

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

[www.fresnocss.com](http://www.fresnocss.com)

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Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

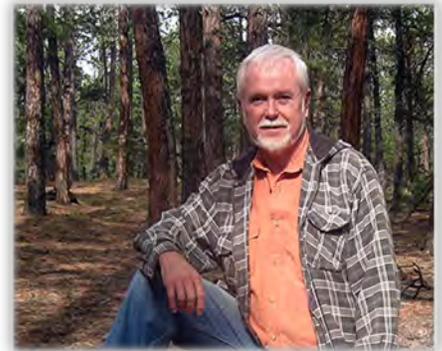
August 2017

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 3, 7:00 pm. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)  
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service Center (DHHSC), 5340 North Fresno Street, Fresno**

**PROGRAM: Lithops: The Wild and the Tame**

**PRESENTER: Doug Dawson**

Doug began his passion for *Lithops* in the 1990's. Previous to then, he would occasionally buy one and shortly thereafter kill the poor thing. During the last 20 years he has grown most of his lithops from seed in the extremely harsh desert climate of Phoenix. The four summer months have regular temperatures at night around 90deg and days around 110deg. Doug will discuss what it takes to keep these colorful "living stones" alive.



The PowerPoint will display many photos of what the plants look like in habitat in Namibia and South Africa. Then photos of plants in Doug's collection will be shown, with many colorful cultivars as well as many of the species and varieties.

For those of you who are not yet open to including lithops in your collection, it is hoped that you will be convinced to give them a try.



Doug is a retired math professor and does extensive botanical travels to areas of the world where succulents grow, include Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Yemen, Socotra, Africa, and his own state of Arizona. He has organized 15 botanical exploratory trips to South Africa and Namibia, camping on local farms and public areas for three weeks and exploring the surrounding mountains and hills by day. He just returned about one month ago from his latest explorations in South Africa.

One of his key interests has been seed-growing of cacti and succulents. Other interests are photography and PowerPoints with succulent content. He has delivered many workshops and speaking engagements in Arizona and other states.

(Continued on following page)

He has a background in German and French. Nowadays Afrikaans has become a much more useful language for him in rural South African and Namibian areas.

Doug's private plant collection emphasizes seedlings, Lithops, other Mesembs, Northern Cape Crassulas, and Arizona natives. He is a member of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society and the Desert Botanical Garden.



*Let's give Doug a warm welcome to our club*

~ DINNER ~

**BJ Restaurant & Brewhouse**  
715 East Shaw Avenue  
Fresno (559) 570-1900  
[bjsrestaurants.com/menu](http://bjsrestaurants.com/menu)

**Begins promptly at 5:00 pm.**  
**Reservations under Fresno**  
**Cactus Club.**  
**Members are invited to attend.**

**Contact Rosanna Rojas by**  
**Wednesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> to**  
**make reservations. Phone:**  
**(559) 999-0017**  
**Email: [rfrojas@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas@gmail.com)**

**The Big Fresno Fair** is almost upon us (Oct 4 - 15). The club will be participating and will need volunteers as Plant Monitors. The monitors will be meeting the public and answering questions about cacti and succulents. You don't have to be expert about cacti and succulents, since you'll be distributing information about growing and caring about cacti and succulents. In addition, you'll be providing information about our club and activities.

Two hours are required to receive an admission and parking passes. After your two hours, you are free to enjoy the rest of the Fair. If you decide to go over four hours, you'll only need a photo badge (instead of admission pass) and you'll only receive parking passes. The list of date and time schedule will be available at our September meeting. So please consider to volunteer as Plant Monitors.

***Rudy Rulloda, Chair***

**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, Robert Scott, 960-3665, [Rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:Rob_scott85@yahoo.com); Editor, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Refreshments, Marian Orvis, 226-0145, [mforvet@comcast.net](mailto:mforvet@comcast.net); Librarian, Madeleine Mitchell, 638-2784, [madeleine43@comcast.net](mailto:madeleine43@comcast.net); Webmaster, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com); Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net).

**FROM THE PREZ ...**

**Hi, all,**

We had a very interesting and involving program last month. Peter Walkowiak did a bravura turn as he repotted and staged several cacti and succulents before one of the largest—or maybe the largest—audiences we’ve ever had (85). I realize that people in the back of the room had a hard time hearing and seeing the demonstration. (We need to invest in a hands-free microphone, I think). Still, the noise level kept rising as people were apparently having their own small group discussions. The next time we have a similar program we will have to arrange the room differently so that more people have a better view.

Peter uses DG (decomposed granite) in his potting mix. This is kind of controversial in some quarters, but the procedure works for him. If you want to experiment with DG, just use it with a few plants and see how they do. If your plants seem to be growing well, don’t change your mix or your routines just because someone else does things differently.

