



# THE OFFSET

April 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).

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## CLUB NEWS



Spring is here and we are all starting a new growing season. I hope everyone is looking forward to getting some plants ready for the Show and Sale in June and plan on attending the Garden Festival at the WRGC in May. The Garden Festival is a good place for advertisement of our Annual Show & Sale and they offer a nice variety of various plants and other items for sale.

Several of us will be gone during the April meeting so if you are in town come and support our program speaker for the evening. We've had requests for more club members to talk about their own experiences so I know our volunteer for the month would appreciate your interest.

May is almost here and we need to be sure we are getting all our ducks in a row for the Annual Show and Sale. As we have discussed, we have several areas of duties that need a supervisor assigned before the Show and these early manager volunteers will be getting free T-shirts to wear if desired. Assigned volunteers by the supervisor (if needed) will be getting their T-shirts half-price (they are \$14.50). Members who can volunteer at the Show and contact me beforehand for a specific job- (-this lets us know ahead of time what additional help we can expect & let other volunteers plan their weekend), may also get half-price T-shirts.

### Currently we have:

Purple Peoples Choice	Gayle Snider (Manager)
Rootin Tootin Raffle Leader	Mike Douglas (Manager)
Let Me Educate You (Handouts)	Fred Hill (Manager)
Cuty Foody (Food Coordinator)	Jim Hochtritt(Manager) Shirley Cox(Volunteer)
<i>Cleaner 'Er Up! Lunch Room &amp; Show Room</i>	<u>All members</u>
What's A Good Chaser? (Drinks/ice)	Rosario Douglas
Let Me Teach You Something	Joyce Hochtritt (Manager)
<i>(Educational Displays)</i>	
Social Media	Mark Dittmar (Manager)
Assistant to Joyce on Friday	" "
Hey! Where's the Money?	Peggy Anglin(Manager)
Awards - Let's have some bling!	Niki Furrh (Manager)
Member Vendor's & Such	" "
Who's Here? Registration	Peggy Holland (Manager) Helen Hill (Volunteer)
Clue in Everyone On the Club	_____ (Manager)
Sales Area Floor Manager - <i>Packing</i>	Robert Millison (Manager)

During the May meeting we will briefly go over everyone's duties and see that things are covered or are going to be covered. If any additional help is needed, we'll get things assigned and ready for the Show. See you in May!

# “Big Bend National Park is your park too”

*by Mark Dittmar*

*Join us for an interesting program about Big Bend National Park. Member Mark Dittmar said:* Being situated next door to the great state of Texas gives COCSS members a special opportunity. As Oklahoman's we can see over 100 different species in Texas.

**When:** April 21

**Where:** Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 7 pm

**Refreshments:** Shirley Cox





**COCSS Meeting Minutes 3-17-16** By Robert Millison, COCSS Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:15pm with 19 members and 2 guests present.  
 Treasurer's Report: 31 paid members \$6140.13 Account Balance

**Festival in the Park** May 21st 9am-3pm. Fred & Peggy Hill have volunteered to man the COCSS booth. Should be set up by 9am.

**Name Tags:** We will be staying with our current style of name-tags. Name-tags are \$8 each, and the club will cover half the cost.

**Posters/Yard Signs:** Niki has printed up some posters for the Show/Sale; these will be strategically placed at various locations around town (TLC, Myriad Gardens, WRGC/conservatory, etc.). Also, 7 yard signs will be available for COCSS members to place in their yards prior to the Show/Sale.

**Show/Sale Jobs:**

Social Media: Mark

Raffle: Mike

Food: Jim/Rosario/Shirley Cox

Educational Display: Joyce

Peoples' Choice Manager: Gayle

Hand-outs: Fred

Drinks/ice: Rosario

Registration: Peggy H.

**COCSS T-shirts:** Each member that signs up to manage/coordinate one of the above job areas will receive a FREE T-shirt. Volunteers that actually sign up to assist the manager/coordinator will receive a T-shirt at half-price. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Mike & Rosario presented the first half of their Trip to Madagascar. Mike included maps illustrating the biological diversity of the island. Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the world and split from Africa about 135 million years ago. Madagascar is not a volcanic-made island, and therefore has a greater number of unique organisms (plants, animals, etc.).

