

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 35 No. 12

December 2017



HOLIDAY PARTY POTLUCK



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center
5340 North Fresno, Fresno

Set-up: 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

DINNER: The club will provide tri-tip, table service, coffee and water. You provide your favorite potluck dish: appetizer, salad, main dish, vegetable or dessert. (Non-alcoholic beverages only) And, as in the past years, Doris Hooton has generously donated a large baked ham.

SILENT AUCTION: We will have some cactus books on the table. Please bring plants and/or plant-related items: pots, books, gardening magazines, or whatever you think someone might bid on.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 2018

President: Sue Haffner (re-elected)

Vice-President: Rosanna Rojas (re-elected)

Treasurer: Michele Roberts (new)

Secretary: Karen Willoughby

Affiliate Representative: Fred Gaumer

Board Members: Craig Roberts, Jim Brummel, Rob Scott (new),

Cindy Duwe (new), Marilyn Carter (new), Bill Gale (new)



**Your Officers and Board Members Wish You a Merry Holiday Season and a
Happy and Healthy New Year.**

FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, all,

If you're as ancient as I am, you may remember the old TV show "That Was the Week that Was". Well, this past year has been, for our club, That Was the Year that Was. We collectively took a deep breath and committed ourselves to a top-flight judged show in a new, high-visibility venue. And it worked. We had a great show. Visitors were very complimentary. And the sale went very well, also, with the new checkout procedures proving very efficient. Thanks, again, to all the members who turned out to help, and especially to Ann Bierbower and Robert Scott, who helmed the event. Changing the venue required us to change the show date and subsequently our program schedule was thrown off-kilter. It kept us all scrambling. Now that we've gotten our feet wet, so to speak, our hope is that this won't happen in 2018.

This month we celebrate at our annual Holiday party. We always have a great time at this event, so I hope all of you can join us. If you were unable to sign up for a potluck dish, bring your favorite and attend anyway. We will have a silent auction and will also honor our outgoing officers and install the new ones.

And on the subject of officers, let me thank those officers and board members who served this year. I appreciate your support and enthusiasm and willingness to strike out in new directions.

We also thank Doris Hooton for hosting the board meetings; Vickie Veen for keeping our website current; and Mary Ann Villegas for her splendid work on the newsletter. Thanks also to chairpersons Polly Dunklin (membership); Karl Church (raffle); Madeleine Mitchell (library); Carole Grosch (sunshine); and Frank and Marian Orvis (refreshments). Mark Muradian and Patty Miller generously hosted the club picnic at their home again this year. Thanks so much.

Renewals: a renewal form accompanies this newsletter. Everyone's dues are now payable—except for those new members who joined this fall (October to December). Your dues are good for 2018. Please fill out the membership form. Otherwise, Polly has to fill out one for you and that's a lot of extra work for her.

Hope to see you at the party,

Sue

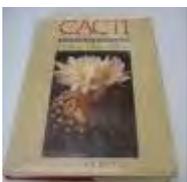
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**SILENT AUCTION:** There will be a silent auction at the party. Bring something plant-related (or holiday related) that you think someone else might bid on: plants, pots, books, etc., etc. The following donated books will be on the auction table:

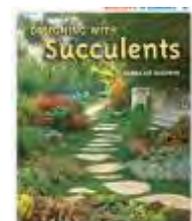
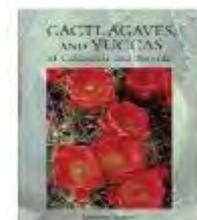
"The Succulent Euphorbieae (Southern Africa)" by White, Dyer & Sloane, 1941, 2 vols (990 p.) many illus; 25 plates by Cythna Letty. This is a classic work that is seldom available.

"Cacti, Agaves and Yuccas of California and Nevada" by Stephen Ingram, 2008; 243p., color photos, maps, color plates by Susan Bazell.

"Designing with Succulents" by Debra Lee Baldwin (2008); 255p., many color photos.



"Cacti for the Connoisseur" by John Pilbeam (1987); 167p., black & white photos, color plates. Still a good introduction to the most interesting cacti.



### Minutes of the FCSS Board Meeting August 7, 2017

Called to order at 6:00 by President Sue Haffner. Present were: Mary Drumheller, Fred Gaumer, Ann Bierbower, Bill Gale, Cindy Duwe, Michele & Craig Roberts, Jim Brummel, Polly Dunklin, Rosanna Rojas and myself. Absent was Rob Scott.

