

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Vol. 37, No. 1

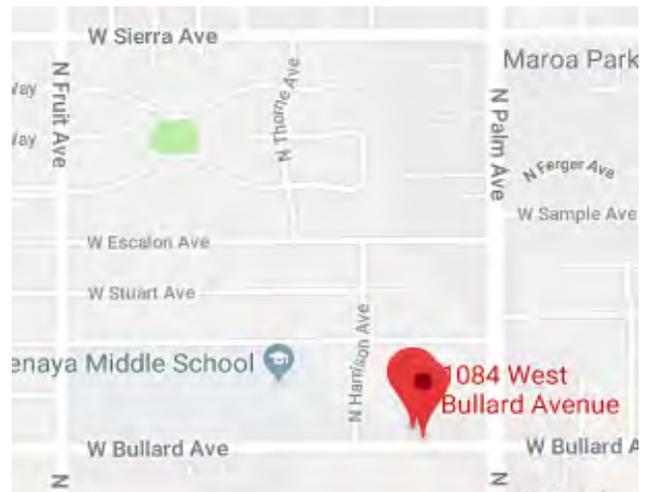
January 2019

NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 3, 2019

7:00 p.m. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

NEW MEETING LOCATION
REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH

1084 West Bullard, Fresno (near the NW corner of Palm and Bullard.) Multipurpose room is a separate building on the north side of the church.



Program:

“BOLIVIA IN BLOOM”

Presented by:

Gary Duke

Gary has selected those photos that show cacti, bromeliads and wildflowers in bloom in the Bolivian spring. His 3-week tour with Guillermo Rivera circled the altiplano with a side trip down into the eastern lowlands around Santa Cruz. He has photos of numerous species of Cleistocactus, Echinopsis, Lobivia, Weingartia, Rebutia, and Sulcorebutia almost all in flower. Sit back and see how beautiful they are in nature.

Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents since he was 10 years old. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever-expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Club in the southern California area. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California.

PLANTS: Gary will be bringing a nice selection of plants for purchase.

~~ DINNER ~~

High Sierra Grill House
2003 West Bullard Avenue
Fresno, (559) 435-8500
[Menu](#)

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

Contact Rosanna by
Wednesday, January 2nd
to make reservations:
Phone: (559) 999-0017



FROM THE PREZ ...

Hi, All,

Here we are at the beginning of a new year and in a new meeting place! It may take us awhile to get our “sea legs”, so to speak, as we navigate this new room which includes a nice kitchen and a sophisticated audio-visual system. But I know we will settle in just fine.

Now that winter is here, be sure to pay attention to weather reports and have on hand the means to protect your outdoor plants from frost. It’s best to cover your plants with cloth or other covers. Pull plants in under the patio or up against a wall or under a tree. Even a small move can make the difference of a few degrees.

In the December newsletter Carole Grosch wrote about her favorite plant. In this issue Karen Willoughby has an article about how she keeps her plants over the winter. How about you? We would like to have articles by other members about their collections—successes, failures, etc—whatever you would like to emphasize. Let me know.

We had a very successful year in 2018, with a number of interesting programs, sales and, of course, our annual show at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. I want to thank each and every one of you who helped with these efforts. Remember that our first goal is education—providing outreach to the community with regard to the culture of cacti and succulents and their use in landscaping. None of this would be possible without the efforts of all our members.

There is so much to look forward to in this new year. I hope you will renew your membership and be a part of it.

See you at the meeting,

Sue



JANUARY BOARD MEETING:

The board meeting will be Monday, January 7th, 6:00 p.m., at 3733 N. Sierra Vista.
The chief order of business will be the appointment of chairman-ships for the upcoming year.

Any member is welcome to attend.

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society Board Meeting - December 10, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by President Sue Haffner. Present were Michele & Craig Roberts, Rosanna Rojas, Fred Gaumer, Bill Gale, Cindy Duwe, Rob Scott, myself, Karen Willoughby.

Absent were Jim Brummel and Marilyn Carter.

Officer Reports:

President: Sue notified the board this will be her last year as President.

