

CCSS Newsletter

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

March 2009

From the President

With going to UCONN for our last meeting the weather worked out well and the program put on by **Matt Opel** was excellent. Matt's knowledge of the area about succulents enhanced the program.



Matt also offered several plants for our monthly auction that went very quickly. One of the plants offered was started by him more than five years ago. He also offered several cuttings for those that wanted to start new plants.

Sorry that Alex could not make the meeting with his tray of chicken. All worked out well with the variety of food that was offered. Alex, we hope all is going well with your health.

Dave Shultz gave me catalogs for those that wanted to order from Timber Press and Storey Books as well as a catalog on calendars. These will also be offered during our March meeting. Dave will be placing the order the following day so get to those catalogs and order ASAP.

Our upcoming April show is coming on very soon so if you have any questions or ideas please bring them up. Dave should have more information about the show as well as next year's Eastern Conference. Again, our condolences to Dave and Barbara on the passing of her father.

We will be having elections coming up in May, so if anyone is interested in running for office, please let me know.

Continued on page 2, left column

The Secretary's Report

Our February meeting was held at Storrs, thanks to **Matt Opel**. Many people went to see what was in the greenhouse either before or after the meeting. We ate well, as usual, and then adjourned into the big classroom.

Frank started the meeting by telling us that **David Schultz's** father had had another heart attack, so he could not be with us, but had sent some information about books and calendars. The catalogs for both were passed around.

Ken Moser has fliers for our Show and Sale. We were asked to take some and put them up. (Please do not make copies of the flier that was on the back of the February newsletter, as that has an incorrect name in it.)

It has been our custom to give \$1,500 annually for scholarships, in lieu of paying to use the college areas for our Show and Sale. We voted to do this again.

Ken made a motion to reimburse **David Schultz** in the amount of \$624.56 for his expenses for the past Show and Sale. This was

passed. **Frank** announced that **Bonnie Simon** at NVCC continues to be enthusiastic about our plans for the 2010 Conference, and is considering ways to use the Hospitality and Horticultural students.

Dan Downey spoke next. He told us of starting a seed bank. He had the notebook with him and some of our members chose seeds. He told of the Massachusetts club's third annual show and sale coming up at Tower Hill. Members of the Connecticut



Continued on page 2, right column

From the President, continued

I will at this time say, because of my health, I will not be going for President. It does not mean I will be dropping out of the club, but the health is still giving me much trouble and not getting better.

Our next meeting will be held at Woodland Gardens in Manchester, Connecticut. See you all there.

Thank you,
Frank



The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

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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.

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society
Editorial Office
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Columbia, CT 06237-1516

Secretary's Report, continued

club get in free. He hopes we will attend.

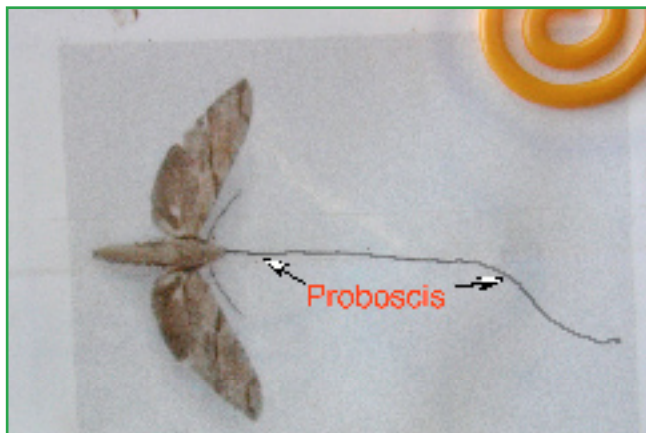
He also spoke of a free Boston Flower Show which will be March 13-15 and will be small, but hopefully will keep the interest going—the big Boston Flower Show was canceled.

