

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The Offset

President's Message

February 2024

"Howdy howdy!

We just got a smidge of snow, Oklahoma signaling that we are in fact still in winter. I'd call it second winter after having those couple weeks of gloriousness towards the end of January (1st spring). Either way we're past the darkest shortest days of the year and each day brings us closer to the birds chirping and the cacti blooming.

I hope everyone's been staying in the plant zone and getting through those random week long spells of gray clouds. I know my mood is heavily dependant on the amount of sunshine I've had in the last few days. I've tried to keep busy, doing lots of seed starting and moving seedlings from initial pots to community pots. I'm doing another 'surprise' tray of astrophytums I hope to open up at my talk later in the year and see what we have.

We've got a ton of stuff planned for this year so make sure to check the end of the newsletter for a copy of the calendar. We'll talk more about things as we get closer to the dates happening. We're also looking for volunteers to be on committees for a couple of different things. Spread the workloads out a bit more and get some more involvement.

Last but not least... dues. Don't forget about getting them paid!

*-Wil
President"*

Monthly Meeting

February 15th @ 7pm

Propagation via Seed, Grafting &
Cuttings

Will Roger's Gardens
3400 NW 36th St
Oklahoma City, OK 73112

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UPCOMING YEAR EVENTS

Hello Everyone! New Year, New Events!

For those who missed last month's meeting, we discussed the upcoming year's events, and boy am I excited!

We're still working on a more readable calendar, but here's a basic overview of the upcoming year.

- February 15: Monthly Meeting - Video Presentation**
- February 24: "I Love the Flowers" hosted by the Oklahoma Council of National Garden Club Flower Show Judges and the Oklahoma Iris Society @ WRG**
- March 21: Monthly Meeting - Lovley Lophophora**
- April 18: Monthly Meeting - Planned Out-of-Town Speaker/Tour the Beds**
- May 9: Club Outing - Road Trip to Taggart's & Stillwater**
- May 11: Festival in the Park @ WRG**
- May 18: Cactus Crawl - Greenhouse Crawl**
- May 16: Monthly Meeting - All About Pachypodiums**
- May or June: Club Outing - Botanizing the Wichitas**
- June 15-16: Summer Show n' Sale**
- July 18: Monthly Meeting - Propagation Extravaganza/Post Sale Swap**
- August 15: Dish Garden Public Event**
- September 21-22: Fall Show n' Sale**
- October 17: Monthly Meeting - Planned Out-of-Town Speaker**
- October 24: Fall Crawl - Greenhouse Crawl**
- November 21: Monthly Meeting - Seed Starting**
- December 19: Club Christmas Party - Catered @ WRG**



MEETING UPDATES

Monthly Show & Tell

Something that was discussed at the board meeting and in January was the idea of making the 'Show & Tells' a monthly thing.

Get a new plant your excited to show off? Having some issues with a current plant and need to get some advice? Got a bloomer and want to brag? Then bring up your plant, tool, potting mix, whatever to the next meeting,

We will have some time either before or after the business portion of the meeting (or after the speaker if we're having one that month) where you can show of what you brought. This is completely voluntary, but we wanted to give our members a platform to show us what they got.

Pre Meeting Meetings aka 'Plant Shenanigans'

Last month one of our new members, Zach, suggested a pre meeting hangout... and it was a ton of fun. We met over at Broke Brewing (3810 N Tulsa Ave Suite Z, Oklahoma City, OK 73112), it's just west of Will Rogers Gardens about a mile. We met at 5pm and had a couple drinks (alcoholic and nonalcoholic) and just talked about plants and caught up.

I wanted to extend the invitation to everyone this month. I'll be there at 5pm up until about 6:40. Anyone is MORE than welcome to join us. There is no pressure to imbibe, come and have a soda and sit and chat. They have some outdoor space as well so once it warms up a bit more we'll probably move outside.



COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERING

Want to get more involved with the club, but not quite ready for an officer role? Committees are a great way to get more involved with the club and help planning our bigger events throughout the year.

Show n' Sale Committee

This committee will focus on printing flyers, mailing post cards, coordinating food, scheduling the presentations, etc.

Loa will be the head of this committee, so anyone interested, send her a message.

Dish Garden Committee

This year we want to bring back the dish garden event for the public. This committee will primarily be needed to print and distribute flyers, source small cacti and succulents, soil mix, and other potting medium. Along with volunteering for the event itself.

