



Connecticut Cactus and Succulent Society

December 6th Meeting at Trumbull Agriscience Center, 1:00 pm, bring food, not chairs —details pg. 6

President's Message

Chris Allen



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

I would like to thank Fred Kattermann for his fascinating talk on the religious temples and people of Myanmar. Fred also brought us up to date on CCSS supported research on the taxonomy and evolution of Chilean cacti. The research is not yet complete but it looks like there will be plenty of changes to the taxonomy of this wonderful group of plants. Speaking of taxonomy, because of some of this same DNA mapping technology, many of our favorite cacti and succulent plants have been reclassified into different genera, species, and even regrouped into different plant families. You may have noticed some of these changes at our last show with new succulent family judging groups. There will also be plenty of changes in the cacti division groups. David Schultz is awaiting leadership from the CSSA on the new judging classes.

A big thank you goes to David Shultz for his hard work in procuring norlite for our members. Since our source of pumice is no longer available, Dave not only found a suitable replacement in norlite aggregate, but coordinated its pickup and distribution. It's also just in time for me since I do most of my repotting during the winter months.

Our usual December meeting location has been changed from Yale's Marsh Botanic Garden Greenhouses to the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center in Trumbull, CT due to conflicts with final exams at Yale. (Our meeting at Yale's Marsh Botanic Garden Greenhouses has been moved out to February, 2016.) It has all worked out well because, with the help of Dave Garringer, we are able to have an international expert on *Welwitschias*, Yale professor Dr. Michael Donaghue, speak to us at our February meeting at the Marsh Botanic Garden. So, our December

6th meeting will be at the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center, 536 Daniels Farm Rd. in Trumbull, CT. We have never had a meeting there, but we are able to use the building for free since it is already in use for its Holiday Shop Sale of poinsettias, wreaths, and crafts to benefit the Agriscience Program. Bring your favorite holiday dish and treats to the meeting. No chairs are needed. We will also be holding a grab-bag gift exchange. If you wish to participate, please bring a plant-related gift in the \$10.00 to \$15.00 range. After the meeting, I will be giving an Agriscience building tour for those of you who may be interested. Some points of interest that our members might enjoy include poinsettia painting, hi-tech induction grow-lighting, and succulent tissue culture.

Rumor has it that there may also be plant gifts for our members who attend the meeting! And don't forget to visit the Holiday Shop Sale and purchase your poinsettia, or a festive wreath for your front door for the holidays.

Finally, I would like to thank those of you who have volunteered to hold a meeting at your home in the coming months, give a talk at a future meeting, or have already done so this past year. We are now reserving meeting locations and speakers one year in advance. If any of you wish to give a talk, demonstration, or hands-on workshop, we still have speaker openings for the July and October, 2016 meetings.

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Secretary's Report

~ John Canali



Secretary John Canali
Photo credit: H. Sullivan

Meeting of Nov 1 2015

There were 25 members who attended the meeting at Southbury Library.

The Norlite pickup went smoothly as everyone helped each other get the bags loaded into cars and trucks after the meeting, and off we went.

Members were reminded about our extensive library. The library is available to all members. Librarian Ken Mosher should be contacted with your requests (ken@spatulacity.com). He can help with any specific books or topics you may be looking for.

On behalf of the club, Chris Allen presented an Award of Appreciation to Matt Opel for his many years and hard work as President. He received a sharp looking plaque with a gavel on it.

Our meeting schedule is set for most of next year. Meeting dates, locations and topics are listed below.

Speaker Fred Kattermann gave a wonderful slide presentation and talk about Myanmar and Buddhist culture. He also gave us some news about DNA work with *Copiapoa*.

We had a few *Show & Tell* items this month, which we all enjoyed. Each member who brought a plant gave a brief summary about it. So, don't forget whether you are showing off something, need plant identification, or growing tips/ problem solving, bring your plants to a meeting and we'll help.

