

# British Cactus & Succulent Society

## Southampton & District Branch Newsletter

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## Editorial

Hopefully that sharp cold spell last week was a marker for the end of winter. I haven't thought of venturing out into the conservatory to water anything yet, but we might be only a week or two away from an initial light watering to start waking things up – provided the temperatures hold up, of course.

The price of standard seed and gravel trays in garden centres can be a bit of a shock (£2 each!) but a solution may be found at the pound shops who sell medium sized plastic food containers with tight lids at 2/£1. Lined with plastic (just in case you decide one day to use them in the kitchen!) they make suitable containers for growing seeds and young plants indoors.

## Announcements

A reminder that if you haven't already done so, please renew your BCSS membership as soon as possible - the March Journal is about to be mailed out to members. The **membership renewal** forms were sent with the December journal, and you can also renew online from the BCSS website, at [www.bcss.org.uk/paypal.php](http://www.bcss.org.uk/paypal.php)

We have recently learnt that the **Romsey Show** will be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September (not the 7<sup>th</sup> as mentioned in our programme of events) so please update your copy with the new date.

In May, our monthly meeting will take the form of a **cultivation evening**, and we will finalise the agenda shortly. If there are topics you would like to see discussed, please let David Neville know today.

The branch welcomes Norman Maclean from Highfield, Southampton as a new member.

**Enamel badges** designed by the branch and featuring a cactus design are available from the front table at a cost of £2. There are also some **key fobs** with the same design for a similar price.

Below is a piece from David remembering the late Doug Rowland :

### Rest in peace Doug Rowland

Those members of our branch who have been in the hobby for several years will probably remember a small company from Bedford who offered a large selection of cactus and succulent seeds, by the name of SouthWest Seeds. The man behind the company was Doug Rowland, and I am sad to report that he passed away in mid February. SouthWest Seeds produced a seed catalogue for many years, and I raised hundreds of plants from seed purchased from him over a period of more years than I care to remember. Doug was a very amenable character, and was the mainstay of Bedford Branch of the BCSS for a very long time. I will remember him for the large selection of seeds that he offered and for the many plants that I added to my collection thanks to the efforts he made in sourcing unusual seeds from all over the world.

*David Neville*

## Last Month's Meeting

Cliff was impressed to see the large audience which had assembled for the February meeting. David said it was because we have such good speakers! Cliff mentioned the talk would be about a trip made in 2008 when he was accompanied by Paul Klaassen, Ian Woolnough, and an American lady, Eunice Thompson.

A map showed that Baja California is a thin strip of land to the west of Mexico. It is about a thousand miles long. Although the land is desert-like, there are tropical storms occasionally. The first plant they saw after crossing over the border from San Diego was *Dudleya brittoni* - there were hundreds of these all the way down the hillsides. Another succulent growing here was *Agave shawii*. Both plants were abundant in this area.

They took pictures at a road cutting where the cliffside had been cut. There was amazing regeneration, with plants re-establishing everywhere. *Mammillaria dioica* was in flower – many Mammillarias in Baja have been given

different names but Cliff thinks many are just variations of this species. In some places, about 10% of the *Dudleya brittoni* populations have no farina, and these plants look like a different species.

Some of the grasses grow 3-4 feet tall and had fantastic inflorescences. Looking down over the rock face you could see the azure sea. In the distance were *Ferocactus cylindraceus*, a fairly old green *Dudleya brittoni* and also *Agave shawii*. A plant had attractive pale purple buds and flowers but he didn't recognise what it was. We also saw a shot of masses of spring flowers covering the hillside in patches of purple and yellow. Some sort of cucurbit had spiky fist sized fruits. A view into the distance over the valleys showed the ground covered in yellow flowers – the abundance of these flowering plants suggested the valleys can remain moist for a while. They saw some other *Dudleyas* but he wasn't sure of the species. There were also ferns growing here, in areas sheltered from the sun. They found more examples of *Dudleya brittoni* – some of these were 2 feet in diameter and there were many 15-18 inch specimens too. *Mammillaria dioica* was also found again.