Dr. Matt Opel was our speaker. His subject was Geophytes of South Africa. Prior to starting that subject, Matt projected photos of Darwin's Orchid, which was



Darwin's Orchid with long spur

blooming in the greenhouse. (This February is the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth.) The flower is outstanding with a nearly foot-long spur. Darwin



Moth with long proboscis

predicted that it must be pollinated by a moth with a long proboscis. This moth was not seen until about 20 years after Darwin died. A few years ago someone finally took a video of the pollination in the wilds of Madagascar.

Continued on next page

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Geophytes have underground storage parts that are used to avoid damage due to unpleasant growing conditions. These parts are corms, tubers, or bulbs. A bulb is made of modified leaves. South Africa has the largest flora of geophytes. Western and southern South Africa have rain in winter, and the plants there are dormant, especially in the far south and Cape region. Most of these geophytes need more moisture than most succulents in their growing season. The cool temperatures at night, and warmth in the day is OK. They need a lot of light; 5–6 hours of direct sun per day is required. In the dormant stage they need no moisture, but should be kept warm. Soil should be well drained, not too rich. Many leaves and bulbs are toxic to animals. Divide when crowded, toward the later part of dormancy. The plants can be grown from seed. It takes 2–3 years before flowering in most cases. Start seed in autumn. A few plants can be propagated from leaf cuttings, notably *Lachenalia* and *Bowiea*.

Matt then showed examples from some of the plant groups that are geophytes in South Africa. I



Helical leaves on *Ornithogalum* sp. family hyacinthaceae

will not mention all. Some of these have interesting cork-screw (helical) leaves to catch more sun and to survive wind. Some members of the Amaryllis and Hyacinth families have these. There are also Iris, and Massonias (these are pollinated by gerbils). Some of these plants have flowers before producing their leaves. A few of the

geophytes of South Africa are dicots. This means they have two seed leaves. The groups mentioned above were monocots. They have only one seed leaf. The dicot geophytes include some crassulas, portulacas and geraniums. There are many kinds of geophytic oxalis in South Africa.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Lynn
Secretary pro tem

Eriospermum cervicorne

By Dr. Matt Opel

The New England woods may be icy and silent this time of year, but inside of the greenhouse the South African winter bulbs are green and active. South Africa is home to the most diverse flora of geophytes—bulbs, tubers and other plants that survive unfavorable conditions as underground storage organs—in the world, and many of these come from



Eriospermum cervicorne plants in January. They are about 3 inches/8 cm tall.

Photo by Matt Opel

the winter-rainfall zone in the southern and western parts of the country. Winter geophytes have adapted to grow in the temperate, rainy winter months, and then hunker down for a long dormancy in the dry summer heat.

Eriospermum cervicorne—“deer antlers with hairy seeds,” more or less—is a tuberous plant found in sandy soil on granitic hills in central Namaqualand, in western South Africa. In late summer the tubers, which look like smallish russet potatoes, send up racemes of white flowers. Only after the flowers are finished and seed is set, in autumn, do the leaves appear. As with many *Eriospermum* species, the flowers of *E. cervicorne* are fairly bland, while the foliage is distinctive and memorable.

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The leaves of *E. cervicorne* are borne singly, one per tuber, and are dominated by a mop of antler-like outgrowths called enations. Enations are green emergencies from the upper surface of the leaf, which increase the plant's light-catching photosynthetic area (important for plants trying to intercept weak winter sun, even in sunny southern Africa), while being more resistant to wind damage than just a larger flat leaf.

Enations seem to be an evolutionary alternative to dissected leaves (sometimes termed compound leaves), in a genus where the pattern of leaf development precludes the growth of ordinary dissected leaves. Eriospermums are monocots, like lilies or grasses, and have leaves that expand from a basal zone of cell division. Therefore, they cannot develop complex dissected leaves, like those in ferns, through the action of growing points along the leaf margin. Enations can be thought of as an unorthodox method of producing a shrubby, wind-resistant photosynthetic surface, in a group of plants with developmental constraints that rule out the usual sorts of finely divided leaves. ○

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

David and Barbara Schultz Suffer loss of Loved One

AUGUSTINE J. GONET PASSED AWAY ON FEBRUARY 6 at the age of 94. "Gus" was a resident of Westport, Massachusetts. Among his survivors are his daughter **Barbara Schultz** and her husband **David**, both valued members of the CCSS.

