



Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

Please note: Sept. meeting moved to Saturday, 9/12/15 due to Labor Day wknd.

President's Message

Chris Allen



The weather was almost perfect for our July meeting at the home of Jack and Pepper Phillips in Lebanon. "Cactus Jack" was one of my mentors when I first joined the society some 30 or so years ago. He is a wealth of knowledge about growing succulents and he also tells some great life stories. Jack has a philosophy

of growing succulents hard by keeping them on the dry side and using very little fertilizer. In doing so, he grows his succulents small and natural so their unique characteristics can be appreciated. Members like Jack make us rethink how to grow succulents and what type of plants we ultimately want. I know that in my case my tendency is to push the plants more than I probably should with fertilizer and water. So we need members like Jack to send us a clear message about growing succulents – be patient and enjoy the unique natural character of our plants! Thank you again, Jack and Pepper for showing us great plants and great hospitality.



"Cactus Jack" Phillips
Forget benign neglect, Jack advocates austerity!
Photo credit: Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

A big thank you goes to Sharon SmithDelisle for volunteering to be our new newsletter editor. After resigning myself to the fact that I would be mailing a temporary newsletter the next few months, Sharon stepped up and volunteered to take over. She is a fairly new member who is recently retired and has a passion for growing orchids and succulents. Sharon is extremely well qualified for this position as she has been the newsletter editor of the Connecticut Orchid Society for the past ten years. Thank you again, Sharon!

Speaking of the newsletter, I would like to encourage all of our members to contribute something to the newsletter. You can write an article on your favorite succulent plant or family, a new

growing technique, a web succulent link, or simply send some pictures of your favorite plants and Sharon will use her talents to incorporate them into the newsletter. Please email these to Sharon (coseditor@hotmail.com) within 10 days of the last meeting to give her enough time to get them into the next newsletter.

One further item related to the newsletter is the subject of paper copies vs. email. Many plant societies have completely eliminated the practice of sending out paper copies of their newsletter. We are not at this point yet, but this is probably where we are eventually headed. Printing and mailing the newsletter is costly and time consuming so we would like to minimize this practice as much as possible. We will continue to send paper copies to any member who still needs a paper copy however, for the majority of us who do not want or need to have a paper copy, please email Ken Mosher and request that you be put on the email only list for the newsletter.



Our September meeting will be something of a destination meeting. I brought up this topic up for discussion at our June meeting. Labor Day moves our meeting date back a week which then conflicts with a major event that many of our members are involved in – The Massachusetts Society Show and Sale. Rather than having members decide which to attend, we decided to support our friends in Massachusetts and have our meeting at their Show and Sale. The location is the Americal Civic Center, 467 Main St, in Wakefield, MA. **Be sure to identify yourself as a CCSS member so you do not get charged admission.** We will have a brief meeting around 1:00 PM. and remember, **this will be a Saturday meeting on September 12th.** While I recognize that this a bit of a drive, we have the opportunity to see an excellent show and sale at a different time of the year than our own show and enjoy the hospitality of our Massachusetts colleagues. By the way, the MCSS is so excited that we are coming that they will be reciprocating and having their April meeting at our show!

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CCSS Officers

President:

Chris Allen
(203) 371-8166
callen6164@att.net

Vice President:

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

Secretary:

John Canali
(203) 389-0053
jcfk84@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Ken Mosher
(203) 218-7696
ken@spatulacity.com

Show Chairman:

David Schultz
(860) 489-8356
dmschultzcactus@yahoo.com

Staff Photographer:

Herbert (Sully) Sullivan
(860) 646-4809
irish_dragon98@yahoo.com

Editor:

Sharon SmithDelisle
(203) 744-1849
coseditor@hotmail.com

The CCSS Newsletter is published each month except in January. An annual membership fee of \$12.00 includes subscription to the newsletter. This membership includes all members of a immediate family residing at the same residence. The membership fee is payable to: Ken Mosher, Treasurer, 8 Bailey Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Connecticut Cactus & Succulent Society
Editorial Office
38 Robinhood Rd.
Danbury, CT 06811

Secretary's Report

~ John Canali

Aug 2, 2015

About 21 of us attended the picnic at the home of Jack & Pepper Phillips in Lebanon Ct. Thank You very much to our hosts for their hospitality.



Becky Lynn and John Spain listen intently during "Cactus Jack's" presentation.
Photo credit: Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

Orders are now being taken for Norlite (our replacement for Dry Stall {pumice}) 3/16 or 3/8 inch. Norlite will come in a 60 lb bag for \$20. Contact David Schultz ((860) 489-8356 or dmschultzcactus@yahoo.com) to order.

We have a new editor for the newsletter, Sharon SmithDelisle (no hyphen in the last name, please). We wish her great success and thanks for stepping into the position. She is also the editor of The Connecticut Orchid Society newsletter.

The Connecticut Orchid Society is having their annual show on Oct 13-16. We usually have an information table there and we need someone to man the table one, all, or part of the days.

CSSM Show and Sale is fast approaching, our September meeting will be held there. Again, it is Sept 12 and13,we will hold our meeting on Saturday at 1:00 pm. CSSM is very excited about us being there and for our support.

Chris Allen made a suggestion for a trip to, or a meeting at, the Botanical Gardens at Smith College in Northampton Ma. It would probably take place in the spring. Think about it and give us feedback.

Lastly, but most important, we welcomed a new member Ben Patterson. He currently lives in New Haven attending graduate school at Yale. He is originally from Lakeland Fl.



Lovely blooming orchids grown by Jack & Pepper Phillips. Sometimes those cacti & succulents have to take a back seat...

As always, staff photographer Herbert (Sully) Sullivan discovered the most beautiful flowers to photograph, while enjoying the CCSS picnic at the home of Jack & Pepper Phillips on August 2nd.



Upcoming Meetings

September 12th Americal Civic Center, Wakefield, MA – CSSM Annual Show & Sale

October 4th Ballek's Garden Center, East Haddam, CT - CCSS member Richard Carlson speaking

November 1st Southbury Public Library, Southbury, CT – CCSS member Fred Kattermann speaking

Treasurer's Report

~ Ken Mosher



Income:	
Membership Dues	\$70.00
Book Sales	\$78.50
Expenses:	
Book purchases	\$396.46
Nametags	\$ 62.00
Refreshments	\$ 3.77
Total Income/(expense)	(\$313.73)
Bank Balance	\$16,795.69

New member welcome



Meet our newest member Ben Patterson, who attended the CCSS picnic in August. Ben is a Floridian currently living in New Haven where he is attending the Yale University of Graduate School. It is always wonderful to welcome new members to our club, especially young people! Please take a moment to introduce yourself and give Ben a warm welcome the next time you see him at a meeting!



View of "Cactus Jack" Phillips' greenhouse showing the two levels. Photo taken from the upper level. Photo credit: Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

For the Bookshelf but we should be reading the books rather than storing them, so....

~ David Schultz

Several new books have come to my attention, and we have ordered the one that is available now. I would like feedback at the Oct. meeting if anyone is interested in copies.

Beginner's Guide to Gasterias, Haworthias, Agaves and other Succulent Monocots by Tom Glavich is a 7" X 10" size book with 100 pages and 77 color photographs. List price is \$28 plus shipping and our price will be slightly lower at \$27 (which includes shipping). We have ordered copies and they will be available at the Sept meeting at the CSSM show and sale. We hope to still have some copies at our Oct meeting but will order more if they prove very popular at the show.

Cacti & Succulents of Baja CA by John Pilbeam will be in a very similar format to the last Pilbeam books, HB with 233 pages and 437 color photographs. This book lists for 43 BP (about \$65) and we have been able to get a discount. The book will be available early this fall and we can place a group order for it. We need 10 copies to get our discount so I would need input if you are interested.

Propagation by Gordon Rowley will be available in 2016 and will be published by the BCSS (same as Pilbeam's book). I do not have details on this book yet but we can expect something very worthwhile from Rowley and the BCSS. If we do not get enough orders for the Pilbeam book, I do have leads on several other new titles that take us into 2017. I will add details as I am able.



"Cactus" Jack Phillips' Greenhouse.

Photo Credit: Herbert (Sully) Sullivan



From the Editor — Confessions of a caudiciform captive

~ Sharon Smith Delisle

Hello Everyone! I am honored to be your new newsletter editor. I look forward to meeting you all in the coming months and learning about your cacti and succulent obsessions. Please feel free to send me (coseditor@hotmail.com) your photos, tips & tricks, ideas, success stories (and horror stories, too) for inclusion in the newsletter — that's how we can all learn from each other. It is also very important that you contact me with corrections, errors and your suggestions for improving the newsletter.

I have always enjoyed growing a few cacti and succulents since my youth but it wasn't until recently that I became obsessed with these members of the plant world. It was love at first sight when I was introduced to caudiciforms! Those of you who know me, know that I have been growing orchids for years. I blame Judy Becker for captivating me with all of the magnificent plants she grows in her greenhouse. It turns out that it is not unusual for orchid growers to also love cacti and succulents. "Cactus Jack" Phillips, who hosted our annual picnic this past month at his home in Lebanon with his wife Pepper, is also an orchid grower not to be underestimated. Pepper, by-the-way is no piker when it comes to growing orchids, either!

So, here's to a long and successful relationship as your editor for the coming years....

I didn't know that....!



Walking cactus (lobopod fossil): Although this new species looks more like a "walking cactus" than an animal at first glance, *Diania cactiformis* belongs to an extinct group called the armoured Lobopodia, which had wormlike bodies and multiple pairs of legs. The fossil was discovered in Cambrian de-

posits about 520 million years old from southwestern China and is remarkable in its segmented legs that may indicate a common ancestry with arthropods, including insects and spiders (This excerpt obtained from May 12, 2012 Science Daily release. www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2012/05/120523133051.htm. Accessed on 7/30/2015. Photo credit: www.sk-zag.de. Accessed on 7/30/2015.)



9th Annual CSSM Show & Sale
Sat., Sept. 12, 9-5:00 Sun., Sept. 13, 9-4:00
Americial Civic Center
467 Main St., Wakefield, MA
\$5.00 Adults, Kids 10 & under \$2.00
Toddlers/infants: Free



Magnificent succulent growing outdoors in Bonsai style at Jack & Pepper Phillips home.
Photo credit: Herbert (Sully) Sullivan

2015 CT Cactus Scholarship Nominees



Alina Ciscel & Monique DeFosse
are the 2015 CT Cactus scholarship nominees

Christopher J. Tuccio, Program Coordinator & Assistant Professor of Horticulture, STEM Division, Naugatuck Valley Community College has sent us this year's applicants for the 2015 CT Cactus Scholarship Award. The two nominees for the scholarship are Alina Ciscel and Monique DeFosse. The scholarship is an annual grant of \$500. This award is granted to the student deemed most deserving in the horticulture program at Naugatuck Valley Community College.

Professor Tuccio writes that Alina is an enthusiastic and excellent student with dedication and curiosity that exceeds the college's expectations. Monique is also a very hard-working student who has dedicated herself to hydroponics and aeroponics growing in the college greenhouse. Monique will complete her studies next year and is looking to obtain a position at a nursery or greenhouse.

Alina attached the following essay to her application for the scholarship: *Why Am I Interested in Pursuing a Career in Landscaping/Horticulture?*

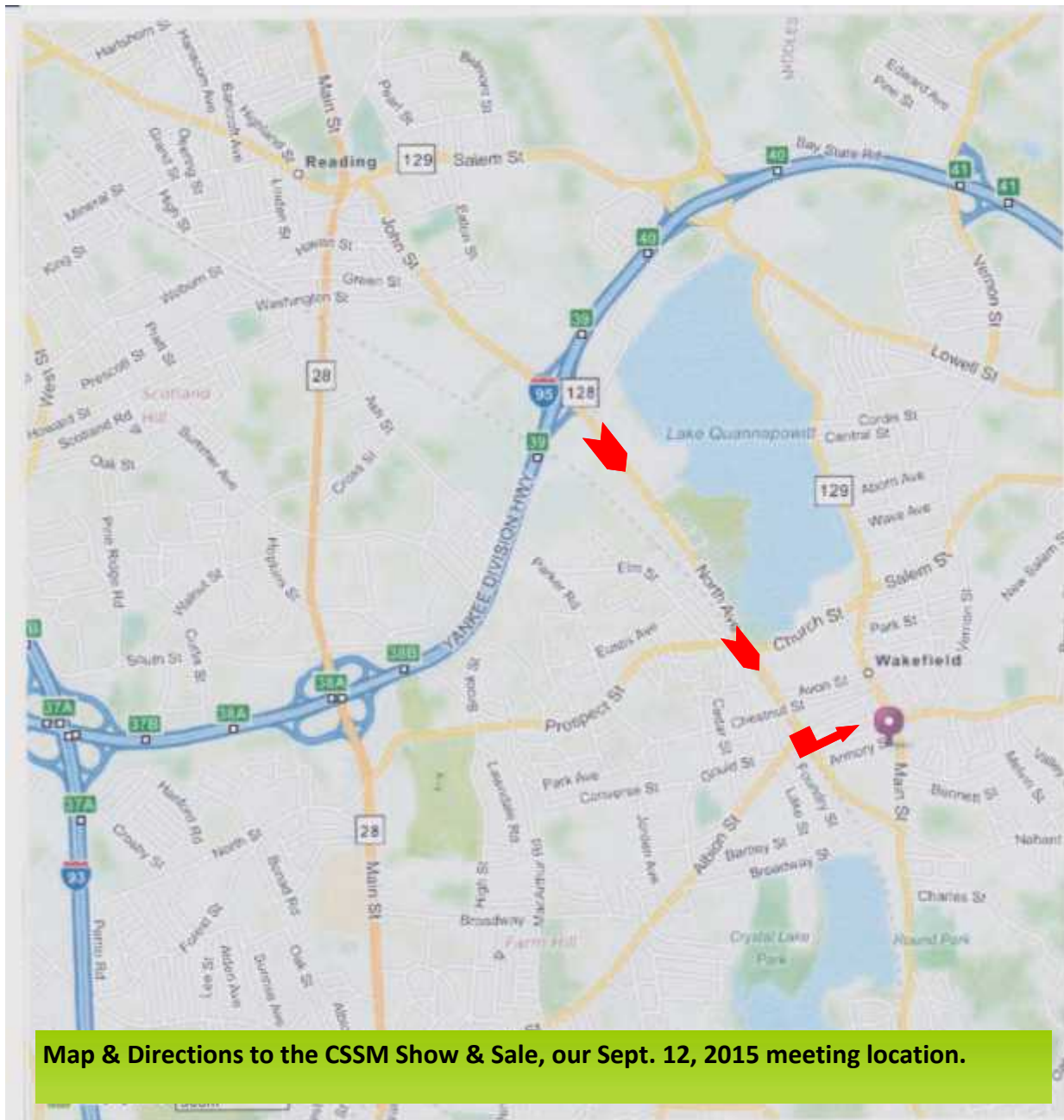
As a child, I remember watching my grandmother work in her vegetable garden, watering tomatoes and cucumbers, picking Colorado beetles off potatoes, building trellises for beans, and, most importantly, harvesting the plethora of vegetables and fruit. She often delegated certain gardening tasks to me: I was in charge of staking tomatoes (carefully tying the stems to wooden sticks); climbing trees to pick cherries, pears and apricots; and of course, weeding. Those early gardening lessons from my grandmother planted the seeds of my never-ending curiosity about the world of plants. Since then I have become an avid gardener.