**New Business:** Budget for the coming year was discussed in length.

**Officer Reports:** Sue shared ideas concerning the brag table, visitors, taking a month off to save money, and reported the dues renewal form will be in December newsletter. Sue was waiting to hear back from a member regarding replacing Dennis Anderson on the board. Document retention policy discussed. Should find out from IRS this month about 501 3C status.

**Vice-President:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Balance on hand, \$10,628.43. Motion was made to make yearly donations to Clovis Botanical Garden, Discovery Center, and California Native Plant Society. Approved. Attempts to find a new location for meetings is still being done.

**Secretary:** No report.

**New Business:**

Christmas party plans and installation of officers was discussed. Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

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Below is the budget approved by the Board of Directors: Calendar year—January 1, through December 31, 2018:

|                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Annual donations                  | 400.00           |
| Bank charges                      | 45.00            |
| Bus trip                          | 1300.00          |
| CGCI membership @ 2.75 per member | 412.00           |
| CGCI liability insurance          | 150.00           |
| CSSA affiliate fee                | 100.00           |
| CSSA journal                      | 55.00            |
| Hospitality supplies              | 100.00           |
| Library books/supplies            | 200.00           |
| Miscellaneous expenses            | 400.00           |
| New member binders                | 100.00           |
| Newsletter and postage            | 700.00           |
| Office supplies & expenses        | 200.00           |
| Officer gifts                     | 475.00           |
| Potluck, Christmas                | 300.00           |
| Potluck, Picnic                   | 300.00           |
| Printing—flyers, handouts, etc.   | 1000.00          |
| Raffle plants (9 flats @ \$85.00) | 765.00           |
| Room rent                         | 2310.00          |
| Show & Sale expenses              | 4700.00          |
| Speakers (fee, motel, dinner)     | 3000.00          |
| Storage unit rent                 | 600.00           |
| Web hosting                       | 62.00            |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>17,664.00</b> |

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Alyssa Ortega (3<sup>rd</sup>); Doris Hooten (8<sup>th</sup>); Ruth Saludes (17<sup>th</sup>); Roberta Alves (18<sup>th</sup>); Doris Gravelle (22<sup>nd</sup>).

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**SAY HELLO TO THIS NEW MEMBER:**

Sherrie Evans, Fresno

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**BOX WRANGLER WANTED:** If you would like to help out the club in some capacity, consider the job of box wrangler. We need someone to collect boxes throughout the year—boxes suitable for use at our sales. This person would need to collect and store these boxes, make sure they're in good condition, and bring them to events where they're needed.

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**Researchers have found that artificial lights** at night interfere with the ability of plants to produce seeds and of moths and other pollinators to gather food. Plants exposed to lights produced fewer fruits than their unlit counterparts. The effects of such light pollution could also affect diurnal pollinators through declines in available food resources.

(*National wildlife*, Dec. 2017-Jan. 2018)

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**PLANT IMPORT PERMITS:** On eBay and other online sources you can find some very desirable plants offered for sale by international sellers. Before you invest in any of these items, you need to have permits to import plants and other plant products (seeds, bulbs, etc.). Permits are issued by APHIS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. They are free and are good for at least 3 years. Go to the website:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/home>

Click on 'popular topics', then choose 'imports and exports.' You need permit PPQ 587.

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**Cactus explorer #20** is now available for download. This is a free online journal carrying articles on various subjects, news and events, book reviews, ads, etc. Use any browser and just type "cactus explorer #20" and you'll find it.

Photos: Cindy Duwe

**NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE:** It was *Haemanthus albiflos* night for the Brag Table, as Bruce Hargreaves, Karl Church and Rudy Rulloda all brought blooming plants. Bruce also brought *Aloe albiflorus*; and Karl showed *Aeonium percareum* 'Kiwi' and *Astrophytum ornatum*. Fred Gaumer exhibited *Othonna herrei*, *Ariocarpus bravoanus hintonii* and *Astrophytum asterias* 'Super Kabuto'; Ann Bierbower brought two plants of *Mammillaria duwei*, one with no central spines and one with hooked centrals; Dan Gale brought a collection of ten pachypodiums; Eddie Etheridge showed *Leuchtenbergia principis*; Bill Gale brought three othonnas: *O. herrei*, *O. cyclophylla* and one unidentified. Thanks to all of the above. The next Brag Table will be at the January meeting.



