



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 Garden Center 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, picnic and December).

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CLUB NEWS

The program for our February 16th meeting is:

“Labels and Latin”

presented by Joyce Hochtritt

The program will discuss labeling plants and how to understand those labels. Using and understanding Latin in the plant world. Common names used on plants. Possible types of labels to use.

We also plan to have a **show and tell** so we would like you to bring any plants you want to share with us that are “**winter growers**”. These are plants that grow and bloom during our winter.

Refreshments by Mary Robertson

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

*YOU CAN USE THE FORM WE POSTED IN PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS OR YOU CAN
DOWNLOAD THE FORM FROM OUR NEW WEBSITE at <https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>*

FROM THE PRESIDENT NIKI FURRH


It's February and before we know it the Annual Show and Sale will be here! When Tony and I first saw the announcement in the Daily Oklahoman for the Cactus Show *a few years ago*, we made our way to the Garden Center and were pleasantly surprised by the array of Show Plants in the main hall and the plant sale in the meeting room across the hall. (Yes, the plant sale was in our regular meeting room with probably two outside vendors and a couple of members selling plants.) Having been partly raised in West Texas, Tony had always had a fascination with cacti and succulents and already had a fairly good size collection but when he found out there was an actual 'club' in town we joined that day. I use the term "we" loosely here intending to simply get him started and gradually bow out and 'do my own thing'. After all, I had a full time job outside our home, two active daughters, lots of family, and several hobbies of my own which were often put on the back burner.

The first few months we were in the club I sat through meetings trying to absorb as little as possible about these 'sticky' and sometimes ugly plants that my husband was becoming more and more obsessed over. I baked cookies and made friends but just couldn't work up the enthusiasm that seemed to just extrude from the pores of the others. Before we knew it the Show and Sale was just around the corner and as Tony worked feverishly to get plants ready for the Show, I found myself getting more and more entrenched in the actual 'business' of putting a Show and Sale on for the public. After the whirlwind of our first Show, I discovered that I had actually had a really good time. *(Except the 'taking home the plants' -- give me kitchen floors to mop, windows to clean, poopy diapers..... to this day I have nightmares of helping Tony pack, deliver, and carry plants back to the greenhouse after the show. We aren't talking 10-20 plants here; we're talking upwards of 75-100 ranging from 2" pots to ones which had to be handled with a two-wheeler. Yes, vendors do it all the time but (1)my pay scale was so low it didn't exist and (2)we're talking 'show plants' here, not the 'bundle in boxes - they love to touch each other' plants. We're talking 2 or 3 trips from the house to the Garden Center & back again in two vehicles.)*

Some twenty.....*(no! it couldn't be!)* years later, it appears that I'm still in the club along side Tony and I have actually grown to appreciate the plants and all their weirdness. There are many I would call breathtakingly beautiful and I have given up trying to find the 'ugliest' or the 'most unique' because it seems a new one appears just when I think I have seen them all. Despite all my earlier efforts, I must admit that I have learned a thing or two over the years regarding the plants and find that I can answer some pretty basic questions from inquirers and have actually handled a few tougher questions on occasion. When Tony was still working and traveling a lot or indulging his other passion, hunting, I frequently found myself the caretaker of not only the yard but the greenhouse. To this day I have not killed one of his plants..... *There was this area behind one of the greenhouses I dubbed 'tombstone' but he thought it was because of the rocks.....*

Cactus and succulent people are a different breed. I don't think I have or ever will become a true member of the club and for that I am a little sad. This breed of people is inquisitive, sensitive, creative, intelligent, and generous beyond a fault. I have a few talents that lie elsewhere but my biggest contribution is being able to be the 'go to' person and hope that this in some small way, gives the enthusiasts a little more time to enjoy their plants and less to have to take care of with the details. There is a 'place' for everyone. *See you at the meeting!*

NIKI

CLUB NEWS

From the secretary

Minutes of Board Meeting of Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society

January 18th, 2012



The board meeting was called to order by President Niki Furrh at 7:05 PM with 11 Members present at which time we went directly into the Program. This meeting was the first meeting with the newly elected club members in their designated officer's positions. The discussion was to review the clubs yearly programs, newsletter & webpage, the library, field trips and garden tours, show and sale, and refreshments. The following items were presented and discussed.

2012 Club Programs:

Growing under lights – Member investigation needed. Geared toward people with no green houses. Special interests.

