

# CCSS Newsletter

## Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

May 2012

### From the President

**T**HE SEVENTEENTH EASTERN CACTUS AND SUCCULENT Conference/Annual Show and Sale is finished, and I think that we put together quite an event! The superb talks and demonstrations were just the start of a long weekend that included one of our best judged shows



ever, a huge and completely packed vendor's room—that in fact spilled out into the hallways—and a delicious feast with old cactus and succulent friends at the Saturday banquet.

● The rare plant and book auction included a number of items that are almost impossible to find, including *Boswellia* plants from **Jason Eslamieh**, the comb-leaved alpine

*Aloe haemanthifolia*, which I donated, and some choice *Haworthia* cultivars from **Steve Hammer**. The net proceeds from the auction were about \$3,150 which will be donated to the CSSA research fund. Our donation of plants to The Pilot House, a charity for special-needs children, was also much appreciated.

● It was a tremendously busy weekend for those of us working to make it happen, but I think that the conference was an entertaining and enlightening event for all who attended. A big thank you is due to everyone who helped, and especially to Show Chairman, **David Schultz**, who was presented with a plaque honoring his many years of service to the cactus and succulent community in southern New England.

● It is time to renew your CCSS membership, if—like certain CCSS presidents I could name—you completely forgot to pay during the excitement of the conference. There is a membership form included in this newsletter [page 3]. It is not necessary to fill out the form if you are simply renewing your membership. Just mail your check to **Ken Mosher**.

● The May meeting will be held at Quackin' Grass Nursery, where owner **Wayne Paquette** will introduce us

*Continued on page 2, left column*

### The Secretary's Report

**I**T WAS A VERY BUSY BUT HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SEVENTEENTH EASTERN Cactus and Succulent Conference/Annual Show and Sale. It was vacation week for Waterbury schools and the weather superb bringing out parents and children using the water park—every parking place was taken.

● But we had little trouble parking and taking in our plants because there was a u-shaped area right in front of the entrance to the Conference. No elevator needed here.

● The hotel set up the skirted tables before our arrival and removed them and cleaned the areas at the conclusion of activities. We were well taken care of.

● The banquet was excellent. The hotel staff made a desert table centerpiece forming a cactus made of ginger roots standing about fourteen inches high. This cactus was covered with orange birds with green heads carved out of cantaloupe.

All this was sitting on a green mound formed of a halved New Hampshire style watermelon. Very impressive! The diners appropriately and frequently complimented the hotel for the quality of the food and the decorations. It was a wonderful experience for all those at the banquet.



Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Lynn  
Secretary



*Agave schidigera*  
"Shira ito no Ohi"

Best in Division III:  
Special Exhibits, one plant in  
Agave collection by  
**Ray Rogers**

## Treasurer's Report

### Income

Rare Plant Auction	\$3,155.20
Vendor Commissions	2,375.05
Auction	1,633.00
Club Table	1,473.76
Conference Registrations	1,215.00
Banquet Registrations	1,120.00
Book Sales	1,114.00
Dues	389.00

### Expenses:

Banquet	\$2,664.09
Speaker Travel	2,490.20
Conference Space (Remainder)	1,690.50
Speakers' Fees	1,100.00
Insurance	466.00
Pamphlet Printing	460.50
Coffee Breaks	387.96
Conference Refunds	260.00
April Newsletter	252.35
Refreshments	140.31
Vendor Electrical Usage	102.10
Badge Holders	44.66
Podium Use	31.91

Total Income (Expense)	\$1,570.60
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$19,570.64</b>



### From the President *continued from page 1*

to his fabulous collection of locally-grown winter hardy perennials, shrubs and rock garden plants, including many succulents. Bring your check book and plan on getting a great start to the 2012 gardening season.

● We will also hold elections for Treasurer and Vice-president. Dress appropriately for the weather, as we will be meeting in an open-air building and spending a lot of time out in the nursery and display gardens. The June meeting is tentatively planned to be held at the home of **John Spain** and **Becky Lynn**.

