

*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 2008**

**Next Meeting: Friday, December 5, 2008**  
*Meeting Location: MacKenzie Park (Note Change)*

**Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner:** MacKenzie Park on Dec. 5. We will begin with appetizers at 6 PM with dinner to follow. Please bring your own flatware and plates. You may bring appetizers, a main dish, salads or desserts to share, enough for 8 people. **Meeting Program:** Rob Hofberg will present pictures of the cactus and succulent collections of some of our members.

**Message from Co-President  
Karen Davidson**

Dear Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society,

I have mixed feelings about relinquishing my half of the throne. The Club's administrative/executive tasks have been shared, and as in emptying the dishwasher, "many hands" have made work lighter. We have a connected, supportive and energetic membership, and I will always cherish the friendships we have forged. I have delighted in our shared passions for these weird and exotic succulent/cactus plants, and remain awed as they continue to teach us lessons in adaptation and survival. That said, it is time for an infusion of fresh ideas and new spirit and I look forward to the tenure of our own President-Elect, Paul Mills. Rob Hofberg will continue to be Vice-President, as well as Program Director. Jim Foster has agreed to another term as Treasurer, and John Bleck will be back as Club Historian. Loretta Berlin will be our new Secretary, and the Newsletter Editor will soon (hopefully) be announced. I will continue to be the Club Librarian, and guard our books with maternal ferocity. The positions of Hospitality and Refreshments are vacant, and we are in need of two volunteers. The recent Santa Barbara experience of fire-stormed homes and plantings has been devastating, and when the time is right, we will gather resources and Club members and do what needs to be done. I have great confidence in our succulents and in our volunteers!

Karen Davidson

**Message from Co-President  
Bette Eliason**

Dear Members,

The Tea Fire has caused great losses to some of our members Jeff Chemnick and Satie lost their home. Martin Dent and Karin's home was spared and Jennifer Schwarz's home also spared, although both parties lost a lot of landscape. Later, after the insurance companies have finished appraisals, there will be things we can do to help. The Board will keep you informed about this. This is the last time I will be contributing to the Newsletter as Co-President and there are a few things I want to say to you. First that I have enjoyed serving you these two years and treasure some of the memories of working with various members, some of whom are no longer with us. Secondly, I would like to take this opportunity to ask you to volunteer your help from time to time to the Board, as you have in the past, except, there's always new talent coming into the group and those newer people need to know they are welcome and needed. When we have events like our May Show and Sale, we need lots of help in many forms.

We are getting ready to share another big Holiday Potluck Dinner. It will be at Mackenzie Park at 6 PM on Dec. 5. Remember to have your dues paid or be ready to pay them, so you may participate in the free raffle. Each family will receive one ticket. The membership chairman will have new badges for you as you pay. The rest who are paid-up, remember to wear your badges. See you at the meeting!

Bette Eliason

*Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Newsletter Editors for the last three years.  
Happy Holidays to all of you!  
Ramon and Kirsten Escobedo*