



# COLORADO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society promotes knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants amongst its members, other individuals and organizations throughout Colorado.

## UPCOMING MEETING

**Topic:** Growing Cacti & Succulents on a Windowsill with Keith Woestehoff

**Date:** January 27, 2018

**Time:** 2-3:30p

**2:00-2:30 - Member business**

2:30 - 3:30 Keith's presentation (open to the public)

**Location:** Tagawa Garden Center | 7711 S Parker Rd, Centennial, CO 80016

**Food:** n/a

**Details:** Keith Woestehoff, longstanding CCSS member and former newsletter editor, will take us on a cacti and succulent care journey. Did you know that cacti and succulents are ideal houseplants for Colorado's climate? If you are fascinated by these unique, attention-grabbing plants but don't know where to start in growing your own, this class is for you! Meet a variety of cacti and succulents and learn about necessary growing conditions, light requirements, pest control, and more!

**Side note: Tagawa's also has a few special offers:**

- 10% discount to Botanic Garden members, Hudson Garden members, Seniors (65+) & active military.

- \$5 off \$20 or more with this coupon

**PLEASE NOTE THE SPECIAL DATE, TIME & LOCATION.**

Hope to see you there!

The famed Keith Woestehoff next to some incredible specimens.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to wish all of you a very happy and healthy New Year! The board is excited for all the programs and activities we have in store for 2018.

Let's revisit our mission: **“To promote knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants amongst its members, other individuals, and organizations throughout Colorado.”**

In 2018 and beyond, we're recommitting ourselves to expanding education for all our members. We're doing a great job emphasizing hands-on education – allowing our members to dive deeper into the world of cacti and succulent knowledge. I mentioned this at the last meeting and I believe that each and every one of our members should have the ability to immerse themselves, whether it's applying for a grant for study, showcasing their talents by teaching a workshop, or researching a topic for a newsletter article.

One of things that make that tricky is that our membership is fairly diverse. While some of our members are more involved and committed than others, some of us have less experience, or have just recently discovered succulents on an Instagram page and now have urgent need to learn everything about *echeverias*.

**So the question is: How can we create an inclusive environment for both professionals and novices?**

Panayoti and Randy have created a 2018 schedule for us that combine incredible wealth of knowledge that will be accessible to everyone. Another opportunity to create a sense of community is incorporating weekend activities for those not able to make it on a Tuesday evening.

The club is financially stable and with that comes opportunities for our members and our club. We will continue to rock the Annual Show and Sale giving us the ability to provide demonstrations, world-class speakers & symposiums, and grant access for our members.

A few other things we're excited to see in 2018

- More informal Saturday workshops
- Cactus community hikes
- Collaboration with other plant societies, including Colorado Native Plant Societies & Rocky Mountain chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society
- Educational & outreach materials, both printed and digital
- Website re-design with the focus on educational resource
- Revamp the Cactus Rescue Committee

Additionally, I'm interested in reaching out to you, our membership to see if a **mentorship** program would be well-received. Again, education! education! education! is key to continuing the Mary Ann Heacock legacy. What better way than to nourish our community with the knowledge that currently exists?

If you are interested in discussing this with us, please reach out to me – [Sara.J.Randall@gmail.com](mailto:Sara.J.Randall@gmail.com)

Please join us at Tagawa's January 27th. Longtime Member Keith Woestehoff will be demonstrating his knowledge on Cacti Succulent Care and Feeding, along with a bit of club business to attend, and I hope you will join us! If you can, bring a snack to share. The club will provide beverages. If you have transportation needs, please reach out.

I love our community and can't wait to see what 2018 will bring us.

PS. Shout out to Michael and Devra Roll for their wonderful presentation at the December meeting and thank you to everyone who participated in the wonderful holiday spread. Special thanks to Loretta for taking over the mic on the gift exchange!

# THINGS YOU WANT/NEED TO KNOW

Long-time member, Don Campbell shared the following article, "*Time to Put Cactus on the Menu*": *FAO's Advice on Food Security*".

**Besides its consumption value, the cactus improves soil quality, promotes barley plantations and could even, according to preliminary research, help limit emissions of greenhouse gas.**

The prickly pear cactus, considered an essential food in Mexico, could be the answer to much of the world's food security woes, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said Thursday.

"While most cacti are inedible, the *Opuntia* species has much to offer, especially if treated like a crop rather than a weed run wild," the FAO said in a statement.

