

# CCSS Newsletter

## Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society November 2012

### From the President

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU IN OCTOBER AT LAURAY OF SALISBURY. Thank you, **Judy Becker**, for once again providing our October venue. At Judy's home I had the opportunity to speak about the cacti and succulents that grow in tropical rainforests, mostly as epiphytes in the forest canopy. Good luck to any of you who took home *Myrmecodia* seedlings.



● **Helen Pritchard** has taken charge of the judged plant show portion of our annual April show and sale for many years, but unfortunately will not be able to participate next year. We will need a volunteer to arrange for clerks (the judges are lined up already) and be there on Friday and Saturday to supervise show setup and judging.

● This month's meeting, November 11 (note that this is the second Sunday of the month), will feature a talk by **Fred Kattermann** on *The Cacti of Cuba*. Fred attended the Thirty-second Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study in Havana this past July and had the rare opportunity to see the diverse cactus flora of a land that is normally off-limits to American travelers. We will learn about, and see beautiful habitat photos of, *Melocactus* (Turk's Cap Cactus), *Pilosocereus* and much more, I am sure. The meeting will be at the Danbury Public Library. Since library parking is limited, please park in one of the garages indicated in the directions. [page 4]

● Our final 2012 meeting of will be a holiday party at Marsh Botanical Garden on the Yale Campus. I wonder what interesting new additions **Dave Garinger** will be able to show us in the desert plant collection this year!

Sincerely,  
Matt Opel  
President



### The Secretary's Report

THE CCSS MEETING ON OCTOBER 7, 2012 WAS HOSTED BY **Judy Becker** at Lauray of Salisbury. Although a chilly fall day, it was a beautiful drive through the northwestern-Connecticut hills. We all enjoyed the opportunity to browse through Judy's greenhouse and purchase those plants we just could not live without. In addition to her cacti and succulents, Judy grows a wonderful selection of orchids and gesneriads, all of which seem to coexist happily.

● **Matt Opel** reported that while the Club meeting at Andy and Jeannine Loya's in September had only a small turnout, it was a good meeting and the members had a great time seeing all of the Loya's plants and gardens.

● **Ken Mosher** said that the hypertufa workshop which was held at his home on September 23 was attended by about 12 people and was "wicked fun."

● **David Schultz** reminded everyone that our annual show and sale will be April 6-7, 2013 at the Naugatuck Valley Community College. Since **Helen Pritchard** will be unable to take on her usual show tasks, **Joe Pawlak** volunteered to help with her duties. At last year's show, all plant registrations took place on Friday, which worked well in getting the judging going more efficiently on Saturday morning. Therefore, we will again follow that procedure.

● All plants entered in the show must be registered on Friday from 2:00 PM. to 10:00 PM. There will be no plant registrations on Saturday morning. We will need help on Friday, registering the plants and arranging them for judging. David heard from EarthShanti in Ohio that they will not be able to be a vendor in 2013.

● **David and Barbara Schultz** will be manning the club's information table on Saturday, October 20 at the Connecticut Orchid Society show at Van Wilgen's Garden Center, 51 Valley Road, North Branford.

● **Matt Opel** gave a fascinating talk about tropical succulents. While the majority of succulent plants are from the deserts, which are mostly just north and south of the tropical rainforest regions, many, primarily epiphytic succu-

*Continued on page 2, left column*

**Secretary's Report, continued from page 1**

lents, make their home in the rainforest canopy. Living high up in the trees, these plants get more sunlight than on the forest floor, and their microhabitat is able to dry out between showers. Some of these succulents are "ant plants," in that they have a symbiotic relationship with these insects.

- Matt brought in a number of tropical succulents to illustrate his talk, so we were all able to marvel at the interesting characteristics of some of the tropical hoyas, dischidias, peperomias, myrmecodias, rhipsalis, hatioras, and others.

