



THE OFFSET

May 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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CLUB NEWS



May, 2014

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

It's finally May and the flowers are beginning to burst out all over town and in many of our greenhouses. It's such a pretty time of year for our cactus and succulents, it's a shame we can't share their blooms with more people!

The Garden Festival at Will Rogers is scheduled for May 31st and we have indicated that the club will be there for this event. A couple of members have indicated they can be at the event for a few hours so we will be needing at least two more to cover the rest of the day. We will get this straightened out at the meeting and hope we have enough volunteers to be able to participate in the event.

We meet Thursday evening the 15th and believe we will be reviewing potting up those plants for judging. If you have a plant that's been terrible to identify, bring it to the meeting and someone should be able to help you or at least direct you to the correct book in the library. And, yes, I have my plant for entry ! So now everyone has to enter at least one plant, preferably a few more. We need a fairly good representation not only for the public but for the judges who will be making a special trip here to judge our beauties.

If any member wishes to sell some items at the Show and Sale, I will have the Member Vendor Sales Contracts at the meeting for signature. Even if you are not positive you will have something to sell, why not get the contract signed and get that out of the way! We can always fill in the type of items you will be selling over the following week or two. We will also be going over current plans for the Show and Sale and see what else needs to be done and/or covered. *If you have a few items you can donate to the 'drawing', this would be greatly appreciated. Let me know what you think you might have available to bring. Items can be 'small' and don't have to be valued more than a dollar or two.*

Get out and enjoy this lovely weather before it heats up to 100 degrees and/or drops to below freezing with some snow on the side. *Don't you LOVE Oklahoma weather!* See you on the 15th.

**CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 17, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center by President Niki Furrh. The following members were present: Peggy Anglin, Mike & Rosario Douglas, Tony & Niki Furrh, Fred Hill, Helen Hill, Peggy Holland, and Deb Trimble.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer Peggy Anglin reported 22 paid members to date and a bank balance of \$5,016.58. A new Employer ID has been assigned by the IRS to our club; Peggy will coordinate with the bank to update our account.

Our club has been invited to participate in the Will Rogers Garden Festival on March 31, 2014. If we bring our own table, there is no charge for our booth. This is usually a great opportunity to advertise our upcoming show and sale in June. A decision on this matter will be made at the next meeting.

Members discussed a possible garden tour open to the public of 2-3 members' yards and greenhouses. Details will be finalized at the next meeting and a ½ page flier prepared for distribution at the show.

President Niki Furrh asked if the members would be interested in buying club t-shirts. Reaction was positive, so she will check with the print shop on prices and quantities.

The possibility of having a potting station at our Show and Sale was discussed. We would offer free potting to customers who purchase plant/pot/soil at the sale. Fred Hill volunteered to coordinate this, and he will need some volunteers to cover the times he cannot be there.

Postcards advertising the show and sale, mailing labels, return address labels and postage were turned over to Fred Hill, Peggy Holland and Helen Hill for assembly, to be mailed two weeks before the show. A list of customers' email addresses was provided for show and sale notification. Vendor contracts and show rules were turned over to the Peggy Anglin. Rules are available on line. Other show details were discussed.

A letter from the CSSA requesting a contribution to the CSSA Convention Speakers Fund was taken under consideration. It was felt that such a payment would simply subsidize attendees, and our club would not benefit in any measurable way, so members chose not to make a donation.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM. Refreshments were provided by Peggy Holland and Helen Hill, and Fred Hill gave an excellent program on the gardens on Alcatraz.

***Submitted by,
Treasurer Peggy Anglin***

COCSS May 15th Program

This month the meeting will be all about getting ready for the June 20-21st Show&Sale.

Many volunteers will be needed for a variety of tasks and we hope you can join the list of helpers at this year's show. Niki will have, no doubt, a long list of tasks that need to be done so come prepare to see what you may want to help with.

There should also be some discussion about getting the plants ready for the Show. If you have any questions about the plants you are planning to enter in the Show come to the meeting.

Place: Will Rogers Garden at 34000 NW 36th- Oklahoma City

Time: 7 pm

Refreshments: Joan Galbraith



Dear members: We have been upgrading our club's webpage in recent days. We have tried to improve the content as well as the ease of reading the material By enlarging fonts. The homepage has been redone as well. To see the webpage you can type Oklahoma cactus or COCSS in Google and it will be the first item on the list.

