



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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

May, 2012



Can you believe it's May?! We're down to about 6 weeks before the Annual Show and Sale and we have the Garden Festival in-between. The Garden Festival will be a large element in our advertising for the Sale and Show so if anyone can get to the Garden Center on May 19th between 9-3 and help Rosario, Mike and Mary, your efforts will be greatly appreciated. The whole affair should be a lot of fun with lots of vendors, other clubs advertising, and the Rose Society's Annual Show and Sale. One of the chairpersons for the Garden Festival suggested we walk thru the crowd and hand out our brochures for the Show and Sale so any member who can attend the event can be well used for advertising while there!

Most of the preliminary work for the Show and Sale has been done at this point so we mainly need some volunteers to step forward as mentioned in the Show Update elsewhere in the newsletter. Major advertising needs to kick in about two weeks before, so be sure and grab some fliers at the May meeting and just hand them out everywhere you go between the end of May and June 15th. Postcards will be mailed around the last week in May.

The May meeting is still yet to come and should be a very interesting and fun evening with Mike Hellman. Remember - the meeting will start at 7:00PM and the room will be open at 6:30pm. Depending on availability of time, we may need to forego a formal business meeting and just make a few announcements. Refreshments will be put on the back table by the kitchen door. We will probably announce a very short refreshment 'break' during the meeting and then get back to the program depending on time.

See everyone on the 19th!

Niki Furrh

MAY PROGRAM SUCCULENT BONSAI BY MIKE HELLMAN

The Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society's May program will be on May 17th, 2012 at 7 pm at the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 34000 NW 36th St. Oklahoma City, OK

Mike Hellmann will be sharing his love of succulent bonsai plants. Succulent bonsai parallels traditional bonsai. It is appealing to the novice or recreational bonsai grower because it is a less formal art than traditional bonsai. For the beginner, Mike suggests starting with plants that naturally lend themselves to bonsai.

In addition to a slide presentation, Mike will be doing some hands-on-demonstrations. He will offer advice on how to match pots to plants, how to prune plants conservatively to achieve basic form, pruning to encourage small foliage; and how to gently wire and anchor branches.

Mike will bring examples of bonsai plants he has cultivated or is in the process of cultivating to show the different stages of bonsai growth and to highlight the topics he discusses. Although Mike's program will cover the basic principles of bonsai, the majority of this presentation will focus on succulent plants.

Mike has been collecting cactus and succulents since 1982 and has been a member of the Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society (St. Louis, MO) since 1994.



As with other bonsai forms, the goal of the succulent bonsai hobby is to train plants into a tree-like form that gives an illusion of age.



To supplement his slides, Mike Hellmann brought several generations of favorite plants for a planting and pruning demonstration.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

Dear Members; Here is short Vita of Mr. Mike Hellman our invited speaker for our special meeting on **May 17th**. This promises to be a very interesting program with demonstrations as well as a talk. Please note that **we are starting early at 7 pm**. So mark your calendars and join us for a fun and interesting program.

Mike Hellmann of St. Louis, MO.

Family: Married to Vickie Hellmann for 28 years

Two daughters, 22 and 24 years old

Two dogs, Murphy (lab and Australian Sheppard mix) and Lucky (black and tan coonhound)

Bachelor of Science degree in political science and sociology

I guess I am what you would call a plant nerd.

Commercial flower grower for 22 years/wholesaler for last four years

I've collected cacti and succulents since 1982.



Current special focus on Euphorbia, cacti and succulent tree bonsai and winter growers. Also maintain a small but busy yard full of Koi ponds, carnivorous plants, semi-exotic ornamentals.

Coral reef tank hobby began ten years ago to help me deal with long winters. Member of Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society (St. Louis, MO) since 1994.

Program chair from 1996 to 2010

President 2000 – 2002, 2011 to present

CSSA host society chair for convention in 2003

Mid-states Conference chair in 2010

HSCSS co-chair from 2002 to present



FESTIVAL IN THE PARK AT WILL ROGERS GARDENS- MAY 19th 9-3pm

We will have two tables, one inside and one outside where the vendors will be. We will not be selling plants, but will instead have two display/information tables.

So far we have members Mary Kaser and Michael and Rosario Douglas as volunteers for that day, but because we are planning to have two tables, **We need one or two more volunteers to help the 3 members that will be at the two different tables.** Even if you can only come for one or two hours that would help.

This will be a good opportunity to advertise our club and the upcoming Show&Sale.

The outside vendors are: Prairie Wind Nursery, Tall grass Prairie Soap co, Aggrand Independent Dealer , Organic Gardens, Rustic Country, OK County Master Gardeners, Benny & Joann Crowe, Beasley's Bounty, Utopia Gardens, Skyridge Farm, Shirley Bynum, Duck Creek Farms & Oklahoma Cut Flower Producers.