He and his late wife, **Ila**, grew vegetable plants and starter plants for bonzai as a business. Gus enjoyed many interests throughout his life: He was a carpenter building custom homes; he repaired clocks; he played trumpet with a local group; he was a member of the Dartmouth Grange; and he was a member of the local volunteer fire department. As a lad, Gus loved to go eeling on Slocum's River in Dartmouth.

Gus was a member of the Allen's Neck Friends Meeting at which his funeral was held on February 13. ○

Hardy Plant Society Symposium Announced

THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY IS HOLDING ITS EIGHTH annual symposium on March 7 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 371 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut. Speakers will be **Mary Ann McGourty** and **John Elsley**.

Mary Ann McGourty's topic will be *Ground-covers and Bulbs—the Finishing Touches*. Mary Ann was the co-owner of Hillside Gardens for 20 years, a nursery in Norfolk, Connecticut specializing in uncommon perennials and perennial garden design. Her publications include a major contribution and editor of *Taylor's Guide To Ground Covers* (Houghton Mifflin, 1987.)

John Elsley talk will be *Beyond the Hype: a Selection of Some Recent Woody Plant Introductions Displaying Outstanding Ornamental Merits*. He will outline some recent woody introductions that he suggests exhibit outstanding ornamental features.

John has an extensive horticultural background beginning with a formal and practical education in England that includes time at both Kew and Wisley with the Royal Horticultural Society. In the United States at Park Seed, he was associated with the prestigious Wayside Gardens. He is currently the Director of Horticulture for the Klehm Companies where he selects the new plants for the Song Sparrow division.

Hardy Plants and Hearty Soups

The symposium starts at 10:00 AM and will include their renowned lunch of hearty soups. The cost is \$40.00 for non-members and \$35.00 for members. To purchase tickets in advance, send a check payable to Hardy Plant Society to **Leslie Shields**, 25 Johnson Avenue, Plainville, CT 06062. Questions can be addressed to Leslie at (860) 747-8175 or by e-mail at **selchiel@aol.com**. Ticket requests will be held at the door. ○



Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1: The March meeting will be held at Woodland Gardens, 168 Woodland Street, Manchester, Connecticut. (860) 643-8474

1:00 P.M.
Bring Chairs
Entrées: T—Z
Appetizers/Sides: A—G
Desserts: H—S

Saturday, April 4: Naugatuck Valley Community College

Treasurer's Report

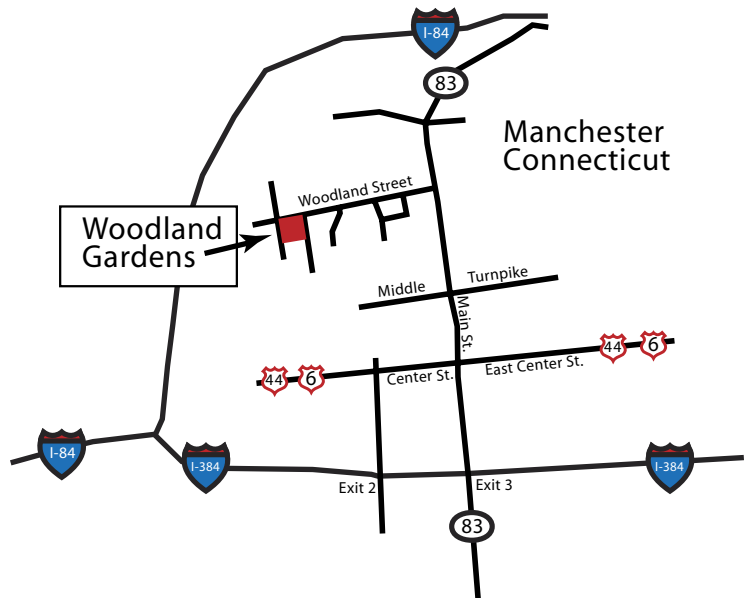
Income:	
Dues	121.00
Auction	25.00
Total Income:	\$146.00
Expenses:	
2009 April Show	\$624.56
The Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut	25.00
Total Income (Expense)	(\$503.56)
Bank Balance	\$8,728.18



