British Cactus & Succulent Society

Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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Editorial

September has raced by and the cooler evenings have started to become a more frequent occurrence. And it's now usually dark when I finish work for the day. I mention this because as a cost cutting measure the lights in the furthest reaches of our car park don't ever seem to be turned on!

At the start of September, I made an unexpected visit to the ELK event in Belgium due to another member dropping out. There was the usual selection of interesting plants to look at and buy and I brought back a good selection of plants. Although these days my plant acquisitions are usually 95% succulents, I did bring back over a dozen cacti this time!

Announcements

The branch had a successful day at the **Romsey Show** last month. Takings were up on previous years, the visitors showed good interest in our stand and we also won a £80 prize for our display.

A provisional date of Friday October 24th has been set for the **Branch Annual Dinner**, and we are planning to hold it at the usual venue (The Luzborough, situated between Romsey and North Baddesley). Please let David Neville know if you would like to attend.

The **Zone 11 Quiz** will be hosted by the Isle of Wight Branch on Saturday November 8th. We will be sending over a team for this event but we are currently one person short. If you are interested in making a trip over (we cross over using the hydrofoil and we will be picked up and taken to their meeting hall), please notify David Neville.

Last Month's Meeting

David mentioned that in May, he had picked up two plants left behind at the end of the mini-show – whose were they? After a few moments Mark Jakins recognised them as his, thanks to the labels. There was a brief discussion about whether baby-sitting fees should be payable for looking after the plants for 4 months!

Ted Smith had brought in a sample of peat based compost – this was good quality in his view, and it was on sale at "The Range" (2 x 60L bags for £10).

David had also brought along young plants of *Mammillaria glassii* v. *acsensionis*. These had been handed out to members at the mini-show and he invited people who hadn't collected a plant back then to collect one now, and grow it on. Sometime in the future, we'll invite members to bring these plants back so we can compare them.

Caudiciforms

Dot introduced Bob Potter, who started by asking "what is a Caudiciform plant"? In reality definitions are hard to find, and the word is even missing from the Oxford and Cambridge dictionaries. Another associated word is a caudex and there are some definitions of this "the axis of a woody plant specially a palm tree or fern comprising of stems and root" – but does that really help us? The related word caudex means tree trunk or woody base of a perennial plant. He talked with Gordon Rowley who is somewhat of an expert in the area and he suggested the word pachycaul, which means a big fat swollen root.

In the Guide to Shows (9th Edition), there are 20 groups which contains plants which could be described as Caudiciforms – these are Adenia. Agave, Aloe, Anacampseros, Ceropegia, Drassula, Didieria, Dorstenia, Euphorbia, Gasteria, Haworthia, Kedrostris, Mesembs, Monadenium, Othonna, Pachypodium, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Sansevieria and Stapelia.

If you take out the ones where there aren't too many examples of caudiciforms, then you are left with Adenia, Anacampseros, Ceropegia, Didieria, Dorstenia, Euphorbia, Kedrostris, Monadenium, Othonna, Pachypodium, Pelargonium and Peperomia, so you've reduced it from 20 to 12 groups. Most of the plants he would talk about tonight would come from these 12.

A few years back, before these groups were popular, a person called Fred Evans used to bring plants in from Africa and sell them. One of the acronyms used was the plants was "TCP" which stood for "The Caudiform Plants" – and also "Turnips, Carrots, Parsnips". Bob thought this description was a little unfair since most don't look like that. An article in the June 1992 Journal by Fred uses the TCP term and suggests that it was in 1967 (when the first National Show was held) that many people saw examples of these plants for the first time.

He started with Adenia and showed a typical *Adenia spinosa,* which is a readily available plant. It had a roundish fattened base, tapering up. With age, they become a bit more globular. *Adenia glauca* is more upright and a bit more cylindrical. It has a fairly swollen root, and throws up a vine of leaves which grow all over the place. There were two colours to the stem due to where it was below the ground and was now above. He has been fortunate enough to see them in habitat. The next picture featured an unknown plant in Madagascar - these are sometimes hard to identify since most of the swollen root base is below the ground and depending on the time of the year, there may not be any foliage on top either. If you were to dig it up, there would be a substantial tuber underground.