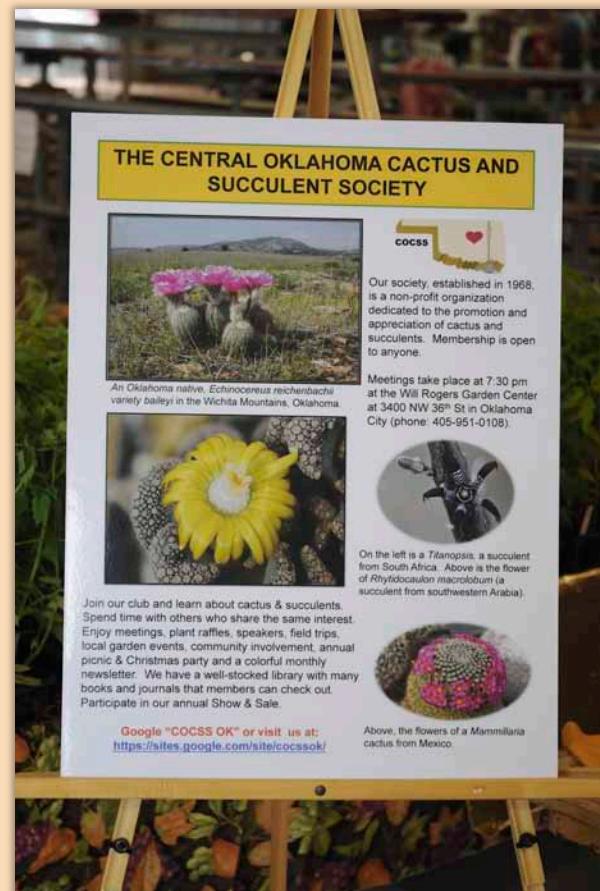
Hope some of you can join us and you can also do some plant/other items shopping while you are here.

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

On April 14 Fred Hill, Peggy Holland, Mary Kaser and Mike and Rosario Douglas participated in the second **Norman Garden Festival**. Our club had two tables with plant displays, our new poster and a variety of flyers advertising the show and sale and the upcoming Bonsai talk.

We also handed out our yellow cards advertising the Show and Sale. This year if people bring the card they get \$1 off their total purchase. Below are some photos of this Garden festival activity.



Top left Mary Kaser, Peggy Holland and Rosario Douglas. Bottom left Fred Hill.

Above is a picture of our new poster

****Deadline for articles or other materials for the newsletter is the 7th of the month.**

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

REPOTTING WORKSHOP AT JOYCE'S HOUSE MAY 5TH.

On May 5th we attended the repotting workshop at Joyce's house. Member Robert Millison brought 3 plants that needed repotting. It is too bad that more members could not make it, but it is not too late to get your plants ready for the show and sale and do any repotting needed before the show.

Top left: Robert, Joyce and myself before starting, top right: Joyce giving us useful tips and demonstrating how she pots her plants. Bottom left: a satisfied member with 3 nice plants ready to start growing again. Bottom right: a partial view of Joyce's greenhouse. She has a nice selection of plants. Afterwards Joyce, Mike and I went to Luples for a Cinco de Mayo Mexican meal.

CLUB NEWS

From the secretary

Minutes of the Meeting April 19th, 2012
CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY



The business meeting was called to order that the WRGC at 8:20 after a Photography program put on by Tony Furrh, Mike Douglas and Fred Hill completed. These gentlemen shared their photography techniques with a group of 16 members. Tony Furrh shared different techniques on how to photograph (focal points, S lines, advantages of off-centering) and what types of Cameras to use. Mike Douglas shared his extensive knowledge of photography equipment and his photography techniques. Fred Hill showed a slide show of his different photographs, along with his techniques and important focal points. Refreshments were served immediately after the photography program and were furnished by Peggy Holland & Fred Hill.

Old Business:

Treasurer, Peggy Anglin reported that the club has a balance of \$3,200.86.

Library report from Librarian Tony Furrh showed the members a new Cactus and Succulent Journal. President Niki Furrh, reminded Members of the Potting workshop that is going to be held at Joyce Hochtritt's greenhouse in MWC on May 5th, 2012 from 10:00 – 12:00. Members were encouraged to bring a plant & pot as Joyce will help instruct on how to replant on our new pot. A small fee to cover the soil and dressing will be required by members participating. Members are invited to lunch at Lupes afterwards.

Review of the Norman Garden Festival was discussed. Members Rosario & Mike Douglas, Fred Hill and Mary Kaser supported the Club during this Festival. It was a lot of fun and very informative to the public. Members brought displays of plants along with club information to share.

We reviewed The May 2012 Program of "Succulent Bonsai" to be hosted by guest speaker Mike Hellman. Program to begin at 7:30 PM CST. This is open to the public to attend.

New Business:

We reviewed the Garden Festival in the park to be put in by the WRGC on Saturday, May 19th, 2012. Members Rosario & Mike Douglas along with Mary Kaser will support the club at this Festival.