Lights, Camera, *Help!* It's Show Time Again

By David Schultz

Only one month separates us from our biggest event of the year, our annual show and sale. Please groom your show plants, pot up the give-away and club sale plants, and get enough rest to pitch in. Also, put in for annual leave at your place of employment so you can be there Friday. (Actually, that is sort of a joke, but we do need your help). See you at the March meeting. ○



Directions to Woodland gardens

Take I-84 east. Take Exit 59—a two-lane, right exit about 3 miles east of Hartford—onto I-384

On I-384, take Exit 3 onto Route 83 north into Manchester. (Route 83 is Main Street in Manchester.)

In about 1½ miles, turn left onto Woodland Street.

Woodland Gardens is on the left at 168 Woodland Street.

See map, above.

From the Bookshelf

By David Schultz

The annual Timber Press and Storey Books order will be completed at the March meeting. Catalogs will be available for choosing your books. Our discount is 40% off the list price, and this year we also have a calendar catalog to go through with which we can get 30% off list. You can check online at www.timberpress.com and www.storey.com for the catalog offerings. ○



**Connecticut Cactus and
Succulent Society
2009 Plant Show Entry Form**

Division _____ Class _____

Genus _____

Species _____

Var., Fma., and/or Cv. _____

Seed Raised _____ Windowsill-Grown _____

Plant's age, if known, or years owned _____

Exhibitor's Comments _____

Award: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ HM _____

Judges' Comments _____



Fold Up



Exhibitor's Name _____

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Fold Up



Exhibitor's Name _____

Connecticut
Cactus and Succulent Society
26th Annual Show & Sale
April 4–April 5, 2009
Plant Show Categories

Division I—Cacti

Cactaceae

1. Astrophytum
2. Ariocarpus
3. Obregonia, Encephalocarpus, Aztekium
4. Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
5. Ferocactus, Homalocephala
6. Stenocactus (Echinofossulocactus)
7. Echinocactus, Leuchtenbergia
8. Coryphantha, Thelocactus
9. Turbinicarpus, Strombocactus
10. Pediocactus, Pelecyphora, Sclerocactus, Epithelantha
11. Neolloydia, Echinomastus, Gymnocactus, Escobaria
12. Mammillaria—single head
13. Mammillaria—hook-spined, clusters
14. Mammillaria—clusters
15. Melocactus
16. Discocactus
17. Uebelmannia, Buiningia
18. Columnar Cacti—Carnegiea, Cephalocereus, Cleistocactus, Espostoa, Myrtillocactus, Neobuxbaumia, Pilocereus, Stetsonia, Stenocereus, Trichocereus, etc.
19. Opuntiae—Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus
20. Parodia Group, including Notocactus
21. Rebutia, Aylostera, Medioblobia
22. Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
23. Lobivia, Denmoza, Echinopsis, Acanthocalycium
24. Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya
25. Eriosyce Group, including Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Horridocactus
26. Copiapoa
27. Frailea, Blossfeldia
28. Epiphytic cacti—Disocactus, Epiphyllum, Hattoria, Rhipsalis, Selenicereus, etc.
29. Gymnocalycium
30. Other genera of cacti
31. Variegated cacti
32. Crested cacti
33. Monstrose cacti
34. Winter hardy cacti

Division II—Succulents Other Than Cacti

Crassulaceae

35. Crassula
36. Adromischus
37. Aeonium, Sempervivum, Orostachys, Greenovia, Aichryson
38. Cotyledon, Tylecodon, Kalanchoe
39. Echeveria
40. Pachyphytum, Graptopetalum, Tacitus
41. Dudleya
42. Sedum
43. Other genera of Crassulaceae — Monanthes, Sinocrassula, etc.

