



THE OFFSET

April 2013

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 **7:00 pm** (except in January, the month of our show, picnic and December).

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CLUB NEWS- FROM THE PRESIDENT

President's Message
April, 2013



Spring is almost here and I'm hoping to break out of this walking boot soon --- did I just use the word "break"?

We have so many things going on thru July that *nobody* can call our club boring! On 4-13-13 we have the Cleveland County Garden Party in Norman, on 4-20-13 the club is having an information table for an hour at the Patience Latting NW Library, we will be having a club garden tour on 5-11-13, the yearly Garden Festival at the WRGC on 5-18-13 and our Annual Show and Sale is June 1st and 2nd with a garden tour for the public sometime in June. (Details of all events in the minutes.) All of these events are only possible with participation from our members and it is realistic to expect that not all members can attend all the functions - therefore, if we all volunteered for one or more of the events, we could get them covered.

Check out the new section in the newsletter regarding the Mid-States Conference for 2014 -- and please notice that at the top we have a count down starting this month. 14 1/2 months to go!!!

Tony Furrh will be collecting all 'handouts' to see what we have, what needs to be discarded, what needs to be copied and what additional ones we might need. Please bring to the meeting any handouts you might have so this can be accomplished.

Oh, and also please bring yourself to the meeting! We need you!

Niki Furrh
President

OTHER NEWS

APRIL 13TH GARDEN PARTY COCSS will be participating in the Garden party, located at the Norman, OK fairgrounds on April 13th from 8 am to 1 pm. This is an outdoor event to present our club information to the public. If any members would like to participate, please let Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill or Mary Kaser know. This event also has a flea market, farmers market and plant sale for anyone who would like to volunteer and shop! This is free to the public.

COCSS April 18th Program

“Wacky, Weird and Wild Plants -show & tell”

by all participating members



Where: At the Will Rogers
Garden Center- Oklahoma City

Time: 7 pm

Also

- Book reviews by Peggy Anglin and Mary Kaser
- Don't forget to check out a book if you want to volunteer to review it for future meetings.

Refreshments by: Peggy Anglin



*Top left flowering Uncarina sp
by Mike Douglas.*

*Bottom right flowering
Geohintonia mexicana
(Wikipedia commons)*

CLUB NEWS*by Mary Kaser*

Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society
Minutes of Meeting 03/21/2013



Meeting called to order at 8:03 PM CST
13 Members present. 1 new person attending: Lynn Pearce
Treasurer's Report - Year-to-date, 19 Paid Members.
Treasury total: \$4, 353.35

Librarian report: None

Program: **Know your Library** Presented by our Librarian Tony Furrh. Tony explained how our library was put together, the types of books we offer for our members, how to sign the books in and out monthly, the fine amount of overdue books and the types of journals we receive monthly and periodically.

Old Business:

- The minutes were approved by members from our last meeting held on February 21, 2013.
- National Garden Clubs, Inc. Convention April 30th – May 3rd, 2014. We will provide 8 of our plants in exchange for advertising of our club and Mid – States conference to be held in June, 2014. Niki Furrh said that Joyce Hochtritt would be interested in being a possible speaker at this convention.
- The Cleveland County fairgrounds will be having a spring time event called the “Garden Party”. It will be held on Saturday, April 13th at 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We will have a table set up with a Canopy to present our club. Members Rosario & Mike Douglas, Fred & Peggy Hill & Mary Kaser will be hosting. All Members are encouraged to participate. Please either contact Rosario, Mary or Fred if you would like more details. The Fairgrounds will also have a farmers market and a flea market for people to attend at the same time.
- Fred Hill has volunteered to be the club spokesperson at the Open House for the new Patience S. Latting Northwest Library in Oklahoma City on April 20th, 2013 @ 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM. Also attending will be Tony and Niki Furrh. Participants will be part of a Q&A of cactus and succulents and how to care for them.
- Member's only garden tour of individual homes will be Saturday, May 11th beginning at 10:00 AM, we are to meet at the Will Rogers Garden and then we will be caravanning to each resident as a group. Fred Hill, Robert Millison, Mike and Rosario Douglas will participate; with the possibility of Tony and Niki Furrh participating also.

