



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

THE OFFSET

September 2013

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

OFFICERS

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MEETING At Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36th in Oklahoma City, the third Thursday of every month at **7:00 pm** (except in January, the month of our show, picnic and December).

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CLUB NEWS- FROM THE PRESIDENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT
August, 2013



How about this summer weather?! Although the humidity has been horrific most of the time, at least we haven't gotten into the 100's yet and the rain has saved on some of the water bills. It's hard to believe that August is half over and our kids start school on Monday. Where does the time go?! Let's see -- August 15th; that means June 15, 2014 is just 10 months away and that's the day our conference will BE OVER! Will we all be proud of the event we hosted? Will we personally feel that we did our best in helping our fellow club members carry the burden of such an event? Maybe I'm just too easy, but I feel the answers will be a huge "YES"!

A lot can happen in 10 months and I imagine all of us will have our own set of personal problems to deal with from time to time and if at any moment someone needs some "time off" to take some deep breaths, don't hesitate to confide in your friends and let us help you in whatever way we can. That said, our Mid-States Conference is a rather 'big deal' and we need every member able to step forward and carry some of the load. There is something for everyone to do both in the planning stages now, in the frenzy of the month or two before the event, and at the event itself. If you can't make one or all the planning meetings, let me know so I can be sure and 'save' some work for you - ha! We are trying to keep everyone informed on what is being discussed and decided on and will continue to do so.

In reading some information in newsletters from the past two clubs that held the 2010 and 2012 conferences, I was very concerned that they were 'begging' their members to participate and not let just a handful of people carry the load. I have faith in our members that everyone able will be willing to help in whatever way they can. If at any time I find myself 'begging' for more club participation here in the President's Message, I just can't imagine the disappointment.

Next month is our annual picnic and I'm looking forward to a relaxing evening with everyone. See you there!

Niki Furrh

CLUB NEWS- submitted by Rosario Douglas**COCSS meeting 8-15-13**

Meeting called to order. Motion to approve meetings from last meeting as published. Peggy was not able to attend so we did not get a treasure's report.

Librarian report: Tony mentioned the arrival of a new journal called Cactus and Company.

Old business

Newsletter editor will be travelling till the end of the year so November newsletter will be a short message from Niki. Picnic is next month on the 19th at Joyce's, participants will be playing dirty "Dirty Plant Santa". Bring friends/spouse.

October and November meetings will be at the gardens. There will be a plant exchange as well. Will also have "the doctor is in". Should bring a plant if you have a problem. Will have a raffle that night. Tickets will be one dollar and there will be 4 plants available for the raffle. Members can bring plants to donate. If you don't get the plant you want you can bargain with other people for the plants you like. The Christmas party will be on the 12th at the gardens. Will play "Dirty Santa".

Fred mentioned the petition from the Palomar club to reprint his article. He also mentioned that Minick material now has hadite. For the fall master gardener festival Felder Rushing will be giving a talk.

Mid-states conference meeting on Saturday at 9:30 am at the gardens. Niki and Joyce will be going to the hotel tomorrow to revisit the space available and the number of vendors we may have. We will be discussing programs and other items such as starting to gather items for the hospitality bag. We need a volunteer to oversee the program booklet, working with a printer- several options are available and the volunteer would have a good deal of help with this. There are lots of other misc items to be discussed and volunteers are needed.

New Business

Niki reported that we have been getting enquiries about plants etc from people that have seen our website. It is good news that the newsletter is being looked at.

The meeting was ended and it was followed by Mark Howery's talk about **Attracting suburban birds with landscape plants**. The talk was very informative and it covered a wide variety of birds many of us are familiar with such as robins, cardinals, sparrows, orioles etc. Mark showed the different plants, many of them native plants that can be used in our gardens to enhance the habitat for bird. He mentioned that the 3 critical things that birds need are: food, shelter and water. After the talk we all enjoyed a nice variety of snacks and sweets.

