

CCSS Newsletter

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

December 2011

From the President

Many of us spent Halloween in the dark after the October snowstorm, and power was still sporadic in some towns in my area a week later. The CCSS November meeting went ahead as planned, thanks to the University of Connecticut's campus generator and underground electrical system.

Fred Kattermann gave us a great presentation on the wonderful deserts of northern Mexico, and told us about a new species of cactus that he names in the current Cactus and Succulent Journal, *Eriosyce spectabilis*. Fred even brought us a plant of *E. spectabilis* for one lucky attendee to take home.



The Eastern Cactus and Succulent Conference continues to sneak up on us, but we are prepared. Recent additions to the talk lineup include Susan Amoy on succulent bonsai, and Ray Rogers on container gardening with desert plants. Do not forget to sign up for volunteering, and remember to

register before the end of January to qualify for a discount.

December meeting will be held at Marsh Botanical Garden

This year's December meeting and holiday party will be held at Marsh Botanical Garden, at Yale University in New Haven. I can not wait to see what is going on in their new desert plant room this time! There is no January meeting, and programming announcements for the start of the new year will arrive in the February newsletter.

Matt Opel
President

The Secretary's Report

Fred Kattermann was our speaker, talking on Cacti of Mexico. In 1971–1972, he took his first trip to Monterey to see an *Agave victoriae-reginae*. He went further to take pictures, mostly varieties of cacti that grew in Mexico. He went back after a conference in Sante Fe in 1982. Collecting was permitted back then, but he had to return by plane so he brought seed back instead of plants.

He found that each plant finds its own niche in its own best environment. The same hill can have solid granite, partially decomposed granite, gravel, or shale. So there may be many kinds of plants in the same area who seek the same environment.

He went to another area where there was limestone and found all kinds of plants he had not found in previous areas. All these plants were pictured, via PowerPoint, in situ and/or potted in his greenhouse. It was a thorough and enjoyable lecture.



About an hour before our regular meeting, we had a meeting of chairmen and others wanting to catch up on Conference news. Sheryl Mizak reported on the bags that will be filled with information sheets and given to the conferees at the registration desk.

These bags will be forest green with white lettering. They cost \$160.00 for one hundred; two hundred would be less than twice that. We voted for getting two hundred and will be able to sell the remainder since there will be no date on the bag.

Vendors will not be asked to pay any conference fees—except for the Saturday-night banquet if they wish to attend—because they will be taking care of their booths and probably will not be able to go to any lectures.

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The Secretary's Report, continued from page 1

- We need someone to get the speaker **Guillermo Rivera** from Bradley airport on Thursday evening before the Conference.
- **Dan Downey** showed us the pamphlet that the Massachusetts society had printed for their show. We are looking into doing something similar for the conference.
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- Vendors will not be asked to pay any conference fees—except the Saturday-night banquet if they wish to attend—because they will be taking care of their booths and probably will not be able to go to any lectures.
- We need someone to get the speaker **Rivera** from Bradley airport on the Thursday evening before the Conference.
- **Dan Downey** showed us the pamphlet that the Massachusetts group had printed for their show. We are looking into doing something similar for the conference.
- The biographies and speakers' pictures are almost all in. **Helen Pritchard** is working with Dan to get them ready. We can include advertisements in the pamphlets at \$25.00 for half a page or \$50.00 for a full page.
- **Chris Boroch** is working on an information sheet for the attendees about where to eat and to get other services. We hope we will be able to include coupons for various places. These will be in the bag we give out.
- Setting up the Show and Sale, and the Conference registration table will start at noon on the Friday of the Conference weekend. A sign up sheet was passed around. Anyone who signs up for at least 5 hours can get into the Conference for half price.
- We have two new speakers: **Susan Ames** who will speak on Succulent Bonsai, and **Ray Rogers** on container gardening with desert plants.

