

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

[http: www.fresnocss.org](http://www.fresnocss.org)

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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September 2017

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 7th, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

PROGRAM: Under the Spell of Succulents

BY Roz Tampone

Roz Tampone was born and raised in Dobbs Ferry, New York. After receiving her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education from SUC at New Paltz, NY, she and her husband Pete, moved to the Reedley area in 1975. They expected to live in Reedley for just a few years; but, 42 years later they are still in the Fresno area. Roz's mom was an awesome, vegetable gardener and she developed a love of plants from her.

After teaching Special Education and being an administrator in Sanger for 35 years, Roz retired in 2012. Roz and Pete have been Bonsai enthusiasts since the 90's. But, she is relatively new to succulents. She developed an interest in succulents after she became a Fresno County Master Gardener (MG) in May 2013. Because of her love for teaching, she read many books about succulents and their care, and decided she would teach some of the Adult Education Classes (AEC) for the public. She became fascinated with the easy care and different varieties of succulents. She also likes using succulents in different containers and crafts that incorporate succulents.



She has taught succulent and other gardening programs for the Master Gardener's Smart Gardening Conference, Fresno Home and Garden Shows, AEC classes, Clovis Botanical Garden, the MG Speaker's Bureau, and now for the FCSS. In addition, Roz and fellow MG Melanie Sarkisian, have also been teaching classes about how to make hypertufa planters. She is delighted to share her presentation about general care of succulents, common succulents, succulent containers, and special crafts using succulents to the FCSS.

For those that are interested, she and fellow MG Wanda Addison, will be doing a free demonstration on How to Make a Succulent Pumpkin at the Garden of the Sun, on Wednesday, Oct 25 from 9:30-11:00 AM. They will also be doing a demo at the Betty Rodriguez Library on Oct 25 at 6:00 PM.

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

I hope you enjoyed the August program as much as I did. Doug Dawson was a very entertaining and informative speaker. Look for his article on growing from seed in this newsletter. (We first ran it a few years ago, but thought we would use it again, seeing as how the author had been here.)

Summer keeps hanging on, doesn't it? Still, if you look closely, you can see that your winter growers are starting into active growth. Be sure to start watering when you see evidence of it.

Next month we will hold our annual Members' Sale Night, in lieu of a regular meeting. Any one of you can sell plants, pots, supplies, etc. You will have an opportunity to sign up at this meeting. Each vendor is assessed a \$10 fee, collected during the night of the sale. This event is advertised to the public and usually draws a crowd.

We have one item of business we need to vote on this month. The board has proposed an increase in the club dues, to take effect in 2018. Our expenses have risen quite a bit this year, topped by a tripling of the rental on our meeting room. Having been a member of the club for many years, I can testify that the DHHSC is the nicest facility we've ever used. They let us keep our library on the premises and trust us with a key. As a non-profit agency, themselves, dependant on grants, they have their own financial concerns. The board had approached the idea of raising the dues—which have been the same for quite a long while—without reaching any consensus. But the rental increase spurred us to make the proposal. The fifteen dollars for individual dues has not actually paid for mailing a hard copy of the newsletter for some time. Basically, those members who receive the digital newsletter have been subsidizing the mailing of the paper issues.

Anyway, a change in the dues means a change to the Standing Rules so must be voted on by those members present at a general meeting. The proposal is below.

PROPOSAL FOR A REVISED DUES STRUCTURE

Single member with email newsletter: \$20

Single member with paper newsletter: \$30

Family membership with email newsletter: \$30

Family membership with paper newsletter: \$40

Our Show and Sale is this month—in fact, setup day is the Friday after this meeting, starting at 3 p.m. at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. We need as many of you as possible to show up and help—if not Friday, then sometime during the weekend. But those who help Friday evening can get into the plant sale early (7-8 p.m.) This event is more challenging than usual as we move to a venue with higher visibility. It's also a busy place. We've been informed that other facilities at CVMD will be in use, at least on Saturday, so there will be a lot of people around. There is parking under solar panels at the north side of the building, across 4th Street. There is also a tree shaded lot across the street to the west, behind businesses that face onto Clovis Avenue. The parking lot for the Clovis Senior Center, across 4th Street adjacent to the lot with the solar panels, is also available on the weekend.

