

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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Next Meeting Thursday February 6th 7 PM Redeemer Lutheran Church 1084 W Bullard

### The New, Rare and Seldom Seen Cacti and Succulents of Mexico

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich 2017



Mexico is considered by many to be one of the richest regions in the world for cacti. From the United States to the north, to its southern border of Guatemala, there are an amazing number of genera and species to be found. These range from the tiny *Turbincarpus* to the giant *Pachycereus*. Within the reaches of Mexico, there are many diverse geologic environments. These habitats vary from the coastal and inland low lands to its many high mountain niches. For almost 50 years, I have been lucky enough to have traveled most all of Mexico. Thus, my favorite regions

for exploring include the most popular Baja California, to the mysterious Sierra Madre Occidental, and the succulent rich Sierra Madre Oriental. It is from these famous territories that the majority of the highly desired collector's taxa are to be found.



One might think that Mexico, being so close to the United States, would have been totally explored and there would be nothing new to find. Nothing could be further from truth! We are now finding new species of cacti and other succulents at an astonishing rate. These new finds have become a reality mainly because of the construction of many new roads leading us into what was previously unexplored territory. Coahuila, Durango and Zacatecas embody many of these remote regions where few explorers have had the opportunity to botanize. And now, these areas are rapidly opening up!

The ever-popular genera of: *Agave*, *Dasylerion*, *Fouquieria*, *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Aztekium*, *Echeveria*, *Gymnocactus*, *Mammillaria*, *Pelecephora* and *Turbincarpus*, are just a few of the genera where the addition of new species has become common. Due to all of the excitement and interest in these new plants, there have been numerous negative side effects that have evolved. This increased interest in these new plants, combined with the commercial powers of the internet/google, has created new distribution avenues for the marketing of the rare and or endangered species. Plants I have seen for many, many years are now facing new threats from commercial collecting. CITIES and the enforcement of local and international laws, regarding illegally collected plants, has had very little impact on curtailing the destruction of specific plant populations. This is especially true when plants are new or highly desired because of their scarcity in the collector's circuit.



Come join me, as I will show you many of the new cacti and other succulents of Mexico. Also, I hope to share with you what is happening to these wonderful plants, partly as a result of our new electronic world and the power of money!

## FROM THE PREZ...

It may not seem like it, but spring is around the corner. This means it's almost time for The Fresno Home and Garden Show, which takes place March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a big event for our local vendors and is a great opportunity to find some amazing plants. The club needs volunteers to help run checkout and package plants. This year we will be trying our new barcode scanning system. The new system is expected to help cut down wait times at checkout while streamlining the process for our volunteers. Volunteers will also receive free admission. Come help for a few hours, shop for plants, and enjoy the fairgrounds! It's a really fun event! Volunteer signups will be held at our February meeting.



Speaking of our new barcode system, we are in need of a few more items to get things up and running. We are looking for donations of older iPads or Tablets to use for checkout. Anything helps, and donation letters will be given for the items.

It's also time to renew your membership if you have not done so already. Please see Craig Roberts at the meeting to fill out a membership form and pay your dues. If you do not renew this will be your last newsletter.

See you at the meeting!

*Robert*



**Brag Table Photos From Karen Willoughby**

# Farewell to a Friend of FCSS

## Jim Brummel 1945-2019

We were so shocked and saddened to hear of Jim's death on January 5<sup>th</sup>. It was just short of his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had just finished his term on the board of directors, where he actively engaged in club business and provided many suggestions and comments. We fully expected that he would continue to be involved in club activities. Our condolences go out to Jan and the family.

Jim was from South Dakota originally. When he was still a child, his parents, school teachers, moved out to California. They lived in Lompoc and then in Riverside. In 1969 Jim graduated from South Dakota State University College of Pharmacy and began a two-year stint in the Army. He mentioned to me that he was stationed at Fort Campbell, KY. In 1970 he married Jan, who had just graduated from South Dakota State University with a degree in English and French. In Fresno Jim was a pharmacist at Drug Fair, Von's and the Fresno State Health Center. In later years he was a fill-in pharmacist at the Medicine Shoppe on Gettysburg. Besides gardening, his other interests included photography, stamp collecting, fishing and camping. He and Jan have three children and six grandchildren.

He was a kind and thoughtful person, and will be missed by many.