Vice-President: January speaker will be Gary Duke, topic is perhaps Bolivia in bloom.

Treasurer: Michele gave a report of the current balance and bills paid in the last month.

Old Business:

Christmas Party: 58 members and guests attended. A good time was had by all and the silent auction was quite successful too.

New Meeting Place: New location was discussed. The need to make sure members know of the change via the website and Facebook was discussed. New club business cards will need to be ordered. A sign should be placed on the door of the old location in case people show up there in January.

Library: Changes in the function of our library was discussed since we cannot keep the whole library at the new location. Marilyn will look into getting a rolling cart and a questionnaire that was sent to Sue by Marilyn to get a better understanding of who uses the library and how it will operate at the new location.

A/V System: Craig is working on this.

Show and sale venue: Use of the Fairgrounds as an alternative location is still being investigated by Rob Scott. No decision has been made to us this this location yet.

Standing Rules revision: Different changes to the existing standing rules were discussed with changes proposed by the group.

New Business: A donor form is needed for any donations now that we are a 501(c)3 organization and Sue is working on this.

Spring Picnic: Location and date was discussed. Dennis Shamlian has offered his home for this year and proposed dates are either May 4 or 25. No decision has been made about the date yet.

July meeting will be cancelled this year as it falls on July 4th. The next board meeting is January 7th.

If you would like more information on any of these topics, please speak with a board member.

No other new business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 by President Sue Haffner.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: *Dominic Ortiz (4th); Elton Roberts (5th); Val McCullough (9th); Naomi Bloss (10th); Sherlock Holmes (12th); Dennis Shamlan (13th); Theresa Flemming (15th)*



Christeen Abbot-Heam (16th); Barbara Brown (18th); Mark Muradian, Ed Myhro (20th); Tony Sharp (25th); Jeanine Holli Andersen (27th); Carole Grosch (31st).

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A get-well card was sent to Veone Gale. She is on the mend after a fall.

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We have name badges for Josie DeHart, Jessica Evans, Carrie Wise and Nicholas Wise. Pick them up at the sign-in table.

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There will be limited access to the club library this month. We still have to decide on which books will be at the meeting and how we will store them. In the meantime, the library is housed at Jim and Jan Brummel's home. Ultimately, we will have a selection of books always available at the meetings. Our library cabinet will need to go to storage.

The cabinet is a unique item, designed and built back in the 1980s by former member Dave Bosch and his dad. In a sad coincidence, Dave's obituary was in the Bee last month. He was 74.

*Please bring any overdue library books to this meeting.*

**HOLIDAY POTLUCK PARTY:** (Photos: Karen Willoughby)



**WORKSHOP HOLIDAY PARTY:** On December 19<sup>th</sup> the hardy souls of the workshop abandoned our usual order of business and decided to party, instead. We enjoyed mountains of food and boisterous fellowship (as you can see below):



Photos by Cindy Duwe

**TANGY BRAISED RED CABBAGE (requested recipe from xmas party)**

- 1 Tbs olive oil
- 1 Tbs whole caraway seeds
- 1 medium onion, sliced (1 ½ cups)
- ½ large red cabbage (2 lbs), cored and thinly sliced
- 2 cups grated carrots
- ½ cup dried apricots, sliced
- ½ cup raspberry vinegar or red wine vinegar
- 3 Tbs brown sugar
- 2 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp each ground cumin, ground cinnamon, salt
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 1 Tbs chopped fresh parsley

Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat; add caraway seeds and cook 1 minute or until toasted and fragrant, shaking pan often. Add onion and cook 10 minutes or until beginning to brown. Stir in cabbage, carrots, apricots, vinegar, brown sugar, mustard, cumin, cinnamon, salt and ½ cup water.

Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer covered, 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Remove from heat and stir in walnuts and parsley.

## Cold Weather Care by Karen Willoughby

When I started growing plants seriously many years ago, my first passion was African Violets. As they are indoor plants I really was not faced with keeping them from freezing. When I expanded to growing cactus and succulents more than 20 years ago I had to figure out a way that worked for me to keep my plants alive in our winters. Here are a few things that have worked for me. Initially I covered plants with old sheets and blankets. I continue to do this. Many growers use this method. My back yard resembles a laundry just covered with various old sheets, cloth shower curtains, tablecloths, blankets.

