

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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### Editorial

The autumn equinox is behind us and the evenings are starting to get cooler. The leaves on some trees are beginning to change colour although the majority seem to be enjoying the balance of rain and sunshine which we have had recently.

In my conservatory, bright colour seems to be mainly limited to the mesembs, with several lithops, conophytums and a pleiospilos opening flowers whenever the sun is out. A few haworthias and aloes have also got flower spikes on them. This year, I have been rather more careful with watering and feeding of the plants, and quite a number of them are now constrained by their pots – they need repotting in the next month or so.

### Announcements

The **Zone 11 Quiz** was hosted by the Isle of Wight branch last month. Despite us sending three secretaries(!) to the event, Portsmouth emerged victorious – and they had only sent one person. For details of just how they managed this, you'll have to read the report which appears later in the newsletter. Their victory means that they now get to look after the dreaded mealy bug trophy!

The **Zone 11 Show** was held at Widley, Waterlooville, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September. According to Ivor Biddlecombe, there was a rush of entries at the last minute, which meant there were 421 class entries, the highest figure for a Zone Show since

1998. The show results are appended to the newsletter.

During September, the Branch purchased two new titles for the library. These will be available to borrow from November onwards. The first of the books is "*The New Cactus Lexicon*". The 2 volumes which make up this set contain 900 pages and 2500 photographs. The second book is "*Dumpling and his Wife*" – no it's not a story about a couple, but rather a detailed study of the genus Conophytum by Steve Hammer.

**High Wycombe** branch will be holding a Convention at the Village Hall, Great Kingshill, Buckinghamshire, on 14th October. The speakers include Ernst Specks (2 talks on Namibia) and Peter Brandham (USA Desert Experience).

Later in the month, **Havering & District** Branch will be holding a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mini Convention on the afternoon of 22<sup>nd</sup> October, at Kims Hall, Vicarage Road, Hornchurch, Essex. The speakers include Brendan Burke on Chile and Susan Carter-Holmes on Somalia.

It is encouraging to see several new members attending our branch meetings. If any of you were thinking of joining the Society but waiting till next year, then you may wish to consider joining now, because by doing so, you will receive the December 2006 journal/seed list for free, and still receive all the journals for next year.

During the year, the branch sold quite a few packets of seed, as well as having to provide over 500 packs for the Children's Prickly Potting Post at the Easter show at Romsey. If over the coming months you harvest spare seed on your cacti or succulent plants, please pass these on to Ivor.

Finally if you did not attend the last branch meeting, then you may be unaware that Ivor Biddlecombe has been awarded the Robert Holt memorial award by the Society, and this was presented to him by Eddy Harris. Ivor joined the branch in 1966, and became a committee member soon after. He has been Show Manager for 25 years and is responsible for the

successful organisation and running of all our shows and displays with a great deal of dedication. I am sure everyone will want to join in congratulating Ivor on winning this well-deserved award.

## Last Month's Meeting

### *Plants of Interest*

It was David Corina's turn to host *Plants of Interest*, and he had brought along some succulent plants which were in flower.

*Huernia primulina* is a dwarf plant which stays compact and likes partly shaded conditions, rather like Haworthias – indeed it can scorch in full sun. It bears yellow flowers. *Echidnopsis archeri* was a straggly plant, and one of the stems fell off on the way to the meeting. The genus grows in a range from South Africa to Saudi Arabia, although the ones from the former area are easier to cultivate since they only require frost-free conditions.

*Pseudolithos migiurtinus* was in flower with characteristic, almost black flowers. The plant had 4 equally spaced vertical grooves, and a ridge of blobs (peduncles) form along these, and bear flower clusters each year. It is possible to set seed quite readily, and to germinate the seeds. The plant comes from Somalia and so needs warmth.

*Tavaresia barklyi* was another stapeliad and it had tubular, spotted flowers, one of which was in the process of coming out. It flowers sporadically through the year and spreads out sideways, but remains a manageable plant. *Peperomia monticola* was from Mexico and it grows rather like a cyclamen, with a central caudex and similar-looking leaves. Next was a *Dorstenia* from the foetida complex. This genus is related to the fig family and the flowers are like an opened-out fig. David Neville mentioned that this peculiar flower structure is called a hypanthodium.