The next picture showed a car being driven along the road with different sized rear tyres fitted! We saw some more of the spring flowering plants, and *Dudleya* with spotted leaves was also flowering. A fully grown *M. dioica* was growing in a clear patch, and we also saw the arching stems of *Stenocereus (Macherocereus) gumosus*. These were all growing in close proximity to the sea. A *Dudleya* nearby was growing in sand. Stems of *Stenocereus gumosus* made large thickets. Another example of *Mammillaria dioica* had darker bodies and looked quite stressed – the flower size was also different from the previous examples. *Echinocereus maritimus* had orange flowers. There was a nice shot of a tall *Fouquieria (Idria) columnaris* growing behind a large clump of *Myrtillocactus kochal*. The *Fouquieria* ("Boojum Tree") was very common in some places. He was surprised to see how green everything was. We saw an exceptional *Ferocactus latispinus* with wide red spines, and a lovely plant of *Agave shawii* with a small *Dudleya* growing nearby. A shot showed *Echinocereus*, *Pachycereus*, *Fouquieria* and *Opuntias* galore and further shots showed various mixtures of these.

A medium sized shrub with light purple flowers was a solanaceae of some type. A "Garden of Eden" shot showed all sorts of plants growing surrounded by annual flowers, with *Ferocactus cylindraceus* being prominent - a close up showed the magnificent red spination. There was a lot of other vegetation here. Two *Ferocacti* seedlings growing to each other were football sized – they were similar in size and must have been the same species, but the spination and colouring was quite different between the two

plants. A photograph of the top part of *Pachycereus pringlei* showed the magnificent stems clearly. There were yuccas galore and many were in flower – we saw a close up of the fantastic inflorescence, which in some cases was 7-8 feet tall.

Some shots of the *Fouquieria columnaris* showed how tall these can get – one example in particular was over fifty feet tall, judging by the height of person standing near the base. There were some magnificent *Ferocacti* around, some having a reached a height of 4 to 5 feet. Some of the plants were growing atop rocks and you had to wonder just how they had managed to germinate and where the roots were. The next few pictures showed his quest to grab a picture of the tallest example of the *Fouquieria*. Another plant growing on top of a rock had no roots visible. A scene at the back of one of the hotels (a Desert Inn) was very impressive, with large plants growing in between the large rocks. A tall shrub was another member of the solanaceae, with light purple flowers and orange stigmas. We saw a tall *Pachycereus* and a *Fouquieria* which was turning into a bush, it may have been damaged by something. A pair of *Ferocactus* seedlings were grapefruit sized and nicely spined, and we saw more shots with the low sun casting some long shadows, and further shots of this "pachycereus forest", with their hotel in the background. A *Pachycereus pringlei* seedling was very spiny and looked nothing like the adult plant. A pair of *Fouquierias* growing next to each other had ended up growing into each other. Cliff said sometimes the cacti are dug up and used for landscaping and there was an example of one planted inside the hotel at the swimming pool.

*Ferocactus cylindraceus* ssp. *tortulispina* had twisted red spines. The scenery here was amazing but it was bizarre to see the large *Ferocacti* growing in the middle of all the other vegetation. David Neville said he was there at a similar time last year and it was dry as dust, and there was no greenery at all. Everything was green because when there is a storm, it can throw down several inches of rain in one go. The next picture featured a couple of rattlesnakes – they were both males, trying to fend each other off and so disinterested in our explorers. A spiny *Echinocereus* was growing in a cleft on a rock. A black caterpillar with yellow lines was thought to be that of a hawk moth.

Things do die eventually and we saw the skeleton of a columnar cactus. Further south, they found more *Ferocacti*, including some in flower. *Ferocactus gracilis* had bright red flowers. They found many examples of *Pachycormus discolor* which is a very slow growing tree and some are thought to be a thousand years old. A notable *Dudleya* had beautiful dark red flower stems. Another example of *Pachycormus discolor* was around 12 feet by 12 feet and it must have been very old. With some

Ferocacti, the spination in the crown of the plant was very dense and it was a struggle for the flowers to get through spines. We saw *Fouquieria splendens* and its orange flowers.

They were now on the Gulf side of the peninsula, and we saw sun rise at Bahia de los Angeles. They hired a boat to go to one of the islands - isla Angel de la Guarda. On the way out, there was dolphin activity around them. They landed at 2-3 different spots on the island. A cream-flowered plant seemed to be a member of the poppy family. They came across a small *M. dioica*, an Echinocereus growing in a rock, *Mammillaria angelensis*, and field of white flowered Lupins, about a foot tall. They also saw pelicans – although ungainly on land, they were beautiful in flight. At the north of the island, on the beach, they found the golden spined *Ferocactus johnstonianus*, the seeds of which must have washed down from larger populations further up the hillsides. There were plants here with rings of persistent flower remains, which was unusual compared to *Ferocactus* plants on the other side of the island, and on the mainland.

