

The Prickly Press

Newsletter of The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society

kccactus.com

November 2025



Join us Sunday, November 16

1:30 p.m. at The Trailside Center

99th Street and Holmes Road

Sunday we will be starting the 25/26 plant challenge. Each person present will receive the same plant. Each person will also receive a tracking sheet that includes sections regarding watering, soil composition, fertilizer, lighting etc. We will each track these things on our plants for 6 months. An update in 3 months - February 2026 will be a part of this project. Taking pictures of the plant on starting the project and as often as you would like would be great. We will finalize this project during our May 2026 meeting. We hope many of you will plan to participate!

T-SHIRTS!!!

The online order form should be available by November 11 (Tuesday). Watch your inbox for details! Shirley would like all orders to be made during the next two weeks, so that the shirts can be delivered at the December holiday party.

OUR HOLIDAY PARTY Sunday, December 21

Make sure this date is on your calendar, so you won't miss the traditional, delicious potluck dinner; the chance to go home with some new succulents for your collection; and more!

Treasurer's Report October 2025

Beginning Balance - \$11,387.77

Income - \$0.00

Expenses - \$140.00 Al Schneider's
check cashed

\$85.00 Powell Gardens
membership renewal

Ending Balance - \$11,162.77

Christy Sipek, Treasurer

From the President....

Hi, All,

Our program for Sunday sounds intriguing – Challenge Plant. Thank you Shirley for putting this together. Hope to see everyone there.

I look forward to being at the meeting this month and seeing everyone. On October 27th, my grandson was declared cancer free and the chemo stopped. It's been a journey, but one with a very happy ending. It will be good to be in town more.

Mary Lynn Gress, Kay Trieb and I are beginning to plan the Show and Sale event for next year. We will talk about that at the meeting on Sunday and maybe start the plan. Everyone's input is appreciated.

One aspect of the KCCSS that is helpful and interesting is how we grow our plants. Lately, one thing I'm especially interested in is how our members overwinter their plants. Inside my house there are different microclimates so I want to share my strategy and thinking on where different plants go and why. I hope you will consider sharing your indoor and greenhouse gardens in future Prickly Press issues.

Please join us for an exciting program and the fellowship of cactophiles on Sunday.

Linda



Succulents for the most part seem to want more warmth in our winters. The best microclimate for them here has been this south facing window on the first floor. There is also additional light from small flourescents on timers and a ceiling fan that runs 24/7. The temperature stays around 70 with a rise on sunny days.

This is the lowest growing shelf on this rack of plants. The dorstenias show their appreciation for the warmer temps and sunshine by keeping leaves and sometimes flowering in the cold winter months. The small Madagascan euphorbias enjoy those same conditions.





The top shelf doesn't get additional electric light, but the adeniums stay dry and warm, which suits them. The hoyas thrive in the same conditions and so they share the shelf.

True cactus in my collection spend their winter in the basement next to a door to the outside. My old house has just enough draft there to keep it a little cooler than upstairs. The plants are on a rack just a few inches from the cool basement floor. Since I've tried keeping the cactus cooler in the winter, I have seen more blooms in the summer. The nearby door also has a window that provides an hour or two of morning sun in addition to 10 hours of LED light.



The cacti are mostly mammillarias. I keep all of them dry unless the temperatures are abnormally warm and sunny. Then, I might give them a few tablespoons of water and leave them. Experience has taught me to err on the side of drought, water followed by cold gray days can be a disaster.

Tillandsias hang from a vertical rack in the corner by the door. These are the plants that will take the most neglect and still reward with showy blooms. Some of the plants are over 20 years old.



A Fun Time at Larry's Nursery! by Eva Allen

Several of us were able to make the trek to Riverside last month for a tour of Larry's Nursery, which included the chance to buy plants — because we can never have too many, of course, especially of our favorite varieties! This is why, although I only bought two plants, I ended up with a new addition to my Ficus collection and my 4th *Euphorbia milii*.

I took some pictures while we were there, thinking I might use them in the **Prickly Press**. And then it occurred to me to ask if other people had also taken pictures. I should have asked ahead of time, but I didn't think of it. Anyway, several people had photos to contribute. Victor had a lot of very nice shots, some of which may have to wait for a later edition of the newsletter.

Rather than label every picture individually, I will just say that I have used pictures by the following club members: Victor Gress, Shirley Grubbs, Renee Becka, and myself.







CORRECTION!

I shared this photo last month in the newsletter because I thought the fries were made from the yucca plant. However, some knowledgeable Facebook friends corrected me, saying the plant in question was not yucca, but cassava (*Manihot esculenta*), a starchy root vegetable grown in many tropical regions as a source of carbohydrates.

The menu in the Cuban restaurant where I ordered the fries used the Spanish word *yuca*, which I thought translated to *yucca*, but it seems that I was mistaken. Sorry for the confusion!

Eva



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** — Linda Tamblyn, [REDACTED], **Co-Vice Presidents** — Shirley Grubbs, [REDACTED], Barbara Roy, [REDACTED], **Secretary** — Doris Duke, [REDACTED], **Treasurer** — Christy Sipek, [REDACTED], **Newsletter Editor** — Eva Allen, [REDACTED], **Website Administrator** — Victor Gress, [REDACTED], **KCCSS Publicity and CSSA Affiliate Representative** — Mark Raduziner, [REDACTED]