Finally there were a couple of Aloe and/or haworthia hybrids and David was hoping someone knew a little more about them. David Neville mentioned that many of the hybrids these days are 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> generation crosses and it is not easy to determine the plant's parentage. The first plant was named *Aloe* cv. "Hey Babe" which was a John Bleck hybrid, possibly containing some *A. descoingsii*. On the Internet, it is suggested that one of the parents is *Aloe rauhii*. The second plant was large-leaved and was a recent purchase from Fresh

acres nursery, David Corina thought it might contain some *Aloe albiflora*.

Thanks are due to David Corina for providing the following write-up of last month's talk.

### **Mesembs - Eddy Harris**

Having had two talks so far this year on trips to South Africa, featuring, naturally, lots of mesembs, I was not sure about the focus of Eddy's talk, as he also has been to S. Africa many times. In the event Eddy presented a timely general overview of the family. Various genera within the mesembs have their own keen growers, and overall the mesembs are probably by far the most popular group of 'other succulents'.

Mesembs have been known (to Europe) since the 1600s, and for a long time all were placed in the single genus *Mesembryanthemum* (the origin and meaning of the name is still debated!). There are now about 2100 species in many genera (see comment below). There are some annuals (rarely grown by the hobbyist) but the vast majority are perennials of varying longevity, and occur primarily in southern Africa with a few species creeping up the east coast of Africa to north Africa. Probably no more than a third to a half of the species are of interest to the hobbyist. In suitable maritime climates many species have become rampant shoreline weeds, including the south and west of the UK.

Considering the main habitat area under discussion – South Africa and to a lesser extent Namibia – there are two main climate zones, the drier west coast with some winter rains and fogs and the central to eastern interior with low to seasonal good, mainly summer, rainfall. These factors also guide us to how we grow these plants in cultivation. Eddy briefly discussed cultivation requirements – a good rich soil (except perhaps for *Lithops*) mixed with 50% grit as the compost with a little slow-release nourishment such as bonemeal. Give as much light as possible except for the small-bodied *Conophytums*, but there is no need for high temperatures, frost-free should be fine; of more importance is good ventilation, try and maintain a good flow of air round the plants. Watering at the correct time of year should be a good soaking and/or misting as appropriate with drying-out in between. [Several guides on when to water the various genera have appeared in recent years, see end of article.]

The main sources of information on the Mesembs are currently the sections on Aizoaceae (as it is now

known) by Heidi Hartmann in the recently published Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants, and for more pictorial presentations, the books Vygies and Mesembs of the World are useful. There are also, of course, the specialist monographs on Lithops and Conophytum, among others.

Humans have always sought to tame and classify Nature, and nothing has caused so much hassle to plant lovers as the constant renaming of their plants. The mesembs have been intensively studied in the last few years and many new genera raised, only to be subsumed again into familiar genera. Part of the problem is that whereas most plants are, or were, classified according to floral characteristics, the mesembs are classified primarily by their seed capsules. Eddy decided to ignore the present 'fluid' classifications and base his examples on the easy and hobby-friendly system of Schwantes (1927) as revised in the 1970s. (Useful to me as this appears in another of my useful books - The Genera of the Mesembryanthemaceae by H. Herre.)

As I mentioned above, not all of the groups appeal to growers, and Eddy therefore gave examples from some of the more popular tribes and groups within the family. I have no intention of going into detail or stating which features are used in delineating the various sections (if you are keen, see Herre's book!). After a quick look round Eddy's greenhouse, we launched into the plants.

Most of those we grow are in the sub-family Ruschioideae, within which we dipped first into Lampranthinae to sample *Cerochlamys pachyphylla*, a very waxy plant with a 'double' form to the pink flowers in November (Little Karoo); there is also a form with white flowers. For a grand spectacle, go and see the large old plant of *Lampranthus haworthii* at Holly Gate in all its purple-flowered glory in spring (it is at the far end of the Cactus Collection house and is about 5ft. cubed). Another easy but interesting example from this group is the spring flowering *Oscularia deltoides*.

The example from Erepsiinae takes us to the opposite extreme – the small, low-growing silver-skinned Argyrodermas, found in quartzite areas. Argyroderma names are in a state of flux (many of the species are very similar) and the plants illustrated could be labelled *A. carinata* or *delaetii*, *latipetalum* or *pearsonii*. Go easy when starting to water these plants otherwise they tend to split. A more easy-going member of the genus is the different-looking *A. fissum*, with 'elongated' leaves. As always, there is the difficult one, in this case the genus *Nelia* from the very north of the Northern

Cape (now North West Province) which is a winter grower.

