



# The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Spring 2017  
(Published in March)

## Inside this Issue...

Plant Show and Sale .....P. 1  
 CBG Directions .....P. 1  
 Holden Plant Sale Info. ....P. 2  
 Club Member Spotlight .....P. 2  
 Qtrly. Calendar of Events .....P. 3  
 Blue Ribbon Award Article .....P. 3  
 From the President's Desk .....P. 4  
 European Travels Photos .....P. 5-7  
 Important Club Info./Links .....P. 7

## Directions to CBG

11030 East Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44106

CBG is in the University Circle/Wade Park area of Cleveland, five miles east of downtown.

From I-90 Lakeshore Memorial Freeway: Exit at Martin Luther King Drive and go south on MLK.

Cross E. 105th and take right curve. Turn left on Jephtha (at art museum) to Wade Oval.

CBG is across the park and at the end of East Blvd.

## 2017 Plant Show and Sale

It's time once again for the annual MWCSS plant show and sale! Dates and times for the show and sale are **Saturday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 19, from noon to 5 p.m.** Setup is on Friday, March 17. It will once again be held at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG). Directions to CBG are listed in the below-left column.

Planning for the show and sale was discussed during the February MWCSS meeting. If you missed it, please see Karen Snell's email that she sent out on Thursday, March 9. It provides much detailed information on show specifics.

As usual, all club members are asked to work the event in one capacity or another. There are plenty of positions available, so please be sure to reach out to Karen ASAP to get these filled. Also, boxes are always requested of members. These are for customers to carry out their plants.

If any club members have questions regarding the show and sale, please reach out to [kdsnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:kdsnell@roadrunner.com).

Thank you to all club members participating this year (selling plants, having your personal collection plants on display, helping out the day(s) of the event, etc.). This event would not be possible without you.



## 2017 Holden Plant Sale Information

This year's plant sale at the Holden Arboretum will be held May 19, 20 and 21.

Please visit Holden's website at [www.holdenarb.org](http://www.holdenarb.org) for detailed information on the sale.

We hope as many MWCS members as possible can attend.

See photo below from last year's sale.



Stay current with club information — visit the club website at

[www.mwcss.com](http://www.mwcss.com) or peruse our Facebook page at [facebook.com/mwcss](https://www.facebook.com/mwcss).

**Q**uestions, concerns or ideas on how to better the newsletter? Or, do you have content to add to next quarter's issue? Please contact

[Melissa415@hotmail.com](mailto:Melissa415@hotmail.com).



## Club Member Spotlight:

### Doug Bacso

By: Melissa Mezgec

Club member Doug Bacso can still remember the exact date when he was invited to attend a MCWCSS meeting. "The date was Sept. 13, 1972," Doug said. I was invited by (then) club member Fred Kunig, who lived in Akron. "It was interesting how he got my name. I had a subscription to the Cactus (and) Succulent Information Exchange, or CSIE. It was a monthly magazine. I did take him up on his offer, and attended my first club meeting at Earl Hood's house in early 1973."



Doug Bacso

Back then, club meetings were held in club members' homes. "I really enjoyed visiting Earl's greenhouse and seeing all of the plants he had on display. I still enjoy seeing what types of plants others grow," Doug said. "Bob Stone was another club member I enjoyed visiting when he would hold club meetings at his house. He grew everything under artificial lights in his basement and would always share his plant clippings with club members."

Doug said he does miss a lot of the members of the past who have since passed on. "John Bock of Sharon, PA, was another past club member I remember fondly. I thoroughly enjoyed walking through his greenhouse." "All the club members I mentioned had such a high energy for growing cacti and succulents. They were very inspirational."

Doug remembers when the club printed a yearly booklet containing club members' names, addresses and maps.

When asked about his personal collection, Doug grows a variety of plants in his 9' x 12' greenhouse. "I enjoy plants with good geometric patterns." Some plants in his collection include: Paramount hybrids, Rebutias (his favorite), Gymnocalyciums, Mammalaria, Geraniums, Rhipsalis, Epiphyllum (orchid cactus), Aporophyllum, Aporocactus (hanging rattail cactus,) and a huge Ferocactus (barrel cactus). Outside he has a hardy bed. Photos of Doug's collection will run in the next *Spine* newsletter, due out in June.

