



THE OFFSET

Webpage <https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>



Echinocereus reichenbachii subsp baileyi in the Wichita Mountains NWR, Oklahoma. Mount Scott in the background. Photo by Michael Douglas

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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MEETING At Will Rogers Gardens at 3400 NW 36th in Oklahoma City, the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm (except in January, the month of our show, our picnic month, and December).

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CLUB NEWS

BOARD MEETING ON JANUARY 19 AT 7 PM AT THE GARDENS



From the Vice-president

Dear Members;

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Holiday Season and are now back ready and energized to do wonderful things in 2012. Remember that this month we do not have a regular meeting, but instead we have a board meeting. The board meeting is on January 19th at 7 pm at the gardens. All are welcome to attend and bring their comments or questions. Otherwise if you have suggestions, comments or questions you can send them to Niki Furrh (tnfurrh@cox.net). We will resume regular meetings in February.

With this message I am attaching the COCSS January 2012 Newsletter. In it you will find some new information about our **new Webpage**. The new webpage address is:

<https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>

As I mentioned in the newsletter this was put together and designed by Mike and I. We hope you like it and we also encourage you to contribute to both the newsletter and/or webpage. If you see any errors or you have suggestions or comments that can help improve the new webpage I would be grateful if you send me those comments. Your photos, small articles, questions, comments or even an interesting link you may find while surfing the web are all welcome.

Take a look at the loop of flowering *Lithops*. It is in the PHOTOS 2011 section along with Christmas party and Picnic in 2011.

We already have the 2011 newsletter in the webpage and we will be placing all the 2012 and successive newsletters in the new webpage. You can browse old issues as well as view and or download the new ones. This is in the section called Newsletters and it is arranged by year. If you go to the 2012 you will see the January 2012 issue. Click on view and also try downloading it. I would like you to try this because in the future I may just send you a message letting you know that the newsletter is ready for viewing or for downloading. Let me know if you have any problems doing this. For now I will also include an attachment of the latest newsletter.

When you do a search in Google for COCCS you will likely see the old webpage. The more times someone opens the link to the new webpage, the sooner Google will update its priority list and then the new webpage should be the first one to come up when doing a search. For now be sure to bookmark the new site.

Rosario Douglas

***** REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP,
IT IS DUE IN JANUARY *****

YOU CAN USE THE FORM WE POSTED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS OR YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE FORM FROM OUR NEW WEBSITE.

NEW COCSS WEBPAGE!!

Dear members:

I am pleased to inform you that as of this month, January 2012, our club has a new webpage. The club has had a short webpage in the cactus mall for a number of years, but it was time for a new more expanded webpage. This is what many clubs are doing and they use this platform to inform members of all kinds of activities, such as posting newsletters for members to download, sharing news, interesting articles, websites etc.

Mike and I became aware of “Google sites” recently and we started playing to see if we could put together a webpage for the club. The site is free and you can buy more space for very low prices. In spite of their tutorial, it took many hours of playing and trial and error to arrive at the version that is now online. I am aware that webpages are continually evolving projects. Changes have to be made often to keep the webpage current as news come and go, new photos have to be posted or new interesting articles come along.

Undoubtedly many of you might find errors

or may have comments/suggestions to improve the webpage. Feel free to let us know if you have any comments, as they are very welcome. Our goal is to have the best and most up-to-date webpage possible and this can only happen with all of your help, comments and most importantly with your contributions.

We can now post pictures of your plants, gardens, travels etc. Any contributions are always welcome no matter how short. You will notice the webpage has a section with useful links. If you come across any good links related to cactus and succulents send me the link and we will post it. Mike and I are the webpage masters.

I hope you enjoy our new webpage at: <https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>

(CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THE WEBPAGE)

Rosario Douglas
COCSS Newsletter Editor and Co-webmaster

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas



HAPPY NEW YEAR YEAR
EVERYONE!!



