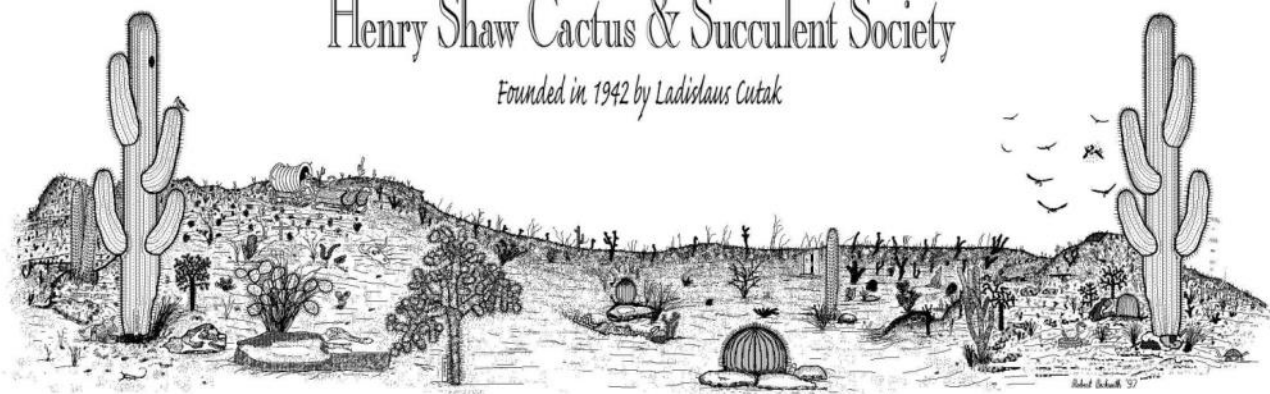


Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society

Founded in 1942 by Ladislaus Cutak



VOLUME 83

September 2024

NUMBER 9

This Month: HSCSS Annual Picnic



Mission Statement: The purpose of the Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society (HSCSS) is to promote and increase knowledge of the culture, propagation, and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants from arid regions around the world.

- The Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society is an affiliate of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America
- All donations made to the Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society, a non-profit organization, are tax deductible.

ABOUT THE HSCSS

President's Message

Our July 2024 Show & Sale

A special thank you goes to Janet Kister and Mike Hellmann, our Program co-chairs. We are indebted to Jerry Jost for allowing us to use his Event Space. It allowed us to have a large sale and a wonderful show. In addition, all of you who helped set up, staff the event, and clean up at the end of the show are owed a great deal of gratitude. With everyone pitching in, we had a great show!

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Cover: The Muffin Shelter at Love Park, the new location for our annual picnic.
photo from Love Park website

Show Comments

We appreciate all the comments that people made about our show. We always look to improve what we do. The Show Committee will discuss all comments and decide how to implement those that we can. Obviously, if comments conflict, we will need to decide which one makes sense to use. If you think of any other suggestions, don't hesitate to email me. Include comments about what you feel we did well. Those are helpful.

HSCSS Annual Picnic

Our September meeting is our annual picnic with good food, prizes, and great fellowship. More will be found on this in a separate article in this Digest.

The August Program

HSCSS Member David Keller provided an excellent and informative program on grafting cacti. There were eight lucky winners, including myself, whose numbers were called, giving us the chance to graft a cactus. I had grafted cacti prior to this event. Sometimes I was successful. I still learned some techniques from David's presentation. I hope that you enjoyed it. Please do make suggestions for future programs that you would like to see. Mike Hellmann does a wonderful

job in organizing the programs. Thanks to Mike and the other members of the Program Committee who help make these decisions.

The Arid House

Remember that the Arid House at Missouri Botanical Garden has a soft opening on September 22, 2024. Don't forget to see the rarest plant, the **Karomia gigas**, which is from Tanzania. The Missouri Botanical Garden has played a significant role in conserving this rare species. It is in the Arid House on the south side of the building behind the concrete bench.

