



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

OFFICERS

President:	Niki Furrh	tnfurrh@cox.net 405-722-1718
Vice-president:	Rosario Douglas	rosariod@cox.net 405 447-7617
Secretary:	Mary Kaser	mr7645@att.com 405-476-0600
Treasurer:	Peggy Anglin	anglin@swbell.net 405-840-4583
Librarian:	Tony Furrh	tnfurrh@cox.net 405-722-1718
CSSA Affiliate:	Joyce Hochtritt	cactibud@cox.net 405-7371831
Newsletter editor:	Rosario Douglas	rosariod@cox.net

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).

IN THIS ISSUE

- ❖ Club News pp 2-6
- ❖ 2012 Show & Sale pp 7-8
- ❖ From the Editor pp 9
- ❖ Article of the month pp 10-11
- ❖ Succulent Plants pp 12-13
- ❖ Website review pp 14
- ❖ What is blooming? pp 15
- ❖ The Botanical Corner pp 16-19
- ❖ 2012-2014 Local cactus& succulent happenings pp 20-21

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT Niki Furrh

We are really counting down to the Show and Sale now! It's going to be a terrific weekend with lots of sales, lots of visiting & fun, and lots of food! Hope everyone has gotten the message regarding the two aprons for sale. We hadn't really thought about doing aprons but at the last moment the ideas came up and we decided to roll with them. If you are unable to get one for this sale, take heart for we will be ordering some more later. The Silent Auction was also a last minute idea to help increase our club's revenue since we will begin having some fairly large expenses the next year for the 2014 Conference - (reservation of conference center, deposits on banquet facility, T-shirts, miscellaneous). We will begin having a few more events to generate revenue over the next 18 months or so as needed. Please bring any item you might like to donate to the Auction on set-up on Friday or early Saturday morning.



Also, if you want to sell anything at the Show & Sale, I will need a signed member contract before the event. I can email the form to you. The form can be returned to me two ways; (1) by scanning and emailing back to me, or (2) by mail to 6717 Chelsey Lane, OKC, OK 73132. If you simply can not get the form to me before the Show, then call me and we can make suitable arrangements. (There is no cost to members to sell anything other than the 30% of sales paid to the Club after the event. The contract simply indicates what you are planning to sell, that you are aware of the percentage of sales due the Club, and also lets me know how much 'room' to leave available when sitting up tables.)

On Sunday we will be tabulating the votes for People's Choice and will need to call winners of the Silent Auction items. At 3:00pm Exhibitors may start gathering their plants, tables taken down & returned to proper area. Any leftover items from the Drawing can be packed up, food items & containers dispersed, and the "potting station" area cleaned up. The Show & Sale will be over at 4:00pm and vendors may start packing their items to go home.

Tony and I are going to Erie, PA in 4 days to his Army Reunion. This is his 2nd time to go and my first. This Memorial Weekend has a little more meaning to the both of us because of this trip. To any veteran reading this, please accept my sincere gratitude to you for your service and to your families for the sacrifices they made while you were serving. My father was in the Air Force for over 20 years and I grew up on a lot of Military Bases here in the US and abroad. It was just a way of life for us but I don't think I truly understood the sacrifices my parents made until I left home and married a veteran. Our freedom is one of the 'wonders of the world' but is often taken for granted and, at times, seems to be a commodity for sale to the highest bidder. Thank you to all those who have served our country and continue to serve. And we will not forget the highest price many others have paid.

Please feel free to bring a friend/spouse/significant other to join in. Jim will be getting the ribs again and members bringing 'sides'. Any type of salad, baked beans, fresh veggies, bread, and desserts are standard fare.

WE DO NEED A VOLUNTEER TO BRING ICE (in an ice chest) AND SEVERAL DIFFERENT KINDS OF SODA POP, TEA. *This will be reimbursable to the member or your contribution to the luncheon if preferred. If you are willing to do this, please let me know.*

CLUB NEWS

From the secretary



Minutes of the meeting

Mary 17th, 2012

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

The business meeting was called to order at the WRGC at 8:35 PM CST after a Bonsai Succulent program that was presented by Mike Hellman. Mike introduced his knowledge, tips, and inspiration to a group of 18 members. Everyone was thoroughly captivated by Mike and the Succulent Bonsais that he had created.

Old Business:

Review of the Festival in the Park that members Mike & Rosario Douglas, Mary Kaser and Tony Furrh were going to Host. The festival is sponsored by the WRCG and starts at 9:00 am, May 19th. Members are going to pass out club information flyers along with information of our upcoming June 2012 Show and sale. We hope to attract future membership and participation for our show/sale.

Library Report by Tony Furrh let the members know we had 4 new library books for our collection.

