

The Prickly Press



OUR MAY 17 MEETING

Please join us at 1:30 p.m.

The Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO

IT'S ALL ABOUT HOYAS!

The popular "wax flower," named for its fleshy leaves and beautiful waxy cluster (known as an umbrella) comes in a variety of colors and shapes. We will learn about proper growing habits, soil needs, watering and light requirements, propagation, and how best to encourage flowering.

Please bring a favorite hoyo from your collection to share!



May 2026

Visit us online!

Website:
kccactus.com

Facebook page:
The Kansas City Cactus
& Succulent Society

Treasurer's Report for April 2026

Beginning Balance	\$9,760.63
Income <i>Membership Dues</i>	\$65.00
Expenses <i>CSSA Renewal</i>	\$55.00
Ending Balance	\$9,770.63

KCCSS CALENDAR FOR 2026

All meetings will be at The Trailside Center, 99th & Holmes, KCMO, unless otherwise noted. We begin at 1:30 and end by 4:00. All the dates below are Sundays, usually the 3rd Sunday of each month. Any changes in this schedule will be publicized in the newsletter.

- May 17 — Presentation on HOYAS by Mark Raduziner
- June 5-7 — Show & Sale at the Elks Lodge, 99th Street
- June 21 (no regular meeting)
- July 12 — [2nd Sunday!] Trichocereus
- August 16 — Mary Lynn & Victor will host us for a potluck meal & hypertufa workshop
- September 20 — Photography
- October 18 — Grafting & Frankenstein experiments
- November 15 — Echeverias
- December 6 — [1st Sunday!] Holiday Party

Notes from the President

Wow - when you receive this newsletter we will be 4 weeks from the last day of our 2026 Show and Sale!! For me, this means I have a LOT to do - plants I need to prep for the Show and a whole lot of plants to prep for the sale!

I hope you all are looking forward to this time for our club to “show off” some of the great plants you have! I know you all have a LOT of beautiful plants - I was fortunate enough to see them last year - and I know you have some beauties for this year too!

I am waiting to put all my plants for the show and sale outside - even though I have a greenhouse, I do not have room for all these new transplants. Hopefully the temps will be up and the rain amounts not quite so drenching as we have had in the last few weeks.

Looking forward to sharing the weekend of June 5th-7th learning more about each of you.

Shirley

MINUTES FROM APRIL 19

Eighteen people attended the April KCCSS meeting. Eva presented on Euphorbias.

Christy gave the treasurer’s report. The beginning balance was \$9733.63. We had income of \$77 for membership dues and expenses of \$50. Ending balance was \$9760.63.

The Mid-state Conference was discussed. Some of our members are interested in going.

It was also reported that the Henry Shaw CSS in St. Louis will be having their annual sale on July 25-26.

Mark R. updated us on the CSSA info. They are interested in what the local clubs need from them. Several suggestions were given to Mark for input to CSSA. Mark reported there are 90 clubs divided into 5 regions.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Shirley Grubbs, acting secretary



Doris Duke’s *Sansevieria trifasciata* blooming enthusiastically under a rose-colored grow light.

KCCSS 2026 SALE REQUIREMENTS

The Elks Lodge #26, 515 East 99th Street, Kansas City will be open Friday, June 5th, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. for set up. Members will be able to purchase plants from 4:00 to 5:00, and we will then open the sale to the public from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Show plants must be received by Friday at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 6th Show judging will take place from 8 a.m.-9 a.m. and the Show will open to the public as soon as judging is finished. The sale will be open to the public Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 7th, access to the sale and show begins at 10 a.m. Both are open until 2 p.m. with clean-up until 4 p.m.

Plant and Pottery Sales requirements:

Sale plants must be labeled as requested by the Show Chairperson before they can be placed on the sale table. **Plants that are not labeled or priced will not be accepted for sale by cashiers.**

To participate in the Sale or Show as a KCCSS Member Vendor, you must be a paid member by January 1st, 2026.

Non-member vendors are invited to participate by signing the KCCSS vendor contract and must comply with the price label requirements.

KCCSS Member Vendors will receive 80% of the sales for their items, 20% will go to KCCSS.

KCCSS Member Vendors must fulfill one shift or committee position during the 2026 Show and Sale or receive only 40% of their sales.

Table space will be assigned by the Show and Sale Chairperson. Every effort will be made to accommodate vendor's requests. Tables may be limited.

Sale plants must be insect-free and disease-free. (Suspect plants will be removed from the sale.)

Plant stakes should have full botanical name (genus and species), clearly printed on them.

Price stickers will be provided by the club, members can use their own as long as they are ¾-1". Be sure they adhere to the surface.

Prices are to be in whole dollar increments. Cashiers will not have coins for change.

