



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Summer 2018
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2018 Plant Show and Sale Recap

The 2018 Plant Show and Sale, which was held this past March, proved to be a huge success. Having usage of the entire Cleveland Botanical Garden enabled greater traffic flow than in years past, and enabled more space for more plant sale tables.



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 2019 Plant Show and Sale event during regular club meetings this fall/winter. Thank you again!

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 as well. See below:

Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference (hosted by the Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society)

Dates: June 21-24

Location: Saint Louis, MO

What: Guest speaker presentations, plant displays and sales, and a bit of local flavor. Also, field trips to the Missouri Botanical Gardens will be available. Visit www.hscactus.org/mid-states for further detail.

Groovy Plants Ranch Trip

Date: June 23

Location: Marengo, OH

What: Like last year’s field trip here, club members will carpool and meet up at “the ranch” to explore the many plant types for sale. Ride information was discussed at the June meeting, and prior to arrival, club members will have a quick breakfast at McDonald’s (not far from the Der Dutchman restaurant). Please contact Karen at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for information.

CSSA News

The annual CSSA Show and Sale will be June 29 – July 1 at The Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108.

All succulent enthusiasts are encouraged to attend the CSSA Auction on Saturday night, June 30. The auction will follow a chile buffet dinner (\$15 per person). Proceeds from the auction support research grants that are awarded by CSSA.

For more information, visit the CSSA [calendar of events](#). Also, check out other upcoming CSSA events on the calendar.

June Meeting Held at Club Member Kim Stehli's House

By: Kathy Smith/Melissa Mezgec

The June club meeting was held at Kim (and husband Edgar) Stehli's house in Broadview Heights, OH. They are owners of Windswept in Time, a business specializing in orchids, which is located right on their property (they have a spectacular 60' x 20' orchid greenhouse).

Also outdoors, they have a beautiful arbor pond with marsh and carnivorous plants, among other beautiful trees and plants.

Inside their house, they have an entire addition devoted to Kim's cactus and succulent collection (along with Edgar's orchid collection). See photos on the following page.

A regular meeting agenda was followed, and then Club Vice President/ Webmaster Tim Malinich gave a presentation on pests and diseases. Club members also brought 'globular' cacti to share and pass around for other members to view (see photos on page four).

This was a well-received meeting and everyone enjoyed their surrounding environment.

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](#).



Kim and Edgar Stehli



June Meeting Held at Club Member Kim Stehli's House (Continued)





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.cb garden.org/calendar-of-events.aspx>

Fourth of July events per Northeast Ohio county:

<https://northeastohiofamilyfun.com/4th-of-july-events-in-northeast-ohio/#Cuy>

Summer Plant

Photos Wanted!

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

They will be featured in a club collage photo for the fall issue. The more photos, the better the collage!

June Meeting Held at Club Member Kim Stehli's House (Continued)

Club member "Show and Tell" - Theme: "Globular Cacti"



CBG Children's Garden Container

Article and Photos by Kathy Smith

As in years past, this spring our club planted one of the containers in the Hershey Children's Garden at the Cleveland Botanical Garden. Each year, the Affiliate Garden Clubs volunteer to plant one of the containers.

Each planter has a flip-card with a question about the plants. This is what ours said:

"Can you guess what makes these plants similar? They are all part of the Crassulaceae family. Thousands of succulent varieties belong to the Crassulaceae family, these are just a few of our favorites."



While this year's display was a great success, please consider volunteering your time and creativity for next year's planting display.

Creating Hypertufa Containers – By Kathy Smith

During the April club meeting, member/publicity contact Kathy Smith demonstrated how she makes her popular hypertufa containers. Below is the recipe, and photos of her demonstration are on the following page. Thanks, Kathy!

Hypertufa Recipe

1 part Portland Cement
1.5 parts Peat Moss
1.5 parts Perlite or Vermiculite
Water

Supplies Needed:

- Rubber gloves
- Dust mask (important to wear dust mask when mixing the dry ingredients)
- Container/trough for mixing Hypertufa mix
- Cooking spray (as release agent)
- Mold (bowl or other containers)
- Plastic or plastic grocery bags
- Metal file and/or wire brush
- Mold for forming hypertufa container



Measure out your dry ingredients into your mixing container/trough. Add water slowly as you incorporate all the ingredients; you want the mixture to resemble moist oatmeal. Once mixed, let it rest for 10 minutes, during this time the mixture will soak up more water. After 10 minutes, add a little more water so the mixture is *workable but NOT runny*.

Now it's time to form the hypertufa mixture into your mold.

