



The Spine



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWEST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Inside this Issue...

Christmas Party Information.....	P. 1
Succulent Christmas Tree.....	P. 1
NE Ohio Winter Events	P. 2
Club Member Spotlight	P. 2
From the President's Desk	P. 3
Book Nook	P. 3
Winter / Fall/Spring Growers	P. 4
Show and Sale Preview	P. 5
Honorary Club Distinction.....	P. 5
Club Dues Reminder.....	P. 5
Qtrly. Calendar of Events.....	P. 6

Christmas Party Set for Dec. 17

The Midwest Cactus and Succulent Society's Christmas party will be held on Dec. 17 at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence, Ohio, in the upstairs meeting room. 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). Club members voted on the menu during the November meeting.

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

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.).

After dinner, Club President Bill Hendricks will present a program on his trip to Latvia and Estonia, 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. Thank you, and we will see everyone at the party!

Make the Holidays Magical with a Succulent Tree

Make someone's holidays a little brighter this year—build him or her a succulent Christmas tree. Or, simply enjoy it yourself!

This clever and beautiful succulent Christmas tree was designed and built by club member Jeff Havel. To create this appealing display, form a wire mesh sheet into a cone shape, then fill the cone with sphagnum moss. Then, fill the frame with assorted cuttings. It takes quite a bit of cuttings to fill the tree (the tree shown is approximately 18" tall). The cuttings should root into the moss after a few weeks, and the tree can be taken apart and the rooted cuttings potted up after the holidays. This is a fun project, and a good way to display cuttings while they are rooting.

To water it, soak the whole tree down until the moss absorbs water (only after the cuttings have roots). The pot is filled with stones for ballast, and the weight of the pot alone should support the tree, but the stones also help secure the tree frame into the pot.

Jeff will have this festive tree on display at the club's Christmas party, adorned with colorful lights. Thank you for sharing your creativity! 🌵



Jeff Havel's beautiful succulent Christmas tree, which will be on display at the club Christmas party.

NE Ohio Winter Events



GLOW

Cleveland Botanical Garden

Through Dec. 31

20-ft. fir tree, dozens of decorated trees, 100+ gingerbread houses, train, other attractions

Medina Ice Festival

Medina Public Square

Free festival, mid-February

Ice-carving contest, music, food, drinks

Mansfield Winter Festival of Art

Art Cellar Gallery

Art for sale

Loudonville Winter Fest

Downtown Loudonville (near Mohican State Park)

Mid-January

Speed carving, ice carving and ice sculptures

Sandusky Arctic Ice Festival

Maritime Museum and Sandusky Sailing Club

Second Weekend of February

Ice boat races, sledding, cross country skiing, ice skating, soup cook-off, other events

Club Member Spotlight:



Jim Bell

By: Kathy Smith

REPRINTED FROM THE MWCSS FACEBOOK PAGE—OCT. 22, 2017



Jim Bell

This time we take a look at Jim Bell's collection. Jim has grown and collected cacti and succulents for 35 years. While Jim shares a greenhouse with his wife (who is an avid orchid grower), most of his succulent collection is grown outside during the summer months and inside under lights in the winter months.

He really enjoys growing Kalanchoe, Aloe and Haworthia. As you can see in his photos below, his collection is very diverse — a little bit of everything. Jim is also involved in other horticultural clubs and enjoys judging plant competitions.

Take a moment to check out some of Jim's vast collection below.



From the President's Desk...



Club members,

Another year has rolled by, and it's time to get ready for our annual holiday party. Let's hope for better weather than we had last year. This year we will meet at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence with the club paying for the dinner. This has been made possible by the success of our Spring Show and Sale in recent years. It is a way of thanking all of you for your support of the club and hard work at the annual show. Be sure to bring a plant for the gift exchange. It is always fun to see what shows up in these packages. I have many plants in my collection that have been raised from plants received in former exchanges.

Remember, it is winter, and knowing something about the plant you receive will help with future success. Is it a winter or summer grower? Several succulents that are winter growers even flower during this time of year. Aloes are winter flowering but are summer growers.

The winter growers come from areas of the world where moisture is available in winter and summers are very dry, thus the plants grow in winter. Most of these plants want less water in summer while some must be kept totally dry and allowed to rest totally dormant until they start to grow in autumn. Most are relatively easy to grow on windowsills or under lights, rewarding us with active growth and flowers at an otherwise dreary time of year. See list of winter growers on the following page.