Well, this will be an adventure for us—maybe exhilarating, maybe frustrating—but, then, I remind myself that we've set up shows and sales before. We can do it again. Only the venue is different.

I want to thank Roz Tampone for stepping in at the last minute to do a program for us, as we hadn't scheduled a speaker for this month, figuring we'd be consumed with show and sale business.

See you at the meeting, *Sue*

Carole Grosch has a nice, illustrated article about our show and sale in the August 23rd edition of Clovis Roundup, taking up half of the back page. The paper will be available free on newsstands in Clovis for the next week or so. Look for it at local businesses such as the Rodeo Coffee Shop, on 5th Street, just west of Pollasky.

Good job, Carole!

Minutes of the FCSS Board Meeting August 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Sue Haffner at 6:03 p.m. Present were Rosanna Rojas, Robert Scott, Ann Bierbower, Dennis Anderson, Craig and Michele Roberts, Mary Drumheller, Susan Cook, Cindy Duwe, Jim Brummel, Fred Gaumer, Dominic Ortiz and myself, Karen Willoughby

Officer reports:

President: Update CSSA affiliate page. Sue reported that our web address needs to be added to the CSSA website affiliate page. Someone familiar with Excel forms would need to do this.

Vice-President: Hands free microphone: Rosanna reported she is still pricing cordless microphones. She also reported that she would be asking club members to provide sale plants for the September meeting since we will not be having a speaker.

Treasurer: Rob reported that our bank balance is \$6,980.16.

DHHSC bill: The facility has raised the hourly rental from \$40 to \$70 an hour and is charging for the time prior to the meeting starting also. This will raise our monthly meeting cost to \$170. They have also started charging for using their laptops at \$50 and projector at \$25 per meeting. There was discussion regarding purchasing these items for the club to use if our speakers do not have their own equipment. No decision was made at this time. CGCI membership renewal has been paid Rob reported.

Secretary/Facebook Chairman: I reported that our "likes" for our page are now over 2,800. I have created an event notice for the page and about 139 people so far have expressed interested in attending the show and sale. I am posting show and sale reminders weekly.

Affiliate Rep: Fred reported that the convention in Tempe was the most enjoyable and successful in recent years. And hopefully a profitable one for the society.

Old Business:

5013c Application: 5013c application was discussed. Sue is still working on some of the forms and financial reports have been provided by Rob to be submitted to the IRS. She also reported that there is a conflict of interest form in the application materials but that we would not need to provide that to the IRS.

2017 Show & Sale

Sale room set-up has been made in chart form. Rob has ordered 2 new Square readers and will have another available also. Set-up for show and sale will take place on Friday, September 8 from 3-9 p.m. Dominic Ortiz was present to discuss using his youth group kids to help set-up tables on Friday. Members who help with set-up will be able to shop from 7-8 that evening. Ann had a sample of a vest that she proposed for the show and sale volunteers to wear. Jan Brummel has offered to use her embroidery machine to make club logo patches for the back of the vest. A motion was made by Rosanna and seconded by Michele to order 30 vests that are reusable in the future.

Ann reported that the show room layout has been finalized and that the final instructions to the judges will be mailed out in the next week or so. Both Rob and Ann had sign-up sheets at the last minute for workers and feel that there will be plenty of people available on both days to provide manpower. We plan on getting into the building on Saturday morning by 7:00. We will provide breakfast items for the judges prior to the start of judging at 8:00. It is anticipated that judging should last a couple of hours. Ann also reported the need for someone to become a "box wrangler" who would be willing to collect, store and handle boxes at shows and sales. All in attendance were requested to collect appropriate boxes for the show and sale also.

(Continued on next page.)

