



THE OFFSET

July 2016

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



Echinocereus reichenbachii subsp. baileyi
in the Wichita Mountains NWR, Oklahoma.
Mount Scott in the background. Photo by
Michael Douglas

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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Meeting: Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 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



President's message

I have heard mostly nothing but good things from members and visitors to the Annual Show and Sale. Although I was unable to attend the actual event, increasing sales are proving currently that we need to be on top of our game for 2017. Conversations with patrons would be interesting to hear; types of plants they were looking for, did we have what they wanted?, did they have any suggestions on betterment of our sale? *(I'm sure most would mention better 'check out' and this is something that will be worked on before the 2017 Sale.)* As you think of conversations or questions asked, write them down and email to me or hand to me at the meeting.

Although I could not get to the event on Sat or Sun, I was in the building on Friday and must say that the Judged Show area looked very sparse. Next year we will have to take some steps to encourage more participation in this area and also ask for 2 or 3 table displays. Tony was unable to bring any show plants this year because of personal problems, but as a club we can't rely on one or two people to carry the Judged Show. We had two judges from Texas which we paid expenses for. I also added more trophies and ribbons at an expense of around \$400 largely because of remarks made last year that we did not have enough such items and participation would be better if more incentives were available. I'm curious if the people I heard make these remarks last year entered Show Plants this year.

We hope to glide through the rest of the year with the renovation of the Garden Center changing the place of two of our meetings. We are still doing the workshop this July at the GC. August 18th we will be meeting at the Furrhs for a yard and greenhouse tour beginning at 6:30pm and ending whenever the heat and skeeters send you home. I will serve refreshments. Our Annual Picnic will be September 15th at Joyce's house, starting at 6:30pm. She will have the greenhouse open for purchases and is also suggesting that you bring any plants that need repotting. We can eat, repot, shop & chat in the garage - bring a chair! All the food will be provided.

October and November meetings will be at the Senior Center at Will Rogers Park - details will follow at the meetings & at the Picnic.

Some suggestions are members bringing their favorite plant/s & perhaps a plant trade for those interested. The Christmas Party will be December 15th at 6:00pm at Johnnie Carinos where it was last year. This year we are suggesting that you bring a plant. This will be a form of "dirty santa" - all the plants will be put on a table and when your number is drawn you may choose a plant off the table or steal one from someone else. Hope to see you on the 21st for the workshop!

Niki Furrh, President

Two people will be needed to bring refreshments to the October and November meetings being held at the **Senior Center**.

Show & Sale info:

Saturday Sales: \$16,288.25
 Sunday Sales: \$5,234.00
 Total Sales: \$21,522.25
 38% increase in sales since last year.



Robert Millison
 Secretary



The 2016 Sow&Sale was definitely a big success and sales were up from last year. The lines were long and steady most of the day on Saturday. A big round of applause for **all** the members that made this possible. So many jobs have to be done at the right time in order for everything to come together and allow the public to enjoy the show and have fun shopping. Setting up tables, unloading plants, taking care of the people's awards activity, getting all the food taken care of so that members could have a very nice lunch on both days, drinks, bringing boxes to help the public carry out their plants, helping the public take plants to their cars, pulling out price stickers at check out and the list goes on. I would like to give a special thanks to Peggy Anglin who has been our amazing treasurer/cashier and accountant extraordinaire for many years.



We also gained 4 new members. Welcome Linda Clemons from Oklahoma City, Larry Myers from Ponca City and Jessica Dunlap and Lesli Summerhill both from Norman. Leslie and Jessica, as a Normanite, I am happy to see more cactus enthusiasts from Norman join the club.

Peggy Anglin reports that we have 43 paid members

Tony and Niki were missed by all. Finally a big thanks to both Jim Hochtritt and one of our new members Sheila Cox. They both did a great job managing the kitchen and food for everybody. I particularly loved Shirley's BBQ bean recipe (see recipe on page 10).

Finally Michael and I would like to thank all the members that donated items for our raffle. The public really likes the raffle and this year we had quite a selection of items all donated by our members.

So now lets get ready for our annual "Build your own dish garden workshop" on July 21. It is fun and members are always welcome to come and help the participants build their dish gardens.