Member Joan Galbraith was celebrating her birthday this month.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.



ANNUAL PICNIC JOYCE'S HOUSE

SEPTEMBER 19TH

BEGINNING AT 6 PM

No Program this month. Instead we are having our annual picnic.



The club will furnish the main dish and members can bring sides and dessert. We will play "Dirty Picnic Plant" -- bring a covered/wrapped plant.

Joyce's address is: **600 N. Pine Street, Midwest City, Oklahoma
73130**



Email: cactibud@cox.net phone: 405-
7371831

Niki will be contacting members next month to organize the food that everyone will bring.



TO ALL CLUBS

Trip to 4 M Ranch in Sonora Texas OCTOBER 18/19/20, 2013

This year's fall trip to the 4M Ranch outside of Sonora, Texas has been set for **October 18-19-20**. So, mark your calendars. If you are new to a club this is a 3 day hunt on a 12,500 acre ranch which we have access to hunt cacti, plants, rocks, fossils and Indian artifacts. Driftwood and plenty of road side hunting on and off the ranch. I-10 around Sonora has plenty of florescent calcite and several types of fossils. The ranch is loaded with flint nodules. The price is **\$120.00** each person for 2 nights in a bunk house, 3 days of hunting, 5 meals, 2 of which will be BBQ (1 steak, 1 chicken). The shooting range will be open on Saturday afternoon.

WATCH YOUR Email ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST FOR HOW TO REGISTER.

Claude H. Townsend 210-655-8959 ctownsend@satx.rr.com

All correspondence with me must have your email and phone number

From the editor:

Dear members: I am sending the September newsletter earlier this month because Mike and I will be gone to Mexico City for a while (work and vacation). Should be back in time to do the October newsletter. I won't be able to prepare a November newsletter since we will be in Southern Africa. Hope to be back to normal with the December newsletter. Mark your calendars for the September picnic and the Christmas party as well as the programs for October and November.

I would also like to thank Joyce Hochtritt for sending me interesting articles and information to use for the newsletter. If you have any materials for the newsletter don't hesitate sending them to me.



**The Central Texas Cactus
& Succulent Society
Presents**

**October 4 - 6, 2013
At the
Carleen Bright Arboretum**



**2013 TACSS
Fall Seminar**



This year the Texas Association of Cactus and Succulent Societies Fall Seminar will be hosted by The Central Texas Cactus and Succulent Society in Woodway, Texas just west of Waco, Texas at the Carleen Bright Arboretum. Come join us Oct. 4-6 for 3 days of cactus and succulent fun. Friday afternoon learn the art of grafting succulents followed by a hamburger cook-out. Indulge your plant enthusiasm by browsing the plant sales tables and checking out the cactus and succulents exhibits. Exercise your bid at the rare plant auction and join the excitement as we dine together Saturday evening. Sunday, finish the weekend off with tours of cactus and succulent gardens and a visit to Central Texas cacti in habitat.

Contact person: Steven Lovecky (254-749-2282)
Find us online at www.tacss.us

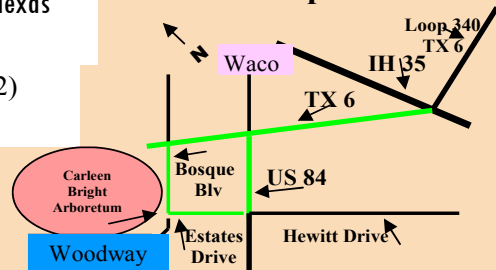
Highlights

- ◆ Excellent Plant Sales
- ◆ Tremendous Speakers
- ◆ Unique Tours
- ◆ Exquisite Banquet and Meals
- ◆ 100s of C & S Enthusiasts
- ◆ Rare Plant Auction



Carleen Bright Arboretum
9001 Bosque Blvd., Woodway, TX
(254) 399-9204

Map



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

September 19th

Annual picnic at Joyce Hochtritt's beginning at 6:00pm

October 17th

7 pm COCSS Monthly meeting

At the Will Rogers Exhibition Center, 3400 NW 36th St., OKC,



Program:

"What Does The CSSA Mean to Us?"