Sue reported that Carole Grosch talked to the editor of the Clovis Roundup and a story will be published in the bi-weekly free newspaper on August 23 with an article about the show and sale. The show is already being advertised by the Clovis Veterans Memorial District on their marquee on 4th Street in Clovis. Post-cards will be mailed out to people who attended and signed up at the last sale. Michele voiced an interest in doing this job as Polly no longer wishes to be responsible for this duty.

Food for the show and sale was discussed and there were many sign-ups at our last meeting. We will have use of a full kitchen this year which should make things easier in this regard.

New Business:

Member's night sale: A sign-up sheet will be available at the September meeting for members to sign up for tables for the sale which will be in October.

Increase in dues: The board discussed this subject and came up with the following regarding increases in dues for 2018:

Single member \$20.

Single member with printed newsletter \$30.

Family membership \$30

Family membership with printed newsletter \$40

Since this change will be reflected in our Standing Rules, the general membership needs to vote on this and the subject will be presented at the September meeting.

September Board meeting: This would fall on the Monday after the big show and sale weekend and will be postponed. It could possibly be held at the time of the workshop but no decision was made at this time.

Location for 2018 Show and Sale: Ann and Sue visited the Clovis Rodeo Building investigating different locations for the next show and sale. This will be discussed in more detail in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 by President Sue Haffner.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Willoughby, Secretary

NO BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH

FRESNO FAIR:

The Big Fresno Fair is finally Here (Oct 5-15). Club members participating in the event should remember that the entry deadline, paper is on September 9, and online is on September 11. Plants will be received at The Greenhouse on September 30 and October 1. Judging will be on the 2nd of October.

We will need volunteers as 6 Plant Monitors. At least one or two persons for two hours in order to receive an admission and parking pass and after that you are free to enjoy the rest of the Fair. For those deciding to go over four hours, you'll need only a photo badge (instead of an admission pass) and you'll only receive parking passes.

The schedule of dates and times will be available at the September club meeting and at our club show and sale. Please consider volunteering as Plant Monitor.

Rudy Rulloda, Chair

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Bud Bond (3rd);

Ed Armbruster (9th); Jack Fleming (11th); Susan Cook (12th); Polly Dunklin (20th); Rebekah Carlson (23rd); Linda Olivas (24th); Sarah D'Morias (26th); Roz Tampone, Gayle Bond (28th); Polly Hargreaves (29th).

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SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Corry Chen, Fresno; Rita Gerald, Gloria Wall, Clovis

OTHER SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Succulent Gardens Succulent Extravaganza, "The Art and Science of Succulents"; Friday, Sept. 29th and Saturday, Sept 30th; 2133 Elkhorn Rd, Castroville CA. For information and schedule of events: info@sgplants.com; 813-632-0482.

Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society fall show and sale, September 30 to October 1st, San Juan Bautista Community Building, 10 San Jose St, San Juan Bautista; hours, Saturday, 9-5; Sunday, 9-4.

And as we stagger into **October** ...

Big Fresno Fair, October 4-15.

Our 2017 Members' Sale Night, October 5th, 6:30 8:30.

Clovis Botanical Garden Water Wise Plant Sale, Saturday, October 21st, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.. There's a VIP preview event, Friday, October 20th, 5-7 p.m.

"Chile's Atacama Desert: world's driest place in bloom after surprise rain." This is a BBC story about the burst of bloom in the Atacama after unexpected rain. Thanks to Larry Homan for sharing:

www.bbc.com/news/world-Latin-America-41021774

Interesting reading: "Growing Madagascar euphorbias from cuttings" by Scott Malcolm, *Euphorbia journal*, v.4. Available from the club library.

Bat Conservation International has a video of a pallid bat foraging the fruit of a cardon. An interesting article describes the bat's eating habits and also shows one munching on a scorpion, one of its favorite foods: www.batcon.org/messyeater

AUGUST BRAG TABLE: The following members brought plants for the Brag Table: Marilyn Carter (*Sansevieria patens*); Fred Gaumer (*Thelocactus rinconensis v. phymatothele*, *Lithops dorothea*, *Coryphantha tripugiocantha*); Bill Gale (*Euphorbia crnemecii*, *Abromeitiella brevifolia*); Ann Bierbower (*Parodia uebelmania*, *Mammillaria bocasana* 'Fred'); Jim Brummel showed several plant photos.