Club news continued...

- COCSS will be participating in the Festival of the Park event located at the Will Rogers Center on May 18th, 2013 from 9-3. Outside Setup will begin at 7:00 AM for Vendors and any members that wish to participate can meet at 8:00 AM. It is a club representation event and will need volunteers to host. Mike & Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill, Mary Kaser and possibly Niki and Tony Furrh have already volunteered. We participated last year with much success as people came to our show and sale after talking to club members at this wonderful event. There is outdoor garden shopping (plants, gardening implements etc.) available to those volunteers who wish to participate. This is free to the public.
- 2013 Garden Tour for the public will be held on June 8th. Members included on the tour will be Mike & Rosario Douglas, Fred Hill and Robert Millison.

New Business:

- Refreshment volunteer for the month of April will be Peggy Anglin. Book review will be by Robert Millison.
- There is going to be a general Planning meeting on March 23rd, 2013 for all members, beginning at 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Our focus will be to discuss the show and sale for 2013 and the Mid-states convention for 2014. A theme for the 2014 convention will be reviewed. All members are encouraged to engage. Bring your own drink and refreshments will be provided.
- On April 27th, 2:00 PM, Fred Hill will be at the speaking at the Bethany Library. His talk will be on "Using Succulents in Oklahoma". Please join Fred at this time for support not only for a member but for the club as well.
- Donna Dollins from the OSU University, Horticulture and Landscape Architecture Division wants information on our show and sale, club and activities that we provide. Niki Furrh and Joyce Hochtritt will respond to her inquiry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM CST.

Mary Kaser - secretary

2013 ANNUAL SHOW & SALE June 1-2, 2013

GENERAL PLANNING MEETING SAT MARCH 23rd at WRGC

ADVERTISING -

Fred Hill sends S&S info to multiple schools, businesses, radio/newspaper venues
Joyce will do flier and postcards with Peggy Anglin supplying mailing labels
Members will receive fliers & asked to disperse
Fliers and postcards will be available for upcoming 'events' attended by members representing the COCSS
Any ideas and suggestions for advertising are always welcomed.
Postcards will need to be mailed around first/second week of May.

MAY MEETING -

May monthly meeting will review potting plants for the S&S plus various 'rules' for showing plants and filling out entry forms

JUDGES -

Joyce will also be seeking judges for the S&S - *We will be having 'in house judges' - Tony Furrh, Joyce Hochtritt, Mike Douglas. Please, please - all members should be bringing AT least one plant (& preferably more) for the Show Area. Our annual event 'begins' with SHOW and then Sale. It is terribly important that we put on a decent Show for the public - this is a large PURPOSE as a club. To educate!*

VENDORS -

Joyce will notify preferred vendors for the S&S by letter and keep us informed on those agreeing to come. *Rio Grande, J&J, Caos, Keelings, Members*

SET-UP

Friday May 31st 11:00am-5:00pm
Will be putting tables in place & covering them. Tables for Show Area, Vendor tables, Misc Sales Tables, Silent Auction, Reception Area, Cashiers' Table
(Assistance to Vendors is appreciated but not mandatory for members)

SHOW AREA

Joyce will be our Show Area Chairperson again this year. and will be checking in Show Plants during set-up & placing on tables

SALES AREA

Niki will be our Sales Area Chairperson. Will work with members wishing to sell items - 'members' are those we have paid dues and a member longer than 6 months (any exception will have to be board approved) *Members who are wishing to sell anything need to sign a Vendor Contract which you can get from Niki*

PEOPLE'S CHOICE *Mary Kaser with be doing People's Choice*

HANDOUTS *Tony Furrh will be overseeing handouts*

HOSPITALITY *We are hoping that Peggy Holland will be overseeing "hospitality"*

SIGNAGE *Niki Furrh will be handing signage*

SILENT AUCTION *Ed Vermillion will be in charge of the Silent Auction - Vendors will be asked to contribute a plant for this & members are encourage to participate.*

SPECIAL DISPLAYS/INFORMATION *Tony Furrh will be overseeing the special displays/information*

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAYS *Joyce Hochtritt will oversee Educational Displays-CSSA trophy available for best display.*

