

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com/>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 37, No. 9

September 2019



FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEMBER'S SALE NIGHT

Thursday, September 5th

6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Hundreds of locally grown plants and handmade
pottery for sale!

Bring a box to hold plants!

Join our Email List to stay up to date on plant sales
Email us at- FresnoCSS@yahoo.com

MEMBER'S
SALE NIGHT

SEPTEMBER
5TH

PLANTS AND
POTTERY FROM
LOCAL SOCIETY
MEMBERS!

CASH ONLY!

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FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

I missed you all last month, as, the evening before the meeting, I broke my left femur in a stupid accident at home. About the time the August meeting was being called to order, I was going into surgery at Saint Agnes. After a week in the hospital and about 8 days in a rehab facility, I'm back home, banging away at the keyboard.

Thanks to Rosanna Rojas for running the meeting and the board meeting. And thanks to those who visited, sent cards and flowers and offered assistance; I appreciated it very much. I hope to see you in September.

The Member's Sale Night is on our agenda this month. We always have a good time at this event, buying and selling. Remember that we have a club sale table to which members may donate plants, pots, books or other plant-related items.

Keep cool! *Sue*



Member's Sale Night Is September 5th this year! By Robert Scott

Doors for the sale will open at 6:30pm. Only vendors will be allowed through the doors before that time. Event ends at 8:30pm

This year we have sixteen members selling plants and 4 members selling pottery at the event. This is a great event to find some great plants and amazing pottery. Please bring a box to carry your purchases. Boxes will not be provided. Purchasing is made through each vendor, please pay each vendor that you buy from. This is a cash only event!

Parking might get a little crowded for the event. If the church lot fills up please park along the street or in the shopping center parking to the east and walk over. Please tell your friends and family, hope to see lots of new faces this year. Check out our Facebook page for more information.

VENDOR INFORMATION- Vendors will be allowed into the building at 5:45 pm, NOT BEFORE! See Robert for table layout. Each vendor will pay Robert at the event. Please bring your own cash change as each sale will go through you. Contact Robert with any questions.

ATTENTION!

At the last meeting the talking in the back of the room, around the kitchen got very loud. Our speaker was interrupted and even had to call out the talking during his presentation. This is unacceptable. From now on, when the presentation is ready to start the kitchen will be shut down for the duration of the presentation. The roll up window will come down and doors to the kitchen will be closed. Anyone needing water is welcome to go in during the presentation, just remember to be as quiet as possible. Try to get all snacks and drinks before the presentation starts.

Anyone one looking to talk or socialize during this time should do so outside the building. Our presentations are for everyone to enjoy and we need to be respectable to the presenters.

FCSS BOARD MEETING, AUGUST 12, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by Vice-President Rosanna Rojas in her home. Present were Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Marilyn Carter, Jim Brummel, Fred Gaumer, Rob Scott and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent were Sue Haffner, Craig & Michele Roberts.

President's Update: Rosanna gave us an update on the status of President Sue Haffner. She will be moved to a rehab facility hopefully tomorrow. We discussed what the club would like to send Sue as she recuperates.

Vice-President: Thanks to Rosanna for leading the recent club meeting and this meeting in the absence of Sue.

1. October Meeting and Program: This will be held at The Discovery Center and will involve a tour of the Deutsch Garden. Dominic Ortiz will be our tour guide. It was suggested that the board meet at the Discovery Center for the September Board meeting to discuss meeting content and seating arrangements and we will do that on September 9th. Address is 1944 N. Winery, Fresno.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: The current financial status was discussed per documentation from Michele Roberts.

Old Business: 1. Future Board meeting locations were discussed since we can no longer meet at Doris Hooton and Tom Meyer's home.
2. Workshop locations were also discussed. Possible locations for each included a branch library or someone's home as we are doing tonight.

New Business: 1. Rob discussed plans for the upcoming Member's Sale night. Vendors will be able to get into the church at 5:30 with the sale being from 6:30-8:30.

Other Business: 1.. Jim Brummel brought up the subject of the excessive talking that goes on during meetings, especially in the back of the room. Our September. speaker had to request they quiet down and methods of handling this were discussed. No other new business was presented at this time and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45. Next meeting will be September 9th. If you would like further information regarding any of these topics, please speak to a Board Member.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

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**The Big Fresno Fair will start on Wed, Oct 2--Mon, Oct 14.** We hope club members will volunteer as plant monitors at The Greenhouse during Monday through Friday: 11am-9pm, Saturday & Sunday: 10am--8pm for a shift of two hours. A shift is, usually consisted of two plant monitors, where you'll be providing information on cacti and succulents, your experiences in caring, cultivating, and maintaining your plants, club activities, and events to the public. For a two hour shift, you'll receive a parking pass and an admission ticket. For over two hours, you'll be taking your picture at the Fair's office and later you'll receive your badge and you'll only receive parking passes.

