

Macclesfield & East Cheshire Branch Newsletter



Matucana paucicostata

(Just managing to fit in another flower on 31st August
before the autumnal month of September began)

September 2017

CHAIRPERSON'S THOUGHTS No 15

September at last and we can look back at the successes of the year. We had an excellent day at Arley Hall Plant fair in April and have hopes of attending next year. The Wilmslow Show had some great exhibits and even better sales. The Tatton Show we were awarded a Silver-gilt again! It's good to do well but that Gold is very elusive, some hard thinking is needed next year. It was interesting to talk to the public and to meet so many very enthusiastic growers. It would be good to know if we encouraged any membership of our society, feedback is somewhat uncertain, though. Finally we had the Poynton Show, where after some fears that there would be few entries, finally, produced a very good display on the day. We also got a silver award for our display and that made a change after years of bronze. We met some really keen collectors and had some great conversations and perhaps we might even see some at our meetings. It was a good day and very encouraging for next year.

There were various other events run by members of our branch, Open Days and the garden Festival at Notcutts garden centre at Woodford. These were all well attended and gave us the opportunity to present our society and our plants to many people both members and public. These are great ways to make our presence known to people and are enjoyable to run as well. If you like talking C&S, then these are great places to do it.

If you want more information about our plants I can recommend the BCSS Forum. It has knowledgeable people who contribute there and who are always pleased to answer questions and pose some of their own. There is also a Facebook page, which is also very helpful with regard to cultivation and identification of plants. Identification is always troublesome and uncertain and can be treated as a challenge for those who like to identify others' unknown C&S. There are other specialist forums on Facebook, Twitter and other websites, where you can learn about other people's plants and their way of cultivating. For instance, there must be nearly as many recipes for compost as people posting.

Next month we have a talk from Brian McDonough about small Aloes, November Alasdair will tell us about 'A Cactophile's Christmas' and in December we will have our Christmas social and members' talks.

Elizabeth

Silver Gilt

Congratulations to our Tatton Team who gained another Silver Gilt award at the RHS Show in July. The exhibit sought to highlight convergence, a situation in which species, unrelated to one another, in the course of their evolution can end up with features so that they resemble each other in their appearance. This is often seen in cacti and other succulents, Old World and New World plants. This feature is well shown if one compares spiny cacti and thorny succulent Euphorbias or the spiny stems of Pachypodiums.

The Society promotion leaflets with details local of our branch incorporated were very popular and a branch produced guide to convergent evolution was also available. Again a good number of the now familiar Info packs on cultivation were again sold. After addition of prize money and the deduction of expenses we finished up in profit.

There has now been a local presence at all nineteen RHS Tatton Shows.



Wilmslow Show.

First of all, a big thank you to the helpers for setting up on Friday afternoon and during and after the show on Sunday. This was very much appreciated by the Wilmslow and Alderley Show Committee as well as myself.

The total number of entries was 157. Each branch entrant won prize money.

Listed below are the complete results of the show:-

Wormald Cup for most points in classes 99 to 117 (Cacti)

Winner - Harold Cooper 76 points

Second - Judith Roseblade 38 points, Third - Bruce Walton 27 points

The following entrants were awarded points as below:-

Bryan Doherty 17 points, Julia Davenport 7 points Christine Eardley 7 points

David Roseblade Cup Best exhibit in New Ideas Class 117A

Winner Christine Eardley

S.F. Taylor Cup for most points in classes 118 to 134 (Succulents)

Winner - Harold Cooper 74 points

Second - Elizabeth Maddock 20 points, Third - Bryan Doherty 19 points

The following entrants were awarded points as below:-

Bruce Walton 15 points, Julia Davenport 4 points, Judith Roseblade 4 points, Christine Eardley 2 points

Tom Williamson Cup for best cactus in show (Mammillaria Julia Davenport

Wilbraham Cup for best Succulent in show (Agave ... Bryan Doherty

Len Rowbotham Cup for most points awarded in classes 135 & 136 (Beginner Cacti and Succulents) Christine Eardley 8 points

There were no entrants in either of the Junior classes for cacti or for succulents, so no diplomas awarded

BCSS Ron Ginns Medal - most points awarded in classes 99 to 134

Winner Harold Cooper 152 points

Second equal Bruce Walton and Judith Roseblade 42 points

Fourth Bryan Doherty 36 points, Fifth Elizabeth Maddock 20 points, Sixth Christine Eardley 16 points, Sixth Julia Davenport 12 points.

The trophies were presented on show day by the Chairman of Wilmslow Town Council, Councillor Martin Watkins.

Judith Roseblade (Show Secretary)



Best Cactus



Best Succulent



Very handsome Aeonium, Copiapoa and Aloe erinacea



Astrophytums



Mammillaria candida



Roseblade Cup winner

Forthcoming attractions

October

Our speaker this month is Brian McDonough, a member of Glasgow branch, however, he is really no stranger to Macclesfield and East Cheshire having popped in as a visitor on a few occasions in the past having, or had, relations in the area. He is a lover of South African plants particularly Mesembs but Aloes certainly get a look in, too, hence his talk entitled "Aloes of interest for small spaces". As anyone who has been collecting for a year or two usually has come to realise plants for small spaces are always welcome. Brian is also a professional photographer so illustration of his talk will be first class.

Other important events in October are the NorthWest Mesemb Show on the 14th at the Manchester Branch meeting place St Thomas More Church Hall, Mainway, Alkrington, Manchester M24 1PP and on the 28th the ever popular Zone 3 Rally at Carlton Near Wakefield. This is always a great day out.

November

As always, the library meeting room is unavailable in November and, as always, we meet in Wilmslow Parish Hall. There had to be an alteration to the published programme as Ivor Crook could not be with us. The replacement is yours truly with a seasonal talk entitled "A cactophile's Christmas". It's a presentation that is a little unconventional and has been given at a number of branches and gardening clubs around the country but I don't think it has previously been done at our branch.

(Directions to Wilmslow Parish Hall: From the Library, turn right, go over the lights at Water Lane, bear left into Green Lane leading to Bank Square, turn right down Church Street past the Parish Church on the left, cross a small bridge and the hall and car park are on the left.

December

The December meeting is down in the programme card as Christmas Social + Members Mini-talks. The second item may seem a daunting prospect to some of you. But mini really means mini, just a minute or two about your favourite plant which you've brought with you.

Plants for monthly table show:-

October: Echinopsis Group and Aloe Group

November Rebutia Group and Euphorbia Group

December: A Christmas plant, up to 9cm (3½") or over 9cm (3½")

Please don't forget the plant in flower, any month

Poynton Show



Once again we staged a small promotional display at Poynton on Bank Holiday Saturday with plant contributions and people power from Judith, Elizabeth and Bryan. It was a busy day with visitors, the weather was good and there was a better entry in the eight cactus and succulent classes. Thank you Elizabeth, Christine and Bryan for entering. Bryan won the award for best plant.



The Show also hosted the British Gladiolus Championship and it was almost overwhelming to walk round the 260 spikes on show!

Alasdair

Zone 3 Rally 2017

This year's rally will be held on

Saturday 28 October

at the usual venue
Carlton WMC, Main Street,
Carlton, WF3 3RW

Speakers

Roger Ferryman - Chile in a Flowering Year

Petr Pavelka - Succulents in Southern Angola

Hazel Taylor - Cacti in Northeastern Mexico – Highlights

Doors open at 9.30am
for refreshments and sales
Talks from 10.45am to 5.00pm
Further details from Alasdair