This will be a collaboration of several members. The "Doctor Is In" will also be available

Refreshments: Tony and Niki Furrh

November 21st

7 pm COCSS Monthly meeting

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

Program:

"Ask Not What Your Club Can Do For You But What You Can Do For Your Club".

This will be an informal round table discussion with all attendees.

Refreshments: Joyce Hotchritt

December 12th

Christmas Party

At the Garden Center. Members can begin arriving around 6:00pm with drinks and appetizers provided by the club and dinner to begin around 6:45-7:00pm.

2014 Cactus and Succulent Happenings

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

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

Thank you, Joyce

SUCCULENT PLANTS

By Rosario Douglas

The genus *Rhipsalis*- an epiphytic cactus

Recently we visited the city of Ibagué-Colombia to participate in a Botanical congress. My husband Mike presented two talks and gave an all day workshop about some climatological applications useful for botany and conservation



The congress had participants from the whole country. Ibagué is located about 120 miles SW of the capital Bogotá and it is a relatively small city. The city is at about 3700 feet, with a pleasant climate and a good amount of rain (about 60 inches per year). The congress took place at the University and as soon as we arrived we noticed the nice vegetation around the campus. Large palms of different types and large trees, some with beautiful canopies, were everywhere. These trees were mostly covered with ferns, orchids, bromeliads and a few epiphytic cacti as well.



“The term *epiphytic* derives from the Greek *epi-* (meaning 'upon') and *phyton* (meaning 'plant') called *aerophyte*, *air plant*.. An **epiphyte** is a plant that grows upon another plant (such as a tree) non-parasitically or sometimes upon some other object (such as a building or a telegraph wire), derives its moisture and nutrients from the air, rain, and sometimes from debris accumulating around it. Epiphytes are usually found in the temperate zone (e.g., many mosses, liverworts, lichens and algae) or in the tropics (e.g., many ferns, cacti, orchids, and bromeliads).” Wikipedia

A common misconception is that epiphytic plants are parasitic and damage the host plant. While some plants such as the semi-parasitic (not true epiphytes) mistletoe are harmful to the host plant, most epiphytes such as bromeliads, orchids etc only use their host tree for support and as a substrate. Perhaps the only negative effect their presence may inflict is that when there is an overload of epiphytes, their combined weight can cause branch rupture. Source: Wikipedia

Upper left: The city of Ibagué. Bottom left: an epiphytic *Tillandsia*, note the *Peperomia* growing on lower left. Photos by Mike Douglas

Many epiphytes provide useful habitat for organisms such as ants and frogs. These epiphytes typically live on trees in the tropical rain or cloud forests. The plants grow high above ground. An interesting epiphyte is the so-called tank Bromeliad, which collects water in their funnel-like shaped stems. This water remains inside the tank Bromeliad for a long time thus providing a microhabitat



Some were growing on trees, others where growing out of building roofs. They all looked happy and healthy.



many organisms including ants and frogs. For example, the small poison arrow-dart frog (*Colostethus beebei*) can live its entire life inside these bromeliads utilizing the water stored inside. It is remarkable that such frogs live high above in the tree canopy and never come down to the ground.

During our walks on the University of Ibagué campus, we noticed the epiphytic cacti, Rhipsalis. We have seen these cacti before, but they were easier to appreciate here since many were lower to the ground and easier to see and photograph.



The genus *Rhipsalis*, commonly referred to as mistletoe cactus, was described by Joseph Gaertner in 1788, he actually thought he was naming a new genus of parasitic laurel not realizing it was a cactus. This genus, the largest of epiphytic cactus, is found in moist tropical forests. The center of diversity for this genus is considered to be the Mata Atlantica forests of southeastern Brazil.