There are some plants in recent years from more unusual regions. *Adenia goetzei* is from Tanzania. There are different forms, some with slender leaves, but this example had a wider leaf. It is deemed to be fairly difficult to cultivate but he didn't think it was that hard. Also included in this group is Cyphostemma. *Cyphostemma juttae* is the commonest. *Cyphostemma betiforme* has attractive "campion" leaves and is well worth growing, but in the winter, temperature and moisture need to be watched as it can rot off. A plant he found in Madagascar some years ago is only a small plant in a 5 inch pot – but each year it throws up a wonderful red colouration on the stems, and the leaves are quite red on the underside and reddish greyish top. It flowers its head off but has not produced any seed. He wished he could remember where he got it from. Back in habitat, we saw *Cyphostemma laza* in Madagascar to show how big they can get. This plant was damaged and truncated but still several feet tall, and it could probably get to twice the size. It was throwing out some top growth, and you were almost getting into trees with some of these things, but the plant body is still quite fleshy thing – it's not solid and does have a high water content. His own *Cyphostemma laza* was 4.5 feet tall and had a long way to go. *Ficus petiolaris* is a beautiful plant, and it had thrown up two elongated parts with longer stems, and leaves. He's had it a number of years. It is quite nice to grow on. Another oddity in Tuléar (Toliara) in Madagascar was also a ficus but he had no clue as to what it was. It was only 6 inches high after a number of year, so not a large growing plant.

Next we saw an Adansonia, again in Madagascar. Given their eventual size, he doesn't suppose that anyone really wants to grow these. He did grow some seedlings a few years ago, and they got to 6 feet high but were only half inch across, so he threw them out. *Adansonia grandidieri* (the Baobab) forms a superb tree. It is one of the tallest Adansonias in Madagascar, but rarely will you see it on the show bench. Also within the group is Moringa. In south west Madagascar, just outside Tuléar, you can find beautiful trees with silvery bark and feathery leaves on top. These are very old plants, and visitors have carved graffiti on the soft stems. You can find small Moringas for sale and they look just like little twigs in a pot, occasionally with leaves on top. They are not easy to grow and you will just as likely lose them as grown them on. You can fatten them up sometimes but generally they are difficult and 15°-20°C temperatures are needed.

Uncarina is also in the group, and you see these on the show bench sometimes. *U. roeoesliana* has a fairly small base to the plant and then you have a long stem coming up with leaves and flowers at the top. They do branch in due course. They look the same in habitat. Ipomea is also within the group and is quite common on the show bench, and a plant that cab readily be bought. It has an attractive ball shaped caudex, and forms a lot of vine growth and has the typical ipomea/morning glory type flowers. This one was *I. holubii* which has a mauve blue colour. It flowers profusely. What you have to realise is that with most of these caudiciform plants is that in habitat you will not see the body since it's underground. However, in cultivation we grow most of them out of the pot. It is possible to grow the plants buried completely and you shouldn't really need to worry about it rotting off since that's what happens in nature.

Pterodiscus is another fascinating genus, and it grows in a vast range of Africa, including countres such as Ethiopia and Kenya. A plant going under the "sp nov" name for 5 years has a lovely yellow

flower. *P. speciosus* is a nice one with purple flowers and *P. aurantiaca* has reddish flowers. These are nice shrubby plants which grow to 5-6 inches high, so not large plants. He saw one in habitat in Ethiopia last November, where rain has washed some of the surface soil away, exposing the tuber.

Now for the Anacampseros group. In version 9 of the *Guide to Shows,* the plants in the grouping are at odds with each other, with large growing plants in the same group as miniatures. We saw a young plant of *Ceraria pygmea*. It had a flaky basal bit and globuar leaves on top. The woody base extends up and ends with a crown of leaves. They come from fairly arid regions in Namibia, and you have to be careful with the watering otherwise they can rot. We saw one of his plants which was quite large. The foliage is semi-persistent and the dead bits hang on, so it's hard to keep clean. In contrast, *Anacampseros alstonii* (*Avonia quinaria*) is very small and a 3-4 inch plant can be considered fairly large. When these are in the same class as Ceraria, it's very difficult to judge, but now Ceraria has been moved out to another group so the anomaly in sizes has been addressed.

In the Ceropegia group, there is some disparity here too. Fockea edulis is a fairly large plant - in habitat everything is underground. With *Fockea crispa*, the leaves are crinklier than with *F. edulis*, but it is rarely on sale and worth looking out for, whereas *F. edulis* is common. *Raphionacme hirsuta* are lovely looking plants and a good one with no blemishes on the caudex is really stunning. It forms top growth with purple-pink flowers in the axils. Hydnophytum is the ant plant, it is very tropical and very temperamental, and needs hot humid conditions. Brachystelmas are in this group too, so imagine comparing to compare the monster-sized Fockeas versus the tiny Brachystelmas. With the latter, a 2.5 to 3 inch diameter tuber is a fairly mature plant. Some of them have very interesting flowers and these do look fantastic.

