



THE OFFSET

December 2013

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
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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

CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Has anyone else noticed that 2013 is almost over? Where did it go? If you've kept your newsletters, it might help to look through 2013 and remind yourself what the club has been involved in the past year, what activities/field trips we took, and what programs were presented. Ideas for programs are always always welcome and we hope members will take a little time before 2014 and think about what might interest them. If anyone wants to present a program (this is an excellent way to learn the topic you are interested in), and the experience gained by presenting programs is priceless. The Vice President Planning Committee usually tries to line up programs for the year in January, so don't be shy about getting involved and expressing some opinions and ideas.



Of course, our main focus for 2014 is the Mid States Cactus and Succulent Conference in June. As the months tick away, we will all need to be more and more involved with a thousand and one details that will need to be taken care of. Please don't be timid about getting involved and don't feel that you have 'no experience' to offer -- experience is *not* needed for this! There is going to be something for *everyone* to do from sitting at the registration table with a bright smile on your face and handing out packets to registrants to helping plan the Meet and Greet Reception to being available at the Public Sale to help with plant sales to helping speakers get set up for their talk to help get things ready for the banquet on Saturday evening to answering miscellaneous questions of registrants regarding the conference itself and OKC to working on registration bags for the registrants and items to go in them to just sitting around at times, talking with people and making some new friends who have similar interests as yours.

If you find that you aren't really able to make the MSC meetings we have but are willing to help where and when you can, let us know and we can offer several areas where we will need help. The conference we held here in OKC in 2008 (?) was the first I had participated in and I can truthfully say it was a great weekend and well worth the time and effort we put into it. If you half way enjoy the Annual Show and Sale, I can guarantee you will doubly enjoy the conference -- will probably work your butt off! -- but you will experience something you probably have not had an opportunity to experience before. Being the host club adds a special element to the conference -- we are not the 'outsiders' but the 'hosts' which seems to initiate a great deal of confidence on our part, letting us all feel like we belong with jobs to do and welcoming guests to our home turf.

I wish you all a peaceful & safe New Year and bring it in in the fashion you love best! For 2014 I hope I can become more of the person my three little pugs (& Arnie the parrot) think I am!

The Best of the Holiday Season To All!
Niki

FROM THE EDITOR

Rosario Douglas

Dear Members:



After 2 months and more than 9000 miles of driving on the left side of the road, Mike and I are back from Southern Africa. The trip was a bit tiring, hot, cold, wet at times, but never boring. We visited South Africa, Namibia and Botswana although we spent most of our time in South Africa. As usual our interests were numerous and we were not only focused on succulents, although we did make a good effort to see as many as we could.

We brought our telescope which we were only able to use 3 times, fortunately these were all very good observing nights with clear skies.

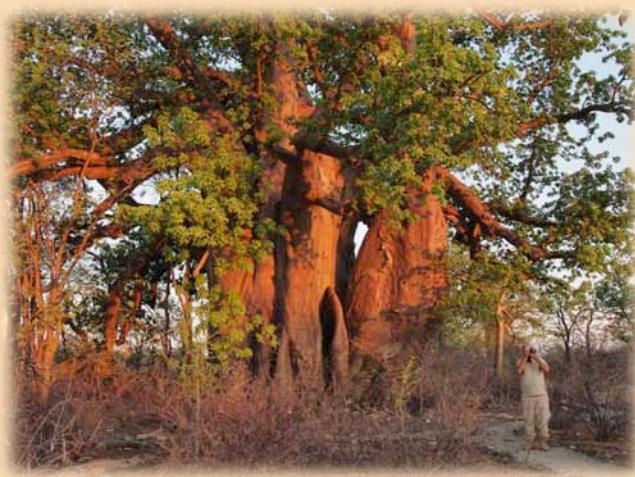


We saw a large number of birds and many mammals in the numerous national parks and reserves we visited.



