



The Spine

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Summer 2017
(Published in June)

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2017 Plant Show and Sale Recap

The 2017 MWCSS Plant Show and Sale, held on March 18 and 19 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, was yet again a record-breaking year. In fact, the number of attendees and plant sales from this year crushed last-year's numbers, which were record breaking!

All club members who contributed to the event in one capacity or another are greatly thanked, as an event of this scale would not be possible without all hands on deck.

Discussions for the 2018 show and sale event will occur during various regular club meetings throughout the year. One change noted for next year is that the MWCSS show and sale will occur on a different weekend than the Big Spring event. Stay tuned for further information.

Thank you again for all who helped out! Photos of this year's show and sale are shown below and on page four.

The calm before the storm...



NE Ohio Outdoor Gardens/Arboretums to Visit this Summer

Beech Creek Gardens

11929 Beech St. NE
Alliance, OH 44601

Canton Garden Center

1615 Stadium Park Drive NW
Canton, OH 44718

Clary Gardens

588 W. Chestnut St.
Coshocton, OH 43812

Fellows Riverside Gardens

123 McKinley Ave.
Youngstown, OH 44509

Kingwood Center

900 Park Ave.
Mansfield, OH 44906

Schoepfle Garden and Children's Garden

11106 Market St.
Birmingham, OH 44816

Secret Arboretum and Gardens

2122 Williams Road
Wooster, OH 44691



Club Member Spotlight: Annie Kitral

By: Melissa Mezgec

Long-time club member Annie Kitral LOVES plants, so much so that she has “at least 300 plants altogether,” she said. Strictly speaking of cacti and succulents, she has approximately 100 or so. “I’m fascinated by the genera of cacti and succulents,” noting the wide variety of shapes and forms. She has around 100 orchids and approximately 100 Gesneriads, tropicals and other plants. While she doesn’t have a greenhouse, she does use fluorescent lights for indoor growing.

In the summertime, she takes full advantage of giving her plants plenty of outdoor light by use of several tiered plant stands. She moves her plants indoors in September when the weather starts to turn. To keep them all straight, Annie is very organized and is meticulous about labeling her plants. “All my plants are labeled with the following information: name, bloom time, when to re-pot the plant and the name of the person whom I received the plant from.”

When asked what she likes best about being a club member, she said, “Learning. I’m always learning something new. It keeps us growing in knowledge. I also like hearing everyone’s tips, and even secrets, on growing.” Annie also loves hearing Club President Bill Hendrick’s travelogues. “I don’t travel, so it is my opportunity to see the world through his recounts.” And, of course, she loves all club members, noting everyone is just “wonderful.”

On a personal note, Annie is an animal lover and is currently a great caretaker to two rescued white cockatiels, male and female, who just had five babies. They each take a turn sitting on her bun while she cleans their cages!

And, did you know that there is a movie star in our club? That’s right, Annie has been a character actress in several Hollywood films such as “Jack Reacher,” “My Bloody Valentine” and “Welcome to Collinwood.” Look her up on the [IMDb website](#) sometime.

Thank you for sharing this information with us, Annie, and congratulations on being featured in our club member spotlight! Please see page three for photos of Annie’s personal collection.



Annie Kitral

Club Member Spotlight: Annie Kitral's Personal Collection

Annie Kitral, this newsletter's featured club member, would like to share the following photos of her personal cacti and succulent collection (her feature can be found on page two of this newsletter).



South African Bulb Scadoxus



Kohleria (a Type of Gesneria)



Pachypodium Saundersii (on table) and other cacti/succulents under a T5 light (top shelf) and fluorescent bulbs (two lower shelves). Notice her cat Bobo "photobombing" on the left.



Quarterly Calendar of Events



June 2017

- Field Trip—Saturday, June 17—Groovy Plants Ranch—come check out the exotic plants! The MWCSS will meet up with the Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society to enjoy a day of walking around and purchasing a variety of plants. A sign-up sheet was passed around during the May meeting. Please contact Karen Snell at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for questions/more detail.

*****Summer Break*****



Sept. 2017

- Sept. 7—Regular club meeting—held at Klyn Nursery in Perry. Guest speaker Curt Hanson will present on his travels to the Atacama Desert in Chile and also throughout northern Argentina. The meeting is at 1 p.m. Please bring a snack to share.

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).

For exact monthly meeting information, please see Karen Snell's email she sends out monthly.

For CBG address and directions, please see back page of this newsletter.

A sell-out success!



From the President's Desk...



Spring is here and the plants in our collections have resumed active growth. If you have properly taken care of your plants in winter, keeping them in a cool - night environment, you are hopefully starting to see many of your plants forming buds or starting to bloom.