In these uncertain times, please be safe!

Ralph Olliges, President, Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society
2025 International Cactus Conference will be held in San Diego, California, April 24-27, 2025.

Mid-States Conference Recap

By Ralph Olliges, President

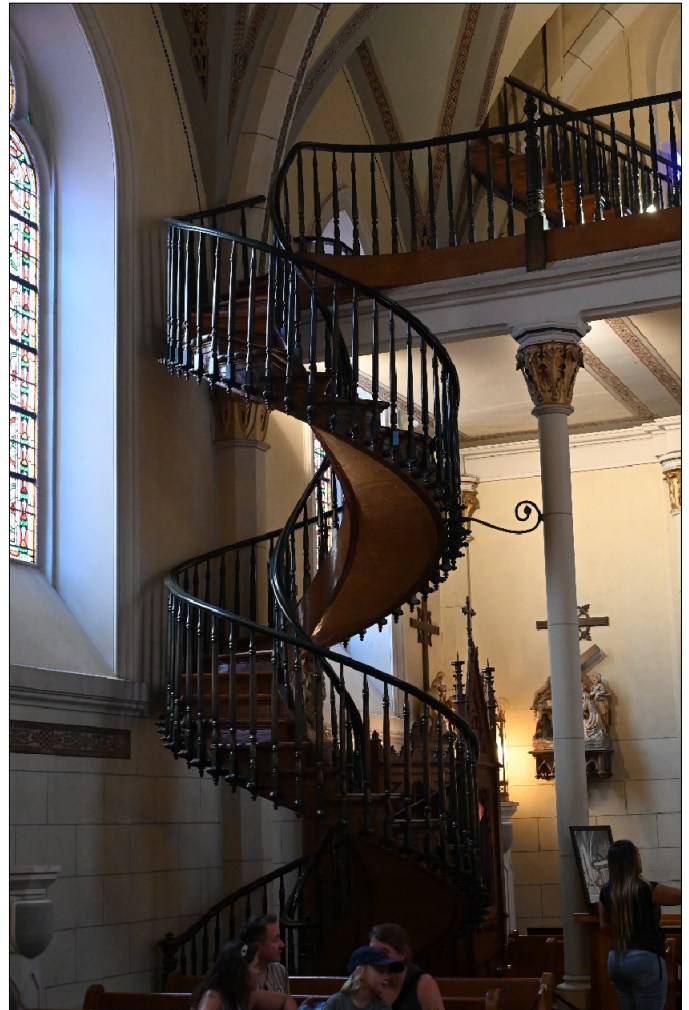
All photos by the author

I thought that you might like a recap of the Mid-States Regional Conference that took place in July 2024.

First, let me say that Woody Minnich and the New Mexico Cactus and Succulent Society did a wonderful job of making us welcome. We had a wonderful time on Friday night shopping for cacti and succulents. While I was not one of the 10 lucky ones able to shop early, I still found some wonderful treasures. Saturday was packed with four great presentations. After dinner, there was one more presentation and the auction. Sunday morning was the final presentation. I did a little more shopping on Saturday and Sunday. I ended up spending about \$750 on plants, \$50 on pots, and about \$50 in taxes. Yes, I did spend more than I probably should have, but I did find some neat plants!

On Wednesday, prior to the conference, I drove almost 800 miles to Vega, Texas which is just west of Amarillo. I certainly did take breaks to stretch my legs every couple of hours. I left at 5 am and arrived about 6 pm. On Thursday, I drove 3.5 hours into New Mexico. (One gains an hour when you cross into New Mexico.) I arrived at the Pecos National Park. It had several adobe buildings and a nice trail.

