

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

*Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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You're invited to the F.C.S.S.

## Digital Winter Silent Auction

To bring a little holiday cheer to our members we have come up with a fully digital Silent Auction. You will have a chance to bid on plants and related items all through email. Every evening throughout the auction an email will be sent out with the highest bid listed per item. At the end of the auction period, the highest bid wins! Items will be paid for and picked up at a safe public location in town.

A fun way to grab some plants and help the club while staying safe!

**Auction: December 1<sup>st</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Pick up: December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

More information in the newsletter



## **FROM THE PREZ...**

Dear FCSS Members,

December is here and normally that would mean our annual Winter Potluck is coming. This year we won't be gathering, but we still have something special planned for our members. This year, instead of a potluck we will be having a silent auction. Our Winter Silent Auction will be fully online and everyone will be able to participate. On December 1st, you will receive an email that has a link to all the items that are up for auction. Each item will have a photo, description, and starting bid price. Your name and email address are required in order to start bidding. When you find an item you wish to bid on, add the amount you would like to spend and move to the next item. At the bottom of the form you will submit your bids. You can choose which items you want to bid on, and ignore those you don't. At the end of each day



I will be able to see what bids were placed for each item and the highest bids move on to the next day. Every evening I will email out the item list and what the current highest bid is for that day. Bidding for each day will end at 7pm. The auction will go from December 1st and end December 9th at 7pm. The highest bid for each item wins that item. Then on December 11th, from 6-7pm the winners will meet at the Lowe's Home Improvement store in Fresno at the River Park Shopping Center to pay for and pick up their items. Masks will be required for this. We will take cash, check, and credit cards. This might sound difficult, but the whole process is very easy and will be a lot of fun. So far we have plants, cuttings, pots, and other plant items that will be up for auction.

We are still looking for donation items and would greatly appreciate any help you could provide. If you would like to donate, send me a photo of the item with a description and bring it to Lowe's on December 11th between 5:30-6pm. You can also contact me and we can work out a time to meet to get the item if that time does not work for your schedule. The items and photos need to be given to me by November 30th.

Since we are having the Silent Auction in December we will not be having an official Zoom club meeting on December 3rd. What I will be doing instead is having a Zoom meeting for anyone needing help with the auction. During this time I will be able to help you with any questions you have about the process, or about submitting your bids. You are also welcome to email me with any questions as well. I will send out a Zoom invitation before that date.

If you would like to bid on items but don't have internet access, please think about asking other club members or family members for help.

This has been a difficult year for everyone and we hope that this Winter Silent Auction can bring you a little joy during the holiday season. It's always fun getting new plants and related items, especially when you can help the club at the same time.

With the holidays approaching, it's a good time to think about what all has taken place over the last year. I would like to thank the entire Executive Board for all the work they have done this last year. Once quarantine hit our club, daily life changed quite a bit and everyone of you went with the flow. We figured out Zoom meetings and did what we could to bring some normalcy to our membership. All of you have been a huge help to me and I greatly appreciate each of you. Thank you very much to Rosanna, Karen, Michele, Craig, Sue, Cindy, Christeen, Dominic, and Bill. Thank you to the members that attend our Zoom meetings, it's always a great time getting to chat with you all. I wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday season.

Thank you, Robert

Please see new 2021c membership renewal form at end of this Newsletter. While we have waived membership fees for 2021 we do need to collect postage fees for Newsletters that are mailed USPS.

## Getting to Know You; Viv Shinkawa

Viv Shinkawa is a Hongg native. As a child, she enjoyed going to annual New Year Flower Markets with her family and bringing home auspicious symbolic plants like cherry and plum blossoms tied with red ribbons, gladioli and kumquats. In the 1970s, she emigrated to the United States with her parents.

"I had two sisters already here so it seemed a logical place to come to," she says. "When time came for college, I joined my sisters here attending Fresno State. I have siblings in Hong Kong, Canada and US. We would try to meet and travel all over. I miss that a lot."

Viv's interest in plants began when her husband and friends became interested in plants such as ferns while they were in college.

"My first memories of cacti and succulents were trips to Succulent Gallery in Morro Bay and a nice garden shop in Carmel's Barnyard. I just thought they were the neatest plants. My favorites are adromischus, aeonium, euphorbia, sansevieria, zz, cereus, myrtillocactus and anything crested.

"A good friend invited me to FCSS some years ago. I enjoyed the interesting programs and plant sales. The annual trips were a lot of fun. I also learn a lot from monthly workshops.

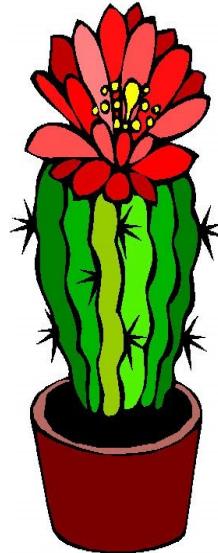
"Without a greenhouse, growing cacti and succulents in Fresno is a bit challenging as I tend to be laissez-faire, too lazy to move plants around with change in season. So you can say they need to fend for themselves. Another challenge for me is knowing when to water and when not to. I tend to treat them all the same."

When Viv's husband retired from farming they found a place in NorCal where the weather is less extreme.

"With this pandemic, as with many people, we're reduced to shopping groceries and nurseries," said Viv. "That's when my husband took over and created a succulent respite on our balcony.