MWCS wishes to thank Doug for being such a longstanding member of the club and sharing his fond memories of past club members.

## Quarterly Calendar of Events



### March 2017

- March 18 and 19—Plant show and sale at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. All club members are asked to assist with the show in some way. Boxes for customers to carry out plant in are always needed.

### April 2017

- April 9—**\*\*\*Note this is the second Sunday of the month\*\*\*** Joint club meeting with Indoor Garden Society —CBG—1 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. Presentation on plant propagation.

### May 2017

- May 7—**\*\*\*Note this is the first Sunday of the month\*\*\*** It will be held at the **Holden Arboretum**. Directions at [www.holdenarb.org](http://www.holdenarb.org). The meeting is at 1 p.m. Please bring a snack to share. Presentation on opuntias.

### General Club Meeting Information

The MWCSS generally meets the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens (CBG) in the Smith Classroom (unless otherwise noted.) For exact monthly meeting information, please see Karen Snell's email she sends out monthly.

### CBG Address

11030 East Blvd.  
Cleveland, OH 44106

Please see page one for directions to CBG.

## Blue Ribbons Abound for Club Member Kathy Smith

Last year, MWCSS club member Kathy Smith entered four plant items in the Lake County Fair and was thrilled to receive blue ribbons for all four entries. They included:

- \* Unusual Hanging Container - Handmade container using Lake Erie driftwood and succulents
- \* Succulent category - Agave "Confederate Rose"
- \* Container Plants - Variety of succulents in container
- \* Herb Container - Miniature herbs in galvanized container

Kathy is an avid gardener who enjoys growing and collecting succulents. The majority of her collection is planted in unique and colorful containers, so she was honored to be awarded with blue ribbons for something she enjoys so much. This is just the start of county fair competition for Kathy.



**Above: Kathy Smith and her four plants which received blue ribbons in the Lake County Fair.**

## From the President's Desk...



**It's showtime!** We will once again continue the tradition of the club hosting a show at the Cleveland Botanic Garden (CBG) going on since the 1950s. My earliest recollection of these shows was attending my first in 1958.

I remember as a teenager receiving a postcard in the mail from John Rodgers of Lorain, Ohio. John was a school teacher and one of the founding members of the MWCSS in 1936. He served as secretary/treasurer of the club and also wrote a column for the Cactus and Succulent Journal of America titled "Cereusly Speaking." Somehow he had heard of me and that I had a collection and interest in succulents and invited me to attend the show.

The show was held in March at a far different Garden Center of Greater Cleveland (now CBG) than it is today. It was located in the former boathouse, a small building with a roof garden on the east side of the lake in front of the Cleveland Art Museum. Today all that remains are a group of pollarded sycamores that once surrounded the building.

The members had brought a selection of plants from their collections and displayed them on tables in the library of the building. John Rodgers (Lorain, Ohio), John and Theresa Bock (Sharon, Pa.) and the Webers (Middlefield, Ohio), along with a few other members, were there. There was no sale or program but rather a chance for the members to proudly display plants from their collections to the public, answering questions and inviting people to join the society. I joined the MWCSS at that show and the next year was one of the members with plants on display. This is something I have done ever since without missing a year.

In 1966, the center was relocated to its current location in a new and expanded building. We continued holding our show in March in the hall where we will display our plants this year. In 1994, the garden changed its name to Cleveland Botanic Garden.

It was in the early '80s that the club decided to add a sales area to the existing annual display of plants that members brought each year. The entire show and sales area was held for several years in the hall in front of the library where we will house the collections this year.

2001 and 2002 saw an interruption of showing at the garden when CBG closed for the expansion and renovation of the building. In those years we held our show and sale in conjunction with the Indoor Light Society at an offsite warehouse facility that CBG had used. Somehow the public found us and we continued to have successful shows and sales.