Next was Dracophilinae, primarily from southern Namibia, and hence not easy. Representatives here were *Dracophilus delaetianus* and *Juttadinteria simpsonii* (both spring flowering, the latter white). Eddy no longer has *Namibia ponderosa*, another member of the group (it is very difficult). The group Faucariinae contains, of interest to us, *Faucaria*, with *F. boscheana* having large flowers and *F. candida* (under *felina* now?) with white flowers on some clones and a nice white keel to the leaves (as has *F. albidens*). This genus is found in the south east Cape and is easy to grow to a good clump and to flower well. The only other member of this group is *Orthopterum*.

Over towards the west and up into the Richtersveld, where most of the Leipoldtiinae reside. This contains many popular genera, both winter and summer growers. *Cheiridopsis* (winter grower, spring flowers) represented by *C. pillansii* or *C. crassa*, (orange-yellow flowers, occasional pink forms) and the summer growing *Cylindrophyllum comptonii* which can get big and woody, and the more manageable *C. tugwelliae*. Localised up the north west coast is the popular *Fenestraria rhopalophylla*, usually only seen in habitat when in flower, as the plant hides flush with or below the sand in which it grows (but best to keep it raised in cultivation). *Odontophorus nanus* inhabits the interior Richtersveld, as does *Vanheerdeaa primosii*, with a nice 'window' and yellow flowers in spring.

Around the Orange River and into southern Namibia occurs the Psammophorinae, with *Psammophora longifolia* (white flowers), *P. modesta*, brown bodied in habitat with pink flowers and *P. nissenii*. All have sticky leaves to which sand grains stick, presumably to give some protection against the intense sunlight.

Going back east again for the Nananthinae, a group with mostly tuberous roots, we come to *Aloinopsis luckhoffii* in the Sutherland area and *A. rosulata* (nice flowers). The rarest is *A. schooneesii*, (two flower colours) which, although it forms a mound in cultivation, grows flat in habitat. Of similar form is *Deilanthe* (formerly *Aloinopsis*) *peersii*, with yellow flowers and *Nananthus rubrolineata*. Popular *Titanopsis fulleri* (nice when small) and *T. primosii* (Eddy showed a weird fungus-like young plant of this species) completed this group.

Very simple is Frithiinae, containing just *Frithia*. Now reckoned to be two species, the familiar *F.*

*pulchra*, with a small caudex and pale to dark purple flowers which comes from a small area near Pretoria, and what was known as var. *minor*, is now *F. humilis*.

Considering the obvious extreme succulence of *Lithops*, it is odd to note that it is one of the most widespread genera in South Africa and Namibia, and resides in the eponymous group *Lithopinae*. Other genera are much more localised. Restricted to the Pofadder area, *Dinteranthus pole-evansii* always has yellow flowers and can form large clumps with age. *Lapidaria margaretae* is similarly restricted to a very small area near the Orange River. *Lapidaria* also has yellow flowers and will clump with age. By far the biggest genus here is *Lithops*. This ranges from *Lithops optica* and its var. *rubra* near the coast in Namibia to species in the central districts of Cape Province and over as far as (what used to be known as) the Transvaal. Representative species shown were *Lithops pseudotruncatella*, yellow flowered, and *L. verruculosa* fa. *inae*, variable flower colour but stays compact. *Schwantesia procumbens* (along the Orange River again) completed this group.

Then we surveyed the group *Conophytinae*, containing one of the currently very fashionable genera! The minor players first, *Berrisfordia*, resembling a very encrusted *Conophytum*, flowering in February, is monotypic and comes from near Garies. It is reputedly difficult to grow. *Ophthalmophyllum verrucosum* represented this genus, and comes from Namaqualand. The fashionable genus is of course *Conophytum*, with a distribution nearly as large as *Lithops*. *Conophytum frutescens* is one of the few 'shrubby' ones and can get quite tall, the opposite applies to *C. smorenskadiense*, one of the smallest. *C. burgeri* looks like a small blob of jelly and comes near the Aggeneys mine in the northern Richtersveld, and *C. ratum* is similar. *C. calculus* is more the typical cono, and Eddy also showed *C. pellucidum* form *pardicolor* with white flowers, the furry *C. stephanii* from Augrabies hill, orange flowers and surviving partly on sea fogs, the night-flowering and hence sweetly scented *C. angelicae*, and the 'good flowerer' *C. occultum* (=*C. uviforme*).

