



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



Fall 2019

Published in September

Inside this Issue...

- 2020 Dues ReminderP. 1
- June Field Trip RecapP. 1-8
- NE Ohio Fall EventsP. 2
- Competition WinnerP. 9
- Summer Plant ShowcaseP. 10-11
- From the President's DeskP. 12
- Book NookP. 12
- Calendar of Events.....P. 13
- CBG Directions.....P. 13
- General Club Info.P. 13

Dues Are Coming Due

As a reminder, dues for the 2020 year are to be paid by December. Please make your payment to Club Treasurer Tammie Host during the Sept., Oct. or Nov. meeting if at all possible to avoid having to pay during the December Christmas party/meeting. Preparations for the party will be discussed during the upcoming fall meetings. All suggestions/ input is welcome during regular club meetings.

Got content? Contact Melissa at Melissa415@hotmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter issue.

Summer Event Recap

June Field Trip

Article and Photos by Melissa Mezgec

In June, club members who chose to participate in this year's field trip enjoyed a day full of great cacti and succulent purchases, informative plant speeches/demonstrations, gorgeous views and a tasty dinner at the end of the day.

The day started at Groovy Plants Ranch in Marengo, OH. Here, club members were able to purchase a wide variety of cacti, succulents and a myriad of other outdoor/indoor plants. Next, MWCSS Club Vice President Bill Hendricks gave a presentation on a variety of cacti and succulent topics, whereby many shoppers in attendance (including non-club members) learned a great deal. ****Photos continued on following pages; article continued on page four.****



NE Ohio Outdoor Fall Events to Visit



Holden Arboretum

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

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

Cleveland Botanical Garden

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

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

Oktoberfest at the Wolf Creek Grist Mill in Mohican—Sept. 28

<https://www.ohiotraveler.com/oktoberfest-at-the-mill/>

Old West Pumpkin Fest at Rockin'-R-Ranch in Columbia Station—Weekends In October

<https://www.ohiotraveler.com/old-west-pumpkin-fest-rockin-r-ranch/>

Medina Candlelight Walk—
Medina—Nov. 22—24

<https://www.ohiotraveler.com/medina-candlelight-walk/>



June Field Trip (Con't.)



June Field Trip (Con't.)



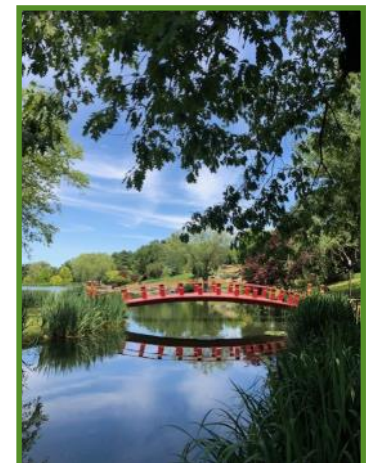
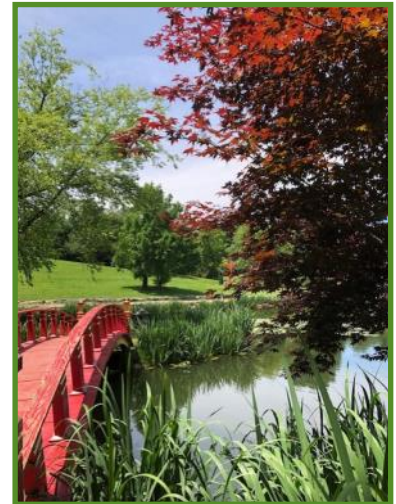
Club Vice President Bill Hendricks presenting at Groovy Plant Ranch's Succulent Solstice event in June.



June Field Trip (Con't.)

After departing Groovy Plants Ranch, those who carpooled broke out individually for lunch, and then club members reconvened at Schnormeier Gardens in Gambier, OH. Ted Schnormeier, property owner, gave club members a guided tour of the majestic 75-acre property, which includes numerous lakes, nine discrete garden areas and views that are priceless and unforgettable. Because it was a guided tour, club members were able to see things and go into buildings on the property that are normally closed off to regular visitors.

For those club members who were unable to attend this year's field trip but would like to visit Schnormeier gardens on their own, check out its website at <https://www.schnormeiergardens.org/>. Note that the property is open to visitors only during the month of June. ****Photos continued on following pages; article continued on page eight.****



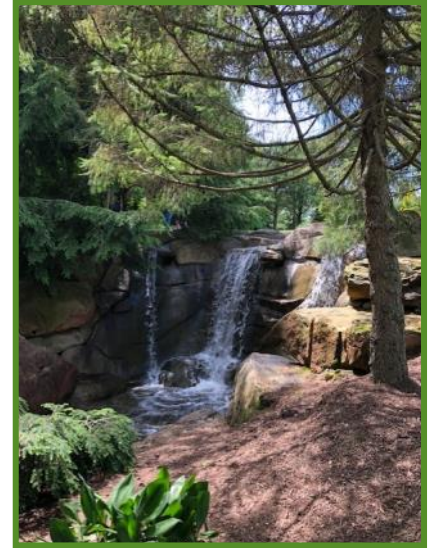
June Field Trip (Con't.)



Bill Hendricks and Ted Schnormeier



June Field Trip (Con't.)



June Field Trip (Con't.)



June Field Trip (Con't.)

To round out the field trip after departing Schnormeier Gardens, club members dined at Der Dutchman Restaurant in Bellville, OH. Great dining and discussions were had, and many enjoyed shopping at the upstairs gift shop and taking home a little something extra from the in-store bakery.

