

The Prickly Press

Newsletter of The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society

kccactus.com

May 2025



PLEASE JOIN US! SUNDAY, MAY 18, 1:30 p.m.

The Trailside Center, 99th and Holmes

We will talk about GETTING READY FOR OUR SHOW AND SALE!

The last time we had a judged show was in 2019, if you can believe it! Then the pandemic came along, we hosted the Mid-States Conference, we changed our meeting place, and we just never found a good venue to have a show — although we've had several successful sales.

Anyway, here we are, a group of "old hands" who might have forgotten how to do the show thing, joined by some wonderful newer members who have never entered their plants in a show before. So that's why we will have a little refresher session Sunday to get ready for the big event.

We'll look at the guidelines for showing and for selling plants, plus get some tips on how to best "stage" our plants to look fabulous for the show. Don't miss this informative meeting — because even if you have some sad, lame reason for not being able to take part in the show this year, you are still sure to learn something!

*A Message
From Show & Sale Chair,
Renee Becka*

Our plans are coming together nicely for this year's Show and Sale. Many thanks to everyone who is volunteering and available to help out, it is very much appreciated. Please watch for an email from [REDACTED] with our guidelines for the Show and Sale, Categories for the Show plants and lots of general information.

The Elks Lodge will be open on Friday, June 20 from 1 pm to 7 pm for us to set up. If you can donate tables, please bring them as early as possible. We can access the lodge on Saturday at 7 am. If you have Show plants, they must be in place by 8:00 am. Judging begins at 8:30 am. The Sale will run from 9 am to 4 pm. Sunday, we can get in at 9 am, the Sale and Show will run until 3:00. We should be able to clean up by 5 pm. Please let me know if you have suggestions or questions.

KCCSS 2025 Calendar

May 18 — Showing Plants: Intro & Refresher
June 20, Friday, 1-7 pm. Setup for show/sale
June 21-22, Sat-Sun — Show & Sale,
Elks Hall, 515 E 99th St., KCMO
No general meeting in June.
July 20
August 17
September 21
October 19
November 16
December 21

These are the Sundays we have reserved for our regular monthly meetings this year at the Trailside Center, 9901 Holmes Road. We will start at 1:30 and end at about 4:00. Program information and other details to follow.

From the President—

Only a few weeks until our Show and Sale! Is everyone ready? It's been a while since we've had a Show **and** a Sale. Have you signed up to volunteer? If you plan to sell, do you know how to mark your plants? Are you saving boxes? Renee, our Show Chair, will be sending out information to answer any questions you might have or feel free to contact her. Please read the guidelines for the show carefully. The number of plants each person may enter has been limited to ensure we have space for everyone.

Our program this month will be on staging plants—just in time to prepare for the show. While plants are judged heavily on their own merits, making sure they are properly staged can make the difference between a white ribbon or a first place blue. Let's talk about placement in the pot, topdressing, rocks or no rocks, pot and everything else that makes up staging. Several of our own members will be presenting the program but we encourage you to bring a plant to show or ask advice about.

Grab a plant or two for the Plant of the Month Contest and we will see you on Sunday. Blank entry cards for the show will be available at the meeting. Plan to pick them up then to save time on setup day (Friday, June 20).

See you on Sunday!

Linda

An artistically staged *Ariocarpus retusus* cluster. Commonly known as the "Star Rock" it is one of the largest species in the genus that distinguishes for the fat triangular tubercles forming a starry rosette. On display at the 35th annual [#intercityshow](#)



Minutes for April 27 Meeting

President Linda T. called the business meeting to order at 2:45 pm. with 19 members and one guest, Noah Sturr, present.

Christy S. gave the treasurer's report as follows: A beginning balance of \$12,709.40 with income of \$115.00 in memberships, \$60.00 from sale of books. There were expenses of \$107.53 for show/sale fliers and \$186.78 for plants and pots for a club project. The ending balance was \$12,590.09.

Victor G. explained the advantages of using the GoDaddy program that would provide us with email addresses based on our website. This would allow us to set up addresses such as president@kccactus.com. After some discussion, the motion was approved unanimously.

