

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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**THURSDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</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)**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 864 5863 5815 Passcode: 917289**

## What's all the stink about Stapeliads?

**Presenter: Jaan Lepson**



Join us as Jaan takes us on a spin through of the wonderful world of Stapeliads!

This diverse group was long placed in its own family, the Asclepiadaceae, but recently they have been merged with the family Apocynaceae, joining such familiar plants as Pachypodium, Plumeria, and oleander. Jaan's talk will focus primarily on the carrion plants, famous for their exquisitely beautiful flowers and their not-so-exquisite "something extra." His presentation will include plants in cultivation as well as in the wild, mostly in South Africa and Namibia, but also the Canary Islands.



Jaan Lepson grew up in Hawai'i, where he developed a love for nature, specifically . . . rain forests. After receiving a B.A. from Princeton University, Jaan returned to pursue his Ph.D. at the University of Hawai'i, living for 5 years in an isolated tent 6000' up the side of Mauna Kea, where he where he studied endangered birds.



After a year of camping in the rain forest, he decided to take a vacation, so he went camping in Death Valley with Peter. And so began his passion for cacti and succulents. Jaan's interest in stapeliads really blossomed when he and Peter were stranded at the Alte Kalkofen Lodge in Namibia at the start of Covid. Along with their famous Lithops collection, they have a large collection of stapeliads. Jaan and Peter now return to the lodge several times a year, where they conduct research in the greenhouse and in the field.



**\*\*\* Jaan will bring plants for sale \*\*\***

**For dinner information for Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>,  
please contact Rosanna, (559) 999-0017.**

**FROM THE PREZ:**

**Hi Everyone,**

We are back! After the amount of work and energy needed to pull off the Annual Show & Sale this year, we all needed a break to recharge. It worked out well that our July meeting fell on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, giving us a month to mentally and physically recuperate. Now we can prepare for more club events!

**Annual Show & Sale**

This year's event had its challenges, and that's putting it nicely. Many behind-the-scenes issues did their best to derail the entire event. As in, the Thursday night before setup, there was a big possibility of having to cancel the whole event. This year was riddled with issues but somehow everything came together to make a successful event. The biggest factor in being able to do this was you, the people who came out to help with setup, to running checkout, and cleaning up. While I ran around dealing with issues, it was this group of people who got the work done, from setting up tables and adding tablecloths, to running registers and packaging orders, helping vendors move plants, breaking down tables, and loading the delivery truck. We could not have had this event without your time and work. Know that I saw you and appreciate you being there to help. Thank you so much! This level of participation made the event a success in my book.

As you all know we were in a different building this year at the Fairground and that caused issues, especially when it came to parking. It was a headache to deal with and I know the public felt that. The public loves our events as they love buying the plants and pots our vendors supply. Talking to people coming in, they all understood the issue of a new building and were thankful we were still having the event. They were ready to shop no matter what the problem. There was still a noticeable decrease in foot traffic, but I am happy to say not in overall sales. This year we brought in \$54,718.19, an increase in \$439.92 from the 2023 total. Now that may not be a large increase but after hearing that most Club sales around the State saw their totals decrease this year, I'll take a \$400 increase as a win, especially after all the issues we had this year. I count that as a success for the club.

We were able to do so well as we had 23 vendors this year, the largest number of vendors we have ever had at our Annual Sale. Having this many vendors gave the public a huge variety of plants and pottery to choose from. I kept receiving compliments about how awesome the quality and diversity of the vendors were. *Thank you to the vendors for coming to our event, bringing amazing items, and engaging with the public. A big thank you to everyone who was able to donate to the Club table. Your donations looked awesome, bringing in an outstanding \$1,031 for the Club.*

The Show this year really shined. We had more people participating than last year and more first-time Showers than ever before. I hope the first-timers had a great time showing their plants, it really is fun! Everyone did an amazing job, and the plants were fantastic this year. The Show was even larger than what some other Clubs had this year, which is a big deal for us. We had a new Show Chair this year, Jeanette Heinrichs, who did a wonderful job setting up and running the Show. Thank you for being open to trying out this position, you did a fantastic job!

