

CCSS Newsletter

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

July 2008

From the President

As usual, a good time was had by all at our meeting at the home of John Spain and Becky Lynn. The club thanks our generous and gracious June hosts.

I held a short meeting because of our plan to make hypertufa pots. The reason for the rush was concern that the sky might open up on those making pots and they might not finish before it rained. As I was driving home from John's, I ran into the storm. At my home I received at least two inches of rain.

The club did not vote on the two open offices for Vice President and Treasurer. This matter will be the first thing brought up at our next meeting on July 13.

Because the Fourth-of-July holiday weekend falls on the first Sunday of the month, our normal meeting date, our July meeting will be held the second Sunday of the month, July 13. The meeting will be held at Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam, Connecticut. We have met there several times before. Our August meeting and annual picnic it will be held on August 3 at Ken Mosher's home.

The Sixteenth Eastern Cactus & Succulent Conference will be held from August 15 through August 17 at the Radisson Hotel & Suites in Chelmsford, Massachusetts.

Anyone going please make arrangements as soon as possible. Their web sites are <http://www.succulentplants.info> or <http://www.cssma.org>. The telephone number is (781) 944-5959.

Thank You,
Frank

The Secretary's Report

Frank started the meeting with some health news. ♦David Schultz's mother has temporal arteritis and has problems with her medicines. ♦P. J. Alves has a blood clot in his leg. Because he can't take coumadin, he has to take daily shots. He now has less pain and the clot is dissolving. ♦Our treasurer, Ken Mosher, had surgery on June 18. He is home and doing very well.

The Massachusetts Cactus and Succulent Society did not do as well as last year with their Show and Sale.

One reason may be that Tower Hill charged admission; another is that last year the show was on Mothers' Day an especially popular day for people to go out.

Rick Nichols, having driven all the way from Milford, Pennsylvania, did show-and-tell with blooming cacti [*Echinocereus*] he raised. He was accompanied by his wife, Connie.

As for the hypertufa trough making: tables had been set up in the shade and John Spain pointed out where the different ingredients were to be found. Anyone who had made them here before was shown the formula and were "on their own." John guided the rest who wanted to make troughs, but were inexperienced. Fewer than half the thirty people in attendance made troughs—it was a hot day. The others conversed or meandered through the greenhouse and gardens.

We owe a vote of thanks to Alex Rostocky who took his truck to Southbury to get the sand for the troughs, and to the many helpful people at this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted
Becky Lynn
Secretary pro tem

**Sixteenth Eastern
Cactus and Succulent
Conference
August 15–17, 2008**
*The Cactus and Succulent Society of
Massachusetts is pleased to announce
it will be hosting the Sixteenth Eastern
Cactus and Succulent Conference at
the Radisson Chelmsford Hotel and
Conference Center in Chelmsford,
Massachusetts.*



Tony Bleach and fellow artist, Cheryl Mizak, are getting down and dirty mixing the hypertufa aggregate provided by John Spain at our June meeting. The artistic tension here is very nearly palpable.



Becky Lynn (center) guides two hypertufa neophytes as they begin to combine the ingredients that will become their hypertufa troughs.



John Spain (second from left) inspects a container at one of the work tables being used by members to combine their hypertufa mixtures.



Frank Zapatka listens as Rick Nichols (right) discusses his *Echinocereus rusanthus* and *E. chloranthus* he brought to our June meeting. Rick lives in Milford, Pennsylvania.

The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

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Society Website: www.ctcactusclub.com

Upcoming Events

Sunday, July 13: The July meeting will be held at Ballek's Garden Center, 90 Maple Avenue, East Haddam, Connecticut. Telephone: (860) 873-8878

1:00 p.m.

Do not bring chairs

Entrées: T—Z

Appetizers/Sides: A—G

Desserts: H—S

August Meeting: Ken Mosher's home in Andover, Connecticut

The CCSS Newsletter is published each month except January. Annual membership of \$12.00 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.