



THE OFFSET

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

NEWSLETTER OF THE THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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MEETING At Will Rogers Gardens 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).

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CLUB NEWS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Freddy Hill

Being part of the Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society has been a blessing and a growth experience for me. I have continually learned more about succulents, about gardening in general, and how to use that knowledge to create displays that inspired others. Being President of CSSA for the last couple of years has led me to continue to grow as a gardener. As a club, we have had some great Exhibitions and Sales; thanks to members efforts we have enjoyed some great field trips. We are on the verge of growing our club in numbers and in participation in and out of the meeting room. COCSS has a lot to offer its members and others in the gardening community. Our interests can overlap into several other local clubs, which could strengthen all groups involved. I hope our continued efforts at outreach through home tours, public speaking and exposure through our Exhibition and Sale will bring new members who want to grow their gardening and plant knowledge.

This has been a very difficult year for Shela & I. Knee surgery last February, along with the major complications of hernia surgery in May have kept me away from my gardens and the work I love for most of this year. Physical constraints I am still working to overcome are making prepping for winter more difficult than I could have imagined. During my 11+ weeks in the hospital, when I was aware at all, I dwelt on what kind of life I would have if I survived. One thing that gave me focus and a goal was the favorite garden photos from home Shela and my sister Peggy displayed in my window; another was the prayers and visits from my gardening friends. Looking at the photos and being able to talk about them kept me on the path toward recovery. With a lot of help, most of my succulents are now in a new home or stuffed in the garage for the winter. I look forward to learning what I can accomplish through the winter with the new physical restrictions my condition brought about.

I am excited about what the future will bring for the Central Oklahoma Cactus & Succulent Society. Our new members are showing a great spirit of involvement and an eagerness to learn more about the plants we study and collect. Now, a new slate of officers is in place and doing a great job. I hope all club members will contribute their time, their talents, and their writing skills to make COCSS better than ever. Thanks to you for all the work you have done.

Freddy Hill

CSSA Corner

November 2011

All CSSA members should be sure and vote for directors using the ballot in the To The Point in the next Journal.

The first ever Myron Kimnach Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Myron at Huntington Succulent Symposium on September 3. The award will be presented at the Symposium in non-Convention years.

Provided by Fred Hill

CLUB NEWS

CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 15th at 7 pm you are invited to attend the 2011 Christmas Party at the home of Joyce and Jim Hochtritt, 600 N. Pine Ave., Midwest City, Oklahoma. 405-737-1831 or Cactibud@cox.net

We will be having our Dirty Santa Gift Exchange and I'm hoping to have some other games we can play to win plants and/ or some other door prizes. Each person wishing to participate should bring a wrapped gift.

Everything will be provided at the party so please do not bring any food, ice, utensils, etc.

Guests are welcome to attend the Party and RSVP's should be given to the Hochtritts at least a week ahead of time so an accurate head count can be made.



Will be posting the menu in the December newsletter.

CLUB NEWS

FROM THE SECRETARY

Minutes of Meeting
October 20, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center by Secretary Niki Furrh with 12 members in attendance. Treasurer's report was given by Peggy Anglin and the minutes from the last meeting were approved as published. Librarian Tony Furrh indicated a few new publications had been received and were ready for checkout.

OLD BUSINESS: The Christmas Party will be held at the home of Jim and Joyce Hochtritt on December 15th at 7:00pm. We will be playing Dirty Santa again and a wrapped gift should be brought by each person wishing to participate. Final details including what food items members need to bring, if any, will be discussed at the November meeting. Guests are welcome to attend the Party and RSVP's should be given to the Hochtritts at least a week ahead of time so an accurate head count can be made.

As discussed last month, the January meeting is currently being planned as a Business/Planning Meeting. There will be no program and all 2012 officers are required to attend. Any interested member of the club is welcome to attend. Niki will have a printed agenda for the meeting with 'discussion and planning of programs for the first six months of the year' having first priority. Other items submitted for discussion will be placed in order of urgency and importance with the hope that we can address all issues, time permitting. We shall try to be at the center and ready to start the meeting by 7:15pm and will need to adjourn by 8:50pm, allowing time to put up chairs and vacate the room by 9:00pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The last order of business was the election of officers for 2012. A motion was made, seconded, and approved by members in attendance to accept the recommended slate of officers suggested by the Board. These include: **PRESIDENT:** Niki Furrh, **VICE-PRESIDENT:** Rosario Douglas, **SECRETARY:** Mary Robertson, **TREASURER:** Peggy Anglin, **LIBRARIAN:** Tony Furrh, **EDITOR:** Rosario Douglas, **CSSA Affiliate:** Joyce Hochtritt

While enjoying refreshments brought by Niki and Tony Furrh, the Plants Of The Month were presented to the group. Members participating were Joyce Hochtritt, Debbie Trimbel, Mary Robertson, and Tony Furrh (*although Tony didn't bring 'quite' the right plant, he's still being given credit for the effort!*)

PROGRAM: The evening's program consisted in one of the Desert Speaks DVDs – The Prickly Pear. It appeared that most everyone enjoyed this film and we all learned a few new things about the prickly pear!

