event with everything else they take. We ask that if you have boxes to please bring them at setup on Thursday, February 29 from 10am to 6pm. An email with more details, including a map will be sent out later in February. Thank you for saving boxes and understanding about the delivery. We really appreciate it!

Committees

With the new year we have some open committees that hopefully will be interesting to our members. We would love to find people who would like to take on these roles. If you are interested in helping, please contact me.

Librarian: At each meeting the Librarian would setup the library and help members check out books. We have a small collection of popular books at our meeting room in a small rolling case.

Fair Display Chair: This position is to setup Club information at the Fresno Fair in October. The Chair would go before the Fair starts to setup our Club's promotional information, check in to make sure the information is in good condition during the Fair, and then retrieve the information at the end of the Fair.

Annual Show Co-Chair: We are looking for a person who would like to help Karen, our current Show Chair, with the plant show that takes place at our Annual Sale in June each year. She would like to find a Co-Chair that will help and learn how to run the plant show.

Our February meeting is going to be a lot of fun with Woody joining us. Woody is a wonderful speaker and I hope you can make it to experience his talk. Hope everyone is doing well. Spring is right around the corner. See you at the meeting!

Thank you,

Robert

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Brenda Anderson (1st)
Pam Estrada (3rd)
Evangelina Gonzalez (5th)
Mary Drumheller (8th)

Lola Sutherland (10th), Ardnia Combes (24th),
Peter Beiersdorfer (25th), Alice Rodriguez (25th)
Joyce Nichols (28th), Edie Chaney (29th)

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT NURSERY?

We would like to make a list of members' favorite plant shopping sites in central California, from the Valley to the coast, and down to the Los Angeles area. Email me: sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu , or talk to me at the meeting.

“Growing Adeniums in Southern Arizona,” by Michael Chamberland, is an interesting article with a lot of good pictures. What especially caught my eye is that the author has been a longtime customer of the CSSA Seed Depot, which I run: <https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.edu/files/pubs/az1953-2021.pdf>

“What book did you find especially useful when you first got interested in succulents?” is a subject that was discussed in another club's newsletter.

This made me think. For me it was “The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents” by Gordon Rowley (1978), London, Salamander Books. It's a large format book with a lot of color pictures. I remember buying it at Borders Books in River Park for \$14.95. I think it was the first general book on succulents that became popular.

It's still available online in various editions and formats, new and used.

Borders Books declared bankruptcy in 2011 and was bought up by Barnes and Noble.

Where's that? Recently I saw a reference to the succulents of Eswatini. Where is that? I wondered. Turns out that it's the new designation of the former Kingdom of Swaziland, a landlocked independent country in South Africa. Eswatini.

Karen Ostler presented our program last October. In it she mentioned that she had come up with a homemade insect spray that she has found to be very effective against mealybugs, scale, aphids and red spider mite. As a cancer survivor, she is very careful about exposure to chemicals, and she recommends this recipe:

To an empty gallon container, add:

- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 cup rubbing alcohol
- 1 cup Dawn dishwashing soap

Add water to fill and transfer to a spray bottle. Always test on leaf succulents to make sure it doesn't burn them. Repeat every 3 days for 2 weeks. Used as a soil drench, it will kill fungus gnats.

The one-gallon solution can be cut in half by taking another empty gallon container and filling it half full of the above solution, then adding water to fill the container.

Never spray plants in sunlight, as they might suffer burns. Karen sprays very late in the afternoon.

For plants that cannot tolerate the full solution, a mix of 1 cup of Dawn to one gallon of water will work but will take longer, requiring every 3 days for 3 weeks.

Thanks to Fred Gaumer for sharing this information.

CACTUS & SUCCULENT SURVIVAL STORIES

We know cacti and other succulents are pretty tough. I'll bet many of us have dropped a cutting that got kicked around under other plants, only to find it had taken root in some unlikely place or still ready to be planted.

Years ago, the club met at Best-by FAR on Clovis Avenue, in a room also used by a number of other clubs. A box of raffle plants that we had purchased from a visiting speaker got pushed under a table against the wall and forgotten about. Months later we were looking for something (the club library?), pulling out boxes many of which belonged to other clubs. Suddenly Marie Town (of fond memory) exclaimed, “There's cactus in this box!” Holy cow, there were our raffle plants. The cacti looked fine; some of the haworthias were a bit stretched but were otherwise okay.

Do you have a plant survival story to share?

