

CACTUS CORNER NEWS
Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society
http: www.fresnocss.org

Vol.23, No. 12

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

December 2014

HOLIDAY PARTY POTLUCK



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center,
5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno

Set-up: 5:30 pm ~ 6:30 pm
Appetizers & Socialization: 6:30 pm ~ 7:00 pm
Dinner: 7:00 pm

The club will provide tri-tip, table service, coffee and water. You provide your favorite potluck recipe: 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 a silent auction featuring books donated to the club by the family of the late Karen Nichols. Bring plants and/or plant-related items: pots, books, gardening magazines, knick-knacks, jewelry or whatever you think someone might bid on.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS FOR 2015

President: (re-elected) Sue Haffner

Vice President: (re-elected) Rosanna Rojas

Treasurer: (re-elected) Robert Scott

Secretary: (re-elected) Cindy Duwe

Affiliate Representative: (re-elected) Fred Gaumer

Board members: (new) Mary Drumheller, Polly Dunklin, (re-elected) Carole Grosch

Continuing Board Members: terms expire December 31, 2015: Larry Homan, Tom Meyer, and Rudy Rulloda.



**YOUR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WISH YOU MERRY
HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

FROM THE PREZ:**Hi, all,**

Well, here we are at the end of another year. Hard to believe, isn't it? It's just about December and I still have a lot of plants sitting outside where they spent the summer. (I keep hoping that they will get some rain—a vain hope?)

Our Holiday Party Potluck is on the agenda this month. We always have plenty of delicious food and a lot of fun, so I hope all of you can attend. If you don't recall what you signed up to bring, give Nell Lemke a call (435-3954). Conversely, just bring your favorite potluck dish. Don't forget to include a serving spoon or other implement. If you would like to help set up, we will begin at 5:30.

The silent auction this year will feature books donated to the club by the family of the late Karen Nichols. The gem of this collection is "The Succulent Euphorbiae" (1941) by White, Dyer and Sloan, a 2-volume set that has always been hard to find at a reasonable price. Here's your chance. There are a number of other books, as well. (I'm thinking we may need an extra table for the books, so if you can possibly bring a 6' or 8' table we can use, it would be much appreciated. Otherwise, all our available tables will be put to use for the dinner as well as for the rest of the silent auction items.) I'll be hanging around the book table so be sure to direct any questions my way.

As the year closes, I want to thank our officers and chairpersons for all their efforts in 2014. They are all busy people but they were very conscientious in their service to the club. Rosanna Rojas arranged the monthly programs and was liaison with the speakers. Rob Scott took care of the Treasurer's duties and suggested such innovations as the club getting its own iPad. Cindy Duwe served as Secretary and volunteered as Show Chairman. She also arranged the fall bus trip. Cindy, you deserve a raise! Fred Gaumer is our longtime Affiliate Representative, but is probably more famous as the Brag Table guru. Board members Rudy Rulloda, Tom Meyer, Carole Grosch, Nell Lemke, Dan Gale and Larry Homan shouldered various responsibilities during the year.

Others deserving thanks are Madeleine Mitchell (Library); Paul Mitchell (Plant Opportunity Table); Mariam Orvis (Refreshments); Mary Ann Villegas (newsletter, club photographer and Facebook Admin.); Vickie Veen (Webmaster); Mary Drumheller (Workshops). Thanks, also, to James Rojas who takes the initiative every month to set up chairs (and take them down). It's a big help.

As always, we need to recognize the generosity of Doris Hooton and Tom Meyer in allowing the club to hold board meetings and workshops at their home, as well as our summer picnic. We are so lucky to have them as a resource!

We are fortunate, also, to have access to the wonderful facility at the DHHSC. Many thanks to them and to Susan Coulter, Program Manager.

Last of all, I want to thank all of you for your enthusiasm and support. You are a great group.

