

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

*Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

Vol. 37 No. 6

June 2019

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)**

**REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH**

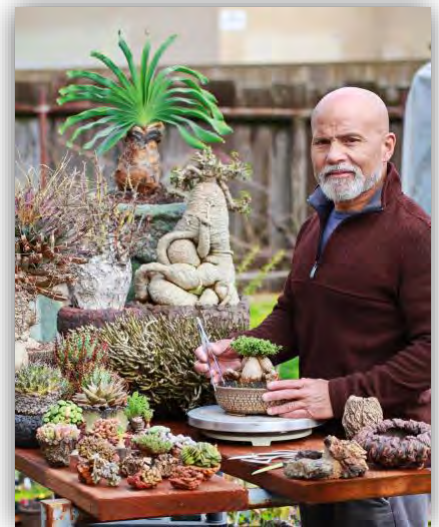
**1084 West Bullard, Fresno (near the NW corner of Palm and Bullard)**

## Succulent Bonsai - A different approach

**Presented by: Keith Taylor**



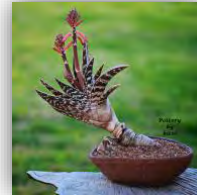
Our speaker Keith Taylor began collecting C&S in 1991, and creating unique containers to show off his specimens in 2010. He has developed a different style of



staging by combining plant, pot, rocks and topdressing to create award winning compositions.

Keith will bring plants from his collection and talk about how to combine these elements create eye catching presentations. He will also demonstrate how to stage.

*Let's give Keith a warm welcome back!*



~~ DINNER ~~

**Piazza Del Panne**  
799 West Palmdom Drive  
Fresno, (559) 431-6666  
(Southeast corner of Palm  
& Herndon) [Menu](#)

**Begins promptly at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Reservations under Rosanna.**  
**Members are invited to attend.**

**Contact Rosanna by**  
**Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**to make reservations:**  
**Phone: (559) 999-0017**

## FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

We hope to get this newsletter to you a bit earlier than usual, as it's the last newsletter before our Show and Sale. This is our biggest event of the year; the proceeds of the sale help pay our operating expenses: rent, speakers, plant opportunity plants, publications, etc, etc. We are in a new venue this year. Fortunately, we have all day on Friday the 31<sup>st</sup>, to figure out how deal with the space we'll have in the Commerce Building at the Fairgrounds. We'll be there starting at 10 a.m. All of you are welcome to help; bring your friends, too!

I want to thank, in advance, Rob Scott and Karen Willoughby for all the work they've expended on getting the Show and Sale organized. It requires quite a bit of strategizing and cajoling of others to pull the event together. Thanks, also, to all of you who signed up to help.

Don't forget the Club Sale Table. This is for items donated to the club: plants, pots, etc. We will also be selling cactus and succulent books that have been donated to the club over the past year or two. These are all out of print; be sure to check them out for something of interest. If you have some things to donate, please bring them on Friday.

As our July meeting night falls on July 4<sup>th</sup>, we decided awhile back that we would just cancel the regular meeting that month. You will be notified with regard to a July workshop.

Hope to see you at the Show and Sale – and at the meeting, of course. *Sue*



**In just a few days, our biggest event of the year is taking place!**

**The Fresno Cactus & Succulent Annual Show and Plant Sale!**

This is the Club's signature event. Vendors from around the state bringing top quality plants for sale. Rare mature specimens on display earning ribbons. The highlight of the year!

It's not too late to sign up to help at the Show and Sale. We still need members to help package plants and watch over the show plants. It's really easy and it's a lot of fun. Members that do help during the event will receive a special gift from the club for volunteering. Also for volunteering, members will be able to "Early Shop" on Friday, May 31. This is only for members that help during the weekend. Even if you're volunteering Saturday or Sunday, you may still come Friday to purchase plants. If you don't plan to help during the event, then please do not come to the Early Sale. It's not fair to the members who put their time in.

The Early Sale is only from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and CREDIT CARDS ONLY!

I hope everyone is planning on entering at least one plant into the Judged Show (there is no plant limit if you want to go crazy). It's so much fun and a great way to get your feet wet. Please try, you won't regret it.

This event will be even bigger and better than past years. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call Robert (559) 960-3665 or Karen (559) 304-9219

Reminder that Saturday is 9am to 6pm and Sunday 9am to 4pm. The Fresno Fairgrounds, Chance Avenue entrance.

*Robert Scott*

## FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY BOARD MEETING - MAY 6, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. In attendance were: Marilyn Carter, Jim Brummel, Rosanna Rojas, Rob Scott, Craig & Michele Roberts, Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale and Susan Cook and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent was Fred Gaumer.