According to recent work done by Hunt et. al., 2006, that appeared in the New Cactus Lexicon, *Rhipsalis* has about 35 species. The distribution is primarily through Central America, parts of the Caribbean, Northern and Central South America, but cacti belonging to the genus *Rhipsalis* are also found in Madagascar, Africa and Sri Lanka. This makes *Rhipsalis* the only cactus that has a

“natural” occurrence in the Old World. Source: Wikipedia.

Upper right: *Colostethus beebei*, source Wikipedia Commons. Upper left: University of Tolima campus in Ibagué-Colombia with *Rhipsalis* hanging down (M. Douglas). Middle left: *Rhipsalis baccifera*, source Wikipedia Commons.

An interesting habit of *Rhipsalis* is that most plants grow in a pendant manner (meaning they hang). Most are succulent but to varying degrees. The thickness of the stems is also variable, but most young plants have spines and the spines disappear as the plant matures. Fruits are always berries, some are very colorful while the flowers tend to be white or light yellows and are small.

An interesting plant, it is easy to see why the person naming the genus *Rhipsalis* was not aware he was naming a new cactus genus. With their numerous, long and pendant branches, and their small berry-like fruits, the plants don't look like cacti at all.



Upper left: your editor, Rosario Douglas posing next to a hanging *Rhipsalis* (M.Douglas).



Upper right: Hanging from the roof of a University building, a nice example of *Rhipsalis* sp. (R. Douglas)

Lower right: Another view of the city of Ibagué from a viewpoint at a nearby botanical garden (M.Douglas).



WHAT IS BLOOMING?



Upper left our tiger lily finally bloomed.

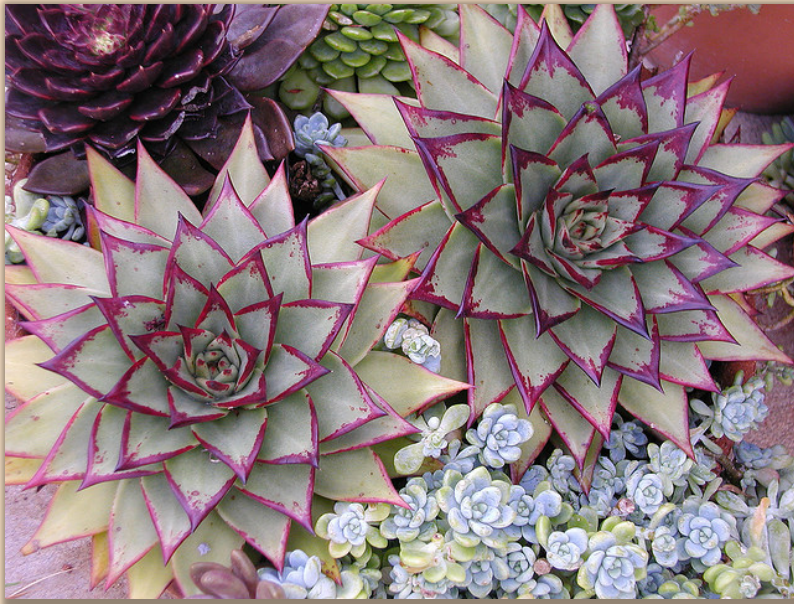
Upper right: the dwarf lilies in our pond started blooming profusely last month and continue this month as well.

Finally lower photo a nice desert rose (*Adenium obseum*) blooming in the greenhouse.

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas

Terms from a book by W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods. The book is titled, **Glossary of succulent plant terms**, published in 1938.

**Agavoides**

Like an Agave

Agglomerate
mass; to cluster

To gather into a

**Alate**

Winged; having wings or wing-like parts

Albicnas

White

Albicaulis

White-stemmed

Upper left: *Echeverria agavoides* an agavoid succulent from the web.

Upper right: An agglomerate (Recycling insulation foam waste), from the web.

Lower left an alate termite. From the web.