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45pm. The November meeting will be at the WRGC and Joyce Hochtritt will present a program on Aloes.

Niki Furrh, Secretary

FROM THE EDITOR**Rosario Douglas**

I wanted to let you know that in October I sent a message to many other clubs in the country and some outside the country to see if they wanted to exchange newsletters. I have received about 20 responses and most of them have been very positive. I would like to thank the editors of the different cactus clubs that have responded to my message and have let me know that they would like to participate in the newsletter exchange. Also thank you to the members, that have let me know that they like newsletter.

Below is a small survey about your interest in our hobby. It should make interesting reading to learn more about how our members became interested in cactus and succulents.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!!



Male Wild turkey in Madera Canyon, Arizona. Photo by Mike Douglas

Dear members:

Here is a short survey I would like you to complete. I will publish the results in the future. You can respond via email or you can mail me your survey to: Rosario Douglas, 1501 Goldfinch Ct. Norman, OK 73071

- 1- How did you become interested in cactus and succulents?
- 2- Do you like cactus, succulents or both?
- 3- Do you have a favorite cactus and / or succulent?
- 4- How long have you been a member of the club?
- 5- What kind of programs would you like to see during our monthly meetings?
- 6- What kind of field trips would you be interested in?
- 7- What subjects would you like to see discussed in the newsletter?
- 8- How many plants do you have? Do you have a greenhouse?
- 9- Do you shop online or locally for your plants?
- 10- Are you interested in cultivation information? What are your most pressing cultivation concerns?

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

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

This month Joyce Hochtritt will present a program titled:

Small and Miniature Aloes

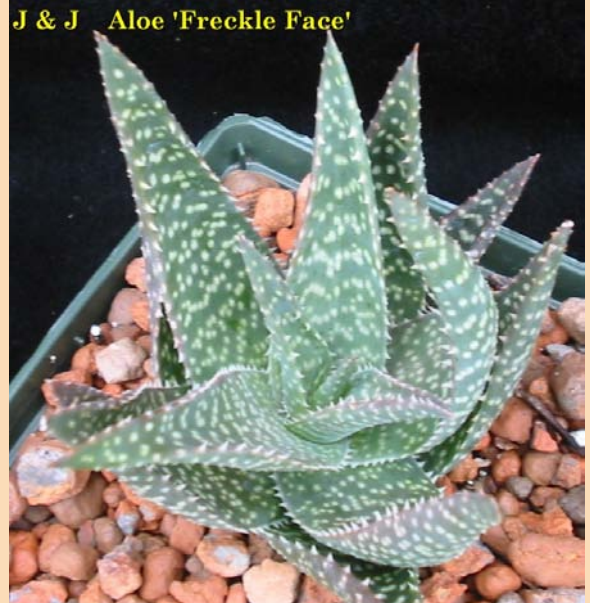
The program will try to illustrate the fact that there are many small Aloe species as well as hybrids that are fun to grow. How to grow them and their care will also be discussed. So come and join us for this program.

Meeting is at 7:30 at the Will Rogers Garden Center in Oklahoma City. Photos from Joyce's website at: <http://www.jjcactus-succulents.net/>

J & J Aloe 'Amaku Mano'



J & J Aloe 'Freckle Face'



J & J Aloe 'Tegelberg's Triumph'



Aloe mutabilis

J & J



SUCCULENT OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Douglas



Huernia asperia. Photo by Winfried Bruenken. Wikipedia

The genus ***Huernia*** (family Asclepidaceae) consists of some 30-60 species of stem succulents from Eastern and Southern Africa.

The flowers are five-lobed, usually somewhat more funnel- or bell-shaped than in the closely related genus *Stapelia*, and often striped vividly in contrasting colors or tones, some glossy, others matt and wrinkled depending on the species concerned.

To pollinate, the flowers attract flies by emitting a scent similar to that of carrion. The genus is considered close to the genera *Stapelia* and *Hoodia*.



Huernia primuliana Photo from Wikipedia...