### Officer Reports:

**President:** Water-Wise plant exchange  
Donation check.

**Vice-President:** Our June speaker will be Keith Taylor. Reminder that there is no July meeting this year.

**Treasurer:** Michele reported on our financial status.

**Affiliate Rep:** No report since Fred was absent. Attendance at the CSAA convention in SLO again discussed briefly.

### Old Business:

**Bus trip:** Only 10 people have signed up per Cindy and may be cancelled if no more people show interest in going.

**Sign for Clovis Botanical Gardens:** We viewed potential signage to honor Herb Thorne.

**Webmaster:** Vicki Veen to continue to provide these services at this time.

**Storing Tables at the meeting location:** Cindy and Monte will get these to the church for storage and also the items out of storage needed for the show and sale.

**Show & Sale:** Rob reported on the following:

Room Layout and tables. Set up will begin on Friday at 10:00.

Vendors

Club Table, including donated books.

Judges and Clerks

Publicity

Social media, TV and fliers

Food: Rosanna will order much of the food this year.

Next board meeting is June 10th. As always, if you would like further information on any of these subjects, please speak to a board member.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

### BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm - 3733 North Sierra Vista, Fresno

Any member is welcome to attend.

**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@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).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Henry Coggan (9<sup>th</sup>);**



**Charlene Stebles (12<sup>th</sup>);  
Frank Orvis (13<sup>th</sup>);  
Russal McLachlin (17<sup>th</sup>);  
Teri Figgs (20<sup>th</sup>); Larry Homan (21<sup>st</sup>);  
Toni Phillips (28<sup>th</sup>);  
Sue Loucks (29<sup>th</sup>).**

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**WELCOME THIS RENEWING MEMBER:**

Russ Lindquist, Fresno.

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**Cindy Duwe** will be sitting in for Tony Sharp at the Welcome Table this month. Tony is retiring from Sierra High School, where he taught art for years. Their Commencement is the same evening as our meeting, and Tony is being honored, along with the other retiring teachers. Well done!

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**A notable passing in the succulent world: Charles “Chuck” Hanson** passed away May 14<sup>th</sup>. He was 86. Chuck was the founder and owner of Arid Lands Greenhouses, Tucson, from 1978 to 2006. (It’s now run by Bob Webb.) Through his many travels in Africa, Madagascar and South America, Chuck was responsible for introducing many interesting plants into the hobby. Those of us who were able to visit Arid Lands back in the day marveled at the amazing plants on display there. He was also a frequent speaker at CSSA Conventions.

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**CHAFFEE ZOO BROWSE PROGRAM:**

Help feed the zoo animals with your pesticide-free tree trimmings. For more information:  
[www.fresnochaffeezoo.org/browse-program/](http://www.fresnochaffeezoo.org/browse-program/)

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**SOME BOTANICAL TERMS**

*Acuminate* – Tapering gradually to a point, with the sides more or less concave

*Annulus* – A ring-like outgrowth, as from the corolla of *Orbea*

**COMING EVENTS**

**June 8-9, San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society**  
Show and Sale, County Fair Bldg,  
Golden Gate Park, 9<sup>th</sup> and Lincoln Way;  
hours, 9-5 both days.  
[www.sfsucculent.org](http://www.sfsucculent.org)

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**June 8-9, Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society**  
Drought Tolerant Plant Festival Show and Sale,  
Sepulveda Garden Center,  
16633 W. Magnolia Blvd, Encino;  
hours: Sat. 9-4; Sun. 9-3.  
[www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)

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**June 28-30, CSSA Annual Show & Sale, Huntington**  
Botanical Gardens  
(more information elsewhere in this issue)

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**CAUDEX ROT IN ADENIUMS**

Mark Dimmitt, Tucson, AZ, who has written extensively about adeniums, contributed this note to an online discussion list: “When an adenium caudex begins to rot, often the rot will stop at or just above the soil level IF the plant is kept completely dry until the next growing season. *Adenium somalense crispum* seems to use very little water during cool weather, and I water mine very rarely all winter even though they are in a greenhouse heated to 60 F at night and they often flower profusely at this season. I have *A. somalense somalense* (tree form) rot off all of its roots each of the last three winters. It has managed to re-root the following summere and put on some growth (it’s now 7 feet tall at six years of age – a bit faster than *var. crispum*!)

“Don’t despair, but don’t water, either, until it gets good and hot and you see new roots initiating. Good luck.”