Sincerely,  
Matt Opel  
President

## The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

**President:** Matt Opel, Ph.D.; (860) 420-7253;  
matthew.opel@uconn.edu

**Vice President pro tem:** Ms. Jeanine Loya, (518) 522-2943; cactus246@hotmail.com

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**Society Website:** [www.ctcactusclub.com](http://www.ctcactusclub.com)

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

30 Pine Street  
Columbia, CT 06237-1516



## You Forgot Something, Didn't You?

**Y**ou, yes you, forgot to renew your CCSS membership. This is understandable in light of the excitement of the simultaneously held Eastern Conference and our own Show and Sale in April in Waterbury. Actually, quite a few of us were remiss—membership renewal for April is way down this year—but redemption is as easy as sending a check for \$12.00 to our esteemed—and concerned—treasurer, Ken Mosher.

● The form for membership application is on page 3, if you wish to become a new member. ○

## Volunteers Lauded

By Helen Pritchard

The following people worked one or more days at the Show and Conference performing essential tasks contributing to the success of both. All generously took time away from their participation in, and enjoyment of, the Show and Conference. Thank you.

Broder, Gary	Lesage, Christian	Pritchard, Helen
Canali, John	Lesage David	Saucier, LeRoy
Cooke, Gloria	McGeary, Signian	Schreibman, Andrea
DellaRocco, Bill	McMullen, Linda	Schreibman, Robert
Gudat, Al	Milano, Phyllis	Schulta, B.
Handler, Kathrine	Mizak, Cheryl	Schultz, David
Harrison, Susan	Mosher, Ken	Schultz, Barbara
Kuchy, M.	Pawlak, Joe	Silver, David
Ladden, Lucylle	Pawlak, Patty	Zapatka, Frank
	Polhemus, Barb	

## Join Us Today!

Just fill out the form, below. Include a check for \$12.00—the membership fee which includes all family members living at the same residence—and mail to:

Mr. Ken Mosher  
Treasurer, CCSS  
8 Bailey Road  
Andover, CT 06232

Please make checks payable to CCSS.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_



Current members who wish to renew their membership need to simply send their check to Ken Mosher.

## A Special Thank You from Helen

By Helen Pritchard

I feel compelled to point out those who were such a great help in the judging of our show at Coco Key. I cannot imagine completing the task of judging all 365 entries without you. Thank you.

### Judges

John Story  
Gerry Barad  
Lee Miller  
Art Scarpa  
Paul Carlberg  
Abbie Rorer  
Dan Downey  
Ken Sicard  
Carrie Waterman  
Chris Allen  
Matt Opel  
Ken Mosher

### Clerks

Phyllis Milano  
Herbert (Sully) Sullivan  
Christian Lasage  
Susi Harrison  
Jon Wallace  
Maryanne Grybowski  
Barb Schultz  
Mary Ellen Unger

## 2012 Show Judging Results

**Best in Show:** Succulent Bonsai; Susan Amoy

Division I: Cacti; *Mammillaria albalinata*; Ingrid Fritze

Division II: Succulents; *Pachypodium bispinorum*;

**Chris Allen**

Division III: Special Exhibits, Agave collection;

**Ray Rogers**

Division IV: Novices, *Gasteria batesiana*;

**Maryanne Gryboski**

Division V: Educational Exhibits, Succulent Bonsai

**Susan Amoy**

*A complete listing of all awards will appear in the June Newsletter.*



# The Very Best of the Best: 2012



**Best in Show:** Division V: Educational Display, Succulent Bonsai; **Susan Amoy**



**Best in Division I:**  
*Mammillaria albalinata*; **Ingrid Fritze**



**Best in Division II: Succulents;**  
*Pachypodium bispinorum*; **Chris Allen**



**Best in Division III:**  
*Special Exhibits, Agave collection*; **Ray Rogers**



**Best in Division IV: Novices,**  
*Gasteria batesiana*; **Maryanne Gryboski**

## Show Wrap-up

By David Schultz

**T**he long-anticipated Seventeenth Eastern Cactus and Succulent Conference with our Twenty-ninth Annual Show and Sale are now on the record books.

● The event went well and the majority of comments indicated that it was a success. There are many volunteers who deserve thanks:

**Helen Pritchard** coordinated filling the “slots” and has thanked the volunteers in her newsletter input. I will add my own special thanks to as many as I can remember.

**LeRoy Saucier** produced an acclaimed conference brochure.

**Chris Boroch’s** efforts accumulated a large assortment of material for the conference attendee bags and with **Linda McMullen** plus several others, filled the bags for the attendees.