See you at the party,

Sue

Club access: President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, rfrojas96@gmail.com; Treasurer, Robert Scott, 960-3665, Rob_scott85@yahoo.com; Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu; Refreshments, Mariam Orvis, 226-0145, mforvet@comcast.net; Librarian, Madeleine Mitchell, 638-2784, madeleine43@comcast.net; Webmaster (vacant); Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, cgg266@comcast.net.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Heather Bogosian-Franks (2nd); Doris Hooton (8th); Russ Lindquist (9th); Ruth Saludes (17th); Doris Gravelle (22nd); Dolores Martin (23rd).*

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**SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:** Mike Emigh, Fresno; Joyce and Chris Perkins, Fresno; Ani Chamichian, Fresno.

**SOME UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE**

March 6-8, 2015: Fresno Spring Home & Garden Show

May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015: Water-Wise Plant Exchange, CSUF Ornamental Horticultural Unit

May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015: Club Summer Picnic

**June 6-7, 2015: Club Show & Sale, Sierra Vista Mall**

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SOME WORDS

Plant names employ the binomial system, with the first word the generic (genus) name; the second word the specific (species) name. There are a lot of rules that govern plant nomenclature, but the specific name sometimes describes an aspect of the plant. Such as:

Maculata = spotted

Macrantha = large-flowered

Macromeris = with many parts, or large ones

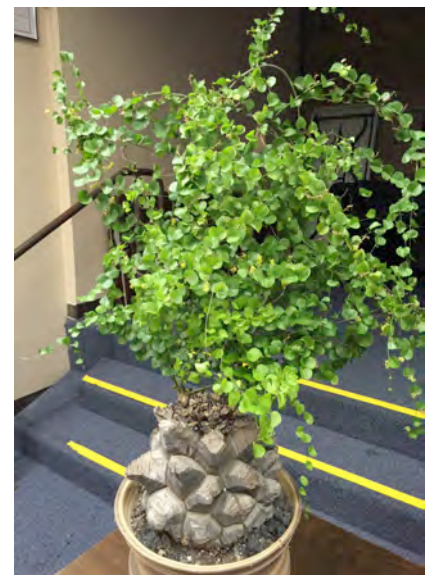
Macrophylla = with large leaves

These names are required to be rendered in a Latinate form, even when adapting a non-Latin word; hence, *Sedum palmeri*, a plant named after someone named Palmer.

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**RENEWAL TIME:** All dues for 2015 are now payable (except for those new members listed above, plus Sherry Alexander and Daniel & Mary Fabela). The renewal form accompanies this newsletter. Please fill it out so that we can keep your information up-to-date.

Photographs below from the November Brag Table taken by Mary Ann Villegas





**NOVEMBER BRAG TABLE:** Bruce Hargreaves exhibited *Dorstenia manii*; Larry Carlberg brought a very imaginative rock garden; Bill Gale showed *Gymnocalycium kieslingii*; Tom Meyer displayed *Aloe ramosissima*; Fred Gaumer brought *Faucaria tigrina* and *Haworthia limifolia v. striata*; Jack Loughmiller showed *Parodia scopa* and *Mammillaria albilanata*. In addition, Dan Gale brought a box of different *Ariocarpus* forms and another box with a variety of plants, some of them quite amazing. Val McCullough showed *Kalanchoe* "Pink Butterflies". Linda Lopez brought a pot with three *Massonia* bulbs showing their gorgeous foliage and *Brighamia insignis*.

This *Brighamia*, which she has grown for a few years, has three heads, all in bloom. Last year all the heads bloomed and set seed, with no assistance from her. This was viable seed, too, as a bunch of baby plants are sprouting around the mama. Very fussy, the plant is only happy standing directly in front of the breeze from the swamp cooler. It sulks if moved. Could the breeze have brought about pollination? If so, why is *Brighamia* so endangered in habitat? Plants cling to cliffs on Kauai, constantly moved by trade winds. Its natural pollinator, a moth, was thought extinct, but has been found. Still, researchers are pollinating habitat plants by hand. Some-times a plant population can exhibit a sort of genetic exhaustion. Could this be true of the plants on Kauai?

I've asked a grower in southern California, who I know has these plants in her greenhouse, about setting seed on *Brighamia*. She has never had this happen spontaneously. Is Linda's plant one of a kind?



