



# THE OFFSET

## JANUARY 2016

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:** Third Thursday of the month at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City (except for the month of our Show&Sale, picnic and Christmas party).

### IN THIS ISSUE

Club News pp 2-7

Cactus and Succulent Happenings in the region pp 8

Succulent Plants pp 9

Article of the month pp 10

The cultivation corner pp 11

The Botanical corner pp 12

## CLUB NEWS



**Happy New Year!** This statement is genuinely made; I hope all of our members & your loved ones have an outstanding 2016. I wish each of you the opportunity to enhance your own lives, enrich the lives of those around you as best you can, and work together to make our club the kind of organization you would like it to be. No one person in the club has more of an invested interest than you and it would seem that *it is up to each of us to make our wants and desires for the club known and step forward when possible to see that our best efforts are carried out.*

Does this mean that as a 'good COCSS member' we are required to take an office and/or bring refreshments? No, it does not. To me it means that we should use our own talents and strengths to support the club and our fellow members. I personally do not have the cactus/succulent bug in our family although I must admit that I have learned a lot over the years about these fascinating plants in spite of my reluctance 20 plus years ago when I joined the club to simply accompany my husband to the meetings. I found that I still was 'needed' in the club; that by doing the secretarial or other jobs, I was helping fill spaces that I had a personal interest in and allow other members to do the things that they enjoyed and could help with.

As I would assume with most of you, Tony and I have had our own personal challenges over the years and many times we asked each other if we needed to drop out the club and have one less thing to do. We have friends who have been members of other societies over the years and they are surprised when they learn that we are still with the 'cactus club'. It seems the rigors of every day living with children growing up, job changes, grandchildren, health problems, etc. got in the way of their personal interest with a particular club and they quit. Most of the time, we found the opposite to be true for us.



## TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES

**Don't forget that it is time to renew your dues. It is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. You can mail the check to Peggy Anglin or you can pay at the next meeting. Let Peggy know if you have a new email address or a new address.**

## President's message continued

The club has been a source of mental and physical retreat for us and when we say that 'cactus people' are some of the nicest (and sometimes the craziest!), we really mean it. I have literally enjoyed every Show & Sale and returning customers over the years have been a large part of the fun.

As with most 'good' things, Tony and I are finding that despite our efforts to fight the inevitable, we are slowing down and at times health issues have to take center stage in our lives. At the moment, I am hoping to be able to continue to fill the Presidency position for 2016 and the duties involved with this. Joyce Hochtritt and I have taken the reins for the Show & Sale for many years and this year we are both having to relinquish many of the duties we have done in the past and ask club members to step up and help where they can. For several years, I have furnished an itinerary around March for the Show & Sale along with various jobs that need to be done both beforehand and during the event. Volunteers were requested but I must state that only a few ever signed up. This year I will be making another itinerary/jobs needing coverage form. Although we have a great member turn out at the Show & Sale, surely one can understand that some things need to be done *before* the event and several jobs need to be assigned to volunteers who are planning on attending the Show & Sale - they don't necessarily have anything to do before the event but we can count on them to handle certain things at the Show & Sale. *No one is 'required' to work the whole weekend and their presence and help during the event is priceless, but helping others with a small commitment beforehand is worth their weight in gold!*

Whether you know it or not, your officers are a hard working, dedicated group of people for which I am proud to work with. The planning of programs for the year is a hard and tedious job for which there is little comment at times from the general membership. Ideas for programs are always, always welcome and the general interest of the group is always taken into consideration. We are going to have a type of 'suggestion box' available at the meetings, and members are encouraged to use this as a form of communication. Let us know what you like and what you think needs improvement. Only by communicating in some manner can we all work towards a club that holds our attention and teaching what we want to know, full fill our Mission Statement, and be enjoyable for all.

See you on the 21St  
Niki Furrh

## The 2015 Christmas Party



We had a nice Christmas party and great plants for everybody.

# "Fun in the Winter Sun: Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix"

by *Gayle Snider*

**When:** January 21st

**Where:** Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36th

**Time:** 7 pm

**Refreshments:** Rosario Douglas

Join us for what promises to be a very nice program by Gayle Snider. Members Mark Dittmar and Gayle recently visited the Phoenix, Arizona area and toured the Desert Botanical Gardens, four cactus farms and Black Canyon Creek, AZ. The presentation will include pictures of cacti and succulents from around the world and an opportunity to name that Species!!