**Ken Mosher** added several mail order catalogs and the list of attendees to the material, kept all of the conference financial records for registration, banquet and auctions and made the name tags as well as dealing with other issues.

**David and Julia Zahl, David LeSage, Chris Boroch, Erica Ritchie** (nice to see you back, Erica!) and the rest of the crew dealt VERY successfully with what appeared to be the largest assortment of plant material, pots, soil and tee shirts to date, with virtually nothing left over. Of course, thanks to the crew who made the soil and all of the people who brought in the sales and auction items.

**Frank Zapatka** stapled boxes for the sales area and **Morgan Daniels** and **David Pritchard** assisted with the book sales.

Our free public mini-lectures were presented by **Art Scarpa** and **Dan Downey** (CSS of Massachusetts), **Lee Miller** (NCCSS), and **Devan Parker** who volunteered to fill a slot left open due to a family emergency.

**Rich Carlson, Ken Mosher, John Spain, and Chris Allen** (Connecticut CSS).

**Matt Opel**, our esteemed president, stepped to the plate with speaker introductions in the conference lectures; **Devan Parker** and **Dan Downey** both recorded the lectures for future use. Matt and “company” dealt with any audio visual issues.

**Joe** and **Pat Pawlak** worked with hotel coordination and the attendee registration tables, respectively, as well as Joe doing many other tasks.

**Guilio Sista** performed duty as our auctioneer during the Saturday auctions with able help from **Andy**

**Loya, Christian LeSage** and crew who also took care of the Sunday auctions.

**Gerry Barad** performed the auctioneering duties with help from **Guilio** and **John Story** for the Rare Plant Auction on Saturday evening following the banquet.

● Our vendors, individually and as a group, helped make the sale such a huge hit with the visitors and give us a reputation for sale offerings of such a wonderful variety and quality.

● Many of our visitors return every year! Our invited speakers all gave excellent lectures which were very much appreciated. We were also able to enjoy informal chats with them.

● The centerpiece on the desert table at the banquet deserves very special recognition. The chef had taken it upon himself to prepare/carve an outstanding food sculptures. We were treated to a large cholla with flowers and birds made entirely of food. Maybe Sully can put a photo of the masterpiece in a newsletter. It was made using watermelon, cantaloupe and ginger root! The actual banquet was delicious and received many compliments.

● This year the show was judged by a group of 12 judges with eight clerks and three of the invited lecturers. My special thanks to **Lee Miller** (NCCSS), **Gerry Barad** and **John Story** (Philadelphia CSS), **Carrie Waterman, Art Scarpa, Abbie Rorer** and **Dan Downey** (CSS Mass.), **Matt Opel, Chris Allen, Ken Mosher** and **Jon Wallace** (CCSS), with **Jon Rebman, Guillermo Rivera** and **Jason Eslamieh**. We set a deadline of finishing by 10:00 AM and we made it. Without all of their help we would not have finished in such a timely fashion. Thanks also to the clerks for placing the ribbons and writing furiously to keep up with the judging. A yeoman’s effort was made by all.

● I am certain I have missed thanking other individuals. Certainly no slight was intended if I missed you. There were so many members who put in a tremendous effort to make the event so successful. Thanks again to ALL. ○

## From the Bookshelf

By David Schultz

**I**F YOU MISSED THE SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AT THE SHOW, THERE IS ONE copy of the—slightly shopworn—*Aloes: the Definitive Guide* available at \$80.00 (list \$160.00). This volume is autographed by co-author **Colin Walker**.

● The pre-publication special offer for the *Plant Field Guide for Baja California* is for autographed copies shipped as soon as they are available at a price of \$27.00 (list \$34.95). Publication of this book is expected in July. There is an order form to fill out. I will place the order after our May meeting and will have sample pages to look at. ○

## The Conference With Christian

By Christian Lasage

**T**HIS YEAR THE ALMOST NONEXISTENT WINTER AND EARLY ARRIVAL OF spring has kept me busy in the greenhouse watering and repotting my collection.

With winter daytime greenhouse temps in the 60s, many of my plants continued to grow all year round and were showing buds earlier than usual.

● The CCSS show and sale usually kicks off the summer greenhouse and garden season for me, however, the itch to start gardening came early this year and I was out in late February cleaning my rock garden and impatiently waiting for the plants to grow.

