

CACTUS CORNER NEWS

Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

<http://www.fresnocss.com>

Affiliated with the Cactus & Succulent Society of America

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October 2024

THURSDAY, OCTOBER, 3RD, 7:00 P.M. (Doors open 6:30 p.m.)

**REDEEMER LUTHERN CHURCH 1084 West Bullard, Fresno
(Near NW Corner of Palm and Bullard)**

Staging: Bringing Out The Best In Your Plants

Presented by: Karen Ostler



Photo: Laurel Woodley

This presentation offers tips and tricks, as well as ideas, to bring your plants from good to great. It's fun and sometimes silly but shows growers what is possible with the plants we love.

I have been growing cactus since I got my first 'real' cactus; a *Gymnocalycium friedrichii*, now *G. stenopleurum*; in the spring of 1979. That same year, in the fall; I purchased 6 *Mammillarias* in 1/2" pots. I still have two of those plants; *M. albilanata* ssp. *tegelbergiana* and *M. llyodii*.

In the years since I have been involved with both the CSSA and Intercity Shows as a general helper; and have been Show Chair for the Sunset Succulent Society for at least the last 15 years.

Originally, I was living and growing both cactus and succulents in the San Fernando Valley but since moving to the high desert; I decided to concentrate on growing cactus only, focused on *Ariocarpus* and related genera, *Mammillarias*, North and South American *Opuntias*, and *Gymnocalyciums*.

CLUB DINNER

Thursday, October 3rd ~ 4:45 pm

Los Amigos

5088 North Blackstone Avenue

**Phone, text or email Rosanna Furioso-Rojas for reservations
(559) 999-0017**

FROM THE PREZ:**Hi Members,**

Fall is finally here, so time starts speeding up and everyone gets busy for the next 3 months. The Club is no different and we have many procedures and events happening shortly. Look below for the items that will take place soon, so you don't miss out.

Bylaws & Standing Rules Updates

You will receive copies of the Club's updated Bylaws and Standing Rules with this newsletter for your review. The Board got together to update wording, add terms, increase clarification, and reformat these two documents so they may better serve the Club. All members are asked to review these two documents, and we will have a **vote at the November** meeting to accept them. If you find mistakes or need clarification, please contact me.

Club Officer Elections

Did you know the Club is also in an Election year? Well, of course, we do it every year. Nominations for Club officers will take place at the October meeting. Then at the November meeting, they will be voted on and installed in December. If you're interested in running for an office or have questions, please let me know.

We are also looking for someone to take over our library. The person would need to be at all general meetings to pull out the library that's stored at the church and assist people in checking books. It's an easy position and you get to meet the members.

Silent Auction

The highly anticipated Silent Auction is returning this season and will take place right before the Christmas holiday. The Silent Auction will be online and run from **December 2-6**. We went back to an online method as it's easier to run with more items and less chaos at the Holiday Party. **Item pickup will be on December 14** in the church parking lot where we have the general meeting. More details will be coming but now is the time to start donating.

The Silent Auction only works because we receive donated items from the membership to put up for auction. You can bring items for donation to the **October and November meetings**. Items can be anything you think someone would bid on and would like to have. These can be cacti, succulents, other plants, bulbs, cuttings, seeds, pottery, books, holiday décor, garden items, statues, gift cards, top dressings, kitchen items, home décor, clothing, accessories, and much more. If you wish to donate but are unsure of what to get or can't take the time to shop, you can even give a monetary donation. The Club will use monetary donations to purchase amazing plants to be placed up for auction. If you can't attend the meetings, you can even have items sent from Amazon. If you have items and can't make it to the meetings all you have to do is send in a photo of each item by **November 15** and bring the items to the pickup day on December 14. There are so many easy ways to donate but whichever way you choose your items will help make the auction successful.

Holiday Party

Our Holiday Party will be on **December 5** this year. For those new to the Club, this is a party the Club puts on to celebrate the holidays and the end of the year. We will be having a catered dinner together to celebrate. The dinner will be a pasta dinner consisting of 3 different pastas: Shrimp Scampi, Chicken Alfredo, and spaghetti with meatballs. Something other than the typical holiday food we get that time of year. The dinner will also include Caesar and house salad, garlic bread, and a variety of desserts and drinks. We had this dinner last year and it was a big hit. This time we are making it so all pasta options will be available to you, so you can have some of each type. We will also have a wider selection of desserts for you to choose from. You won't be leaving hungry! **Tickets for dinner are \$10.00 a person** and tickets will be available starting at the October meeting. We will have the option of picking up a dinner to-go if you don't wish to eat at the party. You also don't need to order dinner to attend the holiday party, everyone is welcome. Save the date and bring your family!

Membership Renewal

This is also the time of year that we will start renewing memberships for 2025. We will have renewal forms at the October meeting. All memberships are due by the end of the year and you're welcome to get an early start.

A lot of information coming at you this month. As always if you have questions, please contact me. See you at the meeting!