FROM THE EDITOR *Rosario Douglas*

## Happy New Year to all our readers.

Hi everybody. I hope you all had a good time during the holidays. It is now time to get back to our hobby of cacti and succulents. We probably need to start thinking about the plants you might want to enter in our annual Show and Sale exhibition.

As most of you probably know we now have a Facebook page for our club, so share with friends, ask a question and feel free to post interesting items related to cacti and succulents. Like us in Facebook and sign up for notifications. We will start posting the meeting information every month. Also on Facebook is the link to the latest newsletter.

To see our Facebook page go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Oklahoma-Cactus-Succulent-Society-548561558626999/>

Or **click on the Facebook** icon on the first page of our newsletter

We have also made some changes to the club's webpage. If you go to our newsletter online and click on the Facebook icon it will take you directly to our Facebook page. We have added a "Latest Newsletter" section that will take you directly to the latest newsletter on file and an interactive calendar where we have put the meeting date for every month. Remember that you can go to the club's webpage by typing COCSS in Google. There you can see all the digital newsletters back to 2011.

We are planning to offer some field trips this year, probably in Spring. Will announce them later in the year. Hope you can all make it to our January meeting and program, which should be interesting.

Rosario



I really like this beautiful topiary in the shape of a chameleon made entirely with leaf succulents. This was displayed at the Montreal botanical gardens.

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society. The page has a banner image of a cactus with pink flowers. A 'Promote' button is visible on the right. The timeline shows a post from 'Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society' adding 5 new photos to an album. The album contains several images of cactus and succulent flowers, including a large white flower in the center.

COCSS Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Central-Oklahoma-Cactus-Succulent-Society-548561558626999/?ref=aymt> homepage panel

Or you can go to our webpage (see below) online and click on the Facebook icon.

The screenshot shows the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society webpage. The left sidebar contains links for 'ABOUT US', 'CONTACT US', 'MEMBERSHIP FORM', 'NEWSLETTERS' (2011-2016), 'CLUB'S LIBRARY', 'SELECTED TALKS', 'PHOTOS' (with a link to a larger view), 'NEWS', 'USEFUL ARTICLES' (with a link to 'Cultivation Articles' and 'General Interest'), 'USEFUL LINKS', 'CALENDAR' (2016), 'LOCAL AND REGIONAL HAPPENINGS', 'FLYERS', 'SHOW & SALE', and a 'Sitemap'. The main content area features a 'LATEST NEWSLETTER' section with a thumbnail of the May 2014 issue of 'THE OFFSET' newsletter. Below it are sections for 'OUR NEWSLETTER', 'ABOUT THE SLIDE SHOW' (with a thumbnail of a cactus flower), 'WHY JOIN OUR CLUB' (with a link to a book about succulents), and an article titled 'Canary Islands article'.

COCSS webpage at:

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

Or you can “Google” COCSS

## 2016 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION *by Joyce Hotchritt*



**January 21**

Central Oklahoma Cactus&Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center. Open to the public/free admission.

**Program:**

**Fun in the Winter Sun; Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix** by Gayle Snider

**February 18**

Central Oklahoma Cactus&Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center. Open to the public/free admission.

**Program:**

**Oddities in cactus and Succulents** By Joyce Hotchritt

**March 17**

Central Oklahoma Cactus&Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center. Open to the public/free admission.

**Program:**

**Getting ready for the Show and Sale plus member's plants and questions**

**March 19 – 20**

Denver Cactus and Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale, Denver Botanical Gardens, Denver, CO.



Nice succulent garden at Relais de la Reine, our hotel near Isalo National Park, Madagascar.

Many of these plants, including the nice Pachypodium, are native to the area and could be found in the rocky part of the hotel grounds.

Photo by Mike Douglas

## SUCCULENT PLANTS by *Rosario Douglas*



### The Genus *Pilosocereus*



This is a genus of shrubby or columnar cacti. The name comes from the Latin *pilosus* which means hairy.

Many species of *Pilosocereus* have a so-called pseudo-cephalium. In these species flowers grow out of the pseudo-cephalium.

According to work done by Dr. Daniela Zappi for her book “Cacti of eastern Brazil”, there are 37 species of *Pilosocereus*. They are found from Mexico to Paraguay in suitable habitats. In her book Dr. Zappi mentions that *Pilosocereus* is an important member of the Cactaceae family in the dry forest of eastern Brazil with about 20 species present.

In eastern Brazil this genus is mainly found on rocky outcrops in a variety of vegetation types.