The final interesting group was *Gibbaeinae*, in which former genera *Antegibbaeum* and *Imitaria* have been re-absorbed into *Gibbaeum*. There is a range of body shapes in *Gibbaeum*, one of the prettiest is the early-flowering *G. album* (*album* referring to the body colour), rather different is *G. neobrownii* (=*Imitaria muirii*), a small species with pink flowers, *G. pubescens* and *G. shandii*, which

flowers from the side of the new body. This feature is also found in *Didymaotus lapidiformis* where the long-lasting pink-ish flowers form on side growths at the base of the plant. This group occurs chiefly in the Karoo (in its broad sense) regions. The ultimate in succulence must be *Muiria hortensae*, found in a very small region of the Little Karoo (growing alongside *G. album*). It is difficult to grow, and even a mesemb expert such as Eddy did well to keep two plants for up to 10 years.

With such a large group as the mesembs, Eddy could only give us a very brief overview, but we hope that his talk will have tempted a few members to perhaps broaden their horizons and try a few mesembs other than *Lithops* and *Conophytum*, as interesting as these are!

[Lists of cultivation information, growing and watering regimes can be found in various publications e.g. Mesemb Study Group Bulletin, vol. 5 no.3, 1990, also the comprehensive list that Eddy provided at the meeting. If you missed it, further copies are available on the front table.]

David Corina

## Zone 11 Quiz

Five members from Southampton (David & Margaret Corina, Richard White, David Neville and myself) went over to the Isle of Wight to take part in the Zone 11 Quiz. It happened to be the first day of the Southampton Boat Show so the traffic around the quay was heavy. Anyway we made it across safely and were given a lift from Ryde to the meeting hall.

Robin Goodredge was the question master, and Pauline Buckett looked after the scoring. Since Portsmouth had only sent one person, and the Isle of Wight only had two team members, it was agreed that each team would consist of 2 people and that Richard would become a honorary member of the Portsmouth team. The teams were composed as follows : Isle of Wight - Ron Mitchell and Peter Collard, Portsmouth - Cliff Thompson and Richard White, and Southampton - David Corina and Vinay Shah.

Robin stated at the outset that you weren't going to win the quiz by being clever. The questions had been mainly set by reference to Haage's book, and the Penguin Trivia book. Each question was worth one point, and each round would end with a bonus question, to be answered by whoever raised their

hand first. Robin also hoped that the “eventual winners would accept the trophy with dignity” – a comment which drew some laughter from the audience as their eyes wandered across to the Mealy Bug trophy sitting on the quizmaster’s desk.

Isle of Wight received the first question – where is the lost city of Machu Picchu? (In the Andes). Portsmouth were asked which sea has no coast? (Sargasso Sea) and Southampton were asked which sea is the world’s largest lake? (The Caspian Sea). The bonus question was “All horses have the same official birthday - what is it?” This stumped everyone and Robin had to reveal this was in fact the 1<sup>st</sup> of January.

Next, “America’s highest mountain” was Mount McKinley, “by what name is Choson Minjujuui Inmin Konghwaguk known?” (North Korea) and “What is the name of the nearest star to the Earth” (The Sun). The bonus question “Of which island group is Viti Levu the largest?” was answered by the Isle of Wight (Fiji)

Next followed a series of questions about swans. We learnt that a group of swans in the air is called a “flight”, a group of swans on the ground is a “flock” and a group of swans on water is a “fleet”. Isle of Wight again got the bonus point by answering “Who, other than the Queen, is allowed to keep and ring swans?” with the answer of Abbotsbury Swannery. After three rounds, the scores were Southampton 3, Portsmouth 1 and Isle of Wight 5.

We continued with the general knowledge theme. How many months does a doormouse hibernate for? (6), “how do frogs breathe underwater? (through their skin), “what mammal lives the longest?” David Corina though this was a tossup between humans and elephants and went for “human”. Robin said “Correct - man lives the longest ... and if he’s really unlucky, it’s a woman!” For the bonus, “What does an oologist study” drew the correct answer from Portsmouth (eggs.) None of the teams were able to answer “What does pH stand for?” Various attempts were made, but the answer sought was “pondus hydrogenii”. This was followed by “What is the range of the pH scale?” (1-14) and “What acid can be added to water if it is alkaline?” (Citric acid). The bonus of “What is the common name for Aloe variegata” was correctly answered (partridge breast aloe) but led to an argument about hands not being held up before answering!

