

# CCSS Newsletter

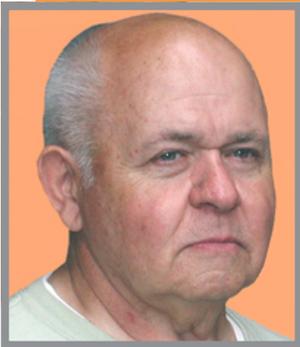
Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

October 2007

## From the President

Our September meeting at the Beardsley Zoo Gardens was well received by John Leto and his lovely wife, Paulette, at the Hanson Center.

As usual, we first held our social hour for all to get together and enjoy the variety of food brought by the members.



I would like to thank all the members who brought plants to help restock the greenhouse at Beardsley as they had a power failure and lost a large quantity of plants.

I received an e-mail from Linda McMullen that said she was having a medical problem and would not be at the meeting.

I received a phone call from Robin Magowan, who lives in Salisbury, Conn., saying he was getting rid of his cacti and succulents, because the greenhouse was coming down and would like to have his plants go to members or our next year's show.

Since that happened, John Spain and Becky Lynn returned from their trip to Alaska and then went to Robin's place and gathered a large quantity of plants and brought them back. John told me that if any member has room to keep some of the plants until show time, it would work out well for him.

I turned over the meeting to John Leto to tell all about the Hanson Center and how it came about.

John went back in history about the Beardsley Zoo and its original contributor, P. T.

## The Secretary's Report

Twenty five members came to the Hanson Exploration Station at the Beardsley Zoo. The President opened the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

LeRoy Saucier was voted to the Board by acclamation. The President proposed that Herbert Sullivan be elected to the position of Club Photographer. This was also passed by acclamation.

There was discussion on the venue for the Christmas Party. St. John's Episcopal Church in Waterbury and the Trucking Museum in Middlebury were voted the most popular. Other venues will be listed in the October Newsletter for a final decision.

The Treasurer offered telephone lists to members.

The President gave notice of a Board Meeting to be held at Lauray's Greenhouse on Sunday, October 7.

A motion for adjournment was proposed and passed at 2:15 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,  
Tony Bleach  
Secretary



*Hoya pubicalyx*  
(Black Hoya) in bloom in Beardsley Greenhouse

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

Barnum back in 1822, starting the zoo. The latest addition is the Hanson Center.

Mr. Hanson has been a major contributor to the upkeep of the area for many years and wanted to dedicate a place in Bridgeport to the loss his family suffered in the 9/11 disaster. He put up a large sum of dollars to have the place built in their memory. The place is designed very well with two meeting areas and a center gallery along with facilities for men and women.

We then discussed our annual holiday party and its location. The following places were discussed and it will be finalized at our October meeting: St. John Church on the green in Waterbury; the truck museum in Middlebury; Edgerton Park in North Haven; and the Hanson Center, suggested by John Leto.

Our next meeting will be at Lauray's of Salisbury gardens, or as we all know it, Judy's place. At that meeting, I would like to hold a board meeting, because of our upcoming 25th anniversary show in April of next year.

Thank you,  
Frank



The greenhouse at Beardsley Zoo

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

## Treasurer's Report

Income:	
Dues	\$ 30.00
Expenses	
Newsletter	112.03
Barb Schultz (Sunshine)	37.45
Total	(\$119.48)

## 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

## Homecoming for Your Tender Plants

by Matt Opel

*Matt Opel, the Vice President of the CCSS, is Curator at the UConn EEB Plant Growth Facilities in Storrs, Conn.*

I'm writing this on one of those crystal-line, flawlessly clear, cool days that are typical of autumn in southern New England: a perfect day to contemplate the retrieval of potted cacti and succulents that have been summering outdoors. A season in the sun and the wind encourages compact growth and strong coloration in light-starved windowsill dwellers, but in most parts of Connecticut it can start to frost in late September, and it's now time to bring things indoors.

Actually, it may be past time for certain plants. Lowland tropical plants can start to show signs of chill damage with temperatures only down in the 40s. Few of our favorite plants are truly tropical, and I can't say I've seen damage on any succulents after a few nights in the upper 30s, but it's probably best to bring inside anything hailing from the warmer parts of the globe well before the first frost.

Especially cold-sensitive plants include most *stapeliads*, *hoyas*, *sansevierias*, *euphorbias* and *pachypodiums*, especially those native to Madagascar, East Africa, India, and the Arab countries.

### Most Cacti from South Africa Withstand Some Cold.

On the other hand, the majority of cacti, as well as *crassulas*, *aloes* and other common succulents from South Africa, can withstand a fair amount of cold weather, and may even show improved flowering after their keeper plays a game of chicken with the first hard freeze. As always, there are exceptions, such as the cactus genus *Uebelmannia*, which comes from Brazil and appreciates constant warmth.