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Lynn
Secretary



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

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Treasurer's Report

Income		
Conference Registrations		\$480.00
Banquet Registrations		80.00
Dues		48.00
Auction		20.00
Expenses:		
November Newsletter		176.54
November Speaker Honorarium		150.00
Refreshments		<u>7.00</u>
Total Income (Expense)		\$294.46
Bank Balance		\$11,689.29



*Ken Mosher smiles after winning his **Eriosyce spectabilis** at auction during our November meeting at UConn. The plant was provided by Fred Kattermann, our meeting's speaker. Fred grew the plant from seed he collected in Chile.*

Photo by LeRoy Saucier



David Schultz addresses the members at our November meeting. David discussed the organization of the upcoming regional conference.

Photo by LeRoy Saucier



Dan Downey of the Massachusetts Cactus and Succulent Society attends the November meeting. Dan is assisting in the organization of the regional conference in April, 2012.

Photo by LeRoy Saucier



Fred Kattermann presents his slide show describing his trip to Mexico in search of native cacti. Fred was the main speaker at the November meeting.

Photo by LeRoy Saucier

Upcoming Events

Sunday, December 4: The December meeting and holiday party will be held at **Marsh Botanical Garden**, at Yale University in New Haven.

1:00 PM

Do Not Bring Chairs

Entrées: A–G

Appetizers/Sides/Salads: H–S

Desserts: T–Z

January: No Meeting

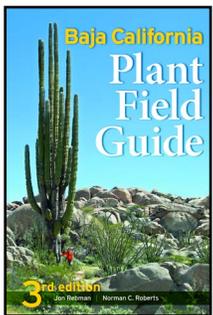
Sunday, February 5: (To be announced)

From the Bookshelf

By David Schultz

At the Seventeenth Eastern Cactus and Succulent Conference, we will have a book-signing booth for the speakers who have published books. These include:

Colin Walker, co-author of *Aloes: The Definitive Guide*



Jon Rebman, co-author of *Baja California Plant Field Guide* which will be published in

January 2012, flexi-bound. This new edition is 30% larger and is entirely revised with much more information and many more plants featured. Plants are described and shown in color.

Edmund Snodgrass, co-author of *Green Roof Plants* and *Small Green Roofs*

Jason Eslamieh, author of *Cultivation of Boswellia*.

● We will offer copies of their books for sale at the conference, but will also place a group order which you can join in on for a bigger savings.

● *Aloes: The Definitive Guide* was published by Kew Gardens and the details can be checked on their website. The hardbound edition, about an 800-page book, lists for \$160.00, but with our group-order price, it is \$100.00.

● *Baja California Plant Field Guide* will be published in January, 2012. It will be the third edition and is completely revised and 30% larger than previous editions, with much more information and plants featured. It is flexibound for

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Directions to Marsh Botanical Garden

From the North Going South on I-91

Take Exit 3 (Trumbull Street Exit). Drive on Trumbull Street until second traffic light and turn right onto Whitney Avenue. Continue to second traffic light at intersection of Whitney and Edwards Street. Turn left onto Edwards Street. At top of hill turn right on Prospect Street, then make quick left onto Hillside Place. Take next right onto Mansfield Street. The Marsh Gardens entrance is about one block (or less) up Marshfield Street. Meeting in Greenhouse #1.

From the South Going North on I-91

Take Exit 3 on I-91 (Trumbull Street Exit). Drive on Trumbull Street until second traffic light and turn right onto Whitney Avenue. Continue to second traffic light at intersection of Whitney and Edwards Street. Turn left onto Edwards Street. At top of hill turn right on Prospect Street, then make quick left onto Hillside Place. Take next right onto Mansfield Street. The Marsh Gardens entrance is about one block (or less) up Marshfield Street. Meeting in Greenhouse #1

Map to Marsh Botanical Garden



Gift Exchange

Remember that there will be a gift exchange at the December meeting/party. If you are interested in participating, bring a wrapped present of about \$10.00 value—perhaps with a cactus and succulent or gardening theme. Participants will draw lots and choose a gift to take home. ○



Dr. Matt Opel, President of the CCSS, introduces our guest speaker, Fred Kattermann at our November meeting held at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan



Judy Becker discusses her collection of Euphorbia at her home and greenhouse in Salisbury, Connecticut. She was the speaker at, and host of, our October meeting.