Photos by Karen Willoughby

**CLUB WORKSHOP:** The November workshop featured plants in genera U-V-W. We looked at *Uebelmannia*, *Weingartia*, *Welwitschia* and *Wigginsia*. Also examined were *Euphorbia*, *Clorophytum*, *Mammillaria*, *Sansevieria*, *Cyphostemma*, *Aloe* and *Adenium*. Bringing plants to show were Dennis Anderson, Sue Haffner, Mary Drumheller, Jack Fleming, Ann Bierbower and Dan Gale. Jack announced that his *Aloe dichotoma* is blooming. Polly Dunklin has taken out her front yard grass and is planting succulents. The foundation has been prepared for Nancy Jobin's Harbor Freight greenhouse and it should be up soon. It was agreed that you should still be watering plants that are in growth; if they're dormant, stop watering. Dan gave away nice *Adenium* plants and mandarins. Thanks, Dan! The December workshop will be Wednesday, Dec. 20th, 6 p.m., at the Betty Rodriguez Library, 3040 N. Cedar, Fresno. Join us--all members are welcome.



## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Doesn't it seem that, just when you learn a plant's name, some botanist comes along and changes it? Sometimes it makes you want to clutch your head and scream. Why can't those botanists make up their minds?

But it's true. The botanical names of many of our favorite plants *do* sometimes change, and frequently it's for good reason. Newer discoveries, historical research and DNA studies all contribute to increasing our understanding of plant origins and relationships. Don't blame the botanists; it's just a very real part of the nature of science.

So what's a collector to do?

First of all, there's nothing inherently wrong with common names. A good example is "Jade Plant", mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. When we use this common name, most of us pretty much know which plant we're talking about. But sometimes the common name isn't enough. Say that someone mentions "Claret Cup Cactus". Well, there are various species of *Echinocereus* that are called "Claret Cup." Most commonly what is meant is *Echinocereus triglochidiatus* though sometimes the speaker may actually mean some similar-looking plant.



*E. triglochidiatus*

Cactus.Guide.com

That's when we often must use botanical names, and it's really not that hard. Since botanists use a binomial system of identification, we usually only need two names to ID any plant we have: genus and species. The genus is always capitalized and is the first and largest category. The plural is genera. The second word is the species (the specific name; species is both singular and plural.) It is never capitalized. In print, the botanical name is in italics.

If a plant is a cultivar or a hybrid, it will probably be noted with single quotes: *Aloe* 'Christmas Cheer'. Sometimes it will appear as *Aloe* cv. 'Christmas Cheer'. Hybrid and cultivar names are capitalized but not in italics.

So don't be afraid of those long names with Latin endings or how to pronounce them. Botanical Latin (actually a mix of Latin and Greek) is an artificial language. It was devised as a written language so that scientists could communicate with each other. Pronunciation was a secondary consideration. You can say CRAS-su-la or cras-SU-la; either is correct. What's important is that we know what plant the speaker means.

So, should you rush out and change your plant labels every time some article appears with a revision of a plant family? I guess some of us are obsessive enough to do that. But you will find that most nurserymen and other sellers will hang onto the old names (maybe until they run out of printed labels). Write a new label if you wish, but keep the old one. You never know when the names might change again. *Sue*



## IN PRAISE OF THE JADE PLANT

By Luther Sturtevant

Everyone has one! They're so easy to grow. They're so plain. I've heard these comments and variations of them, either as an argument for or against growing these plants. And there's a degree of truth in all of them, though the last is largely due to seeing so many poorly grown jades in the stores.

But what we call "Jade Plant" comes in many forms and though they can be ordinary, they can also be fantastic. And since when has ease of growth become a negative?

First, what plant or plants are we talking about? After all, "Jade Plant" is a common name which can be applied to a variety of plants.

The usual candidate is *Crassula ovata*, which has sometimes been labeled *C. argentea* or *C. portulaca*. This is extremely easy to grow and—with only the bare minimum of judicious pruning--can make an outstanding house plant. There's also a variegated form usually labeled 'Tricolor' and another colorful one called 'Hummel's Sunset'.

A few cultivars of this are also commonly available: 'Gollum' and 'Hobbit' come to mind, only slightly differing from each other in the form of their rolled, tubular leaves. We have another form for which we know of no cultivar name and which we call "Gnarly" which is a charming monstrose plant suitable for a larger bonsai pot.

And don't forget *Crassula arborescens*, the "Silver Dollar Jade" with its large silvery leaves and slower growing.

