

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.



August 2008 Newsletter

Program: Friday, August 1, 2008—7:30 PM

**Meeting Hall: Louise Lowry Davis Recreation Center
De la Vina and Victoria Streets—entrance on Victoria**

August Meeting Speaker: Todd Masilko

He will discuss his recent trip to Socotra.

Message from Co-President Bette Eliason

We have weathered through another fire threat from our mountain front, with the help of brave firefighters and successful community plans in place to assist both humans and animals. Enough can't be said for their contributions and work. Once again many of us were threatened with the loss of our homes. Some had to evacuate, some were on stand-by to evacuate and all that entails. We are left with deposits of black and gray ash outdoors and fine ash indoors to live with and clean-up. However, we can rejoice that we still have houses to clean up. Sadly, during this difficult time, some members have suffered losses of family members due to other causes.

We are reminded that water is at a premium. We need to conserve and instigate systems for reuse where possible. That brings us to cactus and succulents, plants that conserve water to enable themselves to live through periods of drought. One finds many varieties, sizes, shapes and colors to choose from. I encourage everybody to come to meetings to learn more and to avail themselves of our library for reference. Some of our members have used succulents extensively with great success and color in their landscapes. Check out our "free" plant table and our raffle (three tickets for \$1) table. Members also frequently exchange plants with one another. Let us consider utilizing more cactus and succulents in this climate. Santa Barbara is an area of estivation (summer dormancy), where all plants are dependent on artificial sources of water during summer. Most plants would die here, should we have to revert back to the natural climate; so, bring your extra succulents and come to the meeting.

In Memoriam

It is with regret and sadness that we write of the passing of **Michael McCammon**. Michael passed away on June 9. He had lived and battled with cancer for two and a half years. He stayed active, his tall, smiling figure often appearing at meetings and functions of the Cactus and Succulent Society. We will miss his sunny presence and his contributions to this group in many different capacities. He recently participated in the buying trip for the May Show and Sale and was Chairman of the Society for two years, before the current two Co-Chairpersons took over. Our condolences go to Cathie, his wife, also a valuable member of Cactus and Succulent Society. A memorial service is scheduled for August 30, 2 - 5 PM, La Cantina Room, Hotel Mar Monte, 1111 E. Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara. Members are invited.

Annual Picnic - 12 Noon

Saturday, August 16, 12 noon is the date and time of the Summer Picnic. It will again be held at the home of Bonnie Freeman, in her newly landscaped premises, at 5200 Austin Road--Moore Mesa. Directions: Take Patterson out past The Orchid Estate and turn left at Austin Road. Please observe fire-lane parking restrictions. Phone: 683-1879

Please call Bette Eliason, 967-8205, to RSVP.
(We need an accurate head-count.)

Please bring:

Your own plates and utensils
A-G, bring salads and appetizers.
H-R, bring main dishes.
S-Z, bring desserts.
Drinks will be provided.
Please remember your hats and sunscreen!