Then I drove into the city of Santa Fe and parked at the St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral. I took some pictures of the interior as well as of the statues in front of it. If that had been the extent of my visit, it would have cost me nothing to park, but I told the attendant when asked, that I wanted to go to the Loretto Chapel and St. Miguel's Church, so it cost me \$20 to park. When the Loretto Chapel was built, they forgot to connect the chapel on the floor to the choir loft. Many engineers and carpenters said that it was impossible to build a staircase without



Loretto Chapel staircase. The sisters of the Loretto Chapel believed the carpenter who built the mysterious staircase was St. Joseph who showed up in response to their prayers.

disrupting the church. The sisters prayed and finally, an elderly man came along and built a spiral staircase that revolves 360 degrees twice without supports. It rests against the choir loft and sits on the floor below. It is put together without nails; it uses wood pegs to hold the stairs together. The man took no money from the nuns. One legend goes that this "Miraculous Staircase" was built by St. Joseph who was the

Continued next page

carpenter. Next, I visited St. Miguel, which is the oldest church building in the continental United States. The original building was built in 1610. It has been rebuilt twice. On the way back, I found public parking for \$15 for four hours. I lost \$5 in that adventure.

I made my way to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. It is quite lovely but only the size of the front area of our Missouri Botanical Garden up to the Climatron. My MBG membership was reciprocal, so I entered for free. I saved \$12. Completing my visit, I went across the street up Museum Hill to two museums: Museum of International Folk Art and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture. Each cost \$12 to enter. However, I have a St. Louis Art Museum membership and thus, entrance was reciprocal. All told, I saved \$36 for the three visits.

On Friday, I went to the Monastery of Christ in the Desert. It was about a one hour and 15 minute drive on a good state highway west and north of Santa Fe. Then I turned onto a dirt road for 17 miles. It was one lane with cut-offs to allow anyone coming toward you to pass. I met three vehicles going to the monastery and then three more on my return. It took about 30 to 45 minutes to make the trek. The last three-tenths of a mile you had to walk after parking at the monastery. I entered just before 8:45 am. A monk placed an open book in front of me. The book was *The Liturgy of the Hours*. It was opened to the Terce readings (which is for 9 am). Various prayers are said roughly every three hours. Over my lifetime, I have prayed different prayers from *The Liturgy of the Hours*, so I was familiar with them. Each side alternates saying the readings.

After making the trek back over the dirt road, I headed to Taos Pueblo. The tour was quite good. The only disappointment was that I could not take photos. The Tribal Council had decreed that no electronic devices could be used.

On Sunday afternoon, I came home through southwestern Kansas. I ended up driving to Pratt, Kansas. On Monday morning, I went and walked around Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, Kansas, since I was early for lunch with a friend, Paul Carney. After a great lunch at



Delosperma cooperi in Santa Fe Botanical Garden.



St. Miguel Church, built in the early 1600s, is said to be the oldest church structure in the U.S.

Bella Luna, I bid Paul good-bye and drove home, arriving about 7:30 p.m.

I don't sleep much when traveling, but if you do, I hope that this inspired you to travel to Santa Fe and visit when you can.

HSCSS Annual Picnic

By Mike Hellmann, Program Chair

Once again, welcome to our annual September picnic, this year taking place at the Muffin Shelter in Love Park. A map and location details can be found elsewhere in this Digest. Please realize that this is a different venue than last year's event.

Arrive anytime around noon or after and bring lawn chairs if possible. There will be plenty of tables but, depending on how many of us attend, it might be best if you can bring a few lawn chairs just to make sure everyone is comfortable.

As is usual, we'll have a potluck lunch with the club providing chicken along with soft drinks, water, utensils, plates, etc. Please bring a family-size side dish to share. There are no rules regarding who brings what dish, so bring your favorite and hopefully it will work out to where we'll have a good mix of casseroles, salads and desserts. We'll most likely begin to eat around 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. And, of course, feel free to bring any beverage of your choice.

