



Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society

www.sbcactus.org

Our mission is to provide opportunities for fellowship and exchange of information among persons sharing an interest in succulents; to encourage, promote and support all aspects of the collection, culture and study of succulent plants; and to provide opportunities for the exchange and exhibition of succulent plants.

December 2006 Newsletter

Potluck and Program: Friday, December 1, 2006, 6:30 PM
Meeting Hall: MacKenzie Park, Off Los Positas at State

Message from

Mike McCammon, President

This is my last meeting as President, ending two years which I have really enjoyed. Please do whatever you can to support our new Co-Presidents, Bette Eliason and Karen Davidson. We still need a formal vote to elect the new Board, since I failed to give Rob Hofberg, who ran the meeting last time, an agenda for the meeting when I found I was stuck at home. There will be a special raffle at the party, with plants picked out especially for our members. Everyone will win, but only once. Also, I believe John Bleck wants those who seedlings did well to show them off at the meeting, so please bring them.

Merry Christmas!

Annual Holiday Potluck



Our evening will start early this time, since we are celebrating the Holiday Season with our Annual Potluck. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Everyone should bring one dish with enough for 8 people. Please plan to bring your own plates and silverware. There will be a few plates and plastic utensils for those who don't. If anyone has pine boughs to use for table decorations, please call Bette after November 27 at 967-8205.

Speaker: Laurence Nicklin

Laurence will speak on the topic of landscaping and succulents and drought-loving plants. He lives in Ojai and installs and maintains landscapes in the area. He was responsible for overseeing the installation of the South African Section.

CSSA Promotional Article (2006, No. 2)

CSSA's big event in a non-convention year is the Annual Show and Sale held at the Huntington Botanical Garden on 4th of July weekend. According to long-time aficionados, the show this year was the best in a dozen years and, indeed, it featured some of the most spectacular succulent plants I've ever seen. Sales, with over 20 vendors represented, were brisk, even though the weather was hot by California (not Texas) standards, but I haven't been informed as to whether they were as good as the previous year. Most board members, even those from elsewhere in the country, were on hand to help out in any way we could and that's a long-standing tradition. Folks in other parts of the country may well say that the show and sale is just a southern California affair, which it largely is, but the board has been discussing the possibility of regional shows sponsored by CSSA, so maybe someday there will be one in your neighborhood.

My last promotional article featured the CSSA Journal, so I thought it might be appropriate to say a bit about the CSSA Newsletter, "To the Point," a publication which CSSA members also receive along with the journal. Under the able editorship of Peter Bockenthien, the newsletter features a number of articles of interest to the general cactus and succulent hobbyist. Perusing recent issues, one can see that there are several regularly appearing columns, one by fellow board member Tom Glavich, who writes a beginners column on the cultivation of various groups of succulents, recently straight-spined mammillarias, agaves, and North American cerioid cacti. Another regularly appearing feature is the column by Roger Brown, retired veterinarian and talented succulent grower from the Omaha area. He offers much valuable advice on growing our favorite plants and occasionally provides always illuminating philosophical comments. Dan Mahr, our peripatetic president usually has interesting observations on plants he meets during his travels, as well. (See his column "Points to Ponder").

Each issue of the newsletter tends to feature a calendar of upcoming events and at least once a year an informative list of all the CSSA Affiliate Societies appears. Updates on seed availability from the Seed Depot appear quite regularly, as well.

Other articles of particular interest in recent issues include a lengthy two-part series on "A Four Corners Odyssey," a pre-convention tour offered with the Scottsdale Convention in 2005; an article on the history of greenhouses; and a summary of the results of the Affiliate Member Survey conducted in 2005. Here you can find out what CSSA members find of value in their CSSA membership. So, hopefully from this brief survey, readers will see that there is much information of value provided by the CSSA Newsletter. Join CSSA and receive your very own copy.

Good Growing,

Bob Barth, Publicity Chair
CSSA Board of Directors