Review of what items would be present such as plants, flyers, & show information that needs to be present for the public view.

President Niki Furrh recapped the video that Joyce Hochtritt sent to members through email on the Colorado show and sale.

A review of the June, 2012 Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent show was discussed. An **Important Information Flyer** was distributed to Members by President Niki Furrh to review what was going to be needed (volunteers, items, set up, show, sale, lunch, hostess) for the show and sale. Niki Furrh told members that the Judged Plant information and entry cards are on the website and can be downloaded. Joyce Hotchritt will have some at our May Meeting for Members. We also reviewed having a potting station at the show/sale this year. The Public will be able to buy a pot with their plant and volunteered members will re-plant in the pot that was purchased. We also reviewed the possibility of having T-shirts and aprons for either this show and our 2013 show /sale.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

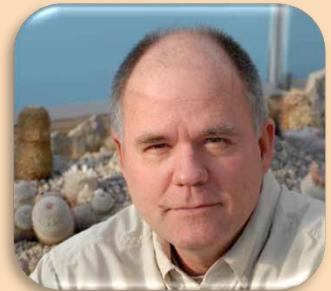
Secretary,
Mary Kaser

FROM THE MEMBERS

By Michael Douglas

Time to scan our slides?

Many of us have large slide collections (taken with our pre-digital cameras) that are slowly decaying in our closets. As we all eventually pass on, these images will be lost to posterity. Some of us might say so much the better, now that digital photography allows so much to be done.



But before we trash those slides – or more likely, our relatives trash them for us after we are gone, we should think about the possible benefits to the CSSA and their value to succulent plant research. For example, we personally have slides in our collection that were taken in the desert southwest in the early 1970's, and some of you reading this may have photos from several decades earlier. Those early photos, when compared with recent photos, can help describe the growth rates of cacti in habitat. Such repeat photography has been done systematically by researchers, but is not likely to be as complete or as thorough as a compilation of photos taken by the hundreds of succulent enthusiasts over the years.

Several factors suggest now is the time to scan our slides. First we are all not getting any younger and our memories fade with time. Can you precisely locate that hillside on a map where you took some pictures 40 years ago? As tough as that sounds it will only get worse.

There are some technical reasons why it is now feasible to put together a succulent imagery archive that is linked to geography. People have essentially stopped shooting slides in favor of digital images and slide scanners will, as time goes by, be harder to come by. Also, hard drives are now inexpensive enough to store very large digital archives at low cost so storing the scanned images is very feasible (one \$150 hard drive of 1 Terrabyte capacity can now store about 200,000 five-megabyte scanned images). Finally, finding where you took all those photos is made easier today by the availability of detailed satellite imagery on Google Earth or Google Maps, which can help identify many locations and assign a correct latitude and longitude. This is critical for effective use of the photos – without accurate localization their value becomes much less useful.

With software readily available (similar to Apple's Aperture) to improve the scanned slides – removing dust, scratches and color casts due to fading dyes, it is possible to digitally bring to life old slides to an extent not previously possible.

The main challenge to putting together a slide archive is the time required to scan the slides – several minutes to scan and then “clean up” a slide might be a good speed, and thus many days (or months) are required to scan larger slide libraries. Contracting with a commercial scanning firm would reduce this time – at a high cost. Once scanned there is the question of making such images available to the CSSA and the interested public. An online database of some sort is needed, showing the images by location (such as Google's Panoramio imagery that can be displayed on Google maps). In this manner one can see where photos have been taken and then search through those.

Time to scan our slides? Cont...

Sorting by key words (usually terms like the scientific name, country etc) would allow for distribution maps to be generated, and while not as “official” as herbarium specimens they would certainly be useful for many applications.

Although scanning the slides and adding their metadata (location, date of photo, photographer etc) are of the greatest urgency, the addition of digital imagery would naturally follow and would rapidly build the imagery archive. One advantage of digital imagery is that more of it is becoming available with GPS-based position information that is more accurate than is usually possible from slides. But the older slides are still critical for describing the historical landscape and also because high quality digital imagery has been available for less than 10 years (and most of us have owned “higher end” digital cameras comparable to 35 mm film cameras for less than half this long). Thus, while it has been easy to accumulate large digital libraries in a handful of years, these span relatively few years and are not immediately useful for studies of changes in succulent landscapes without reference to slides.

Some individuals, especially professionals who earn their living from their imagery, might be reluctant to turn their slides over for scanning and then release them for public use. However many CSSA members will have no such qualms and might like having their slides converted to a digital format where they can more frequently look at them on their computer screens or High Definition TV's. It also serves as a legacy of their personal activities in this field.

Some initiative will be required to start such a project as well as volunteer (or paid?) time, some computer resources and computer expertise with web development and web hosting. Certainly within the CSSA community this expertise should be available.