#### References:

“Cacti of Eastern Brazil” by Daniella Zappi and Nigel Taylor, published in 2004.

“The Encyclopedia of Cacti” by Cullmann, Gotz and Groner, published in 1984

Desert-tropical.com,  
cactiguide.com

The photos show *Pilosocereus tehuacanus*; taken in Tehuacan, Mexico by Michael Douglas



## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



This article by Brian Johnston has impressive close up photos of cacti spines, flowers and flower parts. You can read the article at:

<http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/indexmag.html?http://www.microscopy-uk.org.uk/mag/artjan07/bj-cacti.html>

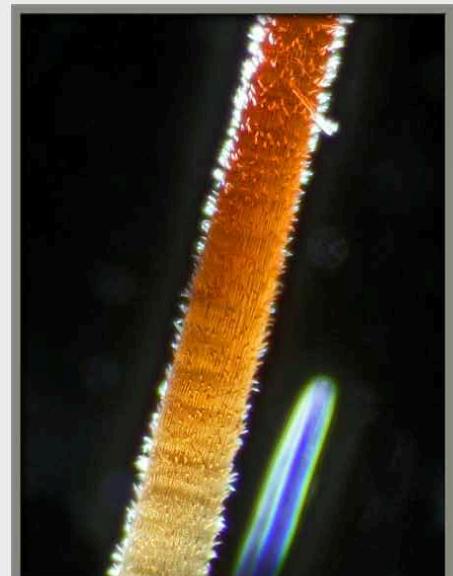
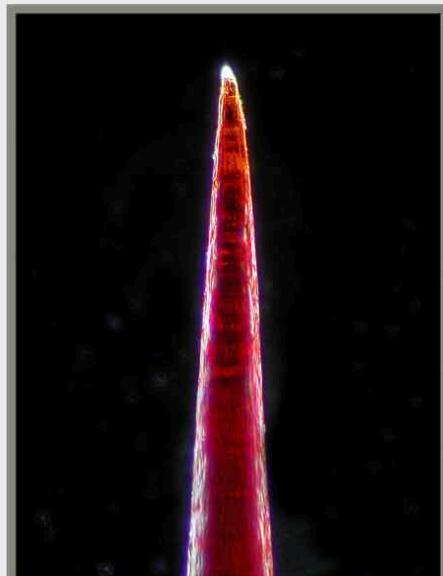


A Close-up View of Several Members of the Cactus Family

*Cactaceae*

by Brian Johnston (Canada)

Higher magnification images of the tip and body of one of the spines can be seen below.



## THE CULTIVATION CORNER



## Growing Pilosocereus cacti

Pilosocereus are not winter hardy cacti and thus in cold climates you have to grow them indoors or in a greenhouse. Although large plants in the wild, Pilosocereus are cultivated in spite their size because of their appearance. In their native habitats, many Pilosocereus species stand out because of their beautiful color and the white hairs, which give this cactus a very distinct appearance.

"Below is an excerpt taken verbatim from the article" [Growing Pilosocereus Cacti](#) "by Jon Van Zile).



### Grower's Tips

"These are vigorous, fast-growing cacti that need regular water and fertilizer to reach their full potential. Make sure to keep them in a warm place in winter and plant them in a place with lots of space, because these columnar cacti will eventually grow to be quite large. Make sure their soil drains well, also—poor drainage is a death sentence to most cacti. *P. pachycladus*, particularly, is known as an easy, forgiving cactus that can flourish with only minimal help from you, and most tropical gardeners shouldn't have trouble with them. Keep an eye out for pests like mealy bugs and red spider mites and water regularly for best results."

You can read the entire article at:

<http://houseplants.about.com/od/succulentsandcacti/fl/Pilosocereus-Growing-Pilosocereus-Cacti.htm>

*"Pilosocereus Azulensis"* by Peter A. Mansfeld. Licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Commons - <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/>

## THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas



**Dactylose** Fingered or finger-shaped

**Dasyacanthus** Thickly spined

**Dasylirion** A genus of succulent plants in the family Liliaceae. From two Greek words, meaning "dense or thick" and "lily"

**Dealbatus** Whitened, covered with an opaque white powder.

**Debilispinus** Weakly spined

**Deceptor** A deceiver



*Dasylirion wheeleri* by Stan Shebs. Wikipedia creative commons.

Terms from a book by W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods. The book is titled, **Glossary of succulent plant terms**, published in 1938., Wikipedia. Also terms from CactiGuide.com at <http://cactiguide.com/glossary/>.