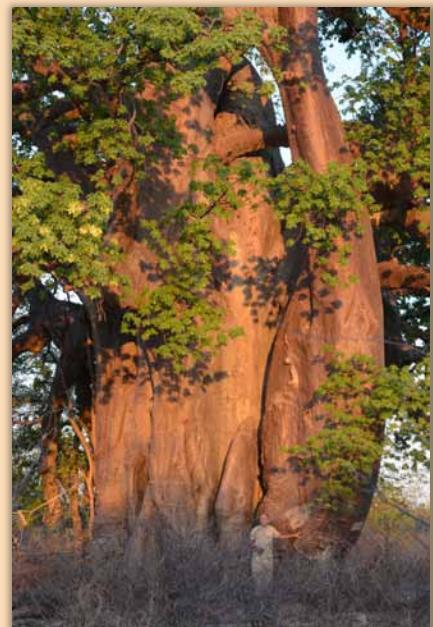
We took more than 11,000 pictures and some video, which will take some time to organize.

For now I will share with you an interesting place we stayed at in Botswana. The baobabs in this area were some of the largest we have seen.



Will start our regular newsletter in January since for now this short newsletter is all I had energy to prepare.

Hope you all have a nice holiday season.



Photos: Upper left: Sign for this interesting lodging option, upper right: the rooms set amongst large Baobabs, Middle left: our room, lower left: an example of a large Baobab, lower right: Another view of Mike next to this large Baobab.

amongst large Baobabs, Middle left: our room, lower left: an example of a large Baobab, lower right: Another view of Mike next to this large Baobab.



CHRISTMAS PARTY



The club's Christmas party will be this Thursday December 12th

Where: Will Rogers Garden Center in Oklahoma City

Time: 6-9 pm. Eating will start around 6:45 pm and we can stay as late as 9 pm.

Activities: Other than eating and visiting with other club members we will also play Dirty Santa. If you plan on participating bring a wrapped gift for each person wanting to play. We will draw numbers and #1 will pick first and then #2 can either pick another wrapped gift or take the gift from #1. If #1 loses their gift, then they pick another and #3 plays. Gifts do not have to be plant/garden related but something you think others might enjoy – price of the gift can be anywhere from \$8-15 although don't focus on that; some people find some really good bargains this time of year, and handmade gifts or a plant are always a treat!



Food: The club will provide Ham, paper goods, coffee/water/tea, condiments. Participating members are asked to contact our president Niki Furrh (tnfurrh@cox.net) to let her know what dish they would like to bring.

If the weather turns bad *check your emails by 5:00pm or call Niki at 722-1718.*

CLUB NEWS

Minutes - COCSS Meeting of October 17, 2013

Meeting was called to order by Niki Furrh, president.

Hapless member Libby Mercer was drafted as temporary secretary for the purpose of recording these minutes.

11 members present

Gail, a new member is present and is welcomed.

The club has a bank balance of \$6,041.41 per treasurer Peggy Anglin.

The club now has 44 members which is an all time high.

Motion made by Joyce to approve treasurer's report. Was seconded and approved.

Last month's minutes were printed in the newsletter. Motion made to approve, was seconded and minutes approved.

The club gave a special thanks to Peggy for her great job on the newsletter!

The picnic was enjoyed by all and photos posted.

Next meeting topic is "Ask not what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club." Will be a round table discussion and Show & Tell.

Christmas party is December 12, 2013 at the Garden Center.

Will be a Dirty Santa gift giving.

Joyce asked about center pieces to give away. Niki will talk to Joan about those.

Issue of officer terms was raised. Joyce moved to retain the current officers until 2015 because of the conference being held in OKC this year. Tony seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

It was announced that a planning meeting for the 2014 Midstates Conference is scheduled at 10 a.m. on December 14, 2013 at Peggy's (56th & Miller).

One speaker is confirmed for the Conference. Mr. Nick Plata. He is a great-grandson of Quanah Parker.