New Business:

President Nikki Furrh reviewed buying Aprons and T-shirts for the club and members could buy each at cost. A monogram of a blooming barrel cactus was presented and the members liked the idea. Joyce Hochtritt made a suggestion of possibly using a native Oklahoma species as our monogram. Nikki Furrh is to review our possibilities before anything is determined.

Nikki Furrh reviewed our upcoming show and sale for June 2012. Mary Kaser volunteered to be the shows hostess. Volunteers are needed for the Set up time on Friday, June 18th.

Niki also reviewed our 2014 Mid States Conference suggesting a silent auction where Members would be encouraged to donate Photos, books, crafts, antiques.

Our home show garden tour is set for June 23rd. Members Fred Hill, Robert Millison & Tony Furrh will be participating.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43

Secretary
Mary Kaser

GARDEN TOUR OF MEMBER'S HOUSE JUNE 23RD 9:30 AM -3 PM



Fred Hill's Garden (top left photos)

The brick pathways lead to custom designed displays of Oklahoma Hardy & non-Hardy cacti & succulents. Other areas are gardens showing user-friendly designs, butterfly gardens, garden art, native prairie area, water features, and a special Keyhole garden structure.

Address: South on I-35, exit on SW 4th St.(Hwy 37), Go East 1 block to S. Broadway. Take Broadway South 1 block to SW 5th St., Go West 1 block to S. Howard Ave. Backyard faces I-35.



Tony Furrh's Garden. Third photo on the left.

My gardening tastes pretty much run the gamete of horticulture. I was influenced at a young age by my grandparents, one a wheat/cotton farmer, the other a simple cottage gardener. But what happened in those fields and flower beds many years ago in West Texas made a huge impact on me. I strive to find the rare, the new, the exotic, and am constantly experimenting with new things.

My backyard features a large xerophyte garden with a water feature, a 16' x 24' greenhouse full of succulents from new world and old. Blooming Chitalpa and Desert Willows also are featured. You will also see many viburnums, Hydrangeas, and many cacti.

Address: Turn West onto NW 63rd Street off Council Road (between Wilshire and NW 50th Street - across from Willy Post Airport). Crossing a switch-back bridge, stay on NW 63rd for several blocks until you come to GreenMeadow Lane in the River Bend housing addition. Turn right (only way to turn) and go about a block and you will come to Chelsey Lane on your left. Address is 6717 Chelsey Lane.

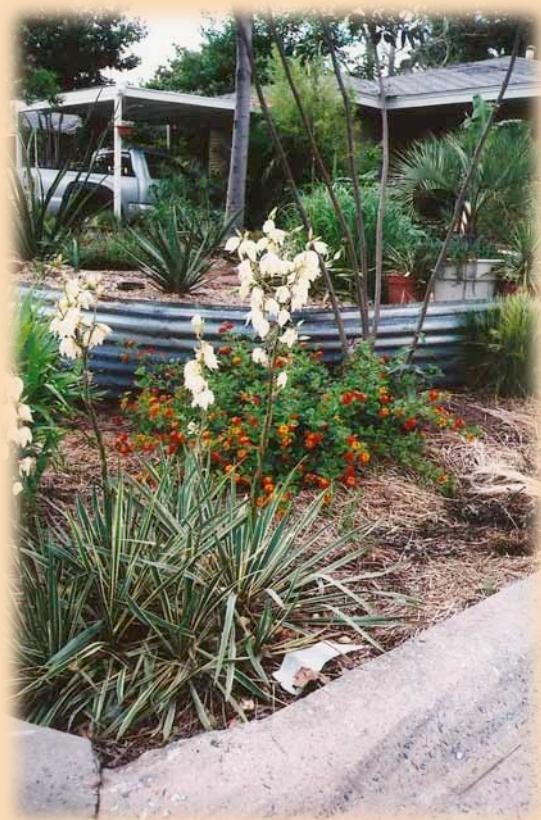


GARDEN TOUR OF MEMBER'S HOUSE JUNE 23RD 9:30 AM -3 PM**Robert Millison's Garden**

I have a mixture of ornamental grasses, perennials, trees and shrubs, along with various "hardy tropicals" including bamboo, elephant ears, angel's trumpet, cycads and palms.

The past couple of years I have been working on a raised succulent bed with a collection of woody lilies, including Yuccas, Hesperaloas, Nolinas, Manfreda, Dasylirions and other succulent plants such as thornless prickly pear, Ocotillo and a cold hardy Agave; this bed also contains my collection of Ice plants (*Delosperma*).

My address is: 2625 SW 52nd St. My home is located in SW 52nd St between May Ave. and Villa Ave.



FESTIVAL IN THE PARK-

The festival in the park on May 19th at the Will Roger's Garden was well attended. There were plants for sale and exhibits by different clubs. Our club had a table inside and one outside. We distributed information about our upcoming show and sale and the club.