I confess to some trepidation when Peter dumped his mix out onto the table. But it didn’t make as big a mess as it might have. And here I have to thank Pat Schroyer—she had the vacuum cleaner out right away and started cleaning up the room as soon as the chairs had been put away. This is something we need to do every month. Thanks, Pat!

And speaking of the DHHSC, we’ve been informed that they are raising the room rent from \$40 per hour to \$70, and will now charge us for set-up time (they hadn’t before.) So our room rent has, basically, tripled. They will now charge \$10 for the use of their projector or laptop. For this, I don’t blame them, as their equipment suffers a lot of wear and tear. Most of our speakers bring their own equipment anyway.

Well, this brings us to another subject—club finances. We’re a sizeable and growing club; our community profile is increasing and so are our expenses. Our dues have been at their present level for a long, long time. I am going to ask the board to come up with a new dues structure to present to the membership for approval.

Our program this month is about Lithops, one of the more charismatic and interesting genera. I’ve seen Doug Dawson speak on Lithops before and his presentations are fascinating. Do yourself a favor and don’t miss it.

See you at the meeting, *Sue*

**LITTLE BLAST FROM THE PAST:** I was going through some issues of the CSSA newsletter *To The Point* (sadly, no longer published) when I found an article in the Nov-Dec 1999 issue with my name on it. “Who are all these people?” It was an illustrated account of our construction of the desert garden that we used to do at the Fresno Fair. In the photos you see Burma Gunther, Frank Orvis, Joyce Quinn, Mark Muradian, Marlene Myatt, Veone Gale, Sue Haffner and Marjorie McQuiston as we work to place the plants and cuttings into some sort of landscape. (I don’t recall who took the photos.) Ah, memories. We used to create this garden every year in the old Wine and Roses Building. This must have been one of the last we did, as the building was soon afterward torn down for the new midway. I think it was approximately where the bandstand is now. And where are “all those people?” Well, Frank, Mark, Veone and I are still around. Burma, Joyce and Marlene moved away. Marjorie, not currently a member, still lives in Fresno. *Sue*

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Board Meeting Minutes July 10, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:58 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. Present were: Fred Gaumer, Dennis Anderson, Rosanna Rojas, Cindy Duwe, Mary Drumheller, Jim Brummel, Michele and Craig Roberts, Ann Bierbower, Robert Scott and myself, Karen Willoughby.

### Officer Reports:

**President:** August Newsletter submissions need to be in to Sue by July 23 as she will be attending the national convention and will be out of town from July 26-July 31st. Workshop venues will be at the Betty Rodriguez Regional Library for the months of July, August, October and November. September workshop will be at 3733 N. Sierra Vista, Fresno. Sue presented a list of books that Roz Tambone has donated to the club. Some of the books are duplicates of those already in our library and selling them on Ebay will be investigated by Robert Scott.

**Vice-President:** Rosanna reported that our speaker for August will be Doug Dawson who will be speaking on Lithops. She reports that he will not be bringing sale plants and Rosanna will be asking members to bring sale plants to this meeting. September meeting topic will be last minute show preparations as set up for the show will be the day following our meeting. Member sale night will be October and Peter Biersdorfer will be the speaker in November.

**Treasurer:** Robert Scott reported that balance on hand was \$6,066.56. He was working on the financial statements needed for submission of the 501C3 application to the IRS.

**Secretary/Facebook Chairman:** I reported that the number of "likes" that we had on our page had grown to 2779. Activity on the page always increases after a meeting and posting of the meeting brag table pics and presentation pictures. There has also been an increase in people wanting the club to buy cactus specimens and remove them by the public members and to volunteer time for various community projects. The need to post show and sales reminders on our page regularly was also discussed.

**Affiliate Representative:** Fred discussed the upcoming symposium at the Huntington and also the society convention in Tucson. Sue will be attending.

### Old Business:

**5013c:** Cindy reported that the paperwork had been completed and was just waiting for the financial reports for the last two years from Robert before she could submit to the IRS.

**2017 Show and sale:** Both Rob and Ann gave progress reports on the planning for the show and sale. Rob discussed vendor rules which will be revised on the vendor hand-out. Ann had the tags for plant registration at the show to share and also "hands-off" signs to be placed on the show tables. A sales poster needs to be designed. Ann was to ask MaryAnn Villegas to see if she would design a new poster for this show and sale. Ann had a sample of the tablecloth she wants to order. A motion was made by Rob and seconded by Craig and passed by acclamation to order 30 of these tables clothes at \$10 each. Vests for volunteers like those used at the Central Coast show and sale was proposed by Ann who had samples for the group to see. 30 would be needed but no decision was made at this time to go ahead and order as several members were going to look into other sources. Ann discussed judging standards for the show and these were reviewed by the group. Ribbons had not yet been ordered or priced.