DRAWINGS *Joan Galbraith & Niki Furrh will be purchasing items for our 'drawing' & asking members for contributions of \$5 value or more. Tickets for drawing will be 1st ticket "free" and any additional tickets after that \$1 (or 6 for \$5) - Drawings will be hourly as long as merchandise lasts (& tickets will be discarded after each drawing) The 'drawing prizes' will be on table available for the public to see & encourage them to purchase more tickets.*

RECEPTION DESKS *Rosario will be overseeing volunteers at the reception desk & desk where People's Choice Ballets handed out along with ticket drawing. The public will also be directed to the Silent Auction area.*

FLOOR MANAGER *- Robert Millison will be our floor manager answering misc questions & directing customers to someone who can answer question if needed. We will be using the TV with Desert Speaks DVDs and Robert will try to watch when this needs to be restarted, along with other members.*

POTTING STATION *- We will be having a potting station area where customers can have plants potted if the BUY a pot, soil, and a plant. We are hoping that Fred Hill will be able to cover this area & he will arrange for help as needed.*

CASHIER'S TABLE *- Peggy Anglin is in charge of the cashier's table and will need assistance as needed. Niki Furrh will be arranging for Credit Card usage again.*

TIME TO RENEW YOUR DUES

Don't forget that it is time to renew you 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.

**THE 15TH BIENNIAL MID-STATES CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT CONFERENCE JUNE 12-15 - 2014**

14 1/2 months & counting until the.....

**THE 15TH BIENNIAL MID-STATES CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT CONFERENCE
June 12-15, 2014**

As most everyone knows, we will be hosting the 2014 Mid-States Conference here in Oklahoma City at the Best Western Saddleback Inn and Conference Center, 4300 SW Third Street, off Meridian Street, north of I40. Our first planning meeting was held Saturday, March 23rd at the WRGC with a good turn out. Those of you not there were missed and I hope you can catch up fairly quickly, picking an area you would like to work in. A general idea of the various jobs we need covered has been available in notebooks and I have a few left. We have not decided definitely on a theme or logo but have a fair idea of what we think we might like and need to decide on this in the next month or two. Some members have selected what they would like to work on and will be needing help as time goes on. Many areas will over-lap and members can expect to be involved in several different areas of the planning. We will be selecting a date for a second meeting at the club's April monthly meeting.

Niki

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION *By Joyce Hochtritt*

April 13th 9-1 pm Garden Party at the Cleveland County fairgrounds. Club will have a table with plants and information about the club.

April 13 – 14, 2013 - Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Spring Show and Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.



April 18, 2013 – 7:00pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: 7 pm **Wacky, Weird and Wild Plants -show & tell.** Extra Activity: Book Review
Refreshments: Peggy Anglin.

April 25-26-27, 2013- San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's Annual Show and Sale, San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX.

May 11th 10:00 am Member's only garden tour of individual homes at, we are to meet at the Will Rogers Garden and then we will be caravanning to each resident as a group

May 16th 7 pm **COCSS monthly meeting.**

Program: **Getting Show Ready. Show preparation/potting workshop.**

Hosts Joyce Hochtritt and Fred Hill

Extra Activity: Book Review Refreshments: Fred Hill

May 18th 9-3pm, COCSS will be participating in the Festival of the Park event located at the Will Rogers Center. Outside Setup will begin at 7:00 AM for Vendors and any members that wish to participate can meet at 8:00 AM

June 1-2 **COCSS Show & Show and Sale.** Will Rogers Exhibition Center
No regular meeting.

June 8-9 Tulsa Cactus and Succulent Society Show

June 15-20th CSSA 35th Biennial Convention in Austin, Texas <http://cssa2013.com/>

July 18 7 pm **COCSS Monthly meeting**

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW36th St., OKC, OK.

Program: 7 pm **Deserts of North America** by Mike and Rosario Douglas

Extra Activity: Book Review

Refreshments: Peggy and Helen Hill

2014 Cactus and Succulent Happenings

June 12- 15th The 15th Biennial Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference Hosted by the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society in Oklahoma City, OK. More information to come!