Mesembryanthemaceae

Aizoaceae

44. Lithops, Dinteranthus
45. Stone mimics: Argyroderma, Fenestraria, Gibbaeum, Lapidaria, Pleiospilos, etc.
46. Conophytum.
47. Other mesembs:
 - a. Shrubby types—Ruschia, Delosperma, etc.
 - b. Rough/tooth-leaved types—Aloinopsi, Titanopsis, Faucaria, etc.
 - c. Others—Monilaria, Cheiridopsis, Mitrophyllum, Glottiphyllum, etc.

Euphorbiaceae

Euphorbia species endemic to Madagascar

48. Millii type—beharensis, delphinensis, duranii, horombensis, millii, etc.
49. Stem type—leuconeura, lophogona, pachypodioides, perrieri, stenoclada, viguieri, etc.
50. Thickened root or caudex type—decaryi, capsaintmariensis, francoisii, cylindrifolia, etc.

Euphorbia species NOT endemic to Madagascar

51. Medusae-head type—caput-medusae, gorgonis, decepta, esculenta, pugniformis, flanaganii, etc.
52. Caudiciform type—stellata, micrantha, tortirama, squarrosa, knuthii, groenwaldii, tuberosa, etc.
53. Stem type (solitary or clustering)—polygona, fasciculata, obesa, suzannae, mammillaris, abdelkuri, columnaris, stellaspina, etc.
54. Shrub type—cooperii, cactus, grandicornis, pseudocactus, poisonii, weberbaueri, etc.

Other Genera of Euphorbiaceae

- 55. Monadenium, Synadenium
- 56. Pedilanthus, Jatropha, etc.

Aloaceae

- 57. Aloe
- 58. Haworthia—single plant
- 59. Haworthia—clumps of plants
- 60. Haworthia—columnar
- 61. Haworthia—hybrids
- 62. Gasteria
- 63. Other Genera of Aloaceae

Asclepiadaceae

- 64. Stapelia, Orbea, Caralluma, Huernia, Stapelianthus, Piaranthus, Echidnopsis, etc.
- 65. Hoodia, Trichocaulon, Pseudolithos, Whitesloanea
- 66. Fockea, Brachystelma, Raphionacme, Petopentia
- 67. Other Asclepiadaceae genera—Hoya, Ceropegia, Dischidia, etc.

Asphodelaceae

- 68. Bulbine

Hyacinthaceae

- 69. Albuca, Bowiea, Massonia, etc.

Agavaceae

- 70. Agave
- 71. Furcraea, Hesperaloe, Yucca, etc.

Nolinaceae

- 72. Beaucarnea
- 73. Calibanus
- 74. Other genera of Nolinaceae—Nolina, Dasylirion

Dracaenaceae

- 75. Sansevieria, Dracaena

Apocynaceae

- 76. Pachypodium
- 77. Adenium

Bromeliaceae

- 78. Abromeitiella, Deuterocohnia, Dyckia, Hechtia, Tillandsia, etc.

Compositae

- 79. Senecio, Othonna, etc.

Convolvulaceae

- 80. Ipomoea, Turbinia

Cucurbitaceae

- 81. Ibervillea, Kedrostis, Gerrardanthus, etc.

Dioscoreaceae

- 82. Dioscorea, Testudinaria

Didieraceae

- 83. Alluaudia, Didierea, Decarya, etc.

Fouquieriaceae

- 84. Fouquieria, Idria

Geraniaceae

- 85. Sarcocaulon, Pelargonium

Passifloraceae

- 86. Adenia

Portulacaceae

- 87. Anacampseros, Portulacaria, Portulaca, Ceraria, etc.