**Further old business or new business:** There was none.

**Next board meeting will be August 7th. The meeting was adjourned by Sue at 7:00 p.m.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Rudy Rulloda (2<sup>nd</sup>);



Kevin Ruth Mahoney (8<sup>th</sup>);  
Howard McLachlin (10<sup>th</sup>);  
Jeanette Heinrichs (13<sup>th</sup>);  
Lucy Mays (18<sup>th</sup>);  
Frances Cardenas (22<sup>nd</sup>);  
Lisa Brew (28<sup>th</sup>).

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#### SAY HELLO TO THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Debra McFarren, Reedley  
Pamela Andrews, Fresno  
George Kirkorian, Fresno  
(Welcome back to Pamela and George!)

WELCOME

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**Visitors last month:** Cori Aunger, Carol Qualls, Robin Harvey, Josie & Lucy Wall, Debra McFarren (and a lot of others who didn't sign in, as our attendance was 85, probably a record!)

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A sympathy card was sent to Ed Myhro, as there was a death in his family.

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#### BIG EVENT THIS MONTH

32<sup>nd</sup> Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale,  
August 12-13, Los Angeles County Arboretum,  
301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia, CA;  
hours: 9-5 both days.

This is probably the largest cactus and succulent show in the world, and always worth a visit. Usually upwards of 1,500 plants will be on display, with 24 vendors selling plants, pots and supplies. The show is free, but there is an admission charge for the Arboretum. For more information: [www.sgvccs.com](http://www.sgvccs.com) or [intercityshow@gmail.com](mailto:intercityshow@gmail.com).



#### ANOTHER EVENT

**34<sup>th</sup> Succulent Plan Symposium, Saturday, Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>,** Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino CA. This is a "total immersion" day for cactus and succulent fanatics—world class speakers; shopping in the Huntington nursery; touring the grounds on your own time; a silent auction which will feature (I've been there) some of the most eye-popping plants you'll ever have the opportunity to bid on. August 29<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register. Yes, the registration is \$85, but with that you get a continental breakfast and lunch. If they are still using the same caterer, lunch will be delicious Mediterranean food, and lots of it. You can go back for seconds. There is also an afternoon reception, sometimes in the nursery, sometimes in the Botanical Center—beer, soft drinks, chips and dips.

Last month Peter Walkowiak passed out flyers for this event; I hope you picked one up.

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#### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

The newsletter could use some pictures of members' plants and gardens. If you have a plant in spectacular bloom or otherwise looking great, snap some photos and email them to me ([sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu)) or Mary Ann ([maryann@maracast.com](mailto:maryann@maracast.com)). Also, if you would like to write an article, please don't be shy; I think it's important to "hear" a different voice. Or perhaps you have a question that you would like addressed. Let us know.

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#### An interesting website:

**LE CACTUS HEURISTIQUE**

[www.lecactusheuristique.com](http://www.lecactusheuristique.com) The text is in French, but there are photo albums of many cacti and succulents. It's especially good for the identification of hardy opuntia.

**JULY BRAG TABLE:** Fred Gaumer showed *Pachypodium saundersii* 'Compactum'. Ann Bierbower brought several cacti: *Denmoza rhodacantha* (in bloom); *Denmoza rhodacantha* v. *diamantina*, *Mammillaria carmenae* v. *rubripina*). Jack Fleming displayed *Ceraria namaquensis*. Bill Gale brought in a pedilanthus crest and a variegated adenium. Ruth Saludes showed *Operculacaria decaryi*. Dan Gale displayed an adenium and *Cyphostemma currori*. Charlene Stebles brought in four plants just to show that plants will survive and bloom even though they hadn't had much care in the past year. It was a good object lesson in how tough succulents are. *Thanks to everyone who participated.*



Photos by Karen Willoughby

**JULY WORKSHOP:** The plant topics for the July workshop were those in genera starting with M and N. We looked at *Mammillaria*, *Maihueiopsis*, *Matucana*, *Melocactus*, *Monadenium*, *Mestoklema*, *Notocactus*, *Neoporteria*, *Neochilenia*, *Neobuxbaumia* and others. Bringing plants for discussion were Dennis Anderson, Sue Haffner, Ann Bierbower, Jack Fleming, Cindy Duwe, Roz Tampone, Bill Gale, Mary Drumheller and Dan Gale. Other plants shown off were *Euphorbia decaryi* ssp *spirosticha* growing in a small strawberry jar (Jack); a dioscorea collection: *D. elephantipes*, *D. hemicrypta*, *D. mexicana* (Dan). Dan also showed *Adenium swazicum*, *Astrophytum caput medusae*, an ariocarpus, a pachypodium and a variegated lemon, "Lemonade", he found at a Sanger nursery. Even the fruit is variegated. Roz brought some plants she is intending to enter in the September show to get some advice on how to present them. Mary displayed a collection of multi-headed mammillarias that looked great. Bill brought an adansonia (beobab) that he had grown from seed, a nicely branched specimen. Dennis brought in a tray of just-picked tomatoes to give away. Dan offered white peaches and aloe plants. (Tomatoes! White peaches! See what you missed by not being there?) The August workshop will be Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at the Betty Rodriguez Library, 3040 N. Cedar. Discussion topics will be cactus and succulent genera O and P. Bring your questions regarding your show plants—identification, potting, grooming, etc.