Thanks to all of them, and to our emcee, Fred.



Photos by Karen Willoughby

AUGUST WORKSHOP: The alphabet for the session was O and P, so we looked at *Opuntia*, *Pachypodium*, *Pilosocereus*, *Pygmaecereus*. Bringing plants for discussion were Ann Bierbower, Bill Gale, Eddie Etheridge, Mary Drumheller, Sue Haffner, Val McCullough and Dan Gale. Karl Church brought a selection of plants to be identified. We also looked at *Ariocarpus*, *Cyphostemma* and *Dyckia*. Dan brought some *Aloe marlothii* plants to give away. **Thanks, Dan!** We always have a good time at our workshops. All members are welcome.

Location change for September workshop: it will be Wednesday, Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at Doris Hooton's and Tom Meyer's home, 3733 N. Sierra Vista. Plants under study are from Q and R.



Photos by Ann Bierbower

Hi Everyone!

The F.C.S.S's Annual Show & Sale is fast approaching and we are really excited this year!

We are in a beautiful new facility that is providing much needed space and amenities. The additional space has allowed us to hold the very first judged plant show, where hundreds of top quality, rare, and special plants will be on full display for all. We have even more state wide and local vendors that will be selling amazing plants. We also have new crowd control measures that will keep customers comfortable and get them through check out much faster. This will be the club's best Annual Show & Sale! We still need help from the membership in the form of volunteers to make this event a great success. There are a many types of roles we need to cover from tag readers, cashiers, greeters and many more. We will find a role that works best for you! Please donate a few hours of your time. Your help is the only way this event can work and helps the Club immensely. Volunteers will even be rewarded! To sign up please contact me by email at rob_scott85@yahoo.com or phone 559-960-3665. We have opening for every day, Friday to Sunday!

We also ask that everyone do their part in advertising. The Annual Show & Sale provides the funds for the Club to function throughout the year. We need customers and we get them by advertising. At the end of the newsletter there are two flyers. The first is a beautiful flyer for up close reading and we have a flyer for streets signs. Please take these flyers and post them anywhere you can. Office break rooms, your kid's school, community message boards, and even street corners where you take a walk. Every Starbucks has a message board inside, take the time one day to not use the drive thru to post the flyer. Then post a flyer on a pole by the slow drive thru. The possibilities are endless and every flyer is a chance we bring a customer to the event. Please post these flyers anywhere you can.

The Club is also selling at the event. If you have extra plants, cuttings, pots, or books you would like to donate, let us know or bring to the sale. These donations bring 100% profit to the club and a great way to find homes for your extra plants.

We hope that every member can donate their time to help make this Show & Sale amazing. This Club only survives by members volunteering so let's come together to provide a wonderful Club for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you! **Robert Scott**

CLUB SALE TABLE: Members may donate plants or other supplies to the club sale table at the Show and Sale. Plants should be ones that you think others might like to buy. Plants and pots should be clean. You may put a price on the item, or let those working at the table do it. (And we can always use a few volunteers at work at the table.)

Sue

Cactus Succulent Sale & Show

September 9th & 10th

**Clovis Veteran's
Memorial Building**

808 4th St. Clovis, CA 93612

Sat. 9am- 6pm **Sun.** 10am- 6pm

Everyone is welcome!

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

2017 CSSA CONVENTION BY FRED GAUMER

I had signed up for and planned to go to the Convention for months and then it was finally time to pack up and hit the road. I looked to Mr. Google to give me some tips on which would be the way to travel to Phoenix. He recommended 3 ways. Two would have me go through northern Los Angeles County and the other went East out from Bakersfield. I went one of the ways through Los Angeles. I left a couple of days early so I had plenty of time to get lost or stop to look around.