The benefits of such an archive would range from educational through research to conservation. Studying the variation of a particular species over a large geographical range, selecting material for CSSA chapter slide shows, simplifying return to field sites for repeat photography, or the design of travel for future photography are all possible applications of such an archive. A natural concern is that unscrupulous collectors, discovering the location of some rare species, may then visit these sites and deplete populations. Some species may need to have approximate locations assigned, though bringing such species into the nursery trade is the best way to reduce pressure on wild populations, along with education and habitat protection in the country of origin.

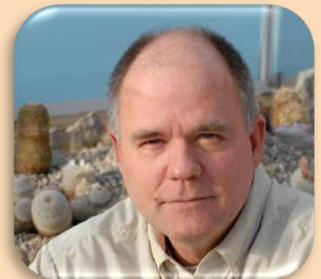
The proposed compilation of digitized slides and newer digital imagery by the CSSA would demonstrate the feasibility of attempting this for other groups of plants and animals, which other organizations would hopefully duplicate. We welcome comments on these ideas and suggestions on how to proceed.

Mike and Rosario Douglas, Norman, OK

Contact: mrdouglas1213@gmail.com

FROM THE MEMBERS

By Michael Douglas



Time for a new kind of cactus convention?

Every year we consider attending a CSSA convention to hear internationally acclaimed speakers or others in the field. The biennial CSSA Convention is a weeklong extravaganza; and in years between the conventions there are smaller weekend affairs like the Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference. This latter meeting is quite naturally, in the Midwest, where it attracts locals unable to make the longer trek to the biennial convention sites that are usually farther south and west.

While we have enjoyed the conventions we have attended, we recognize, as most attendees do, that they are somewhat expensive activities and best suited to individuals who are retired. And since the clientele is often of retirement age, there is a logical tendency to seek locations that are comfortable for such attendees.

In this message we suggest an approach to address two problems that the CSSA has, as do many similar horticulture-focused groups. That is of 1) attracting younger participants and 2) encouraging more frequent and more affordable field activities.

Knowing how many people interested in succulent plants enjoy outdoor activities we suggest that the CSSA consider co-sponsoring week-long field activities at least each year somewhere in the southwestern US in suitable cactus habitat. Such an activity would be different from the CSSA-sponsored field trips that are offered every year, many of which are to international destinations. Key aspects of such a "cactus rendezvous" are discussed below.

1) The cactus rendezvous' should be relatively low-cost affairs, relying on camping and communal meals, with transportation being the responsibility of the participants. The current CSSA expeditions, though going to fascinating locations, are very expensive by their nature. While these costs may be comparable to other nature tours, they are still beyond the reach of most CSSA members and most families, as the cost is per-participant and this tends to split couples (too expensive for both to go), or encourages leaving children behind. Thus children and young adults (the "younger generation" we are always trying to attract) are unable to participate in interesting field trips – activities that can build a life-long interest. Developing an activity around camping and RV'ing in an interesting succulent plant habitat and running day trips out of a central site would allow for more participation from younger people with limited resources and for families.

2) We should involve co-sponsors from like-minded organizations. It may not be possible to have enough participants for a week - long activity in the Texas Big Bend if it is "just" about succulents – not enough CSSA members might be able to attend for various reasons. By encouraging an overlap of activities with other organizations with a natural history focus we might motivate "outsiders" to join the CSSA. Including activities like bird watching, field photography techniques, and evening stargazing with telescopes could bring a larger audience to the field without sacrificing the daytime succulent hunting and photography aspects of the rendezvous.

Time for a new kind of cactus convention? Cont..

3) A variety of organized outings/hikes should be carried out each day from the central rendezvous site. A participant could one morning choose to take a photography workshop, and the next morning a hike to see remote cacti. Then in the evening they might spend an hour looking at objects through a telescope.

4) A series of talks on subjects related to the rendezvous could be presented in the evening, or even during the daytime for participants wishing to have a break from the field excursions. Such talks could cover a range of subjects, including succulent microhabitats, characteristics of North American deserts and their climates, field photography techniques, taxonomy of cacti, or geology of the rendezvous' region. Such talks might require a larger safari tent if outside conditions were unsuitable for an open-air talk.

Interesting areas to hold a rendezvous might be somewhere in the Texas Big Bend, the desert country in southern Arizona, the Anza Borrego Desert State Park east of San Diego, or the Mojave National Preserve between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Each of these areas has opportunities to see many succulent plant species, has scenic landscapes for photography and opportunities for hiking, and dark skies for nighttime viewing. Day trips away from a central campsite are feasible in all these locations.

The timing of such a rendezvous might best be set for late spring or summer, though a summer rendezvous in the desert would be for the hardier folks. Some locations are better in Spring, while others might be best in fall, after summer rains.

