



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



Summer 2019
Published in June

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CSSA News

The annual CSSA Show and Sale will be June 28 – 30 at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108.

All succulent enthusiasts are encouraged to attend.

For more information, visit the CSSA [calendar of events](#). Also, check out other upcoming CSSA events on the calendar. See page nine of this newsletter for information on the CSSA 2019 Biennial Convention.

June Meeting Recap

The June meeting was held earlier this month at Kim and Edgar Stehli’s house in Broadview Heights, OH. Their business, Windswept in Time (specializing in orchids), is located on their property.

Finalizations for the club field trip (set for June 22) were discussed. Please see page nine for further information.

After the meeting wrapped up, a presentation on Cleistocactus was given by club member Sean Diamond. Those who brought columnar cacti (plant of the month theme) passed them around for all club members to view.

Thank you Kim and Edgar for opening up your house and business to our club this month! Be sure to check out the Windswept in Time Orchids Facebook page [here](#).



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

The 2019 Plant Show and Sale, which was held this past March, was once again a great success, thanks to all club members and customers.

Thank you to ALL members who participated in one way or another. The event would not have been the success it was without your help. A special thank you to the planning committee members as well for all of their hard work and dedication in planning and executing the event.

The club will begin discussing the 2020 Plant Show and Sale event during regular club meetings this fall/winter. As a reminder, it's not too early to start saving up boxes to bring (for customers) for the 2020 show and sale. Photos (by Melissa Mezgec) from this year's event are found below and on the following pages.

Sales Tables (Setup—Pre-Opening)



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Sales Tables (Setup—Pre-Opening)



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Sales Tables (Setup—Pre-Opening)



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Sales Tables (Post-Setup—Open for Business)



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Bottom-left photo by Jillian Baughman

Sales Tables (Post-Setup—Open for Business)



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Club Member Plant Display Tables



2019 Plant Show and Sale Recap

Raffle Items

This year there were two raffles held on Saturday. The poster advertising this (created by club member Bob Raak) is to the right.

Club member Jeff Havel creatively designed both arrangements. Club member Bernie Liles sold tickets at the raffle table (below photo).

Thank you to everyone involved in making this raffle a special added feature of the show and sale.

MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

RAFFLES

**4 CHANCES TO WIN
ONE OF FOUR OUTSTANDING PLANTERS**

Drawings Saturday at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 & 3:00
\$2 per ticket or \$5 for 3 tickets – Cash Only



Tickets must be purchased at least 10 minutes before each drawing to be eligible. Entrants must write their names and cell phone numbers on the back of their submitted tickets. Winning tickets holders will be contacted directly, in addition to posting the winning ticket number near the planters. Winners must make arrangements to pick up the planter within 30 minutes of the drawing otherwise they forfeit their claim and another winning ticket will be drawn until the planter is claimed. All non-winning/non-drawn tickets will continue to remain as a part of the larger pool of tickets for the following raffles.

Poster by Bob Raak



Upcoming Summer Events



Although there are no club meetings during the summer months, there are a few events in which club members can partake to satisfy their need to learn more about cacti and succulents, and purchase some great specimens as well. See below:

Day Field Trip to Groovy Plants Ranch, Schnormeier Gardens, Ariel-Foundation Park and Der Dutchman Restaurant

Date: June 22

What: In addition to visiting Groovy Plants Ranch, this year club members will also tour Schnormeier Gardens (which is 38 minutes from Groovy Plants Ranch), and then after this, a quick tour of Ariel-Foundation Park in Mt. Vernon. From here, members will enjoy dinner at Der Dutchman Restaurant (38 minutes from Schnormeier Gardens).

Carpool and lunch information was discussed at the June meeting. If you missed the meeting, please contact Karen Snell at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for information.

CSSA Biennial Convention

Dates: July 17-20

What: The CSSA 39th Biennial Convention will 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.

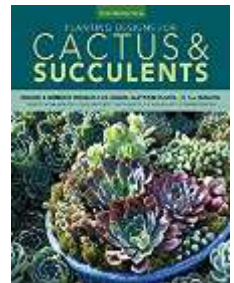
Tours begin on the first day (July 17), and optional field trips will be offered July 21. There will be great speakers, plant and pottery vendors, a live and silent auction, local sales area, opening reception and a Santa Maria-style barbecue banquet.

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.



Book Nook — *Summer Edition*

Summertime—the time of year that most plant (especially cacti and succulent) enthusiasts live for—bright sunshine and long days of daylight, both great contributing factors for successful plant growth. And while you might have countless plants in individual pots, have you ever thought about grouping them together to make eye-popping displays? If so, take a moment to read “Planting Designs for Cactus & Succulents” by Sharon Asakawa. Find inspiration to create beautifully cohesive succulent arrangements. While this book doesn’t provide much on succulent care, it does provide advice on how to group succulents with similar care requirements so that your arrangements will thrive. Step-by-step instructions provide help along the way.



Speaking of long summer days, pull out a chair outdoors on a warm summer evening and read about [how to create an enchanted succulent garden](#) in your backyard. Happy reading and planting!



NE Ohio Outdoor Summer Events

Holden Arboretum

Continuous summer events—
Please check out the calendar of events below:

<http://www.holdenarb.org/visit/calendar/>

Cleveland Botanical Garden

Continuous summer events—
Please check out the calendar of events below:

<https://www.cbgarden.org/calendar-of-events.aspx>

NE Ohio Summer Events

General ongoing summer events in northeastern Ohio:

<https://www.tripsavvy.com/best-summer-festivals-in-cleveland-752401>



Summer Plant Photos Wanted!

Take some fabulous photos of your cacti and succulent collection outdoors this summer and submit them to Newsletter Editor Melissa Mezgec at Melissa415@hotmail.com.