Photographs by Mary Ann Villegas



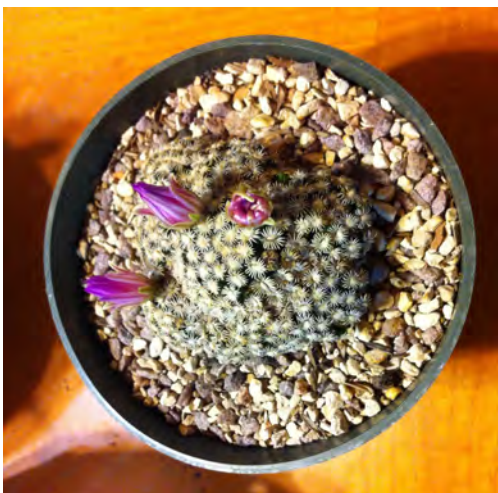
## CLUB WORKSHOP:

The December workshop will be Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup>; 6 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista. The subject will be vegetative propagation—stem and leaf cuttings, and division of clumps of plants. It should be interesting, not to mention it's an opportunity to pick up some new plant starts.

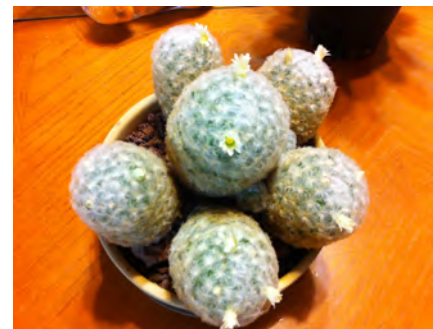
We had a good time at the November workshop as members brought some of their favorite plants. Mary Drumheller, Bill Gale, Polly Dunklin, Dennis Anderson, Jack Fleming, Sue Haffner, Veone Gale, Tom Meyer and Dan Gale participated. Among the specimens brought were *Euphorbia viguieri* v. *ankarafantsiensis*, *Mammillaria plumosa*, *Mammillaria hernandezii*, *Euphorbia hetyotoides*, Aloe 'Home Depot', *Euphorbia poissonii*, and a collection of *Glottiphyllum* species. Sue brought two plants that seemed to be new to the trade this year: a small echeveria, 'Chroma' and a variegated *Faucaria* variety. Both of these are from Altman's.

Ann Bierbower said that she now has her plastic greenhouse put together. Cindy Duwe said that, in lieu of hauling them indoors for the winter, she will have a plant sale on Saturday, Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The workshop is a great place to bring your growing questions. You will find a lot of knowledgeable people there.



Photographs  
by  
Polly Dunklin



## PLEASE DON'T DRINK THE WATER

By Roy Paramour (from *Kaktos Komments*, the Houston C&S Society newsletter)

The three species of ferocactus, usually called "barrel cactus", that occur in the Southwest are best known for having an interior so juicy that they can provide a dying human with a life-saving drink of water. Both Indian and non-Indian have told and retold this myth many times. This is NOT true and is actually dangerous.

Chemical analysis of the liquid from ferocactus indicates that it is too alkaline to aid a human and that a person would be worse off after drinking the liquid. Add to this the water lost through perspiration as a dehydrated person struggles to open the cactus and the story begins to crumble.

The Seri Indians of the Sonoran Desert were aware that eating the pulp of the barrel cactus did not provide life-giving moisture. They knew that the juice of *Ferocactus covillei* caused headaches and the juice from *Ferocactus wislizenii* caused extreme diarrhea and pain to the body.

Although the barrel cactus did not provide water, they did provide food. All products of the plant's reproductive cycle were consumed and, for this reason, the harvest lasted several months. Women collected the buds in early spring, the flowers in late spring and the fruits in early summer. These parts were parboiled to remove bitterness and then eaten or dried in the sun for storage. The cooked fruit tastes like artichoke and the flowers taste like Brussels sprouts.

Sometimes a slice of the cactus, with the spines removed, was roasted, wrapped in cloth and applied to sore places for the relief of pain.



