

CCSS Newsletter

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2007

From the President

Our November meeting went very well at the Wilber and King garden center. Thanks to **Ceil Bauer** for arranging the place for our club use. The people were very congenial to the members and had many items on special as well as some books of interest to the members.



Helen Prichard introduced a new member formerly from Mesa, Arizona: **Carol Kaider**. Carol

and her husband, **Larry**, currently reside in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Thanks to **Ted Labella** from Middletown who gave me a quantity of cereus succulent plants for the club. He had good luck with them this summer but no place to keep them during the winter months.

I spoke with **Ollie Wetmore** and she said that she is acclimating to her new digs and things are going well with her, she hopes to see everyone at the Christmas party.

I also spoke with **Linda McMullen** who has had her share of medical problems, but is hoping to get to the party on December 2nd.

Our annual Christmas/Holiday party will be taking place at the New England Trucking Museum in Middlebury on December 2nd. It will take place from about 12:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. (The place closes at 4 p.m., so we have to clean up and be out by then.)

The club will be having a grab bag for all those who want to participate. The cost of each gift is limited to about \$10.00 each. (If you bring a gift, then you can pick

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The Secretary's Report

The President opened the meeting at 1:40 p.m. About 40 members attended. He confirmed that the Christmas party would be at the Trucking Museum, that members should bring any dish they want to contribute to the buffet, and a \$10.00 gift for the grab bag. Much of the meeting will be involved in discussions on appropriate activities for the 25th Anniversary of our Show in April, 2008.

David Schultz confirmed that the show will be April 5th and 6th, 2008. He demonstrated how to make cardboard trays for the plants at the show and asked for volunteers to assemble them. Volunteers will have to provide stapling guns to prepare them to be ready on April 4th when the show will be set up.

John Spain suggested that a category of cacti and succulents in hanging baskets should be introduced into the show. **Helen Pritchard** introduced the program of the Hartford Flower Show that begins on February 24th, 2008. [See pages 5–6.]

The President congratulated **Matt Opel** for his recent articles for the Newsletter.

A motion for adjournment was proposed and passed at 1:55 p.m.



Respectfully Submitted,
Tony Bleach
Secretary

UConn Greenhouse News

By Dr. Matt Opel

My job at the UConn greenhouses (officially, the "University of Connecticut Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Plant Growth Facilities") has much to recommend it, but it isn't all misting Conophytum plants and unpacking boxes of new seeds from Australia. For example, bright and early the other Saturday, I got a call: "A pipe broke in Greenhouse 1, water is going everywhere. Could you come in and stop it?" The teaching greenhouses are close to 50 years old, and stuff like that (it was a radiator that had rusted clean through) happens all the time.

Just recently, talk of replacing the old building and greenhouses has moved on into the realm of serious planning and action . . .

For just about as long as I have been at UConn, there has been talk about replacing the old biology building and the attached greenhouses. That might be one reason why not a whole lot of routine maintenance gets done around here; it would be silly to renovate the place if it is just going to be torn down. So, the roofs leak, the pipes flake, and none of the automated vents work. Ca. 1960, the climate controls at the greenhouses were state-of-the-art, but about the only thing that even functions these days is the heat—assuming the radiators have not burst—which is actually controlled pneumatically: pressurized air lines actuate the hot water valves.

. . . the teaching collections, which in terms of plant diversity are quite possibly the finest in New England . . .

It is a whole other world over in the other half of the Plant Growth Facilities: the research greenhouses next door, on top of the new biology and physics building, are state of the art ca. 2001. The research greenhouses have automatic drip irrigation, fans,

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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

Berkshire Chapter of NARGS to Hold Annual Study Weekend

March 28th–30th, 2008, the Berkshire Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society will be holding their annual Eastern Winter Study Weekend.

The theme of the workshops will be solving problems presented by gardening in areas with the unreliable snow cover of November through March.

The demo–workshops will be presented by at least ten notables including rock gardener **Anne Spiegel** and horticulturist **Lori Chips**. Vendors will include the NARGS book service.

For detailed information, contact **Jacques Mommens**, Millwood, NY 10546; telephone: (914) 762-2948; Email: jmommens@westnet.com ○



Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 2nd: The December meeting/holiday party will be held at **The Golden Age of Trucking Museum**, 1101 Southford Road (Route 188), Middelbury, Connecticut. Phone: (203) 577–2181.

12:30—4:00 p.m.

Do Not Bring Chairs

Holiday Dinner is Potluck

(See President’s Message [continued] for details on page 4.)