They will be featured in the fall newsletter!

CBG Hershey Children's Garden Planter

By Kathy Smith

Each year the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG) affiliate garden clubs are asked to plant one of the containers in the CBG Hershey Children's Garden. This year our club was asked to incorporate a fairy/gnome house in our container. Our Affiliate Representative Kathy Smith created a gnome house out of a terracotta pot. She stained the pot (to add some age), covered it with stones, added moss (gathered from her yard), as well as Lake Erie driftwood, and finished it off with the gnome door and 'succulent'-themed pots at the entrance.

Kathy planted both pots with a variety of hardy and tender succulents. A gravel path leads to the door lined by Sempervivums. This container sits right by the tree house, in an area that gets some shade in the afternoon but should do very well throughout the summer.

Be sure to stop by CBG and check out all the affiliate garden club planters; they are all very creative!



Holden Arboretum Plant Sale

MWCSS members once again participated in the yearly plant sale at the Holden Arboretum. While the weather was less than desirable, plant enthusiasts still made it a point to head out and check out the great selection of cacti and succulents available for purchase.



Rockefeller Greenhouse Plant Sale



Club member Jeff Havel was a vendor at the Rockefeller Greenhouse Spring Plant Sale in May. Held the same weekend as the Holden Plant Sale, there was a good turnout by folks wanting to grow their cacti and succulent collection. Other plant vendors were on hand, as well as arts and crafts vendors.

Content Needed —————

Content, including articles, photos, book/magazine/e-articles, website suggestions, etc., is always needed for the club newsletter, website and Facebook page.

- For newsletter content, contact Melissa at Melissa415@hotmail.com
- For website content, contact Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net
- For Facebook content, contact Kathy at kesmith913@gmail.com

Oftentimes there is crossover with all three, so please contribute as much as you can. Remember, our publication/website/online presence is only as strong as the content contributions received from club members.



Club President Tim Malinich

From the President's Desk...

Ever wonder why the website for the club is MWCSS? Midwest Cactus & Succulent Society is definitely four words long (we don't count the *and*) yet the acronym is five letters. *Midwest* certainly is a single word but is represented by two letters. It must be an important part of the name.

Names are important and they can tell you a lot. If you ever heard Bill and I *argue* over plant names, it is because the names say a great deal about the plant. Even the word *argue* is important. *Argue* does not have to mean a knock-down, drag-out fight. *Argue* can mean to give evidence to support a point of view—no yelling, no name-calling. Academic argument is a civil exchange of evidence or ideas such as if gasoline taxes should be raised, or if there is actually any taste to light beer, or if the *Latin* names of plants need to be changed.

Latin binomials are very important to how we organize every living thing on this planet (and I suspect beyond in the coming century). They consist of the **genus** name first then the **specific epithet** second. When used together they are unique to that plant and they tell how it is related to every other plant; the name may also give a partial description of that plant. For instance, *Ferrocactus* means fierce cactus, a pretty good description; *Gymnocalycium* means naked flower bud, describing the smooth, hairless buds.

Common names can be used and distributed to the point where they are useless when talking about plants. If I have a plant I cannot identify, I can call it "Bob" and sell it to someone who will forevermore call it Bob. But when they want to talk to someone else about it, Bob means nothing; they can't communicate. If I call every cactus that looks like a *Gymnocalycium* a Chin Cactus then how will I ever know it is not a *Notocactus*? With the Latin name, you know that there can be only one *Mammillaria spinosissima*, and when you talk to someone else about it, you are both talking about the same plant.

Make it a point to keep track of the Latin names of your plants or identify them to the best of your ability. You can even learn to speak a bit of Latin. With a few exceptions, every letter is pronounced. So, a word like knight would be "k-ni-git." There are about 20 sounds you have to get used to using. Scientific Latin does differ a bit from classical Latin, so they are not exactly the same; some changes make it easier to read and speak. A few sounds include: "ch" is pronounced as "k"; "x" at the beginning of a word is pronounced as "z"; a final "e" or "es" is long like "see" or "sees"; a final "a" is short like "ah." Speak slowly, say every letter and you will get pretty close to correct. Pretty soon, *Maihueniopsis clavarioides* will be rolling off your tongue at the next Christmas party.

And why MWCSS? Well, typing "midwestcactusandsucculentsociety" is just too long and MCSS was, at that point, taken by the Midwest Cigar Smokers Society. No kidding.

Tim Malinich
MWCSS Club President

Sounds in a Name

- "ae" as in "see"
- "oe" as in "see"
- "au" as in "house"
- "ei" as in "aisle"
- "eu" as in "you"
- "ui" as in "quit"

**Modified from the Plant Systematics, 2010*

Quarterly Calendar of Events

June

When: Saturday, June 22

What: Field trip—Groovy Plants Ranch, Schnormeier Gardens, Ariel–Foundation Park and Der Dutchman Restaurant. See page nine for details.



July & August

Summer Break

September

When: Sunday, Sept. 15

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: Klyn Nurseries, Inc.—3322 S. Ridge Road, Perry, OH 44081

What: Annual joint meeting with the Ohio area cactus clubs and northeastern Ohio horticultural groups (fall kickoff meeting)

Presentation: Given by Curt Hanson on his trip to Argentina

Plant of the Month: Any succulent with a genus that begins with a vowel

Please arrive early and bring a side dish or dessert to share.

MWCSS Mission:

Cactus and succulent collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed.

New Membership Information:

Contact Karen Snell at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for new membership info.

Other Club Resources:

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

Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/mwcss/>—Fresh content is always needed for the club's Facebook page. Email Kathy at kessmith913@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

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). Directions are below.

For exact monthly meeting information, see Karen Snell's email she sends out monthly.

CBG Directions

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.