Shirley G. reported on the committee's tee shirt design contest. Some entries had to be eliminated because the digital quality was not high enough for printing. Club members will be asked to vote for their favorite designs, but the committee will make the final decision.

Mark R. reported on the Cindy Robinson award stating that it was ready for pickup.

Linda outlined all the details of our use of the Elks Lodge for our sale in June. Linda went into details about the need for publicity, etc. to make ours a profitable and rewarding show. A discussion of the expense of having judges come from Omaha followed. Linda proposed we pay expenses for three judges from Omaha. Victor G. seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Shirley G. noted our members perhaps needed instruction on how to prepare their plants for showing and asked if there was anyone who would teach and demonstrate. Eva A. volunteered.

Eva A. reported on a message she received about John S. reporting that he is in rehab following a stroke.

Our 50-year anniversary is next year and Linda reminded us to be thinking about ideas to celebrate that event.

Business meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris A. Duke, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 2025

Beginning Balance - \$12,590.09

Income - \$85.00 Memberships

Expenses - \$131.67 Show Sale Signs
\$136.61 Go Daddy/

Newsletter

\$ 50.00 Trailside Center
\$ 55.00 CSSA Membership

Ending Balance - \$12,301.81

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,

Co-Vice

Presidents — Shirley Grubbs,

Barbara Roy,

Secretary —

Treasurer — Christy Sipek,

Newsletter Editor — Eva Allen,

Website

Administrator — Victor Gress,

KCCSS Publicity and

CSSA Affiliate Representative — Mark Raduziner,

PLANT OF THE MONTH COMPETITION FOR MAY

CACTUS – Leuchtenbergia, Opuntia, Miniature, Favorite

SUCCULENT – Pachyphytum, Peppermomia, Dracaena (Sansevieria), 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.

Competition Results from April

Cacti:

Parodia

1. Parodia Leninghausii	Victor Gress	9 pts
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Lobivia

1. Lobivia	Shirley Grubbs	9 pts
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Monstrose

1. Selenicereus Urbanianus v. mons.	Eva Allen	9 pts
2. Trichocereus Hybrid	Victor Gress	8 pts

Favorite

1. Astrophytum Myriostigma Blooming	Shirley Grubbs	11 pts
2. Notocactus Vebelmannicus Blooming	Victor Gress	10 pts

Succulents:

Agave

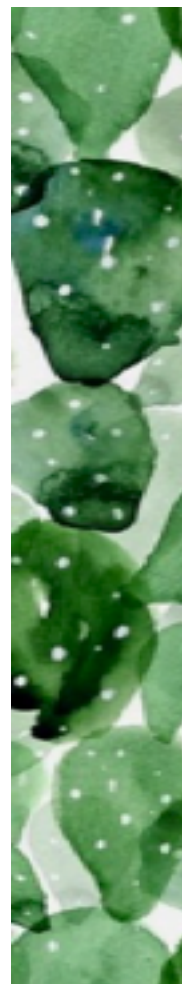
1. Agave Isthensis	tie	Shirley Grubbs	9 pts
1. Agave Stricta	tie	Eva Allen	9 pts

Hoya

1. Hoya Curtisii	Eva Allen	9 pts
2. Hoya	Shirley Grubbs	8 pts
3. Hoya Pubicalyx	Victor Gress	7 pts

Favorite

1. Sansevieria Pinguicula	Kay Trieb	9 pts
2. Beaucarnea Recurvata	Eva Allen	8 pts
3. Haworthia Limifolia	Victor Gress	7 pts



Shows and Judging

By Dorothy Dunn

Originally published in *The Cactus Courier*
Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society San Diego



Exhibiting plants in a show can be fun, stimulating, and very educational. If it is a competitive show, judged by discerning and knowledgeable plant experts, it becomes even more challenging. And exciting. It's also gratifying to overhear strangers ooh-ing and ahh-ing over your "pampered darlings" which you have (hopefully) groomed and dusted to perfection for their public appearance. Unfortunately, too many of us hesitate to enter plant shows because of lack of information concerning just exactly what constitutes a "show-worthy" plant. So- the purpose of this article is to acquaint the timorous uninitiated with a few basic guidelines in preparing plants for a show. Remember that judging is a very individualistic, opinioned, and often subjective process and that rarely will any two judges ever see the same plant in the same way on any given day. A plant which sends one judge into paroxysms of delight may be passed over almost without comment by another.