Snacks Committee

Your not in charge of bringing snacks, just coordinating who's bringing snack that week. Can create a sign-up sheet, or have a rotation of people. Totally up to whoever wants to take on the role...snacks is important y'all...

When all my friends start hitting me up with houseplant questions



OTHER VOLUNTEERING

Greenhouse Crawls

The greenhouse crawls have been so much fun, we're bringing them back. If you would like to show off your collection we will be having both a spring and fall crawl. It's super fun, and you don't even need to have a greenhouse!

Remember that it doesn't matter how big or small your collection is. My front yard looks like the gardener died a decade ago and his last breath was in the greenhouse... anyone seen the floor? Whatever, please let me know if you're interested. It went over really well last year and I'd love to see everyone's plants, even if it's just looking in your window to see them. ~ Wil Oats

Send a message to Wil if your at all interested. If you have a preference on season, let him know.

Outdoor Bed Clean-up

This year we are trying to go with a more scheduled clean-up times. Once the weather warms up a little (around March or April), the Saturday following a meeting will be a scheduled bed clean-up day. This way we can have more people at once for those that like to work in groups.

We'll also try and have a clean out day on the Wednesday before a meeting for those that like to come during the week.

Just keep in mind that if you do want to volunteer to clean out the beds, you can do this any time, just remember to check in with the WRG office so we can document those volunteer hours and to get a discount on our rooms.

CSSA President's Message



CSSA President's Message to the Membership

February 2024

Greetings to all CSSA Members,

2023 has been a year of significant change for the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. Gunnar Eisel's retirement and the hiring of our new Business Manager, Julie Taber, in December, is the first major change in CSSA's day-to-day operations in over 14 years.

Certainly the transition to our new membership management system, Join It, is a very necessary enhancement to establishing an accurate, easy to use system for our existing and new members to access all of CSSA's services. Join It has also been linked with Mailchimp allowing, among many other functions, creation of membership subsets for email reminders and events. Please, if you have not tried the new membership system as yet, and taken a look at the new website, [see it here](#).



The CSSA website will continue to be enhanced; committee members and the work of the various committees will be posted; table of contents for *CSJ*, *TTP*, and *Haseltonia* will also be posted. We hope to have complete full-text access to the *CSJ* from 1929 to the latest issue of 2024 on the member's site by year's end.

Zoom meetings have allowed CSSA to expand the national representation of its board members (Colorado 2, Arizona 2, Texas 2, New Mexico, and New Hampshire), bringing new talent and ideas.

Webinars will continue on a monthly basis. Please forward any webinar speaker or program suggestions to VP [Irwin Lightstone](#).

Planning for the 2025 Convention in San Diego is well underway. The [Marriott Mission Valley](#) will be the convention hotel. We have verbal commitments from an outstanding cast of international and U.S. speakers and contracts will be sent out soon. Please save the dates: April 24-27, 2025.

Dick Schreiber has worked tirelessly to resume CSSA international tours; the September 2024 Karel du Toit and Steven Brack led tour of the Western and Northern Cape regions is full. Future tour locations are under consideration.

Online meetings for CSSA Affiliates are planned to now take place twice a year.

The Conservation Committee is very active and will have announcements about recently evaluated projects to be funded in the near future. In order to address the increased pressure for field-collected plants, our Board of Directors has adopted a **Code of Conduct** for CSSA members as follows:



CSSA President's Message

Suspension provision regarding recent trading in habitat collected plants

It is known that, like many plant groups and arboretums, the CSSA lacks the resources and expertise to determine, on its own, whether any of its members are participating in the commercial trade of plants recently collected (within the last 2 years and going forward) from habitat. The IUCN and law enforcement agencies, on the other hand, regularly perform these important investigations. To facilitate the protection and conservation of cacti and succulents, we will promote seed grown and ethical practices in our hobby. CSSA will rely upon IUCN and law enforcement agencies to determine if a person or business engaged in the commercial trade of plants recently collected from habitat. Once the CSSA is informed of a party's participation in trading plants recently collected from habitat, that party will be suspended for a two-year period from participating in certain CSSA activities, such as:

1. **Being a vendor at CSSA sponsored events;**
2. **Being a presenter at CSSA sponsored webinars, conventions, or other events;**
3. **Being an officer, director, employee or contractor of the CSSA;**
4. **Participating in the organization or running of a CSSA event;**
5. **Participating in a CSSA field trip; and,**
6. **Contributing to any CSSA publication**

The suspended party may attend conferences and webinars and receive CSSA publications during the suspension period.

