

The Prickly Press

Newsletter of The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society

kccactus.com

July 2022



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR JULY MEETING!

Sunday, July 17, 1:30 p.m., at The Trailside Center, 99th and Holmes

“Cactus, Succulents, Polymer Clay”

It's so fun when your hobbies collide. When the 2020 Mid-States Conference was approaching, I thought it would be really great to design a polymer cane (this is similar to millifiore glass canes) for the Club that I could slice, cure, and turn into magnets. I got overly ambitious and designed a ginormous piece of polymer clay. And then, this spring I thought about our centerpieces for the banquet...and that led to making over 100 miniature cacti and succulents. Come to the meeting to see the process and get a free beginner's tutorial in the wonders of polymer clay. You too could get the urge to start a new hobby.

See you then, *Renee Becka*

President's Message

I have said it before, and I'll say it again: We can all be exceedingly proud of ourselves for putting on a fabulous conference last month! And I will just add that I'm really glad it's over! Now we can go back to being a normal cactus club doing things together in the regular old way! Before we can completely relax, though, we need to decide what we want to do with the \$9,000+ of proceeds from the event. Our promise to those who attended the conference was that we would donate some of the money to succulent conservation, education, and/or research causes. The conference planning committee will be meeting this week to discuss some ideas, and we will present those at the meeting Sunday for further discussion and approval.

On a more personal note, I will report that I had my hip replacement surgery on June 28, and I am healing up nicely. A physical therapist has been coming to my house two or three times a week to check on my progress and assign me more exercises. Various friends have been helping out by watering my plants outside, doing laundry, getting groceries, and taking out my trash. The hip that was replaced actually feels really good, but the other hip is a different story. I'm hoping the surgeon will agree to doing a second replacement sooner rather than later.

I hope to see you all on Sunday!

Eva



KCCSS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2022

- Sunday, July 17 — 1:30 p.m.; “Cactus, Succulents, Polymer Clay”
- Sunday, August 21 — 1:30 p.m.; “Workshop: Growing and Training Mini C&S”
- Sunday, September 18 — Picnic
- Sunday, October 16 — 1:30 p.m.; Plant Trade and Giveaway. Program: Botany Talk
- Sunday, November 20 — Program TBA
- Sunday, December 11 — Holiday Party

All meetings are currently scheduled to take place at The Trailside Center, 99th and Holmes, KCMO.

Treasurer's Report, May & June, 2022

May 2022

Beginning Balance - \$10,025.16

- Income - \$5,364.50
 - Conference Registration - \$5,180.00
 - Mistake Previously - \$184.50
- Expenses - \$1,919.18
 - Trailside Center - \$50.00
 - Logo Contest Winner - \$100.00
 - Conference Expenses - \$1,769.18

Ending Balance - \$13,470.48

June 2022

Beginning Balance - \$13,470.48

- Income - \$29,085.18 – Conference
- Expenses - \$24,514.85 – Conference

Ending Balance - \$18,040.81



Meeting Notes, May 15, 2022

The president, Eva Allen, called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. There were 17 people in attendance.

No corrections were made to the notes from the meeting in April 2022. Minutes were approved as published.

Mike Hisey presented the Treasurer's Report. No corrections were made to the report.

Plant of the month winners were announced:

- 3rd Place: Judy Pigue
- 2nd Place: Eva Allen
- 1st Place: Roy Smith

New KCCSS logo contest winner: Loran Wiley. He was awarded a \$100 prize.

Mark Raduziner gave an update on the upcoming Conference (June 9-12).

There was no additional business to discuss. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Door Prize winner for the month: Judy Pigue

SUPER Succulent SALE
Cactus, Too!

