



Berkhamsted and District Branch

Editor's Comments

Inside this issue:

<i>Zone 6 Events</i>	1
<i>Luton Branch Show</i>	2
<i>Borzicactus Hoxeyi</i>	2
<i>Branch Mini Show</i>	3
<i>Forthcoming meetings—South Africa</i>	3
<i>Forthcoming meetings—Peru 2014</i>	3
<i>National Show</i>	4

Forthcoming Branch and Zone Events in 2016/2017:

- 12 November—Derek Tribble-SA 2014 Western Cape
- 10 December—Xmas Get-together
- 14 January 2017—David Kirkbright-Peru 2014
- 11 February 2017—AGM and members' slides
- 11 March 2017—Rodney Sims-Sundry Succulents—Part 1

Welcome to the October 2016 Branch Newsletter. I hope you have had a successful year growing your plants and they are looking well. Yet another year seems to have flashed by and we will soon be approaching the shortest day. Thereafter the days will be getting longer as we look forward to another growing season.

Since the last newsletter in January the Branch has welcomed back some old friends to talk to us and two new speakers, Alan Brown from Leicester and Peter and Carolyn Clayton from Luton. Topics have covered Large Flowered Mammillarias in cultivation and habitat (Chris Davies in January); Cacti in Northern Chile (Paul Hoxey in March); Argentina (Rick Gillman in May); Euphorbia Odyssey (Bob Potter in June);

and Namibia (Alan Brown in July) also Joshua Tree National Park (Peter and Carolyn Clayton in September).

As usual, the Branch held its Mini-Show in August, dutifully judged by Alice Vanden bon.

The big event for 2016 was the Branch's hosting of the 2016 Zone 6 Open Day at the end of July. Five collections and gardens were open to members of the Society: Rodney Sims, Julian Cooke, Jamie Barron, Ian Sharpe and Gill and David Wilson. Altogether 27 people from the Zone came, plus a couple of neighbours of Gill and David's. All in all, a very successful day. Thank you to all of them for all their efforts getting ready and on the day.

The big Society event for 2016 was the National Show



which was held at the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester, Huntingdon on Saturday 20th August.

Looking ahead, work has started on the Branch's 2017/2018 Programme. If anyone has a topic they would like or a particular speaker to give the Branch a talk then please let me know. Throughout the newsletter photos are by the Editor, unless otherwise stated.

Average attendance so far this year is 9.7 (10.8 2015).

David

Zone 6 Events

Zone 6 events were well spaced out across the year. The first event was the Convention, hosted by Luton Branch, at the beginning of April. There were two speakers, Zlatko Janeba and John Ellis. Zlatko gave two talks: 'Flora of the Peruvian Coast'

and 'Rare Plants and Most Recent Discoveries'. John gave one talk: 'Through the Lens'.

There was no Zone Show in 2016 as the Zone Committee decided to hold the event every other year. The Branch will be hosting the 2017 Zone

Show on Saturday 03 June 2017.

As mentioned above, the Branch hosted the Zone Open Day in 2016. A lot of hard work by the members' opening their collections resulted in a very successful day.

Luton Branch Show 2016 *by David Wilson*



Over the years Gill and I have supported the Luton Branch Show, originally at Brag End, near Stevenage, then at St Margaret's Church in Luton, and now at their present site at Pirton, near Hitchin. Julian Cooke and Ian Sharpe have also been exhibitors at different times in the past.

Spot on time the judging commenced, ably carried out

by the two judges (Tony Morris and Alan Brown) from Leicester Branch.

The venue consists of a large hall and a smaller area for the refreshments. The catering for the show is always of a high standard. Late afternoon, the cups and trophies were presented, with Martin Hyam's having the most points in the show.



My Favourite Plants #7: *Borzicactus Hoxeyi*

by Julian Cooke

At last I have got around to another article on some of my favourite plants. Here I feature a plant that is relatively new to cultivation but one which I think will prove popular and relatively easy to grow.

Borzicactus hoxeyi is the plant. Discovered in 2010 by Paul Hoxey in the southern part of Peru on the lower slopes of the Morro De Sama the plant in my greenhouse has so far proved to be easy to grow and very floriferous even when just a relatively small cutting. The plant itself has stems about 5 cm in diameter which are deep green and ribbed. The areoles sport a number of short needle like

brown spines. At present the largest plant I have is about 15 cm high and so far is upright although in habitat the stems fall and creep thus it is likely that *Borzicactus hoxeyi* will prove ideal for a hanging basket. The roots are very tuberous.

Flowers emerge at the upper part of the stem and are about an inch long when fully open. The petals are red at the ends but change to a fiery orange at the base making for a very attractive site. They are produced throughout the summer from early-mid June onwards.

