

# The Prickly Press



Celebrating Our  
50th Year  
1976-2026

## January 2026

Visit us online!

Website:  
[kccactus.com](http://kccactus.com)

Facebook page:  
The Kansas City  
Cactus and  
Succulent Society

## Join Us for Our First Meeting of 2026!

Sunday, January 18, 1:30 p.m.  
The Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO

### Plants That Look Confusingly Alike!

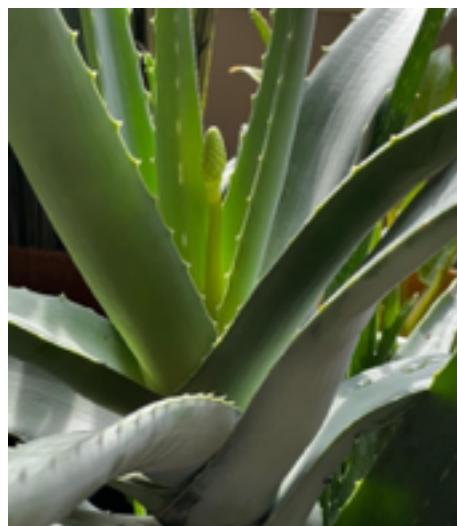
In our program this month, we will compare and contrast some plants that are similar in appearance, many of which we have in our collections.

We'll be looking at Agaves, Aloes, Dyckia, Gasteria, and Haworthia. They can resemble one another but be totally unrelated and come from different parts of the world. Each has its own unique flowers.

Members are invited to bring their own plants to share with the group as we learn and appreciate the differences between these popular succulents.



Agave 'Blue Glow'  
Photo by Shirley Grubbs



Aloe vera  
Photo by Kay Treib

### Update from Shirley on the Anniversary T-Shirts

We received our t-shirts at the December 2025 meeting. I do hope you are enjoying your shirts. Some of you have found the shirts seem to be a bit larger than expected. Working with a new company can have its frustrations — it's a learning experience. I have found the women's shirts seem to fit better than the unisex ones. If we order again we will keep the sizing in mind.

## ***President's Greeting***

Happy 2026! It's hard to believe we are again entering a new year!

As we begin 2026, I want to thank each one of you for your participation in the Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society. I have learned so much from you over the past several years – from the basics of caring for and enjoying succulents to watching and participating in our plant show and sale last year!

For all of our new members, WELCOME! We enjoy your input.

I want to send a huge thank you to our officers for the last two years of planning and carrying out our meetings and show and sale: Linda, Barb, Doris, Eva, Christy, Mark, Victor and Renee. Please thank them for all they have done.

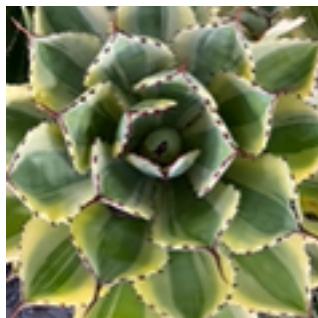
I am really looking forward to the 2026 meetings our new vice-presidents, Mary Lynn and Kay, are planning. I think you will enjoy them. Please thank them for all the work they are doing. AND... think about ways you would like to volunteer to help with programming and the show and sale!

Speaking of the sale – we have a tentative reservation for our show and sale on June 5-7<sup>th</sup> at the Elks on 99<sup>th</sup> near Trailside Center. Now is the time to start planning and transplanting those plants you want to show or sell. Mary Lynn and Kay will be guiding this process.

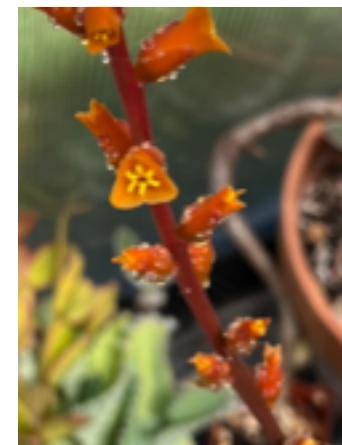
There are lots of ways to learn about our plants – one is the CSSA educational webinars. You can find them online at <http://cactusandsucculentsociety.org> or on Facebook. As you find new and interesting websites or other tools, let us know so we can all be learning more!