Endemic to the island is the palm *Brahea armata*. The young leaves of this are blueish. There were more pictures of the pelicans in the water and taking off, and Jose, their boatman for the day. On the way back to the mainland, they encountered more dolphins. The hotel they stayed at in Bahia de los Angeles was Larry's Hotel -with some history but quite basic.

A plant which is not often seen these days is *Lophocereus schotti*. There were also opuntias galore. A view of the typical interior road showed it to be a dirt track - sometimes they could be rougher and have a bigger ridge in the middle. *Ferocactus peninsulae* has quite long hooked central spines and red flowers. In the background was a very large pachycormus and in another shot, a yucca with mostly bare stems looking a little bit sorry. A plant with slender stems turned out to be a stick Euphorbiaceae with tiny flowers/bracts. In the shade was a 5 foot tall *Ferocactus*. Another wild flower seemed to be a member of the poppy family. A legume with bristly red flowers went under the common name "Flame of the Forest". Everywhere you go, there was *Mammillaria dioica* to be found. "Cactus maximus" was the name he gave to a collection of mixed cacti and this was followed by a picture of Paul looking up at a *Ferocactus*, which must have been 7 or 8 feet tall. Another shot showed the three gents "watering" one of the plants.

They went to a mission and were told that the plants they were looking for were ½km away but this turned out to be a wild underestimate and the distance was more like 4km. It was quite a hike but well worth it, with a lot of plants growing in a small

area, including *Mammillaria setispinus*. Some of the clumps were 3-4 feet across clumps and it was a fantastic sight. From the audience, Roger Labbett said they had found the plants just 100 yards from the mission! *Mammillaria dioica* here was bearing fruit and the flowers were different. A picture of a car which had been stripped of everything was accompanied by Cliff's comment "don't park too long". Tillandsias were growing on many of the plants and the tallest *Ferocactus* they found was probably 8 to 9 feet tall - sheltered by a *Pachycormus*. A cholla-type opuntia had nice flowers. A mountain in the background had a flat top due to erosion. An Echinocereus clump was 7 feet across.

The accommodation can sometimes be hit or miss, but you just take what you get, when all you want is somewhere to sleep for the night. On the Pacific side of the peninsula, wild flowers were abundant. There were lots of bugs around, and a black beetle with long legs had a 1.5 inch long body. *Opuntia invicta* looked dry and grey, apart from the fantastic new growth with the red spines. A group shot included *F. cylindraceus*, a *Lophocereus*, a rather tired opuntia and a *Pachycormus* in the background. There were masses of wild flowers and more lupins, this time with purple flowers. Next was an example of what happens when man interferes with nature. A section of the main highway had been washed away because the road had not been built with enough culverts. *Echinocereus maritimus* ssp. *hancockii* looks like *Opuntia invicta* when tatty.

A *Ferocactus* had sand in the crown of the plant. In some places ants were making nests on the plants. There was a forest of *Pachycereus pringlei*, mostly in very good condition. One had succumbed to flash floods. Raptors like to perch on the tall stems, as they look for things like lizards. We saw a couple of the huge trucks that bomb up and down the highway and Cliff didn't know how these things managed to pass each other when the road sometime wasn't wide enough. A view of the road looking into the distance showed the sea fogs rolling in – this happens on the West coast as the cold current and warm air meet. On the *Ferocactus* plants here, the seed pods had been bitten into and every seed had gone – this was probably the work of rodents or mice. Another classic plant which is difficult to grow well is *Echinocereus brandegeei*, it can be difficult to tell apart from *Opuntia invicta*.

Back to the Gulf side of the peninsula, there were more small examples of *E. brandegeei*, and *Ferocactus latispinus*. *Stenocereus (Macheroereus) eruca* is the "creeping devil" and it is not supposed to be common, but they found yards of it growing on a man-made bank along the roadside. We also saw yellow fruits on a *Ferocactus*, and large *M. dioica* clumps rather than solitary plants. *Ferocactus*

*peninsulae* ssp *margarita* had yellowish flowers. We also saw the young growth of *Stenocereus eruca* which grows normally (upwards) and then eventually falls over. Nearby was a *Mammillaria dioica* clump, over a foot cross. There were large examples of *Stenocereus thurberi* here, and we also saw a close up view of this plant's buds and flowers, along with a crested plant.