Thank you to everyone who came to experience such a wonderful day. It is one club members will not soon forget!



Competition Winner: Shawn Murdock Photos by Shawn Murdock

In August, club member Shawn Murdock entered three of his cacti and succulent plants into the Cuyahoga County Fair in Berea — and all three won!

From these photos, it's no wonder these beauties won blue ribbons. One even took best in show (a Murdock Greenhouse first).

Shawn and other club member Sean Diamond were at the fair selling and displaying cacti and succulents, as well as answering any buyer questions.

Congratulations, Shawn!

If you missed this year's fair, make it a point to attend next year's fair in August.

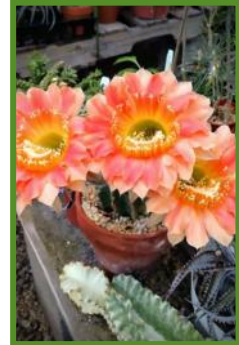


Hot Fun in the Summertime 

Club Member Personal Collection Pics

With summer being the prime time to show off those impressive collections, the following club members' collections did not disappoint. Thank you for sharing your beauties with the club!

Bill Hendricks Pics



Hot Fun in the Summertime 

Club Member Personal Collection Pics (Con't.)

Bob Raack Pics



From the President's Desk...



Club President Tim Malinich

This month and next will find me faithfully carrying my cacti into various overwintering locations in my house and small greenhouse. It doesn't happen all at once, but I find with a large collection of specimens and seedlings, starting in late September and working on it through November usually has most of my plants sheltered by the time it gets really cold. I start with the most cold-sensitive plants, *Euphorbia* and *Mammillaria*; *Opuntia* are very cold tolerant and they come in last, just after *Sansevaria*.

Members have different ways of overwintering their collections and it depends upon the facilities they have to care for their plants. Some overwinter plants in the basement, under lights or in a greenhouse. Regardless of your methods, some things need to happen to make sure plants are ready to go into winter and survive through to next season. The key is to plan on maintaining the plants and not actively growing them.

Our summer-growing cacti and succulents want to rest in the winter (winter growers are another matter; more on those another time). That means getting them to shut down and just exist with no growth, flowers, etc. When cool nights arrive, that should be your reminder to slow the plants down. They will not be using as much water under cooler temperatures, so excessive watering can lead to root rots.

Start to dry the plants down in September. Let them spend a few more days on the dry side before providing water. If you fertilize with liquid fertilizer, that should be stopped by now. The feed just wants to make the plants grow; adding fertilizer water to lightly watered plants can also lead to a buildup of fertilizer salts. Remember, the goal is to maintain, not grow. If you have an indoor light setup and can provide adequate heat and light, you can actually keep plants going indoors, but that is not always possible in some situations.

The plants don't have to come in all at once; if you have a large collection, bring in part of the collection every week with a goal of having everything under cover (porch or garage) or indoors before the temperatures drop below 40 degrees at night.

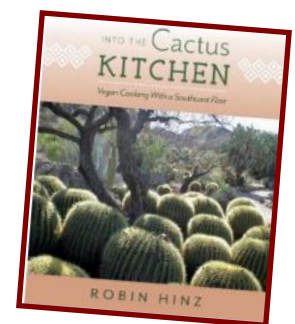
Since you have the opportunity to handle each plant, inspect each closely for insect pests such as scale, mealybug or pillbugs (hiding inside the bottom of the pot). Pull any weeds or cut back any weeds you can't safely pull.

Finally, as your winter storage space fills up, consider giving those extra plants to friends, neighbors or other prospective MWCSS members.



Book Nook — *Cooking with Cacti: A Vegan's Delight*

Typically, every Book Nook section of this newsletter focuses on cacti and succulents: different varieties, how to decorate with them, etc. But there has never been a feature on cooking with cacti. Well, for those who are vegan and love to whip up interesting, even exotic, dishes in the kitchen, this read is for you! Combine your love of cacti with your love of food with recipes from "Into the Cactus Kitchen: Vegan Cooking with a Southwest Flair." Chef Robin Hinz (author) was asked to create vegan meals for several women's spiritual retreats held annually at Saguaro Lake Ranch in Arizona. She jumped at the chance to "veganize" a cuisine heavy on meat and dairy products. Her book is the result of this wildly successful experiment which resulted in a four-year relationship with the women's retreat group. Whether you adhere to a strict vegan diet, are experimenting with vegetarianism or simply want to avoid dairy, if you love Tex-Mex, this cookbook is for you. Bon appetit!



Quarterly Calendar of Events

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: “Anacampseros to Zebras—A South African Experience” by Bill Hendricks

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. RSVP required.*

October

When: Sunday, Oct. 20

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: Cleveland Botanical Garden—see address in the column to the right

What: Regular club meeting

Presentation: “Record Keeping and Databases” by Shawn Murdock

Plant of the Month: Any new plant acquisition(s)

November

When: Sunday, Nov. 17

Time: 1 p.m.

Where: Cleveland Botanical Garden—see address in the column to the right

What: Regular club meeting

Presentation: “Basic Entomology” by Doug Bacso and Tim Malinich

Plant of the Month: Globose cacti

General Club Meeting Information

The MWCSS generally meets the third Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Cleveland Botanical Garden (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.

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.mwcsc.com—Fresh content is always needed for the club’s website.

Email Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/mwcsc/>—Fresh content is always needed for the club’s Facebook page. Email Kathy at ksmith913@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