Rosario Douglas
 Vice-president, Newsletter editor,
 webpage/Facebook administrator



a. Novice Best Cactus – Fred Hill

b. Advanced best cactus Joyce Hochtritt

c. Novice best succulent Fred Hill

d. Advanced best succulent. Terri Mann



Photos by Joyce Hochtritt

Well I was hoping we would have had more entries in our show this year since I made changes to the Show Schedule to help non-greenhouse growers so they wouldn't have to compete with the greenhouse growers.

Novice Exhibitor: Any person that's a first year member and/or non-greenhouse grower.

Advanced Exhibitor: A hobbyist or grower that grows their plants in a greenhouse year round or most of the year. (The show schedule was handed out to everyone at the February meeting and was available on the club's web-site along with the entry cards.) One of our main advanced exhibitors was unable to attend this year because of family matters and he was missed greatly. I want to say Thank You to Niki Furrh for ordering the award trophies and new ribbons for us this year. Also, thanks to Niki for the great job she did with our new tee-shirts. Niki and Tony we missed you this year! Things will work out better next year! Big Thank You to Robert for setting up the tables. And Thanks to all the other volunteers who helped with the Show and Sale!

Our club currently exchanges newsletters with about 16 clubs nationwide including one in Canada. This month's issue of the **Kaktos Komments**, a newsletter of the Houston Cactus and Succulent Society has two very interesting short articles about judging plants and member participation in the Show part of their Show&Sale and why do we show plants. Our club just recently had our Show and Sale and as Joyce mentioned in the previous page member participation was low. I personally feel that the second article "The annual Show– or to show or not to show" is particularly accurate in describing some of the reasons why members do not enter plants in the Show. I believe that many members may feel their plants are not show material and don't want to feel embarrassed entering a plant that will not get any ribbons. The article offers a new perspective on why we should consider showing our plants. It appears that in the end entering a plant or plants in the show should be viewed more like a learning experience rather than a competition. Now if we all keep this in mind and follow the advice mentioned in the articles perhaps next year we will have more entries from a larger group of members. Lets start now getting those plants ready to be judged at our 2017 Show&Sale!

Rosario Douglas

What the judges look for in show plants *by Karla Halpaap-Wood*

We have a show every year in September where members enter plants that will be judged. Every member is encouraged to participate. New members or members who have never entered a plant can be put in the "novice" category, which is judged more leniently. For new members it's often hard to know what is expected. A pretty plant is not necessarily a winning plant.

But I can tell you after entering plants once, you will know what is expected and by participating you really feel you belong to the club. For some this takes a few years, other can just jump in. There are four values that the judges look for in a plant, not all are equally important. The most important is the **condition**, quality of the culture, 70%. Next is **staging** (grooming and container) 15% of total points given, followed by **maturity** 10% and **naming** 5%.

Maturity:

Plant needs to be of a certain age

Condition:

- elongated growth
- more sun
- less sun
- uneven growth
- too plush
- undernourished
- scarring
- spent flowers
- broken leaves

Staging:

undercoated
 over potted
 off center in pot
 grooming needed
 top dressing needed
 inappropriate pot or top dressing
 plant too deep in pot
 plant too high in pot
 salt and lime rings
 broken or chipped pot
 label not clean

Name

Genus name
 species name
 spelling

From the Kactos Komments ARCHIVES (the newsletter of the Houston C&SS)

This article was originally published in the July-August KK in 1997, Vol 34, No. 4

THE ANNUAL SHOW ... OR TO SHOW OR NOT TO SHOW *by Roy Paramore*

Each year HCSS has its annual Show and Sale. The primary purpose of our Show is to stimulate interest in our hobby and to add funds to the treasury that the dues do not cover. Shows stimulate competition, and competition brings improvement. The number of members who show their prized plants is declining. The reason for the decline, as I see it, is because many members feel their plants can not compete.

For our Show, the plants do not compete with other plants; each plant is judged on its own merits. In theory, every plant entered could win a blue ribbon. The main question is “on what basis is a plant judged?” Generally, a judge will glance at a plant, and this first impression will greatly influence his/her judgment.

The most important areas in judging are culture and staging. Culture refers to the condition of the plant and reflects your ability to grow beautiful, healthy plants. No last minute efforts can alter or disguise this result.

Staging, on the other hand, reflects the care a plant has been given in preparation for entry in the Show. The pot must be clean and in tasteful proportion to the plant it contains. The plant should be centered in the pot, not leaning or too near the edge. Top-dressing may be used to cover the soil and balance the overall appearance of plant and pot. Top-dressing is not necessarily better than naked soil if that soil is clean and even.