Faux Cactus/Brag Table – Look at San Diego Club on how they present. Creativeness. Not unlike real cactus/etc. Participation needed and possibly put on cover of newsletter.

Succulent Bouquets – open for more discussion. Nothing determined.

Open Slideshows – 3-5 pictures. Flash drive computer form. 8-10 people to participate. Possible Catalog Photo.

Labeling plants and understanding the labels – Types of labels to use. What to put on a label. Pen vs. pencil

Photography – Divide into 3 categories. Natural, Special and Unusual.

Photography contest - 2 Categories. Novice and professional. Rewards. Set up at show and sale? Need further to discuss since it is a possibility for June show/sale.

What's wrong with my plant? – Need further discussion. Nothing decided.

Bingo – Cards with plant pictures. Drawing of names and place with proper plant Picture.

Latin in the Plant world – Translation of species and genus. Possible speaker James Ashmore, garden chairman, master gardener.

Annual plant and swap – swap anything plant related – no money exchanges. Example; exchanging pots for dirt.

Succulent plant propagation – Still open for discussion.

Following is the Monthly Club Programs agreed upon by all board members; however these are open for subject matter and time changes:

February, 2012 - Labels and Latin. Labeling plants and how to understand those labels. Using and understanding Latin in the plant world. Common names used on plants. Possible types of labels to use. Joyce Hochtritt will present.

Minutes of the board meeting continued

March, 2012 - Mike and Rosario Douglas, present their Galapagos Trip.

April, 2012 - Winter growers. What plants grow during the cool months or Transitional months. Joyce Hochtritt will speak or find a speaker for this program.

May, 2012 - June show preparation and discussion.

June, 2012 - Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent show and sale. No regular club meeting.

July, 2012 - Dish Garden – Need to create flyers to bring people in. Fred Hill will host along with Joyce Hochtritt. They will provide plants, however other members may also donate plants for this program.

August, 2012 - Library Knowledge. Tony Furrh will host and speak.

September, 2012 - Picnic. To be held at Peggy's Anglin's home. Sunday, September 16th at 5:30 PM. Pot luck. Open swap program will be held at the picnic. Members to bring their items they want to swap out with others.

October, 2012 - Local Speaker. Joyce Hochtritt will investigate.

November, 2012 - Photography. Discussion still open on this month's program.

December, 2012 - J & J Hochtritt 2012 Christmas Party. Date still open as Joyce will have to review.

Miscellaneous items discussed/agreed upon:

Tony Furrh reviewed a listing of books that he would like to acquire for the Clubs' library and Joyce Hochtritt motioned for the club to invest the monies for these particular books. All board members agreed for Tony to proceed with the purchase. The board also agreed to pay for the repairs of the library cabinet that Tony took home to refurbish. Receipts will be provided to the club.

Festival of the Garden – the club agreed to be a participant in this festival to be held at the Will Rogers Garden Center in June 2012, a week before the club sale. Further discussion as to what will be needed and who will represent the club will be to be determined.

Newsletter – adding comics, puzzles, plant separation knowledge write up, Recipes.....

Delivery charge for members that do not have a computer. It was determined by the board that no additional dues will be charged to those that receive the newsletter in the mail.

Club advertising – Listings to advertise, with whom to advertise, mailing lists and fliers. Still open for discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. Not all agenda matters were discussed, so the Board agreed to resume the board meeting at Joyce Hochtritt's home on Saturday, February 4th, 2012 at 1:00 PM CST.

Mary Robertson

CLUB NEWS

Meet the members that are part of our new 2012 Board

From left to right Tony Furrh (Librarian), Peggy Anglin (Treasurer), Mary Robertson (Secretary), Joyce Hochtritt (CSSA affiliate), Niki Furrh (Our new president in blue shirt and glasses) and Rosario Douglas (Vice-president, newsletter editor and web master)



On January 19th our club held their first board meeting of the year. Above are the new officers.

Many items were discussed including programs, show and sale, garden tour etc. You can see a summary of the meeting in the pages above.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

Dear Members;

When I started as editor in October 2011, I got the idea of starting an official newsletter exchange with other cactus clubs. I drafted a message that I sent to most of the cactus clubs in the US, some in Canada and some overseas. To date I have received 29 responses and all these editors were happy to be part of such an exchange. We may use some of their materials from time to time as they may use ours as long as due credit is provided. Most clubs have a webpage, but not all have their newsletters posted on the webpage. Click on the links to see the webpages.