There will be no meeting or program at this event. Our goal is to bring everyone together, allowing us to get to know our fellow members a bit better. We have members at every level of this hobby including beginners with only a few plants and plenty of enthusiasm, to those who are a bit more serious but also with lots of enthusiasm and a willingness to share their experiences. It is a great mix of personalities so please try to mingle and get to know your fellow members better. Everyone seems to be more relaxed at such events due to the fact we're not watching the clock nor adhering to any kind of schedule. New members and old alike can get to know each other better without the noise and congestion often found in the confines of a meeting room.

Continued next page

WHAT: HSCSS Annual Picnic, plant giveaways. The club will provide chicken, ham and non-alcoholic beverages. BYOB. Members should bring their favorite side dishes, appetizer or dessert.

WHEN: Sunday, September 8, 2024, 12-4 p.m.

WHERE: Love Park, the Muffin Shelter
2239 Mason Lane
Manchester, MO 63021
(south of Manchester Rd, west of I-270)

This is a great time to hang out with old and new friends in a quiet pastoral setting and talk, buy, sell and swap plants.

There will be a free plant drawing that will take place soon after we're done eating, and games to play, so bring the family.

Bring lawn chairs.

DIRECTIONS:

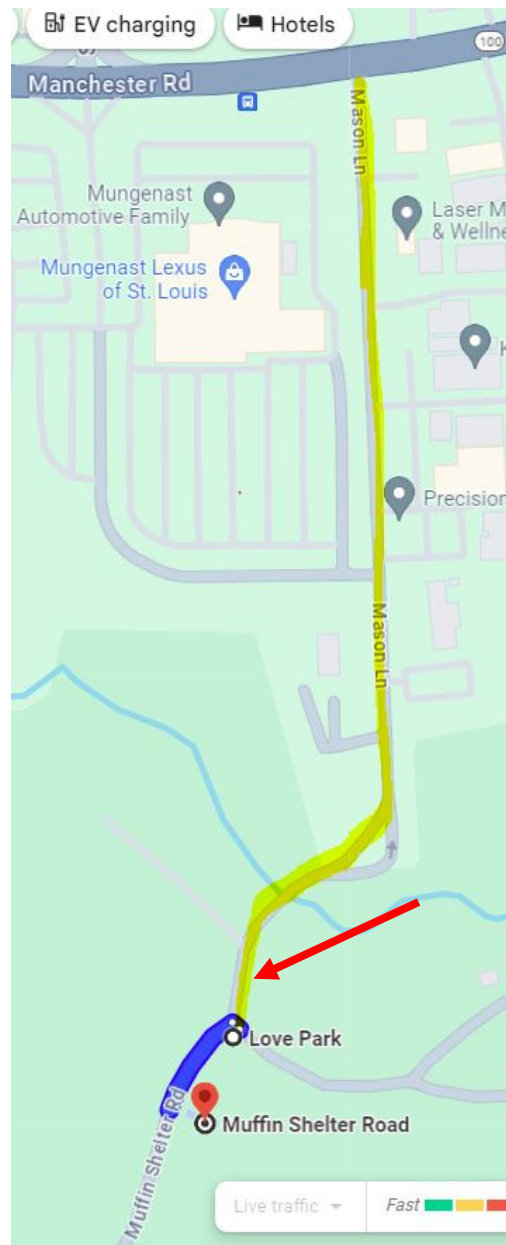
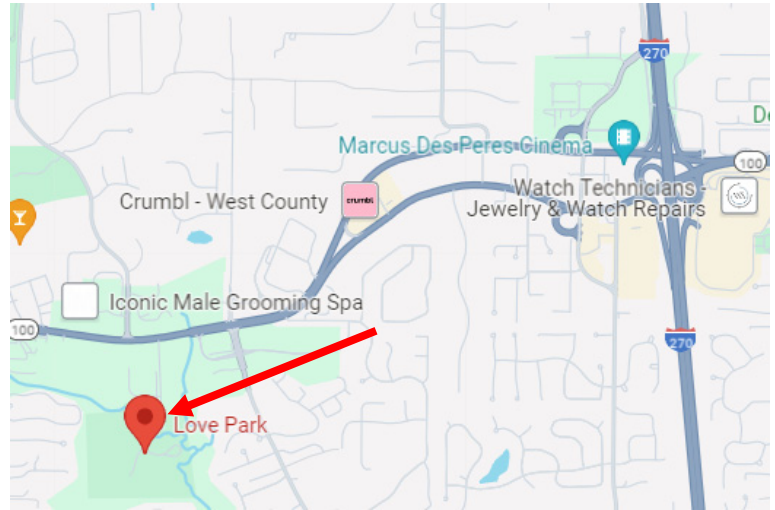
- From Manchester Road (Rte. 100), turn onto Mason Lane (if travelling east, turn right; if travelling west, turn left).
- Stay to the right to go to Muffin Shelter Road.
- Turn left to get to the Muffin Shelter.