We will not be sending a newsletter in June. Mike and I will be going to Romania for a wedding and then we are going to visit Madrid and the Canary Islands. We hope to see some of the native succulents such as Aeoniums while in the Canary islands.

Niki will be sending an email later in May to remind everyone about the Show&Sale which takes places this year on the 20th and 21st of June.

Hope to see you at the Show&Sale

Rosario Douglas
Editor

FROM THE MEMBERS

No Subject

April 10, 2014 at 3:22 PM



This is what the agave plant is doing. They are even bigger now. Are these also new plants? Students wonder if they can take some home. Do you want any? Thank you

Jean Hart sent me this email update about the large Agave she took to the college in December.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION



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:

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.

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:

December 11th - Christmas party

Succulent Crafts

House Plant Cupcakes

I saw this posted in the Sacramento Cactus and Succulent Society February newsletter. This is from the blog (posted on April 2013) of Alana Jones Mann, a baker.

You can see a complete tutorial with pictures for instructions on how to make these at:

<http://alanajonesmann.com/2013/04/diy-house-plant-cupcakes/>



The following information can be found at:

<http://www.succulents.co.za/aloes/aloes.htm#.UxygfNwZHi4>

This contains useful information about Aloes including photos of different aloes and miscellaneous information about aloes in general.



SUCCULENTS.co.za

SUCCULENT PLANT SITE

Home | Nurseries/Seed-Plant Sales | Book Shop | Search | Forum | Photo Gallery

Succulent Plant Site | Aloes of the World

Aloes of the World



Aloes are found from Arabia in the North to Madagascar in the East and Southern Africa in the South. Gilbert Westcott Reynolds documented over 300 species of aloes (about 170 species are found in South Africa). Aloes occur naturally only in Africa, in Mexico, where *Aloe vera* escaped from cultivation, it has been naturalised.

Aloes come in a variety of shapes and sizes, from the small grass aloes to the huge *A. dichotoma* and *A. pillansii*. Aloes are well adapted for harsh climates and they can survive in mountains, grasslands, deserts and on beaches. Both the spiky leaves and the bitter tasting sap prevents animals and insects from eating it. The waxy leaves have sunken pores which prevents water loss. The downward angled flowers are borne on a simple or multi-branched inflorescence. One of the genus' weakness is a poorly developed root system. Aloes propagate by seeds that are designed for wind dispersal and some species have a high degree of vegetative propagation (they offset quite easily).

Aloes are well known succulents, not just for their beauty but for their medicinal properties as well. You could find *aloe vera* in skin-care products, hair shampoo, vitamins and supplements.

Growing Aloes in cultivation can be rewarding especially when they are in flower, which is a spectacular display in any garden.

Aloes, especially *Aloe vera* can be found in many vitamins and supplements.

— Aloes of Southern Africa —

I use the book "**Guide to Aloes of Southern Africa**" by Ben-Erik van Wyk & Gideon Smith as a reference quite often. If you are a Aloe enthusiast and you don't have this book I highly recommend it.

 **Creeping Aloes** : Ground hugging aloes, stems absent or indistinct, dull greenish leaf colour, summer flowering.

Member Carol Eyster mentioned this article that appeared in the latest Discovery magazine.

THE CRUX

Secret Lives of Living Stones

Life isn't easy when you set down roots in a harsh environment. Among the plants that make a go of it are *Lithops*, more commonly known as living stones, a type of succulent that thrives in the superhot, superdry conditions of southern Africa. How do they survive? A study by University of Cambridge botanist Matthew Davey and colleagues suggests it's the plant's clever engineering.

Living stones, named for their rocky appearance, bury the bulk of their leaves underground, taking a dive for shade. They use specialized structures to channel light to the buried parts. The aboveground plant cells have adapted to the bright, dry conditions with a sunscreen-like pigment and a special blend of chlorophyll that allow them to photosynthesize without frying to a



The hardy plants known as living stones have a variety of special adaptations allowing them to thrive in challenging climates.

crisp. The underground cells are cone-shaped and contain embedded crystals, which likely distribute the light that reaches them, maximizing the plant's potential to turn that light into energy.

