
THE XEROPHILE

"The object and purpose of the Society shall be exclusively for the study, appreciation, propagation and promotion of cacti and succulents among growers and collectors; the conservation and cultivation of native cacti and succulents, the exhibition of said materials whenever and wherever possible"

August 2017

MONTHLY MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Friday, August 18 at the ABQ Garden Center. The access code for the parking lot is 4060.

Meeting begins at 7:00

Guest speaker **Marcia Tatroe**

TOPIC: **Rockin' with Cacti and Succulents**

We will discuss and plan our 2 upcoming shows.

September 1-4, 2017 - Cactus and Succulent Show at the Albuquerque Botanic Garden! We will have many prize winning plants to see, presentations and demonstrations. Please sign up for a few hours to host the show! Please bring plants! If your plant made it to the "front table", please bring it. If you won a "major" ribbon at the Spring Show (Best this or that), please try to bring the plant and ribbon to the show!! If you have a flowering plant, please bring it into the show!!

September 14-17, 2017 - Show at the NM State Fair. Our show will be for 4 days only! Setup is Wednesday, Sept. 13 between 4 pm and 7 pm. We will take our plants home on Sunday evening after about 7 pm or on Monday morning from 9 am to 11 am. Please bring plants to show and sign up to talk to people at the fair and watch the plants. This link has general information on the CSSNM's State Fair show. <http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org/>

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear C & S Lovers,

Ellen informed me today that we are starting another round of Newsletters with the August, 2017 edition. That is great because we need to get moving. We have a very busy time this fall and an even busier winter. At the top of our list is our new adventure with the Albuquerque Botanical Garden and a smaller group at the State Fair. Margaret and CV are doing yeomen's work on both and we need to help them all we can. In addition to these Society activities we also have requests from Santa Fe and here in Albuquerque for instructors in landscaping and dry land plant cultivation and reproduction. The requests are from various groups and include both for-profit and non-profit opportunities. We need to talk about these separately.

Please do not forget that we still need a Nomination Committee. We have had three membership turndowns thus far but we still need the Committee. Also, this next year we are going to need a Membership Chairman. We cannot continue to have that responsibility as part of the Treasurer's job. It is just too much.

And lastly, please do not miss any of our programs. They are super.....

I think I left out something here, but I cannot remember. And by the way it looks like I will be retiring from my businesses in December, 2017. I think it will be better for them, the businesses; it will be better for my family, not so much stress, and it may even be better for me, not so much traveling.

That is it. Have a good beginning of School and Fall Harvest.

~~~~~Carl Hime



**Claret cup cactus**

**BE ON THE ALERT FOR APHIDS... By Kate Weissenburger & Janet Hassell, Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society members.....**

As the weather heats up, here come the aphids, ready to sap young sprouts of their juices, and leave behind their shiny and sticky excrement called "honeydew". An infestation can seem to occur overnight with the right weather conditions. On their summer hosts, aphid populations can really explode thanks to the fact that they normally reproduce asexually and females give live birth to daughter aphids. Aphid populations can grow exponentially in a very short time! The most common plant victim of aphids in our demonstration gardens are yucca blooms, but aphids plague a huge variety of trees, ornamental plants and vegetables. Aphids weaken plants by sucking sap (phloem) out of plant cells, turning leaves yellow and stunting shoots. Their honeydew attracts ants and promotes the development of sooty mold, which is disfiguring and can inhibit photosynthesis. Aphids can further harm plants by transmitting disease. Aphids feeding on leaves will sometimes produce leaf curling. And if you weren't already depressed, in North America there are about 1,300 different species of aphids.

## How to Control Aphid Infestations.

1. A best practice when it comes to aphids is to catch them early before their population on a plant has exploded. When their numbers are relatively small they can often be controlled using conservative (nonchemical) methods. And keep in mind that plants can handle a moderate aphid infestation with no long term harm.
2. Avoid over-fertilizing: high levels of nitrogen promote aphid reproduction. Use slow release fertilizers and apply them in small amounts over the growing season instead of applying all at once.
3. Once you spot aphids, haul out the hose. Try washing them off the affected plant using a high pressure stream of water or by using a hand towel. A large portion of the dislodged aphids will not be able to find their way back onto the plant. Spray water early in the day so that plants have a chance to dry off and will be less hospitable to fungal diseases. Repeat as needed. Water is without doubt the most environmentally benign (and inexpensive) method of aphid control!
4. If the infestation is low you will sometimes be able to control aphids by pinching or pruning off infested leaves or other plant parts. This may be the only practical non-chemical solution for curled leaves in which the aphids are protected from a water spray.
5. Aphids are defenseless against their natural predators: most notably ladybugs (especially ladybug larvae) and lacewings. Various species of parasitic wasps are also effective at controlling aphids. You may see what's known as aphid "mummies" which are the remains of wasp-parasitized aphids. Encourage these beneficial insects by minimizing or avoiding pesticide use. Although ladybugs can be purchased for aphid control, most (up to 95% in research studies) ladybugs will fly away within two days of their release. Ants that are attracted to aphid-infected plants by honeydew will protect the aphids from their natural predators. So, a major part of aphid control is to discourage ants with baits or traps.
6. In instances of extreme infestation, chemical controls may be necessary. The best choice is to use insecticidal soaps or oils. These kill aphids by suffocation and must come in direct contact with the insect. These products are applied with water and should not be applied to stressed plants or when the temperature is greater than about 90F. Thoroughly drench infested plants, including the underside of leaves and the inside of curled leaves. Follow the label and test the product on a small part of the plant a few days before application to make sure that the plant is not sensitive. These products can kill some of the aphid's natural enemies if they are directly contacted by the spray. However, there is no "residual" activity to kill beneficials that stop by afterwards.
7. Insecticidal soaps that contain pyrethrins may be more effective against aphids than soaps or oils alone. Pyrethrins are harmful to beneficials but they break down fairly rapidly, within hours of their application.
8. Other insecticides that are used for aphid control include carbaryl, malathion, permethrin and acephate. As a last resort, these contact insecticides can be quite effective, but they also can have negative short- and long-term environmental consequences, including killing the aphid's natural enemies and other beneficial insects. Systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid, can be applied to the soil for aphid control. These are taken up by the plant and kill aphids when they suck the plant's sap. These products will also harm pollinators and beneficials and, like contact chemical insecticides, do not break down rapidly and should only be considered as a last resort, when all else has failed and if control is truly necessary.

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**Have you paid your dues? Please see information below. They are \$10.00 per year and can be paid at the meeting in cash or by check.**

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[Check out an article in The Guardian that may be of interest...](#)  
[Looking sharp! How the cactus became the world's most-wanted plant](#)

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you grow? Greenhouse \_\_\_ Yard \_\_\_ Window \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ Favorite genera:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suggestions for a program: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer to give a program? \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer for: Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Co-Chair an Event:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you: Buy plants locally \_\_\_ Mail order \_\_\_ Raise from seed \_\_\_ Buy at our sale \_\_\_

For current information about the Society, including our email address, go to the Society's website

<http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org>

Complete this application and send it to the address below with your check for \$10.00 made out to the CSSNM.

For more information, contact:

**CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY of NEW MEXICO P.O. Box 21357  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87154-1357**

**A note from Ralph Peters----Because he is sometimes unavailable....Margaret Todd will be Ralph's backup for sending out CSSNM emails. If your email server rejects "unknown" people, please allow Margaret Todd -- abqmcats@q.com -- to send you email.**

**If your e-mail server rejects tlme5168@msn.com, please allow Ellen Taylor to send you an e-mail.**

## SOCIETY OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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