SEE MAPS ON NEXT PAGE

We will have a sign-up sheet just like we do at all meetings, but its sole purpose will be for a plant drawing that will take place soon after we're done eating. About ten to twelve collectors' quality plants will be made available to those in attendance. If your number is drawn, you'll get to choose a plant with no strings attached ***other than*** having to write an article about it for a future issue of our monthly Digest.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. My contact information is on the back page of the Digest. If you get lost on your way in, you can reach Don Lesmeister at 314-280-2020 who will be able to guide you to our location.

The weather will be marvelous, so I look forward to seeing you all next Sunday!



GRAFTING CACTI RECAP

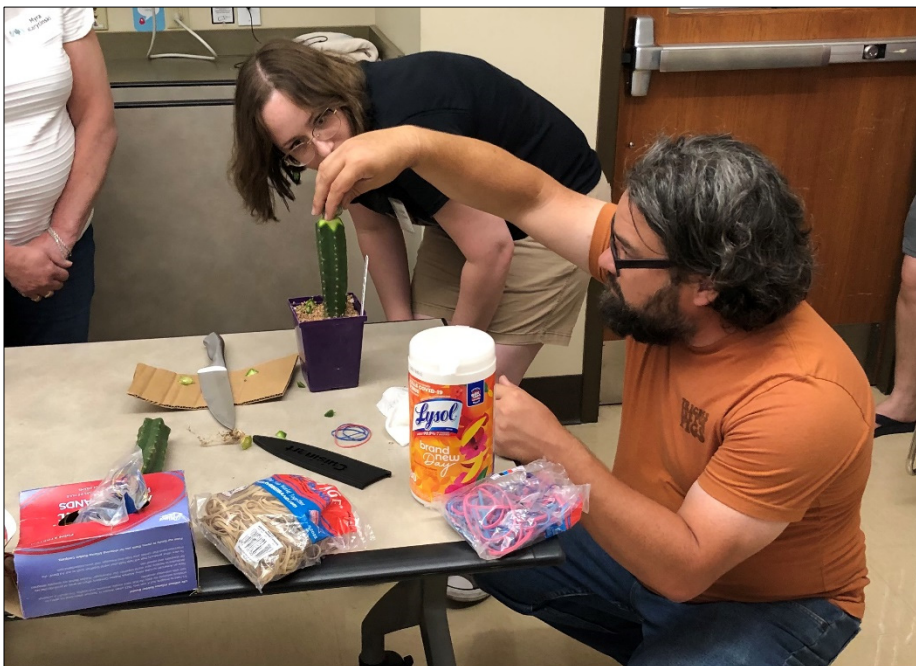
Last month, member David Keller demonstrated grafting cacti, then recruited members to graft cacti that he brought in. Below are photos of some of the eight members who stepped up to the challenge and included Judy Meyer, Jerry Jost, Bob Williams, Diana Akers, Chris Walker, and Ralph Olliges, among others.

Editors Note: The photos and their descriptions below are not intended to be a complete demonstration and description of the grafting process.