There was a small auction of plants donated by the Loyas and Schultzs with some good-natured rivalry among the members over some of the choices.



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.

Upcoming Meetings

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.

April 2nd & 3rd, 2016 2016 CCSS Annual Show & Sale

May 1st, 2016 2016, 1:00 pm UConn, Storrs, CT — CCSS members John Spain and Becky Lynn speaking on *Lobivias* and *Stepelias*

June 5th, 2016, 1:00 pm Home of Ken Mosher, Andover, CT — Hypertufa Hands-on workshop led by Ken Mosher

July 10th, 2016, 1:00 pm Home of John Spain and Becky Lynn in Middlebury, CT — Annual Picnic. Speaker TBA.

August 7th, 2016, 1:00 pm Home of Maryanne Gryboski, Franklin, CT — Hands-on workshop on Hardy Succulent Dish Gardens

September 2016 Meeting — Massachusetts Show & Sale, Americal Civic Center, Wakefield, MA — tentative depending on the dates of their show.

October 2nd, 2016, 1:00 pm Ballek's Garden Center, east Haddam, CT - Speaker TBA.

November 6th, 2016, 1:00 pm Southbury Public Library, Southbury, CT — CCSS member Fred Kattermann speaking on Cacti of Argentina

Treasurer's Report

~ Ken Mosher



Income:	
Membership Dues	\$ 72.00
Norlite Sales	\$ 32.80
Book Sales	\$ 40.50
Nov. Plant Auction	\$ 42.00
Expenses:	
Nov. Newsletter	\$116.46
Nametags	\$ 45.00
Speaker Honorarium	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total Income/(expense)	(\$174.16)
Bank Balance	\$15,707.71

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

~ David Schultz

Our long time member and former newsletter editor, Helen Pritchard, is moving to smaller accommodations. She is unable to keep all of her beloved C&S book collection. As a result, she has asked me to see what I can do about finding new homes for her books. She, and her son Bob, delivered three boxes of books and a large number of C&S journals from the CSSA (America), the British CSS, Cactus & Co (Italy) and Aloe (South Africa) to me.

The collection includes over 70 books with 9 titles from John Pilbeam, alone. A large number of these books are now out-of print and are very difficult to find. I have prepared a list of the books and am attempting to come up with a fair price for them. A few titles, to awaken your interest, include: *The Splendid Sansevieria; Cotelydons & Tylecodons; The Genus Echeveria; Aloes: The Definitive Guide; Lithops – Flowering Stones; Vyggies – Gems of the Veld; Pachyforms & Pachyform 2 (Succulent Bonsai); Tephrocactus; The New Cactus Lexicon* (2 volumes) and the six volume *Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants*. This is a rare opportunity for our members to obtain these titles, and Helen wants them to be appreciated!

So, how do we handle the task? Anyone who wishes a copy of the complete list can request it; I will email you a copy with the prices. This list will be complete in time for the Dec. meeting. If you have a specific category you are interested in, send me a request and I can let you know what I have in the boxes. Helen wants the 20 years of the CSSA journals (6 issues per year) to find good homes, which may help encourage members to join the CSSA. I will bring at least some of these books and journals to the Dec. meeting, as they would make wonderful surprises for the holidays.

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

Badges, Please!

Please don't forget to wear your name tag at all of our meetings. Your editor is still getting to know everyone and it's awkward to carry on a conversation without knowing whom I'm speaking with. Surely new members feel the same way.

Name badges are free. If you need a badge, please let us know and Herbert (Sully) Sullivan will order one for you. Thank you!!!

I didn't know that....!

Examining the Healing Mystery of Aloe

'If grandma gets a bedsore, the best thing to put on it might be a plant that's been used for 5,000 year.

The mysterious *Aloe vera* has been a source for healing since Old Testament times, and a Texas A&M University researcher is trying to uncover just what the substances are in the plant that work wonders and how they do it so that more might be learned about treating wounds.