In the Didiera group, it is hard to think of examples, but *Fouquieria (Idria) columnaris* is a large tree-type thing but it's not really woody. There are some fascinating things in this group including Boswellia, most of which are trees. The aromatic resin frankincense is derived from this genus. In Socotra, he found *Boswellia nana* only about 12 inches across, and at the back was a big swollen trunk which was another 12-15 inches. The plant sprawls on the ground, like a tree that's fallen over. It is quite an attractive thing. He has seen young plants of *Boswellia nana* but they look nothing like the older plants.

The Dorstenia group is a fascinating group of plants and only contains the genus Dorstenia. The plants have swollen roots/bases/tubers. *Dorstenia crispa lancifolia* was something they found on their last trip to Ethiopia. Generally all the plants are found under bushes or growing amongst the long grasses, so it is a struggle to find them. Some are no more than 4 inches high. It is fascinating to see and find these plants. We saw a habitat plant of *Dorstenia foetida* from Yemen – there are 2 distinct forms - one is very bushy and shrubby, and the other one as seen in the picture was a long columnar plants. They seem to grow out of the basalt rocks, with roots reaching into the fissures and crevices. The stem is quite succulent. They don't have a round caudex but they fit the bill. His own *Dorstenia crispa* looks like a little palm tree, ideal for a Tracy island model.

A lot of Dorstenias come from Ethiopia and Somalia, and the featured plant was from Taba'a Gorge and is called *Dorstenia lavrani,* after John Lavranos. They are easy to grow and offset well, and people were willing to pay good money for it, which is good news for a plant salesman! It also forms adventitious roots on the branches to assist in propagation. *Dorstenia ellenbeckiana* is lower and fatter than some of the others and so has more truncated and the growth looks stunted. It was about 4 inches tall, and has more of a swollen base. We saw his plant of *Dorstenia gigas* which comes from the island of Socotra, and then we saw one in habitat which was 6 feet high. It had a fantastic huge base on it and was again growing out of the rock. We then saw an even larger example, where the base was 2.5 metres across.

Within the Euphorbia group, there are all sorts of forms and shapes. A South African plant with tuberous roots and spiny top growth is *Euphorbia groenewaldii.* From Zimbabwe is *E. decidua* which is a plant on most people's want list - it is deciduous and is a fairly tricky plant to grow. *Euphorbia tuberosa* is from South Africa and is only 2 inches high - in habitat it is buried up to its stem tips. Over in Madagascar, near Cap Sainte-Marie on the southernmost tip is a plateau with high winds. Here grows *Euphorbia cap-saintemariensis*. The exposed habit means the plants are sand blasted to bits, which exposes the base and damages the arms, so the plants look very sorry for themselves. *E. tortirama* has similar growth to *E. groenewaldii* and has a mis-shapen root and swollen tuber.

Euphorbia quartziticola comes from a specific area of Madagascar with quartz fields. The twisted roots go a long way into the ground, and just the fingers come out with a rosette of leaves on top. Another Madagascar plant is *Euphorbia waringiae* which has

fine leaves. *Euphorbia suzannae-marnierae is* similar to *E. waringiae* but the leaves are almost like *E. decaryi Euphorbia itremensis* grows about 10-15km from *E. quartziticola*, see how twisted and bent some of the stems are. All of this growth would normally be below ground and you'd just see some leaf rosettes laying on the ground. The South African *E. suppressa* is extremely rare in habitat. It grows up as a column, and you'd wonder is it really a caudiciform? Well it does store lots of moisture in its fleshy body and does also make substantial growth underground. Back in Madagascar, *E. tulearensis* is a fairly rare plant which is temperamental. This is surprisingly since it grows alongside *Aloe descoingsii*, which is straightforward to grow.

Euphorbia cylindrifolia var tubifera is also from Madagascar it has quite large basal caudexes. It grows completely below the ground with just the arms showing. A weird plant is *Euphorbia razafindratsirae*, which was being grown in a tall pot. In habitat, most of the stems would be underground, the stolons run around underground and a rosette of leaves then pops up out of the ground. It can get to half a metre across. *E. alfredii* has a succulent stem. *Euphorbia stellata* had a nice smooth looking base which did have not too many dings in it, it has lovely flattened green arms which tend to be persistent.

