



The Spine

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Inside this Issue...

Winter-Growing Succulents.....P. 1-3

Glow Wreath Decorating.....P. 4

From the President's Desk.....P. 5

Club Members' Winter Pics.....P. 6

Book Nook.....P. 6

2021 Spring Show and Sale Info. ..P. 7

A Call for Presentations.....P. 7

Newsletter Content Reminder.....P. 7

CSSA News.....P. 8

General Club Info.P. 8

Winter-Growing Succulents

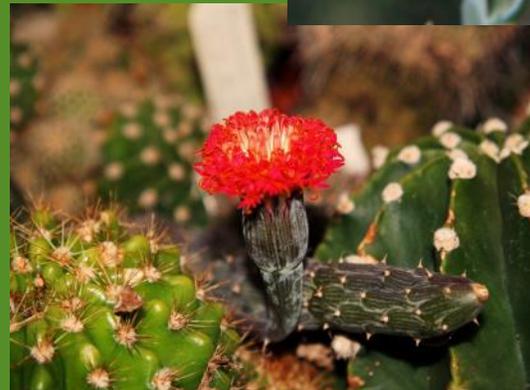
During the November 2020 club meeting, Club Vice President Bill Hendricks gave a virtual presentation titled "Winter-Growing Succulents." Both regular club members, as well as those members from the Michigan and Columbus clubs who were on the call, enjoyed seeing the photos of winter-growing/blooming succulents and hearing important information on watering, fertilization, temperature and the like to keep plants healthy during the cold winter months. Below (and on the following page) are a few of the many photos that comprised Bill's presentation. Also included in this article is a table with seasonal plant-growing information. Thank you, Bill!



A pretty *Senecio picticaulis* (full plant image above, and close-up shot of its flower to the right).



Some species of *Senecios* may grow/ bloom all year. Pictured to the right is a flower of *Senecio fulgens*, and below is a flowering *Senecio pendula*.



Winter-Growing Succulents (Con't.) Photos by: Bill Hendricks



Pachyphytum oviferum plant (top) and flower (bottom).

Kalanchoe: rhombopilosa (right) and pumila (bottom).



Crassula "blue bird" flower (top) and perforata flower.

From bulbs:

Haemanthus albiflos (right) and Boweia volubilis (bottom).



Genus	Winter	Fall/Spring	Bulb?	Notes (By Bill Hendricks)
Adromischus		x	No	
Aeonium	x		No	Summer dormant.
Aloe			No	Many flower in the winter and grow in the summer. A. erinacea, melanacantha, pillansii, plicatilis, ramosissima are winter growers.
Anacampseros/Avonia		x	No	I find them winter dormant.
Astroloba	x	x	No	
Bowiea	x	x	No	
Bulbine	x		No	
Ceraria	x		No	
Cotyledon	x		No	
Crassula	x		No	Some are summer growers.
Dioscorea			No	I find them winter dormant.
Dudleya	x		No	
Gasteria	x	x	No	
Graptopetalum	x	x	No	
Graptoveria	x	x	No	
Haworthia		x	No	Some are winter growers.
Kalanchoe	x		No	
Oscularia	x		No	
Othonna	x		No	
Pachycornus	x	x	No	
Pachyphytum	x		No	
Pachyveria	x		No	
Pelargonium	x		No	Some species are summer growers.
Peperomia	x		No	Some species are summer growers.
Portulacaria	x		No	
Sansevieria		x	No	
Sarcocaulon	x		No	
Sedeveria	x		No	
Senecio	x		No	Some species may grow all year.
Talinum	x		No	
Tylecodon	x		No	
WINTER MESEMBS			No	A few of the winter growers.
Conophytum	x		No	
Fenestraria	x		No	
Gibbaeum	x		No	
Stomatium	x		No	
Trichodiadema			No	
S.AFRICAN BULBS				
Albuca	x		Yes	
Boophane distichum	x		Yes	
Ferraria crispa	x		Yes	
Haemanthus	x	x	Yes	
Lachenalia species	x		Yes	
Massonia species	x		Yes	
Nerine species	x		Yes	
Ornithogalum caudatum	x		Yes	
Veltheimia	x		Yes	
Hippeastrum species	x		Yes	Though they are summer growers, they keep their foliage all winter and want enough water to keep them evergreen unlike amaryllis that go fully dormant.