*(Continued on following page.)*

While the Show & Sale had a lot of twists, issues, and almost derailments, we all worked together and pulled off a great event. We had vendors filling the room and a large Show area, the event looked amazing, and the public noticed. I'm proud of what we did and what we achieved. We had a great group of volunteers, and we had an increase in sales no matter how small. That's a win! We learn from each year's event how to make the next one even better, and that's exactly what we will do. 2025 will be here quickly, see you there!

### Fall Sale- September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024

We are now preparing for our Fall Sale on **Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 1:30 pm**. The Sale is held at Redeemer Church at Bullard Avenue and Palm Avenue. The same building we meet at for our monthly meetings. This is a smaller event that only Club members can sell at. It doesn't matter if you have one plant or enough to fill a table, you are welcome to sell. The fee to participate is \$20 per member, this will get you a table to display your items. We must work with a range of different table sizes, 6-foot and 8-foot long and round. If you know you only have a few items to sell or plan to sell with someone, please let me know at sign-up so I can give you an appropriately sized table. You will be given whatever table size is available on the day of the event. All sales go through each participant, so bring cash change as this is a cash-only event. Some of you may have the ability to take credit cards, but this event is advertised as cash only as most members selling can't accept cards. You may offer to take credit cards just let the individual buyer know. Setup starts at 9 am that Saturday, don't come early as the doors will not open until 9 am. Sign-up to participate in this Sale will be at the August meeting. If you can't make it to that meeting, please contact me.

See you on August 1<sup>st</sup> for our meeting where Jaan Lepson will be giving a presentation on Stapeliads. Everyone should have a couple of Stapeliads, as they are very unique plants. I hope everyone has been surviving this incredible heat wave we are having. This is something we have never had to deal with before and will be a learning experience.

*Thank you,*

*Robert*



**JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Jim Smith (2<sup>nd</sup> )  
 Casey Tomasetti (2<sup>nd</sup> )  
 Tina Rodriguez (3<sup>rd</sup> )  
 Carolee Clayton (10<sup>th</sup> )  
 Linda Bender (12<sup>th</sup> )  
 Rosanna Rojas (19<sup>th</sup> )  
 Marcia Rosenberg (21<sup>st</sup> )  
 Carole Grosch (31<sup>st</sup> )

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Rudy Rulloda (2<sup>nd</sup> )  
 Howard McLachlin (10<sup>th</sup> )  
 Jeanette Heinrichs (13<sup>th</sup> )  
 Laura Herrera (23<sup>rd</sup> )  
 Nicki Bradford (25<sup>th</sup> )  
 Rakel Hairabedian (27<sup>th</sup> )  
 Kerren Cotton (28<sup>th</sup> )  
 James Rojas (30<sup>th</sup> )

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**NEW MEMBERS**

We signed up a lot of new members at the June Show & Sale.

Laura Herrera  
 Brian Kliment and family  
 Roberta Alves (welcome back)  
 Caddie Bergren  
 Tomas Carrasco  
 Jennifer Contreras  
 Danielle Lamoreux  
 Victoria Young-Condon  
 Tammy DiCeglie  
 Irma Faria  
 Beth Ginoza  
 Rakel Hairabedian  
 Jim Reed  
 Renee Wanke  
 Peter Carroll

*Welcome*

Name badges will be available for those who ordered one at the next meeting.



A get-well card was sent to Craig Roberts. If you know of a member who needs a sunshine note, get in touch with Sue Haffner: [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu).

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**EVENTS THIS MONTH**

**August 2-4, 38th Annual Intercity Show & Sale,**  
 Los Angeles Arboretum, Arcadia.  
[www.intercityshow.com](http://www.intercityshow.com)

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**August 30-September 1st, Monterey Bay Cactus & Succulent Society fall show & sale.**  
[www.mbsucculent.org](http://www.mbsucculent.org)

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**FRESNO FAIR: Fair dates this year are Oct. 2-14.**  
 If you would like to enter plants, you will find the information on the Fair website:  
[www.fresnofair.com](http://www.fresnofair.com).