Below is the list of the clubs we are currently exchanging newsletters with:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1- San Diego C&SS | http://www.sdcss.net/index.html |
| 2- Henry Shaw C&SS | http://www.hscactus.org/ |
| 3-Memphis C&SS | |
| 4-Orange County C&SS | http://www.occss.org/ |
| 5- C&SS of San Jose | http://www.csss.org/ |
| 6-The Colorado C&SS | http://www.ccoss-online.org/ |
| 7- The Long Beach Cactus Club | http://www.lbcoss.org/ |
| 8- Monterey Bay area C&SS | |
| 9- Chinle C&SS | http://chinlecactusclub.org/ |
| 10-National Capital Cactus and Succulent Society | http://www.washington-dc.cactus-society.org/ |
| 11- Palomar C&SS | http://www.digitalseed.com/sandiego/gardener/clubs/pcass.html |
| 12- Sacramento C&SS | http://www.sacramentocoss.org/ |
| 13- South Coast C&SS | http://www.southcoastcoss.org/ |
| 14- Austin C&SS | http://austincoss.com/ |
| 15- Mid-Iowa C&SS | http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/micoss.html |
| 16- Kerr County C&SS | http://home.windstream.net/wildfong/KCCSS.html |
| 17- C&SS of Tulsa | http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/tulsa.html |
| 18- River City C&SS | http://www.river-city-cactus.org/ |
| 19- C&SS of Alberta | http://albertacactusandsucculent.org/ |
| 20- C&SS of New Mexico | http://www.new-mexico.cactus-society.org/ |
| 21- North Texas C&SS | http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/ntcoss.html |
| 22- Houston C&SS | http://www.hcsstex.org/ |
| 23- Kansas City C&SS | |
| 24- Cascade C&SS | http://www.cascadecoss.org/ |
| 25- San Antonio C&SS | |
| 27- Mid-West C&SS (Ohio) | http://www.mwcoss.com/ |
| 28-San Antonio C&Xerophyte | http://affiliates.cssainc.org:san-antonio-cactus-and-xerophyte-society.html |
| 29-Midwest C&SS of Ohio | http://affiliates.cssainc.org/midwest-cactus-and-succulent-society.html |

Here is another interesting survey from one of our long time members.

From Joyce Hochtritt, J & J Cactus and Succulents



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

When I was four years old my parents took us to visit a great aunt that lived in Tucson, AZ. (1957) her home was outside of town with a circle drive and there was a large cactus and rock garden. The first thing I wanted to do was go outside to play. And the first thing that caught my eye was the giant 'Saguaro', the giant 'Golden Barrel' and the giant Ferocactus. Of course to a four year old everything can be giant. I remember that these plants were the neatest things, the size, the spines and the shapes of the plants. That's where this four year old became fascinated with the world of cactus.

When I was eight years old my parents took us to visit another great aunt that lived in Hemet, CA. (1961) She too had cactus in her yard, mostly 'Easter Lilly Cactus' (Echinopsis). Her old large mother plant had produced mounds of fat round plants. My aunt saw that I really liked her plants so she handed me a paper sack and said give the little ones a push and they'll come off the mother plant. So I came home with eight little cactus and that's how I got started growing cactus and succulents.

2- Do you like cactus, succulents or both?

As a collector cacti are my favorite. But, as the owner of J & J Cactus and Succulents, I must keep a good variety of cactus, succulents and other xerophytes' plants. But, I have grown to like them all!

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

My favorite cacti genus is Astrophytum. My favorite succulents are fat plants (plants that have a caudex or a pachycaul trunk)

4- How long have you been a member of the club?

I moved to Oklahoma in May 1981 and joined COCSS in Sept. 1981. Before I moved to Oklahoma I was a member of the Gate's Cactus and Succulent Society when I lived in southern California.

5- What kind of programs would you like to see during our monthly meetings?

I like hands-on programs. I like programs that focus on one genus and its species.

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

I like trips to see cactus and succulents in the wild. I also like trips to plant nurseries.

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

Discuss places to see cactus and succulents in their native habitat in Oklahoma. Maybe have some advertising for nurseries that are located in Oklahoma? Maybe a business card sized ad or smaller for a yearly fee?

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

Yes, I have a 30' x 75' commercial greenhouse. It houses around two thousand plus plants.