All photos by Don Lesmeister unless otherwise indicated.



David instructed where to cut the cactus that would be the bottom part of the graft, called the rootstock. The knife was sterilized before cutting, then sterilized throughout the grafting process. The scion, the top part of the graft (not pictured here), was a cutting from a cactus that wouldn't grow as quickly if not grafted. The scion and rootstock are generally in the same family.



left: After all cuts were made to the rootstock and scion, David instructed how to properly align the vascular cambium, which is a ring of tissue only one cell thick, on both the scion and the rootstock. The rings only need to touch at one point to succeed.



Above diagram taken from David's handout.

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GRAFTING CACTI RECAP (cont.)

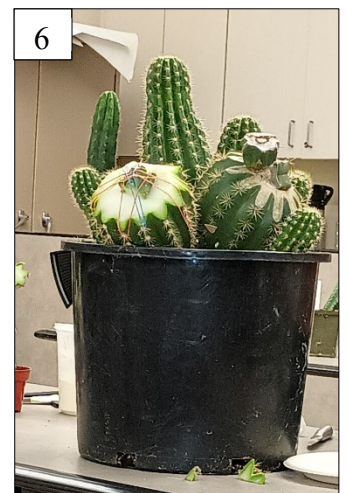
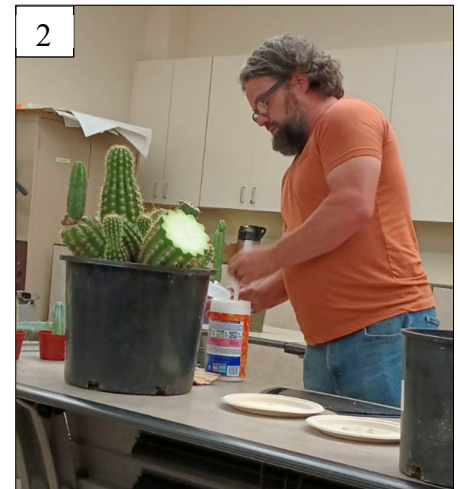


left: Bob Williams aligned the scion **Astrophytum capricorn** to the rootstock. The red rubber band was used to secure the graft and exclude any air.

David's Grafting Demonstration *All photos by Barb Wedler.*

left to right:

- (1) David starts the first cut to **Trichocereus 'Sun Goddess,'** nicknamed "Frank," after Frankenstein's monster.
- (2) David made multiple cuts to form the rootstock we see here.



left to right:

- (3) David makes cuts all around to bevel the top of the rootstock, which will allow water to roll off.
- (4) The scion is aligned with the stock so that the vascular cambium of each is touching in one spot.
- (5) David stretches rubber bands over the scion and attaches to the rootstock's spines.
- (6) The final graft.