The following list of events might aid in your Fair experience before or after your shift. Concert at Paul Paul Theater (all concerts start at 7 pm): Wed, Oct 2--Chris Janson; Fri, Oct 4--Keith Sweat; Sun, Oct 6--Christan Nodal; Mon, Oct 7--Paul Anka; Tue, Oct 8--A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie; Wed, Oct 9--Newsboys; Thu, Oct, 10--Tower of Power & War; Fri, Oct 11--Ice Cube; and Mon, Oct 14--Willie Nelson. Horse Racing: Thu, Oct 3--Sun, Oct 6; Thu, Oct 10--Mon, Oct 14. Post time for all races at 1:15 pm. Senior Day: Mon, Oct 7. Free admission for all seniors. Feed The Need (and you might consider to bring a friend): Mon, Oct 14 from 11 am--8 pm, Free admission by providing 5 or more canned food or other non-perishable food items.

**I'll be accepting volunteers for plant monitors at our September and October club meetings.**

**Rudy Rulloda, Fresno Fair Coordinator**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY:



*Jason Kabeary (4<sup>th</sup>); Ed Armbruster (9<sup>th</sup>); Karen Wood (10<sup>th</sup>); Jack Fleming (11<sup>th</sup>); Susan Cook (12<sup>th</sup>); Polly Dunklin (20<sup>th</sup>); JoAnn Caufield (21<sup>st</sup>); Linda Olivas (24<sup>th</sup>); Craig Roberts (27<sup>th</sup>); Roz Tampone (28<sup>th</sup>); Polly Hargreaves (29<sup>th</sup>).*

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## SAY HELLO TO THIS NEW MEMBER:

Kathy McGuire, Clovis

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**Our longtime dear friend of the club, Doris Hooton**, has moved up to the Redding area, to be near one of her daughters. Most of us didn't have a chance to say goodbye to her, which is regrettable. Doris and her late son, Tom Meyer, were so generous to the club, opening their home and yard for our benefit (meetings, workshops, picnics, special events, etc.) I hope we can find out new contact information for Doris.

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## COMING EVENTS

September 14<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society fall sale, Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 W. Magnolia Blvd, Encino; hrs., 9-4.

September 21-23, Cactus and Succulent Society of San Jose fall show and sale, Peterson Middle School, 1380 Rosalia Way, Sunnyvale; Sat, 9-5; Sun 10-4.

September 27-28, Succulent Extravaganza, Succulent Gardens, 2133 Elkhorn Rd, Castroville; [www.sgplants.com](http://www.sgplants.com)

September 28-29, Monterey Bay Area Cactus & Succulent Society fall show and sale, San Juan Bautista Community Hall, 10 San Jose St, San Juan Bautista; Sat. 9-5; Sun 9-4.

## Gordon Rowley (1921-2019)



Cavorting at his 90th birthday party.

Photo Credit:  
British Cactus & Succulent Society  
Northant's News  
Winter 2011

Gordon Rowley, British plantsman, author and researcher, passed away during the night of 11-12 August at the age of 98. He was one of the giants of the cactus and succulent hobby. He will always be known for his scholarship and the many books he published, a pioneer in the study of caudiciform and pachycaul succulents—he invented both of those words to describe the “fat plants.”

In 1983 he was a speaker at the CSSA Convention and we actually got him to do a program here for us. At the time, I had a number of his books, so I brought them to be autographed. He piled them up chronologically by copyright date, earliest first, and proceeded to inscribe them, each autograph becoming more elaborate until he was drawing little pictures. It was quite a performance. Later, in the British journal, he related his adventures in America, and especially mentioned his Fresno visit for the foods that were served at our special potluck we put on for his program.

Among his best-known works are “Illustrated Encyclopedia of Succulents”, “Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents”, and “Pachypodium and Adenium”, the first monograph, I believe, of both of these genera.



He was a one-of-a-kind genius.

**Sue**

Photo Credit: 'To The Point' Newsletter of CSSA  
January-February 2000, Vol. 72, No. 1.

## On the Road to the CSSA Convention 2019 by Fred Gaumer

The anticipation of going to the Convention builds for months in advance. There are things I must do around the house and there is preparation of my truck for the journey. Most of the time I have a layer of dust on the truck and the floor boards have the things on them that have stuck to my shoes. My windshield is usually clean but maybe not so good on the side windows. It makes me feel better when everything is sparkly and shiny when I am going to be driving for long hours.