It seemed like I had driven a long time when I realized that I was in Tulare County. I always admire the F-4 Phantom parked along the freeway there. I visualize myself 50 feet off the Pacific doing about Mach 1.2 and whipping up the water a couple hundred feet behind me. Back to reality..... I am doing less than the speed limit on 99 and am already tired of driving. I drive on, listening to the radio. In the last few years I noticed I don't like driving that much. The miles pile up and I stop to eat and to walk around a little bit but mostly I am quick about that and I am driving , driving , driving.

I begin to question my sanity. Then I see it! It's only around 2 feet tall and has a couple of short stems coming off the sides like arms! It's a cholla! One of the lowliest members of the plant kingdom. I must be delirious! A smile comes to my face! A cactus! A real cactus! Oh! There's another! There's lots of them! I'm on my way to the Cactus Convention! My exuberance wears off after seeing a few hundred thousand chollas and I am dreaming of a belly canister of Round Up on my F-4. I am wishing that I would have not passed by that rest room an hour ago and am looking for a desolate place to pull off the road. There's no shortage of desolation out here. I pull off at a pumping station East of Palm Springs. They must be pumping water but I see no signs of it anywhere. There are many sheltered places to shield yourself from the traffic here. I look at my thermometer on my trucks instrument panel (No more dash board) to get a feeling about how hot it is before stepping outside but it only has 3 digits. I brace myself and get out. It's hot! I've been here before 20 plus years ago. Farther off the road than I wanted to walk that day are Ferocactus acanthoides with long twisted red spines. All of them close to the road have been harvested by souvenir hunters long ago. I could see them out there without sight enhancement. It must be a place for young people to meet, because there are so many aluminum cans and bottles it might be cost effective to build a recycling plant there instead of hauling them off! I do my thing and down the road I go.

My plan was to have a leisurely drive without much planning. For the most part there is quite a bit of nothing but small bushes, dirt, rocks and an occasional ferocactus or cholla or ocotillo. And always a barbed wire fence separating me from them. Something I found odd was that there were dense colonies of Homo sapiens out where you wouldn't expect them to be. There didn't seem a reason for them to be there. As I continued to drive it felt as if my truck knew the right way to go and when I thought that I may have missed a turn and went too far there would be a sign pointing the way ahead. I finally got to Phoenix and kept on driving and was hoping to see a sign that would lead me to Tempe and the convention. I was convinced that I was going the right way but that I stopped at. She told me to get back on the freeway and go the way I was going and I would see the turnoff for Tempe shortly. As I walked back to my truck I wondered how she would know which way I was traveling.

Well, I did and it wasn't long before I was in Tempe and pulling into the Tempe Mission Palms. The valet had a badge on indicating that his name was Fred and he was from Pennsylvania. I said that I too was named Fred and I was from Pennsylvania. We did the secret hand shake thing and talked of our ancestors and customs and into the hotel I went. The hotel was beyond beautiful and luxurious. It really couldn't have been any nicer.

(Continued on next page.)

There were also quite a bit of cactus and succulents in their landscaping. Desert landscaping is, of course, very popular in the area.

The hotel staff did their best to make me feel welcome. My room was magnificent! I really have never stayed at a nicer place than this. And it was priced at \$85 per night! (If I had a blog, I would suggest you check it to see my comments on the Motel Somewhere between 5 and 7 on the way to Tempe. Sorry, no blog.) After I checked in I went to the bar and what do you know? There were succulent growers in there! I joined them at their table and enjoyed a beverage. More succulent growers wandered in and I gave up my seat and went to my room for a much needed and appreciated shower. Afterward I was roaming the premises shaking hands, talking about plants, seeing old friends and making new ones. There are really more succulent plant nuts than even you, as succulent plant nuts yourselves, might imagine. Most look like ordinary people.

The next day I went on a tour of local people's gardens and collections. It is amazing the extent some will go to build the most extravagant yard and plant menagerie. There were also tours to museums and the local botanical garden, The Boyce-Thompson.