Photos by  
Ann  
Bierbower

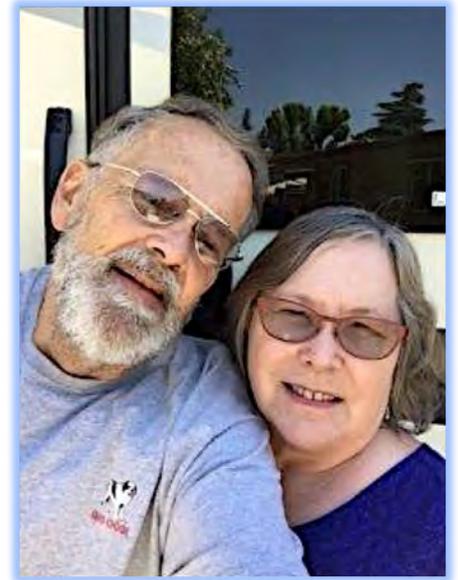


## Getting To Know You . . .

### Janet and Jim Brummel

"We came to learn about FC&SS through our neighbor, Ruth Saludes, who said you are a fun and friendly bunch," explained Jan Brummel when asked how she and her husband became acquainted with our club.

Born in Indiana and originally from an Air Force military family, Jan had the opportunity to live in several locations: Wisconsin, Ohio, South Dakota, Georgia, Kentucky and England. In 1970, she graduated from South Dakota State University with a BA in French and English. That was also the year she and Jim were married.



Jan was a teacher for Fresno Unified and taught at Hoover High School. She became a Master Gardener in 2007 and says she "likes to work with all plants, vegetables and is learning about cacti and succulents more recently." She notes that it's difficult to learn about gardening in the North and Midwest, then to transfer that knowledge to a hot, desert climate. She says she enjoys learning about cacti and succulents in the desert. Gardening is a favorite activity along with knitting, sewing and quilting.

Jim was born in South Dakota. Both of his parents were teachers and the family moved to California when he was a child. They lived in Lompoc and then Riverside. In 1969, he graduated from South Dakota State University, College of Pharmacy and worked for two years in the Army, then as pharmacist in Red Wing, Minnesota. In California, he worked at Von's, Fresno State Health Center, and Drug Fair in the Tower District. Jim enjoys gardening "anything that lives." Other past times include photography, stamps, fishing and camping.

Jim is now a current member on the club's Board of Directors. In the past, he has helped at plant sales, the Home and Garden Show and in setting up the meeting room on Thursday evenings. "I enjoy working with club members," he says.

"We have three adult children," says Jan. "Two boys and one girl. One is a computer genius and professional musician, another is a lawyer. The daughter is an art teacher. All are married with children. We have six grandchildren, three boys and three girls, aged 4-11. Two are in San Luis Obispo, one in San Francisco, and three in Fresno ."

**Carole Grosch**



## SHOW AND SALE TIDINGS

Submitted by Ann Bierbower

### CLEAN UP THOSE POTS!

Last month Peter Walkowiak showed us how to take a beautiful plant, repot it to an artisan pot, and gracefully set it off with appropriate top dressing. Many of us aren't repotting for the show, but instead are bringing our plants in the clay or plastic pots they have been grown in. But how to clean up those mineral stains and make that plastic shine again?

At this meeting, we'll show you how. Bring one plant in the clay or plastic container that you plan to submit in the show. Starting at 6:30, experienced members will share their techniques and clean up your pot and plant in a workshop format. Bring your own top dressing if you like, or sample one of theirs. Then, place your plant on the brag table so Fred can show it off to everyone



### WANTED: BOX WRANGLER

Needed – One person with truck or van to pick up boxes at Ann's house and bring them to the sale on Friday Sept. 8. Then unload, assemble, and stage the boxes.

Ann has been accumulating boxes all year and has several hundred of the 500 or so we'll need, but she has no way of getting them to the sale, with all the other stuff she'll be bringing. Boxes can be picked up on Thursday evening or Friday before noon.

*Note – If you like this job, feel free to volunteer as the 2018 box wrangler, serving our three sales next year.*



### CHANGE IN SHOW RULES:

Members may keep any ribbons they are awarded at the Show, or, they may donate them back to the club for next year.