The name is in honor of Justin Heurnius (1587–1652) a Dutch missionary who is reputed to have been the first collector of South African Cape plants. His name was actually mis-spelt by the collector.

Various species of *Huernia* are considered famine food by the inhabitants of Konso special woreda in southern Ethiopia. The local inhabitants, who call the native species of this genus *baqibaqa* indiscriminately, eat it with prepared balls of sorghum; they note that *baqibaqa* tastes relatively good and has no unpleasant side-effects when boiled and consumed.

As a result, it is encouraged by the local farmers to grow on stone walls forming the terraces, where it does not compete with other crops....From Wikipedia

CACTI OF THE MONTH

By Rosario Douglas



Ariocarpus fissuratus

Ariocarpus

The following description of the genus *Ariocarpus* are parts of an article by Ross Shumway published in the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society (*Espinas y Flores*) in April 2001

Ariocarpus: The Living Rocks of the New World by Ross Shumway.

Photo in greenhouse
Sept 2011 by Rosario Douglas

Ariocarpus are among the oddest and most interesting of all cacti. Their native habitat is northeastern Mexico and on into southern parts of Texas. *Ariocarpus* are unlike many other spherical or columnar cacti in that most of the main body of the plant typically grows underground. In habitat, often all that is seen is the many pointed star pattern formed by the elongated tubercles protruding from the ground. The top of the plant is often nearly level with the surrounding ground and thus can make these hidden plants very difficult to find, when not in flower. *Ariocarpus* flower in the fall. The cryptic nature and roughed texture of these plants have earned them the nickname "Living Rocks". Their habitat can reach extremely high temperatures throughout the summer, and so the plants have adapted to difficult conditions.

The Species *Ariocarpus* were originally named by in 1838 by Michel Scheidweiler, a Belgian botanist. In 1839, however, Charles Lemaire published the name *Anhalonium* for the same plant genus. Lemaire's reputation as an authority on cactus led to the widespread use of the name *Anhalonium*. It was not until around 1900 that the name *Ariocarpus* began to be accepted, based on its priority of publication. E.F. Andersen details the history of *Ariocarpus* in his excellent book **The Cactus Family** (© 2001). Lumpers and splitters still seem to be playing with what plants fall under the genus *Ariocarpus*.

Currently there are anywhere from 6-8 species depending on what book you read.

BOOK REVIEW

By Tony Furrh

GYMNOCALYCIUM IN HABITAT AND CULTURE



GRAHAM CHARLES

This is perhaps to date the most comprehensive book on the subject of *Gymnocalyciums*. The preface, by the author is well thought out and not only explains his reasons for doing the book but also explains the progression of the species throughout history in publications, and the now extremely valuable internet that makes pictures and text of gymnos available that cannot be found elsewhere. He notes the gateway to this valuable information as The Cactus and Succulent Plant Mall at www.cactus-mall.com. Mr. Charles explains that his decision to write this book was based on two primary objectives. The first was to make available in English some of the information about *Gymnocalyciums* that has only been published in other languages. Secondly, to illustrate the text with good quality color pictures of plants of documented origin both in habitat and in cultivation. This is because of the fact that it is so easy to inadvertently create hybrids in cultivation. Many of these in collections today are not pure species, so without a documented wild origin, they are unreliable for serious study. A well-documented history of the genus covers two pages and another two pages deal with characteristics and classifications, which are most helpful to the novice collector when trying to identify a plant.

As pointed out by Mr. Taylor in the forward, one soon appreciates the documentation, location data via maps, and the way the material is presented in an objective manner rather than "this is the author's opinion and that is the way it is". This is refreshing and lets the reader know that these are the facts as we know them to date, but more informative information may come forward in the future. The photographs are clear and sharp and present the subject in cultivation as well as in habitat where possible. A type habitat photo is shown for each section, which is helpful to know when trying to cultivate any plant. In general, there is a lot of very helpful data explained in several pages on cultivation, natural habitats and distribution along with treatment of recognizable species and subspecies.

All in all this is a book I would highly recommend as an extremely good source of identifying plants as well as a good overall horticultural read, with tons of historical information, excellent photography and well backed data about the species *Gymnocalyciums*. It provides a bridge to a plethora of knowledge gathered from non-English data that is both historical and relates the author's own personal field work and other studies. We would not be privy to this information had Graham Charles not put this book together. *A must read for those seeking identification of their Gymnocalyciums.*

THE CULTIVATION CORNER

Reprinted (with permission) from the November 2011 issue vol 3, No 11 of "**Succulent Morsels**" a newsletter of the Colorado Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW TO GRAFT TWO CACTI TOGETHER?

