

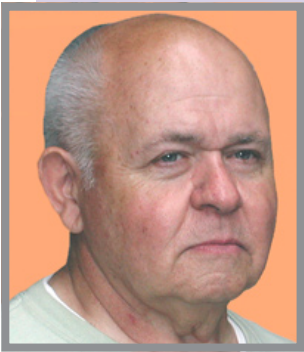
# CCSS

## Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

September 2007

### From the President

All club members were warmly welcomed by the Cactus Lady, **Jeanine**, and her husband, **Andy Loya**, at their home, the site of our August meeting. Jeanine, with the help of Andy, has a very large variety of cacti and succulents around the yard as well as in their greenhouse. (The greenhouse is being enlarged.)



**Dave DeLucia** was not able to attend because of the death of his cousin.

**LeRoy Saucier** has been nominated for membership on the club board.

That membership will require approval at the September meeting.

Our October meeting will be held at **Judy Becker's**. We will there discuss our 25th anniversary meeting and April show. I also want to hold a board meeting either before or after that meeting.

The meeting for September will be held at the Beardsley Zoo and gardens. **John Leto** has it all arranged for us. We will be coming in and getting together at the Hanson Exploration Station.

John asked members to please bring plants for the greenhouse. There was a major loss last winter when the heating system went out. We can restock their cactus and succulent display. For those with internet connection, they can look up the Beardsley Zoo at **[www.beardsleyzoo.org](http://www.beardsleyzoo.org)**.

I am still awaiting word about having

### The Secretary's Report

President **Frank Zapatka** thanked **Andy** and **Jeanine Loya** for their hospitality. It was so good to meet **Ceil Bauer** and **Judy Becker** again and to welcome **Donna Carlson**. At least 25 members attended.

President Zapatka announced that the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at Beardsley Park Zoo. We are invited to the Zoo as well as the Greenhouse. Frank asked that we help

them restock their greenhouse by donating specimens of cacti and succulents. In October we are invited by **Judy Becker** to Lauray's Greenhouse in Salisbury. Neither the November meeting nor the December Holiday party venue were arranged. Suggestions were invited.



It was unanimously agreed that **LeRoy Saucier** be made a member of the Board and the motion will be inserted in the next newsletter for voting on at the September meeting.

LeRoy asked for members to submit something to the newsletter. This could be articles, anecdotes, gardening tips, bullets of information, or anything to give it the substance that it lacks at present. He will be requesting this from individual members. In a society so established and rich in experiences, it would be good if more of this would be demonstrated in just the 11 issues a year. This would be so appropriate in our 25th year!

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our November meeting at Wilber and King Gardens in Branford, Conn. (More on that in the next newsletter.)

We still have not set a site for our December, Holiday party. If any of you know of a special place, please bring it up. Also, still keep in mind our 25th anniversary show next year with your suggestions.

We have had a suggestion to go on a bus trip to the New York Botanical Gardens sometime in the next few months, maybe around the holidays.

Because **Herb (Sully) Sullivan** is doing a very good job with his camera, I think we should call him our official photographer.

The best way closing this out for now is by saying, "See you at the ZOO!"

Thank You,  
Frank



Andy and Jeanine Loya in front of their greenhouse at their home in East Nassau, NY. They hosted our August meeting.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, September 9th:** September meeting will be in the Hanson Exploration Station at the Beardsley Zoo in Bridgeport, Conn. (Directions on page 4)

The motion carried at the August meeting to elect LeRoy Saucier to membership on the Board will be voted on by those in attendance.

**1:00 P.M.**

**Bring Chairs**

**Entreés: A—G**

**Appetizers/Sides: H—S**

**Desserts: T—Z**

**Sunday, October 7th:** October meeting at Judy Becker's, Lauray's of Salisbury, Salisbury, Conn.

**Sunday, November 4th:** November meeting at Wilber & King in Guilford, Conn.

## The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society



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The CCSS Newsletter is published each month except January. Annual membership of \$10.00 includes subscription to the newsletter. This membership includes all members of an immediate family residing at the same residence. Payment is payable to the Treasurer, Mr. Ken Mosher, 8 Bailey Road, Andover, CT 06232

*(The Secretary's Report continued from page 1)*

President Zapatka was then asked to appoint a committee of between 5 to 10 members to come up with concrete suggestions for our 25th anniversary celebration. The committee will then report to the society.