In 2003, we returned to CBG and held our show and sale in Clark Hall at the newly expanded botanic garden. Members continued to provide the plants for the sales area with invited suppliers Bob Smoley of Smoley's Garadenworld and Mike Masara of Out of Africa, also displaying over the following years.

A few years ago we expanded the one-day Sunday Show to the Saturday and Sunday event it is today, bringing even more attendees to our show.

Times have changed from the early days of postcards to today's use of emails, websites and Facebook. Last year's expanded awareness to the public, coupled with the current wave of popularity for cacti and succulents that has swept the country, brought record attendance at the show.

What will this year bring? Come prepared to show some of your prized plants and maybe a few extras to sell and enjoy the excitement of yet another show.



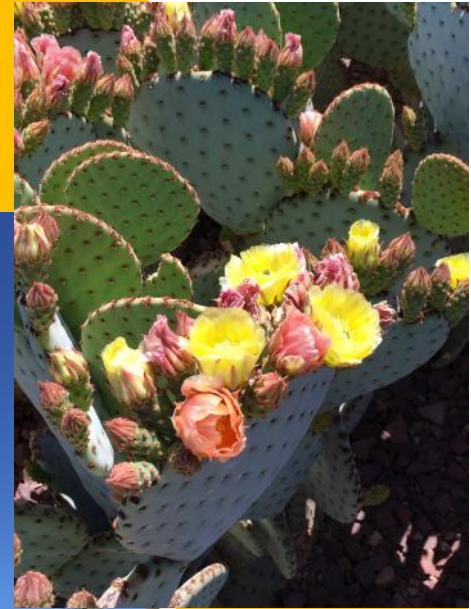
- Bill Hendricks  
MWCSS Club President

# European Travels – A Cactus and Succulent Travelogue

During the January 2017 club meeting, club member Christie Briggs gave a slide presentation on the cacti and succulents that she and her husband Mike observed during their many trips to various parts of the United States and Europe.

It was fascinating to hear first-hand accounts of plant and surroundings observations. Below are some of the photos she shared from her presentation.

Thank you Christie for sharing your worldly adventures with the club! Photos continued on the following pages.



**Desert Botanical Garden  
(Phoenix)**



**Saguaro National Park  
(Tucson)**



# European Travels – A Cactus and Succulent Travelogue (continued)



**Matthaei Botanical Gardens  
(Ann Arbor)**



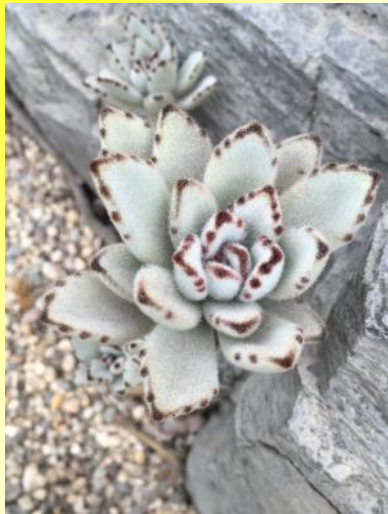
**Kew Royal Botanic Gardens  
(UK)**



## European Travels—A Cactus and Succulent Travelogue (continued)



Brooklyn  
Botanical  
Gardens  
(Brooklyn)



Orto Botanico  
(Rome, Italy)

### MWCSS Mission:

Cactus and succulent collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed.

### New Membership Information:

Please contact Karen at [kdsnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:kdsnell@roadrunner.com) for new membership information.

### Other Club Resources:

[www.mwcSS.com](http://www.mwcSS.com)—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website.

Please email Tim at [timj@hearthstonefarm.net](mailto:timj@hearthstonefarm.net).

<https://www.facebook.com/mwcSS/>—Fresh content is always needed for the club's Facebook page. Please email Kathy at [kesmith913@gmail.com](mailto:kesmith913@gmail.com).

### MWCSS Club Officers:

Bill Hendricks—Club president

Tim Malinich—Club vice president/  
webmaster

Karen Snell—Club secretary/  
treasurer

Melissa Mezgec—Club newsletter  
writer/editor/designer

Kathy Smith—Club publicity  
(Facebook page)/CBG affiliate