Top left our table inside. Top right our secretary Mary Kaser talking to attendees. Middle left member Carol Eister and Mary Kaser . Middle right Rosario Douglas and Tony Furrh at our outside display. Bottom left a closer view of Rosario and Tony.

Other members that helped out were Niki Furhh and Mike Douglas.

2012 COCSS SHOW&SALE

Update from our president Niki Furhh

Remember, we will be offering free potting of a purchased plant, pot, and soil so if you have talents in this area (not necessarily a requirement!), we are counting on members to take a turn at this.

The reception table will need a member manning it full time to be sure we get everyone registered and appropriate information regarding the Drawing, People's Choice and Silent Auction given out. If everyone could volunteer an hour, then this should be covered quite well. The luncheon on Saturday will be our usual 'get together' with Judges and Vendors. Please feel free to bring a friend/spouse/significant other to join in. Jim will be getting the ribs again and members bringing 'sides'. Any type of salad, baked beans, fresh veggies, bread, and desserts are standard fare.

Joyce would like to remind you to save carry-out boxes for the sale! Also it is very important that if your going to enter plants in the judged show to please have your entre cards made out before bringing the plant to the Garden Center. And please do you research to get the plant named. This will be a big help to the show chair!

FOOD at the Show and Sale **Hellen Hill** has kindly offered to act as our Show and Sale food/drink coordinator. If you havenot yet done so please give her a call to let her know what you are planning to bring. Helen can be reached at: Phone: **405 732-6297**

We need a volunteer to bring an ice-chest, buy ice and buy assorted drinks (diet drinks included). The club will reimburse you for this expense.

Food categories are:

Main dish: Ribs (jim), Potatoe pie (Rosario), Other???

Salads:

Desserts: Key lime pie and flan (Rosario), Other???

Breads/other:

Drinks/ice:

Morning coffee and snacks Mary Kaser

**THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND
SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL SHOW AND PLANT SALE
JUNE 16-17, 2012**



Join us at our **Annual Show & Sale**. FREE ADMISSION

Will Rogers Garden Center
3400 NW 36th, Oklahoma City.

Hours/Dates: Saturday, June 16th 9 am-5 pm, Sunday, June 17th 9 am- 4pm.



Thousands of cactus and succulents, in- and out-of- state vendors, judged plant show, educational displays, free handouts, and hourly drawings for prizes.

Cash, checks and credit cards.

Members enjoy: a monthly newsletter, meetings, speakers, field trips, local garden events, annual picnic & Christmas party, community involvement, a well-stocked library with many cactus and succulent books and journals that members can check out.

You can learn more about our club visiting our webpage:

<https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>

**Hope to see you all at
our 2012 Show & Sale!!**

2012 COCSS SHOW&SALE

These are 2 of the 3 flyers we put together to help us advertise the show and sale. You can download these from our webpage and send them to people you think may be interested. You will find all three flyers under the 2012 Show & Sale

Our web address is:

<http://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/home>

**The Central Oklahoma Cactus
and
Succulent Society**

invites you to our

ANNUAL SHOW & PLANT SALE

**June 16th (Saturday) 9am-5pm
June 17th (Sunday) 9am-4pm**

**WILL ROGERS GARDEN CENTER
3400 NW 36TH
OKC**

FREE ADMISSION

Judged plant show, educational displays, free drawings for prizes and hundreds of varieties of cacti and succulents for sale from both in and out of state vendors. Cash, checks, credit cards.



FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

Dear members:

I have a couple of reminders for all of you: Firstly, mark your calendar to join us at **our June 15-17th Show & Sale**. Volunteers are always welcome since a successful Show and Sale requires a communal effort from as many members as we can get to participate. Participating and helping out even one of the 3 days will be greatly appreciated and will go a long way to ensure we have a successful 2012 Show and Sale. We urge you to come and have fun, buy some plants and volunteer to help in some of the many activities and tasks that are always an important part of this event. We also urge you to consider entering some plants in the Show part of the event. The entry cards can be printed from our website. You should ideally bring your Show plants on Friday June 15th, the day we are setting up for the Show and Sale. You can contact Niki or Joyce if you have a specific task you want to volunteer for.



The second item to remind you of is the aprons which will be available to members. If participating at the Show and Sale it is useful to have aprons to wear since this makes the public aware that you know you are a club member and they may ask you a question or may need your help.

Bottom left is the apron to be ordered from Niki Furrh. The cost of this apron will be \$16.00 each plus tax. These can be paid for when picked up at our Show & Sale on Friday or Saturday. To help keep expenses down we are only ordering a limited number at this time (**12**). You may pre-order this apron by contacting Niki Furrh via email tnfurrh@cox.net or phone 405-722-1718.

