

# CACTUS CORNER NEWS

## *Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society*

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

*Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America*

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Still NO In Person Meetings...Please stay safe and try to stay active in some way. Remember if you need something we are a club so just reach out. Hope to *see* you soon!

From our Speaker this month: **Jeff Moore;**

I have owned and operated Solana Succulents - a small specialty succulent nursery - near San Diego for over 28 years. I have self-published 4 succulent books over the past 6 years - Spiny Succulents is my most recent. Married with two grown sons.

**Spiny Succulents.**

The talk and powerpoint will follow the flow of the book. I'll show images and talk about the primarily spiny succulents in cultivation: euphorbias, cacti, pachypodiums, alluaudias, fouquierias, and even a few spiny semi-succulent plants such as terrestrial bromeliads and cycads. I will talk about growing tips and take any questions as we go (hopefully with the help of the moderator/host). If anyone wants to buy the book before or after the talk, it can be purchased off of my website:

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

### *Spiny Succulents*

*Euphorbias, cacti, and other sculptural succulents and (mostly) spiny xerophytic plants*



Jeff Moore

## FROM THE PREZ...

Hi Members,

The end of the year is fast approaching and what a year has it been! This also means that winter is coming. We have already started to feel it with recent nighttime temperatures. This is always a stressful time of year when people begin worrying about their plants and what to do with them. It's even worse when you purchased too many over the summer and don't know where to put them. Oops! A general rule is if you're not sure if the plant will make it through winter is best to place it under a covered area to protect it from the cold. Like any type of gardening, it's all trial and error. The club and its members are always here to help, so feel free to reach out anytime with questions.

The changing of the seasons is also bringing a lot of changes to the club. Normally we would be preparing for the election of next year's officers. Due to all the current complications surrounding the pandemic, we can't do that this year and have had to come up with a new plan. The Board Members came together and agreed they would stay in their positions for 2021 to continue to serve our club. The Board has really been working hard behind the scenes this year to keep the club going and providing our members content. Speaking personally, I appreciate every single one of them. Thank you for serving the club.

Along with officer positions, we will also be extending everyone's membership for the coming year to cover 2021. We felt this was the right thing to do as we weren't able to have in person meetings or all of our normal activities this year. We will need to verify everyone's current information, so we are asking you to fill out a membership form for that purpose only. That information can be mailed or emailed to Craig. Some members have shared with us that they wish to send in their dues as donations to help the club run into 2021. If you wish to make a donation as well the information is on the membership form. We also realize that it's going to be extremely difficult to bring in new members in the next year. We have issued new special Pandemic Rates for 2021. This will be applied to only new memberships to help entice them to join. The rates can be found on the membership form.

As you probably expected we won't be having our annual Winter Potluck this year. Instead we will be going digital with a Winter Silent Auction! Just like at the potluck, we will have plants and related items up for auction, but it will all be done via email using Google Forms this year. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, members will receive an email with a link to the list of items, photos, and minimum bid. All you have to do is add your name, bid on the items you would like, and click "submit" at the bottom of the form. At the end of the day, I will let everyone know via email what the highest bid on each item was. If you want to bid higher, all you have to do is change your bid on the form and resubmit your response. You can view the form every day or wait till the end to bid. This will go on till December 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm when we find out the winner of each item. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, winners will bring payment to a spot at River Park Shopping Center from 6-7pm to pick up their items. The pickup will be outside, distant, and safe for everyone picking up items. We thought this would be a fun digital event for the winter season, something that would help the club and possibly get you some new plants! Look for the flyer in this newsletter for more information. If you don't have access to email but would like to participate, please contact a Board Member.

We are asking for donations for the silent auction. If you have a plant, pot, or something gardening relating that you would like to donate for the event, we would greatly appreciate it. We want to make this process safe as well. All you would need to do it send me a clear, well-lit photo of the item you are planning to donate by November 27<sup>th</sup>, but the sooner the better. Then you have two options: to meet a Board Member at an outside location before the deadline, or to bring the item to the pickup location on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-6:00pm. We have a lot going these last few months of 2020. We hope you can join us in our Zoom meetings and help in the upcoming Silent Auction.