Vendor's initials and price must be clearly written in black non-smudgeable ink. Each label should have the vendor's initials and the price, no dollar sign is needed. (Email the committee with the initials that you will use for your sale plants by May cactus club meeting). Mary Lynn — vinestbrewery@gmail.com or Kay — kaytrieb@yahoo.com

Price stickers must be affixed to the top of the plant stake, facing outward.

Price stickers must be on the exterior of pots and other dimensional items for sale.

Cuttings not in pots must be secured in a clear zip-top bag with the price sticker at the top of the bag.
One price sticker per item.

Sellers may be asked to redo stickers if they do not comply with the requirements.

KCCSS will have a limited number of extra stickers and markers available to use, in the event the club runs out, it's the vendor's responsibility to provide stickers and for their items.

Please follow these guidelines to make check out easy and safe for our cashiers and to ensure you are credited properly. Thank you in advance for your consideration!

PLANT OF THE MONTH CATEGORIES FOR MAY

Cactus — *Opuntia*, *Cylindropuntia*, Any other segmented cactus, Favorite

Succulent — *Sempervivum*, *Dudleya*, *Dorstenia*, Favorite

Here's how it works:

Participants may enter 1 plant in each class, for a maximum of 8 entries per person. Each plant entered will automatically earn 5 points. Members then vote for 1 plant in each class that they judge to be the best, in terms of how it is grown and presented. The plant with the most votes in each class will win 4 points for placing first; second place gets 3 points; third place 2 points; and fourth place 1 point. In case of a tie, both plants get the same number of points. Any plant in bloom will receive 2 bonus points.

At the end of the year, the 3 people with the most points will be awarded gift certificates to be used at our next general plant sale.

PLANT OF THE MONTH RESULTS FOR APRIL

CACTUS

Crested Cactus:

- #1 - *Cylindropuntia subulata* crest Roy Smith 9 pts
- #2 - *Cleistocactus* crest Kay Trieb 8 pts
- #3 - *Gymnocalycium mihanovicii* crest Bri Stanley 7 pts

Monstrose Cactus:

- #1 - *Myrtillocacatus geometrizzans* "Fukurokuryuzinboku" Kay Trieb 9 pts
- #2 - *Selenicereus urbanianus* v. *monstrose* Eva Allen 8 pts
- #3 - *Austrocylindropuntia subulata* monstrose Bri Stanley 7 pts

Grafted Cactus:

- #1 - *Parodia warasii* Bri Stanley 9 pts

Favorite Cactus:

- #1 - *Gymnocalycium rotundulum* (bloom) Kay Trieb 11 pts
- #2 - *Ferocactus fordii* Bri Stanley 8 pts
- #3 - *Cylindropuntia leptocaulis* Roy Smith 7 pts
- #3 - *Rebutia* sp (bloom) Judy Pigue 7 pts

SUCCULENT

Crested Succulent:

- #1 - *Euphorbia leucodendron* crest Kay Trieb 9 pts
- #2 - *Euphorbia abdelkuri* crest Roy Smith 8 pts
- #2 - *Euphorbia milii* crest Bri Stanley 8 pts

Monstrose Succulent:

- #1 - *Crassula ovata* monstrose "Gimli" Roy Smith 9 pts

Grafted Succulent:

- #1 *Euphorbia harwoodii* crest - grafted Roy Smith 9 pts

Favorite Succulent:

- #1 - *Euphorbia kalisana* Roy Smith 9 pts
- #2 - *Othonna cacialoides* (bloom) Bri Stanley 8 pts
- #3 - *Jatropha podagrica* Kay Trieb 7 pts
- #4 - *Ficus petiolaris* Eva Allen 6 pts

GARDENING HACKS

Disclaimer: I, your editor, have not tried these, so cannot say whether they work or not!



Mix one part 3% hydrogen peroxide with ten parts water. Water your plants with this solution once a month. Hydrogen peroxide adds oxygen to the soil, which can help revive dying plants. It also has antifungal and antibacterial properties, which can keep root diseases at bay.



Save the water you use to rinse rice - rice water is rich in vitamins, minerals, and amino acids that promote root growth and overall plant health. The starches in the water help nourish beneficial soil bacteria, which in turn enhance nutrient uptake by the plants.

My Recent Close Encounter with Mealybugs!

by Eva Allen

It's May, and that means warmer weather, which means I should start thinking about moving plants outside for the summer. However, my basic rule about this process has always been that the plants are either IN or they are OUT. I am much too lazy to put plants out, then bring them back in again if we have a chilly night, put them back out again, bring them in, and so forth.

But this year I decided to push that rule a bit. I was especially interested in getting the plants down off the two top shelves because, with my neck issues, I can't look up there to see those plants, and watering them has been difficult.