Photo by Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

Conference Update

By David Schultz

The Conference Committee met at Uconn before the November meeting and made a number of decisions regarding the conference. The purchasing of carrying bags for the conference attendees was discussed and an agreement was reached. They should be on order.

- The conference pamphlet was discussed and **Dan Downey** of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Massachusetts will assist **Helen Pritchard** in the pamphlet preparation. We will offer paid advertising for the pamphlet to help finance it.

- The sign-up sheets for the "tasks" were available. Using the revised conference schedule, members chose and signed up for their volunteer hours. We encourage all members to participate. Even if you are not able to attend the conference, we need the support of everyone to help make our annual show and sale a big success. We will have more vendors in attendance plus our usual vendors. ○

From the Book Shelf Continued from page 4

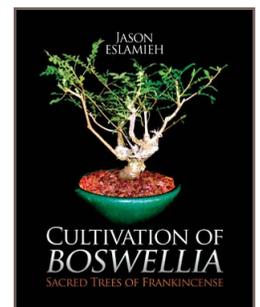
carrying out in the field. The list price is \$34.95 but our price is \$24.50.

- *Green Roof Plants* and *Small Green Roofs* were both published by Timber Press. Details can be checked out on their website. We will place a group order in early.

- I will have copies of *Cultivation of Boswellias* by Jason Eslamieh at the December meeting. Good news! The price is lower for anyone who either sends me a check or at least lets me know they want a copy. The price we announced was \$24.50; the price right now will be \$23.00.

- If we order enough, we can get a larger discount and I will reimburse the over payment. Check out Jason's website at miniatree.com to see the plants. If you definitely want a copy, please add you order to the group-order. I will not have an unlimited supply of these books—especially the *Aloes*—so do not procrastinate and be disappointed.

- **John Pilbeam** will have a new book, *Echinocereus* published in November 2011. It is being published by the British Cactus and Succulent Society and the insert in the *Cactus World* indicates that there are nearly 200 photographs in habitat or cultivation. List price will be £38.00, with our price figured at \$55.00. If the exchange rate varies much, we will adjust later. I am making arrangements for the books to be autographed. ○



Updated Conference Schedule

Friday

Noon–8:00PM Set up vendors & show
 5:00–9:00PM Registration for conference
 8:00–10:00PM Vendors open for attendees preview sale

Saturday

8:00–10:00AM Judging
 8:30AM Registration
 9:00–5:30 Vendors open
 9:00–9:45AM Free time
 10:00–11:00AM ***NewHomesforOldFriends–Succulents on Green Roofs***
 10:45AM Coffee break
 11:00–12:00 ***An Exploratory Trip to Northwestern Argentina***
 12:00–1:30PM Lunch break
 12:45–1:30PM Auction in sales room
 1:30–2:30PM ***Boswellias of the World***
 2:15PM Coffee break
 2:30–3:15PM Auction & book signing in sales room
 3:15–4:15PM ***The Other Mesembs***
 4:30–5:30PM ***Aloes Through the Ages***
 5:30PM Vendors closed
 7:00–11:00PM Banquet followed by rare plant & book auction

Sunday

9:00–4:00 Vendors open
 9:00–9:45AM ***Succulent Pelargoniums***
 10:00–11:00AM ***Macronesian Memories Succulents of the Canary Islands, Madeira, & Morocco***
 10:45AM Coffee Break
 11:00–12:00 ***Baja California: Richness, Research, and Resources***
 12:00–1:00PM Lunch Break
 12:45–1:15PM Auction in sales room
 1:00–2:00PM ***Bonsai with Succulent Plants***
 1:45PM Coffee Break
 2:00–3:00PM ***Sensational Succulent Containers***
 3:00–4:00PM ***Cactus of Peru: Land of the Incas***
 4:00PM Vendors closed