Mike and I both wish you a happy new year and we are hopeful that you will all contribute to the newsletter at least once this year.



The San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society sent us a picture taken by long-time club member Joe Kraatz. The picture was taken at the Toronto Botanical Gardens.

The photo below comes from the section “top perennials for winter interest” that appears in the Toronto Botanic Garden website.



Yucca filamentosa 'Color Guard'

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

Dear members: Here is **Mary Robertson's** response to our survey

1- How did you become interested in cactus and succulents?

I fell in love with them when I moved to Oklahoma in the 80's. I am from back East and we don't have Cactus growing freely since it is too cold. I have always loved the texture and feel of these plants (with the exception of some Cactus) and I like the fact that they can grow in groups or solitary. Like people. I like that they look both beautiful with or without flowering and they have a stately appearance about them that is year around.

**2- Do you like cactus, succulents or both?**

Both. I use to like Succulents more, but now that I am around Cactus more, I find myself gravitating to them. I love the tall ones. The taller they are, the happier I am.

3- Do you have a favorite cactus and / or succulent?

No, I like one better one week and then another next week.

4- How long have you been a member of the club? 7 months**5- What kind of programs would you like to see during our monthly meetings?**

I like the view/talk/slide/movie shows.

6- What kind of field trips would you be interested in?

Weekend / day trips / picnics / outdoor discussions with the club in regards to native species. Or home trips, to see other collections and talk about how to grow/cultivate/water/heat/cold...

7- What subjects would you like to see discussed in the newsletter?

Nothing more. Our Editor is the best already.

**8- How many plants do you have? Do you have a greenhouse?**

50+. No greenhouse.....

9- Do you shop online or locally for your plants?

Locally

Mary Robertson

10- Are you interested in cultivation information? What are your most pressing cultivation concerns?

I don't like to grow from seed, but a cutting conversation, would be right up my alley! And conditions.....how NOT to kill something! I think watering is my main concern. When, how often, what kind of plants like enough, too little, too much. That is my biggest struggle. Watering. Oh and indoors light. My plants do well outside, but when winter comes, I have to bring them all in.....SIGH!

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

By Fred Hill

DISH GARDENS

1. Site specific or general purpose?

Planning for a special staging location? Be sure of viewing angles, light availability, elevation of shelf. If the dish garden is for general purpose (sale, judging, gifts) these are not as critical, though plan for good viewing from all angles if you can.



2. Dish properties.



Dish should be small, 6 to 12" or less in width, shallow, and have a drainage hole. It must be of a durable material; try to stay away (my personal preference) from terra cotta, wooden bowls, and too many pattern holes in the sides. If an abundance of holes or openings are present, consider lining the dish with a matching color of dirt barrier (the white side of cheap landscape cloth, used fabric softener sheets). If dish

3. Soil considerations.

The bottom of the dish should contain a 1/2" layer of gravel. You can then cover the gravel with a porous material to prevent soil from washing out the drain hole, or go ahead and fill the dish to the lowest working level.

You should have a suitable soil (well draining cactus soil with sharp gravel mixed in to preserve air pockets for a succulent garden) or other mixes suitable for your plant selections.

4. Plant selection.

Plants selected should have common water and light requirements. Plants should have like growth-habits, or consider how to keep faster growing specimens to scale. It might be feasible to plan on replacing fast growers every couple of years so they don't overwhelm the dish design.

5. Items all together for assembly?

Lay out your plants in the same spacing, as they will appear in the dish. Adjust layout to meet the eye, and consider changes in elevation for your finished dish. Gather any hardscape items you want to employ in your design. Chips of flaky flagstone are great for making strata layers or creating stone elevations. Consider a small mirror for incorporating the look of still water. Consider scaled accessories, as you would find at a model railroad dealer. Let your mind go wild on what you can add, miniature cow skulls, bare chicken bones, uniquely patterned or broken rock samples, perhaps some mineral crystals. Broken shards of molten glass from a glass factory can add color and shine to your dish. Have all your tools at hand at an easy-to-clean workspace. I bought several Christmas tree dishes 36" wide by 1-1/2" deep. You can do every step of your construction and contain all the spillages in one space.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH CONT...