When bringing plants indoors, it is probably best not to shock them with a sudden transition from a cool and damp garden to a stuffy and dry heated living room. This is one reason not to procrastinate until too late in the fall! However, succulents

generally show far less stress in response to changes in environmental conditions than leafy houseplants like *Ficus benjamina*.

Clean your pots with soapy water, and remove the summer's accumulation of spiders, insects and debris from your plants, at least for your own benefit. The plants themselves don't mind most of the critters that they pick up from the great outdoors; contrary to widespread horticultural legend, pests tend to arrive on newly acquired plants from nurseries, not from the wild.

### Pests Tend to Arrive from Nurseries, Not from the Wild.

Indeed, one of the reasons to summer houseplants outdoors is that beneficial predatory insects like ladybugs and lacewings will find your resident scale insects and mealybugs, and eat them, sometimes effecting almost miraculous cures of hopelessly infested specimens. Unfortunately, predatory insects do not persist over the winter in the confines of centrally heated homes, so there isn't much sense in trying to keep them around by not cleaning up your plants.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, October 7th:** October meeting will be at Judy Becker's, "Lauray's of Salisbury," Salisbury, Connecticut. (Directions on page 4)

**1:00 P.M.**

**Bring Chairs**

**Entrées: T—Z**

**Appetizers/Sides: A—G**

**Desserts: H—S**

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

**Sunday, December 2nd:** (December meeting to be announced.)



Fountain in  
Beardsley  
Greenhouse

Photo by  
Herbert (Sully)  
Sullivan



## Free Autumn Joy

Lorelei Diamond has 50 Autumn Joy plants including seedlings and 2-, 3-, and 5-year-old plants. She wants to give them to anyone who will provide them a good home. Please contact her as below.

Lorelei Diamond  
Rye Brook, New York  
(914) 939-9113  
loreleiamond@aol.com

## 2008 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show Announced

The 2008 Connecticut Flower and Garden Show is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>—24<sup>th</sup> at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

**Donna Nowak** is Chairman. Information about the show can be obtained from her by writing to 1385 Forbes Street, East Hartford, CT 06118. Her telephone number is (860) 568-3724. Her e-mail address is [CTFlowerShow@comcast.net](mailto:CTFlowerShow@comcast.net).

The theme of the show will be "Once Upon A Time" based on fairy tales and nursery rhymes.

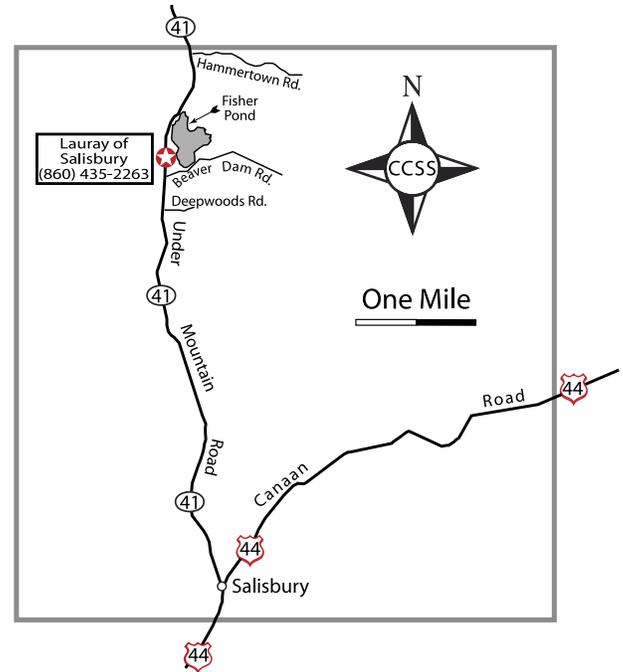
## *Pachyform 2-Succulent Bonsai Update*

By David Schultz

I have had one copy of the book, *Pachyform 2-Succulent Bonsai* reported as defective, with pages out of order and not all complete. I have notified the author. He has had no other such reports, but always expects at least some will show up.

Before I make arrangements to replace this defective copy, anyone else who has purchased a copy of *Pachyform 2-Succulent Bonsai*, please check yours and make sure that it is OK.

## Directions to Lauray's of Salisbury



Salisbury is in the northwest corner of Connecticut.

**From southern Connecticut**, you can take I-95 to exit 27A onto Route 8. (Of course, you can enter Route 8 anywhere most convenient for you.) Take Route 8 all the way to Winstead, (about 58 miles) where Route 8 ceases to be a divided highway and becomes Routes 8, 44, and 183. Turn right and take Route 44 all the way to Salisbury (about 23 miles) and then follow map, above.

**From eastern Connecticut**, take I-84 around Hartford taking exit 43 (West Hartford.) At the end of the exit, turn left onto Park Road. Take the third right, and turn right onto South Main Street. South Main Street becomes North Main Street. In about 2 miles turn left onto Albany Avenue, Route 44. Continue west on Route 44 until you enter Salisbury (about 45 miles) and then follow map, above.

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