



The Spine



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Winter 2018
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Christmas Party Set for Dec. 16

The Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society's Christmas party will once again be held at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence, Ohio, in the upstairs meeting room on Dec. 16. It will commence at 1 p.m. This party is a closed event for members only (each member can bring a guest, but RSVPs were due to Karen Snell several weeks ago). The menu will be the same as last year's. Food will be served buffet style, and a cash bar will be available. Club members do not need to bring anything (*i.e.*, sides, desserts, etc.).

**Harry's
Steakhouse
Address:**
5664 Brecksville
Road
Independence, OH
44131

After dinner, Club President Bill Hendricks will present a program titled "New Caledonia—The Land that Time Forgot," and then club members (who wish to) will participate in the annual plant gift exchange.

If a member discovers he or she cannot attend the party in advance, please let Karen Snell know ASAP at kdsnell@roadrunner.com.

We hope everyone can attend, as a fun time was had by all last year, as seen in the photos below and on the following page.





*Season's
Greetings*



November Presentation Recap

The Importance of Watering Cacti and Succulents

During the November club meeting, the club's youngest member, 11-year-old Zoltan Onutz, gave an informative presentation titled "Why Plants Need Water." A few highlights from the presentation are listed below.

Thank you Zoltan for a wonderfully informative and well-articulated presentation!

Presentation Highlights

- Plants need water to live
- Plants use water in a process called photosynthesis to make energy
- Water from the soil enters the plant's roots in a process called osmosis
- Plants transport water and dissolved nutrients through a process called transpiration. Transpiration is how water leaves a plant. It occurs so that the plant has water for photosynthesis. The water vapor lost in the stomata are how the rest of the water molecules are pulled up from the roots to the leaves
- Check your plants often so that you know when to water them. Only water when necessary
- Some plants grow more in the winter (such as aloe) and others more in the summer (such as echeveria). Be aware of your plants' growing season so as to not overwater or underwater them
- Zoltan waters his plants once a week during the summer and once a month during the winter. Note, however, to water your plants when necessary, not always when a guideline states so
- Good drainage is essential for cacti and succulents to survive. Be sure your pots have adequate holes in the bottom



11-year-old club member Zoltan Onutz presenting on watering cacti and succulents during the November 2018 club meeting.

Club Dues are Now Due

Dues for 2019 are due now. The cost is \$20 per individual or \$20 per family.

Please pay by either cash or check (made out to MWCCS). Please pay Karen Snell during our December Christmas party if you haven't already done so during the November meeting.

NE Ohio Winter Events

GLOW



Cleveland Botanical Garden

Through Jan. 5, 2019

Multiple holiday events — see [web-site](#). Closed Mondays, Christmas day and New Year's day.

Holden Arboretum

Seasonal events — see [website](#). Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas day and New Year's day.

Youngstown Live — Mahoning County Convention and Visitors Bureau

Features multiple area holiday events; too many to list here, but something fun for everyone. Check out the bureau's event calendar [here](#).

Lake Metroparks — Farmpark

Ice Festival

Kirtland, OH

Jan. 25 and 26

The Farmpark Ice Festival will kick off with the unveiling of a Farmpark-themed ice chair and an ice carving demonstration. The night will end with a battle between fire and ice! See [link](#).

Ohio City

Brite Winter Festival

Feb. 23

Winter games, food trucks, a roaring fire, music and art. Some area businesses are taking part in the festival and many offer various festival discounts and specials. See [link](#).

Bloomin' Beautiful

Check out the beautiful bloom from this past fall on this Variegated Echinopsis, from the collection of Club President Bill Hendricks.

Both the flower and the plant are super impressive! Thank you for sharing, Bill!



A Quilted Masterpiece

Club member Jill Baley is an avid quilter and was recently challenged by another MWCCS member to create a cactus quilt. To the left and below is the end result.

Thank you for displaying your quilt masterpiece during the November meeting!



From the President's Desk...