6. Stack the plants to tell a story.

Once your lowest elevation is stable, install items like mirror shards, or base boulders and secure these by pressing into place. Consider elevations in your dish garden and how they will look in 1 or 2 years. As a rule, you don't want fast growing columnar plants where they will block viewing the rest of the scenery. Create the proper sized planting hole with one of several tools. The handle of a small round paintbrush will make holes that are fairly stable. Consider using a proper size of stainless steel serving tongs, close the tongs then press down to the desired depth, and then let them spring open wide enough to accommodate the specimen. Gently place the plant in the hole with the tongs in place. You could also use the tongs as a mini-post hole digger. Press into the soil at a wide enough spacing to fit the plant, then compress and pull out unwanted soil.



8. Top off each elevation with a coordinated top dressing. Perhaps choose different colors for specific areas. You may want to investigate using different colors of aquarium gravel for the desired effect. There are an infinite number of designs, styles, and structures for your gardens. Make this a learning and a growing experience.

7. Build each elevation like layers on a cake, make each layer a part of the story you are telling. Perhaps put some taller specimens behind a ridgeline of stone flakes. If designed to be viewed from only one angle don't let the plants step on each other's parts in the narrative. Consider root pruning to help plants spread a good root system.



Article provided by Fred Hill. Photos added by the editor.

Photo sources: <http://viewfrommygarden.blogspot.com/2010/03/sedums-and-succulentsgood-for.html>

http://www.thegardenhelper.com/cgi-bin/ubb/cgi/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=get_topic;f=68;t=004203;p=0

<http://www.chicagonow.com/show-me-chicago/2011/03/chicago-flower-and-garden-show-2011-all-you-need-to-know-before-you-go/>

<http://www.plantswap.net/forum/f25/i-finally-finished-my-succulent-cactus-dish-gardens-1752/index2.html>

SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas



A. pearsonii flower taken by Mike Douglas in our greenhouse on Dec 31 2011



Argyroderma pearsonii, on left, has a restricted distribution along the central Knersvlakte near the South River. It is often found growing with other *Argyrodermas* such as *A. fissum* and *A. delaetii*. *A. pearsonii* is a popular plant in cultivation.

The genus *Argyroderma* from the Greek “Argyro” meaning silver and “derma” meaning skin, is one of the 4 genera in the family Mesembryanthemaceae that are endemic (found nowhere else) to the Knersvlakte.

The Knersvlakte is a winter rain regime area with long dry summers and it is located in the Western part of South Africa, north of Vanrhynsdorp in southern Namaqualand. This is an area with an amazing variety of succulent plants.

Knersvlakte is a name thought to refer to the sounds you hear when you walk on the quartz pebbles, “Kners” in Afrikaans means “grind” and vlakte means “flats”.



On the right a picture of the Knersvlakte as seen from the pass just below the town of Nieuwoudtville. Light areas are the quartz pebbles. Photo by Mike Douglas



SUCCULENTS PLANTS CONT...

A distinct characteristic of the Knersvlakte is that the gently rolling hills are covered with white quartz pebbles. It has been suggested that this helps the plant stay cooler since the white rocks reflect more sunlight. Many of the plants found in this region have evolved to resemble the quartz pebbles and they camouflage very well. Most plants are small and because many resemble pebbles from a distance, it is often difficult to see them unless they are blooming, you have a good eye to spot the small plants, or unless you are practically standing on them.

The soils in this area are well drained and have high salt content.



Upper photo shows a view of the Knersvlakte once you descend. Bottom left: Mike trying to photograph some of the plants. Kneepads are essential. Bottom right: note the density of *Argyroderma* plants in a small area-boot in lower left. Photos by Mike and Rosario Douglas

SUCCULENTS PLANTS CONT...