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

I shop online, buy locally and I also travel to other states to buy plants.

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

I always like to read about cultivation information. Where to buy things to use for soil mixes and top dressing.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Douglas

A winter visit to Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory in Oklahoma City



Early this January we decided to take a trip to the city. Among our stops was the Myriad Botanical Garden. We knew that some renovations had taken place and were curious to see how things were progressing.

Many improvements have taken place in the outdoor areas and a great deal of landscaping has taken place. A new building may soon house a restaurant.

As you enter the conservatory your first view is of impressively tall and lush tropical vegetation. Tall palms, ferns and flowers seem to be everywhere.

The gardens are designed so that at the ends you have a fairly realistic representation of wet and dry tropical vegetation. A nice waterfall is a key feature in the wet forest part of the gardens and it is a favorite for wedding pictures.



The gardens were first opened in 1988 and today they cover 17 acres. The crystal bridge, a 224 foot architectural marvel, is the focal point of the gardens.

The gardens are a great place to escape a cold winter day as it is quite warm inside.

Admission, about \$7 per adult, is charged. They are open 7 days a week.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH CONT...



Heliconia butterflies are common throughout the conservatory. Nice variety of Bromeliads (bottom left) and orchids (bottom right) are in evidence in many areas.

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH CONT....



The xeric or dry area is drier and hotter. There are many nice large and small specimens of succulents (cactus included) to be enjoyed.

Bottom left Mike next to a large specimen of *Alluaudia procera*.

Bottom right is another nice example of a large succulent, a caudiciform, *Pachypodium rutenbergianum*.



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH CONT....



On the left is a view taken from inside the gardens looking out towards the outdoor areas. Maybe not too colorful in January, but very nice once the trees get their leaves back.

On the right is another view of the outdoor landscapes. Shown here is a small performing stage that probably gets good use in the warmer time of the year.



Even in January and on a relatively nice day for this time of the year, it was possible to enjoy a nice stroll around the gardens.

A nice little creek surrounded by gravel paths and trees made for a relaxing end to our visit to the Myriad Botanic Gardens in Oklahoma City.

You can read more about them at

<http://www.myriadgardens.com/index.html>

FROM THE MEMBERS

By Fred Hill

Results of a sleepless night



Here is a nice short article about how to deal with plants that have gotten too large.

1- *Mammillaria rhodantha*, was top-heavy, so plant was cut at base, allowing 8 new



2- Dumped pot, showing root base and degeneration of soil.

FROM THE MEMBERS CONT...



3- Segmented plant with pots containing bottom screen (fabric softener sheets).



4- Four cuttings repotted, topped with 3 different top dressings (all-purpose gravel, granite screenings, #4 sand blasting grit).

The remaining will be repotted: 1 for possible show plant, 7 for sale or gifting, base is repotted for another crop of pups (One 1/2" pup was left on the base; cuts are left exposed to create new growth again. This photo also shows all tools used.

SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas



This month we discuss Sansevieria, a group I am not very familiar with. Depending on the source you read this genus of about 70 species is in- either the Ruscaceae, Agavaceae, Dracaenaceae, or the Liliaceae families.

Sansevierias are leaf succulents found primarily in the dry tropical and subtropical areas of Africa through south Asia to Burma and the islands in the Indian Ocean. Some are popular house plants and there are many common names given to them such as: snake plants or mother-in-law's tongue, bow-string-hemp, devil's tongue and good luck plant.

Relatively few members of this genus are in cultivation, but their economic importance as ornamentals, a source of fiber, and of medicines is significant. Sansevierias produce a strong elastic fiber that is used for manufacturing rope, fishing lines, cordage, fine matting, bowstring, and clothes. In some parts of Africa the leaves are used as band aids due to their antiseptic qualities.



Top left: a photo of *Sansevieria cylindrica*.

Bottom left: a drawing of *Sanseveria hyacinthoides*.

Photos from Wikipedia public domain

SUCCULENT PLANTS CONT...



(Il Principe di San-Severo.)

The genus *Sansevieria* was named in honor of Raimondo di Sangro, Prince of Sansevero (1710-1771) an inventor, soldier, writer and scientist as well as a noble. Sansevero is a city of 55,486 inhabitants located in the province of Foggia in the southern Italian region of Apulia.

