



THE OFFSET

MARCH 2014

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 36th in Oklahoma City (except for the month of our Show&Sale, picnic and Christmas party).

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MARCH, 2014

It must be March - there's snow on the ground. It always seems a little hard for me to 'change seasons', not wanting the one we are currently in to 'end' but I think I can safely say that I'm ready for spring. Of course, here in Oklahoma snow in March is not unusual. My oldest daughter's birthday is this month and I recall bringing her home from the hospital on March 13th in a blizzard, over 40 years ago. The outside temperature last evening was 6 degrees and the greenhouse was 36 and dropping so Tony had to tromp out, unstick the door and get the heater turned up – (taking his cell phone, a bottle of water, a change of clothes, and snack just in case he got lost..... actually, I told him it wouldn't be terrible if he got stuck in the greenhouse for a few days just to get a few things done.) One bright spot in the whole weather mess, is that we have a good size Christmas cactus blooming to beat the band! My Mom was the gardener in the family but during his last 9 years or so, my Dad developed an interest in cactus and had been growing, among other things, about 6 fairly nice Christmas cacti in his apartment under a ceiling spot light, no where near any natural light. The plants are good specimens and now spend their days in the guest room near a window, not allowed to go to the greenhouse. I know Dad would be pleased that they are continuing to bring some brightness to some rather dull winter days.

During our February meeting we nailed down some details for the Dish Garden Workshop we are planning on hosting on July 17th (regular meeting night) from 7:00pm - 9:00pm. We will charge a \$20 admission fee to the public which will cover soil, plants, and top dressing and hope to do pre-registration to get a fairly good idea of how many will be attending. There will be extra supplies for last minute attendees. Joyce Hochtritt will chair the event with help from all of us. Attendees will be asked to bring a medium size pot or container and we will try to have some bagged rocks and other decorative items available for use if desired.

Rosario will begin working on a flier for this so we can do some advertising a month or two ahead of time and we will have fliers for both the Workshop and the club's Garden Tour on June 28th available at the Show and Sale.

See you on the 20th!
Niki Furrh, President

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
February 20, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Niki Furrh at 7:15 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center with 14 members and guests present.

Tom Galbraith made a motion to approve the minutes of the prior meeting as published in the newsletter. He was seconded by Helen Hill, motion carried.

Treasurer Peggy Anglin reported a bank balance of \$5275.65.

The list of people providing refreshments for meetings was completed. After discussion, Joyce Hochtritt made a motion that the person providing meeting refreshments have the option of being reimbursed \$20 without having to provide receipts. She was seconded by Robert Millison, motion carried. It was noted that refreshments should be kept simple.

President Niki Furrh presented a revised membership application that included an extra \$5 charge for anyone requesting a hard copy of the newsletter. This will go into effect immediately.

Rosario Douglas announced the following programs for the rest of the year:

March – Mike Douglas, on four botanical gardens in Central Mexico

April – Fred Hill, on Alcatraz

May – Show/sale preparation

June – No meeting, annual show and sale on June 21-22

July – Dish garden program, open to the public

August – Rod Mozell, on subject to be announced

September – No meeting, annual picnic

October – Melinda McMillan presentation on Will Rogers Garden plans for the future

November – Steve Owens, on subject to be announced

December – No meeting, Christmas party

Congratulations, Rosario, on putting together an outstanding schedule.

Mike Douglas announced that we now have wireless internet connection available at the garden center, and this opens a new realm of program possibilities. He also spoke about his communications with a club in Monterey, Mexico, and the possibility of a field trip to that area. He is also talking to their president about how they attract new members.

The Dish Garden program will be held on July 17th in our regular meeting room from 7-8:30 PM. Attendees will be asked to bring their own pot and pay a fee of \$20 for which we will provide three plants, soil and top dressing. Joyce Hochtritt, who is in charge of the program, will provide materials, and may have additional plants and décor on sale. Reservations will be required.

Fliers are needed for the Show and Sale, the Dish Garden Program and the Public Garden Tour. Show and Sale flier should be mainly black and white with a few color versions for posting in public. The Dish Garden and Tour fliers may each be on half of the same page. That way they can be separated if plans for the tour change. Currently only Tony Furrh and Fred Hill have volunteered to be on the tour which is scheduled for July 28th.