Another general knowledge round followed “If you were standing on the poop deck and got pooped, what happened to you?” (you got wet, when the

following sea crashes onto the deck). When Dee Caffari sailed the wrong way around the world, she was so far from land that her nearest companions were astronauts. “The earth weighs about  $5900 \times 10^{18}$  tons, what percentage is taken up by the oceans?” Southampton guessed 0.005% and this was accepted since the answer was “less than 1%”. The bonus question of “Why do corpses deteriorate less quickly now than they used to?” was answered correctly by Portsmouth (“because of the preservatives in food”). The scores had now moved on to Portsmouth 7, Southampton 6 and Isle of Wight 6.

“If a rabbit’s tooth was not ground down, how long would it grow?” There were lots of suggestions, starting at around 3 feet but none were close to the correct answer of 10 feet! After revealing the answer, technicalities such as “he wouldn’t be able to eat” and “his head would be too far off the ground” were dismissed by Robin. “How many times does a heart beat in a normal day?” 188000 was offered, but the correct answer was 100000. “Insects have one inefficient physiological function which prevents them getting larger than a mouse?” (Their breathing system.) “Lake Tahoe is half in California and half in which other state?” Arizona was incorrect but Nevada was eventually mentioned.

The next group of three questions left all the teams stumped. What’s a group of cats called? (a clowder). A group of pigs? “Smelly” was not accepted, and the correct answer was sounder or drift. What do you call a group of hounds? (a mute). The teams fared better in the next round. The collective name for the sepals of a flower is calyx, the male reproductive organ of a plant are the stamens and dimorphotheca means two forms of seed. Finally, Convallaria is commonly known as Lily of the Valley.

The next set of questions “What family of plants does Hoya/Sempervivum/Senecio belong to?” were all answered correctly (Asclepiad/Crassula/Daisy). The bonus question asked the same of Tradescantia, but this went unanswered – it is a member of the Spiderworts. Next, the teams were asked where certain species were found in habitat. *Rhipsalidopsis rosea* came from Southern Brazil, *Gymnocalycium mihanovichii* came from Paraguay, but Southampton came unstuck with *Oroya peruviana* - the required answer was “above the Lima/Oroya railway at an altitude of 12000 feet”, prompting Cliff to exclaim “I can’t believe you didn’t get that! The answer to the bonus question of “Why is Cephalocereus hoppenstedtii so remarkable” was also rather obscure. Apparently, it can grow up to 10m tall, it can weigh 600kg and it grows in one of the hottest

and most arid areas, despite there being no apparent source of water.

Next, the teams were asked "Which cactus has no spines, no wool, no hair, no waxy coating and grows without the aid of direct sunlight?" (*Strombocactus disciformis*), "what is the smallest South American cacti?" (*Blossfeldia liliputana*) and "where does *Dendrocereus nudiflorus* grow?". Southampton were unable to answer this, but Portsmouth correctly answered with Cuba. Finally, "What does autogamous mean?" was answered as produces seed without being fertilised.

At this point, Robin said he had finished asking all his questions, but it was still rather early in the evening, so he drew on some extra questions prepared by Pauline. "How many miles did Ellen McArthur sail?" (27000), "which drink is made from Agave?" (Tequila), "how many years did Queen Victoria reign?" (64). "Which part of a woman's body was considered by the Chinese to be too provocative to paint?" (The feet), "who died on his birthday in 1616?" (Shakespeare), "which planet is surrounded by rings?" (Saturn). "Which ball game uses the largest field of play?" (Polo), "which is the largest muscle in the human body?" (the heart), "what was the name of Dick Turpin's horse?" (Black Bess).

"What role did Arthur Lowe play in Dad's Army?" (Captain Mainwaring), "which sea was Jesus baptised in?" (Jordan), "where would you find the Bridge of Sighs?" (Venice). "During the reign of Elizabeth the First, why did only the rich wear beards?" (There was a beard tax), "how many old pence in a guinea?" (252), "what follows Shrove Tuesday?" (Ash Wednesday). "Which mammal is pregnant the longest & how long?" (an elephant, 22 months), "what do kleptomaniacs do?" (steal things), "which was the first ship to use the SOS distress signal?" (the Titanic). "How many humans did Noah's ark carry?" (8 – Noah + wife + 3 sons & their wives), "in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, what was the penalty for impersonating a Chelsea pensioner?" (death), and "how many bones are there in the human body?" Southampton guessed 234, but Portsmouth were closest to the correct answer of 206.