Nomenclature is an important point. You are expected to know the correct botanical name (genus/species/variety).

If labels are used, the printing should be neat and attractive and not detract from the plant/pot. All of us should enter at least one plant for the Show's benefit as well as our own. Do not try to select plants at the last minute, dust them off, and rush them in. Start now to learn more about proper culture. When the Show time nears, wash the plant, clean or replace the pot and label, and check the overall appearance of the plant. This is one of the benefits of a Show - it makes you do what you should be doing anyway!!!

Our very successful 2016 annual Show&Sale - Photos by Mike Douglas



It was a busy Saturday this year. Every volunteer was helpful at the many jobs to be done. Greeting visitors, helping at the check-out line, doing the raffle where just some of the many activities that took place during our Show&Sale.



There were hundreds of plants available as well as gravel and some soil. A new vendor from Missouri brought some nice pots as well. This year we had 4 main commercial vendors and at least 3 members also sold plants. The show offered a good selection of plants for every taste and budget.





e. Shows one of Niki Furrh's paintings.



Preparation: Cut bacon in small pieces and fry crisp. Drain. Sautéed vegetables in bacon grease and add all ingredients to a large oven proof dish and bake for 1.5 hours at 450 degrees F.

Remember that next month we don't have a regular program, instead we will be having our annual **"build your own" dish garden workshop.**

THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 'BUILD YOUR OWN DISH GARDEN'



WHEN: July 21, 2016

TIME: 7pm - 8:30pm

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

WHAT TO BRING:

Your own dish, planter or container. It is best to use a container that has drainage holes.

THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE:

3 cactus/succulents plants, potting soil, top dressing and other decorative items. There will be other cactus/succulents plants to purchase if you would like to add more plants to your dish garden.

Club members will be at hand to help with your potting needs and to answer any questions you may have.

FEE:

A \$20.00 fee per person will be collected at the door.

PRE-REGISTRATION:

Please pre-register by phoning (405-737-1831) or emailing Joyce Hochtritt at cactibud@cox.net



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



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

Program: "Dish Garden Workshop"

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

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

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

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



Reserve July 26-31 2017

CSSA 2017 Biennial Convention

Hosted by
Central Arizona C&S Society

Field Trips

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

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

Convention Hotel




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

The Cactus Explorer

The first free on-line Journal for Cactus and Succulent Enthusiasts

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2 *Rathbunia*

3 *Rebutia australis* sp. nov.

4 Two new *Copiapoa* species

5 High altitude cacti

The latest issue of The Cactus Explorer is available. You can see it at:

<http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

Article of the month



Here is an article about *Tephrocactus Geometricus* seedlings written by Elton Roberts. Thanks to member Joyce Hochtritt for sending me the article.

Tephrocactus geometricus Seedlings

I have taken the time to write this for I have had many people ask me many different questions about *Tephrocactus geometricus*. To most people it seems to be an elusive plant and a prize to find. I am sure that people that have bought a single or a two jointed plant or even a plant that has a half dozen heads has never had the pleasure of seeing the plants grow from a small pencil line to a plant that is as large or a bit larger than a chicken egg. I say chicken egg as most have not become mostly round as a ball yet.

In times past I have received plants or joints of *Tephrocactus geometricus*. None of these were seedlings for I could see where they were removed from a parent plant. The joints are quite easy to remove from a plant. One person I know had a nice show plant as it was being taken home it got knocked over and most of the joints broke off. That way he was able to make a lot more plants but in the process lost a good show plant. I do not remember buying a joint that was rooted; I did buy one large plant. That had 10 or so heads or joints. For me *Opuntia* plants have pads, segments, heads or joints. Ignore photo 2 for that plant is a 3 headed one from seed. But note photos 4, 7 and 11 for these plants are producing joints from the top or the sides of the plants. I have two trays of 25 plants each so I have been watching 50 plants to see how they grow. As can be seen some offset from the top and some from the side and I have a couple that are offsetting from the very base of the plant.