## NOPALES SALAD WITH LIME AND CILANTRO

2 large cactus pads, scrubbed of thorns, rinsed and cut into ½ inch, diced  
Water  
Salt, to taste  
1 medium tomato, chopped  
1 Serrano or jalapeno chili, seeded and minced  
¼ small red onion, chopped  
¼ cup minced cilantro  
Juice of 1 lime  
6 lettuce leaves, optional



Put diced cactus into a saucepan of cold water to cover. Add a pinch of salt and bring to a Boil. Cook four minutes until tender. Drain and rinse under cold water. Combine cactus with remaining ingredients except lettuce and mix well. Serve on leaf lettuce or in small cocktail glasses as an appetizer. Makes 6 servings.

(From: *Cactus Chatter*, the Oregon C&S Society newsletter, Jan.-Feb. 2013)

## THE RIC RAC CACTI

There are several cacti that are called the “Ric Rac Cacti” because of their deeply lobed branches. The lobes vary from angular, toothed or rounded—sometimes all on the same plant. Because of this variable character it can be difficult to identify one from another when they are not in bloom.

The plants in this category are *Epiphyllum anguliger*, *Selenicereus anthonyanus* and *Weberocereus imitans*.

*Epiphyllum anguliger* is native to the states of southwest Mexico (Guerrero, Jalisco, Nayarit and Oaxaca). The stems are deeply lobed, the lobes more or less triangular—though the shapes differ on different plants. The night-blooming flowers usually appear in November. They are 3 to 6 inches in diameter, fragrant, white with lemon, gold or tan back petals.



*Selenicereus anthonyanus* (lower left) is native to Chiapas, Mexico. You see it listed in old books as *Cryptocereus anthonyanus*. Introduced into cultivation in 1950, it seems to be more tolerant of a wider range of conditions than the other two listed here. It is a climbing epiphyte with deeply dentate-lobed stems. The fragrant night-blooming flowers, 4-6 inches in diameter, appear in July, have purple back petals and white inner petals. In nature it can become a huge plant. To prevent it getting out of hand—and also to encourage blooming—keep it in a small pot. It seems more inclined to bloom when root-bound.



*Weberocereus imitans* is rarer in cultivation than the other two. It is native to Costa Rica; has flat, deeply pinnately-lobed stems; spreads by repeated branching and rooting. It is a shy bloomer, being very sensitive to any changes in its atmosphere, dropping its buds if the temperature or humidity is not to its liking. It requires tropical growing conditions. Since its discovery in 1902 it has undergone numerous name changes. (Ill. From “New Cactus Lexicon”)

*Sue*





# Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

## Membership Application / Renewal

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

Single Membership renewal \$15.00    Family Membership renewal \$25.00

**New memberships** include a one-time fee of \$7.00 per member for each name badge as follows:

Single Membership \$15.00 plus one name badge \$7.00: Total = \$22.00

Family Membership \$25.00 plus two name badges \$14.00: Total = \$39.00

**Checks payable to: Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society (FC&SS)**

**Mail to: FC&SS 3015 Timmy Avenue, Clovis, CA 93612-4849**

### INFORMATION FOR CLUB USE ONLY:

*The club publishes an annual Roster containing all current members' information as shown above and distributes it to club members. If you do not wish to have some of your information printed in the Roster place an  at the end of any line you wish to have omitted. If you wish to change the information enter the change in the line to the right.*

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

I am interested in helping out in the following areas. Please contact me.     Show & Sale     Programs

Library     Publicity     Technology     Refreshments     Hospitality     Sunshine     Special Events

**Do you wish to receive the club's newsletter 'Cactus Corner News' by email?  or mail?**

**\*\*\* Due to increasing mailing costs, we encourage members to receive their newsletters electronically. For those members who do not have access to the Internet the newsletter will be sent by postal mail.**

~ Please read and complete ~

### Newsletter: *Cactus Corner News*

*By signing the form below, you give your permission for photographs for use 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 Thanks.     Yes, I agree to the uses of these materials described above, except for any restrictions noted below:

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