

# The Spine

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Spring 2021  
Published in May

## Inside this Issue...

Hoyas Presentation.....P. 1-3

Open House Event.....P. 4

Blooming Jades.....P. 5

Club Members' Plants .....P. 6

From the President's Desk.....P. 7

Book Nook.....P. 8

A Call for Presentations.....P. 8

Newsletter Content Reminder.....P. 8

CSSA News.....P. 9

General Club Info.....P. 9

## “The Wonderful World of Hoyas”

### - Presentation by Kathy Smith

During the March 2021 club meeting, Club Member/Club Publicity/CBG Affiliate Representative Kathy Smith gave a virtual presentation titled “The Wonderful World of Hoyas.” Some highlights covered include the fact that Hoyas:

- Are a diverse genus
- Are tropical plants in the Asclepiadoideae family (Apocynaceae sub-family)
- Excrete milky sap (non-toxic)
- Are part of hundreds of different species and numerous cultivars
- Are non-arid
- Originate from low-land tropical rain forests
- Some are more succulent
- Leaves grow in pairs, opposite one another in nodes
- Leaves vary in size and texture
- Need dried out between waterings

A few other key takeaways include:

- Use a well-draining soil mix. A combination of peat, perlite and orchid mix works well
- Provide them warmth and some humidity
- Worm castings may be added
- Don't use heavy fertilization, and only fertilize during the growing season (not winter)
- For indoor growing, use bright indoor grow lights or place by a sunny window
- Don't over-pot them, as they don't mind being root-bound. Re-pot when the roots begin shooting out the bottom
- When propagating, use a fresh (young) stem and find a leaf node from which to root
- Stems can be rooted in water or various media

Thank you, Kathy, for this informative and enjoyable presentation. A photo from the presentation is found to the left, and more are shown on the following pages.



*Hoya pubicalyx* 'Pink Silver'

## “The Wonderful World of Hoyas” - Photos



### ~Key~

**Top left:** *Hoya australis albomarginata*

**Top right:** *Hoya fungi*

**Bottom left:** *Hoya bilobate*

**Bottom right:** *Hoya Ban Ngong Ngoy*

# “The Wonderful World of Hoyas” - Photos

~Key~

**Top right:** *Hoya multiflora*

**Middle right:** *Hoya obscura*

**Bottom right:** *Hoya Mathilde*

**Below:** *Hoya kerrii albomarginata*





## Windswept in Time Open House Event

There will be an open house event at Windswept in Time over Memorial Day weekend this year.

This open house event is the first of two to be held this year. Please see below for details:

### Details

**What:** Open house event

**When:** May 29 and 30 (Sat. and Sun.)

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Where:** Windswept in Time  
8066 Skyline Drive  
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

**Plants for sale:** Orchids and a nice selection of succulents/cacti.



An inside view of the orchid greenhouse at Windswept in Time.

Due to COVID-19, masks and social distancing are required, and bathroom facilities will be unavailable.

Another open house will occur in November; further information on this will be forthcoming.

Be sure to check out the Windswept in Time Orchids Facebook page [here](#).



## A Ray of Spring Sunshine

Beautiful yellow blooms which look like little bursts of sun abound on this *Lobivia famatinensis*. What a beautiful way to kick off spring and early summer! Thank you Club Secretary Tammie Host for sharing a pic of this beauty! If you have any bloomin' beautiful cacti or succulents, take a few pictures and send them to [Melissa415@hotmail.com](mailto:Melissa415@hotmail.com) for inclusion in the summer newsletter.



# Blooming Jades

*Crassula ovata* and *C. arborescens* were in bloom this past winter. As seen, they are mature, and some look like a bonsai cherry tree in bloom. The Blue Bird variety is even fragrant.

These are from the greenhouse of Vice President Bill Hendricks.



## Showcase of Club Members' Plants



An interesting and pretty *Haworthia* from the collection of Club Vice President Bill Hendricks.



This blooming *Titanopsis calcarean* beauty is from the greenhouse of Club Member Christie Briggs.



Shown are *Conophytum* and *Cheiridopsis*, which are “alien-like” succulents and native to South Africa and Namibia. This is a small sample of plants from Club Vice President Bill Hendricks.

# *From the President's Desk*



## *~ The Great Outdoors ~*

What a swing in weather we have had. Just when I was hoping to start moving my plants outdoors, we had the return of freezing temperatures and about five inches of snow. The asparagus was frozen and neighbors lost large branches from their trees. Late snow is always tough on trees when their leaves are out because they can collect hundreds of pounds of wet snow. But every time we get in a swing in temperatures it keeps getting warmer.