Thus far cultivation has proved easy. I have a grafted plant which has flowered and

one on its own roots which is growing steadily but has yet to flower. As it has tuberous roots a well drained growing medium is advisable. Although it comes from the south of Peru where one would expect high temperatures, mine has been down to 3-4 degrees C without ill effect.

Time will tell but its free flowering habit and spectacular flowers will, I suspect, make it a hit with collectors. As of now it is relatively rare in cultivation but is becoming available from specialists including Paul Hoxey himself so do look out for it on the sales bench as it is well worth growing.



Photo: Julian Cooke

Branch Mini Show 2016 by David Wilson



In recent years the Branch has held a Mini-Show in place of the August meeting. It is a friendly affair, giving members the opportunity to see different plants and to have a good natter.

judge, Alice Vanden Bon, for her sterling effort in judging the show and then leading a general discussion about the plants afterwards



As in previous years there were some interesting and desirable plants on display. Ian won the Best Cactus for his magnificent *Ariocarpus fissuratus*, while Gill and David took the Best Succulent for their *Euphorbia decaryii*.

We should also thank our



Forthcoming Meetings

November—South Africa 2014—Western Cape

Derek Tribble has been a regular visitor to South Africa over a great many years. His encyclopedic knowledge of the succulents of Southern Africa, including *Haworthias*, *Gasterias*, *Tylecodons*, *Mesembryanthemums*, *Adromischus* and many others, means that **Derek's talks should not be missed.**

Apart from the plants, Derek is an excellent photographer, a subject on which he gives an interesting talk.

December-Christmas Get-Together

The Branch will be celebrating Christmas at our December meeting, with the usual entertainment, nibbles and Grand Raffle. Don't forget to bring your prize for the Grand Raffle.

In addition, this year we are investigating the possibility of having a lunch at the local carvery before the meeting, to get us in the mood for the festivities.

January 2017-Peru 2014

David Kirkbright is the Society Treasurer and a keen driver of the BCSS. He is also the Zone 6 Treasurer and Treasurer of the Northampton and Milton Keynes Branch..

Over the years he has visited several countries, including South Africa, Madagascar and Southern America hunting for plants.

It has been several years since we last entertained David as a speaker so we should be in for a real treat.

National Show 2016



The National Show took place at the Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester on Saturday 20th August 2016, three weeks after the Zone 6 Open Day. National Shows are fantastic places to see a range of specimen plants.



We put our plants into the car Friday evening, always a challenge but at least it saved us having to do it Saturday morning.

Saturday saw us up bright and early, if a bit bleary eyed, as we had breakfast then made our

way to the show, a one and a half hour drive. After checking out the hall we were ready to put our plants on the show bench.

Once the plants were staged we made our way to the sales area, where over 30 nurseries were waiting to tempt us with their wares. We rummaged through the plants on sale looking for the odd little gem.

Once the judging was over we were able to get into the show hall to see how our plants had done.

During the afternoon we went to see the cats and dogs waiting for homing.

Finally we were able to pack up our plants, they always go into the car much better than when we first load them. Once the car was loaded we retraced our steps homeward. We look forward to the next National Show in four years time.



The shows committee was very pleased with the outcome of the show. There were more exhibitors than in 2012 numbering 105 in total from all parts of the UK and three from overseas. A total of 1350 entries were received which again was up on the 2012 numbers. The standard and quality of the plants on display in general was extremely good and we are very grateful for all those exhibitors that brought the BIG BOYS for everyone to enjoy.

Sales of wristbands were over 900 and it is estimated that total attendance was 1065. The extended times of access to the exhibits and sales appeared to work well.



Berkhamsted Branch

We meet at:- Lower Hall
Christ Church
The Nap
Kings Langley
Hertfordshire WD4 8ET

www.berkhamsted.bcsc.org.uk

The principal objectives of the BCSS are to promote the study, conservation, propagation and cultivation of cacti and other succulent plants.



Zone 6 Show 2017

Berkhamsted Branch will be hosting the 2017 Zone 6 Show that will be taking place on **Saturday 3 June 2017 at Great Missenden Memorial Centre, Link Road, Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 9AE**. Please make a note in your diary.

Staging will be between 09.30 and 11.00. Judging will take place from 11.00.

The judges will be Alice Vanden Bon and Kathy Flanagan.

Plant sales will be provided by:-

- William's Cactus
- Stuart Riley

Refreshments will be available throughout the day.

We will need as much support as possible at the hall to get the show set up on the Friday evening and throughout the day of the show, e.g. manning the door, assisting exhibitors, judges runners, selling raffle tickets.

Donations of cakes or other foodstuffs, plus prizes for the raffle will be greatly appreciated.