Joan's apron bottom right cost \$15.00; but the fabric is limited. If you would like one of these you will need to pre-order ASAP contacting Joan at gbartraders@sbc.global.net or phone 405-732-4950. Payment of \$15 should be sent directly to **Joan Galbraith, 913 N. Lotus Ave, Midwest City, OK 73130**.



You will be able to pick up this pre-ordered apron at the Show & Sale.

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

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

By Fred Hill

Observations on a Keyhole garden

A couple of years ago I saw an Oklahoma Gardener Magazine article about keyhole gardens. Always looking for new ideas and philosophies, this intrigued me. Further research by friends found photos of active keyhole gardens and a documentary video of a charity group-teaching villagers to use this growing technique in their homes.



What is a keyhole garden? Google this and you will see many fancy formal gardens using manufactured stone and ornamental plants. Dig deeper and you will find the uses that fascinated

me. Most suitable in high altitude arid regions of Africa, these structures allow a family to grow sustainable crops near their huts using green techniques and gray water from their home to provide food during the 3-month dry season.

Plans for my garden started over 18 months ago, cutting down a dying pecan tree and laying out the footprint for the stone structure. These gardens are, by necessity, no bigger than 10 to 12 feet in diameter, keeping the entire growing area within reach from the outer wall. A more or less round stone-walled garden is created with a notch, or



keyhole in the wall extending to a "chimney" of sticks and reeds 2 feet in diameter and taller than the tallest part of the garden. In my structure I used rebar and plastic fencing with 3/8 inch square openings. The wall is made of castlewall stones and double-sided matching stones for the keyhole to allow vertical faces on the keyhole.

Some decisions may not have been the best design techniques for this particular garden. I offset the chimney to miss the flush-cut tree stump. I also planned the lines of the wall to follow curves of my brick pathways. This resulted in a deeper reach required to work some areas of the garden and a possible uneven distribution of water dispersal throughout the entire planting area. To verify possible shortfalls in this area I have begun testing moisture levels before watering and after watering for specific time and flow rate. My Walmart moisture sensor is a 10 inch probe with a meter movement from 1 to 10, wet to dry. A few measurements may give me an idea if I need to compensate my watering patterns in the wider sections of the garden.

By my best observation, the chimney should have several inches more material than the outer circle. The outer circle should have its material sloped up toward the chimney. I am questioning whether the compost should be fully composted material or can be mixed with fresher vegetable scraps. With each watering, the compost level does settle by several inches and has a tendency to tunnel the water to one side without frequent stirring and leveling of the surface between waterings. I am currently adding a kitchen bucket of scraps, egg shells coffee along with filters and bags, fresh vegetable peelings and pieces and egg shells about each third topping of the chimney.

For the first trial of my garden I planted squash, zucchini, tomatoes, 2 varieties of peppers, and sweet potato vines for table consumption. The squash varieties are spaced around the inner ring of the garden, with the tomatoes planted in a grid on the widest slope of the garden. Sweet potato vines are randomly space counter-clockwise from the keyhole, reaching around 2/3 of the circumference. I covered all bare areas of the planting bed with 10 inch sections of cane growing along my back fence, consisting of stalk sections and green and dry leaf segments. My plan is to train the sweet potato vines to grow counter-clockwise, looping back when the side of the keyhole is reached. To assure good production I will have to remove the green cover in areas where the vines appear to be setting roots for each potato. The tomatoes will receive cages to control their growth, with the peppers getting either cages or stakes to support heavy branches.



After the first week or two of observation I noted a great amount of settling in some areas of the bed. This could lead to excess water traveling to these areas and will have to be reshaped with additional dirt as the weeks go by. I feel this is a one-time problem that can dealt with in the beginning growing season.

The examples of African keyhole gardens in use show concentrated plantings of greens crops, cabbage, lettuce and such leafy crops. To match my functional and ornamental designs, my crops are not quite as densely planted but will produce crops that we will consume.

Other considerations when finishing off a keyhole garden are wall height (additional dirt height above a comfortable reaching distance adds no benefit), and ornamentation. The wall itself can be topped with attractive planter pots of garden art. An interesting use may be to purchase (locally available) matching wall block which incorporate a planting pocket within each block, providing decoration with draping vines or crops. These can be set in two or three block segments of the wall to not interfere with easy flow around the garden area. After 18 months of volunteer labor and a lot of planning small details, this may be my most cherished addition to my yard. Get in touch with me for future updates and lessons learned as the growing year progresses.

Freddy Hill f-hill@sbcglobal.net.

