

River City News



Volume 15, Issue 9

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November Meeting

Date: November 3, 2013

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Where: Sump Library

84th St. Downtown Papillion, (across from Runza)

Program: Cacti & Succulents

of the Big Bend Area

slideshow by Chuck Hanson

AND

Where do we go from here?

Deciding the future of our club.



Event Board

Fall Chrysanthemum Show

Begins Oct. 5th

Lauritzen Gardens

15th Biennial Mid-States Cactus

& Succulent Conference

June 12-15, 2014

Oklahoma City, OK



Bring snacks to share. Show and tell plants,
raffle plants are always welcome.

**River City
Cactus & Succulent Society**

Founded 1980

2013 Officers:

President: Chuck Hanson
Vice President: Karen Rovang
Secretary: Jane Harpenau
Treasurer: Carol Ann Smith

River City News Editor:

Denise Evans
greenirl1958@cox.net

Regular monthly meetings held at 1:30
p.m. on the first Sunday of each
month, locations announced in the
newsletter

Annual Memberships:
Individual: \$15.00
Family: \$20.00



President's message

This will be the next-to-last President's letter for me. Trying to keep RCCSS running as a stable society is just too demanding when the meetings are a two-hour drive away. As the letter from Kathy Bokelman included in this newsletter states, it is time for a change, either in leadership or format. Only you, the members, can decide at this point which way the RCCSS will go. No matter what the membership decides, Karen and I would only be able to attend a meeting occasionally. It's been fun knowing and meeting monthly with you all.

Chuck



The most cold hardy Escobaria, native to the great plains. Carmel colored flowers in May followed by abundant red berries that persist all winter. Zone 2

Meeting Minutes

RCCSS met Oct. 6, 2013 at the Sump Library in Papillion with 15 members present.

Immediately after the meeting was called to order, guest speaker Leo Chance spoke on cold weather hardy cacti and succulents. Following the informative talk, members were able to purchase his book as well as some of the species he spoke about.

A short business meeting followed.

Next meeting Chuck Hanson will give a presentation on Big Bend.

Members are encouraged to bring ideas on how to better our organization.

The meeting was adjourned and snacks enjoyed.

The next meeting will be Nov. 3.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Harpenau, secretary.

Future of RCCSS

There are times when an organization has outlived its usefulness and/or purpose. Are we at that point? As a club, we need to make a decision on what we want to do. After a board meeting and a lot of discussion in the last months, the following are the possibilities as the board sees them. Any other ideas are certainly welcome.

1. After the Christmas party, we disband completely. The treasury funds would be donated to CSSA. I don't think there are any other assets with much value.
2. For a year, we would hold quarterly meetings. March, June, Sept. and Dec. Rather than having officers and a scheduled agenda, each meeting would be a group discussion. The topic would be announced in advance. Denise would send notification via E-mail. We could have plants for sale or give away and of course, snacks to share. No dues or affiliation with CSSA. A display for the "show & sale" would be decided later. Kathy would be the contact person. We could re-evaluate after a year.
3. RCCSS continues as before with monthly meetings. A new set of officers takes over. Out of our membership of 30+, that means 4 people will have an office.

We will vote by ballot at the next meeting.

Some of the discussion that went into the decision was that Chuck and Karen (as officers) find it difficult to drive two hours each way to attend monthly meetings, especially in the winter months. The Des Moines Club is small but very active; however, the distance between makes a merger not a viable option.

From the editor...

I don't know how many of you bought Leo Chance's book at last month's meeting, but if you didn't (or weren't there), I'd suggest you go to Amazon.com and buy a copy. It's really very well done in great detail, from preparing your soil, creating a berm, feeding, proper watering... No detail is left to the imagination. And then it goes into specific species with stunning photos, detailed descriptions and his impression of the hardiness of the plant. He has truly shared with all of us his vast experience with the plants we grow. It's nice to have a book like this so that the rest of us don't have to experiment with our beloved plants - Leo has done that for us!

Since the meeting and perusing this fascinating book, it got me curious to see if I could find Leo on the internet. I bought 6 plants, but I thought by spring, having had the winter to do a real scouring of his book, I may want to find a few more. Well, I could only find reference to his book and not much else. Interestingly, there's some other fella with the same name - a handsome devil who has apparently written some lovey-dovey book that's referenced all over the place. Not what I was hoping to find! But in my search, I came across a website... www.coldhardycactus.com ...that sells these plants. The owner of the site, Kelly Grummons, apparently lives in Colorado, too, so I'd be willing to bet that he and Leo are acquainted. I thought perhaps those of you that plan to try your hand at cold hardy plantings next year would be interested in looking over this site... Of course, I also look forward to when Chuck's operation is up and running to see what he will have to offer.

Now, as far as the next meeting goes, I hope to see the vast majority of our membership there to weigh in on what the next year will bring for the club. I don't know about the rest of you, but I like having compadres in my favorite pastime. I have lots of e-friends in the hobby, but it's not the same as coming to meetings where you can bring plants for show & tell, or bring plants with questions, or look at other folks' plants, and really get to know the other enthusiasts. Where you can see slide shows, or go on a field trip, or have an auction. And the show and sale is always a great time. I, for one, would miss all that. But I understand that people are busier than ever. I think we can keep some form of this going, though, if there are enough of us that want to make the effort. I'm looking forward to hearing some ideas. And it would be great to hear from some of our newer members. Sometimes, it takes a fresh perspective of someone who hasn't spent years in the "rut" of the old ways to bring a new idea in that the "old-timers" can't see! (Yes, I'm including myself in the "old-timers" since I've been a member at least a dozen years, and I've been growing these plants since... let's see, about 1977...)

Hope to see you Sunday!

-Editor