Sue



We had a great workshop in January, with a lot of participation. Bringing plants for show-and-tell and identification were Cindy Duwe, Sue Haffner, Karen Willoughby, Mary Drumheller, Bill Gale, Eddie Etheridge, Dennis Anderson, Jack Fleming, Edie Chaney, Nancy Jobin and Dan Gale. A lot of people brought aloes and we tried to identify the hybrids. We also had these other 'A' plants: adeniums, aztekium, abrometiella, agave, astrophytum and acanthocalycium. We discussed Roz Tamponne's question about lithops--should she water her plants now, as they are starting to look wrinkly. The consensus is that no, no watering. You might spritz them with a fine mist; no more than that. They are transitioning to their new bodies.

The February workshop will be THURSDAY, Feb. 20th, at the SUNNYSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY, 6 p.m. (The Rodriguez Branch is not available.) Genera under discussion start with B,C and D.

### Brief Biography of Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly known, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Having been a speaker all over the world, Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He is also recognized for having operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's show quality plants are often considered one of the standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus, Uebelmannia, and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles and reviews in various journals (CSSA) and his photography is featured in many books including; "The Copiapoa" by Schulz, "The Mammillaria Handbook" by Pilbeam, "The Cactus Lexicon" By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book "The Xerophile." This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world. He is also featured in electronic articles about conservation from "MNN Mother Nature Network" and "The Guardian Newspaper."

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years where he taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In the cactus and succulent hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. As an educator, he has become an important part of the hobby and thus is an honorary life member of eleven C&S societies. With 49 years in the hobby and 64 years in the field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.

# FCSS board meeting minutes 1/6/20

Called to order at 6:00 by President Rob Scott. Attending were Rosanna Rojas, Bill Gale, Michele & Craig Roberts, Dominic Ortiz, Christeen Abbott, Sue Haffner and myself, Karen Willoughby.

## Officer Reports:

**President:** Discussion in new business.

**Vice-President:** Speaker in February will be Woody Minnich

**Treasurer:** Michele reported on the current financial status of the club.

**Membership:** Craig reports that only about 50% of members have renewed at this point.

**Affiliate Rep:** Huntington Desert Forum is January 18th. Sue also reports she has CSSA membership information for those interested.

## Old Business:

**Sale check out:** Rob reported on the progress of instituting a barcode system to be used at the Home & Garden show and the 2020 Show & Sale in May  
. Approval was given to authorize obtaining the equipment needed to implement these procedures.

## New Business:

**Table cloths:** Cindy will be laundering the club table cloths in preparation for both events.

**Appreciation gift:** A gift card for Mary Ann Villegas was approved to thank her for all her help in formatting the newsletter was approved.

**Workshop location:** Workshop locations for the future were discussed.

**Home & Garden Show:** Set up will be March 5th for the March 6-8th event was discussed. We will have the same location as last year.

No other new business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned at 7:03.

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

Respectfully submitted, Karen Willoughby, Secretary

Please take a minute and renew your FCSS membership. It only takes a few minutes and doesn't even cost as much as an evening dinner out!  
The RENEWAL FORM can be found at the end of this newsletter.  
Fill it out ahead of time and have it ready, make a copy and bring a friend to join too!

This month's Pre Meeting Dinner will be at: High Sierra Grill SW corner Bullard & West 5 PM sharp!  
RSVP with Rosanna 999-0017 by Wednesday

## Club access:

President, Robert Scott, 559-960-3665, [rob\\_scott85@yahoo.com](mailto:rob_scott85@yahoo.com), Rosanna Rojas, 999-0017, [rfrojas96@gmail.com](mailto:rfrojas96@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);

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# SOME SHOTS FROM THE BRAG TABLE AT THE JANUARY MEETING

**Karen Willoughby  
Photographs**



Jan 2020

You	Your Plant
F. Gaurer	Monsonia crassicaule Echinocereus ferriianus v. lindsayi Tyloscolobus buchholzianus Denesia deflexa Chrysochloa deniquei
Eddie Shindler	ALOE X Pruce Thompson Rhipsalis baccifera
Bill Gufe	Euphorbia Suzanne " micku cantha " uaspina
Jack Fleming	Jylkroton wallickei
Dan	agave utahensis Aria fergusonas Pachypodium uaspina
Aphrasia	geometrus echinocera lindsayi echinocera + vigliantini meunier rhipsalis



2020

# Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

## Membership Application: New or Renewal Annual Membership Renewals Due by January 1<sup>st</sup>

Single Membership with email newsletter  X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single Membership with paper newsletter  X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Membership with email newsletter  X \$30.00 = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Family Membership with paper newsletter  X \$40.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

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

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