Continuing after the mid-meeting break, Bob showed some of plants he had brought along. To represent the mesembs, we saw a typical Trichodiadema. These have a swollen root. With *Euphorbia moratii*, the caudex was raised up out of the soil, but he's now got several buried up to the neck. He expected the buried ones to grow more vigorously. He suggested that burying the caudex kept it cooler – it can easily get cooked if exposed to direct sun. With *Dorstenia gigas*, he showed us plants that were 3 and 6 years old, showing how it was possible to get some substantial and attractive plants in a relatively short time.

The Kedrostris group is part of the Cucurbitaceae, and we saw some seedlings of *Dendrosicyos socotrana*, the cucumber tree. Despite being 2-3 years old, they were still less than 3 inches tall. If you look at them in Socotra, they are fantastic trees. The trunks are quite spongy, and not hard wood. We also saw *Dioscorea elephantipes* as a young plant – it does look quite different from the mature plant which everybody has probably seen. There are some odd things in this group. *Cephalopentandra ecirrhosa* is a fairly small plant, they are quite strangely fissured and have knobbly trunks. Bear in mind when the leaves or the stem dies back you are only left with the caudex, so it is nice if the basal growth looks good through the year. *Pyrenacantha malvifolia* is found in Northern Africa and places like Ethiopia and Kenya. These were little plants, with a fissured effect to the base and a reasonable canopy of leaves. The next one was found on his last Ethiopian trip. They also came across a field of *Pyrenacantha malvifolia* plants – these are very slow growing and must have old plants. The scene was like an alien invasion where these blobs had just dropped in from space. *Xerosicyos pubescens* is now called *Zygosicyos pubescens* and it's a ball caudex from Madagascar which produces a lot of vine. He cuts down the top growth to keep it manageable. Gerrardanthus was growing in a garden in Madagascar and was 3-4 feet across. It's a genus which you don't see that often.

Stephania comes from Asia which makes it unusual since there are not that many Asian succulents or caudiciforms. The leaf is quite attractive and the basal part has a cracked glaze to it.

In the Monadenium group, *Jatrophya berlandieri* (syn. *Jatropha cathartica*) has a rounded base and is quite shrubby on the top. It's quite nice and is available. *Jatropha podragica* has a similar flower and leaf structure. Mondeniums tend to come from East Africa and are quite hard to grow, he's not sure of the secret of growing them well. They occur in hot arid regions so don't get a lot of moisture. A plant of *Monadenium mafingense* was 3½ inches tall. These were examples of plants where if we grew the plant bodies above the ground, it would be too hot for the caudex – buried in the soil they would be cooler. For compost, he uses a pumice/clay mixture for all his plants. It is very free draining and dries out quickly. He doesn't mix anything else in. *M. capitatum* is a plant which he would grow with the caudex buried a lot lower. *Monadenium montanum* v *rubellum* almost forms little bulbils on the end of the curly stems – you only have to cut the stems and they will root very easily, so it's easy to propagate.

In the Othonna group, *Othonna cacalioides* is perhaps the poor man's *Pachypodium brevicaule.* It used to be around but is not seen much these days. Not many Othonnas can be put into the caudiciform category, but Alice mentioned she had got some from Czech grower Petr Pavelka. *Othonna triplinervia* forms taller stemmed plants with a widened base and forms an attractive little tree. *Othonna euphorbioides* looks a little like an Euphorbia. The bottom parts swells into a caudex and it branches out quite well. Anthony Mitchell gave out seedlings of this to our branch members many years ago and several people grew it.

In the Pachypodium group, one always has to talk about *P. brevicaule*, which comes from the area where *Euphorbia quartziticola* grows. The plants from this area grow differently from the other P. brevicaules he's seen, and they are much flatter, even for large plants. The more typical brevicaule is raised up and can form mounds. It can be tricky to grow sometimes, especially over the winter period. *P. densiflorum* was photographed before it was in full growth - in winter all the leaves drop off. There was a nice texture on some of the stems. The plant is variable in habitat. We saw a couple of plants in Madagascar which were 1m and 50-60cm across respectively, and in flower. In a nursery in Madagascar, he came across plants of *Pachypodium rosulatum* which were supposedly seed grown, but they looked like plants from habitat. Next, we did see some *Pachypodium rosulatum* growing in the Isalo mountains in central Madagascar. These are hills rather than mountains really and you can find these plants growing all over the place, including the National Park. There were some fantastic plants, he was some distance away when photographing them, but they must have been 15-16" diameter. They also seem to like to grow amongst the grass. Another plant was 2 to 2.5 feet tall. At the top end of Madagascar, near the rock outcrop called Windsor Castle (near Diego Suarez) they found *P. baronii var. windsorii.* This large plant was a lucky find, on the way back from Windsor Castle. They had only seen a few plants in precarious positions over the edge of rocks so didn't get a close look at these, but in the distance they spotted a flash of red colour and decided to investigate. They got scratched working their way through various bushes and vegetation but eventually reached a superb plant which was 3½ feet tall. The trunks on this plant have a pithy feel to them. *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* has spiny upper branches and forms large tree-sized plants in due course.