Two commonly used names are “Sanseveria” and “Sansevieria”. This is confusing and it arises from the alternative spellings of the Italian place name.

The leaves are either soft or hard and are generally arranged in a rosette around the growing point. Plants with soft leaves are found in wetter climates and the opposite is true for the plants with hard leaves – those are often found in drier environments.

Fruits are typically a red or orange berry and are pollinated by moths. Once

a plant flowers it will not produce any new leaves, but it will grow producing plantlets via its rhizomes (the horizontal stem of a plant that is usually found underground) or stolons (stems which grow at the soil surface or just below ground).

Sansevierias from dry locations thrive in bright light but need well-drained soils. They can rot due to overwatering. Many of the species in cultivation can do well in filtered light. *Sansevierias* from the wet tropics do well in moister, cooler conditions. Whether from dry or wet habitats, *Sansevierias* don't require much water or fertilizer. Too much sun can bleach the variegated types.

Top left drawing of Raimondo di Sangro taken from Wikipedia.

On the right is *Sansevieria trifasciata* flower.
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SUCCULENT PLANTS CONT.....



Take a look at the International Sansevieria Society. There is information about their group, fees and cultivation tips among other topics.

<http://www.sansevieria-international.org/aims.htm>

The Portland nursery has an interesting section about Sansevierias which includes cultivation.

<http://www.portlandnursery.com/plants/houseplants/sansevieria.shtml>



On the right is an illustration of *Sansevieria zeylanica* (L.) Willd. 1799 - Teufelszunge - Devil's Tongue [Bildquelle: Flora de Filipinas, 1880 / Wikipedia. -- Public domain]

References:

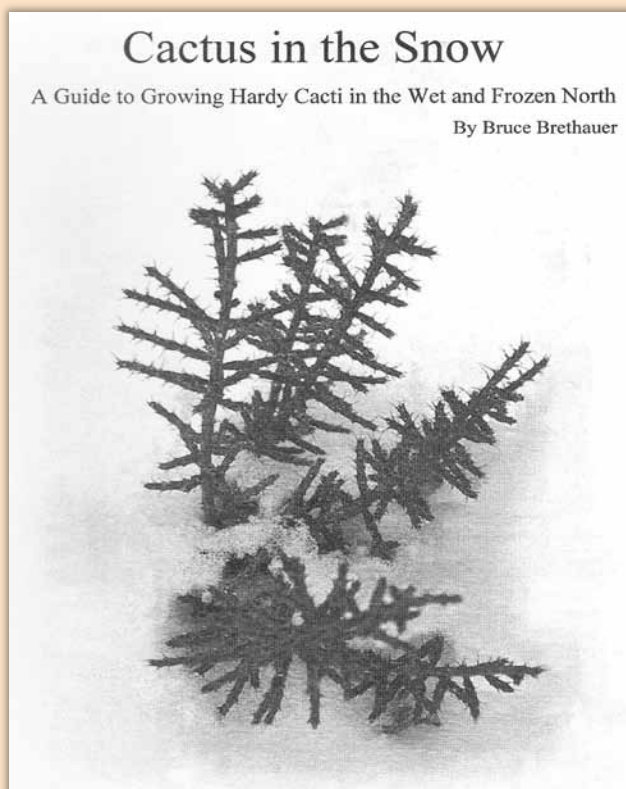
Article titled **THE GENUS SANSEVIERIA (FAMILY DRACAENACEAE) IN ZIMBABWE** by Ratidzayi Takawira and Inger Nordal from the National Herbarium and Botanic Garden in Zimbabwe and University of Oslo respectively.

Wikipedia

Dave's Garden: <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/293/#b>

BOOK REVIEW

By Rosario Douglas



I was cleaning around the house this past December and thinking about the New Year that was approaching rapidly. I kept telling myself out with the old in with the new, trying to get rid of anything we don't really need or use anymore, a somewhat futile attempt when it comes to books. I did get some cleaning done and I also had my excuse for looking at the books on the shelves. It is amazing how easy it is to forget what books are sitting on those shelves.

I found this book about growing winter hardy plants, a nice coincidence given that we are officially in winter. Published by Bruce Brethauer in

2000, the book is "**Cactus in the Snow - A guide to growing hardy cacti in the wet and frozen north**". This 119 page book starts with a table of temperature conversion from Celsius to Fahrenheit. This is followed by a short discussion about why we want to grow winter hardy cacti. Beautiful blooms and low maintenance - once the plants are established in outdoor beds, were some of the reasons given. Next is a discussion of the anatomy of cacti (flowers and fruits) and also the basic elements involved in growing winter hardy cacti (wind, earth, fire, and water).