Dr. Ian Tizard, a professor of immunology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is studying a special polysaccharide, the substance that forms along cell walls of the *Aloe vera*, to see how it performs its healing tricks.

The *Aloe vera* is native to North Africa but now can be found almost worldwide, Tizard says. A succulent, it thrives in warm dry climates very much like a cactus does. But unlike its prickly cactus cousin, *Aloe vera* is in a class by itself when it comes to certain healing properties. There are more than 100 species of aloe, but Tizard says *Aloe vera* is the one that has drawn the most scientific interest.

"When *Aloe vera* is placed on many types of wounds, such as bedsores, it can often heal the wound quickly, and the likely reason why is the special polysaccharide in it," Tizard explains. "Many plants contain this polysaccharide, but the kind found in *Aloe vera* works differently, we've learned. It seems to bind growth factors in wounds whereas normally they would be destroyed. *Aloe vera's* polysaccharide seems to speed along the healing process much quicker. How it does this, that's what we're trying to find out."

Aloe vera (*aloe* is an Arabic word for a bitter substance, *vera* is Latin for truth) has long, pointed leaves consisting of green rind and clear pulp. The pulp is the part of the plant that has the healing agents in it. **"It comes out of the plant like a clear liquid, but when it touches human skin, it becomes a gel," Tizard says. "It acts as a wound sealant in this gel state, and no other plants do so."**

Especially benefiting from such treatments could be the elderly, who are susceptible to bedsores, diabetic ulcers and vascular (circulation) ulcers. "Geriatric patients often have wounds that won't heal properly or take longer to heal," Tizard says. "That's one of the things we're looking at — how can wounds heal quicker, and what role does the *Aloe vera* plant play in this quicker healing process?"

There's not much of the *Aloe vera* plant that isn't useful, Tizard notes. The rind of the plant has been used as a laxative while the pulp has been put on burns and wounds for thousands of years. Besides being used in lotions and medicines, in recent years cosmetic companies have used *Aloe vera* in a variety of products, especially moisturizers.

Tizard's research is funded by Delsite Biotechnologies of Irving, Texas.'

(Source: Texas A&M University. "Examining The Healing Mystery of Aloe." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 28 June 2002. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2002/06/020627005856.htm>.)



Show & Tell

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



Before



After

And one more thing about pots.....

Novel use for Magic Eraser®

Try using Magic Eraser® sponges on your dirty clay pots and saucers. — works like “magic”; cuts scrubbing time nearly in half and uses a lot less water. Take a look at the before and after pictures, and see for yourself. Give it a try... your aching hands will thank you!

Magic Eraser® sponges can be found at your local grocery in the cleaning supplies aisle. Follow the directions on the package for using the sponges. I would also suggest that after using the sponges on your pots, you should rinse the pots off in soapy water, and then clear rinse water to remove any chemicals left behind on the pots from the Magic Eraser® sponges.

(This clever trick was submitted to your editor by her daughter Deidra Crewe, who grows orchids like her mother does.)

From the Editor —

Confessions of a caudiciform captive

~ Sharon Smith Delisle

Happy Holidays to
you and your loved
ones!

Stay warm, drive
safe, and all the
best wishes for the
new year!



Last Reminder!!!

The newsletter is going all
electronic as of the
Feb. 2016 edition.
Please do one of the following
two things immediately:

1) Remember: If you still want the paper edition of the newsletter, you must contact Ken Mosher by e-mail, phone or mail as soon as possible. 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. You may contact Ken at ken@spatulacity.com or (860) 462-8899 — leave a clear, succinct, detailed message or send him a note at 8 Bailey Rd., Andover, CT 06232. Hurry! Time is running out!

2) 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 on our website and printing from your home printer.

Meeting Time: 1:00 pm, do not bring chairs.

Food Assignments: Entrées: P-Z, Appetizers/sides/salads: A- F, Desserts: G – O or bring your own favorite holiday specialty.