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

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

by Rosario Douglas

Tequila and how it is produced

Many of you probably know that this drink comes from a succulent, *Agave tequilana*. The plant, also known as Agave azul (blue Agave), is a native of the state of Jalisco in Mexico. Tequila is very important to the economy of Jalisco.

The origin of the word is not well known, one theory says that it is a Nahuatl word that means “the place of harvesting plants” (from www.tequilasource.com)



In 2009, Agaves were placed in the subfamily Agavoidea under the Asparagaceae family. Many plants well adapted to arid conditions belong to this subfamily. Some examples include Joshua trees and Agaves. (Wikipedia)

Agave tequilana has a high level of fructose and this is the key factor that makes it suitable for use in the distillation process.

Agave tequilana by Kurt Stüber Wikipedia common

The plant can get fairly large, reaching up to 7 feet in height. At five years of age a flower sprouts but in the commercial operations this stalk is cut to allow more energy to go into the growth of the plant. Flowers are pollinated by the greater long nose bat (*Leptonycteris nivalis*). Each flower stalk can produce several thousand seeds.



The state of Jalisco in Mexico by Yavidaxiu. Wikipedia commons



Genetic diversity is low in commercial plants because the shoots are removed from the parent plant when they are one year old and reproduction takes place by planting these shoots.

On left *Leptonycteris nivalis*. Wikipedia commons



The heart of the plant or “piña” (Spanish for pineapple) of 10-12 year old specimens is used to make tequila. The leaves are removed leaving just the heart or core. Piñas can weight between 80 and 200 pounds. The Agave

harvesters are called “jimadores” and a good jimador can tell which plants are ready for harvest. A good jimador can harvest over a ton of Agave hearts or piñas per day. An experienced jimador says: *To be good at this job, you need to have a sense of how to cut the leaves off the heart. It should be done with a single blow, and at just the right spot, because if you’re inexperienced and cut the leaf off too high, then you need two more blows to get it right*” (Source: www.tequilafactory.mx)

The piña is heated to remove the sap which is then fermented and later distilled. Mezcal or Pulque are also produced using the Blue Agave sap but using different methods. These drinks are considered less refined and more traditional than their cousin the tequila. It is believed that Pulque was being made in Mexico as early as 1520 (from [tequila source.com](http://tequila.source.com))



For an interesting video of how tequila is made you can go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ughtDZdazE&noredirect=1>

There are close to 1000 brands of tequila and prices vary depending on the brand. The 2 basic categories are tequila made of 100% distilled blue Agave sap and the Mixed tequila which has 50% blue Agave sap with the rest a mix sugar cane, sugar based syrup, oak extract flavoring etc. More subcategories exist within these two main categories. The aging process also plays a role in producing a better quality tequila.

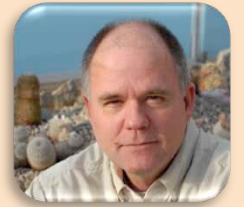
According to a 2002 article in Tequila Today any tequila that costs \$20 or less is not made of 100% blue Agave sap but it is a mix. A \$50 per bottle cost is supposed to provide a reasonable tequila. Prices can, of course, be higher than this. (Source www.tequilasource.com).

To learn more about the different categories of tequilas you can watch the informative video below at:

<http://www.tequila.net/faqs/tequila/types-of-tequila-classifications.html>.

Upper image: A jimador (photo taken from www.Tequilafactory.mx) Lower photo: Agave heart or piñas (Taken from www.tequilasource.com)

WHAT IS BLOOMING?



A South African succulent (Cheiridopsis sps) photographed in the greenhouse by Mike Douglas.



Uncarina decaryi photographed in the greenhouse by Mike Douglas.

SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas

The genus *Geohintonia*

Discovered in 1992, *Geohintonia mexicana* Glass & W.A. Fitz Maurice is a *monotypic genus (has only one species)*,. The plant is named after a well-known British botanical explorer, George Hinton Boole (1882- 1943). (From JSTOR plant science). The word “Geo” comes from the Greek for earth.



Geohintonia is closely related to *Aztekium hintonii* and for a long time it was thought to be a hybrid of *Aztekium*. DNA studies done by Charles A. Butterworth, J. Hugo Level-Sanchez and Robert S. Wallace in 2002 showed that *Geohintonia* is not a hybrid of *A hintonii*.