The book continue with a lengthy chapter with many pictures about the different types of cactus beds such as open beds, mounds, plants among rocks, etc. The pictures, although black and white, are pretty good and show fairly well what the author is talking about. This section is followed by a discussion about pests, fertilization and information about hardiness among other cultivation subjects.

The next section has photos for each plant mentioned and describes the hardy species. There is detailed information about origin, habitat and cultivation for plants in the genus ***Opuntia***, ***Echinocereus***, ***Escobaria*** and ***Pediocactus***.

The final pages cover topics such as surviving winter - the expansion of ice crystals inside plants is described as being the main reason for damaged tissues. Keeping a pad from each *Opuntia* as an insurance policy, the acquisition of plants and growing plants from seed are the final subjects discussed.

WEBSITE REVIEW

By Rosario Douglas

Joyce sent me this link about new data and revisions for the genus *Epithelantha* by Davide Donati and Carlo Zanovello. The article is in both Italian and English and it has a fair amount of information as well as color photos. Their conclusion at the end of the article is that the genus needs a taxonomical revision and they propose their own. At the very end they also include a bibliography.



The abstract of the article says: "The genus *Epithelantha* Web. ex Britt.&Rose was considered monospecific for long time. On the basis of ontogeny, fertility and sympatry this study shows that this genus is composed by many biological species, with evidence of distinct spines ontogeny between the taxa. At the light of this, a revision of the genus *Epi- thelantha* is here proposed, with description of new taxa (*E. ilariae* Donati&Zanov. sp. nov., *E. pachyrhiza* subsp. *parvula* Donati&Zanov. subsp. nov., *E. pachyrhiza* subsp. *pulchra* Donati&Zanov. subsp. nov., *E. unguispina* subsp. *huastecana* Donati&Zanov. subsp. nov., *E. greggii* subsp. *potosina* Donati&Zanov. subsp. nov.)"

You can read the whole article at: http://www.atmosfera-d.it/images/stories/pdf/4_10_Epith.pdf

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society. At the top is a banner with the society's name and tagline "Sharing the Study & Enjoyment of Succulents Since 1942". Below the banner are navigation links: "HSCSS Events", "Member Photos", "Join HSCSS", and "Club History". The main content area features a "Welcome" message, a "Plant of the Month" section with a photo of a cactus, and a "Resources" section with links to "From the Digest" and "HSCSS Library". A Facebook link is also present. The "HSCSS Mission" section states the society's goal to promote and increase knowledge of cacti and succulents. The footer includes contact information for the St. Louis chapter.

This is the webpage of the Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society founded in 1942.

The webpage has a RESOURCE link that covers many subjects such as cultivation, propagation, Genus specific information, Winter hardy plants and botanical gardens among others.

Their webpage is

<http://www.hscactus.org/>

THE CULTIVATION CORNER

By Rosario Douglas

PLANT DISEASES Taken from CactusMuseum at:

<http://www.cactusmuseum.com/care.asp>



Bud drop: The premature dropping of flower buds. The cause of this problem is primarily environmental. Temperature fluctuation due to drafts is commonly seen as a cause. Bud drop can also be caused by the lack of or excess water and changing light levels. In Christmas cacti, a lack of potassium or an excess of nitrogen can also cause this problem. Sometimes buds fall off a cactus simply because the plant has too many blossoms. Rough handling or turning a plant also will cause buds to abort.

It is important to maintain the care that a flowering cactus is used to when it is in bud. Resist moving your cactus to another site if it has buds or open flowers.

Corky scab: Brown, irregular spots developing in older parts of a stem. Most of the spots affect the epidermis of the plant only, so, damage is superficial and only affects the appearance of the plant. More severe or widespread attacks can destroy entire shoots or decrease flower production. Corky scab is normally the result of poor cultivation (i.e. overwatering, poor ventilation).



To control, increase light exposure and decrease humidity. The prickly pear (*Opuntia* sp.) are particularly prone to corky scab.