Luckily, this Convention was being held in San Luis Obispo, not too far from where I live. I drive South for a while and then West for about the same amount of time and then there I am. When I am on the westward leg of the trek I pass Kettleman City and into the beginning of the coastal mountain range where the air temperature starts to drop off. As I drive even closer to the Pacific Ocean it gets even cooler! It's still mid-summer in California so it's still pretty warm in SLO. I remember it getting to 77 degrees on the first day and to 84 another afternoon. I was thinking about complaining but I heard on the news later that same day about a family turning into human raisins going from their car to a Target store in Fresno. And that one of the smaller children without much body mass and fluid capacity was last seen rolling along like a tumbleweed shedding clothing items and flip-flops. Yeah, I was not about to complain. I did wish most of the nights there that I had my parka with me.

On the first night there is an informal get together with finger foods and a no-host bar. It's a good opportunity to meet up with old friends and smile at everybody. The next morning most folks are getting on a bus to visit some of the local attractions like Hearst Castle or Lotusland and some other places. I was on the bus to see other people's gardens in the area. All were magnificent! Some were designed and built by Nick Wilkinson and his Merry Men. A superb boxed lunch was at the beach and all was groovy. Always an amazement to me is the skill of the tour bus drivers to deliver a brontosaurus to a residential area and then leave without damage.

Later that day was the opening dinner where you are very welcomed to be in attendance. The thing I remember most about that night is that after years and years of buying raffle tickets at these events to get to go into the sales area before the general population.... I finally won!!! And I wasn't the last one called!!! I left that night without buying anything. It's sort of like catch and release fishing. I did end up purchasing a plant the next day and saw some others that I would have liked to have bought in someone else's box. The CSSA Convention is one of the best places to get plants to enhance your collection.

Later in the week are the silent and regular (not so silent?) auctions. There are many super plants and other things to bid on. A man from Southern California who has the well-deserved nickname "Pesos Grandes" showed up the following morning. I like to watch things getting crazy when he has a bidder's paddle in his hand. There were others there to make up for him.

The programs presented are the best programs concerning succulent plants you will ever see. And to make that possible to you, all the presentations have been video recorded and will be available to affiliated clubs sometime in the near future. There is truly something for everyone. The theme of the Convention and several of the programs was the conservation of succulent plants.

It seems that there is resurgence in the mass collection of wild plants. One incident showed photos of an SUV with the rear hatch open and lying on the ground behind the vehicle are hundreds of Dudleya plants. The pirate was stopped in Mendocino Co. by the Ca. Dept. of Fish and Game and received a hefty fine! The plants were to be sold in Asia. (Report poachers and polluters to: 888-334-2258 or TEXT "CALTIP" and your message to 847411) I have thought that there was still a trade in wild collected plants but that they were being "rescued" from human expansion. Money stills walks and makes people do peculiar things. Do your part to make things better.

Making the CSSA relevant and interesting to people, and especially younger people, was an item passionately discussed at the Convention. There were several proposed solutions and ideas. The CSSA was portrayed as the glue that holds this hobby of people growing succulent plants together and welcomes help and input.

And finally, the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society really knows how to put on a great conference and gathering of the tribes and where there were bumps in the road they quickly and cheerfully smoothed them over.



This is *Dasilyrion longissimum* in Fred's backyard. Approximately 14-feet tall.

**SEPTEMBER WORKSHOP:** We've tentatively booked the meeting room at the Betty Rodriguez Library, 3040 North Cedar (SE corner of Cedar and Shields.), for Thursday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. Updated information will be available at the club meeting. Genera under discussion will be those starting with O, P and Q. We don't have a report for the August workshop, as various members were unable to attend. We trust that those who were there had a good time.

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**AUGUST BRAG TABLE:** An interesting selection of plants was present on the Brag Table last month. Fred Gaumer brought two *Adenium swazicum* (in bondage), *Gymnocalycium glaucum* and *Notocactus scopae*; Brian Nagles exhibited *Myrmecodia beccarii*, an ant plant; Nancy Jobin and Pat Schroyer showed some white-flowered adeniums; Bill Gale brought *Euphorbia primulifolia*, *E. cremersii* and *Piранthus foetidus*; Dennis Anderson brought a group of six mammillarias native to Oaxaca: *M. nejapensis*, *mystax*, *perbella*, *Huitzilopochtli*, *supertexta* and *kraehenbuehlii*; Ali Milne brought a pot of opuntias; Dan Gale showed four ariocarpus plants, plus *Euphorbia poisonii*, *Copiapoa cinera* and a "mirror plant", *Coprosma 'Pink Splendor.'* Many thanks to all of them



Photos by:  
Karen  
Willoughby



## KALANCHOE

By Lou Kilbert

Kalanchoes are in the *Crassula* family. They differ from the genus *Crassula* in the following ways: crassulas have five petals arranged in a star; the petals are relatively short and free for about half of their length to form an upright cup; the sepals are small and not united into a cup. Kalanchoes usually have four petals arranged into a tube shape; the petals are united along the seams with only the tips free and slightly reflexed; the sepals are relatively large, sometimes colorful and united into a cup-like receptacle.