For our party, club member Jeff Havel will be bringing a succulent Christmas tree (see article on how to create this and photo on page one). I will be showing a PowerPoint presentation of a trip Nancy and I did with the British Conifer Society to Latvia and Estonia (we went in early August 2016). Yes, and even succulent sedums native to Estonia growing on the shore of the Baltic Sea will be discussed, as well as visits to succulent collections at botanic gardens.

Nancy and I are looking forward to seeing all of you on December 17 at our annual holiday party!

- Bill Hendricks
MWCSS Club President



Above: Many Senecios have bright-colored flowers during their winter-growing period. Senecios are featured on the chart on the next page.



Book Nook—Suggested Wintertime Read

Cozy up by the fireplace this winter and read (or listen to) *Cacti & Succulents for Cold Climates: 274 Outstanding Species for Challenging Conditions* by Leo J. Chance. This is especially good for club members, as we all know the winters of northeast Ohio can be brutal. Download an [audio version](#) of this on Google Play. Happy reading, and stay warm while learning about growing in cold climates!



Winter / Fall/Spring Growers (as referenced in Bill's article)

Genus	Winter	Fall/Spring		Notes
Adromischus		x		
Aeonium	x			Summer dormant
Aloe			Many flower in winter & grow in summer	A. erinacea, melanacantha, pillansii, plicatilis, ramosissima are winter growers
Anacampseros		x		I find them winter dormant
Astroloba	x	x		
Bowiea	x	x		
Bulbine	x			
Ceraria	x			
Conophytum	x			
Cotyledon	x			
Crassula	x			Some are summer growers
Dioscorea				I find them winter dormant
Dudleya	x			
Faucaria		x		
Fenestaria	x			
Gasteria	x	x		
Gibbaeum	x			
Graptopetalum	x	x		
Graptoveria	x	x		
Haworthia		x		Some winter growers
Kalanchoe	x			
Neohenricia	x			
Othonna	x			
Pachycormus	x	x		
Pachyphytum	x			
Pachyveria	x			
Pelargonium	x			Some species are summer growers
Peperomia				Some species are summer growers
Sansevieria		x		
Sarcocaulon	x			
Sedeveria	x			
Senecio	x			Some species may grow all year
Stomatium	x			
Talinum	x			
Tylecodon	x			
Albuca	x		bulb	
Boophane distichum	x		bulb	
Ferraria crispa	x		bulb	
Haemanthus	x	x	bulb	
Lachenalia species	x		bulb	
Massonia species	x		bulb	
Ornithogalum bulbosum	x		bulb	
Veltheimia	x		bulb	
Hippeastrum species	x		bulb	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.

A Look Ahead...

2018 Spring Show and Sale

It is by no means too early to start preparing your display and/or sale plants for the 2018 Spring Show and Sale, which will be the club's biggest yet!

The event will be held March 24 & 25 at the Cleveland Botanical Garden, and this year our club will have most of the Garden to utilize, as we have our own designated weekend for this and not sharing space/time during the Garden's yearly Big Spring event.

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

On 11/30, club member Doug Bacso sent an email out to all club members detailing plant display information. Please read this email and the attachments carefully and email Doug at canalexplorer@msn.com with the amount of space you will need to display your plants. Or, let him know during our next meeting.

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

Photos from Last Year's Show and Sale



New Honorary Club Member Distinction

During the regular November club meeting, club members voted unanimously to have an Honorary Club Member category added to our club. The first two members to be added are:

- **Joe Kulik**
- **Dan Marino**

Congratulations to both Joe and Dan!

Further information on this distinctive award will be discussed during upcoming meetings.

If you would like to elect somebody as an honorary club member, please present this at an upcoming meeting.



Club Dues are Now Due

Dues for 2018 are due now due. The cost is \$20 per individual or \$20 per family.

Please pay by either cash or check (made out to MWCSS). Please pay Karen Snell during our December Christmas party.

Quarterly Calendar of Events



December 2017

Club Christmas Party — Dec. 17 at Harry's Steakhouse in Independence, Ohio. 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 will present on his Latvia and Estonia trip.

January 2017

Regular club meeting at CBG. Presentation by Bill Hendricks on the club's history. Plant of the month: Euphorbia

February 2017

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:

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.