Club President Bill Hendricks

The last meeting of the year is fast approaching as we prepare for our annual Christmas party and plant exchange. Thank you Mike Briggs for making the original arrangements for this event and Karen Snell for taking care of the details with Harry's each year. It is exciting that the club can provide the meal because of the success of our Spring Show and Sale the last several years. We must give Kathy Smith special thanks for her expertise and dedication to our Facebook page and knowing how to get the most out of it. Thank you Tim Malinich for keeping our web page up to date. There is no doubt that the great Facebook page and website have brought us this expanded audience. Thank you Melissa Mezgec for creating such a wonderful newsletter for our club. Thank you Mike Briggs for chairing the Spring Show and Sale and taking care of preparation details and Doug Bacso for organizing the member displays of our plants in the showroom.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve as president of the club for the past several years. The members of our club are the reason for our success. Whether you are an experienced grower or novice makes no difference. It is the sharing of information and enthusiasm for the plants we grow that bring us together. This is something I experienced as a young new member 50 years ago when I joined the club. I was welcomed and learned from the older members of the club. They shared their knowledge, experience and plants as we do today. I can only hope that all of you get as much pleasure from the club as I have for all of these years.

So many of you have worked hard to make the Spring Show and Sale a success. It is this opportunity that allows us to show off our plants and get more people excited about them. It is member participation in the meetings that will continue to keep them interesting and educational. It is exciting to see our numbers grow when many clubs have seen diminished interest and membership.

Remember to bring a plant for the gift exchange, a tradition that I experienced from the first year I belonged to the club. I mark each plant that I have gotten over the years in the exchange with the year received and can look back to when I received them. Please bring a **cactus or succulent** that you would be proud to receive if you got it in the exchange and take what you receive to create your own memories of the club and help your collection grow.

Nancy and I look forward to seeing all of you at Harry's. **Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!**



Book Nook—Focus on Club Library

During the November club meeting, club member Tami Host donated a book to the club titled "Guide to the Succulent Plants of Southwest Madagascar." If you are interested in reading this, see Club President Bill Hendricks. Also, if you have a specific book in mind that you are itching to read, email Bill ahead of time at bhendricks@klynnurseries.com so that he can check to see if the club has it. If it is available, he will pull it from the club book library and bring it to the next meeting for you.

And lastly, since it is winter, take some time to cozy up by the fireplace and hop online to read this article titled "[How to Care for Succulents and Cacti in Winter.](#)" It provides great plant growing insight with photos. Stay warm, and stay "in the know" about how to properly care for your plant babies during these cold northeastern Ohio winters!



2019 Spring Show and Sale

It is not too early to start preparing your display and/or sale plants for the 2019 Spring Show and Sale, which will be the club's biggest yet!

The event will be held March 16 & 17 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and like last year, our club will have most of the Garden to utilize (we will not be sharing space/time during the Garden's yearly Big Spring event).

Currently, our club's planning committee is meeting with the botanical garden executive staff and will be discussing all final plans with the rest of the club members during our upcoming regular meetings.

Everyone's participation is critical for making this year's Spring Show and Sale the biggest and best one yet!

Further detail on the show will be discussed in upcoming meetings.

Photos from the 2018 Show and Sale



Cactus and Succulent Society (CSSA) News

Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your membership lately to the Cactus and Succulent Society (CSSA)? It is easy and convenient to complete online. Visit the [CSSA website](#) and select the Membership tab. Follow the instructions from there.

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.

Quarterly Calendar of Events



*Note all meetings are from 1—4 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

December 2018

Club Christmas Party—Dec. 16 at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence, OH. Please see information and directions on page one. As a reminder, club members have the opportunity to participate in the annual plant gift exchange. Bill Hendricks's presentation is: "New Caledonia—The Land that Time Forgot."

January 2019

Regular club meeting at CBG. Presentation/panel discussion by individual club members who own a greenhouse (hobby greenhouse).

February 2019 ***Note this meeting will be the fourth Sunday in February (Feb. 24)***

Regular club meeting at CBG. No presentation, as final discussions regarding the Spring Show and Sale will take place (getting your plants ready, volunteer sign ups, etc.).

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: *Note club officers will be changing for 2019; see next newsletter issue for updates.

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.