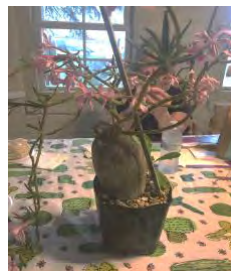
**MAY BRAG TABLE:** Since the subject of the May program was aloes, we had a number of nice aloes on the table. Fred Gaumer brought *Aloe x 'Sugar'*, two other aloe cultivars, *Aloe distans* and *Notocactus graessneri*; Eddie Etheridge exhibited *Cyphostemma betiformis*; Susan Cook showed *Kedrostris africana*; Bruce Hargreaves brought *Euphorbia meloformis*; Marilyn Carter showed *Haworthia truncata*; Brian Nagles brought *Ornithogalum fimbriatum*, *Echeveria purpurorum*; *Aloe x 'Lavender'*, *Aloe x 'Christmas Carol'*, and *Aristaloe aristata*; Nancy Jobin showed a fabulous adenium; Bill Gale showed an aloe cultivar, a succulent orchid and three dioscoreas; Dan Gale exhibited three tree aloes, *Pachypodium bispinosum* and an ariocarpus. Thanks to all of them.

Photos by  
Karen Willoughby



**MAY WORKSHOP:** We had a lively workshop last month. Bringing plants for show-and-tell were Eddie Etheridge, Sue Haffner, Ana Siguenza, Cindy Duwe, Bill Gale, Jack Fleming, Mary Drumheller, Dan Gale and Dennis Anderson. As the generic alphabet was I, J and K, and there are not a lot of plants that begin with those letters, the show plants represented various genera: *Haworthia*, *Jatropha*, *Thelocactus*, *Parodia*, *Adenium*, *Agave*, *Tillandsia*, *Pachypodium*, *Echinopsis*, *Leuchtenbergia*, *Cyphostemma* and *Echinopsis*. We discussed the staging of show plants and sources for various potting mix components. Dan made a cake and also brought plants of *Abrometiella brevifolia* to give away. Thanks, Dan!

The June workshop will be Wednesday, June 19th, 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. All club members are welcome. Genera under discussion will be those starting with K and L. We will also talk about the show.



Photos by  
Cindy Duwe

## CREST CRAZY AND MONSTROSE MANIA

By Roger Brown

Plants can be supremely beautiful at times, and their shapes are often a fine blend of art and nature. Addiction to the wonderful shapes of crests and monstrose plants is not at all unusual as we search for specimens to quench our thirst for new plants.



Many of the finest things in life have some drawbacks, and for these plants it is rot sensitive roots and sparse flowering. Most crests and monstrose plants must be nurtured on grafts to maintain life. Even periodic re-grafting is necessary to keep them alive. Difficult plants are a challenge that makes the keeping of plants interesting.

As I think about difficult plants, I am reminded of a tulip that captivated the Dutch during the seventeenth century. It was a beautiful bicolor named *Semper Augustus*. This flower was an intricately feathered red and white tulip that sometimes changed hands for as much as 10,000 guilders. This amount of money would have bought one of the grandest canal houses in seventeenth century Holland. Tulipomania during the period of 1643 to 1637 unleashed a madness that shook a whole nation and nearly brought Holland's economy to ruin.

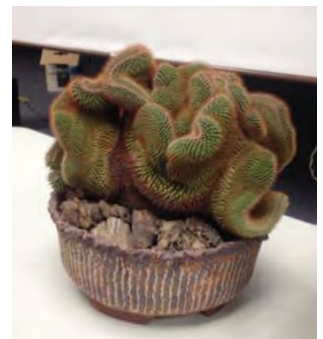
In 1593 Carolus Cladius brought the tulip to Europe. Someone was able to steal some bulbs from him and started propagating tulips from seed. Tulips are like apples and do not come true from seed. These promiscuous seedlings were the source of an astounding variety of differently shaped and colored tulips. The Dutch began experimenting with these seeds and were soon able to coax bicolor tulips out of this genetic mixture. Their colors were usually white or yellow with intricate feathers or flames of a vividly contrasting hue that looked as though they were painted on by the finest brush and the steadiest hand. These tulips were called "broken."

Broken tulips were generally slow growing and not very thrifty. The offsets their bulbs produced were generally fewer and smaller than ordinary tulips. Since offsets from bulbs of broken plants would inherit the same pattern and hues from their parent, they commanded a huge price.

*Semper augustus* was the most famous of the broken tulips. Rembrandt was fascinated with their variety and painted it many times. The petals in his paintings show extravagant swirls of color that somehow managed to be both bold and delicate at the same time.

What the Dutch did not know was that a virus was responsible for the magic in a broken tulip! The virus was spread from plant to plant by the peach potato aphid. This was not discovered until the invention of the electron microscope.

It makes one wonder what really is responsible for cresting and monstrosity. Could it also be a virus? Something has disturbed the plant's machinery of life. I have read many theories about these curiosities. Some think they result from injury and others genetic mutations. There are countless other theories that fall in the middle. Perhaps someone should follow the road that led to the discovery of the broken tulip's origin.



(From *To the Point*, Jan-Feb. 2004; Roger Brown was a veterinarian in Nebraska for many years and wrote for the newsletter and was also a CSSA Convention speaker.)