Amazingly, the top-shelf plants all looked surprisingly healthy until I came to the *Raphionacme flanaganii*. This is a very interesting succulent with large, tuberous roots, sometimes described as a caudex. According to my file card, I got the plant in May, 2005 in Austin, while visiting a friend. I don't remember how big the plant was when I bought it, but I know it has grown quite a bit over the years, and I have raised the caudex as much as I could safely do. I have shown my *Raphionacme* five times and have repotted it seven times.

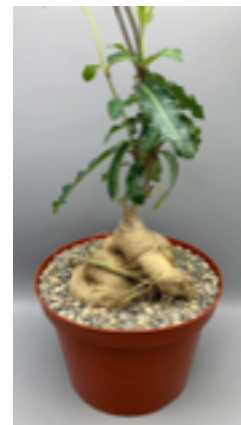
The plant is deciduous and often drops all its leaves during the winter. I was aware that mine had de-leafed itself again this year, so I wasn't alarmed until I noticed all the big, sticky clumps of mealybugs. I took the plant outside to the patio, where I used rubbing alcohol and then sprayed it with a mild pesticide that is supposed to work for mealybugs. I will repeat this process next week. I am just relieved that the offending pest is mealybugs and not scale. In my experience, mealybugs are fairly easy to defeat.

However, at that point, I realized that I didn't really know much about these little pests that produce such admittedly pretty little clumps that are reminiscent of cotton candy. What do the bugs themselves look like? How do they make that white stuff — and why?

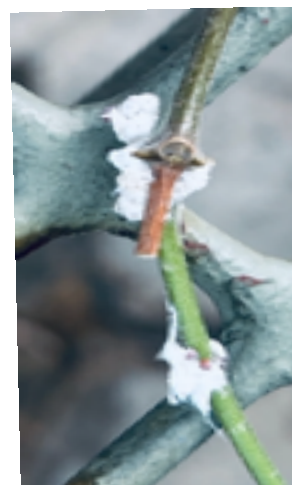
So with the help of my friend, Mr. Google, I discovered a few things. Mealybugs belong to the Pseudococcidae family, which contains more than 2000 described species. Mealybugs have soft (unarmored) bodies with a white, waxy coating that makes them look so cottony. They suck the sap of plants, and of course, they prefer the tender, juicy, new growth. Well, actually, the females feed on plants, but the males' only purpose is to fertilize the females, so they are short-lived and don't eat after they become adults.

Mealybugs secrete a sticky substance called honeydew that can lead to the growth of sooty mold. The mold, in turn, can inhibit the plant's ability to photosynthesize. If the bugs do enough damage, the plant's leaves will turn yellow and drop off. A severe infestation of mealybugs can eventually kill a plant.

There are many ways to kill mealybugs, and a number of these involve homemade, inexpensive ingredients. I have run out of space, so I urge you to look up methods of mealybug control yourself. Of course, you may already have some tried-and-true formulas up your sleeve. So I will just say, "Whatever works!" and good luck with your mealybug prevention and control!



This is what *Raphionacme flanaganii* looks like when it actually has leaves. This is not my plant in the photo, but it's quite similar. The plant in the picture is for sale, listed at \$200. Sheesh!



A few of the lovely mealy-clumps that were on my plant.

More from Shirley About the Sale—

There's a lot of information in the newsletter today to prep for our Show and Sale. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ the *2026 SALE REQUIREMENTS* on page 3.

Here are just a few more important things to remember.

Please take a stack of sale cards available at the meeting and give them to friends and shops where you do any plant related purchases.

URGENT! If you have not given Mary Lynn your initials for your sale plants, DO IT TODAY!!!
Email: vinestbrewery@gmail.com , text or call: (913) 702-6165.

There will be a potting station outside where we will be explaining how to pot plants. We will NOT be potting purchased plants for customers.

We will also have a silent auction. If you have a great plant you just do not want any longer, please donate it to the silent auction. Other gently used and clean pots or misc. plant items would be great for the silent auction as well. All money collected from silent auction will be donated to KCCSS.

Please save boxes! We need them for our customers to use while shopping and to carry out all of their newly purchased plants. Beer flat types of boxes are ideal, but deeper boxes work well for bigger plants. Please remove box flaps, if possible, and assemble any flattened boxes by taping or stapling.

The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc. was established in 1976. It is incorporated as a Non-Profit Organization in Missouri. The Society is affiliated with The Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Meetings are generally held at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month at The Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes, Kansas City, MO. Dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a household. **OFFICERS: President** — Shirley Grubbs, **Co-Vice Presidents** — Mary Lynn Gress and Kay Trieb, **Secretary** — Doris Duke, **Treasurer** — Christy Sipek, **Newsletter Editor** — Eva Allen, **Website Administrator** — Victor Gress, **KCCSS Publicity** and **CSSA Affiliate Representative** — Mark Raduziner