There are challenges in making such an activity affordable. Participants would necessarily have to drive, (possibly car-pooling) or fly to a nearby airport and then drive to the site. Some camping facilities could be arranged for those willing to camp, but without the necessary equipment. CSSA volunteers would be needed as guides, speakers, and other tasks for each of the components of the rendezvous. And some manner of charging the participants would be needed to cover the cost of communal meals in the field and for the miscellaneous transportation costs during the rendezvous and equipment rentals made by the organizers.

We think that this style of field excursion can help others outside the CSSA to develop an interest in succulent plants and that these trips may also help bring into the CSSA much needed youthful members. It should also allow more CSSA members the opportunity to partake in field trips – something that is difficult for small CSSA chapters to arrange by themselves.

We would welcome comments from those interested in developing plans for such an activity. We are willing to be part of a group to organize such an activity – should there be eager volunteers out there!

Mike and Rosario Douglas, Norman, OK

Contact: mrdouglas1213@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS

Open House Sale

May 26, 2012

J & J

Cactus and Succulent

600 N. Pine Ave., Midwest City, OK.



8am to 2pm

20% Off

All Plants

405-737-1831

Remember J&J Open House Sale on May 26th from 8-2 pm. Another great chance to get some extra plants early

GARDEN TOUR Dear members; This year we are planning to do the garden tour where we open our garden/greenhouse to the public. So far we have two people (myself and Fred Hill) interested in participating. The tour will be on **June 23rd from 9:30 am to 3 pm**. We will advertise this at the Show and Sale with fliers for the public. Let me know if you are interested in participating.

Rosario

14th edition of the Biennial Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference, June 21 - 24. Hosted by the Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society.

I wanted to let you know that I have posted 3 new files in the section **Conferences** in our webpage. These were sent to me by Judy Pigue and they are: The Program schedule, Speaker's list and the Show schedule. Judy will be one of our judges at our Show and Sale in June.

There is still time to register

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS Dear Members; I would like to encourage you to contribute materials to the newsletter. Any materials related to cactus and succulents would be welcome. This can include: Book reviews, website reviews, recipes, cartoons, articles in general (travel, cultivation etc). Questions, comments or requests are also welcome.

Your editor

2012 COCSS SHOW&SALE

SHOW & SALE UPDATE

May 1, 2012

47 days to the Annual Show and Sale. Information for the 2012 Show and Sale was past out at the April meeting and hopefully, everyone has taken a moment to look through it. We are in desperate need of someone volunteering to be the hostess (or host) on Saturday morning getting drinks (coffee ready, juice) & donuts and/or other breakfast items for members and judges before the judging starts. Expenses will be reimbursed. Email (or contact) either Niki or Joyce if you would be willing to do this - and THANK YOU!

We also need a volunteer to bring a couple of bags of ice in an ice chest and some soda pop & water either late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. (Expenses will be reimbursed unless you would like to consider this as your contribution to the meal on Saturday at noon. Either way works!) Jim Hochtritt will be getting the meat as usual but we need a volunteer to oversee the side dishes brought by members and look through the library cabinet for any additional paper goods we might need and purchase them (for reimbursement).

If you are able to help set up Friday, either at 11:00am or later in the day, please let one of the officers know since it will be very helpful to know ahead of time how much help we will have. Remember to have your plants for the judging at the Center sometime Friday afternoon. Since they need to be checked in and placed on appropriate groups by Joyce, the earlier you can bring them, the better. (Please let Joyce know if you have a problem getting them to the WRGC by 4:00pm on Friday so arrangements can be made.)

Mathew Baginski, Tony Furrh, and Robert Millison have volunteered to be "clerks" this year with Mary Kaser as backup alternate if needed. If you would like to sell anything at the Sale, let Niki know ASAP. Such sales are welcomed since a percentage of any sales goes directly to the club to help cover expenses. (*You will not need a sales permit to do this although taxes will be withheld at the end of the Sale.*) If any member has any item they would like to 'donate' to the club for sale, that would be much appreciated and not require a signed member vendor contract. (*Any donated item that is not sold will need to be returned to the donor since we are limited on storage space.*)

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact one of the officers.

Niki

This year our club will try a new activity at the Show. We are planning to have a **POTTING TABLE**. Members of the public will be able to purchase pots, soil and plants and after paying for these items they can have their plants potted for free. So far we have Mary Kaser and Rosario Douglas as volunteers for this activity. We would like to have two or more members that can help with this activity if it proves popular and the lines get large. If you are interested contact Rosario Douglas at rosariod@cox.net

Rosario

ODDS & ENDS

By Rosario Douglas

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
announces its 40th annual

2012 SHOW and SALE

SAT & SUN APRIL 7th & 8th, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

South Coast Botanic Garden - 26300 Crenshaw Blvd. PV Peninsula

SEE
LOOKING FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU ALL AT
THE SHOW AND SALE

ASK
outstanding plants and displays!
plants!
experts how they grow the

BUY
rare & unusual plants!