MWCSS 2020 GLOW Wreath

Even with COVID restrictions/guidelines in place, the Cleveland Botanical Garden (CBG) held its yearly GLOW event, whereby more than 30 affiliate garden clubs put together a wreath or other display type to showcase their club plants.

This year, MWCSS club members Pat Ballo (top picture) and Kathy Smith (bottom picture) designed a gorgeous wreath adorned with various succulents to represent our cactus club.

In keeping with state restrictions, this year's event was different than other years in the fact that social distancing was practiced via a one-way guided path through both indoor and outdoor visual experiences.

Thank you Pat and Kathy for creating a beautiful display to represent our club!



From the President's Desk



Tim Malinich

~ A New Season ~



I like to say that Dec. 22 is the start of a new growing season. Though it might not seem that way, it is correct from a certain point of view. After the winter solstice, the days begin to get longer, slowly at first then more rapidly as we approach the spring equinox when day and night are both 12 hours long. Though they don't seem to be paying attention, plants do notice the slowly changing shift toward longer days.

Plants that have adapted to seasonal changes measure the length of nights so they can react appropriately for the season. As I write this, the bud scales on the trees in my yard are measuring how short the day is by using a pigment called phytochrome. When exposed to light, phytochrome turns into a form called PFR. At night, the phytochrome is slowly converted back to regular phytochrome, PR. If the night is long, then all of the phytochrome gets converted back to PR; but as the nights get shorter, the plants don't have enough time to change it all back, so the PFR form starts to build up—the plant can sense that days are getting longer.

Think of it like this: If you had two cups and one was filled with 10 dimes, you can move the dimes by hand from one cup over to the other and back. But if you only had a few seconds to move the dimes back, you might not get them all moved. If you had even less time to move them back to the first cup each time, most of the dimes would eventually end up in the original cup.

When a plant has all of its "dimes" in one cup, it knows that the daylight (season) is correct for it to do certain things. Plants use these day-length timers for seed germination, leaf loss, and, of course, flowering. This is why the Thanksgiving cactus flowers around November, Christmas Cactus sometime around the winter solstice and Easter cactus near the spring equinox. They are using their phytochrome timers to tell them when to set flower buds for their correct season. The actual system is much more complex and involves several types of pigments and activating genes in response but the basic idea is still pretty accurate.

You don't need phytochrome to tell you the date, but just how are you going to use this new season? There are lots of new things you can try with your succulent collection. Perhaps you will identify and label your collection, try propagating plants from seed or learn to speak botanical Latin. However, I would add one more item to your list—invite a friend to one of our virtual meetings. Or, invite an absent club member to join in virtually. Bill and Zoltán have done a grand job of networking with the Michigan and Columbus clubs and it adds a new dynamic to our normal agenda.

Take advantage of the virtual momentum we now have because sometime this year we should be able to have in-person meetings again. When we do, it will be nice to say that we haven't missed a beat and have had a good run of topics and discussions, even in the absence of face-to-face meetings. Until then, stay safe, keep growing and don't forget to pay attention to the longer days of the new season.

Tim Malinich

MWCCS Club President

Club Members' Winter Plant Pics



Aeoniums (top) and a blooming *Neopertheria clavata* v. *grandiflora* from Club Vice President Bill Hendricks.



Euphorbia aeruginosa from the collection of Club Member Shawn Murdock.

Interesting note: *Euphorbia* is named for Euphorbus, Greek physician to Juba II, King of Mauretania. Also, "aeruginosa" means "rust colored."

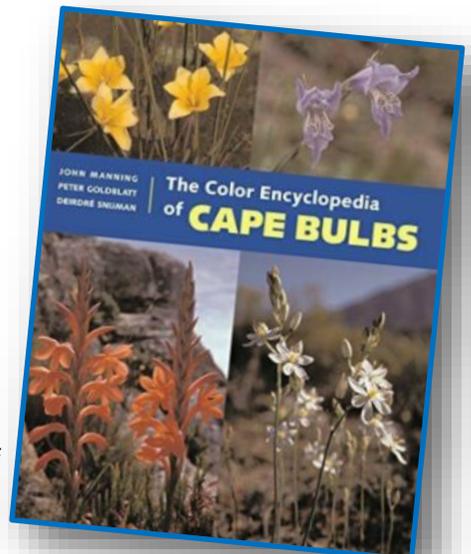
This plant is from the Republic of South Africa, from the northern province and throughout the length of the Limpopo valley.