The criteria most often followed in a cactus and succulent show is the CSSA (Cactus and Succulent Society of America) Judging Scale, which is as follows:
Condition = 70%; Staging = 15%;
Size and Degree of Maturity = 10%; Nomenclature = 5%. [Note: The KCCSS show will use the scale of 80% condition, 15% staging, and 5% correct nomenclature.]



The condition of the plant relates to general culture. How well has the plant been grown and cared for? Condition reflects on the grower's ability to assess a particular plant's needs to maintain characteristic, healthy growth. Is the plant etiolated?-(too green and lanky, indicating too much shade and/or too much fertilizer) - Is it sunburned, scarred, discolored, or diseased? - Is the growth uniform and even? - Are there any signs of mealy bug, scale or ants? An experienced judge will note immediately and automatically all of these things, because the experienced judge knows what the plant should - ideally- look like. (In some shows, plants are judged "against perfection" as opposed to being judged against each other).

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All photos taken by Mary Lynn and Victor Gress at the Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society annual show and sale in St. Louis, July 2024.

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Staging is the manner in which the plant is displayed, and includes pots, top dressing, and cleanliness. Pots may be ordinary clay, stoneware, ceramic, or even plastic, but they must be clean (no alkali encrustations, algae, dirt clinging to the pot, etc.) and in good condition (no chips or cracks). The pot should be of a complimentary size, shape and color for the plant: no garish, shiny colors or elaborate designs, and no fanciful, overly ornate or too-cute shapes. Remember, you are displaying the plant- not the pot, and while the pot should always subtly enhance the plant, it should never overwhelm or detract from it in any way. The judges will, however take the total effect into consideration.

The plant must, of course be upright and centered in the pot. Top dressing is optional, but generally adds to the well-groomed effect. It may consist of clean gravel, small natural looking pebbles, lava rock (scoria), or coarse sand or decomposed granite. Aside from being neat appearing, top dressing is also beneficial to the plant; it keeps the soil from cracking, conserves moisture and discourages weeds. Here again, as with the pot, it should never detract from or clash with the plant.

If you choose not to use top dressing, the soil around the plant should be clean and fresh looking and free of weeds and debris. The plant itself, should be as immaculate as you can possibly make it - no spider webs and (worse) no spiders, no snail tracks or (worse!) snails, etc. ad nauseum, and it should be cleaned of hard water marks on the leaves or body and free of dust, dead leaves and other debris. Dead blooms should be removed, unless they have been left on the plant for the purpose of setting seed.

A large relatively mature "specimen-size" plant, if well grown, will always take precedence over an immature or seedling plant. This is where size and degree of maturity come in. It is especially satisfying to display a plant which you have successfully grown from a seedling into a handsome and mature specimen. . . . Most show rules require that the plant must be grown by the exhibitor for at least six months prior to the show, and some judges feel that the plant should ideally reflect the end result of several years of painstaking effort on the part of the grower. Rarity and how difficult the plant is to grow in cultivation, although not listed in the judging scale, can also be factors with individual judges, especially when all other points (condition, staging, etc.) are virtually equal. A rare or difficult to grow plant is bound to influence most judges.

Nomenclature has to do with the proper labeling and correct botanical name (including spelling) of the plant. Even though it counts for only 5%, you should make every effort to provide the correct name for your plant. When in doubt, if all else fails, it is probably better to label it (for example), simply "Mammillaria species," rather than to give it an erroneous specific name, or worse yet an ambiguous common name such as; "Pincushion Cactus". Labels should be clean, neat and inconspicuous, if used. Many shows use entry cards instead of labels. The owner's name cannot be visible to the judges.

So, now- start making plans to cart your favorite (and most delectable) plants off to the next show with confidence, relax and enjoy it, and try to accept with grace and suitable modesty the compliments and ribbons which are sure to reward your efforts.