The genus *Argyroderma* consists of 12 species. The plants are dwarf leaf-succulents that are single, or form tight round clusters. The fused leaf pair lacks hairs and the waxy leaves are replaced every season.

During the dry season, the plants can become quite wrinkled and somewhat sunken into the ground.

The flowers can be yellow, white, purple or almost red and they occur as a single flower.

The plants bloom during the southern hemisphere fall or midwinter.



An *Argyroderma* species in habitat, surrounded by quartz. Photo by Mike Douglas

References: Cactiguide.com,

Vygies Gems of the World by E.J.Van Jaarsveld and U. de Villiers Pienaar,

Succulents of South Africa A guide to the regional diversity by Ernst Jaarsveld, Ben-Erik van Wyk and Gideon Smith.

Map from: Red list of South African Plants at <http://redlist.sanbi.org/species.php?species=2212-64>

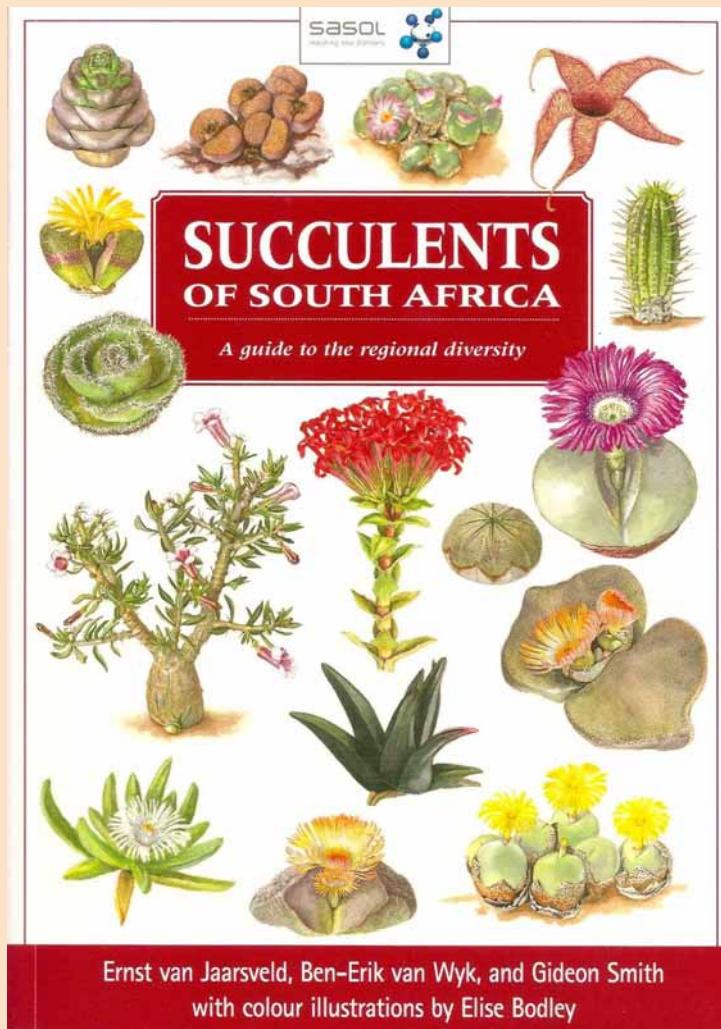
BOOK REVIEW

By Rosario Douglas



Succulents of South Africa - A guide to the regional diversity

By Ernst van Jaarsveld, Ben-Erick van Wyk and Gideon Smith
Color illustrations by Elise Bodley



This 144 page book is an excellent guide and introduction to the different regions of South African succulent flora. I must mention that this book is not currently part of the COCCS library.

In 2001 a South African meteorologist working with Mike gave us the first edition of this book. We had never seen the book before and as we read about South Africa's incredible variety of habitats and plants described in this book, we started planning our first trip to South Africa.