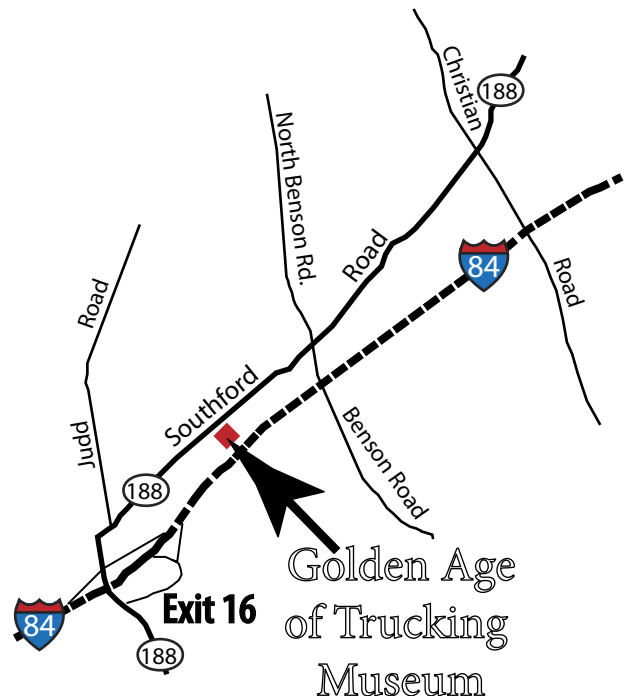
January: No meeting. No Newsletter

Sunday, February 3rd: To be announced

The Golden Age of Trucking Museum in Middlebury, Connecticut is conveniently located on Route 188, directly off Exit 16 on I–84, east and west. Please see map below.

Treasurer’s Report

Income:	
Auction	\$ 77.00
Membership	<u>10.00</u>
Total Income	\$87.00
Expenses:	
Hartford Flower Show	\$300.00
November Newsletter	138.44
Beverages/Supplies for Meetings	<u>52.64</u>
Total Expenses	\$491.08
Total Income (Expenses)	<u>(\$404.08)</u>
Bank Balance	\$7,385.94



and artificial fog (for cooling), run by a computer system (from Argus Controls) that can be checked and adjusted over the network from anywhere. It would be awfully nice to have a setup like that in which to house the teaching collections, which in terms of plant diversity are quite possibly the finest in New England, even if the facility around them is obviously falling apart.



The desert-plant room in one of the greenhouses at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Photo by Matt Opel

Just recently, talk of replacing the old building and greenhouses has moved into the realm of serious planning and action; the University seems serious this time. Probably, it will not be until well into 2008 that construction plans are finalized, but word around the biology department is that the greenhouses are considered an integral part of the new construction, and will be given high priority. The new facility will be on the same land as the old facility, so there is going to be a lot of shuffling material to and from temporary storage sites. When the CCSS has a meeting at UConn next year, we will still be in the same old conservatory, but things may be much improved if the club returns in 2010! Now, I have got to go think about how we are going to move thousands of plants to swing space in other greenhouses around campus, and work on re-starting some old, immobile specimens from cuttings.

If you cannot wait for the 2008 CCSS meeting at UConn to check out the old greenhouses, feel free to stop in on your own, Monday–Friday, 8:00–4:00.

Bring an umbrella if it is raining: it is a few minutes walk from the parking garage, and I am not kidding about the roof leaking. Directions and information on the plant collections are available on the web at: <http://florawww.eeb.uconn.edu> ○

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

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out a gift). Instead of the usual alphabetical arrangement for bringing food, at our Christmas party we will have an open potluck. Bring your favorite foods remembering to provide enough for at least six people.

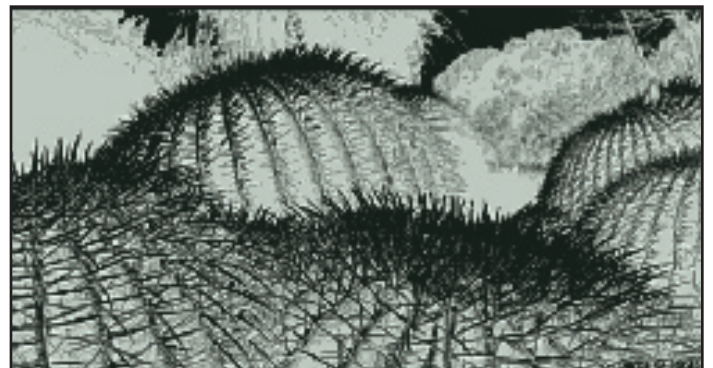
David and **Julia Zahl** asked me if we can try other places for our monthly get-togethers. I am working on it. If any member has suggestions for different places, please let me know.

Please remember our 25th annual show is coming up fast and any and all help is needed to make it another success.

We will be having a booth at the CT Flower and Garden Show in Hartford during the middle of February. Help will be needed for our participation promoting Cacti and Succulents.