Here's to a great 2026 year!  
Shirley

*Agave 'Desert Diamond' (cultivar of Agave potatorum)*



*Dyckia sp. and its bloom. All photos on this page by Shirley Grubbs.*



## Treasurer's Report, December 2025

Beginning Balance \$11,112.77

Income \$765.50 T Shirts

Expenses \$91.85 Awards

\$50.00 Trailside 'Donation

\$118.10 Jack Stack BBQ

\$788.00 Hartford Insurance

\$200.00 Plants for Bingo

\$1,247.95 TOTAL

Ending Balance \$10,630.32



*Aloe hybrid*  
Photo by  
Shirley  
Grubbs

## CONGRATULATIONS to our new and returning officers!

President — Shirley Grubbs

Vice-President — Mary Lynn Gress

Vice-President — Kay Trieb

Secretary — Doris Duke

Treasurer — Christy Sipek

## Appointed Positions:

CSSA Affiliate Representative — Mark Raduziner

Publicity for KCCSS — Mark Raduziner

Newsletter Editor — Eva Allen

Hospitality — Sandy Heimann

Website — Victor Gress

Plant of the Month — Victor Gress

Show & Sale Chairs — Mary Lynn Gress,  
Kay Trieb

## KCCSS CALENDAR FOR 2026 Be Sure to Save These Dates!

These are the dates we have reserved at the Trailside Center. All of these dates are Sundays, and most are the 3rd Sunday of the month. Meetings will begin at 1:30 and will end at 4:00 or earlier. Any changes in this schedule will be publicized in the newsletter .

January 18 — Plant genuses that look similar

February 15 — Scientific Plant Names

March 15 — Pollination & Seed Propagation

April 19

May 17

June 5-7 (?) — Show & Sale at Elks' Lodge

June 21

July 12 — [2nd Sunday!]

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 6 — [1st Sunday!] Holiday Party

## HAVE YOU DONE THE SURVEY? A Note from Mary Lynn

Last week, the link to an interest survey was sent out to help leadership plan programming for the upcoming year. Please take a few minutes to share your input by completing the survey. For anyone who prefers a paper copy, Mary Lynn will have a few hard copies available at the monthly meeting. Thanks to all of you who have already filled out the survey.

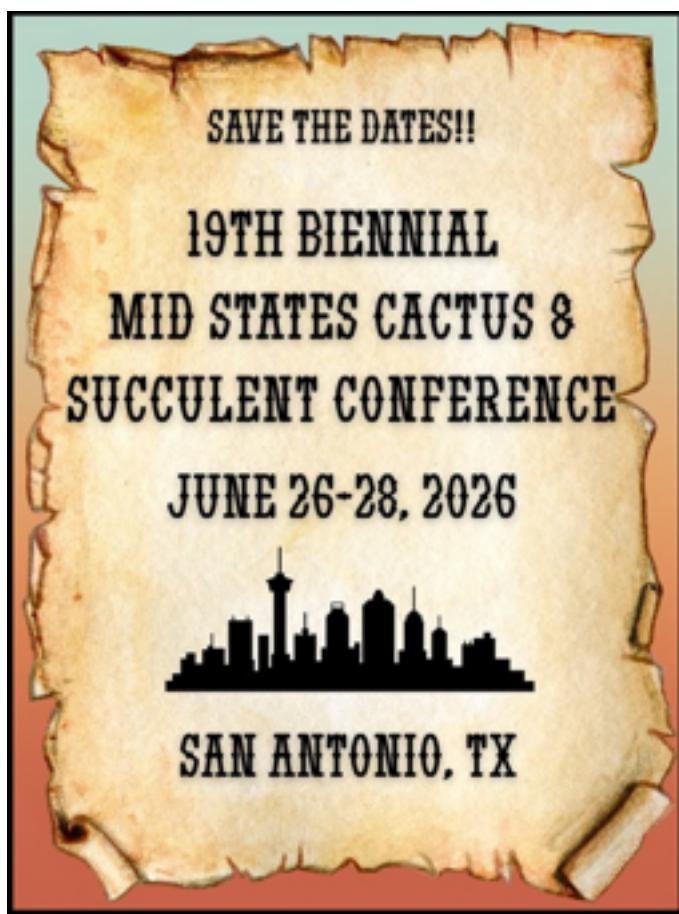
**See last page for complete list of 2026 POM categories!**

## PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION FOR JANUARY

**Cactus:** Mammillaria, Gymnocalycium, Rebutia, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Haworthia, Gasteria, Crassula, Favorite

Participants may enter 1 plant in any size pot per class, for a maximum of 8 entries per person. Each plant entered will earn 5 points. Additional points are awarded according to placement in the class (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., to be voted on by members). Any plant in bloom will receive 2 bonus points.



I hope you will believe me when I say that you are a great gardener.

That plant really should have tried harder!



*Haworthia fasciata*  
Photo by Shirley Grubbs



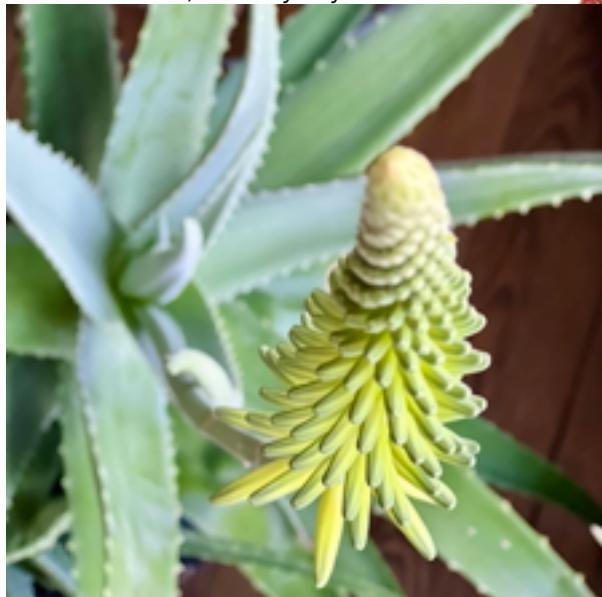
The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society, Inc. was established in 1976. It is incorporated as a Non-Profit Organization in Missouri. The Society is affiliated with The Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Meetings are generally held at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month at The Trailside 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