Care? Jades don't like to stand in water and thus a good, free-draining cactus mix is crucial. Water whenever the soil dries out and water less often during the winter. Jades are quite tolerant of various lighting situations, but like most plants will etiolate with inadequate light and sunburn when placed in bright sun all at once. They're a great plant in the house during the winter and brought outside during the summer.

Mostly, with the ease of care of these plants, just enjoy your jade!

(From *Cactus Chatter*, the newsletter of the Oregon Cactus & Succulent Society; used with the author's permission)



Photos: Mary Ann Villegas

## UEBELMANNIA PECTINIFERA

*Uebelmannia pectinifera* made an instant sensation when plants first became available back in the 1980s. Everybody wanted one. While they are much more available these days, they are not exactly common, due probably to their slow growth and also because they are not of the easiest culture.

*Uebelmannia* is a genus of cacti native to the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Three species are recognized—*buiningii*, *gummifera* and *pectinifera*. The generic name honors Werner Uebelmann (1921-2014), a Swiss nurseryman and plant explorer. They are found in the mountains, on gentle slopes or highlands, on acid soils in mostly pure white quartz sand, or in crevices of granite rocks between 650-1460 meters in altitude. Soils are moderately moist due to nocturnal mists that rise in late mornings. Plants are usually solitary, globose to cylindrical with the epidermis smooth, papillose (pimpled) or waxy, with many ribs sharply defined or tuberculate.

*Uebelmannia pectinifera* is named for its pectinate (comb-like) spines. It has a very distinctive epidermis which can range in color from light gray-green to red-brown to almost black, more or less covered with white scales, which can sometimes give it a silvery appearance. The species is limited to a small area near the city of Diamantina, growing in quartzite in rugged terrain on steep east to north facing slopes. The variability of its appearance is suggested by its number of varieties or subspecies, numbering from 3 to 9, depending on which authority you consult.

Elton Roberts writes: “You can see in the photos that the spines and flowers grow out of light tan dense wool. The wool, spines and flowers all grow out of the apex of the sharp ribs. The areoles are quite close together as a result the spines are like teeth on a hacksaw. That is real close together and more or less in a straight line with some flaring out a bit to the side. The flowers are to 1.2 cm in diameter; they are a creamy yellow. The petals are semi-translucent and with the dark color behind them that gives the flowers a greenish cast ... I have the plants in a more open, fast draining soil. Acidic water is a must if you want the plants to grow and flower. Keep them above 40 degrees F, if you can. They also need a time of rest, which is over the winter for us, so do not keep them warm enough so they grow. Do not water during this time. I give my plants bright filtered light but I think they could have morning sun but still I would give them protection from the heat and burning sun in the afternoon.”

I've long had a plant that was labeled *U. crebispina* (now reduced to a variety of *pectinifera*.) It spends most of the year on the patio where it gets morning sun. It's now in winter quarters: the greenhouse window over the kitchen sink where it just waits until spring.

**Sue**



# Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

## Membership Application/Renewal

### Annual Membership Renewal Due January 1<sup>st</sup>

|                                                 |         |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Single Membership renewal with email newsletter | \$20.00 |
| Single Membership renewal with paper newsletter | \$30.00 |
| Family Membership renewal with email newsletter | \$30.00 |
| Family Membership renewal with paper newsletter | \$40.00 |

New Memberships must add on a one-time fee of \$5.00 per member for each name badge as follows:  
Single Membership, one name badge \$5.00; Family Membership, two name badges \$10.00

Checks payable to: Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society (FCSS)  
Mail to: FCSS – 415 W. Home Ave., Fresno, CA 93728

#### INFORMATION FOR CLUB USE ONLY:

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday(s) Optional – Month & Day \_\_\_\_\_

The club publishes an annual Roster containing all current members' information as shown above and distributes it to club members. If you do not want some of your information published in the Roster let us know.

I am interested in helping out in the following areas. Please contact me.

- Show & Sale     Programs     Library     Publicity     Technology  
 Refreshments     Hospitality     Sunshine     Special Events

How do you wish to receive your Newsletter, "Cactus Corner"?     E-mail or     US Mail

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#### Please read and complete for the Newsletter, Cactus Corner

By signing the form below, you give your permission for the use of photographs in the club newsletter and/or to be used for educational purposes including publications, exhibitions, World Wide Web and presentations. By giving your permission, you do not give up any copyright or performance rights that you may hold.

No Thank You     Yes, I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions noted below.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_