Hope to see all at our Holiday/Christmas party.

Frank



Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society
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2008 CT Flower and Garden Show

Sections and Classes which CCSS Members are eligible to enter.

Division I, Horticulture—***The Enchanted Forest***

Section B *Wicked Stepmother*—Cacti and Succulents Eligible for Award of Merit

Class 2. Globular Cacti

Class 3. Columnar Cacti

Class 4. Epiphytic Cacti

Class 5. Anomalies (variegated, crested, or monstrous cacti)

Class 6. Miniature Cacti (pot less than 3")

Class 7. Other Cacti

Class 8. Crassulaceae

Class 9 Mesembryanthemaceae

Class 10. Euphorbiaceae

Class 11. Genera formerly classified within Liliaceae

Class 12. Anomalies (variegated, crested or monstrous succulents)

Class 13. Miniature succulents (pot less than 3")

Class 14. Other non-cacti succulents

Section C *Always and Forever*—

Orchids Eligible for Award of Merit. May be sub-divided by pots up to 6" and pots over 6".

Class 15. Cattleya

Class 16. Cypripedium

Class 17. Cymbidium Odontoglossum, & intergeneric hybrids)

Class 18. Dendrobium

Class 19. Phalaenopsis

Class 20. Oncidium (includes Miltonia/Miltoniopsis,

Class 21. Any other not listed

Section D *Hole in the Dike*—Forced

Bulbs, Corms, and Tubers

Class 22. Narcissi

Class 23. Tulipa

Class 24. Hyacinthus

Class 25. Hippeastrum (Amaryllis)

Class 26. Any other (Muscari, crocus, etc.)

Section E *The Handsome Prince*—

Container-Grown Foliage Plants Eligible for Award of Merit. May be sub-divided by pots up to 6" and pots over 6".

Class 27. Herbs

Class 28. Ferns

Class 29. Begonias

Class 30. Any other foliage plant

Section F *Little Ada's Flowers*—

Container-Grown Flowering or Fruited Plants. Plants must be in fruit or flower. May be sub-divided by pots up to 6" and pots over 6". Eligible for Award of Merit

Class 31. Gesneriads

Class 32. Pelargoniums or fruited plant

Class 33. Any other flowering

Section G *The Seven Dwarfs*—Trained

Plants Eligible for Award of Merit

Class 34. Standards

Class 35. Trained on a frame

Class 36. Grown on a stuffed form

Class 37. Espalier

Section H *Elder Tree Mother*—

Arboreal Specimens Eligible for Arboreal Award
Maximum length 30"

Class 38. Needled Evergreens

Class 39. Broadleaf Evergreens

Class 40. Dwarf Evergreens

Class 41. Other (forced branches or winter blooming)

Section I *The Six Swans*—Collections

Eligible for Collectors Showcase Award

Consultant: **Kathrine Neville** (203) 874-4752, kgardens@optonline.net

Additional staging may be provided by exhibitor in each class. Limited to four entries in each class.

Class 42. Arboreal Collection of at least 5 cut specimens in separate containers, not to exceed 30" in length, to be staged in a space 36" x 30". Key card (4" x 6") listing specimens required.

Class 43. Botanical Family Collection of at least 5 or more plants from one botanical family staged in a space 36" x 30". Key card (4" x 6") identifying plant material required.

Class 44. Window Sill Collection of at least 5 different container-grown herbs suitable for a widow

having a specific directional exposure, staged in a space 36" x 30". Key card (4" x 6") with plant material and exposure required.

Section J Jack's Bean Stalk—Heritage Plants

Class 45. Plant must be over 5 years old.



Horticulture classes are open to all amateur gardeners. Advance registration is requested. Please enter everything you think might be ready at show time. There is no penalty for withdrawing material that is not show ready.

Entries may be registered no later than Saturday, February 16, 2008. Send advance entries to **Ronnie Schoelzel** [address, phone and Email in right column]

Horticulture entries will be accepted at the CT Convention Center on Tuesday, February 19, Noon–7 p.m. and Wednesday, February 20, 8 a.m.–11 a.m.

Late entries will not be accepted.

All entries must be well groomed. Diseased or infected plant material will not be accepted. All entries must be fresh and have had been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least ninety (90) days (11/22/07), except for multiple plantings in Class 1 that must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least six (6) weeks. Water thoroughly before bringing entries to the show. TLC will be given to all specimens.

Clean, neutral colored pots, with saucers, are preferred for container-grown plants.

Bottles and wedging will be provided for cut specimens. All entries must be botanically named, with variety, if possible. Top Awards cannot be given to improperly named entries.

Classes 1, 42, 43, and 44 must be accompanied by a typed or printed key card correctly identifying all plant material.