This is the time of year when we can really start to enjoy our plants as we ready them for their summer stay outdoors. Moving plants outdoors takes a little thought and understanding of what we are growing. Most of our succulents will enjoy a mostly sunny location. Be sure to acclimate them to the hot summer sun by moving them into a lightly shaded stay for a short time before moving them into a full-sun position. Some plants like Epiphyllum (Orchid cactus) prefer a more shady location, as they are rain forest plants growing in the shade of trees. Remember that a morning sun is a cool sun but an afternoon sun is hot and can burn sensitive plants. You will be amazed at the vibrant colors in many of the succulents from a summer stay in the sun.

This is also a good time of year to check our plants for pests such as mealy bugs after their winter stay in a closed environment. Now is also the best time to repot those plants that need it. I keep potting dates on all my labels so that I know when the plants were last repotted. The exception of course are winter growers such as winter-growing Mesembs that are now entering their summer rest period and will start to grow in September. I try to repot most plants at least every

three to four years. It takes me that long to repot almost everything in the greenhouse on this schedule. Remember, when repotting, do not water freshly potted plants for at least three-to-five days after repotting, as watering freshly potted plants can lead to rot.

Watering and fertilizing also needs to become more frequent. I fertilize my collection once a month from April through August with a liquid feed and water the greenhouse weekly and some plants more often.

Propagation can be done at almost any time of year if handled properly, but now is the best and easiest time for great results. Most plants root slowly or not at all when dormant. I especially like to take my Euphorbia cuttings at the beginning of the growing season. I allow the cutting to dry for several days and much longer for large cuttings. Once they are properly callused, they can be placed in a rooting media and placed in a very warm location. I find summer heat on these early cuttings helps them to root quickly and get them ready for potting, giving them all summer to establish a good root system before fall.

I hope these few growing tips will help you enjoy your plants a little more this summer.

-Bill Hendricks
MWCSS Club President



Book Nook—*Suggested Reads*

Club members are invited to view the newest addition to the club library: **Cactus and Succulent Journal on DVD 1929 – 2003**. A wealth of information is found within the journals on all aspects of cacti and succulents from culture to travelogues and taxonomy and much more. Also, the **Beginner's Guide to Gasteria, Haworthia, Agave and other Succulent Monocots** is available. This book contains great information for both the beginner and experienced grower. Be sure to take advantage of these and other great resources via the 'mobile' club library! Please see Bill.

Club Member Doug Bacso's Personal Collection

Doug Bacso was the featured club member in the last newsletter (spring edition, published in March). Below are some photos of his greenhouse, hardy bed and most-coveted plants. Take in the beauty of them all—especially the gorgeous flowers! They look like they could be on post cards! Thank you Doug for sharing!



Greenhouse



Echinocereus Amoenus



Echinocereus Subinermis v. Luteus



Opuntia Rutila



Aylosteria Sanguinea



Opuntia Compressa



Echinopsis Buttercup



Outdoor Hardy Bed

Holden Arboretum Plant Sale a Huge Success

By Kathy Smith (Club Member)

Our club was of the featured vendors at the 2017 Holden Arboretum Plant Sale. Bill Hendricks and Kathy Smith participated, selling cacti, succulents and hypertufa containers. The three-day event in May had the highest attendance since 2005 and was a success. There were so many people who

specifically came to the sale just to talk to us and pick up something new for their cactus and succulent collection.



(Top) Plants for sale. (Left) Kathy's hypertufa containers on display for sale.



(Top) MWCCS Club President Bill Hendricks gives some planting advice to a customer at the Holden Arboretum plant sale.

Club Participates Again in Creating "Beach-Tastic" Container for CBG Hershey Children's Garden Affiliate Container Project

By Kathy Smith (Club Member)

MWCCS once again participated this year in the Hershey Children's Garden Affiliate Container Project. The theme this year is *Miniature Worlds*. Our club chose "A Day at the Beach" for our container. If you look closely, our bathing beauties look like they're having a care-free day at the beach, boating and laying in the sun, enjoying drinks, collecting shells with all the marine life around...but danger looms just off shore as the sharks start to circle around their boat. How will this story end? Take a moment to look at the detail in our miniature world. This will be on display all summer! This year's creative volunteers were: Patricia Ballo, Kathy Smith & MingYu Liang (as shown in photo to



Pat Ballo, Kathy Smith and MingYu Liang



the left). Bill Hendricks was generous enough to donate the succulents used in the planter.

A more up-close look at the final container display.

Propagating for Prolonged Plant Life

During the April club meeting (joint meeting with the Indoor Garden Society), all in attendance got to see firsthand the vegetative propagation of cacti and succulents. This included leaf and stem cuttings, as well as division of the following: clump-forming offsets; offset tubers; and rootstocks. Below and on the following page are some photos of the demonstration:



Propagating for Prolonged Plant Life



CBG Address/ 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:

Please contact Karen Snell at kdsnell@roadrunner.com for new membership information.

Other Club Resources:

www.mwcscs.com—Fresh content is always needed for the club's website.

Please email Tim at timj@hearthstonefarm.net.

<https://www.facebook.com/mwcscs/>—Fresh content is always needed for the club's Facebook page. Please 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