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY**February 20, 2014 MEETING MINUTES** Continued

Garden and Tour fliers may each be on half of the same page. That way they can be separated if plans for the tour change. Currently only Tony Furrh and Fred Hill have volunteered to be on the tour which is scheduled for July 28th.

A workday is scheduled for March 8th, weather permitting, at Fred Hill's residence to help him recover from tornado damage and get ready for the tour. Members are invited to come help cut back grasses, relocate rocks and whatever else he needs. Bring carts and yard tools and come ready to work! He will open this activity to Master Gardeners as well, so we should be able to accomplish quite a bit.

Joyce Hochtritt requested she be reimbursed for \$170 spent on the Midstates Conference web site. This was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM and attendees enjoyed snacks provided by everyone.

Submitted by

Peggy Anglin, Treasurer

REFRESHMENTS:

“(If you signed up for refreshments this month, please let Rosario know – we lost the original list!)” We are missing volunteers for August and October

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.

COCSS March 20th Program

Four Botanical Gardens of Central Mexico by Michael Douglas



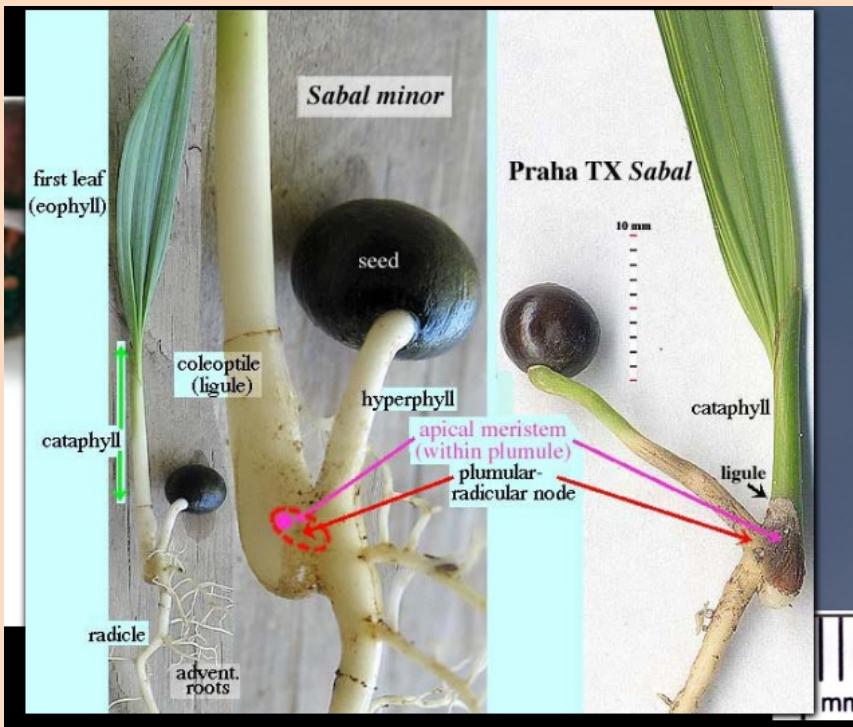
Last year during a six week work/vacation stay in Mexico, we had the opportunity to revisit some very good cactus and succulent habitats in different parts of Mexico. Among these were four botanical gardens located in Tehuacan, Mexico City, Metztitlan and San Miguel de Allende. This talk will give you a good idea of what these gardens look like.

Place: Will Rogers Garden at 3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City

Time: 7 pm

Refreshments: Jean Heart and Rosario Douglas

FROM THE MEMBERS



Jean Heart sent me the picture on the left. This shows seedlings of the palm *Sabal Minor*.

She will try to grow this palm from seed. She asked me if we ever had a program about growing succulents from seed. I don't remember any such program, but it sounds like an interesting topic for a talk.



Sabal minor often called "Dwarf palmetto", is a palm native to the US and belongs to a group of about 14 palms called Palmetto. It is found in the south including Oklahoma and it is one of the few palms that can take freezing temperatures. There are about 2500 species of palms worldwide, but only about a dozen or so are native to the US.



Plants are perennial and the flowers are white. This palm blooms in May-June

These palms are short, growing up to a meter in height and their leaves are fan-shaped.

Source: Wikipedia and the Native plant database- Lady Bird Johnson wildflower center. University of Texas at Austin
http://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=SAMI8

Photos on middle right and lower left are from Wikipedia Commons.