I have seen seed grown *Tephrocactus geometricus* selling for \$8.00 to as much as \$42.00 and these are about the size of the joint of the little finger to maybe almost 2 cm in diameter. I have also seen heads that were snapped off the main plant and sold that way. Mesa Garden has the plants listed as; alexanderi v geometricus DJF319 e Loro Huasi, Cat \$8.00. These are seed grown plants and I am not sure how large they are but I am sure they are the real *T. geometricus*. I have seen single joints on the web for \$7.00 to as much as \$32.00; but keep in mind that by the time you add shipping that price goes up quite a bit. From there the price just goes up and the sky is the limit, so to say, as to the prices asked. I have seen a clump priced at \$2500.00. I know this one person that has a plant that is quite large, the plant measures 46 cm wide and 28 cm tall and he turned down \$5,000 for it. At a recent show I saw 3 jointed plants that were called *T. geometricus* that were grafted selling for \$60.

I said 'that were called *T. geometricus*' because some plants people are selling look more like *Tephrocactus alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* than *T. geometricus*. The three plants at the recent show looked to me like they were more *Tephrocactus alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* than a *T. geometricus* as they had spines to about 2.5 cm long. I see on the web where several sites are selling plants of *T. alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* as long spined *geometricus*. I have seen where some people say they have the long spined form of *geometricus*. When something like that is put on the web everyone will believe that there is such a thing. I believe that there is a good amount of cross pollinating

of *T. geometricus* and *T. alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* and other *Tephrocactus* then growing the seed. When the plants grow with long spines it is just called a long spined form of *T. geometricus* with no mention of it being a cross. Until the last couple years I had never seen or heard of a long spined form of *T. geometricus*. Now I see quite a few people selling joints or seed on line. I know that some *T. geometricus* have spines but on the true plants I have never seen a spine any longer than 6 mm and those hug the plant body. The plants of what they are calling the long spined form of *geometricus* have spines that are to 2.5 cm long. These spines do not hug the plant body but are exactly the same as the spines on *T. alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii*. On *T. alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* the spines have a bend right at the areole and then they are straight from that bend. That hook or bend makes the spine so it is not sticking out straight but is not hugging the body. I have measured the spines on *Tephrocactus alexanderi* ssp. *bruchii* and the spines are right at 2.5 cm long. Even with the bend at the areole the tip of the spine is as much as 2.5 cm above the plant body. I have to wonder if before very many years all a person will be able to get are 'long spine' crosses. With the price of a joint or a plant of *T. geometricus* and so many people wanting one, many people only buy one. When it blooms they will cross it with any plant that resembles it or they cross the plant with any *Tephrocactus* that is in bloom at the time. I have had people ask what difference it makes as they only have the one plant.

The plants go under different names; those being *Tephrocactus alexanderi* variety *geometricus* or *T. alexanderi* ssp. *geometricus*. Some books have the plant listed as *Tephrocactus geometricus*. Anderson and Glass both have it as *Tephrocactus geometricus*. In Steven Brack's Mesa Garden catalog he has it as *T. alexanderi* v. *geometricus*. The NCL dismisses it all together as just a weak spined form of *T. alexanderi*. A. Castellanos named the plant *Opuntia geometrica* in 1934. In 1935 Backeberg moved it to *Tephrocactus* and changed the spelling to *T. geometricus*. Here is the description from Backeberg's Lexicon.

Body low, laxly branching, about 15 cm high; segments spherical, 3.5 cm long and diameter, light green later becoming corky; tubercles 5 – 6 angled; areoles brownish, lower ones spineless; spines 3 – 5, subulate, black or white, curving above, 5 – 10 mm long; flower white, 3 cm long; fruit dry, depressed-spherical, 17 mm long, 22 mm broad, mostly spineless. From Argentina.

For those that do not have Backeberg's book to read, Anderson's book has almost the exact description. Charles Glass puts a little different spin on his description and here is that description.

A grayish-green plant to about 6 inches tall. The joints are almost rounded, to 1 1/3 inch long and thick, and the brownish areoles have minute bristly glochids and three to five whitish or brown spines from 1/5 to 1/2 inch in length, these soon falling. Flowers are white, about 1 inch long and appear by day in midsummer. Needs sun; normal cactus compost; minimum temperature 50F.

I think we can ignore that minimum temperature as the plants grow around 2900 m [9500 feet] elevation. At that elevation I doubt that there are very many days that are much above that temperature.