- **Chris Allen** announced that **Bob Kullberg** has donated several of his plants to the club which Chris will care for until next April. They will be a splendid addition to the auction at our next Show and Sale.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Schultz  
Acting Secretary

**From the Book Shelf**

By David Schultz

**C**OPIES OF *PRICKLY PEARS* BY GREEN AND FERGUSON HAVE ARRIVED and will be available at the November meeting. The list price is \$23.95; our price is \$17.00.

- To update on the new series of seven Mesemb books being written by Steve Hammer, the first one on Titanopsis will be published later this fall.

- We will be able to order the books as they are offered and get a discount of five dollars off each volume using the code that was supplied at the conference. I have more of the advertising flyer with that code, so check with me.

- The books will cover the "other" mesemb, those that are at least somewhat lesser known. They will not cover Lithops or Conophytums.



Turn your clocks back one hour when you retire on Saturday, November 3. Eastern **standard** time begins at 2:00 AM, Sunday morning.

**The Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society**

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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**  
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**Treasurer's Report**

Income	
Book sales	\$61.00
Dues	24.00
Expenses:	
October Newsletter	\$164.00
Total Income (Expense)	<u>(\$79.00)</u>
<b>Bank Balance</b>	<b>\$13,373.59</b>

## Stapelia grandiflora and Stapelia flavopurpurea

By Matt Opel, Ph.D.

**T**HE FLOWERING SEASON FOR MOST STAPELIA SPECIES IS SUMMER AND early autumn, and the plants are by this time entering a period of winter torpor.

- Back when the weather was warmer, though, I had some nice blooms from these African relatives of the roadside wildflower milkweed.
- *Stapelia grandiflora* has impressive flowers, the size of teacups, that are both colored and scented to attract

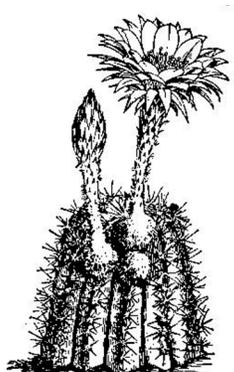
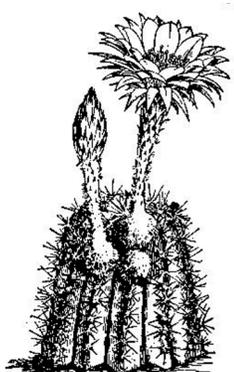


pollinators such as carrion flies. In the greenhouse, I usually realize that the flowers have opened by the smell alone, but only after checking under the benches and not finding any actual dead squirrels.

- *Stapelia flavopurpurea*, on the other hand, has small but very cheerful-looking flowers for a stapeliad. The flower colors of different individuals of *S. flavopurpurea* are remarkably diverse and can include various combinations of violet, red, white, orange and chartreuse. It must be pollinated by something other than the usual carrion insects, because its fragrance is pleasant and sweet.