Ospreys used to build nests on electricity pylons and then get electrocuted so the electricity company had built platforms on the pylons. A view of the road showed it going on for miles and miles. In some parts, the road surface is sand and you have to be careful not to stop or you could easily get bogged down.

The second half of the talk started with a view of another hotel they stayed at, and an evening sunset. Next they were off to the isla Magdalena on the Pacific coast. Just as they set off, the weather took a turn for the worse. On the island, a somewhat battered jeep chugged them along the beach and dropped them off where the cacti started. *Opuntia pycnantha* is one of the more attractive members of the genus, with pads covered in lots of spines. He was stunned by the size of the clumps of *Mammillaria halei* - some plants were 4-5 feet across and individual stems were 2-3 feet long. A *Peniocereus* was impossible to see in the scrub, and found only thanks to the bright red fruit. The island is only 2 miles wide and they climbed to the highest point. A close up of *Opuntia pycnantha* showed the neat spination and another picture showed this plant growing along the ground like a choo choo train. A dozen pelicans in the sky were an impressive sight. A *Dudleya* had formed a cluster of a dozen heads and *Agave margaritae* had leaves with the teeth and tip a deep red colour – it is rare in cultivation. A house looked in poor condition but it still featured a state-of-the-art satellite dish.

There were more huge clumps of *M. halei*, one being 6 feet from top to bottom and featuring over 50 heads. A small *Agave* had a relatively tall flower spike. There were lichens here, which suggested the humidity is high. *Tillandsias* will adhere to anything and grow by absorbing dust and moisture from the air. They got back to hotel and the wind picked up, obliterating the view of everything – they were glad to be indoors. A *Lophocereus schottii* featured a cephalium and had large pink flowers. They also found more examples of *Pedilanthus*, a member of the *Euphorbiaceae*. *Mammillaria poselgeri* had hooked central spines. A legume of some sort had formed foot-long seed pods. Goats are a problem everywhere, although fortunately they are excluded from some places. A cucurbit had masses of fruit covered in yellow hairs. There were also *Aloes* in flower - these must have escaped from cultivation.

A general view showed the mix of vegetation. There are two species of *Pachycereus* in Baja – *P. pringlei*, in the north and *P. pecten-aboriginum* in the south. The plants are distinct, although there are some intermediates where the two types meet. Some of the *Opuntias* had fantastic purple “bleeds” under the areoles, *Opuntia violacea santa-rita* demonstrating this well. *Ibervillea* is a cucurbit and it had formed a large caudex. The population of *Pachycereus* here was very floriferous, more so than the standard *P. pringlei* they had seen elsewhere. A *Ficus* had a crazy root system, draped over a rock. *Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum* had large and distinctive furry fruits. Another legume with 18 inch seed pods was perhaps an acacia. A plant with yellow flowers and spiky leaves was perhaps a papaver. A *Ferocactus* was struggling under a barren *Pachycormus*. A tuft of what seemed like grass had flowers on top and a close up revealed the plant to be an *Asclepiad*. At a rock outcrop on a beach there were several plants – *M. dioica*, *M. schumannii* and *Echinocereus sciurus*.

The standard transport is a pickup and it was common to see several people sitting in the back – in some countries in South America you are almost obliged to give people a lift if you have free space. We saw a shot of the temperature gauge in the car showing temperatures of 91.. 95.. 96 - or since Eunice was at the wheel, perhaps it was their speed in miles per hour. We saw some more *Echinocereus* plants and a close up of some *Opuntia* flowers, including one with a bee visiting.

Back over to the Gulf side, they were going to have a night camping outdoors, and Paul was instructed to get a *robust* air bed for Cliff's tent. Paul came back with one which was 4 feet wide, whereas the tent was only 3 feet across. We were spared the sight of Cliff trying to get into the tent with the bed but apparently, the rest of the party was doubled up in pain from laughter.

The first four hundred miles of the Baja peninsula is like a free zone where Americans come down for their holidays. This happened to be a holiday weekend and the beaches were covered with more people than normal. We saw ospreys nesting atop pylons again, and a lizard who had grown a new tail different in colour from the rest of his body. We saw a collapsed *Pachycereus* and another one where the amazing root system had been exposed due to the soil being washed away. *Ferocactus peninsulae* is distinctive with long curled hooked spines. The scenery here was beautiful, with the mountains as a backdrop. There were large clumps of a smallish growing blue-leaved *Agave*, and David Neville thought it might be *A. cerulata*.