From Terry Hewitt's "The Complete Book of Cacti & Succulents", here's the step-by-step answer to flat grafting. "Choose a healthy vigorous stock with a diameter similar to or a little larger than that of the intended scion (graft). *Echinopsis* species are a good choice. Ensure your hands and equipment are clean and don't touch either of the cut surfaces as they are very vulnerable to fungal infection until the graft unites. A successful graft requires that both the water-storing tissue and the central transport tissue, or core, of the scion and stock must be in contact. If the diameters of the two plants are different, the scion may need to be positioned off-center to create the correct "match".

Gentle, even pressure must be maintained for about two weeks to hold the scion together while the graft unites. This can be accomplished with two wide rubber bands (for small pots), two length of string and weighted at the ends for taller plants, and if the cacti are spiny, cut a couple of strips from old nylon stockings and stretch them at right angles over the scion and hook the ends onto spines on either side of the stock.



Cut horizontally through the stock about 1 in. below the growing point. Remove the top. Make sure central core tissue is clearly exposed.



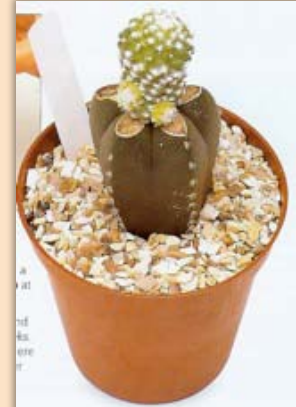
Bevel edges of the cut to remove 1/4 in. of skin all around the stock to prevent hard skin from holding the scion off the stock.



Cut through scion at the base. Bevel 1/4 in. of skin around the scion (see inset). Position cut surfaces together so their central core tissues touch.

Firmly rotate the scion to remove any air pockets. Secure the scion to the stock with rubber bands, string, or other device. Place the grafted plant in a bright airy location, (not full sun) at least a temp of 50 deg. F.

If successful, the scion and stock should unite in about two weeks. Then feed and water as normal. When active growth is observed—in about 4 weeks—then remove the rubber bands.



WHAT IS BLOOMING?



a- *Lithops dorotheae*

b- *Pachypodium lealii*

c- *Delosperma cooperii*

d- *Uncarina roeoesliana*

All plants were photographed in our greenhouse except for *Delosperma cooperii*, a very winter hardy South African succulent that has survived extreme heat and cold in our outdoor cactus garden.

WHAT IS BLOOMING?

f

*Rhytidocaulon
macrolobum*

This is a member of
the Asclepidaceae
family found in
southwestern Arabia



g



g- *Lithops* sp.

h- *Mammillaria sartori*

All three plants were blooming
late October and they were all
photographed in our
greenhouse.

Photos by Mike Douglas

h



CACTIBUD CORNER**Cactibud's Corner by Joyce Hochtritt**

November, 2011

Hope everyone has gotten most of their plants into a winter resting place. Things to which out for are wet soil and insects. For any indoor plants you'll want keep an eye out for Fungus Gnats or Soil Gnats. Fungus Gnats are distinguished from Whiteflies because they are tiny, dingy grey flying insects instead of white flying insects. Fungus Gnat larvae, tiny worms found in the top inch or two of your soil, feed mostly on organic debris, fungi, algae, etc. While doing this, they often nibble the roots of young seedlings. Your plants will often outgrow them, so they may be more of a nuisance than a real threat to plant health. For more info about Fungus Gnats or other insect problems (mealybugs, whitefly, scale, aphids, and spider mites) do a Google search? There's lots of information out there!

Well, it's the first week of November and I still have seven large cacti and 2 flats of Fouquieria to get into the greenhouse. This year at J&J I've been taking my time getting things back in the greenhouse. It's been fun going through the plants, doing some re-potting, and making cuttings. One of my goals this fall was to get everything off the floor. So far I have about 90% now on the benches.

Fall is the time of the year several species of cactus and succulents bloom. Here at J & J we have dozens of Aloes in bloom, a few late blooming Adenium, and also many species of Ariocarpus are in bloom at this time.