● Since I became a member of the CCSS, the annual show and sale has always been the most anticipated event of the year. This year, with the Seventeenth Eastern Cactus and Succulent Convention in addition to the show and sale, there was even more to look forward to.

● This year's Conference was a great opportunity to meet with enthusiasts from other clubs, acquire a few new plants—often more than a few—and admire the beautiful specimens grown by other members. With over 350 entries, the judged show this year saw an exceptionally diverse array of specimens which captivated the eye and defied the imagination. I was particularly impressed by the bonsai educational display put together by one of our guest speakers, **Susan Amoy**, winning **Best in Show**.

● For those of us who are more space conscious, there was also a large representation of *Haworthias*, *Gasterias*, and other small mesembs in the show.

**“For me visiting the sales area is like letting a kid loose in a candy shop.”**

● In addition to the show, the sales area boasted 18 vendors along with large club auctions. For me visiting the sales area is like letting a kid loose in a candy shop. By the end of the show I always have a sadly bare wallet and the



Christian Lesage

## The Conference With Devan

By Devan Parker

**W**HAT AN AMAZING SHOW, SALE, AND CONFERENCE THE CCSS put on! The board of directors and all volunteers are to be highly commended. It was huge, elegant, informative, fun, and bursting at the seams with spectacular plants. The speakers were fascinating, the judged show was spectacular, and the sale and auction plants were absolute knockouts!

● The weekend started out Friday night, April 13, with chatting over scrumptious hors d'oeuvres followed by a frenzy of plant and accessory buying from the 19 vendors. Our sales area was at least as good as—if not better—than the sales area at the CSSA National conference last year! Our sales area was not only larger, but had a greater variety of plants with the South American cacti and mesembs very well represented—to my enjoyment. Considering the exceptional quality, quantity, and variety of plants and supplies offered, it is not surprising that most people, the public and conference attendees both, left with large numbers of plants and the vendors were quite happy.

● The rare plant auction, Saturday night, provided a steady parade of rare, unusual, and highly desirable items including Japanese haworthia hybrids, rare boswellias, and the most unusual cacti any of us had ever seen. The food and company were top notch. Getting to know many fellow C&S enthusiasts better was great fun. The public auction was comprised of the usual nice but more common plants until **Chris Allen** showed up Sunday afternoon and donated two of his famous huge *Euphorbia* specimens.

● The Judged show was packed with plants and the competition was stiff. We had a great showing of specimens from the usual participants as well as many plants brought out by people who do not normally take part. It was a lot of fun to see plants from these collections and to talk to the growers. I enjoyed seeing all these new plants and chatting with their owners. It is so much fun to bond with people who share your slightly obsessive interest in cacti and succulents.

● The major focus of the Conference was the lectures by an impressive group of cacti and succulent



Devan Parker

Continued on page 8, left column

Continued on page 8, left column

### The Conference With Christian *continued from page 6*

puzzling dilemma of repacking a car that had already been packed to full capacity when I arrived.

- The club table is always the first destination for bargain hunters big and small and thanks to the generosity and propagation abilities of our members, we had an abundance of cuttings and plants to buy and sell; amazingly, by Sunday afternoon there was not a cutting left. The sales area was humming as ever while a steady crowd kept the show busy but not overcrowded.

- Personally, my favorite table to visit has always been **Fred Kattermann's** with a large array of *Gymnocalycium*, *Eriosyce*, *Copiapoa*, and other South American cacti. These are some of the easiest and most rewarding to grow.

- For conference attendees, the Friday night pre-sales event and mixer started off the weekend events early and provided me with time to get acquainted with our guest speakers and fellow attendees. On Saturday and Sunday, conference lectures running in conjunction with public events offered a unique opportunity to become familiar with the vast array of flora from around the world. While I might not be up to gardening on my roof or taking a trip to Argentina, I gained a greater appreciation for the diverse applications of these plants including reducing storm runoff, relieving joint inflammation, and decorating our homes.

- It was an adventure exploring Argentina, the Canary Isles, Madeira, Morocco, Somalia, and Baja California with our guest speakers in search of new and unique genera of plants. Perhaps one day I will have the opportunity to go out there and see some of these amazing specimens in habitat. Until then I will have to be satisfied with their captive pot bound relatives on my windowsill.