Photo on left shows an example of corky scab taken from Cactus Lover (<http://cactuslover.blogspot.com/2011/03/fungus-vs-cactus.html>)

Etiolation: The abnormal elongation of cactus stems due to insufficient light. Stems may be pale or yellow with unusual spine characteristics. Commonly seen in plants taken from a commercial nursery into a dimly-lit retail environment. This may also occur if a cactus is fertilized while in its normal Winter dormancy period.

To correct etiolation, move the cactus into stronger light. While this will prevent further etiolation, the spindly elongated section of stem will remain as proof of improper care. You may also choose to prune the etiolated stem back to the healthy part; this acts to promote the growth of 'perfectly-shaped' offshoots or stems that may be removed and re-planted.

Overwatering, particularly in cold weather when cacti are dormant, is the chief cause of the problem. The disease-causing organisms thrive in moist conditions. Cold temperature and plant wounds aggravate the problem.

THE CULTIVATION CORNER CONT...

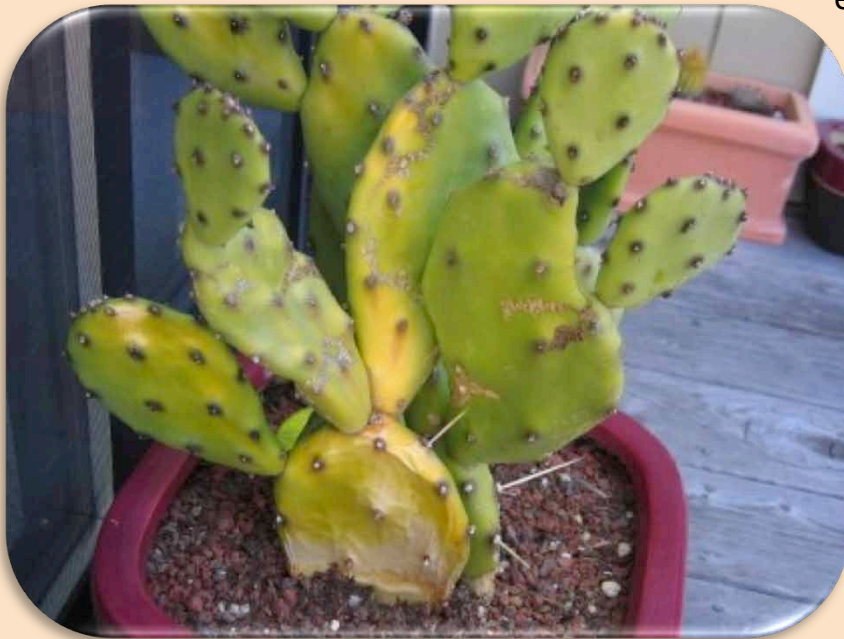
Rot: Rot is caused by microorganisms: fungi and bacteria. It may affect the roots, stem, and/or the crown of the plant. Typically, the diseased tissue takes on a watery, slimy, soft, and blackened appearance. Damage often starts at the base of the plant and progresses to the top. Plants start to lean, then often collapse and die.

In theory, rot in its early stages may be checked by moving plant to a dry, temperate environment. It has been our experience that once you spot rot it is already progressed past its early stages. If rot is above ground, cut out the diseased portion of the plant with a sharp knife and dust the wound with a fungicide. In many cases, the top of the plant appears healthy above a rotten base. This healthy top may be cut off, allowed to dry, and then re-rooted in a sandy medium. Remove and destroy infected plants and/or plant parts.

Proper cultural practices help to prevent rot. Sterilizing the potting media and placing a layer of gravel on top of the soil will kill or reduce bacterial damage. Water plants early in the day and avoid spreading disease by splashing water from one infected plant to a healthy plant. In Winter, the normal dormancy period for most cacti, water sparingly.

A partial list of rot-inducing microorganisms include: *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Phytophthora parasitica*, *Pythium aphanidermatum*, *Bipolaris cactivora*, *Erwinia carotovora*.

Sunburn: A change in the appearance in the plant due to too much exposure to the sun. The



entire plant epidermis will turn a whitish, yellowish or reddish-brown color. In extreme cases, a sunburned plant may become sensitive to other diseases. As mentioned, this problem is caused by too much light exposure. Typically, this occurs when rapidly bringing plants used to artificial light into intense natural light. Epiphytic cacti and seedlings are especially sensitive to sunburn. To prevent, a cactus should be gradually introduced to more light over a period of time. Plants should be placed into the shade, then into partial sun, and finally into full sun; this process may take one month. If you notice signs of sunburn, move the

plant temporarily back into the shade. Also, sunburn is aggravated by hot weather and lack of water, so, make sure the plant is properly watered.