This is the first time scientists have found both sun- and shade-tolerant adaptations within a single plant. In addition to showing how plants tolerate extreme conditions, which we're likely to see more of as the climate changes, the discovery also holds promise for practical applications involving novel light-reflecting surfaces. Next up, Davey's team will look at why and how the light changes as it travels underground. —MARY HOFF

Pots, Pots, Pots

Have you ever thought about why you use the pots you do for your plants? Here are things to consider:

Shapes of Pots

Standard pot - this type is as tall as the diameter of the pot (4 inches in diameter and 4 inches tall).

Azalea pot - this is three quarters the height of the diameter (4 inches in diameter and 3 inches tall).

Bulb pan - this is one-half the height of the diameter (4 inches in diameter and 2 inches high).

Many succulent growers prefer the azalea pot size, chiefly for aesthetic reasons. Specimen plants display better in such pots. The standard pot, especially for smaller plants, may taper too much and prove to be unstable. You run the risk of knocking over and damaging a prized plant. The type of pot used also affects watering. For the same potting mix, a taller pot will drain faster than a shorter pot of the same diameter.

Pot Sizes

The pot should be large enough to provide about one half to one inch width between the edge of the pot and the plant (spines included). Don't use a pot that is considerably larger than the plant. Although this would seem to give the roots more room to grow and delay the time until the next repotting, it slows the drying of the potting mix and increases the risk of root rot.

Types of Pot

Clay allows water to evaporate through the sides of the pot. This helps to dry out the potting mix and keep the roots cooler. Unfortunately, this evaporation from the pot surface leaves behind an ugly white deposit of salts. Plastic pots keep the soil wetter longer by allowing evaporation to occur only from the soil surface. Pots made of styrofoam, glass, or glazed ceramics act much like plastic pots, however they last longer than plastic pots which deteriorate over time when subject to direct sunlight.

Pot Colors and Shapes

Dark pot colors absorb light and heat up faster than pots made of white or light colors. Algae may grow on the insides of clear or white pots if they sit where they are in direct sunlight. Most pots are either round or square. Square pots sit next to each other without intervening spaces and thus more square pots can fit into a given area than round pots. If your plant is more or less round in shape, it tends to look nicer in a round pot.

Drainage

Because soil aeration depends on draining excess water out of the potting mix, a drainage hole in the bottom of the pot is important. You can stop the escape of potting mix through the drainage hole by covering it with a piece of paper towel, window screening, hosiery, etc. Paper products will eventually deteriorate, but by then the plant's root system will block potting mix from escaping.

Topdressing

Most growers use some type of gravel on the top of their potting mix as a top dressing. The idea behind this is that the loose gravel will dry quickly and keep the base of the plant stem from staying wet too long. In addition, the gravel can provide a decorative touch. Keep in mind that the top dressing can also make it difficult to judge the moisture content of the potting mix, since it is hidden under the gravel.

HAPPY POT PICKING

Vintage Succulent Toolbox

I have copied this article verbatim. This article comes from Alana Jones-Mann's blog. You can read it at:

<http://alanajonesmann.com/2013/04/diy-vintage-tool-succulent-box/>



succulent toolbox



Around this time last year, I decided to turn one of our vintage toolboxes into a little succulent garden. I was so proud of myself – the succulents survived (and thrived!) all summer and through the fall. However, since it was a cold and windy winter, not all of our plants made it. This past weekend I decided to refresh the toolbox, and I photographed the process so I could post a DIY for you!

Now I know not everyone may have access to a vintage toolbox. No worries! This tutorial can work with any container, pot, or box that can accommodate plants.

Materials Needed:

Vintage Toolbox (or plant box)

Drill

Liner: pebbles, gravel, stones or clay brick pieces

Potting Soil (they make specific soil for succulents, however, it's not necessary (per the gardening expert at my local hardware store) - just make sure to use a loose, light, quick-drying potting soil)

Selection of succulents

Step 1: First, go out and purchase your succulents. Each container will have the pertinent details for planting, including the necessary light and temperature needed for the plants to survive. After I had selected a variety of plants, I asked the gardening expert which plants would work best in my toolbox. He was very helpful and categorized my selection into essentially "indoor" and "outdoor" plants, pertaining to the plants in an environment year-round. The "indoor" plants would do just fine outdoors in the warmer months, but wouldn't survive during the winter.