"I look forward to when life approaches normalcy and we can resume meetings, trips and shows and sales.

"A virtual 'hello' to all. Stay safe & well!! "



By Carole Grosch

## *DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS*

*Janet Moos (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Monte Tackett (6<sup>th</sup>)  
Doris Hooton (8<sup>th</sup>)  
B.J. Franz (14<sup>th</sup>)  
Francesca Meyer (15<sup>th</sup>)  
Mary Ann Villegas (20<sup>th</sup>)*

A friend referred me to an article with an arresting title: “Climate change has revived a plant in the U.K. that hasn’t been seen in 60 million years” (<https://news360.com/article/541239702>) What happened is that several Sagos, *Cycas revoluta*, have matured and produced cones. Of course, this cycad has been grown in greenhouses in the U.K. for many years, but these plants were growing outside on the Isle of Wight. The Island, in the English Channel off the south coast, has a climate slightly warmer than the rest of England—now warm enough for cycads to thrive.

Last month's speaker, Jeff Moore, showed a picture of a *Neobuxbaumia polylopha*, a tall landscape cactus, which displayed considerable yellowing of its stem. He called it "Yellow Cactus Disease." He also writes about this in his book "Spiny succulents."

Technically, this yellowing of plant tissue is chlorosis. It can be caused by various factors, including poor drainage, damaged or compacted roots, high alkalinity or nutrient deficiencies.

Several years ago I saw this problem on the neobuxbaumia plants in the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek.

The garden's curator, Brian Kemble, has mentioned that the pH of the water in the area is very high, even higher than ours. I suspected that was the source of the yellowing problem.

*Neobuxbaumia polylopha* is native to several states of Mexico, where it grows amid bushes on steep hillsides in soils rich in limestone and humus.

Maybe treating with chelated iron, or something similar, or a fertilizer that contains a range of micronutrients might help.

Anyways, I have the Buxbaumia! Can't be feeling good that my buxbaumia was not as yellow as theirs—though it won't win any beauty contests, poor thing.

My plant is about 6 feet tall and stands in the driveway strip garden between my house and the one next door. It blooms every year and sets seed. The top 2/3rds of the plant is an offset due to an encounter with a chainsaw years ago. I found the plan sawn almost all the way through, so had to remove the top. The offset was quick to appear and the cutting re-rooted with no difficulty.

Maybe I should be nice to it and give it some fertilizer.

Sue

# Mammillaria elongata ‘Gold Nugget’

By Elton Roberts

When I got this plant many years ago the name on the tag was Mammillaria elongata Thompson’s sport, ‘Gold Nugget’. Most of the time I just call it Mamm gold nugget. If some one wants to know what it really is then it is back to Mammillaria elongata ‘Gold Nugget’.

When I sell them that is the name on the tag also. The plant has never bloomed in the years I have had it. I have 2 plants the same size in hanging pots. The stems will grow to about 16 cm long and 1.5 cm in diameter. The areoles are in kind of twisting rows on the stems. They are quite close together making it look like a line of spines. The spines are more like bristles than spines and very dense. You can handle the stems with out getting any spines in your fingers they are so dense. The spines are .5 mm to maybe 2 mm long. Most are shorter like the .5 mm to 1 mm long.

The stems grow to about 16 cm long but they throw side stems and as they grow the plant takes up quite a lot of room on a bench. To save space I put my two plants in to hangers. I am glad that I did, as they make nice hanging plants. In the photos you can see a red dot here and there. I call them krunckles, what they are are really small clusters of heads. In the photo of the close up of the plant you can see one of these red krunckles, note that it looks like it is all warty. Some years ago I got a very strong magnifying glass and took a close look at one. It is many minute heats with extremely small spines on them. Now if you look around the plant more you can see these krunckles a bit older and covered mostly in white wool and bristles. Looking again at the photo of the plant you can see these clusters of heads here and there among the other stems with out the wool and looking just like the rest of the older stems.

In the 3rd photo is a stem with a krunckle that has become a nice cluster of stems. This cluster is now about 5 cm across. Notice just to the right of center is another krunckle that is getting its spines and wool; still some of the red is showing through giving that cluster that pinkish tinge.

Being a Mammillaria elongata the plants have taken 10 degrees of frost with out any damage. The plants are kept dry over the winter. They are in my regular soil mix. The side stems will throw roots at the base of the stem where it connects to the other stem. At times I will take a lot of these stems and get them growing so others can enjoy this wonderful plant. I took a lot of stems as I was out of small plants for the sale table. Over the years I have sold maybe 500 plants. Every so often I will see one of the plants in a show.



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**2021c**

# Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

## Membership RENEWAL Application

### Annual Membership Renewals Due by January 1<sup>st</sup>

Single Membership with email newsletter \_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = Waived for 2021

Single Membership with paper newsletter \_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership with email newsletter \_\_\_\_ X \$30.00 = Waived for 2021

Family Membership with paper newsletter \_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

New / Replacement Name Badges \$5.00 EA. # of Badges \_\_\_\_ x \$5 = \_\_\_\_\_

(Make sure name/s are printed legibly below)

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society (FCSS)

Mail to: FCSS – 12307 Gleason Dr Madera, CA 93636

INFORMATION FOR CLUB USE ONLY: [ ] Check here if you don't want your information available on the internet

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Check if Change \_\_\_

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 (\$10)

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