



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Spring 2019
(Published in March)

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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.

2019 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 16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 17, from noon to 5 p.m.** Note that everyone working the show must arrive earlier than the advertised start time both days. Setup is on Friday, March 15 at noon.

This year's event will again be held at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG), and setup will be very similar to last year, as our club has most of the Garden to utilize (we will not be sharing space/time during the Garden's yearly Big Spring or Orchid Mania events).

Bill Hendricks will present his program "Spring in the Sonoran Desert" at 2 p.m. each day. Jeff Havel is creating small dish gardens and Bob Raak will again handle the plant raffle. The plant raffle will occur on Saturday only—one ticket (one plant) will be drawn four times during the day (noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.). Also on Saturday only, a deli sandwich tray with chips will be served for lunch; all club members working the show and sale are invited to stop into the Hershey classroom (where we store our coats, plant purchases, etc.) to eat.

Planning for the show and sale was discussed during the February meeting. If you missed it, please see Karen Snell's email that she sent out on March 7. It provides 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 from members (for customers to carry out their plants).

For questions regarding the show and sale, please reach out to kdsnell@roadrunner.com. Directions to CBG are listed to the left.

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.

NE Ohio Spring Events



March 23

Grape Escape Wine Tasting Train Ride

Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad

<https://www.cvsr.org/special-events/>

April 9

“Technology for Birders: An Introduction”

Rocky River Nature Center

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technology-for-birders-an-introduction-tickets-54829908733>

April 24

Guided Spring Walk Through the Arboretum

Secrest Arboretum/OARDC—The Ohio State University

<https://secrest.osu.edu/>

April 27

Native Plant Sale and Gardening Seminars

The Wilderness Center — Wilmot, OH

<https://www.wildernesscenter.org/>



Club Member Spotlight:

Kathy Smith

By: Melissa Mezgec

Since she was 12 years old, club member Kathy Smith has always had a penchant for learning about and growing plants. “My love of plants started when I was 12 years old. My grandma worked at Wyatt’s Greenhouse in Mentor, and my sister and I worked there in the summer, helping out.” “I would pinch off Geraniums; I enjoyed it and learned from it.” That learning always stayed with her, and, in fact, is one of the things she likes most about our club. “I’m always learning new things at our meetings. You think you know how to care for plants, but different club members have different ways of growing their plants.” Their knowledge and insight has expanded her way of thinking of how to grow. “It has challenged me to try new things.”

Kathy has been a club member since 2015, and within those four years she has made a great impact. As the club publicity contact person (Facebook page creator/administrator), she is always looking for ways to promote our club externally. “In creating other Facebook pages (for certain businesses), I knew the popularity and impact of social media, and wanted to create one for our club because our club has a unique niche.” She knew this would be invaluable in promoting the club’s annual show and sale. In addition to being the Facebook administrator, she is also the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG) affiliate person and participates in many club events (i.e., CBG GLOW wreath creation, Children’s Garden creation, Holden Arboretum plant sale, etc.).



Kathy Smith

This year (as in years past), Kathy will be creating and selling her hypertufa pots at the show and sale. She gave a demonstration last spring on how to create these pots.

At full plant capacity, Kathy has 300 or so plants. Her favorites include Aeonium and Kalanchoe. She loves variegated plants, fuzzy plants and anything easy to propagate (she even loves propagating more than growing!). See photos on the following two pages of her indoor and outdoor collection.

This year is a milestone anniversary for Kathy – she is celebrating 35 years working at WJW FOX 8 Cleveland. For the past eight years, she has been an editor/producer for New Day Cleveland (she edits the Road Show segments and pieces of the live show). Prior to that, she worked in the FOX 8 News department.

Kathy lives in Concord Township with her husband Greg, a dog and two cats.

Thank you, Kathy, for all of your hard work and constant dedication to our club!

Club Member Spotlight (Con't.) — Kathy Smith

The following photos are from Kathy Smith's personal home collection. The photos on this page are her indoor growers, and those on the following page are her outdoor summer plants. For her indoor collection, she has two 72"-tall metal shelves with LED shop lights (top two shelves) and a florescent shop light on the bottom shelf of each. They are all "daylight" bulbs. There's also some "overflow" shelving with LED flood light bulbs. Sheets of Mylar are hung behind the shelves to reflect the light. Everything is on a timer and runs for 12 hours a day. Also, a fan runs 24/7 for proper air circulation.

Indoor Growing



Club Member Spotlight (Con't.) — Kathy Smith

Outdoor Growing





Educational Enrichment

Hardening Off Plants

Spring is upon us once again, and once we officially get past the cold winter thaw, it will be time to take our precious plants outside for some warm weather and sun. Some club members might have started seeds indoors as a way to curb those winter blues. Whether you have established houseplants that you want to take outdoors or seedlings that have since sprouted and will soon be ready to plant in the ground, it is imperative that they are properly acclimated to outside temperatures. Thus, they need “hardened off,” or acclimated to their new environment to alleviate stress. Great information on hardening off seedlings can be found [here](#), while information on hardening off houseplants (i.e., cacti and succulents that were brought indoors for the winter) can be found [here](#).