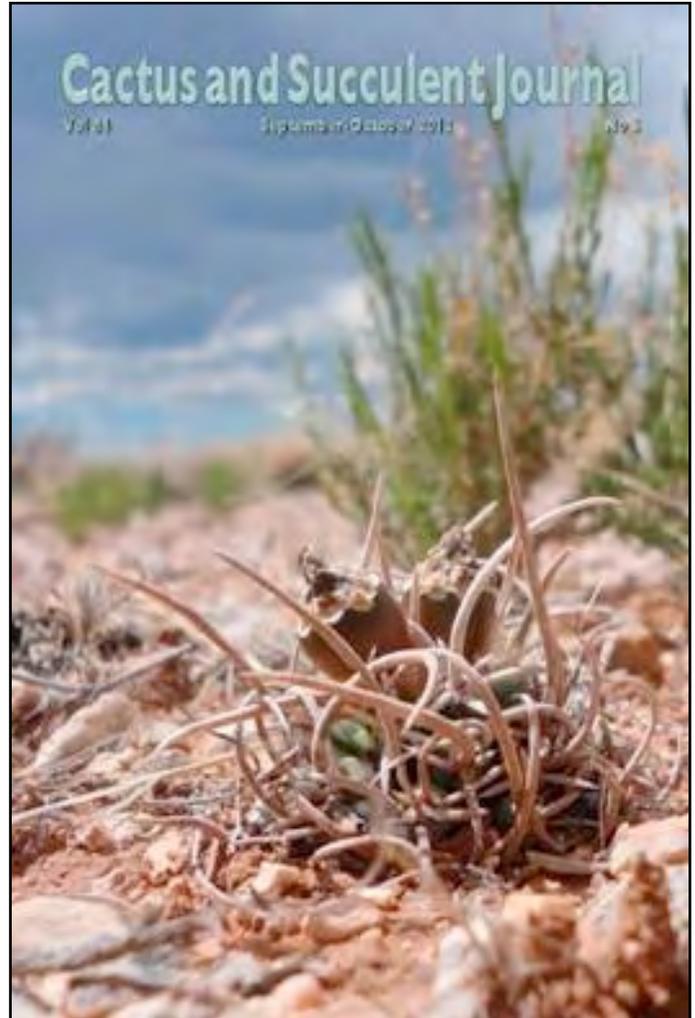


Dr. Matt Opel, the president of the CCSS, is the Horticulturalist at the UConn EEB Plant Growth Facilities in Storrs, Connecticut.



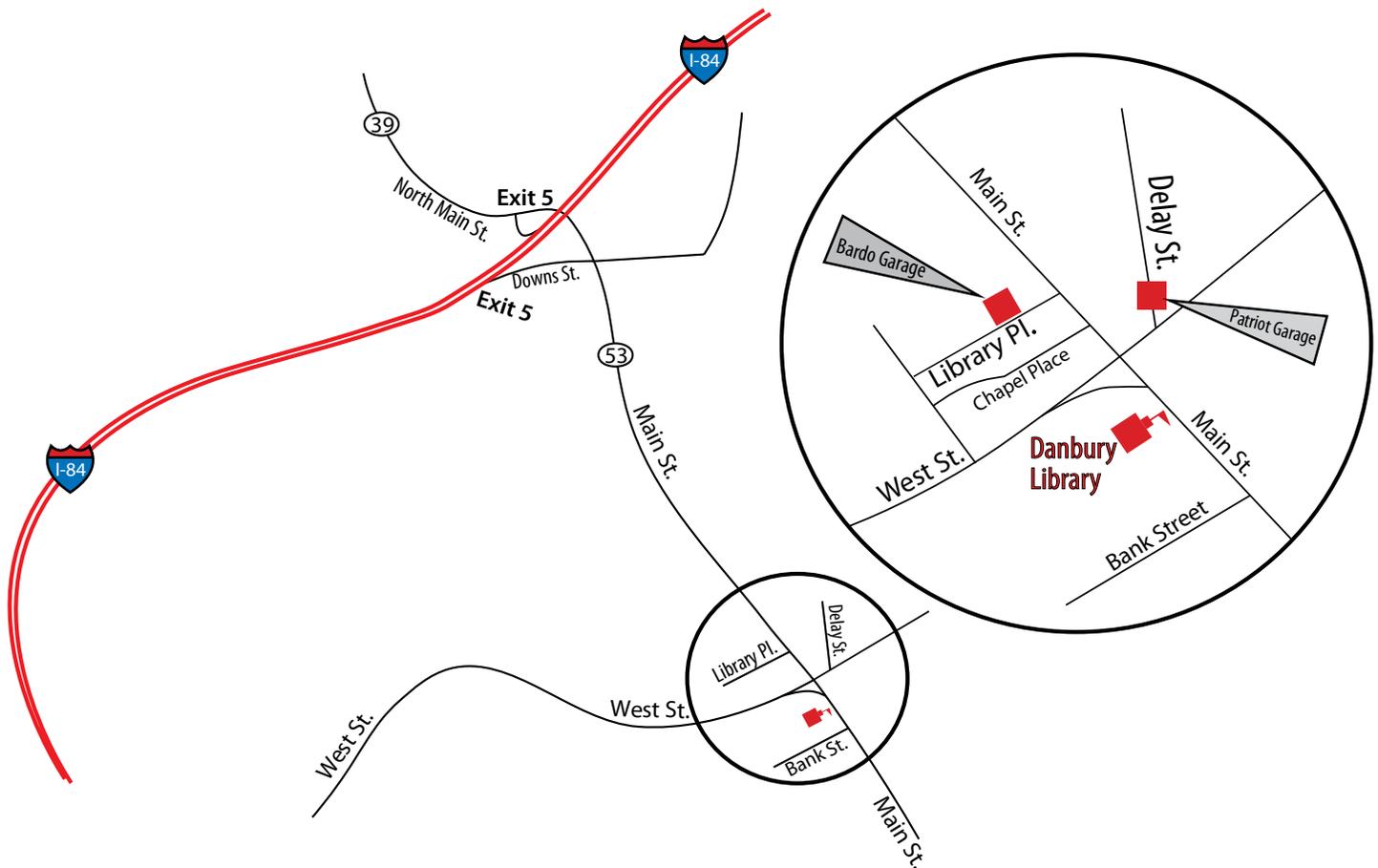
## 2013 Will Be a Big Year for CSSA.