We saw his *Adenium socotranum* seedlings which were 2.5 inches high and he compared them to the large ones found on Socotra, where it was a privilege to see them. The irony was that he and his wife Beryl lived for 3 years in North Yemen and at the time, Socotra belonged to South Yemen and could not be visited – so they were on the doorstep but could not go there. He had to wait until 2008 before he could finally visit the island. It is just a big shame because in the 1970s he could have brought back fantastic plants and seeds. We saw some *Adenium obesum* plants in his nursery, these were seedlings a few years old. He contrasted these with a very old picture taken with a film camera in the 1970s of an *Adenium obesum* in habitat – this must have been 8-9 feet across. It was typical of how you used to see them, full of flower, but you don't usually see them with leaf and flower at the same time. *Pachypodium bispinosum* is South African and is fairly widespread. It forms a lot of top growth and he showed what was lurking below the ground.

Pelargoniums often have woody bits so perhaps are questionable as members of the Caudiciforms. *Pelargonium mirabile* once it starts growing and get to a decent size does have the semblance of a basal root. It's the same thing with *Pelargonium cotyledonis* which comes from the island of Saint Helena. This has more of an upright stem.

The Peperomia group has a few members that exhibit basal growths. *Peperomia dolabriformis* forms trunk-like stems. A few are like little Brachystelma tubers, and you do get some water storage organs forming,

Bob now covered "misfits", or plants which did not belong in the 12 main groups he covered. *Calibanus hookeri* is from the Agave group. He has never seen a big one of these, but in the United States, they get to the size of a car or larger. We also saw *Dracena cinnabari* in Socotra - well it does form trunks which store water. The most interesting thing is that the stem contains a red sap which can be drained and used to colour various things. It has a fairly softish trunk.

On one of his first trips to Madagascar, they visited Mora Mora, just north of Tuléar. A guide took them to see plants of *Adansonia grandidieri* and during the trip, a little man popped out of the grass and asked why they were walking across his field. They started discussing plants and he said he could show them some plants. After walking for something like 5km, he started digging and dug up a huge tuber. "Do you want it?" he asked. They couldn't carry that back so Bob asked him if he could find any smaller ones, and he dug one up for them. It was about 5 inches across and he brought it home. He stuck it in a pot and the green vine started emerging in due course. This was very vigorous and grew all over his greenhouse. There was a convention at Reading and Werner Rauh was due to be at the event. Werner was a very knowledgeable German and he knew everything there was to know. So Bob bundled the plans and miles of the green vine into to his car and took it to Reading. He found Werner and asked him what it was. Werner looked at it and said "Ah! Very interesting". So Bob asked "Well, what is it, then?" The reply came back "I haven't got a f***ing clue". If Werner didn't know, there was no hope Eventually, Bob did learn that the plant is called *Trochomeriopsis diversifolia*.

Bob finished on that note, with that plant's name perhaps signifying how diverse these plants were. He hoped he'd inspired people to grow some of these plants!

Vinay Shah

Table Show Results

There were 20 entries in the September table show.

	Cacti – Gymnocalycium	**Succulents – Euphorbia**
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe G. saglionis	(1) B Beckerleg E. valida
	(2) T Smith G. ambatoense	(2) I Biddlecombe E. obesa
	(3) B Beckerleg G. striglianum	(3) T Smith E. obesa
Intermediate	(1) B Beckerleg G. vatteri	(1) B Beckerleg E. mosaica
	(2) I Biddlecombe G. mihanovichii	(2) I Biddlecombe E. susannae
	(3) I Biddlecombe G. baldianum albiflora	(3) T Radford Monadenium rhizophorum

Ivor Biddlecombe

Branch Committee Meeting

A branch committee meeting was held at Dot's on 30th September.