The genus *Kalanchoe* is divided into three sections: *Kitichinga* / *Bryophyllum* / *Eukalanchoe*. Kitichingas are rather large shrubs with large showy flowers that are rarely encountered in cultivation. There are only about 4 species in this subcategory. The subgenus *Bryophyllum* has some very lovely plants, many that are extremely popular. The flowers are showy, dangling bells with colorful sepals sometimes adding to the floral display. One unique feature of these plants is the ability to produce adventitious plantlets along the leaf edges and in the inflorescence (keikis). This property leads to one common name, “Mother of Millions.” If left unchecked in a small growing area, they can become very weedy plants.

One of the most interesting in this group is *K. beauverdi*. Many years ago while exploring the greenhouses in East Lansing at Michigan State University, we walked into a medium sized greenhouse that hadn't been used in many years. At first, it appeared completely empty; then we noticed that the walls were alive. *K. beauverdi* is a vine with a dull purple color; it had completely overtaken the walls of this out-of-the-way place. It was quite eerie and a spectacular way to be introduced to this unusual species. One of the most beautiful in the group, and the most “feminine plant I've ever seen” said one admirer, is *K. fedtschenkoi variegata*. The blue, scalloped leaves are broadly edged in bright, clear white and that is often edged with a pencil-thin pink line. You must have a stem cutting to carry the variegation on into the sibling plant. Leaf plantlets are white and therefore incapable of growing to any size. Finally there is *K. mangini* with its little scalloped leaves on wiry, vining branches and its beautiful salmon pink flowers in pairs. *K. uniflora* looks similar but is not as compact a grower. “Pearl Bells” is a new hybrid in this group which shows the large amount of untapped resources available to an interested hybridizer.

In the subgenus *Eukalanchoe* (“true” kalanchoes) the flowers are held upright in a more or less flat headed umbel. The petals are generally free for one half their length and reflexed at the end. The color of the inside of the petals becomes most important in these plants. The sepals are not usually showy.



Among the most popular in this group are the *blossfeldiana* hybrids. These are the colorful plants that are sold most of the year around now, but especially at Christmas and Thanksgiving as gift plants. The brightly colored flowers may be orange, red, purple, yellow, etc. *K. beharensis* is deservedly popular because of its tolerance of indoor growing conditions, giant stature (6-8 feet tall) and



large size, triangular, furry brown leaves. We saw some excellent specimens of *K. marmorata*, the “Pen Wiper Plant”, at the Belle Isle Conservatory this past winter. *K. pumila* has wonderful scalloped leaves covered with a white waxy bloom. The flowers are a cheery, baby pink and smell of lemon. There is a variety with translucent, deep purple leaves covered with the same white bloom when young. On the small side is *K. rhombopilosa* with piece-of-pie shaped leaves with a white bloom usually, heavily mottled with rich brown. This plant has a hard time getting over about 4 inches. This is only a small sample of the species that are available; there are about 25 species in the *Bryophyllum* group and another 77 species in the *Eukalanchoe* group.



All kalanchoes grow in summer when much water should be given, but don’t let their feet stand in water. “Make hay while the sun shines,” as they say. Then in winter, you will be rewarded with flowers. Kalanchoes are obligate short day plants (more properly long-night plants) that must have short days to flower; and, I should add, adequate light. It can be difficult sometimes to give enough light during those short, dark days of winter. Commercial growers simply use dark covers over the greenhouse rows, after the plant shows enough vegetative growth, to produce flowers all year.

(The late Lou Kilbert was a longtime member of the Michigan Cactus & Succulent Society and contributed many articles to their newsletter. I always admired his down-to-earth approach to plant growing. This article was first published years ago. I was pleased to be able to meet Lou Kilbert at the 2003 CSSA Convention in St Louis. **Sue**)



### SOME BOTANICAL TERMS

Bisnaga (also Visnaga), a Spanish name for the barrel cactus.

Bocasana, meaning from the Bocas Mountains.

Bombycinus, like a silk worm.

Brachy, a prefix meaning short.



This is a link to the L.A. Times story on the Inter-City Show and sale.

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2019-08-12/comic-con-of-cactus-and-succulent-world>

In the August newsletter it was noted that the Fresno Bee was looking for garden photos from the public. **Dennis Shamlian's** photo of his yard was published in the August 15th Home & Garden Section.

Photo from FCSS picnic April 2019



**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [frojas96@gmail.com](mailto:frojas96@gmail.com); Treasurer, Michele Roberts, 645-5257, [robertshowse@comcast.net](mailto:robertshowse@comcast.net); Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Refreshments, Nancy Jobin; Librarian, Marilyn Carter, 977-6611, [mkc3253@gmail.com](mailto:mkc3253@gmail.com); Webmaster, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com); Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net).