Regardless of what you have, be sure to properly care for them so they can adjust to the warming outdoor temperatures and thrive throughout the summer!

Club Library Book Donation

During the February meeting, club member Beverly Dahms was kind enough to donate a book titled “Cacti & Succulents—Time Life Journal” to the club’s library collection. Do you have any old books at home on cacti/succulents or any desert-growing plants? Instead of tossing or giving them to a charitable organization, consider donating them to the club’s collection. After all, sharing information is part of helping others succeed, which is part of our club’s mission statement! Note that the library holdings list is on the club website.

Recommended Read— Succulents on Social Media

Thank you to club member Michael Diamond for recommending the following article from The Ringer website:

“[Consider the Cactus: How Succulents Took Over Instagram—and Then the World.](#)” It provides insightful information on cacti and succulents, including historical information, as well as great photos.

All club members are encouraged to share their recommended reads, whether it is a book, web page, podcast, blog, or anything cactus/succulent/planting related. Email Melissa at Melissa415@hotmail.com for inclusion in the newsletter.

Stay Up to Date on Club Happenings

For the latest club news and events, be sure to frequently check the club website at www.mwcss.com. Also, visit the club’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mwcss/>.

Like this newsletter, fresh content is always sought to keep these sites fresh and active, especially for new and prospective members.

If you know someone interested in attending our meetings, please invite him or her to sit in on a few. If interested in joining, simply have him or her complete a [membership form](#) or email Karen at kdsnell@roadrunner.com.

The more members, the more vibrant our club remains.

2018 December Christmas Party Recap

For the second year, club members enjoyed the holiday festivities at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence, OH. The luncheon party/meeting was held in the upstairs meeting room.

After eating a delicious buffet-style lunch, then-Club President Bill Hendricks presented a program titled "New Caledonia—The Land that Time Forgot." After that, club members who chose to participated in the always-anticipated club plant exchange. Thank you to all who helped put together this fun day. See photos below and on the following page:



2018 December Christmas Party Recap—Con't.



Bill Hendricks presenting on New Caledonia.



Kalanchoe Plant Propagation

By: Kathy Smith Reprinted from the Jan. 29 post on the MWCSS Facebook page



Propagating succulents can be easy, fun and have some unusual results. Check out this *Kalanchoe fedtschenkoi*, commonly known as Lavender Scallops. I started with leaf cuttings back in September 2018. I kept the soil moist but NOT soaking wet.

In photo #1 to the left (from 09-26-18), as you can see, new “pink” growth has emerged from the leaves. These were started outside in a shaded area.

In photo #2 underneath the first photo (from 11-04-18), the new growth has gotten much bigger and only one of the plantlets is the typical color...the rest are all white. VERY interesting since these pretty little white babies will never grow to adulthood without any “green”; they need the chlorophyll to grow. Not sure what caused this. These are now under my LED lights where I overwinter my succulents.

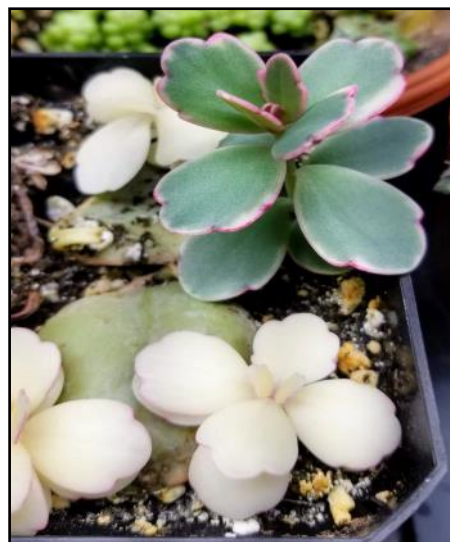


In photo #3 (from 11-29-18), the only green plantlet is thriving. The white ones are still growing because the mother leaves are giving them the chlorophyll they need. When the mother leaves dried up, so did the white plantlets.

In photo #4 (from 12-14-18), I transplanted the only healthy plant to its own 3" pot. I used a combination of ProMix, pumice and perlite with a couple of tablespoons of worm castings in the pot.

In photo #5 (from 01-22-19), check out the growth on this guy...he's a regular plant now and has tripled in size since he was transplanted back in December. About 4" tall.

Just about any variety of Kalanchoe is a good succulent to work with when doing leaf propagation. Once they get a foothold, they are vigorous plants. I like this one in particular because of it's scalloped leaves with pink edges.



From the President's Desk

Editor's Note: Tim Malinich is the new club president, and below is his first "From the President's Desk" article. He is also the club's webmaster. He has taken over as president from Bill Hendricks, who is now the club vice president. Thank you, Bill, for your hard work and dedication as the former club president, and welcome, Tim, to your new role.