1

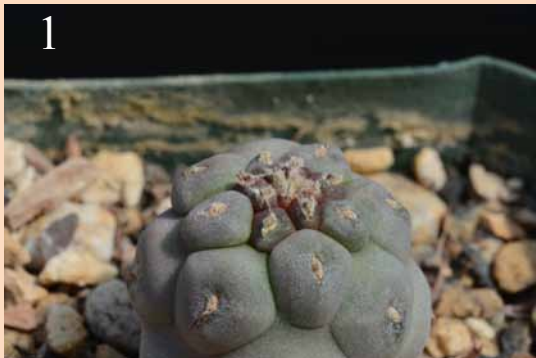


Photo 1 is a seedling *Tephrocactus geometricus*. It started out as a seedling about the size of a pencil mark about 3 to 4 mm long. When the seedlings get a few mm in diameter they look somewhat like the seedling in photo 1. *Tephrocactus geometricus* along with other *Tephrocactus* and many *Opuntia* plants have no growing point. They start life like a balloon that is very devoid of any air. The seedling in the photo is about the size of the joint of my little finger. What is seen here is the unfolding of the

tubercles that will in time fill out and almost flatten out. The small joint in **photo 2** is not much larger than the plant in photo 1. This being a three headed plant with three different size heads it shows how the tubercles are slowly filling with fluid and flesh. What was rounded sphere like tubercles are now losing that half sphere shape and are becoming like a low mound. Going on to photo 3 the

2



joint has taken on enough water that it is without any rounded tubercles. All the tubercles are now like a slight mound. When the plant takes on enough water and fills out it will become almost round in shape as seen in **photo 3**.

At the present time most the plants are about the size of a large chicken egg or a bit larger. The plant in photo 4 is growing 3 new growths out of the top of the plant. I say growths for at this size a

person cannot tell if it is going to be new joints or flower buds. I had my doubts that a plant only one joint tall and being a seedling would make flowers at this age. Of the three new growths one looks different from the other two. The one on the right looks a bit different from the other two. I am very confident that the growth in photo 5 is a new joint as it just does not look the same as the one growth in **photo 4**. The growth in photo 6 has to be a flower bud as

3



4

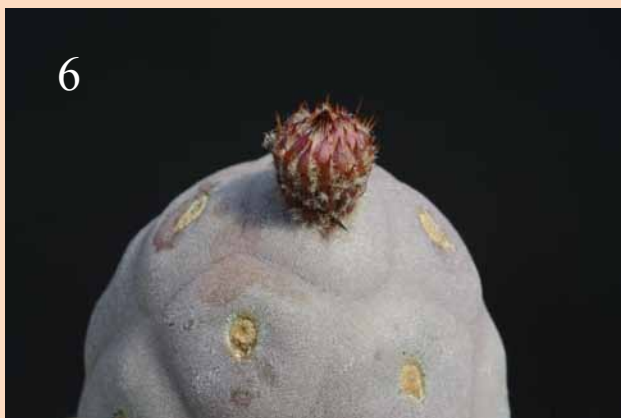


it looks nothing like the growth in **photo 5**. In photo 7 I am sure that both of the growths are new joints. I have never seen one of my plants bloom from half way down the side of a joint. Compare the growth in **photos 5 and 7** and they have to be the same kind of growth; that is new joints.

5



6





7

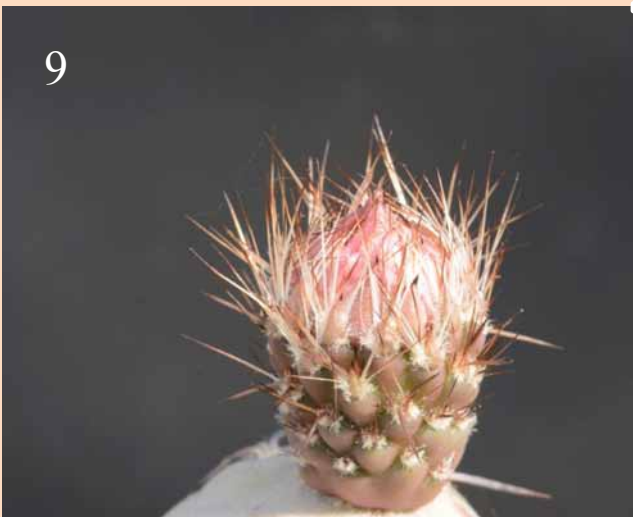


8

Going to **photo 8**, this is growth on another plant and to me it has to be a bud. It looks very different from the growth that I am sure are joints forming. Comparing the growth with that in photo 5 it is very different. It is cylindrical growth and not round ball like and it also has spines that are not like on the growth in photo 5. About this time we had a couple hot days and the plants grew quite noticeably. In my mind it looks like a flower bud now. Look at the top of the bud in **photos 9** and **10**; I say bud because I see what looks like flower petals growing inside that covering of spines. I know that the descriptions say that the flowers are white. I have 4 large plants that have been blooming year after year for many years and in the most part they have pink flowers; see **photo 13**.