SUCCULENT PLANTS

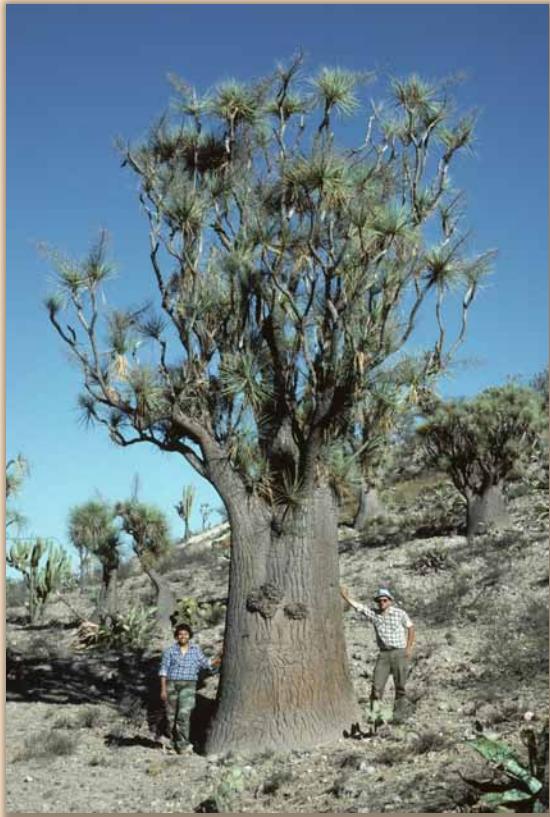
By Rosario Douglas

The genus Beaucarnea The genus Beaucarnea consists of 7-10 species depending on who you quote. Most are found in Mexico. The genus has been placed in the Agavaceae and Nolinaceae family, but more recent classification places it in the Ruscaceae family.



Source: (The Beaucarnea-Calibanus clade, work by Dr. Mark E. Olson- Autonomous National University of Mexico visiting Biology professor and students) and Dave's garden

<http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/261/#b>



This genus was first described by Charles Lemaire in 1861. The plants prefers well drained soils and plenty of sun. Some synonyms for this plant include: *Dasylirion gracile* J.F.Macbr. 1918. *Nolina gracilis* Cif. & Giacom 1950.

Beaucarneas have substantial caudexes for the purpose of storing water. A **caudex** (plural: caudices) is a thickened, short, perennial stem that is either underground or near ground level (frequently woody, and non-photosynthetic). It may be swollen for the purpose of water storage, especially in xerophytes.

These plants are small trees that can grow up to 6-10 meters tall.



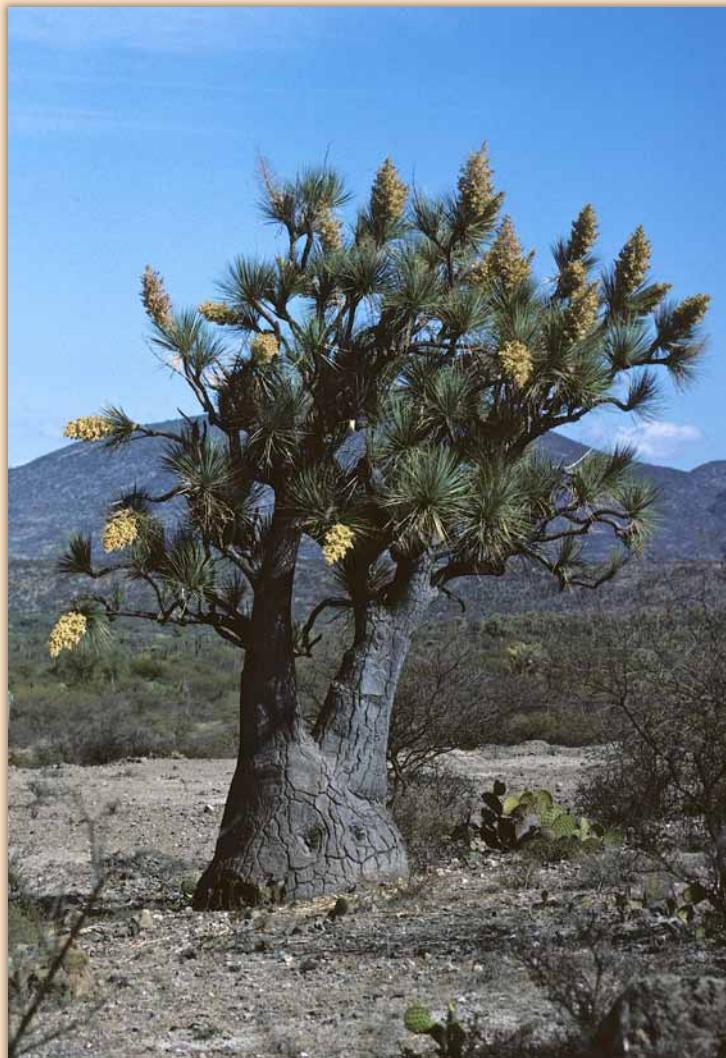
Leaves are evergreen, leathery and with finely serrated edges. Flowers are only produced in older trees. They are slow growers and very drought tolerant. *Beaucarnea recurvata* is a popular ornamental indoor plant. Source: Wikipedia.