Quanah Parker was a Comanche chief. He was the last leader of the powerful Quahadi band before they surrendered and were sent to a reservation in Indian Territory. He was the son of Comanche chief Peta Nocona and Cynthia Ann Parker who was captured at the age of nine and assimilated into the tribe. In Indian Territory, Quanah Parker became a wealthy rancher and continued to lead his people.

CLUB NEWS

Rod Moesel might be another speaker at the Conference.

Peggy announced the Master Gardener tours will be October 26, 2013, from noon to 6 p.m. at the OSU extension center at 10th & Portland in OKC. There will be seed sales, vendors, food, etc. Specially recommended is the speaker, Felder Rushing, who is scheduled for 3 p.m. Be sure to go see the beautiful berm created by our Tony Furrh.

Boot camp for Master Gardners is 3 Saturdays if anyone wants to go.

Is anyone interested in organizing a tour of the Devon Tower?

The Conservatory rebuilding project is complete but we don't know what they want or expect from our club. Will they return the plants previously donated by the club for the old conservatory to the new conservatory? Tony will check. The club won't do anything until he finds out more.

The dues are due for the International Sansevieria Club, UK. They can be paid online. Peggy moved to pay the dues, was seconded and passed.

Tony announced receipt of three new journals, Sansaveria #30, Bradley??? and C&S Journal.

Niki Furrh presented a informative program with colorful graphics on the four principles(?) of the CSSA.

1. Educate selves and others
2. Provide information
3. Conservation
4. Discovery

Our club, the Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society was formed in April of 1968 and the first meeting was here at the Garden Center. Our club is affiliated with the CSSA.

Joyce Hochtritt presented an educational program about Overwintering Cactus whether in a greenhouse or a basement, garage or your home.

A raffle was held. The prizes were plants donated by members. Other plants were brought for adoption. After refreshments, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Libby Mercer

CLUB NEWS

PLANNING MEETING

A planning meeting for the 2014 Midstates Conference is scheduled at 10 a.m. on December 14, 2013 at Peggy's (56th & Miller). All members are welcome and are actually encourage to get involved. Our club needs all of you able to help out to come forward and start getting involved in the planning of the Mid-States Conference.



“Thinking of you”

As you all know, long time member Joyce Hochtritt is having knee surgery tomorrow. Wish her a speedy recovery and we hope she can make it to the planning meeting on Saturday.

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

2013

COCSS Christmas party 6-9 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center in Oklahoma City.



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

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

by Rosario Douglas

Decorating With a Christmas Cactus

Article by Melissa Mayntz
Lawn and garden Holiday decoration



The Christmas cactus, which can be any one of several cultivars of *Schlumbergera* plants, is a popular holiday decoration because its winter blooms add bright swaths of color on the plant's green, lobed foliage. With flowers ranging from white to pale peach to pastel pink, magenta, and red, these plants are great for indoor holiday decorating.

Decorating Ideas for a Christmas Cactus

With its beautiful blooms and rich foliage, Christmas cacti need little embellishment to be holiday decorations, but a few accents and carefully chosen displays can make this plant even more stunning. Because these cacti can live for years and develop long, trailing tendrils, it is essential to display them so the full foliage is visible and is not cramped or crowded. Small Christmas cactus plants can be displayed anywhere regular houseplants are appropriate, but larger plants do best as a centerpiece on a large table or on their own plant stand where the trailing lobes can be freely displayed.

To add even more decoration to the plant, consider:

Adding a ribbon or bow to the pot that complements the bloom color.

Placing the plant in a decorative pot for the holidays, such as a seasonally themed pot or a whimsical option such as a Santa boot. (Note: Avoid repotting, and instead choose a decorative pot that the plant's regular pot can easily fit inside.)

Add seasonal holiday picks or other accents to the pot to add more color and texture, such as berries, pine boughs or candy canes.

With just a few simple touches, a Christmas cactus can be the star of your holiday decorations, and properly cared for, these plants can grow larger and more luxurious for many holidays to come.

You can read the full article at:

http://www.agway.com/know_how/lawn_and_garden/holiday_decorating/decorating_with_a_christmas_cactus.html