Euphorbia Hedyotoides

By Susan Carpentier

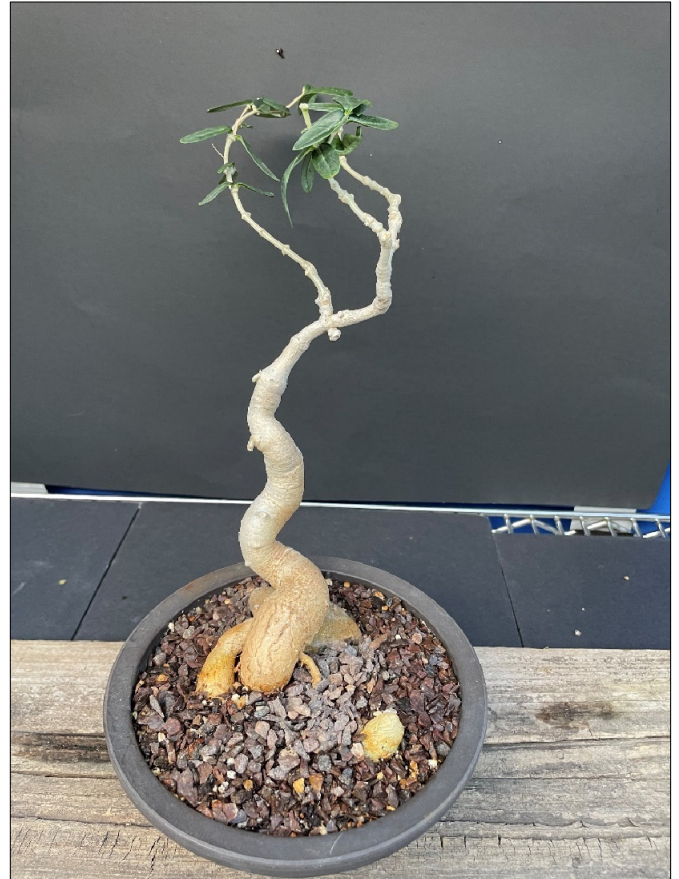
I won this plant at the June meeting as an attendance prize. It was donated by a member who had passed, Mario Carlos. A tribute of Mario by his close friend is on our website.

I chose this **Euphorbia hedyotoides** because it had grown out of the drain hole. I heard a few members say it couldn't be removed without hurting the plant or breaking the pot. Don L. told me how to remove it and I followed his instructions. First, I removed all the growing mix. The plant became very loose in the pot once the growing material had been removed. I tilted the pot and gently removed the plant. Ta Da.

E. hedyotoides is from Southern Madagascar, a semi-desert environment, getting less than 800mm (31.5 inches) of rainfall a year. The average temperatures differ between 23C (74F) and 27C (80F) along the coast and 16C(61F) and 19C(66F) in the central mountains. Madagascar is an island off the southeastern coast of Africa. Many of our favorite and strange looking plants come from this area.

E. hedyotoides is a succulent which forms a caudex underground to store water. I like these plants because of their underground tubers (caudex). As the caudex gets larger underground, we can raise the plant up when we repot to show off the twisted and fascinating caudex. I use a well-draining soil. I use Botanicare ReadyGro Soilless coconut coir mix. I add Bio-Fiber organic soil conditioner plus extra pea gravel, pumice, or perlite to make sure it will have good drainage.

I raised the plant about two inches and used the same pot it arrived in. Since the caudex has been underground, I will take great care not to let it get sunburned. When I take it outside, I will make sure to keep it in the shade for at least two



Euphorbia hedyotoides

photo by Susan Carpentier

weeks. The sun seems stronger, and plants that only needed nine days to acclimate to the sun, burned last year. Since I believe this plant might not have been outside this year, I will take great care. Thank you, Mario. Rest In Peace.

POOL

I love music. All kinds. OK, some more than others. There was music in my home for as long as I remember. Thirties and 40s pop, some classical, jazz, boogie, but what grabbed me and wouldn't let go was rock & roll. The mind-bending rock of Little Richard screaming, Elvis the pelvis, and Jerry Lee Lewis pounding on the piano. That was the real stuff. Not the pablum foisted upon us by threatened adults attempting to tame the beast with the likes of Pat Boone, Fabian, and Frankie Avalon. Watered down. No pulse! So I moved on, made a shift..... started listening to Broadway Shows. I know, but they had style. "South Pacific," "Oklahoma," "The King and I," "My Fair Lady," "West Side Story," (saw it 11 times) and "The Music Man."

The latter is a story of a con man who arrives in "River City" to fleece the town by convincing the citizens to invest money in uniforms for a marching band he was forming to keep their kids away from the pool hall he says will corrupt them. He has no intention of delivering the goods, planning instead to skip town with the funds, but he unexpectedly falls in love with the town librarian. The lovable scoundrel was toast. One of the songs in the score is "Ya Got Trouble" with the lines: "Trouble, oh we got trouble / Right here in River City / With a capital 'T' / That rhymes with 'P' / And that stands for Pool." Hearing the song recently triggered memories of my love affair with the game throughout my teen years. 76 trombones.....marching on! Without a uniform.