NOTE: entry fee to the
South Coast Botanic Garden
CASH only
Adults: \$8 Seniors (62+) &
Students: \$6
Children (5-12): \$3 Children
(under 4): Free
No additional charge to enter
show/sale

For More Information
visit www.southcoastcacs.org
President - Dale La Forest
(310) 619-9896
Show Chair - Jim Gardner
(310) 376-1953
Vendor Coordinator - Jim Hanna
(562) 920-3046

**Visa, Mastercard, & Discover accepted for plant sales:
CASH ONLY TO ENTER GARDEN**



The image is a scanned page from the April 2012 issue of the South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter. The page features a green header with the title 'Prickly News' in large letters, and a sub-header 'South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Newsletter - April 2012'. The left side contains an article by Jim Gardner about the club's annual show, including a list of assignments and a photo of the show display window. The right side features a 'President's Message' by Jim Gardner, a 'SHOW TIME!' section, and a 'INSIDE THIS ISSUE' table of contents. There are also photos of the show display window and the member's show table.

Our Show and Sale is coming soon as is the case for many Cactus clubs throughout the country. Some like the Palos Verdes peninsula South Coast C&S Society already had their sale. I thought it would be interesting to members to see what other clubs do for their show and sale. You can use the enlarge command on your computer to make the pictures bigger.

ODDS & ENDS

By Rosario Douglas

Succulent collection of crochet patterns



This stunning collection of crochet patterns of cactus and succulents was posted as crochet patterns on January 25th - 2012 on Planet June (see webpage below). The site shows different examples of what you can do using the different patterns and you can also purchase the patterns.

I saw the pictures and I fell in love with them. Too bad that I don't know how to crochet.



<http://www.planetjune.com/blog/succulent-collection-crochet-patterns/>

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Douglas



THE ANCIENT ART OF TOPIARIES

This short article was inspired by photos of the Montreal Botanical Gardens topiary exhibits. The photos were sent by Denise Evans, the editor of the Nebraska River City Cactus and Succulent Society.

The word Topiary is derived from the Latin word for landscape gardener. Topiarius, creator of topia or "places" is a Greek word used by Romans to refer to indoor landscapes. Topiary today refers to the practice of training different plants to keep certain shapes. The shapes can depict places, people or animals. This is done by clipping the foliage of trees and shrubs.

The most commonly used plants are woody evergreens that have dense foliage and small glossy leaves.



Topiaries have been centerpieces of gardens for centuries. Ancient Roman tombs depict topiaries and there is evidence that the Chinese were versed in this art. It is believed that the Japanese later borrowed the techniques from China. The Japanese honored nature by re-creating the forest in miniature through different topiary forms.

Above an example of a typical Roman topiary garden.

On the left an example of "portable style" topiaries depicting Donald and Pluto at Disneyland.

Monks kept this art alive and during Victorian times topiaries were an important part of garden design. Most European gardens were created for ornamental purposes, but the gardens maintained by monks also functioned as herb and medicine gardens.

After declining in popularity there has been a resurgence of interests in topiaries. In the 20th century, Walt Disney introduced the portable topiary style to be used through out his theme park. This style is

based on a wire frame that has the desired shape to be achieved. The sculpture slowly becomes a permanent topiary as the plants grow and fill the frame.

Today powered tools are used to help maintain the various shapes, yet for centuries all the work was done by hand using garden clippers and shears.



On the right, the UNESCO (1 square km) World Heritage Gardens at Versailles, France. Considered the most famous backyard in the world, it was designed by Andre le Notre with collaboration from king Louis the XIV.

Taken from "5 Incredible gardens of France"



Photos on previous page taken from the Design Squared Ashfield Hansen Design Inc.

<http://ashfieldhansendesign.blogspot.com/2009/09/clipped-to-perfection.html>

<http://ashfieldhansendesign.blogspot.com/2009/09/clipped-to-perfection.html>. Top

left on this page an illustration from Early American Gardens

(<http://americangardenhistory.blogspot.com/2012/03/garden-inspiration-topiary.html>),



Top left shows the Garden of Chateau de Villandry, a UNESCO site located in the Loire valley. It was originally built as a fortress. Today it is considered one of the most beautiful Renaissance gardens in France.

The three remaining photos on this page show topiary examples at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. These are good examples of the “portable style” of topiaries described on the first page.



The website for the Montreal botanic gardens is:

<http://www2.ville.montreal.qc.ca/jardin/en/menu.htm>.



Quoting Denise: "Imagine the maintenance"



The Saguaro photo on lower left taken from Ledge and Gardens

http://ledgeandgardens.typepad.com/ledge_and_gardens/2007/06/a_bed_of_roses.html?asset_id=6a00d8341c991c53ef00df35213c288833

The other three photos on this page are from the Montreal Botanical Gardens.

SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas

ECHINOCEREUS PENTALOPHUS – AN IMPRESSIVE BLOOMER



The genus *Echinocereus* consists of about 70 species of small cacti found in the southern USA and in Mexico. The cacti in this genus generally have large colorful flowers. The name *Echinocereus* comes from the Greek *ἐχīnos* (echinos), meaning "hedgehog," and the Latin *cereus* meaning "candle."



Echinocereus pentalophus is a prolific bloomer with many flowers open at once. The plant blooms for many days during March and April.

Echinocereus pentalophus grows in sandy soils in open brush along the Rio Grande in Texas. In the US this cactus is found in Texas: S TX in Bexar County (San Antonio), N McMullen County, and along Rio Grande in Starr, Hidalgo, to E Cameron counties). It is also widespread in central-eastern Mexico (Hidalgo, Queretaro, east Guanajuato, SE Coahuila, Nuevo León, San Luis Potosí, Tamaulipas).

Upper left a 1904 Illustration of *Echinocereus pentalophus* subsp. *pentalophus*. Source: Blühende Kakteen - Iconographia Cactacearum (cropped). Author: Schumann, Gürke & Vaupel. Wikipedia public domain. Lower right an illustration from Wikipedia public domain.

ECHINOCEREUS PENTALOPHUS – AN IMPRESSIVE BLOOMER CONT...



Some of the synonyms for this cactus are: Cereus penthalophus, Cereus propinquus, Cereus procumbens, Echinocereus procumbens, Echinocereus pentalophus var. procumbens, Cereus penthalopus var leptacanthus, Echinocereus leptacanthus, Echinocereus leonensis, Echinocereus pentalophus ssp. leonensis.

This cactus is popular due to its very large showy flowers that tend to grow in a cascading arrangement. It should be noted that in the wild this cactus often grows flat - sprawling along the ground. It is only when we pot it that the plant hangs, producing the cascading flower effect. It requires a cool dry winter period in order to produce many buds. Full sun and good drainage are also important. It can be propagated from seed or from cuttings.

Top left: *E. pentalophus* blooming in our greenhouse. Bottom: a close up of the flower. Photos by Mike Douglas

Sources: Wikipedia, Cactus art nursery (http://www.cactus-art.biz/schede/ECHINOCEREUS/Echinocereus_pentalophus/Echinocereus_pentalophus.htm)



BOOK REVIEW

By Fred Hill

The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents. The definitive practical guide to cultivation, propagation, and display by Terry Hewitt



Anatomy & Discovery: Descriptions of Leaf, Root, Caudiciform & Stem Succulents, with accompanying photos and cut-away views. Also included are descriptions of plant surfaces, spines & thorns, flowers, fruits & seeds. Illustrations give a general sense of what to look for in various species.

Natural Habitats: A review of the widely varied habitats which support the family of cacti & other succulent plants.

Discovery & Distribution: The author gives a brief history of discovery and movement of cacti throughout the last 3 centuries.

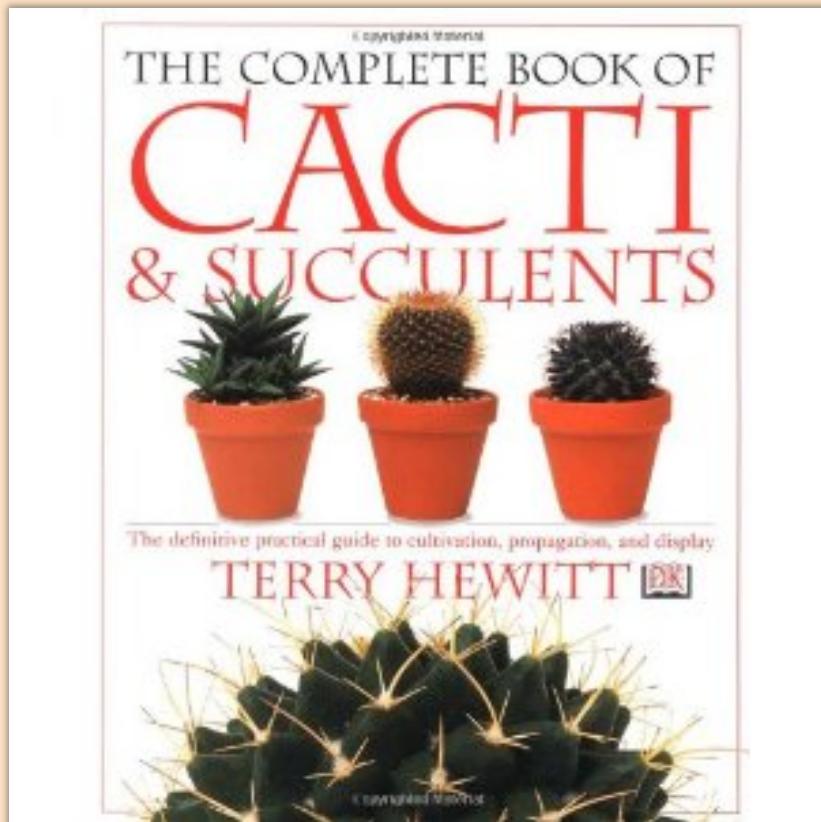
Properties and Uses: This is a look at the many discovered useful properties and applications for nourishment, construction, cosmetics & medicines. This section gives the novice collectors a broader appreciation of succulent plants.