Thank you,  
Robert





## Getting to Know You

### Christeen Abbott-Hearn

By Carole Grosch

"Plants and the outdoors are my happy place." says board member, Christeen Abbott-Hearn. "I grew up loving plants. My dad was from a farming family in Idaho and my mom loved to garden."

Abbott-Hearn earned a BS degree in Ornamental Horticulture from UC Davis. Early jobs included positions at Ecke's Poinsettias (Encinitas, CA), Hines Wholesale Nursery (Irvine, CA), and in agricultural crop protection. Currently she is working with insect pheromones as a means of controlling pests in various economically important agricultural crops.



A member of our club for about two years, Abbott-Hearn learned about FCSS from current president, Robert Scott. They met through the California Turtle & Tortoise Club and Scott mentioned FC&SS.

"He was very enthusiastic about the meetings, members and events," remembers Abbott-Hearn. "I went to a FCSS meeting and really enjoyed it. My main reason, other than my fascination with all things plants, was to figure out why my succulents never thrived. I eventually found that the secret to succulent happiness that I was missing was to keep

them on a regular watering schedule albeit less frequently than most other plants. I used to water my succulents on my cactus watering schedule which was whenever I remembered."

Abbott-Hearn has lived many places because her father was a USAir Force pilot; however, she grew up mainly in Vacaville, California.

"My dad lived in Arizona and was a cactus lover," said Abbott-Hearn. "He challenged himself by growing cactus from seeds. As kids, he took my sister, brothers and myself on hikes through the desert and would point out young cacti growing in the shade of another plant. He also took us to the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix many, many times. He gave me cacti that I have to this day. My cacti grew fine but my succulents often suffered."

Abbott-Hearn always wanted to become a master gardener but her time was taken being a mom and working full time. She has a special fondness for ornamental plants and enjoys walking in neighborhoods and assessing yard designs. —>



"I'm currently on the board of directors which I enjoy a lot," she said. "I am still honed in on learning the basics of succulent and cactus care: soil mixes, fertilizer, watering overhead or at ground level, greenhouses vs. patio, ground vs. pot, staging for show plants, etc., but really enjoy the guest speakers and their presentations. The club offers so many opportunities to meet new people with similar interests.

"Our current pandemic has minimized many of the clubs social engagements (field trips, notices of community plant happenings, club shows, etc.) but the monthly meeting via Zoom still offers the guest speakers and an opportunity to interact and ask questions. Once we can get back to our in-person meetings, I'm looking forward to perusing the excess cuttings that members, with more plant material than they need, bring to meetings so that members such as myself to pick up and take home. Most of the plants that are in my picture are ones that I got from the club, some of which I purchased and many from the "help yourself" pile. I am amazed at plants that some of these clippings grew into."

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A **Zoom board meeting** was held and called to order at 6:00 p.m. Attending were Rob Scott, Cindy Duwe, Craig & Michele Roberts, Christeen Abbott, Dom Ortiz, Rosanna Rojas, Sue Haffner and myself, Karen Willoughby. Absent was Bill Gale.

The following items were discussed in detail at the meeting:

1. Membership Dues going forward.
2. Pots/Gifts for the Board.
3. Library.
4. Extending Board positions.
5. December meeting.
6. Next Spring events.

If you have questions regarding any of the above topics, please speak with a board member.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Willoughby, Secretary

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Here is a handy link to a list of Winter Growing Aloes;

[https://www.smgrowers.com/info/brian\\_aloe.pdf](https://www.smgrowers.com/info/brian_aloe.pdf)<https://www.smgrowers.com/>

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### 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); Publisher, Craig Roberts, Refreshments, Nancy Jobin; Webmaster, Vickie Veen, [vickieveen@gmail.com](mailto:vickieveen@gmail.com); Sunshine, Carole Grosch, 323-8602, [cgg266@comcast.net](mailto:cgg266@comcast.net). Librarian, Marilyn Carter, 977-6611, [mkc3253@gmail.com](mailto:mkc3253@gmail.com);

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

