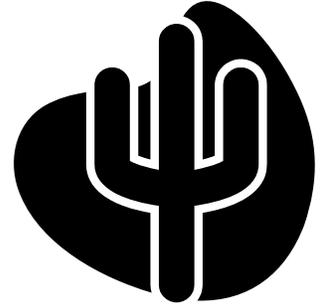




NEW YORK CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



CACTUS COMMENTS / JANUARY 2008

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NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on Tuesday January 15, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., at Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, 351 East 74th Street, NYC, Room 101 (above Lobby). The meeting will be from 6.00 PM to 7:45 PM.

PROGRAM

We have a special treat for all you succulent lovers out there. We will present a slide show from the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Slide Library entitled "Caudiciform Succulents". This slide show of 100 slides was authored by the world reknown Gordon Rowley of the British C&S Society, and will be presided by your editor. The show begins with mention of the pioneers of the Caudiciform cult in Britain, and then explains the loosely defined separation of the three major types and two subgroups. We will cover a few plants in various transitional stages from some of the largest genera of succulents and then present many examples of the three major groups with the largest number being those in the Caudiciform group. This should be an interesting and informative presentation on these unusual and "different" succulents, so we look forward to seeing you all there. These slide presentations from the CSSA have always been a big hit at past meetings, and this one should be no different.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Quite a few membership dues are still outstanding, so please mail in your dues as soon as possible or bring your dues to the next meeting. This may be the last newsletter to be sent to unpaid members, so please, for the sake of your society, send in those dues.

PLANT TABLE

As always, members are encouraged to bring in some plants for our plant table sale. And for those of you that have some Caudiciform plants to show off, bring them along.



Testudinaria elephantipes

This remarkable and queer looking South African plant of the Yam family develops a very large woody-like base which in its native home may measure some three feet in diameter and weigh over one hundred pounds. Twining stems arise from this large basal part, the leaf petioles are also clasping and the side branches end in small tendrils, so that it is well able to clamber up through surrounding vegetation.

The names Elephant's Foot, Tortoise Plant and Hottentot Bread have been given to it. *Testudinaria* from the word *testudo*, a tortoise, refers to the resemblance of the corky protuberances to those on the carapace of some tortoise. The name *elephantipes*, is from the words meaning, like an elephant's foot, which this plant in its medium sizes does resemble. It was also baked and eaten by the Hottentots.

Testudinaria elephantipes 1/2