\*\*\*\*\*



This is the flower of  
*Echinocereus rayonensis*

Photographed by Mike Douglas  
 in the greenhouse. Late March  
 2016.

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



**April 16 – 17** New Mexico Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show & Sale, Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico

**April 21** Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center. Open to the public/free admission.

**Program:** **"Big Bend National Park is your park too "** by Mark Dittmar

**Refreshments:** Shirley Cox

**May 19** Central Oklahoma Cactus&Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm. At the Will Rogers Garden Center. Open to the public/free admission.

**Program:** **"More Prep For Show & Sale & Discussion of Duties"** RAFFLE / Show & Tell / Educational Displays / Filling out Entry Slips for Judged Show / Schedule Review for S&S / Chairpersons to Review: Food / Registration / Raffle / Floor Manager to Review Schedule, set-up & clean up. Review of 15th Biennial Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference in Denver.

**Refreshments:** Joan Gilbraith

**June 9 - 10 –12** The 15th Biennial Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference, hosted by the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society, Denver, CO.

**June 18 – 19** **Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show & Sale, WRGC**

**July 21** Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm.

**Program:** **"Dish Garden Workshop"**

**August 18** Central Oklahoma Cactus&Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7 pm

**Program** **Member Greenhouse/Yard Tour**  
7:00pm Tony & Niki Furrh 722-1718

**September 15th -** **Annual Picnic and Member Greenhouse Tour & Sales Joyce 737-1831**

Will set up in the garage - bring a plant or two needing to be repotted perhaps from the Show & Sale? Sales available in greenhouse, Mexican buffet!

*Reserve July 26-31 2017*

# CSSA 2017 Biennial Convention

Hosted by  
Central Arizona C&S Society

## Field Trips

1. Desert Botanical Garden
2. Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Wallace Garden
3. Private Gardens
4. Hike in the Four Peaks region lead by Doug Dawson

World Renown Speakers  
Plant Sale and Auction  
and more to come...

## Convention Hotel

Tempe Mission Palms. It is in downtown Tempe, home to Arizona State University, with many shops, restaurants and entertainment venues. It is a 4-minute walk to a light rail station and 3.5 miles to the airport.

## News from other clubs

## SACXS SHOW & SALE



The San Antonio Cactus & Xerophyte Society is holding its 38<sup>th</sup> annual Show & Sale on April 21-23 at the San Antonio Garden Center. The Show & Sale will be open to the public from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM.

Our Show & Sale keeps getting bigger and better each year. Please join us and enjoy what we have to offer the cactus and succulent enthusiast.

❖ 8 cactus and succulent and pottery vendors

❖ Raffle drawings every hour

❖ A silent auction on Thursday and Friday

❖ An auction of unique and landscape cactus and succulents at 2:00 PM on Friday and Saturday

❖ Educational Displays that will wet your appetite to try growing a new plant or find a new way of enjoying the succulents in your collection

❖ The one and only SACXS official Fiesta medal

❖ Cactus/Succulent friends & experts to talk with

We hope you will join us at our yearly Show & Sale!

Barbara Schulze, Show & Sale Chairman  
[barbaraschulze@yahoo.com](mailto:barbaraschulze@yahoo.com) or call 830-281-5766



## Something about greenhouses...



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### Greenhouses: How to Choose & Where to Buy

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Greenhouses enable gardeners to ensure productive crops regardless of the weather or growing region.

Greenhouse gardening used to be the sole domain of commercial plant producers who require a protected, controlled environment to grow flowers and food crops indoors off-season, or to raise starter plants and shrubs for resale. More recently, due to modern materials and new construction techniques, many new types of greenhouses have become available for sale to anyone interested in gardening. In fact, it's become common today to see small greenhouses in residential backyards.

Homeowners and gardeners who are thinking of buying a greenhouse have two decisions to make:  
Do we need a greenhouse? If so, with so many choices on the market, how to choose which greenhouse to buy?