Style Guide: Descriptions and representative illustrations of plants showing overall plant shapes, stem & leaf shapes and flower colors.

The next section is centered on container selection and criteria for the choices, and display ideas for both indoors and outdoors.

Creating a Desert Look demonstrates the tools, materials and combinations of both for impressive displays of your specimens singly and in groups.

Plant Catalog: Major Genus selections of both cacti & succulents along with representative species of each are presented with photos, species descriptions, height and spread as well as low temperature limits. A truly unique offering in this book is graphic representation of growth rates up to 5 years (indoors), and 10 years (outdoors). This was a true eye opener for me as a beginning collector, using this information to force more rapid growth in many of my specimens by planting in dirt or burying the pots.



Care & Cultivation: A well rounded discussion of tips on buying succulents, equipment and materials for cultivation and handling of plants. Also discussed are plant division, pests and diseases. An included index helps the reader locate specific plants.

As a still novice collector, I have seen many reference books on cacti & succulents. This volume gives the beginner a stable set of knowledge from the early days of discovery to modern uses and locals of these plants. There are ample illustrations, cut-away views and written descriptions to give the new collector confidence to step out on his own in most phases of cacti & succulent ownership.

This book should be the standard on which cacti collectors build their library and plant collection.

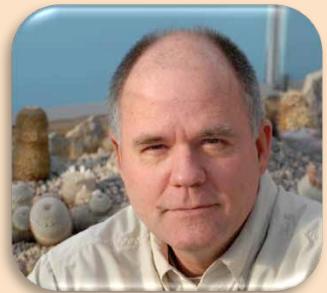
Dorling Kindersley-Publisher
Copyright 1993
List Price: \$29.95

Freddy Hill, Master Gardener, member- Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society.

Note: This books now sells on Amazon for \$13.69

WHAT IS BLOOMING?

Photos by: Mike Douglas



Top left: a flash photo of the flower of *Bombax ellipticum*. This plant had never bloomed for us before and last month it produced 3-4 flowers. The flowers open primarily at night.

At the bottom left is the flower of a *Mammillaria zephyranthoides*.



Both photos were done using the Helicon focus technique where 8 or more frames are taken and are then averaged to obtain a greater depth of field than is otherwise possible.

2012 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION

By Joyce Hochtritt



May 5, 2012: "Repotting and Staging Workshop" by J. Hochtritt & Members

May 11-12-13, 2012: Ft.Worth Cactus and Succulent Society's – were ?

May 17, 2012: Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting. Starting at 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.
Program: "Succulent Bonsai" by Mike Hellmann (Speaker)

May 19, 2012: Festival in the Park, Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St. OKC, OK. Members (Fred Hill and Mary Kaser) volunteered to work. Other members are invited to participate as well. We'll have a table set-up for information about the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society.

June 16 – 17, 2012: Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, 3400 NW36th St., Oklahoma City, OK. - Saturday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - Sunday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

<http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/cocss.html>

June 21 to 24, 2012: The 14th Biennial Mid-States Cactus and Succulent Conference Hosted by the Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society at The Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO.

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

July 7 – 10, 2012: Henry Shaw Cactus Club's Annual Show and Sale, Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis, MO. <http://www.hscactus.org/>

July 19, 2012: Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting. Starting at 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: "How to Build a Dish Garden" Fred Hill will host along with Joyce Hochtritt.

More information to come!

Refreshments: Club (Niki & Mary)

August 16, 2012: Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting. Starting at 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Library Knowledge. Tony Furrh with host and Speak about the COCSS library. The types of books we own with a book review to follow.

Refreshments: Vicki Brabits (snacks) and Mat Baginski (drinks)

September 1 – 2, 2012: Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Fall Show & Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.

2012 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION

September 16, 2012: Sunday at 5:30 pm, Club Picnic – Pot Luck to be held at Peggy Anglin's home. Open swap program will be held at the picnic. Members to bring their items they want to swap out with other members.

September 22 23, 2012: Cactus and Succulent Society's Fall Show and Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa, OK. (Car Pool?)

October 20: – Speaker, Leo Chance from Colorado. Leo will present his new book "Cold Hardy Cacti" with a book signing. More information to come!

November 15, 2012: Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting. Starting at 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: CSSA Judging Workshop – Presented by J. Hochtritt. How to judge and present plants to be judged.

Refreshments: Joyce Hochtritt (snacks) and Deb Trimble (drinks)

2013

June 15-20, 2013 CSSA 35th Biennial Convention - Hyatt Regency Hotel – Austin, TX.
<http://cssa2013.com>

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