That was the final round of questions, or so we thought. Anthony Mitchell was in the audience and he volunteered three additional questions, about the meanings of words. "What is the exact meaning of wife?" (it is derived from weaver), "what is the meaning of slang" (Secret Language) and "window"

– not the Bill Gates version (!) - was derived from wind holes.

The quiz really was over and the final scores were revealed as **Isle of Wight - 16, Southampton - 16 and Portsmouth - 21**. Cliff accepted the trophy on behalf of Portsmouth, but expressed some reservation about whether he would be allowed to carry the "beast" back onto the mainland!

With the quiz over, it was time for a chat and to also enjoy the food that the Isle of Wight had laid on. As the evening drew to a close, Cliff thanked the Isle Of Wight branch for holding the quiz and for their hospitality.

Vinay Shah

## Branch Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> September. Fortunately the Corinas' sofas and chairs had been reupholstered, so the threat of having to sit on the floor didn't materialise.

The purchase of 2 new books for the library was approved. A sleeve will be made to protect the New Cactus Lexicon.

Recent branch meetings and events were discussed. The New Forest Show made a good profit. Revenues from the Hilliers weekend were slightly lower than in previous years, but this was probably due to the poor weather over that weekend rather than being re-located to the Hilliers education building.

A discussion was held about the Zone Show and whether it should be held every two years. The event tends to lose money since expenses don't cover income, and holding the show less often was a way of cutting these losses. In future, it may be necessary for the branches to club together and provide funds in order to hold the show.

The program of talks for 2007 was discussed. The possibility of holding a Show during one of the evening meetings was considered but it was felt that the mini-show format was better since it involved more interaction with the members.

Vinay Shah

**Table Show – September 2006**

There were 15 entries in the September table show.

|              | <b>Cacti –<br/>Gymnocalycium<br/>Group</b>           | <b>Succulents –<br/>Mesemb. Group</b>                     |
|--------------|--|---|
| Open         | (1) T Grech<br><br>Gymn. pflanzii<br>var albipulpa   | (1) T Grech<br><br>Pleiospilos nelii                      |
|              | (2) B Beckerleg<br><br>Gymn. gibbosum<br>var nobile  | (2) T Grech<br><br>Lithops salicola                       |
|              | (3) J Roskilly<br><br>Gymn. horstii<br>var buenekeri | (3) B Beckerleg<br><br>Glottiphyllum oligocarpum          |
| Intermediate | (1) J Roskilly<br><br>Gymn. friedrichii              | (1) T Grech<br><br>Conophytum luckhoffii                  |
|              | (2) J Roskilly<br><br>Gymn. damsii                   | (2) T Grech<br><br>Conophytum pelucidum<br>ssp. cupreatum |
|              | (3) B Beckerleg<br><br>Gymn. hybopleurum             | (3) ?<br><br>Conophytum sp.                               |

Ivor Biddlecombe

**Next Month's Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> November, and will feature a talk by Doug Donaldson, titled ‘A Continental Experience’. Presumably this talk will be about collections or nurseries situated on the continent.

The November table show will feature **Echinocereus** (Cacti) and **Lithops** (Succulents). Please note that members are allowed to submit more than one entry in any of the classes, and that points will be earned for each placed entry.

The Echinocereus group consists of *Echinocereus*, *Morangaya* and *Wilcoxia*.

The Lithops subgroup includes *Lithops*, *Dinteranthus* and *Lapidaria*.

**Forthcoming Events**

|                          |               |   |
|--------------------------|---------------|---|
| Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct | Isle of Wight | “Deserts of the South West USA” – Malcolm Pym |
| Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> Oct | Portsmouth    | “Cinderella Succulents” – Bill Morris         |
| Tue 7 <sup>th</sup> Nov  | Southampton   | “A Continental Experience” – Doug Donaldson   |
| Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Isle of Wight | “Small and Sweet” – Stuart Riley              |
| Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov | Portsmouth    | <b>Annual General Meeting</b>                 |
| Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec  | Portsmouth    | Christmas Social / American Supper            |
| Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec  | Southampton   | <b>AGM</b> and Christmas Social               |
| Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Dec | Isle of Wight | <b>AGM</b> and Christmas Social               |

Branch website: <http://www.southampton.bcss.org.uk>