#### Do you need a greenhouse?

Gardening in greenhouses has become increasingly popular due to three trends which affect gardeners everywhere:

- 1. New materials have made greenhouses less expensive and longer lasting**  
Greenhouses have become much more affordable recently because of new materials which lower the cost and increase the lifespan of modern greenhouses. Manufacturers have responded to these developments by producing a wide variety of new greenhouses of all sizes and styles, and in a wide range of cost.
- 2. Food security is enhanced with a home greenhouse**  
To many people, faith in food security is shaken by each new report of outbreaks of sickness from various produce providers. Also, the cost of food, especially produce, has risen considerably due in part to transport costs, and it's getting to the point where it may be healthier, less expensive, and more secure to provide your own food for the family.
- 3. Climate change brings uncertainty to outdoor growing conditions**  
The frequency and strength of seasonal storms is increasing, as predicted by climate scientists. Gardeners across the world are losing crops and topsoil to unusually strong weather accompanied by heavy rains which flood ground crops and wash away topsoil where most soil nutrients reside. In our garden, we recently had a major 'November' storm arrive two months early, breaking many of our tomato plants, knocking over the fall brassicas (cauliflower, kale, broccoli, brussel sprouts and cabbage), soaking the winter squash which should have been curing in the early autumn sun, and throwing our fall fruit harvest off schedule. As gardeners, we now have the added risk of unexpected weather events. Growing our principal crops in a greenhouse, or starting crops early in a small greenhouse, is our best assurance of a fruitful harvest in uncertain times.

Some of you already have a greenhouse or two, others may be thinking about getting a greenhouse. There are clear advantages to having a greenhouse: you can grow a wider selection of succulents, especially those that are frost sensitive. You can also garden year round, some succulents, especially some from South Africa, bloom during our winter. A greenhouse is also a nice warm place to spend time during the winter months – out of Oklahoma's winds.

Of course, there are many considerations to getting a greenhouse: Size, type, buy a kit or build your own, heating, orientation etc. All these are important factors to consider, but once you do, you will be surprised how it is relatively easy to make the leap and get that first greenhouse.

Once you start seeing how well your plants do and how many more blooms the plants produce, you will ask yourself at some point why you waited so long.

You can read the article above at:

<http://eartheasy.com/how-to-buy-a-greenhouse.html>



## Something about greenhouses cont..



The picture above show the interior of our larger greenhouse, a BC greenhouse.

There are many vendors selling greenhouses. We mention the two companies below because we have owned greenhouses from these companies for a long time. Turner greenhouses website is <http://Turnergreenhouses.com> and BC greenhouses is at <http://www.bcgreenhouses.com>.

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**Dear Members:** Remember to check the club's Facebook page from time to time. We try to post information of interest to people in our hobby. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/Central-Oklahoma-Cactus-Succulent-Society-548561558626999/> or you can click on Facebook icon in our webpage. To see the webpage type **COCSS** in "Google"



## SUCCULENT PLANTS by *Rosario Douglas*



### The genus *Uncarina*



*Uncarina* is a succulent plant genus in the Pedaliaceae, a family with 13-14 genera. The Pedaliaceae is an exclusively Old World family found in Sub-tropical to tropical Africa, Madagascar, India, Southeast Asia and Malaysia. The 70 species in the family range from herbs to small trees. Species in this family thrive in tropical dry habitats. Fruits are non-fleshy often with hooks.

The name for the genus *Uncarina* comes from the Latin *Uncus*, which means hooked or barbed. This refers to the hooked tips of the dry fruits.



The plants have thick branches and the leaves have varied shapes. Many species have hairy leaves, especially the underside part of the leaf. Plants are well adapted to dry conditions and in cultivation they need warm temperatures to grow and can tolerate cool but dry weather. Regular watering is advised in the summer.

**a-** *Uncarina decaryi*. Photo by Mike Douglas. Zombitse National Park, Madagascar, 2015.

**b.** Closer view of the flower of *Uncarina decaryi*. Photo by Mike Douglas. Zombitse National Park, Madagascar, 2015.

**c.-** Dry fruit with harpoon-like barbs. *Uncarina abbreviata*. Photo by Mike Douglas. Madagascar, 2015.

## The genus *Uncarina* cont..



The genus *Uncarina* has 9-13 species and it is endemic (found nowhere else) to Madagascar. The bases of *Uncarina* species are somewhat swollen.