This book is not a comprehensive guide to all succulents in South Africa, but it does a great job in explaining the reasons for the diversity and all the main succulent plant regions found in South Africa.

After a brief introduction the authors include a general description of types of succulents as well as a discussion of what are succulents.

BOOK REVIEW CONT

This is followed by sections about survival strategies, reasons for the diversity of succulents in South Africa and the Geology and Climate of South Africa.

A great map showing the different succulent regions in South Africa precedes a section that discusses every succulent region. Each chapter includes photos of representative habitats, a map, nice drawings and some photographs illustrating some of the more representative succulents, including some endemics, found in the regions being described. Location, climate and tips about exploring the different areas are described for each region.

The regions discussed are: The Richtersveld, Bushmanland, the Knersvlakte, the Sandveld, the Tanqua Karoo, Fynbos, the Great Karoo, the Upper Karoo, the Little Karoo, the Southern Cape, the Noorsveld, the Eastern Cape, the Subtropical Coast, the Grasslands and the Bushveld.

Note:

- a- Endemic means an organism is only found in a certain region, country or specific geographical area.
- b- There are many names of plants and some places that will seem foreign to the readers. These are all written in Afrikaans, one of the many official languages of South Africa, although before Apartheid ended in the early 90's, Afrikaans was the only official language of the Republic of South Africa. Afrikaans, the main language of white South Africans, is a West Germanic language derived from the Dutch language spoken by the early white settlers (from Wikipedia). Apartheid (from the Afrikaans word for "apartness"), was a former policy of segregation as well as a political and economic form of discrimination against non- European groups in the Republic of South Africa (from Wikipedia).
- c- Note that there are no cacti in South Africa as the Cactaceae is a family of plants only found naturally in the Americas.
- d- The word VELD or VELDT used to describe many of the different regions is an Afrikaans word that means field. It mainly refers to the rural open spaces of South Africa or Southern Africa (from Wikipedia).

WEBSITES REVIEW

By Rosario Douglas

Cactus Pruner



Cactus Pruner Tools

Cactus & Succulent Pruning Tools

Welcome to your source for specialized cactus and succulent pruning tools. Here, you'll find trimming and holding tools for professional cactus and succulent growers and enthusiasts alike.

The unique design of the **Cactus Saw** and **Cactus Whacker** allow access to areas that need pruning or removal of dead parts without getting poked and scratched. Use the heavy-duty angled Cactus Saw for large plants and work requiring extensive pruning or removal and the Cactus Whacker for smaller jobs.

The cactus gripper tools include the long-handled **Cactus Gripper**, extended length **Cactus Grabber** and **Extra-Long Tweezers**. This assortment of gripping aids will keep your hands away from needles, reach into tight spots and keep your cactus and succulents healthy and beautiful.

Buy one or all of these **Cactus Pruning Tools** and keep your cactus and succulents looking sharp!



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Ecommerce Web design by [Web Studio West](#)

How often have you wished you had better tools to handle your plants and when you go looking for tools you don't really find what you are looking for?



Here is a website that I found while browsing the web. The name of the company is Cactus Pruner and they specialize in tools for handling cactus.

<http://www.cactuspruner.com/>

Lithops is another site I found recently. It has useful information about Lithops cultivation, anatomy and habitats. It also has a gallery with nice photos of many species of Lithops.

A Lithops locality data list with many photos of plants in the field is also in the top menu bar.

Finally a nice list of books related to the subject is also available when browsing this site.