Beaucarnea gracilis or “pony tail palm as it is known in the ornamental trade, is endemic to the Tehuacan valley in southern Mexico. These plants are not palms, but instead are a good example of a caudiciform type of succulent.

Top left *Beaucarnea gracilis* in the valley of Tehuacan- Mexico. Photo of Mike and Rosario next to an old specimen taken in 1988. Both photos by Mike Douglas

The genus Beaucarnea Cont ...

The valley of Tehuacan has many other interesting cacti and some succulents that are also endemic to this relatively small geographic area.



The 2002 article [Ecological Status of Beaucarnea gracilis, an Endemic Species of the semi-arid Tehuacan Valley, Mexico](#) by Yuria Cardel¹, Victor Rico-Gray², José G. García-Franco², Leonard B. Thien³ emphasizes the need to protect this species. They point out that mortality among older specimens is low yet the establishment of seedlings is also very low. This is due primarily to overgrazing by goats in the area and past extraction of seedlings for the ornamental trade. They also noted that the older specimens are ecologically important since many insects visit the flowers (up to 46 insects were observed visiting the flowers). The plants also hosts a variety of epiphytes such as Bromeliads. Each flower can produce up to 2600 seeds.

This plant is also of economic importance to the local inhabitants who raise seedlings for the ornamental trade.

Cultivation: Probably the most limiting factor are cold temperatures. Temperatures in the mid 20's can cause the plant to lose its leaves. Larger plants can survive moderate freezes, but this is often not the case for young plants.

The plant can take full sun but if grown indoors with poor light it is prone to sunburn if moved outside to a brighter location. If grown indoors it is best to find a bright area. Well-drained soil and allowing the plant to dry between and intermittent watering works best for these plants. It is recommended to avoid overhead watering as this can promote fungal infections on the growing part of the plant.

Source: Dave's garden <http://davesgarden.com/guides/articles/view/261/#b>.

Photo on the left a flowering *Beaucarnia gracilis* in Tehuacan-Mexico. Photo by Mike Douglas

WEBSITE REVIEW

By Rosario Douglas



Mauseth Research: Cacti

<http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/mauseth/researchoncacti/index.htm>



This is a fairly comprehensive web page about many of the biological aspects of Cacti that have allowed this group of plants to live in dry environments. The webpage was put together by: Dr. James D. Mauseth, Section of Integrative Biology, The University of Texas, Austin, TX 78712

The purpose of the webpage is explained in the introduction. According to Dr. Mauseth in this website he tries to describe the different ways in which cactus anatomy has been modified by evolution, modifications that now makes cacti well adapted to arid environments. The materials in this webpage are based on research by Dr. Mauseth's, graduate students and colleagues.

This site is intended for biologists and the general public with an interest in Biology.

Dr. Mauseth also recommends several books such as Plant Anatomy Botany, and Introduction to Plant Biology (both by James D. Mauseth), that may help the reader with unfamiliar terminology used in the webpage. The Cactus and Succulent Society of America Journal and Heseltonia are both recommended as good sources of information about cactus and succulent plants.

The webpage is organized by topics such as: Epidermis, cortex, leaves, spines, poisons, roots, root succulence, wood, apical meristem, cephalia, flowers, travel and published papers.

WHAT IS BLOOMING?



Top left *Echinocereus* sp. photographed in our greenhouse May 10th-2012 by Rosario Douglas. Bottom left a *Ferocactus* sp flower photographed in our greenhouse by Mike Douglas. Bottom right *Echinocereous reichenbachii* var *baileyi* photographed on May 10th in our rock garden.

Photos by Rosario Douglas

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

By Rosario Douglas

There is different terminology applied to cactus and succulents when considering whether they store water in their leaves, stems or caudex and roots. This short article will concentrate on stem succulence.



CAUDICIFORM: This term applies to succulent plants that have a caudex (a **caudex** (plural: caudices) is a thickened, short, perennial stem that is either underground or near ground level (frequently woody, and non-photosynthetic). It may be swollen for the purpose of water storage, especially in xerophytes.



to the caudex when water becomes scarce again. Another important adaptation used by caudiciform plants is the capacity to store water in their swollen stem bases, stems or roots.

Source: Wikipedia and the 2009 article "What is a Caudiciform" by Sidney Kelley in The Cactus Patch, the newsletter of the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society.