Ceil Bauer suggested Bronx Botanic Garden as a future visit for the society. **Marie Anne Schuessler** and others requested membership lists. The President promised to bring copies to the September meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony C. Bleach  
Secretary

## The Secret Life of Cacti and Succulents

by Roger Brown

This article first appeared in the September/October, 2006 newsletter of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, "To The Point."

Flowers are a reproductive display unmatched in the living world. Colorful petals, sweet perfumes and delicate shapes make flowers a delight to the senses.

There are moth-pollinated flowers that are snow white and open only after sundown so they can flash their pale colors. They also cast their fragrance into the air to attract moths even on the darkest night. There are fly-pollinated flowers which smell so much like rotten meat that flies will even lay their eggs in them, and bat pollinated flowers that have a musty smell duplicating odors bats use to attract one another.

Finally, there are red hummingbird-pollinated flowers with no fragrance at all. Birds don't have a sense of smell, and are attracted to bright red because they can see red. Flowers have learned to use colors, odors, and shapes as bait to attract pollinators.

Flowers are a plant's sex organs. They manufacture eggs and sperm cells for seed production. Reproduction among the cacti and succulents is even more complicated than animal reproduction, and is the result of trial and error over many millions of years.

Inside the petals are the reproductive organs. The male organs are called stamens. They come in sets, and are composed of the stalk (filament) and the upper part (anther). It is the anther that produces pollen. Anthers have two to four weak spots allowing them to break open and release a flood of pollen at maturity.

Stamens of some cacti are very touch sensitive. If you tickle the flowers of *Coryphantha*, *Pediocactus*, and some *Opuntias*, the stamens will respond by moving into a curled position. Stamens are usually attached to the petal wall along part of its length near nectar producing glands.

The female part of the flower is a set of fused carpals called the pistil. The tip is the stigma, and is the place receiving pollen from the pollinator. Next is the style which elevates the stigma to a prominent position in the flower, and finally at the base we find the egg-producing ovaries.

Pollinators such as birds and breezes will casually drop pollen grains on the sticky receptive stigma. Pollen secretes an enzyme that digests the surface of the stigma. One of its two cells elongates into a tube and digests its way into the pistil.

In some flowers, a pollen tube may be five to six inches long before it reaches the ovary. When a pollen tube finds an egg in the ovary, it searches for a tiny opening in the end of the egg and grows right into it. Meanwhile, the other pollen cell divides into two tailless sperm that descend the tube. Only one enters the egg and fuses with it to form the future embryo of a new plant.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Treasurer's Report

by Ken Mosher

### Expenses:

August Newsletter:	\$149.43
Soda/Supplies	30.33
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b><u>\$179.76</u></b>

### Receipts:

Auction:	\$ 123.00
Dues:	20.00
<b>Total Income (Expense):</b>	<b><u>(\$36.76)</u></b>



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## Directions to Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo

1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut  
 (203) 394-6565

### From Route 15, Merritt Pkwy

**From New Haven**, heading west, take Exit 52 (South to Bridgeport) to Routes 8 & 25. Proceed to Exit 5, Boston Avenue. At the end of the ramp, bear right and go to the 5th traffic light. Turn left onto Noble Avenue and proceed to the Beardsley Park entrance on the left. Follow the signs to the Zoo entrance on right. We are meeting in the **Hanson Exploration Station**.

**From New York**, heading east, take Exit 49S (Bridgeport) to Route 25. Proceed to Exit 5, Boston Avenue. At the end of the ramp, bear right and go to the 5th traffic light. Turn left onto Noble Avenue and proceed to the Beardsley Park entrance on the left. Follow signs to the Zoo entrance on right. We are meeting in the **Hanson Exploration Station**.

### From I-95, Conn. Turnpike

Take Exit 27A to Routes 8 & 25. Proceed to Exit 5 (Boston Ave). At the traffic light at the end of the ramp, go left to the 4th traffic light. Turn left onto Noble Avenue and proceed to the Beardsley Park entrance on the left. Follow signs to the Zoo entrance on right. We are meeting in the **Hanson Exploration Station**.

*("The Secret Life" continued from page 3)*

It has taken around 135 million years for flowers to be perfected. Yet, we only meet them in brief encounters, "for tomorrow their petals will litter the ground."