The story begins when a few of us guys wandered into "Suzy-Cue" pool parlor. Using the Pat Boone business approach, it was designed to attract the public and not the pool-hustler types. A fun place to hone our pool-playing skills..... if we had any. Upon entry, you were greeted by a young lady whose job was to give you a stamped timecard (charged by the hour), a rack of balls, and assign you to a table. The girls would change often. Word was the owner dated them and didn't base hiring on business skills. "Suzy-Cue" lost its allure after a while as we became more interested in the history of the game.

Thinking we were ready for the bigs, we sought out the oldest and historically authentic pool hall in the city. Called "Grand-Olive Billiards," it was dramatically, viscerally, and sensorially unlike sanitized "Suzy-Cue." Imagine the difference between "Beach Blanket Bingo" and "The Maltese Falcon." The place was shadowy with dim hanging lights, creaking wood floors, walls proud to show their age, it reeked of cigar smoke, attracted only the serious hustlers that legends were made of, and, guys like us. The wannabes. In short, we found a new home. Goodbye, innocence.


Stories of the greats in the game.....Willie Mosconi (1913-1993), Minnesota Fats (1913-1996) and many more names were bantered around and we soaked it in like nicotine-smelling sponges. Willie was considered one of the greatest pool players of all time. He was born above a pool hall his dad owned and despite the efforts his father made to keep Willie from playing pocket billiards, preferring he go into Vaudeville like his cousins, Willie instead was drawn to the game. At age six, he was caught by his father playing pool one day with a broomstick and small peeled and rounded potatoes he took from the kitchen. Young Mosconi was a prodigy, his father caved, and by the age of 11 he was the juvenile straight pool champion and regularly held trick shot exhibitions. As his career continued, he became known as a gentleman ambassador for the game, preferring tournaments to hustling for money like Minnesota Fats who made his name as a great hustler winning big money and being a self-promoter who was quoted as saying, "If I want a trophy, I'll buy one." Willie saw Fats as crude, boastful, and considered him bad for the game's image. He and Willie didn't get along, much like Michelangelo and

Leonardo Da Vinci. Contemporaries, one preferring recognition, the other money. Both professionals, different approach to the game with no love lost. Rivals.....Sherlock and Moriarty.

In fact, the famous movie “The Hustler” was based upon these two men engaged in a high stakes game. Released in 1961, it starred Paul Newman and Jackie Gleason. It was a powerful tale of hustlers on the road. Mosconi was a consultant on the film who taught Newman, who had never played it before, the essentials of pool. Gleason played and needed no help. The film was a dark story of hope, despair, and tragedy. One of those movies that sticks in your memory. Even if you are not a fan of the game, it is a must-see for nothing else other than taking a hard look at the human condition laid bare behind the eight ball. Powerful.

Finally.....during those years I played pool, it occurred to me: Why were there 15 balls? Why not 9 or 11 or 19, and what about zero? No zero ball. Certainly important. So, in all fairness, kudos to the guy who invented the zero. Thanks for nothing.

If you haven't used the Forum, it is easy. Simply go to www.hscactus.org, click the **Member Forum** icon at top right of page.

 **Member Forum**

You will then be sent to the Forum and its registration page. Registration is painless and only takes a minute. After you are approved as a member in good standing, you have access to the entire Forum, and remember it is just for us so you are among friends. Chat with other members about plants or sell and swap them. It's all there 24/7.

PO Box 191522
St. Louis, MO 63119

FIRST CLASS MAIL

This month:

Annual Picnic

MEETING: Sunday, September 8, 2024

TIME: 12:00 – 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: Love Park, Muffin Shelter, 2239 Mason Lane, Manchester, MO 63021

Deadline for October 2024 Digest: September 19, 2024

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