Alice provided a preliminary view of the accounts for the year to September. Income and expenditure had matched reasonably well, but due to additional spending on the Anniversary events, we would probably show a loss. The meeting hall rent has also been increased.

Recent meetings and events were discussed. The New Forest and Romsey shows had gone well, with record plant sales at both events.

Being our 60th Anniversary, we had organised various outings during the year, including arranging car shares. A few members did take up the opportunity to attend these events but on the whole numbers were quite low. It's hard to know what more could have been done to encourage more people to join in.

A discussion was held on the Zone Quiz. We have to send a team to the Isle of Wight in November and it is our turn to host the event next year. Attendance from our own members when we last hosted it was very poor, but we didn't really want to be the branch that "killed off" this event.

A provisional date has been picked for the branch dinner (24th October) and despite the difficulties in how the food has to be ordered, we will use the Luzborough due to its convenient location.

Dot has prepared a questionnaire to ask members what they feel about Branch activities and what they were interested in. This was reviewed by the committee and the questionnaires will be handed out in the near future.

David has started work on putting together next year's branch programme.

Vinay Shah

Bookworm Corner

We are now well into the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. The trees are starting to look very golden with some already dropping their leaves in the wind. I have a glass full of glossy brown horse chestnuts on the mantelpiece as I think they look so lovely. On the down side, driving across the New Forest some mornings has been rather challenging with ponies and cattle appearing out of the mists!

The wintering birds are now arriving with numbers building up of brent geese, teal and wigeon in particular. We had a large flock of a couple of hundred swallows passing through last week having spent the day feeding up around the village. Other birds also seen locally on the way back to Africa are nightjar and wheatears.

A welcome splash of colour is present in the cacti house with lithops, conophytums, turbinicarpus, echeveria and the odd mammillaria and parodia flowers. The bright yellow faucaria flowers are particularly popular with the bumble bees!

The next major event in the garden is trying to get the glass back in the greenhouse to say nothing of all those cacti and succulents sitting out in the garden that somehow have to be shoe-horned back in. Perhaps we shouldn't have bought so many new plants this year but honest we just can't help it!

Don't forget to have a look at the donated books for sale on the library table.

'ENJOYED THE LECTURE? THEN ENJOY THE BOOK!'

September

Bob Potter gave a very interesting presentation on 'caudiciform succulents' in September. The perfect book to borrow from the library on this subject is '**Caudiciform & pachycaul succulents**' (Rowley) This book includes plenty of habitat and cultivation photographs with subjects ranging from definition of caudiciforms and pachycauls, through various family groups, bonsai and cultivation to uses as food and medicines. Also available is '**Pachypodium & Adenium**' (Rowley) for more detailed information on these succulents.

October

This month we welcome Tony Irons to give us a talk on 'growing from seed'. Books to take time to study during the long dark evenings include '**The Complete book of cacti & succulents**' (Hewitt), '**Cactus and succulents**' (Mace) and '**Growing cacti & other succulents in the conservatory & indoors**' (Bell). All of these books cover hints and tips on seed raising. Hopefully Tony's talk will inspire a few more people to have a go and raise their own future home bred show champion at a future National Show! These books are to be found in **Featured Book Corner.**

Sue Wilson

Next Month's Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 4th November and will feature our very own David Neville, who will talk about his trip to South Africa in 2013.

The November Table Show will consist of **3 Cacti** and **3 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.

Do rememeber that for each month's table show, there is also a group for displaying any flowering cactus or succulent plant.

Forthcoming Events

Sat 11th Oct	Isle of Wight	Off The Beaten Track 2 (Rodney Sims)
Sat 18th Oct	Portsmouth	Mesembs in the Flesh & Digital (Suzanne Mace)
Fri 24th Oct	Southampton	Annual Branch Dinner @ The Luzborough, Romsey, SO51 9AA
Tue 4th Nov	Southampton	Highlights of South Africa & Namibia (David Neville)
Sat 8th Nov	Isle of Wight	Zone 11 Quiz (Hosted by Isle of Wight Branch)
Sat 15th Nov	Portsmouth	Highlights of South Africa & Namibia (David Neville)
Tue 2nd Dec	Southampton	Annual General Meeting, followed by Christmas Social/American Supper
Sat 6th Dec	Portsmouth	Annual General Meeting & Christmas Social
Sat 13th Dec	Isle of Wight	Annual General Meeting followed by American Supper

Branch website: http://www.southampton.bcss.org.uk
Facebook : https://www.facebook.com/southamptonbcss