The UN organization — which convened a group of experts to study the plant's potential and help farmers and policymakers use it in a more strategic and efficient way — also released a book "on how to exploit the plant's culinary qualities".

The FAO, along with non-profit agriculture group ICARDA, believes the cactus pear could prove lifesaving, highlighting the 2015 Madagascar drought in which the "cactus proved a crucial supply of food, forage and water for local people and their animals".

Instantly recognizable with its jumble of spiny discs — its bright red fruit protruding from them like fat fingers — the prickly pear cactus is farmed on a massive scale in Mexico, where consumption has reached 6.4 kilograms per year, per capita.

It is now also cooked widely in Sicily, and Brazil has more than 500,000 hectares of cactus plantations, mainly for fodder. The plant is also grown in North Africa and Ethiopia.

Besides its consumption value, the "cactus pear's ability to thrive in arid and dry climates makes it a key player in food security," the FAO said.

"Cactus stores water in its pads, thus providing a botanical well that can provide up to 180 tonnes of water per hectare — enough to sustain five adult cows, a substantial increase over typical rangeland productivity".

And the benefits do not stop there: the cactus improves soil quality, promotes barley plantations and could even, according to preliminary research, help limit emissions of greenhouse gas.

The plant does have some limitations: for example, frost can cause irreversible damage and the plant's growth begins to slow at overly high temperatures. But the FAO maintains that the good outweighs the bad.

"Climate change and the increasing risks of droughts are strong reasons to upgrade the humble cactus to the status of an essential crop in many areas," said Hans Dreyer, director of FAO's Plant Production and Protection Division.

Image from article: "The cactus was considered sacred by the ancient Aztecs, and modern-day Mexicans eat it, drink it, and even use it in medicines and shampoos | Photo: Reuters"



# THINGS YOU WANT/NEED TO KNOW: 2018 PROPOSED PROGRAMS

What an exciting line-up for 2018. **As a reminder, if you have any suggestions for programs, DIY projects or field trips LET US KNOW!**

**Jan 27** – Keith Woestehoff, Cacti and Succulent Care and Feeding (at Tagawa Garden Center,) Combined CCSS and Tagawa customers

**Feb 20** – Rudy Dorsch, Epiphyllums / Gary Davis, Demo on propagating succulents

**Mar 20** – Jackson Burkholder, Cactus DNA History

**Mar 29 - Apr 1** – Show and Sale

**Apr 5-11** – Big Bend Trip with extra field trip to Guadalupe Mtns. led by Rod Haenni

**Apr 17** – Kelly Grummons, ‘New and Improved Hardy Cacti’ / Demo at Paulino’s

**May 11-13** – Field Trip to Grand Junction – visit public cactus garden, some member’s gardens, visit site of endangered cacti, visit to DGB research area

**Jun 19** – Cactus and Succulent Symposium – Boulder. Possible Speakers: Heather Hodgkin (Denver Greenhouses), Hans Hansen on agaves and mangaves (Walter’s Gardens MI), Marcia Tatroe (Cactus and Succulent Tour of Gardens), Jan Evans (Plants for the Southwest, ‘Lithops’). Could include tour of UCB Greenhouses by Tom Lemieux

**Jul 14 or 21** – Cactus Cut-Up

**Aug 14** – Pongani, South Africa ‘Aloes’ / Possible dual or separate talks with RMC and DBG

**Sep 18** – Donnie Barnett – report on research from CCSS grant

**Oct 13 or 21** – Banquet, Tom Glavich, LA

**Nov 6 or 13** – Woody Minnich

**Dec 18** – Holiday Party

**Possible Field Trips:** Green Mountain, Gary Davis – Bennett, Boulder, eastern plains



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*Astrophytum myriostigma cv. onzuka* with a flower bud | Photo: Pedro Galvez

# RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

It's time to for your annual membership renewal. Please renew today for the low, low price of \$20/yr. You can pay at the meeting or on our website!

## CCSS MEMBER-GRANT RECIPIENTS

DEVRA & MICHAEL ROLL (2017)

DONNIE BARNETT (2017)

MIKE BONE (2016)

HARRIET OLDS

STAY TUNED FOR UPCOMING  
PROGRAMS WHERE THE  
RECIPIENTS WILL PRESENT THE  
FINDINGS FROM THEIR GRANTS!



Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society

[coloradocactus.org](http://coloradocactus.org)

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Address Correction Requested