The flowers are yellow, rose, white or violet. The fruits are large and the capsules (in botany a **capsule** is a type of simple, dry fruit produced by many species of flowering plants) are covered with harpoon-like hooks at the ends. Dispersal of the fruits is aided by the burr-like fruits that become attached to hairy animals. Some species can only be properly identified if mature dry fruits are present. Flowers are pollinated by beetles.



d. *Uncarina decaryi*. Photo by Mike Douglas in the greenhouse. The plant has velvety leaves.

e. Capsule of *Uncarina ankarenensis*. These capsules are spiky and their ends are harpoon-like. This facilitates dispersal by clinging to animal fur. Licensed under Wikipedia creative commons. Photographed at the Ankarana reserve, Madagascar on 16 July 2012 by Dider Decouens.



f. The swollen base of *Uncarina roeoesliana*. *The Encyclopedia of Succulents* at: [http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Pedaliaceae/31008/Uncarina roeoesliana](http://www.llifle.com/Encyclopedia/SUCCULENTS/Family/Pedaliaceae/31008/Uncarina_roeoesliana)

Uploaded by: K.k. Agrawal

**Sources:** Wikipedia, Succulents and Xerophytic Plants of Madagascar by Dr. Werner Rauh, Vol 1, 1995., The Succulent plant page at: <http://succulent-plant.com/home.html>, The Encyclopaedia Britannica at: <http://www.britannica.com/plant/Pedaliaceae> and the families of flowering plants by L. Watson and M.J. Dallwitz at: <http://delta-intkey.com/angio/www/pedaliac.htm>



## THE CULTIVATION CORNER



## Pests and diseases of succulent plants

## Pests & diseases of succulent plants

From time to time most collections of cacti and succulents develop problems, related to either pests and diseases or to incorrect cultural conditions. If well cared for, succulent plants should grow well and remain healthy, but this may not be easy when growing plants in a climate which is different from that in their native habitat.

Pests and diseases strike large collections of succulent plants in greenhouses and small windowsill collections indiscriminately, irrespective of the experience of the grower. However, a few precautions can reduce the frequency with which the problem occurs. Most pests can be controlled by appropriate treatments, although it is probably fair to say that these problems are never really eliminated from large collections.

A number of pests, diseases and cultural problems are described below with some ideas for control measures. Whatever you use, read and carefully follow the instructions supplied with the product and avoid personal contact with insecticides and other chemicals.

*Please remember that all insecticides, fungicides and some other horticultural chemicals are very toxic to people, and handle with extreme caution - rubber gloves, face mask and goggles are advisable.*

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You can read a good article about pests and diseases of succulents plants at:

<http://succulent-plant.com/pests.html>

This article is in the cultivation section of *The Succulent Plant Page*, a good source of varied information about Succulents. You can see this page at: <http://succulent-plant.com/home.html>

## THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas



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

**Debilispinus**            Weakly spined.



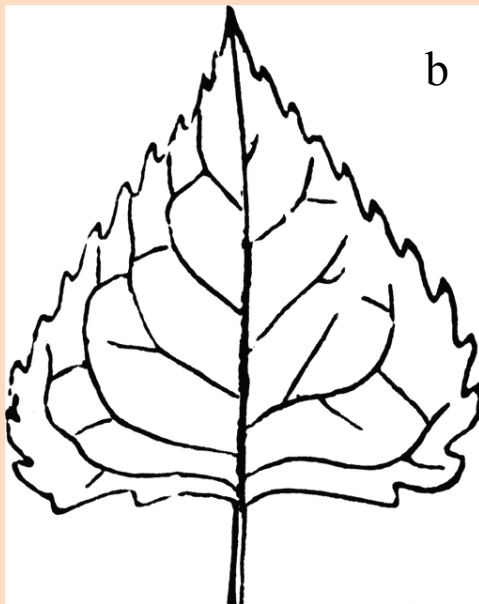
**Deceptor**                A deceiver.

**Deciduous**              Falling in season, as leaves in Autumn.

**Decumbent**              Reclining on the ground, but with ascending apex or extremity.

**Decurved**                Curved downward

**Deltoid**                    Shaped like the Greek capital letter delta; triangular.



a. *Decumbent Stenocereus eruca* (Creeping devil) from Baja California Sur-Mexico. Photo by Michael Douglas. In the greenhouse.

b. Deltoid leaf. Clipp art.