Vitaceae

- 88. Cissus, Cyphostemma

Miscellany

- 89. Succulent shrubs and trees not in other categories—Bursera, Operculicarya, Pachycormus, Ficus, Bombax, Commiphora, etc.
- 90. Herbaceous succulents not in other classes—Begonia, Peperomia, Brighamia, Myrmecodia, Plectranthus, Dorstenia, Hydnophytum, Gonolobus, etc.
- 91. All other genera of succulents
- 92. Variegated
- 93. Crested
- 94. Monstrose
- 95. Winter-Hardy Succulents

Division III—Special Exhibits

- 96. Bonsai
- 97. Collections—5 to 15 plants of one genus or common characteristic (All plants must be properly named/numbered. Key card is required.)
- 98. Miniature—a mature plant—inside pot diameter less than 3 inches
- 99. Dish Gardens or Troughs (All plants must be properly named/numbered. Key card is required.)

Division IV—Novice and Junior Growers

(Young people through high school)

- 100. Cacti—Novice
- 101. Cacti—Junior
- 102. Succulents other than cacti—Novice
- 103. Succulents other than cacti—Junior
- 104. Dish gardens or troughs—Novice
- 105. Dish gardens or troughs—Junior
- 106. Group exhibit by school, class, or other organization—Junior

Division V—Educational Display

107. Displays of a particular genus, family, or group of plants sharing a specifically defined character(s), and/or horticultural technique, which educate the general public. Eligible for the *Cactus and Succulent Society of America Educational Award*.

Division NJ—Non-judged Classes

Plants entered for display only

A plant entered in this division is for display only and is **not to be judged**.

The class numbers in this division correspond to the class in which the plant would be entered in the judged show, but with the addition of NJ to the class number.

The plant may be allowed entrance and/or removal from the show—**with the prior consent of the show chair**—at times the entrant deems necessary.

The plant must have a valid entry card and be passed by the show committee.

Annual Show Rules

1. No field collected plants permitted.
2. Plants must be placed on the show benches by 9:00 a.m., Saturday, April 5th. No plants will be accepted for judging after that time.
3. The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society reserves the right to reject any plants which appear infected or infested.
4. All plants must have been in owner's possession for six (6) months prior to the show.
5. Exhibitor must completely fill out entry cards, placing them with the appropriate plants, in such a manner that the exhibitor's name does not show. Windowsill grown plants should be clearly marked as such.
6. Exhibitors are asked not to be in the show area during judging. A judge having a plant in any class is expected to not judge in that class.
7. A novice is a person who has not exhibited before in this show.

Judging Scale of Points

Condition of	75
Staging	20
Nomenclature	5



President Frank Zapatka addresses membership at the February meeting held in the Torry Life Sciences Building at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Our host and program presenter, Dr. Matt Opel, is seated at the right foreground. Matt's subject was winter growing geophytes of South Africa.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society's

26th Annual Show and Sale*

Saturday, April 4 – Sunday April 5, 2009

10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Free Admission

- Judged Show
- Refreshments
- Auctions
- Lectures and Demonstrations
- Leading Cactus and Succulent Vendors
- Book Sales
- Free Plant to First 50 Families Each Day

Saturday, April 4		Sunday, April 5	
Noon	Wow! Look at <u>That</u> Haworthia! Paul Carlberg, CSSM	Noon	Euphorbias: Some of My Favorites Judy Becker, CCSS
12:45	Auction	12:45	Auction
1:15	Land Plant Evolution Jon Wallace, CCSS	1:15	Hardy Cacti for the Connecticut Garden John Spain, CCSS
2:00	Growing Succulents Under Lights Dan Downey, CSSM	2:00	Potting Mixes for Succulents Ken Mosher, CCSS
2:40	Auction	2:40	Auction
3:15	Living Stones Dr. Matt Opel, CCSS	3:00	Happiness Is a Well Tended Succulent Chris Allen, CCSS

*Naugatuck Valley Community College, Art and Music Center Cafeteria, Fifth Floor
750 Chase Parkway, Waterbury, Connecticut, Exit 18 off I-84
For more information: www.ctcactusclub.com