Out of the way in a corner was *Opuntia invicta*, and they found some better examples further along. They get a bit battered over time and are designed to

survive, not look good although the red spines on the new growth are impressive. They have ferocious spines and are drought resistant. A newly tarmaced road stretched into the distance. Other scenes featured turkey vultures gathered around a corpse, and the roots of trees, hanging out of the mudstone cliff face.

They visited a bay where the grey whales come in to give birth to their young. Along the way, they passed salt evaporation pans which are no longer in use. The bacteria and algae living in these produce some amazing colours. The drive on a long interminable road was 2½ hours – rich Americans just fly straight there. Along the beach there are thousands of piles of seashells from clams etc. The local fishing fleet take people out to the sea. You are not allowed to approach the whales but if you just go out and wait, the whales are curious and will come to the boats. Don't stand too near the edge or you may get blasted with a face-full of whale snot. The whales may push on the boat but they won't tip it over. The calves are there as well, and overall it is a fantastic experience.

A white/purple flower belonged to some sort of bulb which he tried to dig it up but he didn't find much under the soil. The lichen in some places was 3-4 inches deep, and we saw a young *L. schotti* and an *Agave shawii*. He didn't find many of the agaves in flower or signs of their spent inflorescences either. A Ferocactus seedling had amazing spination crisscrossing the body – where was the plant? They had been told that *Echinocereus lindsayi* would be in this area - but only found one poor specimen, then later found others just 20 feet from the road. It is endangered, but there are a few populations around. There was a huge mound of *Echinocereus maritimus*. *Bergerocactus emoryi* is something he used for grafting stock but it died during the winter so he's stopped using it.

There were some fantastic Dudleyas around. A large clump of *Myrtillocactus cochal* had toppled over, perhaps due to wind or sodden ground from the storms. A plant with tiny white flowers proved to be a Euphorbia on closer inspection. Another Dudleya species had chunky leaves. Another *M. cochal* was standing upright and had formed a 12 foot clump. Dudleyas were flowering like mad. A *Bergerocactus emoryi* dropping down from a cliff face was rerooting and throwing stems up in every direction. A large *Echinocereus maritimus* was growing at the top of a rock face. A Dudleya seemed to have measles, with the leaves covered in red spots. *Echinocereus brandegeei* is endemic to Baja. A poppy had orange flowers and another flowering plant was the opposite of the "poached egg" plant – it had a yellow flower with white centres. There were many cacti growing amongst the rocks - whereas the Dudleyas were growing in the shade

underneath. There were also lichens and mosses here. The multiple heads at the bottom of a Ferocactus were mostly likely seedlings rather than offsets. A huge yucca had a 12 foot inflorescence. The abundance of wild flowers was stunning. There were a few thousand Ferocacti here and some were quite big. There were more examples of a young *M. dioica*, *E. brandegeei* and plenty of huge Ferocacti and *Agave cerulata*. The plants were magnificent, and looked healthy – they must have received a fair amount of water. Yet, in utter contrast there were also desolate areas with very few plants growing. Cliff ended the talk with a variety of several different sunsets, including some highlighting statuesque plants of *Pachycereus pringlei*.

There was time for questions at the end, and Mike asked "What's Baja like, compared to the rest of Mexico?" Not too bad. A lot of it is a holiday peninsula. There is some lawlessness but nothing like the rest of Mexico where drugs and crime can be a problem. The random police stops can be a bit intimidating – they were stopped once, and noting that Paul had three cameras with him, the policeman said he had always wanted one. Paul replied well, how about exchanging one of my tools for one of your guns!

Vinay Shah

### Table Show Results

There were 18 entries in the February table show.

	Cacti – Copiapoa	Succulents – Adromischus
Open	(1) I Biddlecombe <i>Copiapoa cinerea</i>	(1) J Roskilly <i>Adromischus cooperi</i>
	(2) B Beckerleg <i>Copiapoa longistaminea</i>	(2) -
	(3) T Smith <i>Copiapoa humilis</i>	(3) -
Intermediate	(1) T Smith <i>Copiapoa</i> sp	(1) B Beckerleg <i>Adromischus marianiae</i> cv 'Bryan Makin'
	(2) T Smith <i>Copiapoa barquitensis</i>	(2) T Radford <i>Adromischus</i> sp
	(3) B Beckerleg <i>Copiapoa cinerea</i>	(3) T Radford <i>Adromischus alveolatus</i>

Ivor Biddlecombe

### Bookworm Corner

Welcome to the second Bookworm Corner!