After the expiration of the two-year suspension, the CSSA will consult with the IUCN to determine whether any unethical trade continued during the suspension to determine whether the suspension should be continued or terminated. The suspension will be extended in accordance with the gravity and nature of the conduct.

Participation in the unethical commercial trading of plants recently collected from habitat includes aiding the sales, brokering, transit of such plants or the use of such plant to sell other items such as pottery. This provision expressly does not apply to legitimate plant rescue programs, like that engaged in by the Tucson club, provided the plants are tagged as required by state law.

Please feel free to use this Code of Conduct as a template, as we hope that Affiliates might adopt a similar policy.

Finally, the CSSA is becoming much more focused on proper use of social media to promote conservation and research, affiliate shows and sales, the CSSA show and sale, and the CSSA biennial convention, among other things.

I believe we have a proactive, detail-oriented Business Manager and Board of Directors. We still have a great deal of work ahead of us but, we have the will, desire, and talent in place to make the CSSA the leader in all things concerning our hobby and our passion.

Rod Haenni

President

Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc.



SUBMISSIONS INFO

**Want to help the Newsletter?
Well we're open for submissions!**

What can I submit?

**Advice
Blurbs
Quotes
Pictures
Memes
Questions?**

**Honestly...
Anything Related
to Cactus &
Succulents**

This is a call out to all COCSS Members!

We are in need of submissions, and here's how you can help!

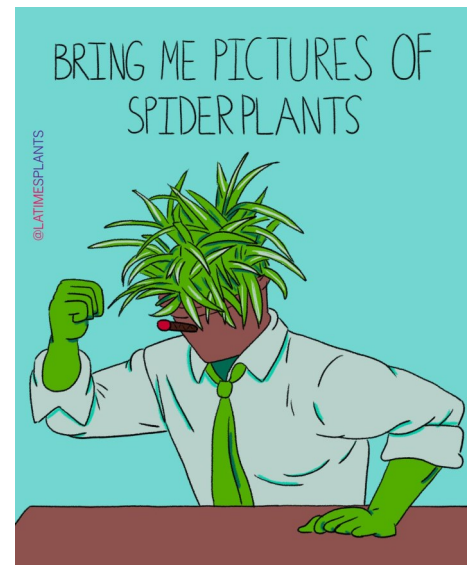
We want to hear from your experiences: do you have any helpful tips for beginners, any lessons you've learned, or what are some great successes or failures you've had while growing cactus and succulents?

Do you have any advice, whether that be from keeping a greenhouse warm during a sudden freeze, or just keeping those invasive pests at bay?

What about photos? Who doesn't love showing off their collection! I know I love seeing it! If you have photos, send them in.

Questions? We love questions! Heck, if I get enough, I'll create a whole section just for Q&A.

So why not contribute to your favorite source for local cactus and succulent goings on.



You can send all submissions to Brianne Rhee @

Text: (405)343-6145 or Email: bri_duke@hotmail.com

Our Club Discord Also has a new Text Channel #newsletter where you can also send submissions.

Check it out [Here!](#)



RESOURCES

Club Website: <https://oklahomacactus.com/>

Club Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CactusOKC/>

Friends of COCSS (facebook group): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1009636282440752>

Club Discord: <https://discord.gg/JfUXTUvccs>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/cactusokc/>

The Cactus & Succulent Society of America have decided to move into the 21st century and started a Youtube channel! There's a smattering of videos but definitely stay tuned for more.



© Update to outdoor beds at WRG

COCSS membership dues are \$10 per individual or \$15 per household. ([form](#))

By Check: Pay to 'COCSS' and can be mailed to 620 N Bristow Ave, Moore OK 73160.

Contact Tyson Reynolds at 405.343.5721 or by email at tyson.b.reynolds@gmail.com

Paypal: paypal.me/cactusokc and choose 'send to friend'

Then follow up with an email to daisyandherdads@gmail.com with the information you'd put on the [form](#).

If you are interested in contributing to The Offset, please send photos and article submissions to Newsletter Editor Brianne Rhee at bri_duke@hotmail.com (you can also text pictures to 405.343.6145).

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Officers