July 16 & 17, 2022 • St. Louis

The Midwest's Top Cactus & Succulent Event Is Back!
Help Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society celebrate "80 Years"! Multiple vendors mean an unmatched selection - from starter plants and popular succulents to rare specimen cacti. Great pots, too! And don't miss the special display of succulents from around the world.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • FREE Admission

NEW LOCATION!
Glaziers Hall
5916 Wilson Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63110
hscactus.org/events/show-sale/

80 YEARS
HSCSS

Three years in the planning, Kansas City-hosted Mid-States Conference a success

By Mark Raduziner

If you've ever attended a conference of any kind, you know you're with a group of people who share a similar profession or job like yours. But, if you've ever attended a non-professional conference of, say, an interest or a hobby such as the one we all share, cacti/succulents, you can relax a bit and just enjoy yourself. That's especially true in the case of the Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference, hosted by our club June 9-12.

There were amazing and knowledgeable speakers and a huge room full of plants and pottery. And more plants. Sales were superb. And our vendors were SO pleased with the turnout of people from our club's mailing list of more than 300 names, their friends, our club members, and even people who worked at the Stoney Creek Hotel, our conference site. They were giddy.

What's most amazing is that six people from our club... six people, made up the conference committee (with some help from two friends from the Omaha and Des Moines clubs). We began the planning process in 2018 for what was supposed to be a 2020 conference. Covid caused the cancellation. We picked back up in early 2021 with Zoom meetings every other Wednesday for 16 months and plenty of individual tasks assigned to each of us. The best word to describe the planning: details, details, details.

Skipping forward to the actual conference, we pulled it off. Some of you attended the conference and were a big help. A few didn't attend the conference, but came by and helped, too.

Thursday's opening reception was crazy fun. We sold raffle tickets and picked 10 registrants from the raffle box who were permitted to enter the sales room to shop for 30 minutes before anyone else was allowed in. That raffle raised more than \$600 for the club. The remainder of the evening was all about the plants (and the pots). Our cash register, handled by committee members, had a hot night. Sales were brisk.

[continued on page 4]



The registration table with Sandy Heimann, Barb Roy, Woody Minnich (speaker), and Dick Schreiber (Mid-Iowa C&SS).



Sales Room

Mid-States Conference

[continued from page 3]

Friday and Saturday, registrants attended several 50-minute sessions on topics provided by speakers who travelled to KC from Florida, New Mexico, Texas, Iowa, and Missouri. Topics ranged from cactus diversity around the world, to succulent science and cultivating new succulent habitats. A session on dealing with bugs, another on building a greenhouse, and yet another on bonsai styling provided well-rounded learning for everyone.

Saturday evening's dinner banquet, followed by a rare plant auction, drew bids that sometimes seemed out of control. One plant even brought in \$750!!

Conference attendees left with a lot more knowledge and understanding of cacti and succulents than they had when the conference began. They also arrived home with a whole lot of new plants and awesome pottery. Best of all, they made new friends, renewed acquaintances, and finally looked at their registration "swag bags" full of great items like pens and notepads, rain gauges and special magnets, home-made cactus-themed cookies, and our totally awesome conference tee shirts.

If you didn't make it to the conference, consider next year's **national** Cactus and Succulent Society of America convention in Colorado Springs. In 2024, another Mid-States conference will be held. Followed by another **national** convention in 2025. Then, another Mid-States the next year.

Finally, a big thank you to the committee members for their time and dedication to the conference's success:

- Eva Allen
- Renee Becka
- Sandy Heimann
- Mike Hisey
- Mark Raduziner
- Linda Tamblin



Mike Hisey and Mark Raduziner



Connie Hisey, Mike Hisey, Renee Becka, and Barb Roy in the sales room.



Andy Staples and Cynde Schreiber (Mid-Iowa C&SS) in the silent auction room.



Before the banquet: Renee Becka, Mark Raduziner, Mike Slater, and Brad Johnson.

JULY PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION

Cactus — Columnar, Eriosyce, Miniature, Favorite
Other Succulent — Crassula, Caudiciform, Miniature, 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. The three people earning the most points between May and November of 2022 will be awarded coupons for discounts on purchases at our annual sale in 2023.