Time flies and suddenly we are into March, spring at long last!! Now is the time to take a look in the greenhouse and see what has survived. Also have a think about the new growing season ahead. Why not

decide to give something different a go this year? If you usually stick to cacti, why not give a few more succulents a go and visa-versa. Take a look at the sales table, pick up something a little different from all your old friends in the greenhouse and then borrow a book to go with it!

We have plenty of books on various cacti and succulent genera for you to select from, in addition to those covering cultivation. However, I will cover the books available on cultivation in more detail in the May newsletter, to coincide with the popular annual cultivation and propagation workshop.

### 'ENJOYED THE LECTURE? THEN ENJOY THE BOOK!

#### February

Cliff Thompson gave us an interesting and beautifully illustrated talk on Baja California. Happily we have a book on this very destination which is within the 'Featured Book Corner' by the library books. This is 'Baja California and Geography of Hope' by Krutch and Porter. Hopefully this could further inspire someone else to visit this area!

#### March

Hazel Taylor will be visiting us for the first time to give a presentation on Madagascar. Although we do not have any habitat books on Madagascar, we do have plenty of suitable genera books in 'Featured Book Corner' for your inspection and digestion!

These books are 'Aloes for greenhouse and indoor cultivation' (Noble W.C.); 'Aloes, The definitive guide' (Carter S. et al.); 'The Aloes of Tropical Africa and Madagascar' (Reynolds G.); 'Didiereaceae' (Rowley G.); 'The Succulent Euphorbias – an introduction' (Brewerton D.V.); 'Euphorbia Volumes 1 to 10' and 'Pachypodium and Adenium – Cactus File Handbook 5' (Rowley G.).

We have a range of encyclopaedias and various general interest books on succulents within the

library. These should hopefully assist you in tracking down further information on a range of plants that took your fancy in tonight's presentation. I am however sad to say that nobody has ever seen fit to include a book on the cuddly lemurs in the library..... I will be having a word with David about that shortly!

*Sue Wilson*

## Snippet

The Jonathon Ross show recently showed a short clip of the "Cactus Body-slam". All I can say is "Ouch!" See it on YouTube at :

<http://www.youtube.com/user/childrenOfPoseidon>

No cactus was harmed in the making of the clip (well only slightly damaged).

*Paul Maddison*

## Next Month's Meeting

The April meeting will feature a talk by Tony Roberts on small opuntiaids.

The April Table Show will consist of the **Rebutia** Group (cacti) and the **Echeveria** Subgroup (succulents). Please note that you are allowed multiple entries in any of the classes.

The Rebutia group includes *Rebutia*, *Aylostera*, *Cintia*, *Cylindrorebutia*, *Digitorebutia*, *Mediolobivia*, *Neorebutia*, *Setirebutia*, *Sulcorebutia* and *Weingartia*.

The Echeveria subgroup includes *Echeveria*, *Cremnophila*, *Dudleya*, *Graptopetalum*, *Hasseanthus*, *Oliveranthus*, *Pachyphytum*, *Stylophyllum*, *Tacitus*, *Thompsonella* and *Urbinia*.

For Committee members, a reminder that a branch committee meeting is due to be held at Dot's on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## Forthcoming Events

Sat	9 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Isle of Wight	Branch Quiz & Members' Talks
Sat	16 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Portsmouth	"Small Opuntiaids" - Tony Roberts
Wed	20 <sup>th</sup>	Mar	Southampton	Branch Committee meeting (@ Dot's - Dilly Lane)
Tue	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Apr	Southampton	"Small Opuntiaids" - Tony Roberts
Sat	13 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Isle of Wight	"Nature in Close-Up" - Colin Haygarth
Sat	20 <sup>th</sup>	Apr	Portsmouth	Bring and Buy Auction
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup>	May	Southampton	Cultivation & Propagation Workshop
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup>	May	Isle of Wight	"Brazil Part 3 – Bahia" - Cliff Thompson
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	May	Sparsholt	Display / Plant Sales @ Sparsholt College's Countryside Day
Sat	18 <sup>th</sup>	May	Portsmouth	Brazil Part 2 - Cliff Thompson

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