Geohintonia grows together with *Aztekium* in the Eastern Sierra Madre Mountains in the state of Nuevo Leon-Mexico near the town of Rayones. The plant grows on gypsum soils on vertical cliffs.

The plant is globose and has one stem of about 10 cm in height and 11 cm in diameter. There are 18-20 well-defined ribs with no areoles. Flowers appear at the top and are pink.

Geohintonia mexicana is somewhat rare in cultivation and it is somewhat expensive. The plant may become more available in the future since even though this cactus is difficult to grow from seed, it is not impossible to do so. Source: Google “*Geohintonia/ cactusland*”.

For a visual depiction of how you can grow them from seed see

<http://www.cactuscultivars.com/forum/index.php?topic=547.0>

Since its discovery in 1992, illegal collecting of this cactus has practically wiped out the entire population. Currently the plant is considered endangered in the wild. Source: www.CactiGuide.com

Upper left *Geohintonia Mexicana* by Christer Johansson. (Wikipedia commons)

Succulent plants cont...

This cactus is a good example of the sad but real threat of illegal collection of plants in the wild. Cacti are part of the CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) treaty that places certain plants and animals in a protected category.

See: <http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

It is illegal to collect plants or animals listed under CITES. All cacti with perhaps the exception of the prickly pear pads that are considered food are on this list. Thus any international transport of cacti, unless done by botanists with the proper permits and for research purposes, is illegal. However, due to the lucrative nature of selling a rare plant and the collectors that are willing to buy such plants, unscrupulous collectors can go and pay local people collect as many plants as possible.

They still need to get these plants out of the country where they are collected which also means that somehow they are able to hide them during the exportation process or they are able to bribe the right people to get the necessary paperwork to export the plants.

Illegal collection is a serious problem in many countries and this can eventually lead to the disappearance of an organism in the wild. Geohintonia, rhino horns, shark fins are but a few examples of this problem.

In the past new discoveries of rare or unusual plants usually included a detailed location, but currently many authors are opting for publishing the information about a new discovery without providing a very specific location. This is done to protect the wild populations from unscrupulous collectors. The moment a specific location is published it spells disaster for the particular plant.

Another solution to this problem is to educate the public and hope to impress upon them the reasons why they should not purchase plants or animals collected illegally in the wild. In the particular case of cacti many (but not all) of the illegally collected plants end up in Europe. So next time you are tempted to buy that rare plant - stop and ask yourself if this plant was really grown from seed or if it appears to be a wild collected specimen.



Upper right *Geohintonia mexicana* in bloom by Michael Wolf. (Wikipedia commons)

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas



Etymology The etymology of a word refers to its origin and the historical roots of the term as a linguistic form. Etymology, in general, is the study of the origins and history of words. The roots of words. The word etymology is derived from the Greek "etumos" which means real or true. The ending "ology" suggests the study/science of something, as in biology or geology. The Ancient Greek word "astron" means "star". And "phyton" means "plant". Hence Astrophytum literally means star plant. (See: Etymology of species names - Etymology of genus and variety names)



Farinose Having a mealy appearance

On the left an example of farinose, *Atriplex canescens* (fourwing saltbush) from webpage of US forest service.

**Geophyte**

A herbaceous plant where the stem is wholly or partly below soil level, permanently or for short periods, for example. The above ground portions of the plant (usually annual deciduous shoots or leaves) typically die off during the dry parts of the year or in the winter season leaving only the storage organs in the soil, but the plant is able to "re"-sprout when the environmental conditions are appropriate

using the food reserves in the underground portion and as a result, geophytes in their natural habitats are capable of perennial life cycles. Most geophytic plant species may be propagated by division or proliferation of the underground structure such as a bulbs, rhizomes, tubers,.

Above left is *Haworthia emelyae v. comptoniana*. The tuberose roots of this succulent geophyte are Contractile and pull the plant deeper into the soil to protect the perennating bud from sun and heat during the dry season (from <http://www.cactus-art.biz/>). Lower right an example of a bulb, the saffron crocus (Source the crocus bank project).



Glabrous Without hairs