There are two plants out of the 50 plants that have new joints and flower buds forming on them at the same time. There are several others that I am not at the present time sure what they are growing as they are still too small to tell.

In **photo 11** that plant has two joints growing on it. Right now they are small but in a short time they will look like the new joint in **photo 12**. That joint is 3 cm in diameter and the plant it is growing out of is 4 cm in diameter so that offset could be larger than the original joint. On some of my large plants they have young joints that are 5 to 6 cm in diameter but the older joints are to 7 cm in diameter. Picture in your mind joints that are a little larger in diameter than a tennis ball and you will get the general idea of the size they can grow to. **Photo 13** is *Tephrocactus geometricus* flowers. They are to 9 cm in diameter; and usually a light pink color.



9



10

11



As for me I now know that the single joint seedling can grow either new joints or flower buds as the first new growth they produce. It has been fun for me to watch a seedling go from not looking like a cactus plant at all to making a ball larger than a golf ball and then start growing flower buds and offsets. The offsets will in a few months make joints the size of the original seedling. One thing that the plants need is very good light or they will grow hoe-handle like; that is something like 3 cm in diameter and to 10 or more cm tall [1 ¼ inch to about 4 or more inches].

12



My large plants have taken temperatures down to the low teens F and they do just fine. Habitat is at 9,000 to 10,000 feet elevation; at that elevation it can be very cold so I know the plants can take a lot of cold. I have my plants under cover where it is open on the north side. So they get most of the weather except for the rain in the winter time. They get very bright light from sun up to sunset. In the most part I keep them dry over the winter; once in a while a rain will blow in on them but not very often. They have never shown any problems with that

occasional rain. They take the heat here which hits over 100F quite often in the summer. I do not give them any special soil, just my regular mix.

13



I collected this plant near the Wichita Mountains some years ago and I have been using it in my dish garden arrangements ever since. It is also growing in my outdoor succulent plant garden in Norman-Oklahoma. This is a great article about this hardy succulent (now in a new genus) that appeared in the Houston C&SS July-August 2016 issue of Kaktos Komments



The genus *Phemeranthus* (formerly genus *Talinum*)

Vol. 53, No. 4

July-August 2016

August Succulent of the Month

David Van Langen

Phemeranthus parviflorus

Phemeranthus parviflorus, also known as Small-flowered Fameflower, is a small succulent plant that is seldom noticed and most likely seldom grown in gardens. It was named *Talinum* in the past and is very closely related to the *Portulacaceae* family. The genus *Phemeranthus* has over 20 species found in the United States.

Phemeranthus parviflorus has a wide range in habitat growing as far north as North Dakota and Minnesota and as far south as New Mexico, Texas and probably further south into northern Mexico. Rocky places with shallow soil and sparse plant growth seem to be preferred places this plant can survive as it is very small and could not compete with a lush habitat. This plant has a small stem only a few inches tall, branches at the base and has green succulent round leaves that are only 1-2 " long. The thin flower stalks are only an inch or two taller than the entire plant and has several small pink flowers which bloom over a long period of time. As both the Latin name and common name suggest--- it has small flowers.



I have only seen *Phemeranthus parviflorus* in the Llano Uplift area of central Texas growing on either granite or gneiss outcroppings and usually found growing in the cracks of rocks with very small amounts of soil or organic matter. *Phemeranthus parviflorus* is often found growing side by side with Lace cactus *Echinocereus reichenbachii* and



Spike Mosses. I have been growing this plant for well over 40 years. It is a perennial which comes back for many years and it also spreads slowly by seeds which come up every now and then in flower pots with cactus or pots that used to have cactus in them. I use quite a lot of granite in many cactus mixes so the Small Flowered Fame Flower does very well here in Humble Texas.