By Journal Editor, Tim Harvey



*Pediocactus peeblesianus* ssp. *fickeiseniae* is featured on the cover of the September–October 2012 issue of the Journal [above]. It is one of four uncommon, miniature cacti from Northern Arizona which are the focus of an article by **Peter Breslin**. The sometimes competing areas of ethics, scientific research and conservation are highlighted in a thought-provoking paper from **Maurizio Dioli**. **Irwin Lightstone** will open your eyes to the photographic possibilities without color—“The New Black and White”—with valuable tips on getting the most from this technique. Do you know the connection between *Euphorbia antiquorum* and James Bond? **Root Gorelick** will pass on the secret. **Eric Ribbens** and **Henry Fieldspeth** provide a comprehensive and well-illustrated survey of *Opuntia fragilis* in Minnesota. Finally, a century-old conundrum surrounding an *Echinocereus* from Baja has been solved by **Michael Lange** and **Wolfgang Blum**, thanks primarily to the internet.

## Map showing route to the Danbury Library, Danbury, Connecticut via I-84



### Directions to the Danbury Library

#### See Above Map for Directions

- Get onto I-84, going east or west, to Exit 5.
- **From the west**, take Exit 5 onto Downs Street. At Main Street turn right.  
In about 1 mile, you will see the library on the right.
- **From the east**, take Exit 5 and turn right onto North Main Street which becomes Main Street.  
In about 1 mile, you will see the library on the right.

#### Parking

- Parking is available at the Charles A. Bardo Parking Garage at 10 Library Place and at Terence E. McNally Patriot Garage, 21 Delay Street .

### Upcoming Events

**Sunday, November 11:** The November meeting will be held at the Danbury Library, 170 Main Street, Danbury, Connecticut. (203) 797-4505, [www.danburylibrary.com](http://www.danburylibrary.com) The meeting will feature a talk by **Fred Kattermann** on *The Cacti of Cuba*.

**1:00 PM**

**Do Not Bring Chairs**

**A Kitchenette is Available**

**Entrées: H–R**

**Appetizers/Sides/Salads: S–Z**

**Desserts: A–G**

**Sunday, December 2:** The December meeting/ holiday party will be held at Marsh Botanical Garden on the Yale Campus in New Haven.

**January, 2013 (No meeting)**

**Sunday, February 3, 2013:** (To Be Announced)