Nothing gets thrown out here, trust me. At the end of our potential freezes which is usually predicted middle of February, I have so much laundry to do and all are folded and put away for the next year. I have also bought freeze cloth which is great too. It can be found at Home Depot, Lowes or other garden centers. It can be used year after year too.

When I lived in Kingsburg I bought several small, portable greenhouses which I continue to use and I heat with a couple utility lights. They are not heavy or expensive and have held up for many years for me. They provide good protection for our relatively mild winters and infrequent freezes. I have included pictures of these structures so you can see my set-up. I use them year-round. I have found these on Ebay basically but also, on Overstock. They have decreased in price over the years. They are not as well made as the first ones I bought but all are made in China.

Like many growers I also bring many plants inside for the winter which makes for a very crowded house for half the year. We all do what we have to do to protect our favorite plants. What tips/tricks do you have to share?



**Club access:** President, Sue Haffner, 292-5624, [sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:sueh@mail.fresnostate.edu); Programs, Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rrojas96@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).

## NEWLY PURCHASED PLANTS



So, you've just acquired some new succulents. One of the first things you should do is unpot them and repot in the potting mix you use for your plants. There are several reasons for this. Watering schedules vary with your growing conditions; someone else's soil in someone else's pot may be easily over or under watered on your regular regimen.

If you bought your plants from a commercial grower in southern California, it's possible that they are potted in pure pumice, which might not work in our hot, dry climate (unless you want to water just about every day.) If you got the plant in a nursery shop, be aware that these plants were shipped to our area and that a chief concern of the shipper is weight—so the plants may be in a lightweight soilless mix.

Remove the original potting material from the plant's roots. A lot of people use a blunt instrument, such as a chopstick, to tease away the old mix. Others may use a small, sharp knife. Examine the roots while you are doing this and detach any dead ones. If the plant was pot-bound, the roots may be in a tight mass and need to be loosened. Some growers recommend that you cut off any root that forms a 90° angle at the bottom of the pot. Cut at the bend; you can leave the stub attached to the plant.

Depending on what you find when you repot, you need to determine if the plant needs to go into a larger pot or whether it can stay in the same size pot. Use common sense with respect to soil type. Large stubby roots need a coarse mix with chunks of drainage material, such as pumice. Those plants with more finely textured roots prefer a slightly "tighter" mix, but one that is still open to allow lots of air to penetrate to the roots.

With cacti, let the plant rest in the new pot for a few days before watering. With leaf succulents—and depending on how much surgery was done on the roots—I will give them a drink to settle the new mix and keep them in the shade for a few days.

**Sue**



*Here's a photo of a nolina in bloom earlier this year in the Clovis Botanical Garden. It originally came from the garden of our late member Herb Thorne.*

### INTERESTING WEBSITE:

[www.ruthbancroftgarden.tumblr.com](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.tumblr.com)

This has miscellaneous observations and photos mostly by Brian Kemble, curator of the Bancroft Garden.



## THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

BOTANICAL GARDENS

### **DESERT FORUM** *Saturday, 19 January 2019*

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

9:00 – 9:45

##### **Registration**

Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission. In order to receive free admission, you must arrive by 9:45. Late arrivers will need to pay for Huntington admission.

9:00 – 10:00

Coffee and doughnuts will be available in the lower section of the Desert Garden

9:00 – 11:00

##### **Desert Garden**

- Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
- Aloes will be flowering

11:00 – 1:00

##### **Plant Sales – (exclusively for CSSA and club members)**

Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping, and no shopping after 1:00.* Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted

1:00 – 5:00

##### **Free Time**

Participants are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries from 10:00 to 5:00.

##### **Lunch:**

- Café 1919 in the visitor center features a variety of sandwiches, salads, and grilled items
- The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a nice option for Asian food
- Red Car (coffee shop), located near the Store, offers a small selection of pre-made options