*Aloe arborescens*, Photo by Kay Trieb

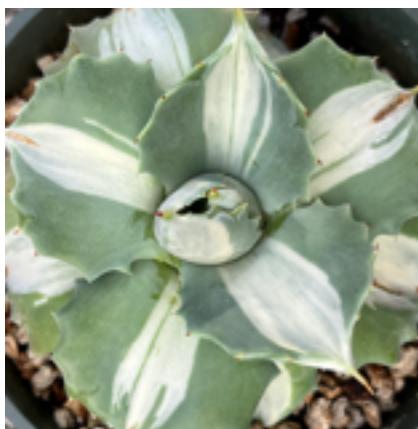
*Haworthia cooperi*, Photo by Shirley Grubbs



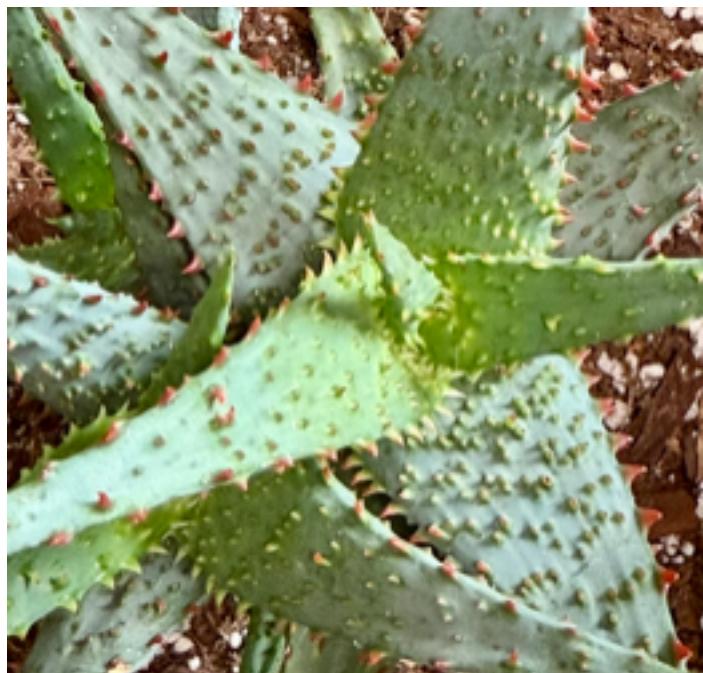
*Aloe vera*, Photo by Kay Trieb



*Agave potatorum*  
Photo by  
Shirley  
Grubbs



*Aloe castilloniae*, Photo by Kay Trieb



## WHAT A GREAT PARTY WE HAD!

If you had to miss it, we're so sorry!



Renee  
got us a  
Holiday  
Saguaro!  
That woman really knows  
how to decorate!

# 2026 PLANT OF THE MONTH CLASSES

## January

**Cactus:** Mammillaria, Gymnocalycium, Rebutia, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Haworthia, Gasteria, Crassula, Favorite

## February

**Cactus:** Parodia, Astrophytum, Coryphantha, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Agave, Echeveria, Euphorbia, Favorite

## March

**Cactus:** Ferocactus, Echinocactus, Stenocactus, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Aloe, Adromischus, Pachyphytum, Favorite

## April

**Cactus:** Monstrose, Crested, Grafted, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Monstrose, Crested, Grafted, Favorite

## May

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

**Other Succulent:** Sempervivum, Dudleya, Dorstenia, Favorite

## June

**Cactus:** Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Echinopsis, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Caudex/Pachycaul, Aeonium, Euphorbia, Favorite

## July

**Cactus:** Any genus with Cereus in the name, Browningia, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Cyphostemma, Gasteria, Titanopsis, Favorite

## August

**Cactus:** Ariocarpus, Miniature Cactus, Leuchtenbergia, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Lithops/Conophytum, Ficus, Faucaria, Favorite

## September

**Cactus:** Notocactus, Eriosyce, Red Spines, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Haworthia, Mangave, Bursera/Commiphora, Favorite

## October

**Cactus:** Melocactus, Gymnocalicium, Copiapoa, Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Aloe, Pachypodium, Operculicarya, Favorite

## November

**Cactus:** Any epiphytic cactus (e.g., Schlumbergera, Rhipsalis, Hatiora), Favorite

**Other Succulent:** Bromeliad, Tillandsia (air plant), Hoya, Favorite