Photos: Mary Ann Villegas

## STROMBOCACTUS DISCIFORMIS



*Strombocactus disciformis* is one of those unique cacti—unique in appearance, unique in that it's the only species in the genus (meaning it's monotypic). It's usually solitary, with a flattened or spherical stem, blue-green to grayish, 3-8 cm. high to 3-9 cm. in diameter. It's composed of hard spirally arranged rhomboid tubercles that are flattened and almost truncated above. It is very slow-growing—8 to 10 years to blooming size from seed. The pale yellow to almost white short-funnelform flowers are borne apically. The white wool on the plants appears also at the apex and is shed with time, as are spines on the lower part of the stem.

The word *strombos* is Greek for spinning top, referring to the shape of the stems in habitat. The specific epithet is from the Latin words *discus*, meaning disc, and *formis*, meaning form.

*Strombocactus* is native to Mexico, the states of Hidalgo and Querétaro, where it grows on limestone cliffs and slopes and in mudrock of alluvial cliffs along streambeds, also on nearly vertical canyon walls. The rugged habitat has acted as protection from such threats as farming and grazing, though there is evidence of collection activity.

As mentioned above, the plants are usually solitary but occasional multi-headed specimens are found. Propagation is from seed. The plants seem to set seed easily, but the seed is very fine. Elton Roberts writes about this: "Years ago when I grew plants from seed it seemed like they were never going to get any size to them. They remained as 1/8 inch dots for several years. In time, they slowly grew to about the size of a pea. At that time, I gave them their own 2 inch pots. As I remember, I had 117 of them. In their own pots they then grew faster. I still have three or four of those plants; they are now about the size of a tennis ball ... Not bad growth for a plant that is 'very hard to grow', as I have been told and have heard for years.



All the hard to grow plants became much easier to grow three years ago when I started giving acidic water and they started growing even better and looking much healthier 2 years ago when I started with ammonium sulfate [email dated November 18, 2010]. The plants have bloomed many times this year, sometimes having 8 flowers open at one time. The flowers in the photos are 4 cm in diameter. The filaments are off white as is the stigma; the stigma has about 14 lobes and each one is as fuzzy as they can be. If the flower is pollinated the seed pod is elongated and it splits up the side in several places and the seeds spill out. The seed is smaller than a dot on this page; it is like dust."



Yes, despite its reputation, *Strombocactus disciformis* is not hard to grow. I have two old specimens that hang on, spending dry winters in the lath house. Give it a try, if you can find one.

**Sue**

(Photos by Elton Roberts)



## 54th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE, CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA HUNTINGTON LIBRARY & BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Friday, Saturday & Sunday, June 28, 29, 30, 2019**

**The Huntington: 1151 Oxford Drive, San Marino, CA  
The Botanical Center. Contact 626-405-3504**

**Sale Hours:** Friday, Saturday & Sunday - 10:00am-5:00pm

**Show:** Saturday & Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm

**Show Set-up:** Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 9am-1pm

**Enter Plants:** Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-8pm & Friday, June 28, 10:00am-4:00pm.  
Judging starts at 5:00pm, Friday

**Auction:** Saturday, June 29 at 7:00pm. Items need to be registered by 3PM  
There will be a Silent Auction during dinner and a Live Auction (35 items max.) after dinner. Auctioneers will decide placement of items: 2 items per person/business marked as donation or split (70/30)

**Dinner:** Saturday, June 29 at 6pm, \$15.00 Menu: Chili Buffet.  
Mail checks, made out to CSSA, to Bonnie Ikemura – 8400 Bleriot Ave. Los Angeles, CA, 90045; Reserve spot by Phone: 213-305-1421 or email Bonnie at [bikemura@hotmail.com](mailto:bikemura@hotmail.com). Reservations must be made by June 26, 2019.

**Teardown:** Sunday, June 30, 5:00pm

Be sure to pick up a Show Schedule, Index and entry tags from your CSSA Club Affiliate at your June club meeting if you are interested in entering plants in the Show or in the Auction.

**All Cactus & Succulent Club members, CSSA members, vendors, volunteers or show participants need to wear their club badges (if you have one) AND a special CSSA/HBG pass that reads “ Annual CSSA Show Participant” to enter the HBG for free. If you are a HBG member this doesn’t apply. Please obtain a pass from your CSSA Affiliate at your club meeting or contact Barbara Hall, Show Chair before the event. We are not permitted to hand out passes at the HBG entryway.**

There are opportunities to participate/volunteer in this year’s show, even for a couple of hours in the showroom or sales areas, hospitality (food) area, information table, holding area, welcome table at the HBG entry & setup/teardown. All participants receive a show T-Shirt as a thank you.

See you at the Show!

Barbara Hall  
CSSA Show Chair  
Email: [lbcjhall@aol.com](mailto:lbcjhall@aol.com) - Phone: 818-368-6914