On February 20th Mike and I visited the conservatory at the Will Rogers Gardens in Oklahoma City.

These photos give you an idea of what it looks like and you can also see the succulent bed.

For now the conservatory is only open Monday-Friday from 8-5 pm.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION



March 20th – Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Four Botanical Gardens of Central Mexico by Michael Douglas

Refreshments: Jean Heart and Rosario Douglas

March 29 -30 - Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver, CO.

April 5 - 6 - Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Spring Show and Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.

April 17th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Gardens of Alcatraz. By Fred Hill

Refreshments: Peggy Holland and Helen Hill

April 25-26-27 - San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's Annual Show and Sale, San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX.

May 15th- Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Preparation for the Show&Sale

Refreshments: Joan Galbraith

June 21 - 22 - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City, OK.

July 17th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Dish garden Workshop (open to the public)

Refreshments:

August 9 - 10 - Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Loose Park Garden Center, Kansas City, MO.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION

August 30 - 31 - Austin CSS Fall Show & Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.

August 21st Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: By Rodd Moesel President of American Plant Products and Services Inc.
Title to be announced

Refreshments:

September 18th - Annual picnic at Niki and Tony Furrh's house

October 16th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Will Rogers Gardens - Planning for the next Millennium by Melinda MacMillan

Refreshments:

November 20th Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: By Steve Owens, co-owner of Bustani Plant Farm in Stillwater.
Title to be announced

Refreshments: Robert Millison

December 11th - Christmas party

SUCCULENT PLANTS



The genus Sempervivum

This is a genus of about 40 species of succulents in the family Crassulaceae. The name comes from the Latin *semper* (always) and *vivus* (living). Some common names include: hen and chicks, houseleeks and liveforever. The plants are perennial and are very sturdy and hard to kill. These succulents are very resistant to frost.

Sempervivums are found in Europe, the northern part of Africa and the Caucasus. Sempervivums typically grow as rosettes and they can propagate via offsets or via seeds. Flowers appear after a couple of years of growth.

Sempervivums are a favorite plant for container gardens, but good drainage and dry conditions are important if you want healthy plants. Source: Wikipedia



Sempervivum montanum. Photographed in the French Alps by Remih
Wikipedia commons

Sempervivum tectorum from Wikipedia commons

In ancient times people in Europe believed that Sempervivums would protect the house from lightning. Source: Botanical.com a modern herbal

<https://www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/h/houlee41.html>

You can read more about Sempervivums at:

<http://www.succulent-plant.com/families/crassulaceae/sempervivum.html>

Succulent Crafts

DIY Wall Garden Favors

I saw this project in the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society February newsletter. It is a wedding favor and it appeared in Ruffles at:

<http://ruffledblog.com/diy-wall-terrarium-weddingfavors/>. I have reformatted it for the newsletter.



Materials

- Gravel (can be found at any pet store in the aquarium section)
- Air plants, cactus or succulents (you will need a small amount of potting soil if not using air plants)
- Moss
- Spray paint
- Magnetic metal tins (IKEA groundtal container or you just need to slap magnetic tape on the back!)
- Dremel Tool
- Pai
- E6000 glue



It is an interesting project and you can use succulents.

We're approaching the end of our DIY wedding favor series, but I guarantee you will love our last picks as much as the first ones. These vertical terrarium wedding favors make great gifts because they don't take any room, and are extremely easy to maintain. Who wouldn't want to bring a little bit of the outdoors to their home or office?



Procedure

Cover your tins with painter's tape before you begin spray painting the inside of them. Spray tins with 3-4 light coats until they have are opaque in solid white. While your tins are drying, remove the acrylic top from all lids by putting a small amount of pressure with your hands to pop them off. Measure the diameter and mark a line with a permanent marker. Using the diamond cutter tip of your Dremel tool, slice all acrylic lids in halves (you can also try different shapes or drill holes). Lightly sand the edges using a sander tip of your Dremel tool.

Place acrylic tops back in the metal frame of the caps and glue both pieces. We also recommend dabbing the edges of the tins with a q-tip with glue to seal the lids to prevent the weight from the gravel popping out of the containers. It took one wall terrarium to splash gravel all over the floor for us to figure that out :)



Once your tins are dry from spray paint, remove tape and wash tins with water and soap. Close all tins, now with open front lids. Add gravel, misty moss and air plants. If you prefer building a closed terrarium and skipping cutting the lids, you will need activated charcoal, which can be found in the aquarium section at any pet store. Air plants won't work well in closed containers, so you may want to switch to ferns and small leafy plants.



ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



Water Wise Landscaper- A conversation with landscaper Michelle Pekko Seymour.

In these times of severe drought in many parts of the world including the US this article delivers a powerful example of what we as home owners and gardeners can do to help.

This is a link from NASA about Xeriscaping. You can read the full article at:

<http://climatekids.nasa.gov/review/career-landscaper/>

Upper left: Michelle Pekko Seymour



The following captions are taking verbatim from the article.

Middle left: *Before landscaping by Michelle, this lawn was dull and patchy.*

Middle right: *After Michelle's redesign, this yard is not only beautiful, but eco-friendly!*

Lower left: *Drought tolerant gardens can be just as colorful as any!*

WHAT IS BLOOMING

Photos by Mike Douglas



Argyroderma delaetii

We can always count on nice blooms in our South African plant beds.

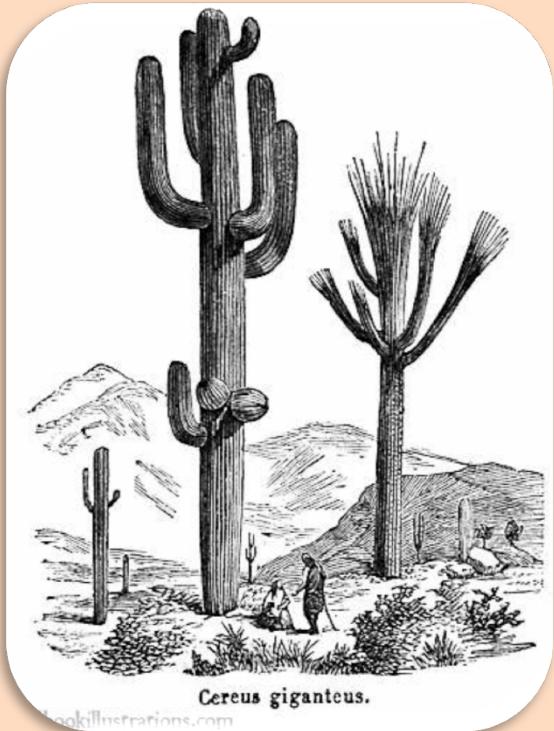
Both of these plants were blooming profusely in February.



Cheridopsis ssp.

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

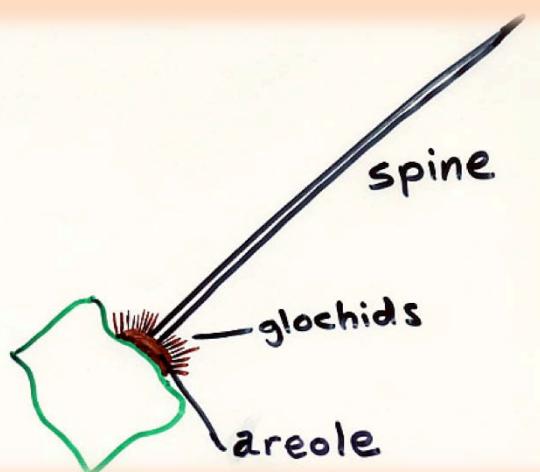
by Rosario Douglas



Aquosus	Watery, full of water
Arboreous	Tree-like
Arborescent	Having a size or form that is tree-like
Arenicolus	Living in sandy places

The saguaro illustration shows an example of Arboreous and Arborescent. This illustration came from the Trousset encyclopedia, Paris 1866-1891. The illustration can be seen at old book illustrations at:

<http://www.oldbookillustrations.com/pages/saguaro-cactus.php?lnq=en>



Areole A pad-like structure where spines or flowers or both are born and that sometimes contains numerous glochids.

Part of this definition and the illustration were taken from a University of Illinois webpage about integrative biology and systematics of plants

<http://www.life.illinois.edu/ib/335/>

Terms from a book by W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods. The book is titled, **Glossary of succulent plant terms**, published in 1938. The Cactus Museum at www.CactusMuseum.com, Wikipedia, A glossary put together by John Chippindale of Leeds England. Also terms from CactiGuide.com at <http://cactiguide.com/glossary/>.