



The Point

Cascade Cacti and Succulent Society

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 12th, 2019



Cacti of the Month
presented by Karen
Summers:

Frailea: a genus of
cactus native to
South America.

Photo from the late Slavomir Dupal - *Frailea* UN509 (pumila)

Program: Steve and Claudia Casebolt: Gardens of England

Who's Who: Steve Casebolt

SOM: None this month.

Sunday, March 17th — 2:00 pm
Phinney Neighborhood Center



Notocactus Leninghausii



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Prickly are Some

By Timothy Peterson

Greetings from "The Point" Editor in training! Thinking ahead to plant sales.

Although I no longer have my own greenhouse, I try and remember a few things to keep my plant collection happy. First - just have basic Concern for whatever horticultural plant community each pot has inside it. Containerized plants cannot fend for themselves at all. These plants in pots are prisoners.

This Winter snow and ice and extended cold has caused some of my collection to have to be indoors instead of on the balcony facing West.. I have looked them over and realize that my busy Life has left some of them behind. Not fair to them or me. Without my care they are starving, underpotted and wondering why they cannot get back outside. So I am committing to giving the bug prone jungle cacti each a weekly shower in the bathtub using a Stihl power pump sprayer and tiny amounts of gentle soap in the water. I will use time release fertilizer on some when they are repotted and will get back to regular fertilizer by April. If this new regimen proves to be too much for me to get accomplished then the extras are being sold. Other people may be able to give them a better home and I and CCSS could use the money.

Wishing all of my Readers a Great Spring in 2019!

Tim



Special points of interest:

- Cacti of the month:
Frailca

- Presented by Karen Summers.

- Who's Who:

Presented by Steve Casebolt

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REFLECTIONS ON CELL PHONE CAMERAS

Alan C. Kamil

At the February CCSS meeting, Chris Leavitt, a professional photographer with a studio in Federal Way, gave a very good presentation on cell phone photography. It was full of practical information about how to get better images with cell phone cameras, and was very well received. The talk got me thinking about cell phone cameras vs “regular” digital cameras and how obsessed photographers can get with equipment. Asking a photographer what camera was used to take a picture is, in some ways, like asking an author what brand of computer or typewriter she used. The camera is a tool we use to produce images and the most important work in making an image happens in our heads. Cell phone cameras can take wonderful pictures but a good digital camera provides more tools for image making. There are some things that regular cameras can do but cell phones cannot, but the list of those differences gets shorter and shorter as cell phone camera technology improves. For my own personal photography I strongly prefer my Olympus mirrorless camera to a cell phone camera for a very specific reason. I want to print my images and be able to make fairly large prints that are sharp. This is not (yet) possible with cell phone cameras, largely because the sensor of the cell phone camera is much smaller than the sensor in my camera or in full frame cameras with even larger sensors. I also like the way my camera gives me direct control of factors such as aperture, shutter and ISO, the availability of alternative lenses and the ability to use flash systems.

I do, however, take pictures with my phone camera. It has one indisputable advantage, portability. My Olympus camera, even with all of its great features, is of absolutely no use when I see a lovely cactus but the Olympus is home in its cabinet. The best camera is the one you have with you, and our cell phones are almost always with us. Learning how to use these cameras effectively is an excellent idea and Chris’s talk will help us do just that. Much of the information he presented, moreover, was not limited to cell phone cameras but relevant to photography with any sort of camera.

Chris ended his presentation with a demonstration of a piece of free software, PS Express, which can be used to process an image after the shot has been taken. Post-processing can have a large effect on your photos. The ability to do just four things in post-process editing will significantly improve your images: the ability to adjust brightness (exposure), to adjust contrast, to crop the image and to remove small distracting elements. PSExpress can do these things and do them quite well, and can do a lot more besides. Because of its wide range of capabilities, PSExpress is very sophisticated, with a steep learning curve. If you want to give post-processing a try there are other free programs available, many of which are simpler to learn than PSExpress. If you have never done any post-processing, I suggest that you get one of these simpler programs and try it. Then, if you like the results you can look into more sophisticated post-processing programs and apps. There is a discussion of 10 of the best apps at: <https://iphonephotographyschool.com/best-photo-editing-apps/>



Thank you to Eric for sending these pictures of *Opuntia fragilis*, Eric and Kathy were walking the cliffs and his sharp eyes caught something of interest growing in the steep slope that was too steep to walk in. Can you spot them?

Eric saw the opuntia on Ebey's Landing Trail to Puget Sound. South of Oak Harbor.

<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/ebey-landing>