Diversity is defined as a "range of different things." I was struck at our last meeting by the diversity we have in our membership. We are diverse in cultures, ethnicity and ages, but I was also seeing diversity of interests, talents and expertise. As we start the new year and get ready for the show, you can see how the diversity makes us a strong organization.

We have members that are excellent organizers and planners that can pull together hundreds of variables (without panicking) that make up the show. Some members are linear thinkers that stay focused while others provide out-of-the-box ideas. There are inexperienced and experienced growers, greenhouse and artificial light growers, professionals and hobbyists. Graphic designers and data specialists offer their services. Photographers record every club function. Talented communicators provide top-notch newsletters and constant up-to-date email and phone outreach. I like to write a bit of HTML or JavaScript when I have time, but I avoid social media; luckily we have our own social media guru.



Tim Malinich

Apart from the show, the club gets strength from diverse interests and skills: our membership boasts one of the best succulent taxonomists on the continent (or beyond); we have mentored new and seasoned members to hone their public speaking skills; our show fosters hobby and cottage businesses; members specialize in *Haworthia*, *Euphorbia*, *Aloe*, *Gymnocalycium* etc.; the club has an energized social aspect to meetings and functions.

I have spent my entire career in scientific research and education and it shows in what I bring to my presentations. But, my background doesn't mean I can maintain a Facebook page, organize a show, keep up with email or put together a newsletter. We all depend upon the diversity of our members and their talents to make the club strong and vital for its members. So, thank you for contributing but also think about what unexplored talents you might bring to our meetings and activities over the next couple of years.

Even if you think you have nothing to contribute, rest assured you probably do, you just haven't found it yet. Take to heart the tagline we attach to our name Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society — *"Collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed."*

Have a grand year.

Tim Malinich
MWCSS Club President



2019 Quarterly Calendar of Events



March

- March 16 and 17 (Saturday and Sunday)—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. Setup is Friday, March 15. See information on page one for times.

April

- April 14 —*****Note this is the second Sunday of the month***** Starts at 1 p.m. Presentation is a “Trip to Madagascar” by Tammy Host. Plant of the month is Madagascar natives.

May

- May 5—*****Note this is the first Sunday of the month***** Location is TBD. Starts at 1 p.m. Presentation is TBD by Sean Diamond. Plant of the month is TBD.

June

- June 2 —*****Note this is the first Sunday of the month***** Location is Kim Stehli’s House/Windswept in Time Orchids. Address will be provided during the April and May meetings. Starts at 1 p.m. Plant of the month is columnar cacti.

** Please bring a snack to share during all scheduled meetings.

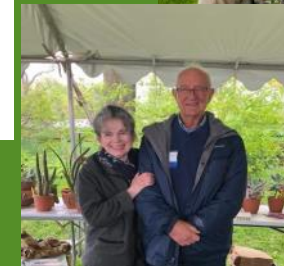
General Club Meeting Information

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.



~ 2019 Holden Plant Sale Information ~

This year’s plant sale at the Holden Arboretum will be held Saturday, May 18 and Sunday, May 19 (with a member preview on Friday, May 17). Time is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As with previous years, we hope as many MWCSS members can attend (with both sales and purchasing).

Please visit Holden’s website at <https://www.holdenarb.org/plant-sale/> for detailed information on the sale. See photos to the right from last year’s sale.

CSSA 2019 Biennial Convention

Mark your calendars to attend the CSSA 39th Biennial Convention, to be held July 17-20, 2019 in downtown San Luis Obispo, CA.

The main convention venue is the historic Veteran's Memorial Hall, which offers a relaxed, comfortable environment. This is right across the street from the Kinney Hotel (formerly the Holiday Inn Express), where convention attendees will stay.

Tours begin on the first day (July 17), and optional field trips will be offered July 21. There will be great speakers, plant and pottery vendors, live auction and silent auction, local sales area, an opening reception, and a Santa Maria-style barbecue banquet.

With its temperate weather and cool breezes, the Central California coast is a vacation wonderland, so you may want to extend your visit, as the hotel rates are extended and there are so many interesting things to do and see! Click [here](#) for further details.

Check out the CSSA convention page [here](#) for further detail.

Discussions on the convention will take place during upcoming regular club meetings.

Newsletter Content Needed

Do you have an interesting cactus or succulent plant that you would like featured in our club's newsletter? Or perhaps you'd like to write an article on a plant topic of your choice? The Spine is our club's forum for this. Please contact the editor at Melissa415@hotmail.com. Photos are always encouraged.

MWCSS Mission:

Cactus and succulent collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed.

New Membership Information:

Please contact Karen at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for new membership information.

Other Club Resources:

www.mwcoss.com—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website.

Please email Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

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

MWCSS Club Officers:

Tim Malinich—Club president/
webmaster

Bill Hendricks—Club vice president

Karen Snell—Club secretary

Tammie Host—Club treasurer

Melissa Mezgec—Club newsletter
writer/editor/designer

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