Results of May Plant of the Month Competition

Cactus:

Ferocactus

First Place: Ferocactus species (blooming), Loran and Shikara Wiley — 11 pts

Second Place: Ferocactus stainesii, Roy Smith — 8 pts

Gymnocalycium

First Place: Gymnocalycium friedrichii (blooming), Roy Smith — 11 pts

Favorite cactus

First place: Cephalocereus senilis, Roy Smith — 9 pts

Second Place: Lepisium warmingianum, Loran and Shikara Wiley — 8 pts

Succulents:

Haworthia

First Place: Haworthia conecta (hybrid), Loran and Shikara Wiley — 9 pts

Dorstenia

First Place: Dorstenia foetida, Loran and Shikara Wiley — 9 pts

Favorite succulent

First Place: Pachypodium makayense, Roy Smith — 9 pts

Second Place: Pachypodium saundersii, Loran and Shikara Wiley — 8 pts

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, 99th & Holmes. Dues are \$20 for a single membership and \$25 for a household. **OFFICERS:** **President** — Eva Allen, 816-444-9321, evaal@att.net; **Co-Vice Presidents** — Linda Tamblyn, 913-231-1020, plums15@gmail.com and Renee Becka, 816-868-7794, reneetheharper@gmail.com; **Secretary** — Michele Bartlett, 816-213-0453, fbart80209@aol.com; **Treasurer** — Mike Hisey, 816-797-0458, cmhisey@centurylink.net; **Newsletter Editor** — Eva Allen; **Website Administrator** — Linda Tamblyn; **CSSA Affiliate Representative** — Mark Raduziner, 913-742-0670, cactimark@gmail.com

Looking ahead...

The topic of our August 21 workshop will be "Growing C&S in Miniature." If you have a plant or pot you think would work well, feel free to bring those supplies. The plan is to have enough club-supplied items for everyone to go home with a mini plant. There will also be a few special items for sale (between \$1-\$5). Looking forward to seeing you!

Linda Tamblyn

June CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America) annual meeting: For your information

By Mark Raduziner, affiliate representative

Our club is an affiliate of a national organization representing our hobby. Our hobby is a business, too. CSSA, with an international membership of 549 members, advocates for education, research, and conservation of cacti and succulents.

Founded in 1929, CSSA offers several membership categories. For local clubs (affiliates) such as ours, the cost is \$55 annually. An individual membership costs \$50 and includes the following: a quarterly scientific journal; a seed depot of dozens of rare plants; field trips to native plant habitats; a bi-monthly webinar series featuring experts world-wide; and *To The Point*, a quarterly e-newsletter full of news, photos, information and growing tips (edited by our own club's Linda Tamblyn.) A recent offering is a supporting membership which, for just \$20, includes all the benefits of an individual membership, except for the journal.

A national convention in Colorado Springs, CO is slated for July 12-16, 2023. As of now, 14 plant vendors, as well as several pottery vendors, will sell amazingly wonderful items. Tours of area botanical gardens, local residents' gardens, and field trips are planned, along with several educational sessions for interests you didn't even know you had.

Some interesting stats about CSSA:

- Cash balance: \$324,000
- Royalty income (2021): \$29,885
- "Restricted" balance (*restricted endowment for research and conservation efforts*): \$564,000
- Monies paid in research grants this year: \$23,000
- Monies paid in conservation efforts this year: \$64,000

The organization is working to develop long-term projects and evaluation procedures for future research and study. This includes the conservation of seeds and plants, along with efforts to stop the illegal removal of plants ("poaching") from their natural habitat for retail selling. CSSA has purchased a drone for use in South Africa to help catch poachers and keep plants in their natural habitat.

The education of cactus and succulent enthusiasts is an on-going emphasis for CSSA. The organization continuously seeks ways to improve educational efforts, as well.

A recent photo contest brought 136 submitted photos in both youth and adult categories. The winning photos will be featured in an upcoming issue of *To The Point*.

Election of new officers and the board of directors will occur in the August. Each member has a vote, and each affiliate club has a vote. The KCCSS officers cast votes for our club.



Two of our conference speakers:
Mike Hellmann and Woody Minnich



Donated plants for the Rare Plant Auction. The crested
Dorstenia at left sold for \$750!