Thank you,

Robert

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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- Leslie Feathers (1st)**
- Barbara Newman (3rd)**
- German Rivera (4th)**
- Jaan Lepson (6th)**
- Pam Flores (22nd)**
- Donna Schiefer (25th)**
- Victoria Young-Condon (27th)**
- Anthony Aguirre (30th)**



New member: Cynthia Brown

Welcome



Photo of Airampo
soehrensii from
www.inaturalist.org.

AIRAMPOA: As the DNA studies of cacti have proceeded, it became apparent that the large Opuntia family needed to be split into a number of separate genera. A group of small-padded South American plants was first called Tunilla, later changed to Airampo. The name recognizes the indigenous name which means “garnet red” (for the fruit.) A dozen species are found from southern Peru, Bolivia, northern Chile and NW Argentina. **Sue**



**AGAVE
“PRAYING HANDS”**

This is the latest novelty from the mangave people, Walters Gardens in Michigan.

It’s a cross between Agave ocahui and Mangave cv, ‘Bloodspot.’ www.waltersgardens.com

Sue

CSSA

The Cactus & Succulent Society of America is our national organization, of which we are one of 62 affiliated clubs. It publishes a quarterly Journal and also a quarterly online newsletter, To the Point.

As our club’s Affiliate Representative, I participated in the Zoom affiliates meeting on September 21st. The program was intended to update the affiliates as to the CSSA’s current activities.

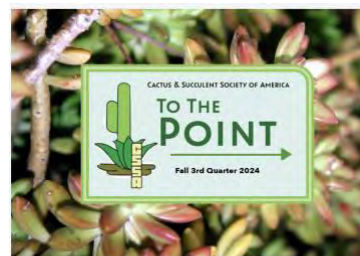
The emphasis was on conservation efforts. CSSA has a Conservation Committee which is working on various policies. The society has made a donation to the Karoo Botanic Garden in South Africa to help build a greenhouse for the protection of confiscated succulents. It is also assisting Mexican authorities in the conservation of Echeveria laui.

The CSSA website has been extensively revised, a progress that is ongoing. Jon Schwark, of the San Francisco society, is posting videos of local club shows and encourages clubs to participate. Contact him for more information, jon@jonschwark.com.

To see the videos already available, www.youtube.com/CactusAndSucculentSociety.

The 2025 CSSA Convention will be in San Diego, April 23-27. Information is already available on the website.

The society is working to compile a national speakers bureau. It also has formed a working group to study the issue of show judging. <http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org> **Sue**



“To The Point” – Fall 2024
September 17, 2024
The latest issue of To The Point is here, and it’s full of useful information collected from our members, staff, volunteers, and the newsletters of CSSA affiliate clubs.

Getting to Know You

Jeanette Heinrichs

The club's plant show is a popular event; acting as the chair and organizing the affair requires many talents and skills. Jeanette Heinrichs rose to the challenge. Not only was she the acting chair for June 2024 – she plans to do it again next year. “I had a blast,” she remembers. “Saw friends, associates I haven't seen since retirement.”

Jeanette set up a special parking area and told visitors, “To enjoy and admire the plants submitted but DO NOT TOUCH SMELL OR LICK. The kids were great, and the adults thought I was a bit nuts, but I didn't have any problems. I even entered a couple of plants and won 1st place in my category. First time I've ever entered a plant into competition. I was, am, ecstatic.”



Born in Longview Washington, Jeanette's family moved to California when she was about 12 or 13. They lived in San Mateo, then Mariposa, where she graduated from high school. “Up to that time the only plants I touched were weeds,” she says. “My punishment was usually pulling weeds.” After graduation, she moved to Fresno. Once she had her own apartment, she discovered she was good at growing house plants. This is something she still enjoys and that includes growing orchids inside her home. Jeanette married her husband, Rod, in 1976, and they had one child. On New Years Eve, 1984, they moved into their new home. “Back then you put in your own lawn and plants,” she says. “I planted over 100 feet of flower beds with flowers and bulbs.”

Jeanette has a good work friend who lives in Stockton and is an avid succulent grower. This friend introduced her to Poot's Nursery in Ripon, Calif. “And it was love at first sight,” Jeanette recalls. “I had already pulled out my flower beds and made rock gardens. My husband built me a greenhouse which is now full of cacti and succulents. The back yard is now full. I guess I'll have to move to the front yard.

“I think I've found my love of cacti and succulents. I really enjoy this hobby as it keeps my blood pressure down. Nothing like early mornings fussing with my plants and listening to classical music. My favorite is Beethoven. And my favorite other music is Pink Floyd. My plants like my taste in music.”

Insurance has played a large part in Jeanette's life; she worked in the industry for 56 years until she retired in March 2019. She was secretary, treasurer, vice president and president of the Insurance Women of Fresno, Calif. She lectured about Insurance for a specific ag industry that needed specialized insurance and was active in various agricultural groups in putting on seminars.

She also helped her husband who was vice president of the Gold Dust Travelers RV group. “My retirement has allowed me to join the Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society. Boy, have I learned a lot,” she says. “The variety and care of these plants is an ongoing learning process. It never stops.”

Written by Carol Grosch



FALL SALE PHOTOS
By Robert Scott