- While the ribbons are always something to be proud of, the main emphasis of the displays is always to give the public a glimpse of the spectacular diversity of desert flora. Maybe they too will be captivated by the unique allure of these plants and catch the cactus fever. ○

### The Conference With Devan *continued from page 6*

experts. Their variety of interests and experiences made for many surprises and much learning. **Edmond Snodgrass** taught us about green roofs past, present, and succulent. Explorer **Guillermo Rivera** shared his knowledge and photos of the amazing habitats and succulent plants of Argentina and Peru. **Jason Eslamieh** taught us all about the world of *Boswellia*, the source of frankincense resins. Our very own **Matt Opel** mesmerized us with a view into the world of "the Other Mesemb's" and gave out some very nice

plants after his "Succulent Pelargoniums" talk. **Colin Walker** came all the way from England to educate us about Aloes and reminisce about his travels in Macaronesia. **Jon Reberman** expounded on the surprising variety of plants and environments found in Baja California. **Susan Amoy** conducted an introductory workshop on using succulent plants in the Bonsai hobby. **Ray Rodgers** encouraged us to think about new, innovative ways of using succulent plants to design eye catching container gardens. All the speakers were friendly, accessible, and as lovely to chat with as they were to listen to.

- There were some informal talks as well. **Lee Miller** shared his colorful photos of the plants and animals of the Galapagos Islands. I gave a slide show of some 300 of **Steve Hammer's** amazing plants he cultivates in southern California. **Chris Allen** shared his secrets to growing amazing caudiciforms and the advancements in commercial growing of cacti and succulents. **Dan Downey**, a member of the Massachusetts Cactus and Succulent Society, talked about growing succulents from seed.

**“The highlight of the weekend was David Schultz receiving a beautiful plaque honoring his many years of service...”**

- The highlight of the weekend was **David Schultz** receiving a beautiful plaque honoring his many years of service to the cactus and succulent plant hobby in general and to the CCSS especially. **Jerry Barad** gave a speech about how David revolutionized cactus and succulent conferences by bringing in highly desirable speakers from all over the world and paying their expenses. **Roseann Richard** kindly had David's plaque made.

- **Coco Key** did a great job hosting the event. They created an *Opuntia cactus* themed centerpiece at the banquet buffet made of a numerous pieces of ginger root with melon flowers! They also created and served special cactus themed meals at the restaurant. The food at the banquet was delicious, I especially enjoyed the clam chowder and cheese cake. The setting was elegant. We greatly appreciate having such a nice place to host this event.

- Overall, I can not say enough positive things about the Eastern Conferences over all and this one in particular. Although it was only 3 days long, not 5, this event gave the CSSA national conference a run for its money. It is a treasure to have such a fantastic C&S event so accessible to us on the east coast. If you missed this one, I recommend you do not make that mistake again! ○

## Directions to Quackin' Grass Nursery

From points west, get onto Route 6 via I-84. The map below will suggest an efficient route from Hartford.

- Pick up I-384 at Exit 59 about 5 miles from Hartford. Stay on I-384 for about 8 miles where you will pick up Route 6, a right exit. Route 6 will take you all the way to Brooklyn.

- The nursery is approximately 50 minutes (42 miles) from Hartford and about 20 minutes (16 miles) from Willimantic.



- Keep a lookout for the Quackin' Grass Nursery/Connecticut Grown sign on the right side of the road.

- Slow down—Laurel Hill Road is the next left turn. On Laurel Hill Road, Quackin' Grass Nursery is the second driveway on the right.

- If you find yourself at the intersection of Route 6 and Route 169 (Brooklyn center) you have traveled exactly one mile too far.

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 6:** The May meeting will be held at Quackin' Grass Nursery, 16 Laurel Hill Road, Brooklyn, Connecticut. Telephone : (860) 779-1732  
[wayne@quackinggrassnursery.com](mailto:wayne@quackinggrassnursery.com)

**1:00 PM**  
**Bring Chairs**  
**Entrées: A-G**  
**Appetizers/Sides/Salads: H-S**  
**Desserts: T-Z**

**Sunday, June 3:** The June meeting is tentatively scheduled to meet with **John Spain** and **Becky Lynn** at their home in Middlebury, Connecticut.