Directions to Trumbull Agriscience Meeting Location:

From Stamford area and along the coast:

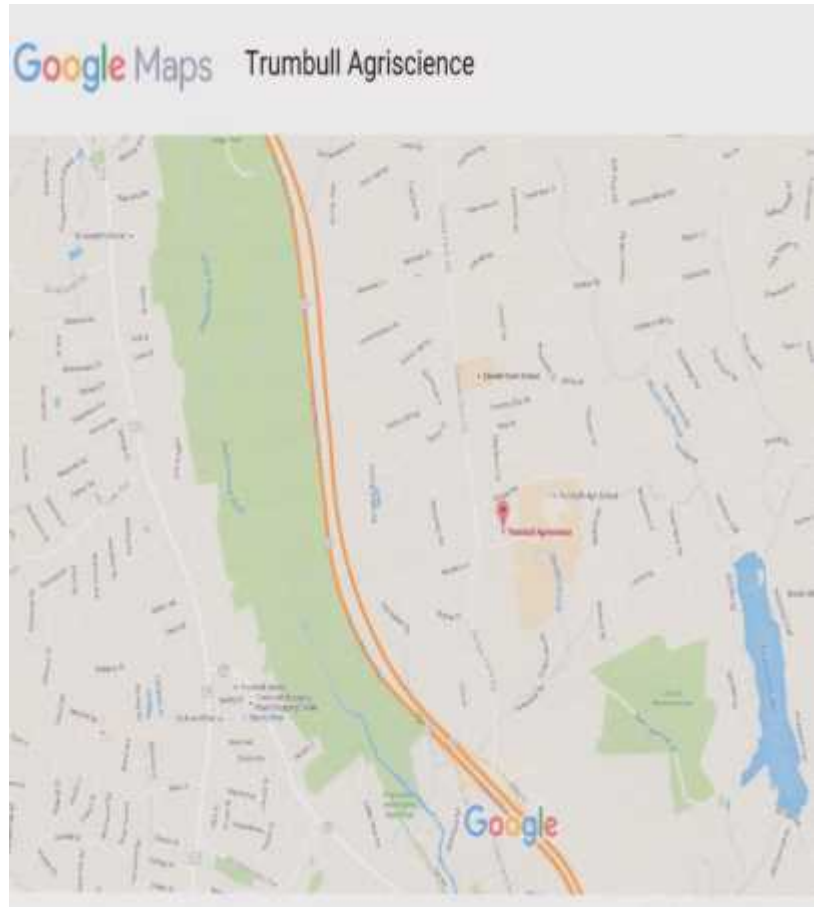
- Take I-95 to Rt. 25/Rt. 8 N toward Trumbull/Waterbury.
- Take left fork onto Rt. 25 N., then take exit 9 for Daniels Rd.
- Turn right onto Daniels Farm Rd., the Agriscience Center/ Hillcrest Middle School /Trumbull High School on the right.

From Norwich and Plainfield Area:

- Take I-95 S
- Take exit 38 for Rt 15/Merritt Pkwy/Wilbur Cross Pkwy.
- Merge onto Milford Pkwy, then take Rt. 15 S exit on left toward Merritt Pkwy/NY City.
- Merge onto Rt. 15 S
- Take exit 49 to Rt. 25 N
- Then take exit 9 for Daniels Rd.
- Turn right onto Daniels Farm Rd., the Agriscience Center/ Hillcrest Middle School /Trumbull High School on the right.

From Hartford and Waterbury area:

- Take I-91 S
- Take exit 17 to merge onto Rt. 15 S/Wilbur Cross Pkwy.
- Take exit 49 to merge onto Rt. 25 N
- Then take exit 9 for Daniels Rd.
- Turn right onto Daniels Farm Rd., the Agriscience Center/ Hillcrest Middle School /Trumbull High School on the right



Note: New Meeting Location
Trumbull Agriscience Center Meeting Location:
536 Daniels Farm Rd., Trumbull, CT 06611