Caudiciform or "fat plants" are a collection of plants sharing similar adaptations to drought, high temperature and little rain.

Over 100 genera of plants in different families can be described as caudiciforms. Many caudiciform plants are found in the dry tropics and subtropical areas and are well adapted to survive in dry environments where water is a scarce resource.

These plants live in environments where temperatures can be high and rainfall amounts are low and this necessitates strategies that will improve survival rates. One such adaptation involves the rapid production of temporary shoots and leaves which can quickly die back



Top left: *Beaucarnea gracilis* from Tehuacan-Mexico.

Bottom right: *Adenium arabicum*.

Photos by Mike Douglas.

Some examples of families and genera of caudiciform plants include: Aizoaceae: Genus Sphaeralanthus Family Apocynaceae: Genus Adenium Passifloraceae: Genus Adenia, Family Euphorbiaceae: Genus Euphorbia. Family Crassulaceae : Genus Tylecodon (formerly Cotyledon), Family Malvaceae : Genus Adansonia, Family Orchidaceae: Genus Oeceoclades, Family Ruscaceae: Genus Beaucarnea.

Cacti are not considered caudiciforms because their stems play a major photosynthetic role.

Source: University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Research&Extension.

http://www.arhomeandgarden.org/plantoftheweek/articles/caudiciform_6-30-10.htm

Many caudiciforms have ornamental value, other, like the yam, are a very important crop consumed in many countries.

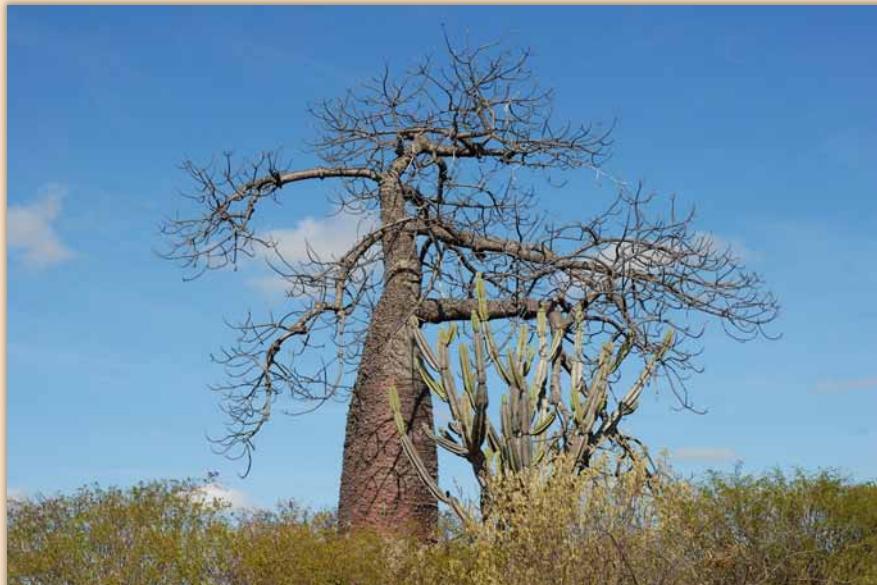


View of the thick base of a *Beaucarnea gracilis* from Tehuacan-Mexico.

Photo by Mike with help from a tripod.

PACHYCAUL:

A word derived from the Greek παχυκαυλ meaning “thick stem”. This term refers to succulent plants with disproportionately thick stems for their length and few branches.



The term caudiciform refers to succulent plants that have swollen bases or caudex and the term Pachycaul refers to those succulent plants whose extremely thickened trunks and main branches make them resemble squat, miniature trees (verbatim from: Succulent of the month by Fred Drotort: University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley). Pachycauls usually have woody stems and branches and the leaves are thin and deciduous (leaves are lost during periods of drought).

In his 1987 book Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents, Gordon D. Rowley applies the term to any tree or shrub where the trunk is abnormally thick.

“The shape may be conical, tapering from the base upwards like the Cirio tree from Baja California or like a flask (Nolina), bottle or barrel, or almost any form other than cylindrical. Pachycaul plants are somewhere between caudiciforms and straight stem succulents” (Rowley, 1987).

Rowley continues “Pachycauls are amorphous with smooth transitions from trunk to branches and branches to ultimate thick shoots, and photosynthesis in most is undertaken by green leaves rather than by stems. They differ from Caudiciforms in lacking an abrupt transition from main axis to slender, ephemeral branches, and are self supporting rather than climbers or twiners”.