More than one entry per class may be made by exhibitors provided each is of a different cultivar, color, or type. Classes will be subdivided by cultivar,

color, and type if it aids in judging.

Scale of Points for selecting entries: Refer to the 2007 edition of the Handbook for Flower Shows, pp. 298–302.

Please enter any horticulture you think may be ready at show time.

Place entries, by February 5, 2008, to

Ronnie Schoelzel, 194 Chestnut Hill Road, Litchfield, CT 06759
Telephone: (860) 567-8518
Email: spots@snet.net

Please Email, phone, or mail your entry information and include: **NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE, EMAIL, CLASS AND SECTION NUMBERS, AND BOTANICAL AND COMMON NAMES OF SPECIMEN.**



Helen Pritchard with new member Carol Kaider
 Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

Helen Pritchard, a long-time and essential member of the CCSS stands next to her new friend and new CCSS member, **Carol Kaider**. Carol and her husband, **Larry**, moved to Wallingford, Connecticut from Mesa, Arizona several years ago.

Helen met Carol in the context of her job, monitoring Helen and her husband, David, for the Connecticut Department of Commerce.

Carol attended the November meeting at Wilber and King Nurseries and there became a member of the CCSS. ○

Annual Show Only 4 Months Away!

By David Schultz

Our annual show and sale will be April 4th, 5th, & 6th, 2008. This will be our 25th annual show and sale! At the upcoming December meeting, there will be open discussion for suggestions to make this a very special event. How can we do that or what should we do that is special?

The society is an educational organization and I challenge the society members to present educational displays for this show, in particular. We usually have 2 or so, but I would like to see 4–5, at least. The display of **“What is a Succulent?”** was well received the last couple of years. However, there are many other topics also of interest, such as: **“Convergent Evolution”**; **“Where Does This Plant Come From?”** (Insert plants of your choice.); **“What Makes a Plant Rare?”**; and **“What Is an Epiphytic Succulent?”**

These are a few ideas, and I’m sure that we can come up with others. The society will supply folding display boards for anyone who wishes them. I need to know beforehand so that I can pick them up and bring them with me.

The suggestion has also been made that we set up categories for hanging cacti and succulents. We have the individual genera included but have failed to provide space that will accept the actual hanging plants. This year we have racks offered that will allow us to display these plants, so if you have Rhipsalis, Ceropegia, Hoya, or Epiphyllums (among others), consider entering them. (Check out the educational display suggestions above.)

We have had a very nice collection of succulent plants donated by a member that will be available at the show auction this year, so we have a good start there. **Matt Opel** is holding those plants at the UCONN greenhouses for us, so he can provide at least an enticing list before the show.

Put your thinking caps on and be ready to suggest and volunteer. ○



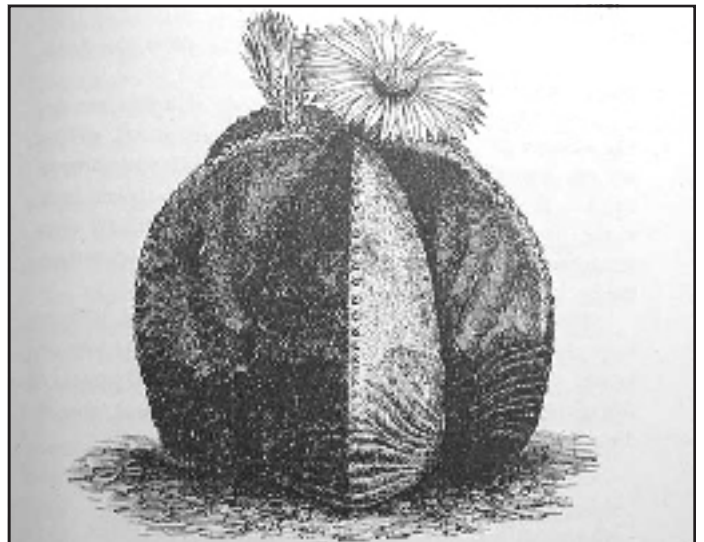
Becky Lynn (far right) draws attention as she stands to address members at the November meeting.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan



Early Birds get the chow. Some early arrivals for the meeting at Wilber & King Nurseries fill their plates before the crowd arrives.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan



A beautiful, old etching of Astrophytum Myriostigma



Members of the CCSS begin to load their cars at the conclusion of the November meeting. The site was the retail store and office building of Wilber & King Nurseries. It proved to be an especially accommodating and attractive meeting place.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan



President Frank Zapatka addressing members in attendance at the November meeting held at Wilber & King Nurseries in Guilford, Connecticut. Behind President Zapatka are some of the plants that were later auctioned accruing \$77.00 for the Society.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan