



Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

November 1st Meeting at Southbury Library, 1:00 pm, bring food, not chairs —details pg. 8

President's Message

Chris Allen



Pres. Chris Allen
Photo credit: H. (Sully) Sullivan

Our thanks go to Anita Ballek and everyone at Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam for hosting us for the October meeting. The Stone house Meeting room was a warm and inviting area for the meeting. We had a good turn out and members brought lots of succulents for show & tell, and give a way. Ballek's reminds us of what we have lost due to the big box's like Home Depot with their low prices but also low selection. As I made my way through the garden center, I was

amazed at the variety of plant material there including indoor tropicals, succulents, orchids, and a huge room full of pottery. I made my way outdoors and the same thing – endless variety. The next time we go to Ballek's I will leave more time to shop!

Our November meeting will be at the Southbury Public Library. Our speaker will be Fred Kattermann who has captivated us in the past with his explorations and studies of South American/Chilean cacti. This time Fred will be presenting on his recent 10 day trip to Myanmar (Burma). Fred says he was able to tour and photograph temples and shrines in the country's main cities of Yangon, the current capital; Bagan, a World Heritage Site; and Mandalai, a former Burma capital. In addition, I'm sure Fred has some great photographs of the local tropical flora and succulents. Since we will have a screen available, if you have pictures of interesting succulent related plants, places or items, put them on a flash drive and we will show them to everyone. Speaking of Show & Tell, It was great seeing all of the plants members brought for the October meeting. This will be an ongoing feature of our meetings so if you have something interesting to show, be sure to bring it to the November meeting.

I encourage all of you to sign up for the yahoo list website. This is our prime means of communicating with members aside from the monthly newsletter. Recent posts have included plant donations, soil amendments, newsletter notifications, and other timely updates. Also, in the event of an emergency, this is the best means of getting information to members. A recent example of this is our last meeting. Three days before our scheduled meeting at Ballek's,

it looked like we might have to cancel the meeting because hurricane Joaquin was forecast to track through CT. Of course the hurricane changed course, but if it had not, this would be our best means of reaching members. To join, go to our website, ctcactusclub.com, and then to the CC&SS Yahoo Group tab on the left side and finally to Group Email Addresses Subscribe.



The cacti pictured above were donated to CCSS by Carmen from Waterbury. His brother Paul died recently and Carmen wanted his brother's beloved plants to go to good homes. Chris will baby-sit these plants until spring and put them on the club table or into the auction at our April show.



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Secretary's Report

~ John Canali



Secretary John Canali
Photo credit: H. Sullivan

A great day brought us to Ballek's Garden Center in East Haddam. There were 30 people in attendance.

Mrs. Anita Ballek gave us a brief of the farm and property. Mrs. Ballek's family have been stewards of their property for many

generations and plan for many generations to carry on.

We have two new members, Carolyn Degko from Wethersfield and Nancy Brennick from Newington. We also had a guest, Sandra Huber from Essex, who is Sterling Saucier's sister.

More on Norlite: Matt Opel conducted an experiment, planting the same plants in a Norlite mix and a dry stall mix with equally good results. We are hoping to have the Norlite available at the Nov meeting for the members who previously ordered it.

The following is the next few meeting places, Nov- Southbury Library, Southbury, Dec-Trumbull Agrosience Ctr, Trumbull, and Feb-Marsh Botanical, Yale, New Haven. Remember no meeting or newsletter for Jan.

Plants and pots donated by past member and friend of the club, Donna Evans of Torrington, made for a fun and fortunate giveaway. The pots were free to anyone who desired them; the plants were given away on a first come basis with a small donation to the club treasury. I believe more pots will be making their way to us soon.



**Don't forget
the clocks go back at
2:00 a.m. on Sunday,
Nov. 1st.**

In Memoriam Evelyn Meier

It is with great sadness that John Spain reports that former member Evelyn Meier passed on Oct. 8, 2015. She was 98.

Evelyn and her husband Walter were long time, active members in CCSS during the many years they lived in Middlebury. Both of them were past CCSS presidents.

Evelyn loved her succulents and as John says, we hope that she was surrounded by her beloved plants until the end.

Upcoming Meetings

November 1st, 1:00 pm Southbury Public Library, Southbury, CT – CCSS member Fred Kattermann speaking on his trip to Myanmar (Burma)

December 6th, 1:00 pm Trumbull Agriscience & Biotechnology Center – Holiday Party & Tour

January 2016 No meeting

February 7th, 2016, 1:00 pm Marsh Botanical Greenhouses, Yale University, New Haven, CT – Dr. Michael Donaghue, Yale Biology Professor speaking on *Welwitschias*

March 6th, 2016, 1:00 pm UConn, Storrs, CT – MCSS member Francis Passavant speaking on Euphorbias.

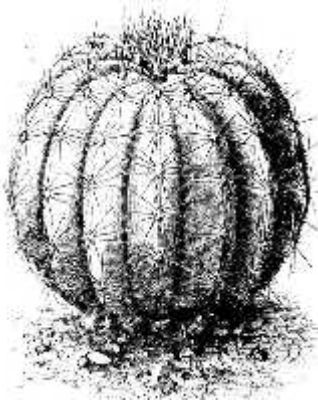
Treasurer's Report

~ Ken Mosher



Income:	
Membership Dues	\$ 72.00
Book Sales at CSSM	\$284.00
Norlite Sales	\$405.00
Oct. Plant Sales	\$ 28.00
Expenses:	
Office Supplies	\$ 53.16
Norlite Purchases	\$972.00
Sept. Newsletter	\$351.79
Oct. Newsletter	<u>\$245.79</u>
Total Income/(expense)	(\$833.73)

Bank Balance **\$15,316.46**



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

~ David Schultz

In addition to the list of books that I gave you last month, **The Genus Commiphora** by Jason Eslamieh will likely become available in the next 3-5 months. I do not have any further details at this time but since both of his earlier works, *Cultivation of Boswellia* and *Cultivation of Bursera*, have been very popular, I thought I would let you know what little information I do have. We order these books direct from the author and are able to have them auto-graphed.

Succulents: An Illustrated Guide by Terry Hewitt is currently scheduled for publication the end of Oct, so we should have our stock in time for the Dec. meeting. Our price should be \$7.50. It is a companion book to *Cacti: An Illustrated Guide*, also by Hewitt that we have had available for a couple of years.

And in other good news from David

Norlite update

By the time you read this, we should have retrieved our order of Norlite from the company's warehouse and **will have them available at the Nov. meeting for anyone who ordered.** One member, Bill DellaRoca, took advantage of the samples we handed out last April and May and "I'm pleased to report I had good results with the Norlite.... I had good germination with *Sulcorebutia raushii*, which never happened before, and the mysterious *Astrophytum caput-medusa*." (*Editor's Note: There is an additional charge of \$1.60/bag, NYS sales tax of 8%, due at time of delivery.*)

Our Annual Show Update

The dates for our next show will be April 2 & 3, 2016 with set-up on Fri., April 1 (again, this is not an April Fool notice). Members can be planning ahead with propagating some cuttings for the club sales table or the free giveaways. Also, think about what plants you would like to enter in the judged show. Remember that we have categories for Juniors and Novices so that they do not have to feel intimidated.

We also have a category for Educational Display which does not get enough entries or attention. We would like to encourage members to consider this category. If you would like one of the 3-sided poster boards, the society will buy you one! How can you refuse an offer like that?

Surprise!!!

My seed-raised *Dioscorea elephantipes*, which is approaching 30 years from seed, has really outdone itself this year with flowering. It is literally covered with tiny, cream-yellow flowers that, surprise!, are very fragrant, noticeable every evening when we sit down to relax. Unfortunately, it is a female and requires a partner of the opposite sex to produce seed.



I didn't know that....!



David Latimer, a British pensioner living in Cranleigh, Surrey planted his bottle garden 55 years ago "as an experiment" back in 1960!

The bottle is a 10 gallon tightly sealed container. Mr. Latimer planted a sprout of the succulent *Tradescantia*, which we all fondly know of as Spiderwort in some compost and 1/4 pint of water. He had to use a long wire to insert the plant through the narrow neck of the bottle. He has not opened the bottle since 1972, when he gave it a little more water. Since then the plant has taken over all the available space inside the bottle and continues to sustain itself in its own ecosystem. The bottle sits on the floor a few feet from a sunny window.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-2267504/The-sealed-bottle-garden-thriving-40-years-fresh-air-water.html>



Last month we published a lovely photo of Herbert (Sully) Sullivan's blooming plant. The plant was labeled *Brahmasia* 'Super Nova' which was incorrect. The correct name was *Brugmansia* 'Super Nova'. Many thanks to Ken Mosher for catching this error.

Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society
33rd Annual Show and Sale
2016



SATURDAY, APRIL 2 & **SUNDAY, APRIL 3**
 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NAUGATUCK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 ART & MUSIC CENTER CAFETERIA, FIFTH FLOOR
 750 CHASE PARKWAY, WATERBURY CT (Exit 18 off I-84)
 West Entrance

➤ FREE ADMISSION TO SHOW & SALE ◀

JUDGED SHOW * AUCTION* LEADING C&S VENDORS! BOOK SALES!
FREE PLANT TO FIRST 50 FAMILIES EACH DAY!
 For more information, visit www.ctcactusclub.com



Lauray of Salisbury
Retirement Sale

Oct. 30-Nov. 1
 10:00 am—5:00 pm
 25—50% off

Cacti, succulents, begonias, gesneriads
 & other tropicals
 Orchids — a few in bloom or spike.
 Also a few specimen plants
 Limited supplies!

For other days & hours, please call ahead
 (860) 435-2263
 432 Under mountain Rd. (Rt. 41)
 Salisbury, CT 06068

From My Experience

~ John Spain

Editor's note: John has kindly lent your editor several excellent articles he wrote a few years ago for the Winter Hardy Cactus and Succulent Association, which he says I am welcome to reprint here in the CCSS newsletter. This is a great opportunity to learn from one of the 'Wise Men' of CCSS.

Anthropophobia and the Mealybug

As you can see, this is to be a scientific article on the mealybug of the family Coccidae. Since I have already used two terms that you are not too sure of, that qualifies me as scientific. *Now, seriously, I believe the mealybug really does suffer from anthropophobia.* I first began to suspect this phenomenon when a friend was visiting my greenhouse several years ago. On this particular occasion, we were moving along the narrow aisle of my greenhouse, as I pointed out to him the many beautifully grown (I thought) succulent plants on the high shelves. Things were going great. His well-trained eyes were checking every plant and I was even getting approving glances. Then it happened. He dwelled too long on one of my "specimens". *I reached for it and you guessed it, hidden on the back side, away from all human gaze, was the healthiest colony of mealybugs you have ever seen.* Now, how come some of these critters weren't on the front side where I could have seen them?

I didn't really dig into this anthropophobia thing at the time because of my embarrassment. I just did what any good horticulturist would do and mashed the little rascals with my fingers. After that, I just didn't move anymore plants off the shelf. I wasn't taking any chances.

It was after my friend left that evidence began to mount. I pulled several plants off the shelf and sure enough, there they were. Always on the back side, always hiding. *Now, I began to wonder, "What would make a mealybug hide from me?"* Of course, when I see one, I squirt him with malathion or some such ugly stuff, but from the numbers that seem to stay around, I seldom kill one of the little fellows. Mostly, I just knock him from one place to another and that can't be too bad a trip. It couldn't be that he likes to sit in the sun or even in the shade, because on one side of the aisle, he sits on the other. You know what I mean. *He's always on the*

other side.

Anyway, since my early scientific observations, I've been in frequent contact with these little fellows. Fact is, I can't seem to kill all of them. *I'm now certain that these wooly demons are just afraid of the human race, anthropophobia.* If there are other members of the society that have observed such anthropophobic behavior from these animals, I would appreciate their comments. If this behavior can be pinned down, then *I have a plan for psychiatric treatment to change their behavior.* If this is successful, I can get the little devils to come around to the front and I'll squish them all with my thumb. — This article was originally published in the *Cactus and Succulent Association* newsletter, Sept. 2002.



From the Editor —

Confessions of a caudiciform captive

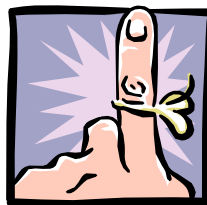
~ Sharon SmithDelisle

Do you miss seeing the newsletter in color?
Visit our website www.ctcactusclub.com
or sign up for electronic notification.

It's decision time...

This is how you can help CCSS cut down on expenses. The printed edition of the newsletter is very expensive.

Please consider changing over to electronic notification and then going to our website and printing out the newsletter, in color from home.



Remember: If you still want the paper edition of the newsletter, you must contact Ken Mosher by e-mail, phone or mail by Feb. 2016.

Beginning with the Feb. 2016 edition, the newsletter will go all electronic. That means the newsletter will only be available on our website unless you specifically request a paper copy.

To sign up for the electronic notification of the newsletter, please send an e-mail request to CTcactus-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. As soon as the newsletter is posted to our website, you will receive an e-mail notification that it is available for viewing and printing from home.

Show & Tell

Members forum — photos, tips & tricks,
bragging rights, war stories,
supplies & equipment....
What would you like to share ?



Many thanks to former member Donna Evans for her monster donation of many, many clay pots free to the members. Many thanks also to David Schultz for lugging several huge boxes of those pots to the Oct. meeting. He promises to bring more to the Nov. meeting. Your editor came home with several very nice pots that only needed a little soap & water, and elbow grease to bring them back to sparkling condition.



Euphorbia bupleurifolia
Photo credit: Sharon SmithDelisle

Your editor is delighted to report that her *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* (above), has bloomed again, this year. It generally goes into action as soon as it is brought in from outdoors for the winter.

She is also excited to report that her *Alluaudia ascendens* (38" tall) on right, has just now thrown two arms. The first arm is right on top of the growing tip and may indicate the plant is beginning to branch. The 2nd arm (seen here above, right) is about 12" from the top. She can't take credit for the plant's size as it was already about 37" tall when she purchased it from Judy Becker early in the summer.



Alluaudia ascendens
Photo credit: Sharon SmithDelisle

growing style and successes over the years. He brought many plants which were passed around so that we could all see his techniques. John Spain introduced us to his unusual cordiform *Plectranthus ernestii*, which he says he has never found in any books. Chris Allen showed us dish gardens of cold, hardy cacti that he plans to experiment with out on his deck this winter. Ben from Yale brought cuttings of several plants which he gave away to members. It was really quite a hands-on meeting where we all learned a lot from other growers. Keep up the good work!! This is how we all learn! The *Show & Tell* table and newsletter column is a good opportunity to share with other members your good growing skills or maybe your just plain good luck but regardless please keep on sharing.



Stapelia gigantean
Photo credit: de.wikipedia.org

Becky Lynn reports that her *Stapelia gigantean* has bloomed for the first time. She says that her plant is 17" tall from top to bottom and the flower is 17" from tip to tip! Becky said she also has a tiny plant in bloom called 'The lifesaver Plant' because of the shape of the flower, which is 1 1/8" from tip to tip. The plant's proper name is *Huernia confuse*. (See internet photo below.)

Unfortunately, Becky's camera card was incompatible with your editor's card reader and Becky's magnificent photos could not be shown here.



Huernia confuse
Photo credit:
www.pinterest.com

There has been wonderful response to the call for *Show & Tell*. Thank you to everyone who contacted me with photos and information for this column.

We also had a great *Show & Tell* at the Oct. meeting.

Richard Carlson started off with a great talk about his growing style and successes over the years. He brought many plants which were passed around so that we could all see his techniques. John Spain introduced us to his unusual cordiform *Plectranthus ernestii*, which he says he has never found in any books. Chris Allen showed us dish gardens of cold, hardy cacti that he plans to experiment with out on his deck this winter. Ben from Yale brought cuttings of several plants which he gave away to members. It was really quite a hands-on meeting where we all learned a lot from other growers. Keep up the good work!! This is how we all learn! The *Show & Tell* table and newsletter column is a good opportunity to share with other members your good growing skills or maybe your just plain good luck but regardless please keep on sharing.

WOW! Did they reinforce the show table for this weighty, beauty? No surprise it's grown in California.



Speaking of pots.....

Here are some interesting examples of unusual ways to recycle ordinary objects as pots for cacti and succulents. These ideas came from an article by Geoff Stein, *Pot Ideas for Succulent Plants*, April 27, 2008 obtained from www.davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/893#b.



Moringa ovalifolia

Inter-City Cactus Show & Sale , Aug. 14, 2011

Kelly Griffin, Los Angeles Arboretum

“Succulent shows are where horticulture definitely veers off into the fetishistic, obsessive, hobbyist realm, which might make garden designers uncomfortable, but there’s an incredible amount of cultivation knowledge to be gained, and each plant arrives pre-Photoshopped for your contemplation of its ideal state. A succulent show is an unapologetic plant zoo.”

Credit: agrowingobsession.com/?p=20866, accessed Oct. 20, 2015



Three-tiered wooden tub water fountain converted into a multi-level succulent garden



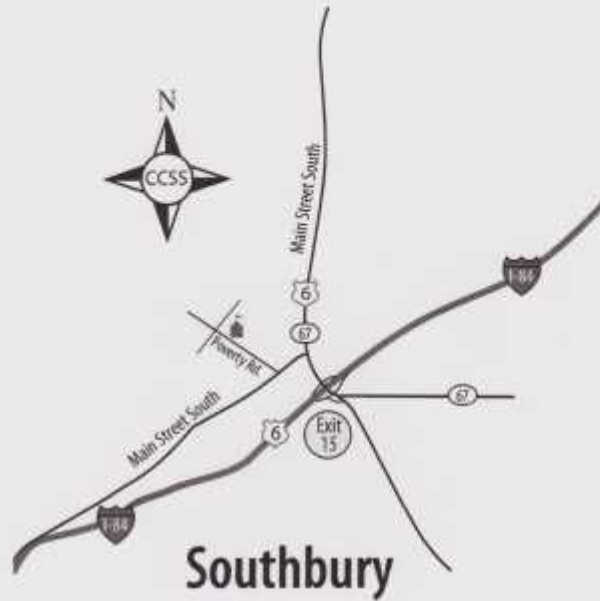
Old sundial converted to a shallow succulent garden.



Wire hanging basket planter used as a cacti garden.

(Photo credits for the three recycled succulent gardens above left and right: Geoff Stein, www.davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/893#b)

Map to Southbury Public Library



Directions to Southbury Public Library

Via I-84 Westbound

- Take Exit 15 in Southbury; turn right at end of ramp onto Route 6 East and 67 North.
- Turn left at first traffic light onto Main Street South.
- At the next light, turn right onto Poverty Road. The Library is on the right.

Via I-84 Eastbound

- Take Exit 15 in Southbury; turn left at end of ramp onto Route 6 East and 67 North.
- Turn left at first traffic light onto Main Street South.
- At the next light, turn right onto Poverty Road. The Library is on the right.

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

Do not bring chairs.

Food Assignments:

Entrées: A-F

Appetizers/sides/salads:

G-O

Desserts: P-Z



Southbury Public Library

100 Poverty Road