JANUARY BRAG TABLE: We had a lot of nice copiapos on the table last month, due to the subject of the program, not to mention other nice plants. Bringing exhibits for the table were Ann Bierbower, Mark Muradian, Dennis Anderson, Dan Gale, Fred Gaumer, Jack Fleming, Bill Gale and Eddie Etheridge. Many thanks to them. Remember, there's room on the table for your plant, too. *Sue*



Photos by
Robert Scott





AGAVE GYPSOPHILA:

The “Gypsum Century Plant” is an attractive, compact agave, its gray leaves displaying rippled edges with small, soft spines along the margins. The young leaves are initially tubular before unfurling into their mature shape. The typical plant will reach a diameter of around three feet and may produce a few offsets around the base. In winter or spring a six-to-eight-foot bloom stalk will display orange flowers. Sometimes plantlets form along the stalk.

Agave gypsophila is native to several states of Mexico, growing on hillsides rich in gypsum. Its habitat is threatened by commercial activities in several locations.

In 2013 a team of Mexican botanists published a close study of this plant in habitat and concluded that what had been thought one species was, in fact, a complex of five closely related species, *A. pablocarrilloi*, *A. abisaii*, *A. andreae*, *A. kristenii* in addition to *A. gypsophila*. They also determined that the plant that has been sold for years as gypsophila is actually *Agave pablocarrilloi*. (The above illustration, from www.worldofsucculents.com, is supposed to be gypsophila, but may not be, according to the scientists. Whatever its name, it’s an attractive plant and worth growing. Give it good drainage, part shade and protection from frost.) *Sue*



Morangaya pensilis:

Morangaya is a monotypic genus of pendulous plants with very long cylindrical stems, strongly branched and with aerial roots. It is endemic to a small area at the south end of the Baja Peninsula in oak and pine mountainous areas, mostly in light shade, on granite rocks and cliffs, and in crevices of organic matter, at 800 to 2,000 meters altitude. Two populations of the plant have been identified, separated by about 40 kilometers.

The flowers, orange to pale red, funnel-shaped, open in the morning and are pollinated by hummingbirds and insects. *Morangaya pensilis* has an interesting taxonomic history. It was first published in 1908 as *Echinocereus pensilis*, and the name persisted even though various authors questioned the identity. In 1974 Gordon Rowley published *Morangaya*, due to morphological differences with *Echinocereus* as well as with *Aporocactus*, which it somewhat resembles. His work was verified in 2015, when DNA studies showed that it is a unique genus.

The generic name honors several Americans who were long associated with cacti and succulents: Reid Moran (1916-2010), Edward Gay (1915-1997) and Betty Gay (1919-2013). Reid Moran was a botanist and curator of botany at the San Diego Natural History Museum. An expert on the Crassulaceae, he published a number of new species, especially in Dudleya. Ed and Betty Gay made many plant hunting trips to South America and had a nursery, Cactus Ranchito, in Tarzana. They did several programs for our club years ago and also judged plants at the Fresno Fair. Our members, Paul and Madeleine Mitchell, met Reid Moran years ago on a trip to the Galapagos. Madeleine said he was quite a character.

Morangaya pensilis is worth growing in a hanging basket, though it seems rare in cultivation. It needs good drainage and protection from the full sun in the heat of the day. It might be frost-tender, as well. *Sue*

(Illus from www.plantnet.org).



WATERING TIP: Our local water is alkaline, even municipal water buffered to a pH of around 7. It contains a lot of mineral salts, as we know by the buildup on our sinks and bathroom fixtures.

Take a tip from experienced growers and acidify the water you use on your plants. With acidified water your plants are better able to absorb nutrients. Rainwater is naturally acidified, which is why your plants love it. We should all try to collect rainwater and roof runoff.

To acidify water, add a tablespoon of white vinegar to a five-gallon bucket of water. Don’t use more than that. You will eventually notice a difference in the health of your plants. *Sue*

TREASURER'S REPORT		-----	December, 2023
Income:			
Memberships			280.00
Badges			15.00
Dinner payments			840.00
Silent Auction			939.00
	Total		2,074.00
Expenses:			
Derrel's (1 year)			-627.24
Awards (Gift card/Pots)			-656.00
Monthly Charges (Zoom/Verizon)			-62.82
Badges			-51.83
Newsletter (copies/postage)			-38.04
Speaker meals (2 months)			-44.00
Room rent			-100.00
Christmas party			-1,734.51
	Total		(3,314.44)

Club Access: President, Robert Scott, (559) 960-3665,
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Refreshments, Nancy Jobin



(Continued from last month's newsletter)

2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS
Last updated – 12/26/2024 EMAIL CHANGES TO JGMPLANTS@AOL.COM