Today, I indulge myself in growing food at a local community garden in Hartford, and growing hundreds of ornamental herbaceous and woody plants on what used to be the front and back lawn of our house. My curiosity to see how plants grow through their natural cycle has turned me into a plant collector. My garden is an experimental landscaping lab, where I get to move my plants to observe how different color and texture combinations emerge. These experiments prompted me to formalize my practical knowledge in horticulture by enrolling into a certificate program in landscape design at NVCC.

My goal is to become a professional gardening coach. I want to share my knowledge of plants and landscape design with novice gardeners, helping them to build sustainable landscapes in which both humans and wildlife will find a mutual sanctuary. In sum, my goal is to inspire others, including children just as my grandmother inspired me.

Monique sent us the following attached to her application: When I was 13 years old, I grew this passion for learning about plants, visiting garden centers, and working with flower and vegetable gardens in my own yard. Since this time, I have created a goal to learn and get all the experience I can to help me with pursuing a career in the horticulture industry. Attending school and taking required classes has helped me expand my knowledge, and has helped me with finding a job in the industry. By working in the horticulture industry, I will be doing what I love and not many people can say they love what they do. With loving what I do, I can put my passion into helping people with landscape designs or even just helping them pick out new plants for their yards. Having this passion for horticulture is why I am interested in pursuing a career in the industry.





Map & Directions to the CSSM Show & Sale, our Sept. 12, 2015 meeting location.

Meeting time: 1:00 pm.
Come early and enjoy
the CSSM Show & Sale, first.

Do not bring chairs.

Refreshment Assignments

Entrees: P—Z
Appetizers/Sides/Salads: A—F
Desserts: G—O

Directions to Americal Civic Center, 467 Main St., Wakefield, MA

1. From your location in CT take best route to I-90E Massachusetts Tpke.
2. Take exit 14 off I-90E to I-95 N/MA-128 N.
3. In about 18 mi. merge onto Yankee Division Hwy N. via the ramp on the left toward Waltham/Portsmouth, NH.
4. In about 1.5 mi. merge onto North Ave. at exit 39 toward Wakefield.
5. In 0.3 mi. turn left onto W. Water St. (If you reach Armory St. you've gone too far.)
6. Then take immediate next right onto Main St.
7. #467 Main St. is on the right. (If you reach Richardson St., you've gone too far.)
8. The newly constructed, FREE parking area is adjacent to the Americal Civic Center.