WHAT IS BLOOMING?



Photos by Mike Douglas

Our Winter months bring a real treat to the greenhouse. Numerous flowers of the African succulents begin to bloom in the Fall and continue in the winter months. All three of these succulents were blooming in November 2011

The top photo and the one on the right are *Lithops* sp. Below is a *Pleiospilos* sp.



We would like to encourage our members that enjoy taking pictures to share them with us. If you have a greenhouse you probably have something flowering year round.

You can also send pictures taken in other years.

WHAT IS BLOOMING?



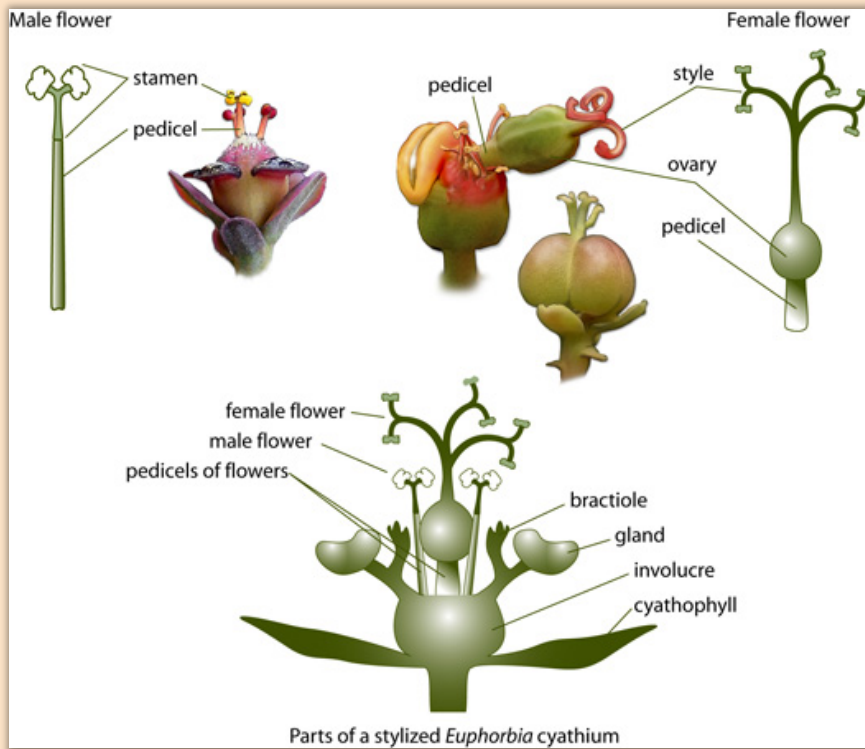
At the end of January the spectacular flowers of the *Argyroderma* sp above were a visual treat.

Below is a very small, but pretty *Mammillaria* sp flower.

All photos taken in our greenhouse

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

By Rosario Douglas

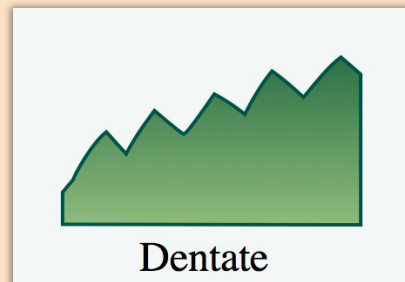


Cyathum

All flowers in the Euphorbiaceae are unisexual (either male or female only), and they are often very small in size. In *Euphorbia*, the flowers are reduced even more and then aggregated into an inflorescence or cluster of flowers known as a "cyathium" (plural cyathia). This feature is present in every species of the genus but nowhere else in the plant kingdom. Whereas most other large genera of plants differ in features of the flowers themselves, *Euphorbia* varies

instead in features of the cyathium, which can show amazing modifications in different groups

- Deciduous** Shed periodically, or annually
- Decumbent** Lying or growing along the ground but turning upwards at or near the apex
- Deflexed** Bent away, usually applied to the shape of a spine
- Deltoid** Shaped like the Greek letter D (Delta)



Dentate Toothed

PAST/FUTURE EVENTS/LOCAL HAPPENINGS

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

PAST/FUTURE EVENTS/LOCAL HAPPENINGS 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 Bienial 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