Step 4: When you're ready to pot your plants, first lay down your liner, then your soil. Make sure to not pack the soil in too tight, to keep it porous. Leave about 3" at the top for your succulents.

Step 2: Make sure your box has a couple of drainage holes for the excess water. Using a drill, I was easily able to make my holes in the bottom of toolbox. This step is essential in the potting process, as it will allow the soil to dry quickly.

Step 3: Then, select a liner to fill the bottom of your box. This step is also key, as it will assist with the drainage, keeping the roots of the succulents dry.



Step 5: Pot your succulents into your box, leaving space in between the plants for growth.

Step 6: Once you've finished potting your plants, water lightly, and set out your succulent toolbox in sunlight.

I had initially planned to just go with the "outdoor" plants in the toolbox, but as I was arranging them I had the urge to include the silver dollar jade succulents to add height. However I planted it on the far right side, so that I will be able to easily remove the plant, without damaging the other plants, once winter comes.



I potted the plants that weren't able to fit in the toolbox into individual pots, including my favorite "indoor" plant, the *Echeveria* succulent (small pot), so that I will be able to just pick it up and move it inside once it gets cold out.

Like most Brooklyn apartments, we don't get to experience the luxury of a garden...or even a backyard, so the fire escape is our only spot for our outdoor plants. But now, it sure looks pretty and really beautifies the view out our kitchen window.



SUCCULENT PLANTS

by Rosario Douglas



The genus Wilcoxia



The genus Wilcoxia was named by Britton & Rose in 1909. They named the genus after US General Timothy E. Wilcox. Source: The Encyclopedia of Cacti by Cullmann, Gotz & Groner.

Since this time the genus has been placed under the Cereus group and also in the genus Peniocereus. It should be noted that Benson placed Wilcoxia and Peniocereus in the genus Cereus.

(Source: Cacti of Texas and Neighboring States by Del Weginer. First edition 1984)

More recently, because the flowers and fruits are typical of the genus Echinocereus, many authors are placing Wilcoxia in the genus Echinocereus as you will see if you do a search online for the genus Wilcoxia. (Source: Flora of North America, Vol. 4 Page 96, 158, 159, 172. Flora of North America Editorial Committee, eds. 1993+. Flora of North America North of Mexico. 16+ vols. New York and Oxford. At www.efloras.org

There are 5 species recognized most of which are found in Mexico. Wilcoxia or *Echinocereus poselgeri* is the species found in Texas along the Rio Grande.

Cacti in this genus have bushy and very thin stems. Because of the slender stems the plants generally require support and are found growing amidst woody shrubs. This habit conceals the plants making it difficult to detect unless it is blooming.

The plants have 20-30 ribs and tuberous taproots for water storage. The spines are short and the flowers are good size. The beautiful flowers are red or purple and open in the daytime.

The stems are covered with short appressed spines. Source: Cacti of Texas and Neighboring States by Del Weginer. First edition 1984)

Top left: Wilcoxia or Echinocereus poselgeri. Source Blühende Kakteen - Iconographia Cactacearum, 1904. Schumann, Gürke & Vaupel. WikipediaCreative Commons. Middle: A photo of Wilcoxia poselgeri by Jim Hogg found at cactus-art.biz.

Lower left: Wilcoxia schmollii by Michael Wolf. Wikipedia Creative Commons.

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas

**Aphyllus**

Leafless

AppressedLying flat against another organ or part; not spreading.
e.g appressed spines**Arbusculus**

Like a small tree

Armatus

Armed

Aromaticus

Aromatic; fragrant

Articulate

Jointed; having a node or joint

Ascending

Upcurved; Growing or directed upward.

