

MANCHESTER BRANCH
NEWSLETTER JULY 1997

June saw us carry out a venture that we have not attempted before, namely a summer evening trip to John Henshaw's nursery. Those hardy people who ventured forth on what proved to be a thoroughly foul evening were treated to a homely welcome by John and Norma for which we thank them heartily. There were many plants for sale at quite reasonable prices and their collection, which is extensive, was a considerable talking point. If you have never ventured to their place I commend it to you.

The miserable weather brought darkness on the scene an hour earlier than it should be for mid June but electricity was brought into play to prevent an early curtailment to the trip.

FORTHCOMING TALKS

July sees a visit from Graham Hole from Kettering to give a talk on Tephrocacti. This is a requested talk by one of the members following a plea to members to let us know any topics they would like to see on the programme. Unfortunately it appears the member concerned may be away on holiday and miss the occasion.

This also appears to be a possibility in August also when Rodney Sims visits the branch to deliver his talk "Aloe, Aloe". The talk was requested by Gretchen Roth, one of our newer members, who will be several thousand miles across the Atlantic Ocean at the time.

We continue to encourage you to request the sort of talks you would like to hear

(and see) but urge you to let us know any month you might not be available to avoid disappointment.

OUR SPEAKERS

Graham Hole. Graham has been collecting cacti for many years now and is an active member of the Chileans. Besides his keen interest in Tephrocactus he is deeply interested in the genus Gymnocalycium, of which he has a splendid collection a reliable source informs me. He also is keenly interested in cacti from the Patagonian Desert area of Argentina. This includes Austrocactus and other plants from the Neoporteriae that grow in southern Argentina. He has, in the past been an avid collector of Sulcorebutia but not quite so much these days. We are assured of a splendid evening from a knowledgeable speaker.

Rodney Sims. Like the previous speaker, Rodney has been in the hobby for a great many years. He is an active member of Zone 6, serves on the Shows Committee of the B.C.S.S., being particularly to the forefront in the organisational side of the Judge's Course which is held at Moulton Agricultural College on the outskirts of Northampton. He has imparted his considerable knowledge of the genus Aloe for the benefit of serving and would be judges at this course. The fact that we are able to avail ourselves of speakers with such relative ease is also down to Rodney. He has for many years overseen the speakers list and has only recently completed a revision of the list bringing everything up to date. Thank you and well done that man. Without a shadow of a doubt we are assured of yet another

splendid evening.

If you haven't been able to visit us for some time why not try to remedy the situation. You are assured of a welcome and where else could you go for just £1 on a Saturday evening and have such scintillating entertainment?

THE BRANCH SHOW

This is now a glimmer in the past but it was a splendid affair. Those of you who, for whatever reason, were unable to come to Wythenshawe Park on Saturday 28 June missed a real feast of plants. Quite a number of the general public joined visitors from other branches in ogling the fine specimens that were on display-- plants that is. A total of 13 people entered as exhibitors, of whom four were visitors from other branches. Our thanks go to all the hardy souls who spend hours sorting out, packing up, transporting, staging and eventually the reverse of these actions for the return journey. All the hard work is greatly appreciated and it helps to bring the hobby to the notice of the public, many of whom have no idea that the society, or even the hobby, exists.

RESULTS

Ginns Medal for most points in show:
Peter Bint
Silver Medal for 2nd highest points:
Geoff Bailey
Bronze Medal for 3rd highest points:
Charlie Williams
Garden News Trophy for most points in closed section for Manchester members:
Geraldine and David Dysón
Diplomas for best cactus and best other succulent went to Charlie Williams for his splendid specimens of Echinocactus

grusonii and Agave victoria regina. They both contributed towards a future hernia for Brendan who gallantly did the lifting for Charlie. WELL DONE EVERYONE. Our thanks once again go especially to John Steedman who, for the third year running made all the internal arrangements at the Park for a successful event in extremely pleasant surroundings. If you haven't been to Wythenshawe Park to look around then I commend it to you. Don't leave it too long. Yet again the body controlling the everyday running of the venue has changed. Nobody within Manchester Council really wants to accept responsibility for the horticultural section and it is continually being passed from pillar to post. Its budget has been cut drastically for the coming year, staff are being moved or made redundant and I'm afraid we have lost our ally as John is being moved to a "nature reserve" at Clayton in east Manchester. He has promised to pave the way for us with the new manager as soon as he knows who it is, but we all know the adage about new brooms.....

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Have you bought your ticket for the Zone 19 convention on September 20? If not why not?

Where will you find three such talented speakers in one day?
Steve Hammer, the unparalleled King of mesembs, a witty and knowledgeable speaker who never gives the same talk twice even with the same slides.
Gordon Rowley our Society President and highly capable speaker and Roger Ferryman the "Chilean wizard".
BOOK NOW TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.