Go to General Information, then participate, competitive exhibits, click on "Floriculture" to see the cactus and succulent schedule.

Entry forms are due Sept. 21st (mail) or Sept. 23rd (online.)

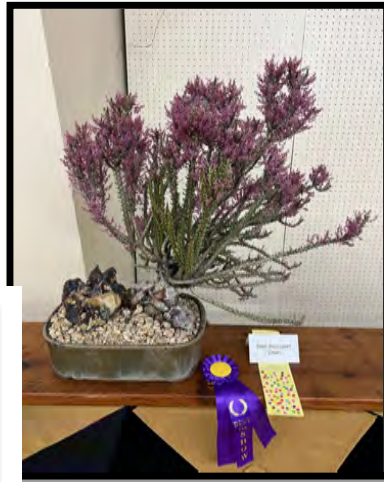
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**CLUB SALE TABLE:** I would like to thank everyone who donated items for the club table at the June Show and Sale. I wish I could list your names, but I know I would leave someone out. It seemed like every time I turned my back a new bunch of plants had appeared and no one saw who left them.

I would especially commend Ann Bierbower for helping price plants and tending the table on Sunday.

*Sue*

~ BEST IN SHOW ~



Photos: Robert Scott



(Photo: www.liflfe.com)

### ORTEGOCACTUS MACDOUGALLII

Ortegocactus is a monotypic genus, meaning that *macdougallii* is the only species. It's an interesting and distinctive-looking little plant, with a finely pitted, milky-green tuberculate body. Spines are at first red but soon become glossy black, providing a real contrast to the epidermis. With age, the spines fade to chalky gray with black tips. In its juvenile stage the tubercles are solid but in maturity are cleft by a groove along the upper surface, joining the spine-bearing and flower-bearing portions of the areole.

The presence of this groove indicates a close relationship to *Coryphantha*. (Some older books refer the species to *Escobaria*.) It is considered by some to represent an evolutionary link between *Mammillaria* with its solid tubercles and *Coryphantha* with its grooved tubercles.

Ortegocactus is native to a small area of the state of Oaxaca, near the village of San Jose Lacheguirl. Its name for the Ortega family who resided there. Plant hunter Tom McDougall records in his notes that Francisco Ortega collected the plant in February 1938. McDougall, apparently in the 1950s, sent plants to the New York Botanical Garden, but it was not named until 1961, after it had bloomed and set seed. The flower resembles one for a *Coryphantha*, with yellow petals and emerald-green stigma lobes.

It's not the easiest plant to cultivate, as it's a slow grower, taking years to form small clumps. The reference books describe the plant as 3-4 cm in habitat, but Elton Roberts has a plant 6 cm in diameter and 6 cm tall. He writes, "I have the plant in my regular soil mix, and I keep powder dry over the winter. Also it is best to keep the plant at or above about 40 degrees F. over the winter. For good color and spine growth I give the plant lots of light but still a bit of shading so as to not burn it. Where the plant comes from it seldom if ever gets to 100 F., much less the 130 F. that it can get in my hot houses. The high temperatures are why I give it some shading." The plants also reacts badly to alkaline water. I have several plants from seed, still very small after at least a dozen years. Some growers report the Ortegocactus exhibit rusty discolorations on the epidermis. I wonder if this might be a reaction to cold temperatures. I have seen this on my plants in the past, but they have not shown this in recent years. **Sue**

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### ALOE CASTILLONIAE



(Photo: www.liflfe.com)

*Aloe castilloniae* is a unique dwarf Madagascan species. It has an unusual low, sprawling habit, forming a dense cluster of stems that can reach several feet in diameter. The stems are tipped by 3" wide rosettes of recurved, rough-textured leaves that have prominent red teeth. Orange-red flowers appear in loose clusters on short stems. Most growth and flowering occur in fall and winter, then slowing to dormancy in the heat of summer. Culture is not difficult, providing care is taken to avoid overwatering. It's probably a good idea to protect the plant from the frost.

*Aloe castilloniae* is fairly new to cultivation. It was discovered in 2005 growing in the Mahafaly Plateau region of southwest Madagascar, an area of limestone formations separated from the ocean by a narrow strip of sand, an area of very low rainfall and generally harsh growing conditions.