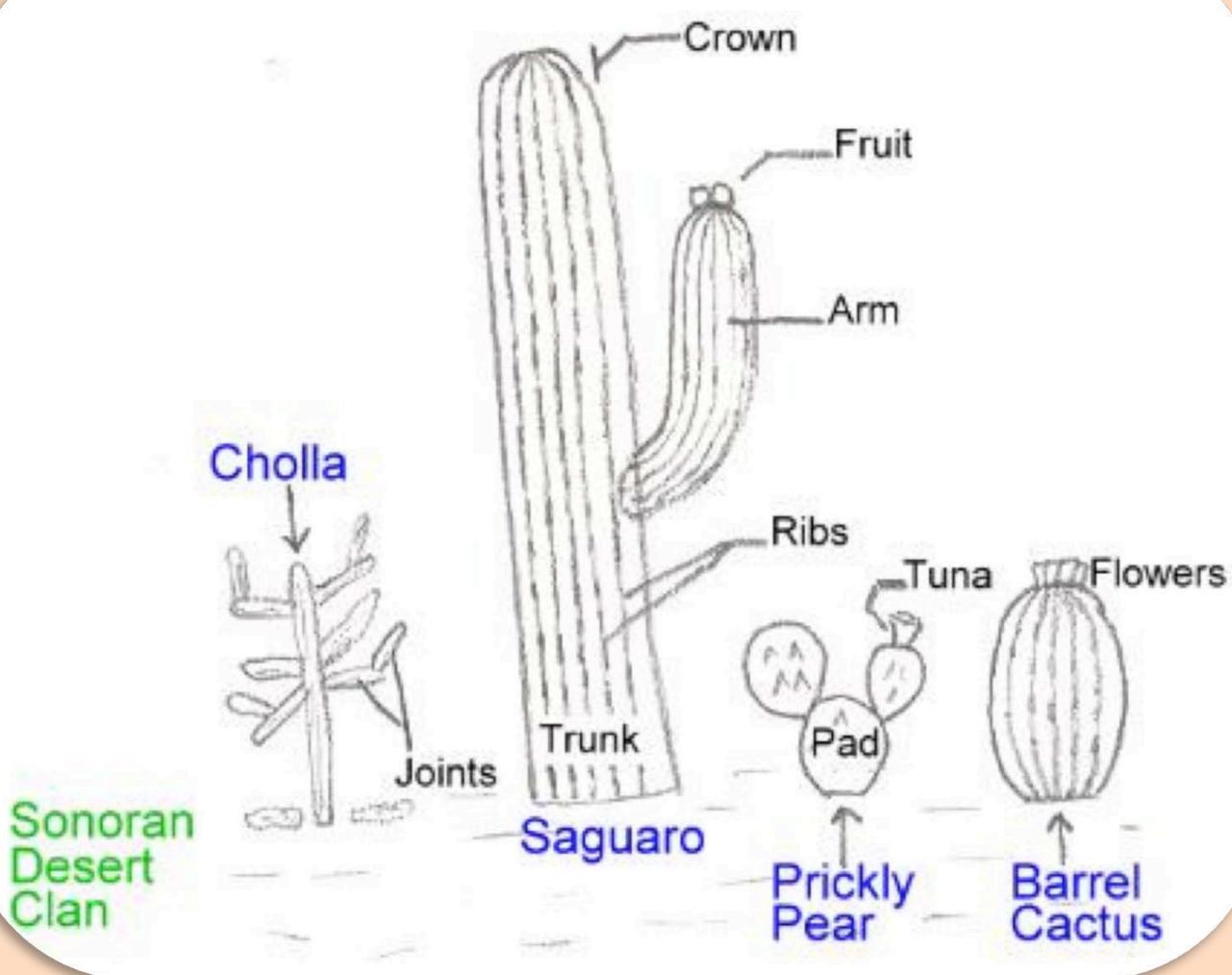
Asterias

Star-like

Above left: *Turbinicarpus valdezianus*, an example of appressed spines. Wikipedia creative commons. *Astrophytum asterias*, a star-shaped cactus. Wikipedia creative commons

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/>.

THE BOTANICAL CORNER



Drawing shows four common cacti of the Sonoran desert: Cholla, Saguaro, Prickly Pear, Barrel Cactus. Even though their growth habits are different, the cholla and prickly pear are both members of the *Opuntia* genus. The Saguaro, whose scientific name was named for Andrew Carnegie, is the typical monarch of the desert. Barrel cacti of the desert are predominately *Ferocactus* and *Echinocactus* species.

This information comes from the webpage of The Cactus Museum at www.CactusMuseum.com, Wikipedia, I have reformatted this article.