Cacti love to get outdoors for a growing vacation. It is hard to provide enough artificial light to match what our sun provides. Getting the plants out late spring through early fall lets them put on a good deal of growth and maybe even a few flowers. Moving them outside can be a bit tedious, though.

Because the sun is so powerful, moving any indoor plant outside requires a few weeks of gradual acclimation—move it to a shaded and sheltered location for a week followed by more exposure for a few more days before moving it to its final location. Failure to do a gradual move can result in sun or wind burn and perhaps the death of the plant. And, if we get another crazy drop in temperatures (or snow), you have to be ready to protect those plants.

Do your research to find out what conditions your plants will thrive under. Not all cacti truly want full, glaring sun all day. Some prefer a bit of shelter during the hottest part of the day. But, during the summer you can provide all the water, nutrients and temperature that will make your plants thrive.

As a club, we hope to have that same chance to thrive this summer and early fall. No one is certain what the restrictions will be like as the year progresses, but we are hopeful to get access to our normal meeting room and in-person meetings later this year. In the meantime, we are looking at making plans for a picnic this summer. If you have not been able to attend the meetings, watch our Facebook page to keep up to date with any upcoming meetings or other events. The CSSA online lectures have gotten great reviews from our members, so put one or two of those on your calendar. We will move back to in-person meetings as soon as we are able, but until then make like a succulent and enjoy the heat, light and other things that sustain your interest in the hobby.

***Tim Malinich***  
MWCSS Club President



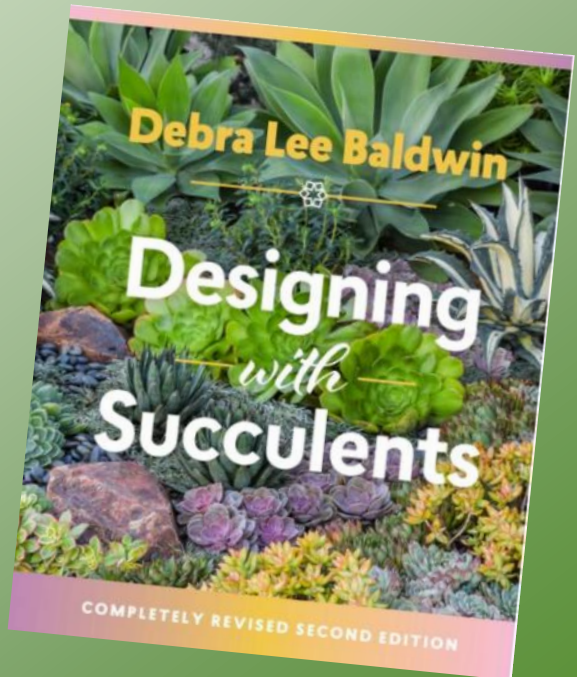
## Book Nook

---

With summer right around the corner, why not read up on how to design stunning succulent displays to set outside and “wow” friends and even passersby? “Designing with Succulents,” by Debra Lee Baldwin, is a design compendium that discusses design and cultivation basics. It includes hundreds of succulent plant recommendations and profiles of 50 easy-to-care-for, drought-tolerant companion plants.

With 400 photographs, everything needed to visualize, create and nurture a thriving, water-smart succulent garden is mapped out in the book. Be sure to read it and begin creating that beautifully thriving succulent garden, just in time for summer!

---



## A Call for Presentations— All Cactus Clubs Welcome

It's not too early to start planning for 2022 presentations. 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 to share with fellow club members, please reach out to MWCSS Club Vice President Bill Hendricks at [bhendricks@klynnurseries.com](mailto:bhendricks@klynnurseries.com).

In-person meeting presentations are held at the end of club meetings, but presentations for Zoom meetings have been held at the beginning so that visitors can drop off the call while the rest of the formal meeting is discussed with regular club members. Presentations are usually accompanied by PowerPoint slides.

Thank you to all who have already presented.

## Newsletter Content Needed

Newsletter content is always needed, especially for the upcoming summer issue (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](mailto: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

As a reminder, 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](mailto:itamara@sbcglobal.net) for new membership info.

### Other Club Resources:

[www.mwcoss.com](http://www.mwcoss.com)—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website. Email Tim at [timj@hearthstonefarm.net](mailto: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](mailto: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

## 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.