1. Spray inside of mold with cooking spray, press the hypertufa mixture into the mold starting at the bottom working your way up the sides. The hypertufa should be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, depending on the size of your container. Larger containers/troughs can be 1 inch or more thick.
2. Use a chopstick or something to create drainage holes in the bottom of your container (they may fill in slightly during the drying process but you can easily ream/drill them out).
3. Wrap the container in plastic so it's sealed well. Let dry for four-to-seven days.
4. Unmold the hypertufa container; your container will NOT be 100 percent dry, so you can easily ream out drainage holes (if needed) and smooth of edges with metal file or wire brush.
5. Spray the hypertufa container with water (to lightly dampen) and re-wrap in plastic. Leave in plastic for seven days to continue the curing process.
6. Remove the container from the plastic and let air dry for two weeks before planting.
7. The container can be soaked in water to leach out any extra lime (that comes from the Portland cement) but if you are planting your containers with succulents, this step is NOT necessary, as succulents don't mind the extra lime.

Things to experiment with are: You can add concrete dye/color to the mix to create subtle color changes in the mix OR paint them (when dry) with exterior latex paint for a more vibrant look.

If you want to keep your hypertufa container outside all year long, it's recommended that you move it to a protected area (along the side of your house on the ground) where it can withstand the harsh winter temps. That way your container will last for many years.

Creating Hypertufa Containers (Continued)

Below are photos of Kathy Smith's hypertufa demonstration during the April club meeting, as well as the finished product. To order a hypertufa container from Kathy, please email kesmith913@gmail.com.

Photos by Melissa Mezgec



Holden Arboretum Plant Sale Recap



Annie Kitral and Bill Hendricks



Jeff Havel and Tammie Host



Last month, several club members sold plants and other items at the annual Holden Arboretum plant sale.

Check out these photos from the three-day event (Friday was the member preview, while Saturday and Sunday was open to everyone).



Club members had much success at this event, and look forward to next year's sale! Be sure to check it out.



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Shawn Murdock and Annie Kitral



Zoltan Onutz



From the President's Desk...



Bill Hendricks, club president

Summer is here and it is time to enjoy and rejuvenate our plants. Plants are actively growing and it is a good time to re-pot, primp and propagate. Changing the soil at least every couple of years is a good idea, as the potting media breaks down and should be replaced. I try to re-pot my collection on a three-year rotating basis, as it takes me that long to re-pot the collection. I actually am re-potting every month of the year.



Selenicereus
(Night Blooming Cereus)

I do the summer growers like cacti and euphorbias during the summer and try to do my euphorbia cuttings in May and June. They like the summer heat and root quickest at this time of year. I prefer to do my Haworthias in fall and spring when they are the most active and leave the winter growers like Conophytums for December to transplant and find that cuttings root well at that time of year.

Many plants are moved outside for the summer and several have been planted in the ground for summer display. I find that I can get rich colors in many of the succulents, rivaling what you would expect to see in a California landscape.

The greenhouse continues to be full of flowers since last spring. The epiphyllums continue to bloom and the Selenicereus (Night Blooming Cereus — see photo to the left) have put on a spectacular show, but you must get up early to see them, as the flowers close shortly after sunrise.

Last year, a hummingbird found its way into the greenhouse and has returned this year to enjoy the flowers and reward me with seed pods on plants that have never set seed before. Undoubtedly, most of these will be hybrids but it will be fun to see what results from the seed I sowed this spring. I have again made some controlled crosses of Echinopsis (see photo to the right). It is always exciting to see the results.

I hope to see many of you at the Groovy Plants Ranch open house June 23. It will be a great opportunity to see what Jarad has to offer and visit with members of the Central Ohio Cactus and Succulents Society who will be there at the same time.



Echinopsis Hybrids

Happy Growing!



Book Nook — Summer Edition

There is no doubt that summer is the time for our cacti and succulents to shine, thrive and even show off a little! But not all succulents can withstand long, hot days on end out in the sun, so be careful and selective as to what you place outside and where.

Regarding summer care specifically, check out this article titled "[Taking Indoor Succulents Outside for the Summer](#)" (taken from the Succulents and Sunshine website). It provides very insightful content for summer outdoor care.

For those who are creative and inspired to engage in some cool succulent potting this summer, check out "[Succulent Container Gardens: Design Eye-Catching Displays with 350 Easy-Care Plants](#)" by Debra Lee Baldwin. If you do plant a succulent container garden this summer, bring it to the September meeting to show it off! Happy planting!

Quarterly Calendar of Events



July

Summer Break

August

Summer Break

September

When: Sunday, Sept. 16

Time: 1 p.m.

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

What: Regular club meeting (fall kickoff meeting)

Presentation: Club History by Bill Hendricks

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 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

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.