Aloe sp. in bloom



Adenium sp. in bloom

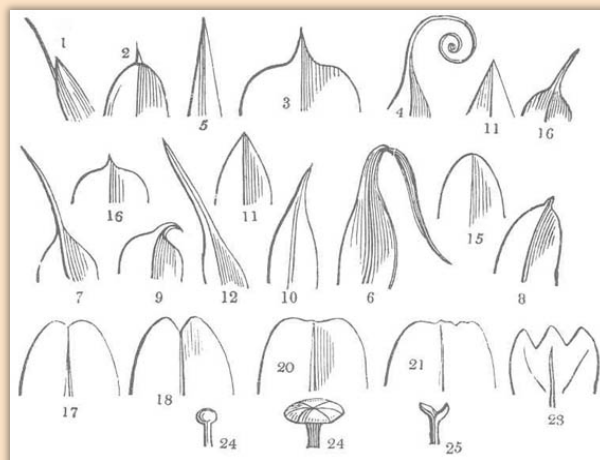
THE BOTANICAL CORNER

By Rosario Douglas

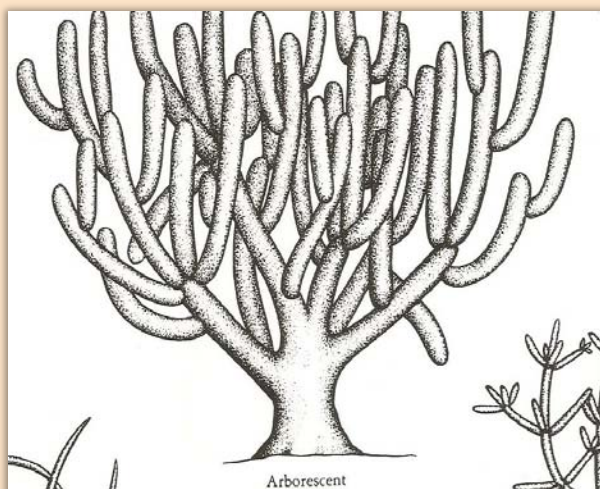
We have all seen them, but sometimes it is not a bad idea to review the meaning of some botanical terms. Therefore, I will be including this glossary of plant anatomy since many of the terms apply to cactus and succulents. I compiled this glossary using 1) The Cactus Museum at www.CactusMuseum.com, 2) Wikipedia, 3) A glossary put together by John Chippindale of Leeds England, 4) CactiGuide.com at <http://cactiguide.com/glossary/> and Cactuspedia at <http://www.cactuspedia.info/index.htm>. This is a rather long list of terms, so I will present succulent-relevant ones in increments of 5-10 terms in subsequent newsletters.

BOTANICAL TERMS

Acicular	Needle shaped
Acuminate	Tapering to a point
Adventitious bud	Buds appearing in an unusual place e.g buds in leaves as is the case in plants in the genus <i>Kalanchoe</i> .
Annulate	Ringed or banded
Apex	Tip, the highest point
Arborescent	Treelike in size and form
Areole	An important diagnostic feature of cacti, and it identifies them as a family distinct from other succulent plants.[1] The areoles on cacti are clearly visible; they generally appear as small light- to dark-colored bumps, out of which grow clusters of spines. From Wikipedia
Axis	The main stem of a plant.



Above drawing describing Acicular.
Source: Lindley, John. 1848. Illustrated Dictionary of Botanical Terms.



Above an example of Arborescence. From **Cactaceae** with illustrated keys of all tribes, sub-tribes and genera by W. Taylor and Thor Methven Bock.

FUTURE EVENTS/LOCAL HAPPENINGS

By Joyce Hochtritt

November 17, 2011, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: Small and Miniature Aloes by Joyce Hochtritt

Refreshments: Ralph Shadid

December 15, 2011, 7:00 pm, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Christmas Party at the home of Joyce and Jim Hochtritt, 600 N. Pine Ave., Midwest City, OK. More info to Come!

2012 Cactus and Succulent Happenings in the Region

January ?, 2012, COCSS Board Meeting, Time ?, Place ?

February 16, 2012, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program:

Refreshments:

March 15, 2012, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program:

Refreshments:

March 31 – April 1, 2012, Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, **Denver Botanic Gardens**, Denver, CO.

April 14 – 15, 2012, Austin Cactus and Succulent Society's Spring Show and Sale, **Zilker Botanical Gardens**, Austin, TX.

April, 19, 2012, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program:

Refreshments:

April 21 – 22, 2012, Cactus and Succulent Society of Tulsa's Spring Show and Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa, OK.

April 26 – 27- 28, 2012, San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's Annual Show and Sale, San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX.

May 17, 2012, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's monthly program and business meeting 7:30 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program:

Refreshments:

June 16 – 17, 2012, Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, 3400 NW36th St., Oklahoma City, OK.

<http://www.cactus-mall.com/clubs/cocss.html>

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.

<http://www.midstatesconference.org/>

September 22 23, 2012, Cactus and Succulent Society's Fall Show and Sale, Tulsa Garden Center, Tulsa, OK.

More information to come!

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