- APR. 27 PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SPRING FESTIVAL**
Sat. 11am-3pm C&S sales and free workshops on growing C&S
The Park Ave. Community Center, 210 E. Park Ave., Escondido, CA
- APR. 28 HUNTINGTON SPRING PLANT SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
10am-5pm Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org , Sale call 626-405-3571
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA
- MAY 3-5 SACRAMENTO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Daily 9am-5pm Info. www.sacramentocss.com
Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento, CA
- MAY 4 EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA SHOW AND SALE**
9am-4pm Info. www.epiphyllums.org or call 909-438-8242
San Marino Masonic Hall, 3130 Huntington Dr., San Marino, CA
- MAY 4-5 SUNSET SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Sat. Show noon-4pm, Sale 9am-4pm, Sun. Show & Sale 9am-4pm, Info. call 310-822-1783
Veterans Memorial Center, Teen Center, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA
- MAY 5 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB SHOW AND SALE**
noon-4pm, Info. call 714-553-6914
Women's Club of Bellflower, 9402 Oak St., Bellflower, CA 90706
- MAY 10-11 GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SALE**
Daily 9am-4pm Info. www.gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com or call 909-910-9195
Redlands Church of The Nazarene, 1307 E. Citrus Ave., Redlands, CA 92374
- MAY 11 SANTA BARBARA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
10am-3pm, Members early entry 9:30am. Info. <https://sbcactus.org/show-and-sale/>
Santa Barbara Women's Club, 670 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

(Continued on next page.)

- MAY 11-12 SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Sat 9am-4 pm, Early Bird Sale Only (no show) Casa del Prado Patio
Sun. Sale 9am-4pm, Show 11am-4pm, Room 101, Casa del Prado
Balboa Park, San Diego, CA Info. www.sdepis.org or call 858-565-0340
- TBA SAN FRANCISCO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
- MAY 18-19 CARMICHAEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Sat. 9am-4pm, Sun. 9am - 2:30pm, Info. lldewe@gmail.com or www.ccandss.com
Carmichael Park Clubhouse, 5750 Grant Ave., Carmichael, CA
- MAY 25 EPIPHYLLUM CONFERENCE XVII (EpiCon 17) SAT. 8:30AM-5PM**
California Center for the Arts (<https://artcenter.org/>) 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA
Cost is \$65 per person and includes lunch. Register online at: <https://sdepis.org/>. Deadline for registration is May 11.
Conference Contacts: Mildred Mikas, mvmikas@cox.net or Pat Neal, pneal@san.rr.com
- MAY 25-26 CENTRAL COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm Info. rskillin@gmail.com or www.centralcoastcactus.org
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave., Nipomo, CA
- JUNE 8-9 SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SHOW AND SALE**
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA Info. call 619-990-2051
- JUNE 8-9 FRESNO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE**
Sat. 10am-5pm, Sun. 10am-4pm Info. rob_scott85@yahoo.com
Fresno Fairgrounds Commerce Bldg, 1121 S. Chance Ave., Fresno, CA
- JUNE 14-16 SAN FRANCISCO SUCCULENT AND CACTUS SOCIETY SHOW AND SALE**
Fri. member-only preview, Info. schedule & details at www.sfsucculent.org
San Francisco County Fair Building, 1199 9th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122
- JUNE 28-30 CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE – RESERVATIONS REQUIRED FRI./SAT./SUN. daily 10am-5pm**
Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Show/Sale- call Nick Renteria 323-428-2215
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA
- JULY 19-20 ORANGE COUNTY CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SUMMER SALE**
Fri. Noon-6pm, Sat. 9am-4pm Info. call 657-549-0702
1000 S. State College Bl., (Anaheim United Methodist Church) Anaheim, CA
- AUG. 2-4 INTER-CITY SHOW AND SALE - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
Info. www.intercityshow.com or call 805-264-6262
Fri Aug. Sale only (no Show) 9am-6:30 pm
Sat & Sun Aug. 3-4 Show & Sale 9am-5pm
LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA
- AUG. 30-SEP. 1 MONTEREY BAY AREA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SALE AND SHOW**
Fri. 3pm-6pm, members only, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm
Info mbacsspresident@gmail.com or mbsucculent.org
ISTW Portuguese Hall, 124 Atkinson Lane, Watsonville, CA 95076
- AUG. 31 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM**
9am-3pm **RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**
Info. Reservations- www.huntington.org, Symposium-call 626-405-3571
Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

(Additional 2024 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT & EPIPHYLLUM CALENDAR SALES & SHOWS continued in March newsletter)