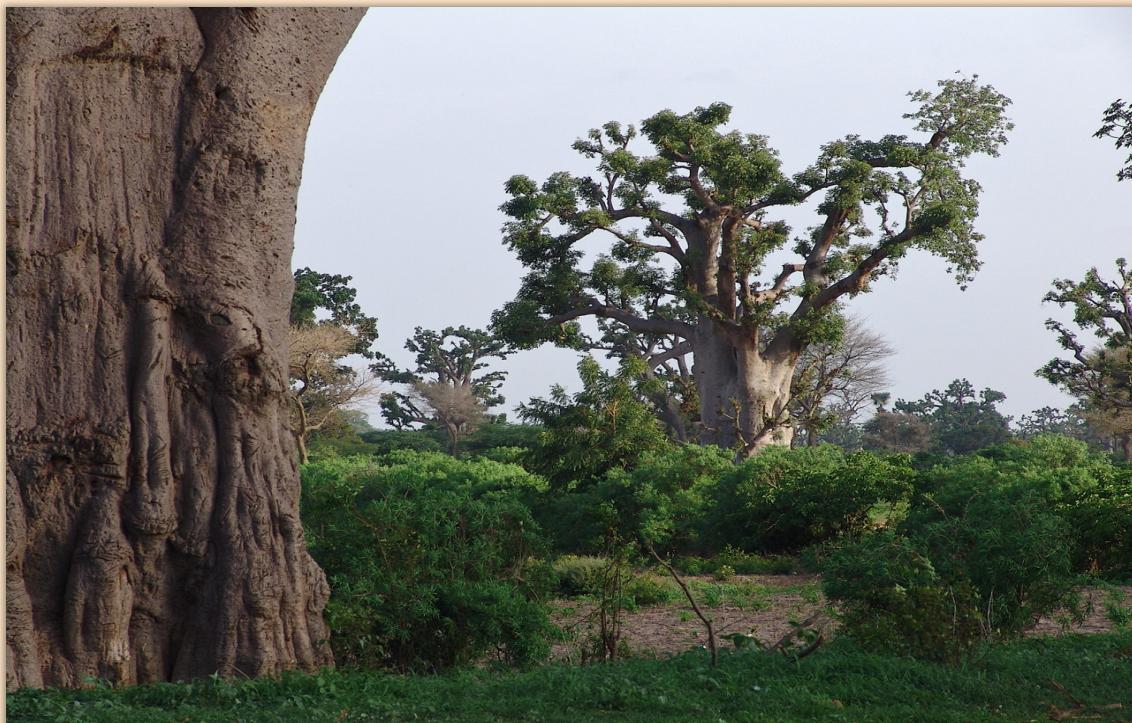


Upper left: *Cavanillesia arborea* from Northeastern Brazil. Bottom left: Cirio or Boojum tree *Fouquieria columnaris* from Baja California-Mexico.

Photos by Mike Douglas

PACHYCAUL Cont..

Examples of pachycauls include: *Pachycormus* (Anacardiaceae), *Adenium*, *Pachypodium* (Apocynaceae), *Bursera* (Burseraceae), (Campanulaceae), *Dendrosicyos* (Euphorbiaceae), *Delonix* (Fabaceae), *Fouquieria* (Fouquieriaceae), *Adansonia*, *Bombax*, *Brachychiton*, *Cavanillesia*, *Ceiba* (Malvaceae), *Dorstenia* (Moraceae), and *Cyphostemma* (Vitaceae). (Taken from Wikipedia).



Top right: another example of the Cirio or Boojum tree *Fouquieria columnaris* from Baja California-Mexico.. Bottom: a Baobab forest (*Adansonia digitata*) in Senegal. Photos by Mike Douglas

2012 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION

By Joyce Hochtritt



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.

<https://sites.google.com/site/cocssok/>

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. For more information contact:

Eva Allen, Conference Chair - 816-444-9321 - emallen@earthlink.com
<http://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. . <http://austincss.com/member>ShowSale.html>

September 16, 2012, Sunday at 5:30 pm, Club Picnic – Pot Luck to be held at Peggy Anglin's home. (2700 NW 56th St., OKC, OK. 405-840-4583 – anglin@swbell.net) 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 13, 2012, North Texas Cactus and Succulent Society will host the Fall TACSS Seminar, Dallas, TX. More information to come.

2013-14 CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION

October 20, 2012 – Speaker, Leo Chance from Colorado – 9:00 am to 1:30 pm. Leo will present a program and his new book “Cold Hardy Cacti” with a book signing. We will also have sale plants available for sale. More information to come!

http://www.timberpress.com/books/cacti_succulents_cold_climates/chance/9781604692648

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 Cactus and Succulent Happenings in the Region

*June 15 – 20, 2013 - CSSA 35th Biennial Convention - Hyatt Regency Hotel – Austin, TX.

<http://cssa2013.com>

2014 Cactus and Succulent Happenings in the Region

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