Just in time for the holidays and adorned with holly—*Aloe Snowstorm* (from the *Asphodelaceae* family). From the collection of Club Member Christie Briggs.



Book Nook

A suggested read by Club Treasurer Tammie Host is "The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs" by John Manning, Peter Goldblatt and Dee Snijman. This 486-page hardcover book, published in 2002, takes the reader on a tour of the Cape Floral Region, located at the southern tip of Africa, showcasing a multitude of bulbous plants found in this region. With its richly illustrated, high-quality color photographs of more than half of the species of the Cape bulbs, this book is an educational wonderland.



2021 Spring Show and Sale Info.

As all club members know, last year's 2020 Spring Show and Sale event was cancelled due to COVID-19. Looking ahead to this year, it is difficult to predict where state mandates and lockdowns will be in regard to spring events. Thus, the club has a few dates temporarily reserved and at various locations.

Currently, the best update to provide is to keep attending regular meetings via Zoom for future discussions/updates/dates. In general, it was determined during the November meeting that a minimum of two months' advance planning is needed for all club members to prepare (whether selling/displaying/general assisting, etc.). Please stay tuned for more information, and check the club website/Facebook page frequently.

Photos from the 2019 Show and Sale



A Call for Presentations— All Cactus Clubs Welcome

A variety of different presentations is needed for the upcoming 2021 meetings. This invitation is extended to other fellow cactus clubs in different cities/states, and likewise our club can present to theirs.

If anyone has a topic of expertise you would like to share with fellow club members, please reach out to MWCSS Club Vice President Bill Hendricks at bhendricks@klynnurseries.com.

Presentations are held at the end of regular club meetings and are usually accompanied by a PowerPoint slide presentation.

Thank you to all who have already presented. Sharing your knowledge and first-hand experiences on topics continues to enrich our club members and drives forth our club mission to help each other succeed.

Newsletter Content Needed

Newsletter content is always needed, especially for the upcoming spring and summer issues (lots of photos of your favorite plants bring life and color to the newsletter).

Please send along those photos and/or articles to Melissa415@hotmail.com. Not a photographer or writer, but still want to share something special of yours with the club? No problem! Melissa is happy to assist with both. Please reach out to schedule a meeting time.

Cactus and Succulent Society (CSSA) News

Webinars

In light of COVID-19 and, like so many other organizations in the country, the CSSA has been hosting webinars to continue educational enrichment. These webinars are available to everyone, but registration is requested. Visit the [CSSA website](#) to register/join the next educational webinar! Also, as a side note, surrounding area clubs are beginning to invite our club members to their monthly Zoom meetings. Look for invitation emails sent from Club Secretary Zoltan Onutz.

Membership Renewal

Ring in the new year the right way—be sure to renew your membership to the Cactus and Succulent Society (CSSA). It is easy and convenient to complete online. Visit the CSSA website (link listed above) and select the Membership tab. Follow the instructions from there.

MWCSS Mission:

Cactus and succulent collectors and hobbyists helping each other succeed.

New Membership Information:

Contact Tammie Host at itamara@sbcglobal.net for new membership info.

Other Club Resources:

www.mwcoss.com—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website. Email Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

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

MWCSS Club Officers:

Tim Malinich—Club president/webmaster

Bill Hendricks—Club vice president

Zoltan Onutz—Club secretary

Tammie Host—Club treasurer

Other:

Kathy Smith—Club publicity/CBG affiliate

Melissa Mezgec—Club newsletter writer/editor

Officers Note:

The 2020 officers will remain the same for 2021, except for new Club Secretary Zoltan Onutz. Thank you, Zoltan, for stepping up and taking on this role!

General Club Meeting Information

****Note: Due to COVID-19, upcoming meetings for the foreseeable future in 2021 will be held via Zoom meetings, until certain restrictions are lifted. See upcoming emails for a specific details. Thank you.**

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.

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.

