

The Long Island C&SS archives were not very helpful in documenting our history. Evidently the club was, in the beginning as it remains today, a group of enthusiasts dedicated more to their plants than to organizational formalities.

My guess is that some (if not all) of the founders were originally members of the New NYC&SS who were tired of commuting into the City.

The earliest record I have is the second issue of our newsletter, then called "Succulenta Savvy", (later renamed "Xerophyte Highlights"). Vol.1. No.2 is dated February 1989, so I suppose the club began sometime in 1988. The first President was Jack Friedman. Other founding members and officers included Taimour Cary, Sarah Weiss, Selma Goldsmith and Regina Bernes. Sadly, they are all gone now.

Meetings were originally held monthly in the Jericho (NY) Public Library but for some reason the Library withdrew its welcome after a few months and a new venue was found at Planting Fields State Park in Oyster Bay, NY.

Electoral protocol was apparently followed for the next few years with Bill Madden serving as President from 1993 to 1995. Alice Bentivegna was President until 1997, followed by Jonathan Watt who served only 4 months as President. At which time 1st VP Maddie Saperstein assumed the office. In 1999 our Newsletter editor, Jan Stewart was elected President and I became the new Editor. At around this time we lost our meeting space at Planting Fields—they increased the fee for the room out of our budget. Fortunately Jan Stewart was able to secure a meeting space at Kellenberg Memorial H.S in Uniondale. For free.

Due to a lack of enthusiasm among the remaining membership we have not had an election since then, although the by-laws call for them every 2 years.

Jan continued as President, and I continued as editor until about 2010 when we both got tired of it all.

We continue to function informally with Jan as Master-Of-Ceremonies, more or less and, I suppose, with me as a sort of recording secretary—emailing meeting notices, etc.

And that is about all I can say for now. If I find anything else pertinent I will send it on.

David Papayanopulos, former Editor