It was officially published in 2006 by Jean-Bertrand Castillon. He named it for his wife, Bernadette, a horticulturist, who for many years has propagated and distributed Malagasy plants from her nursery on Réunion. Her work has contributed to the conservation and cultivation of unique Madagascan species. (The aloe was actually discovered by their son, Jean-Philippe, as he rode his motorbike through the Mahafaly one day. Its precise location has never been revealed, and it has not been found to be growing in any other area.)

Jess Hull entered a very nice *Aloe castilloniae* last month in our show. **Sue**

## STRESS TEST

Well, it's no secret that these past weeks of record heat have done a number on us and our plants. For some of us it's meant a melancholy trip to the green bin for plants whacked by the elements. Usually, I advise not to be too quick to discard or even cut back a succulent. Wait until more normal conditions return. A lot of succulents will regrow from the roots, even if you have had to cut them back to the ground. Some rosette-type plants have closed up to protect their growing points. Most cacti are in a semi-dormancy state, hunkered down and waiting for fall. Just a light spray from the hose is usually enough water.

If a plant is getting yellow, cover it with a piece of shade cloth. If you need to move a potted plant to a new location, be sure to note how much light it will be getting. If it is suddenly moved into a brighter situation, it could get sunburned. A sunburned leaf succulent will eventually grow out of it, but a sunburned cactus will always have a scar.

Our succulent friends in Phoenix have for many years had to routinely protect their plants from the summer sun. Will we have to do this, too?



## PERESKIA ACULETA



*Pereskia aculeata* used to be found in garden shops locally but I haven't seen it in years. It has several ornamental forms, 'Godseffiana' with yellow, scarlet and copper leaves, and 'Rubescens', which has red leaves.

I recall one old-time member of our club who had a row of the 'Godseffiana' planted against the west wall of his porch. Over the growing season the plant would cover the wall up to the roof line. In the fall, when it would start to go dormant, he would cut it back to the ground. It put on a show year after year. It has fragrant whitish flowers followed by yellow berries which are edible.



As is true of a lot of hardy, adaptable plants, it has become invasive in area with favorable climates, such as the such as the West Indies and Hawaii. (Photos from Wikipedia)



## BEAUCARNEA RECURVATA

Ann Biebower's ponytail palm is blooming. This is something we don't see very often, as the plant needs to be mature in order to bloom, and it isn't likely to get that big when grown in a pot. *Beaucarnea recurvata* is not a palm, of course, but a plant in the Asparagaceae family, native to the Veracruz area of Mexico.

A good way to get a big plant is to plant it in the ground. Ann's plant is in a raised landscape bed. If you would like to see it and Ann's other plants, call or text 559-907-6851.



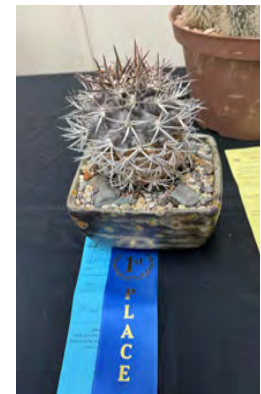
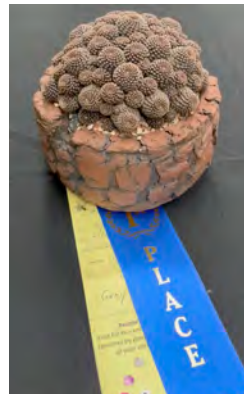
(Photos by Ann Bierbower)

**TREASURER'S REPORT** ----- **June, 2024****Income:**

Show and Sale \$ 52,321.05

**Expenses:**

Monthly Charges (Zoom/Verizon)	-62.82
Badges	-24.00
May Speaker fee	-350.00
Bank Fee	-22.20
Insurance	-50.00
Table Rental	-2,200.00
Judge's Pots	-250.00
Food	-327.82
Security	-800.00
Gate security	-250.00
Printing	-243.12
Water	-51.04
Miscellaneous	-1,057.50
Vendors	-29,168.47
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ (34,856.97)</b>

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