There was a presentation for everyone's tastes. Some by persons who have spoken here at Fresno recently. Surprisingly, there were some that I didn't think that I would like that turned out to be some of my favorites. Some I thought that old what's his name would have gone crazy over. One of the speakers called our Madam President a "Succulentophileochorist". (I knew spell check would go after that one) He was speaking of the sex lives of plants and seed dispersal and reproduction. Turns out it means a human being who is involved in the distribution of succulent seeds, which Sue does and has done for a long time with the CSSA Seed Depot. Our quick witted Paul Mitchell asked the speaker afterwards about the spelling and anything else he could add. Sue is a very nice person.

Plant sales is totally off the hook! You will buy something. You may have to throw something away when you get home to make room but you will have some new plants. There is pottery for sale as well. One man named Fred drove from Jacksonville, Fla. to the convention because he knew he was going to buy plants that he could not get on a plane or confidently ship to his home.

And there are books for sale. A book on any kind of succulent plant you can think of and more. I made the mistake of not picking up a book I really wanted because I didn't have my wallet with me and I thought I could get it later. There was only one. Who else would want a book about Cotyledons and Tylecodons? Apparently, one other person with good taste.

There is also a silent and live auction for the conventioneer spend his pesos on. Some plants and other items offered are beyond rare and beautiful.

As the convention wound down I was glad I attended and hope that the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, the Tempe Mission Palms and the CSSA feels the appreciation for the wonderful job they did. The only negative note, and I really shouldn't end with this, is that mostly everyone there seems older than I remember them. And my memory isn't as good as it once was.

And down the road I go.



SEED GROWING WITH RED CUPS

By Doug Dawson



Put 7 or 8 holes in the bottom of red plastic cup (a sturdy leather needle will do it).

Pour in about 1" depth of sand.

Next, partly fill with your normal soil mix. (Often I use about 2 parts of gravel-sand, 1 part desert dirt—not clay, 2 parts pumice, and sometimes 1/4 part of fine mulch or leaf mold—be careful, most cacti and succulents do not like much organic material.) Leave about 3/4" of room at top surface. Carefully wash down the interior upper sides so that no dust is present.

Fill top with about 1/2" of sterilized finer soil mix. (I usually wet the sterile mix a bit BEFORE I add it since it may not wet well in the water bath (see below). I sterilize soil in a toaster oven.

Distribute the seeds – methods vary slightly depending on size, shape, and type.

Sometimes scatter a dusting of sterile fine sand on surface.

Set the cup in a water bath about 2" to 3" deep. Leave in the bath for at least an hour. You may wish to leave it there overnight for some seeds.

Place 2-liter plastic soda bottle top dome on and screw on the cap.

Place in appropriate filtered light and temperature and wait ...

Rehydration: if after an appropriate amount of time, none come up, mist the surface, being careful not to dislodge the seeds.

Caution: your red cup with 2-liter bottle top is a closed system; therefore, no direct sunlight—Don't cook them. After a few weeks, eliminate the screw-on cap. Sprinkle some fine gravel, mist, and place clear dome back on minus the cap. In a few months remove the dome completely. Keep seedlings moist, not soggy.



A slide of Doug's greenhouse shown at his presentation at last month's meeting.

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FCSS



Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

2017 ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Clovis Veterans Memorial District
808 Fourth Street, Clovis
(Northeast corner of 5th and Veterans)



Saturday, September 9

9:00 am - 6:00 pm Plant Sale
10:00 am - 6:00 pm Exhibition

Sunday, September 10

9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Plant Sale & Exhibition

Vendors: Desert Creations, PB&J, Elton Roberts,
Nick Wilkinson (GROW), Naomi Bloss,
and other members

Potters: Mark Muradian, Paul Bower

New this year! A judged exhibition of members' most prized specimens. There will be thousands of cactus and succulents for sale, some rare and some common plants, but all impressive.

Experts will be present to answer questions about selecting and growing the plants.

Free admission. We welcome you to join us.

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