<http://www.lithops.info/en/gallery/images.html>

CLICK ON THE LINKS TO VIEW THE WEBPAGES

Lithops

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Lithops collections

[Lithops collection of A. Neumann](#)
[Lithops collection of B. Pfau](#)
[Lithops collection of Y. Shimada](#)

Cole numbered Lithops

Lithops aucampiae






[More Lithops aucampiae images ...](#)

Lithops bromfieldii



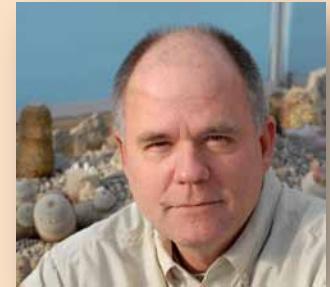



[More Lithops bromfieldii images ...](#)

Lithops coleorum



WHAT IS BLOOMING?



Photos by: Mike Douglas

To left: *Ariocarpus retusus* blooming in late November to early December in our greenhouse.



Left: a nice *Lithops sp.* fully hydrated and in full bloom. Also in our greenhouse in early December 2011.

WHAT IS BLOOMING? CONT...



Conophytum sp.
Photographed in
our greenhouse
the last day of
2011.

The Cono's are
saying

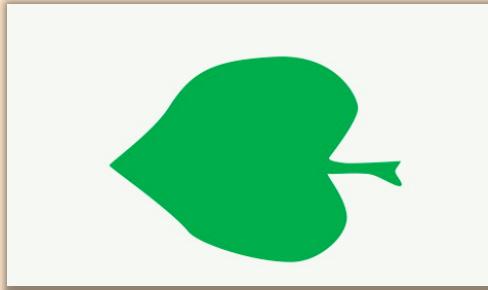
Happy New Year!



With the last rays
of the last sunset
of 2011 in our
greenhouse in
Norman-OK
Mike captured
this silhouette of
3 or our large
plants. On the
left is *Didiera*
trolii, a *Consolea*
species in the
center and
Alluadua procera.

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

By Rosario Douglas



Cordate

Heart shaped

Cotyledon

Embryonic leaf; first leaf or leaves of a seedling after germination.

Crenate

With notched edges

Crest

Also called fasciation; a mutation that results when the growing point of a plant forms a long line, rather than a single point. In botanical terms it is usually signified by Cristate.

Cristate

Crest-shaped or Crested

Cultivar

Assemblage of plants originated or selected and propagated artificially.

Cuticle

Thin, waterproof layer that covers the epidermis.

Cutting

A cut or detached section of a plant, either from a leaf or stem, or an entire leaf that is used for propagation



Drawings from Wikipedia commons. Saguaro crest by Alan Vernon from Wikipedia commons creative commons Attribution 2.0

FUTURE EVENTS/LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR 2012

By Joyce Hochtritt



January 19	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society Board Meeting. Time 7 pm
February 16	Will Rogers Garden Center - OK City	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
March 15	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
March 31-April 1	Denver Botanic Gardens-Colorado	Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show and Sale
April 14-15	Zilker Botanic Gardens, Austin- TX	Austin Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show and sale
April 19	Will Rogers Garden Center OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
April 21-22	Tulsa Garden Center	Cactus and Succulent Society of Tulsa spring show and sale
April 26-27	San Antonio Garden Center	San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's annual show and sale
May 17	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30

FUTURE EVENTS/LOCAL HAPPENINGS FOR 2012 CONT....

June 16-17	Will Rogers Garden Center - Oklahoma City	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society annual show and sale.
June ?	To be announced	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society garden tour
June 21-24	Hilton Garden Inn - Independence, Missouri	The 14th Biennial Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference. Hosted by the Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society.
July 7-10	Missouri Botanical Gardens - St Louis	Henry Shaw cactus club annual show and sale
July 19	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
August 16	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
September 1-2	Zilker Botanical Gardens - Austin- Tx	Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Fall show and sale.
September 22-23	Tulsa Garden Center	Cactus and Succulent Society of Tulsa's Fall show and sale
September	to be announced	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society annual picnic
October 18	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
November 15	Will Rogers Garden Center - OKC	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting. Time 7:30 pm
December	To be announced	Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society Christmas party

If you know of any plant happenings, please send me the information. Thank you, Joyce