

THE OFFSET



Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society

NOVEMBER 2017

Editor: Rosario Douglas



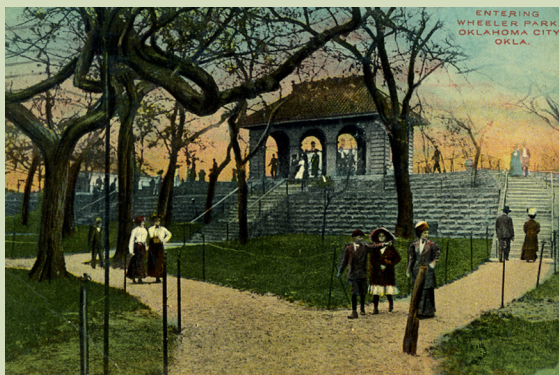
Meeting time: 7:00 pm Third Thursday of the month.

Location: Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City

Echinocereus reichenbachii subsp. baileyi
in the Wichita Mountains NWR, Oklahoma.
Photo by Mike Douglas.

Oklahomacactus.com

November 16 meeting



History and Significance of Parks

by Bryan Dougherty

Time: 7:00 pm

Refreshments: Peggy Holland

Place: Will Rogers Garden Center - Oklahoma City



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Oklahomacactus.com

November 2017



Vice-President's message

We are rapidly heading into winter although we still have some nice Fall color in the area and some not-so-cold days to look forward to. As some of you may already know, some members of the club, including President Niki Furrh, are experiencing health issues that make it difficult for them to remain engaged with all the activities associated with the club. Niki was ill this month and spent some time at the hospital and later in recovery. Tony reported that she is home now and was going to start physical therapy fairly soon. Lets all wish her a speedy recovery and in the meantime I will be acting President until we hold elections. Elections typically are held in October or November, but this year we will wait a bit to see how Niki's health situation develops. The board will meet in January and we shall decide at that time how to best proceed.

Long-time member and CSSA affiliate, Joyce Hochtritt will be having hip replacement surgery this month. We wish her well and hope she can recover fast enough to join us at our annual Christmas party.

Mathew Baginski will be replacing Tony Furrh as the librarian, a position held by Tony for a long time. The club has been fortunate to have such a long-serving librarian. On that subject the program for January will be related to our extensive and valuable library so that members, especially new members, become reacquainted or more familiar with the library and the procedure for checking out books.

Our Christmas party will be December 21 at the Saltgrass Steak House in Oklahoma City (445 W Interstate 240 Service Rd #13, Oklahoma City, OK 73159). More details will be forthcoming. Time is 6 pm and we will be playing dirty Santa (gift from \$10-\$15) so bring a gift to participate.

There will be free plant raffles at our monthly meetings starting in November. Robert Millison, our secretary, has graciously volunteered to bring raffle plants for our monthly meetings. The club will purchase these from J&J Cactus nursery and Robert will pick them up and bring them to our monthly meetings.

See you at the meeting.

Remember that all the newsletters since 2011 are available on our webpage at: Oklahomacactus.com Follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Oklahomacactus) to read about events and miscellaneous information about succulents. If you enjoy these pages share them with your friends.



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Bio of our November speaker

BRIAN DOUGHERTY, FASLA

Brian Dougherty is a Licensed Landscape Architect in Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design in 1978 from Oklahoma State University, and returned in 1981 to earn a Master's Degree in Trade and Industrial Education with an emphasis in Grounds Management. Brian served 15 years with OSU in Oklahoma City as a faculty member and later as the Department Head and Division Head at the John E. Kirkpatrick Horticulture Center.

Since May of 1998 Brian has served as the program director of the Parks and Public Spaces Initiative and the Margaret Annis Boys Trust at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. Under Brian's guidance the Foundation has assisted in the implementation of numerous community beautification and environmental projects every year. The OCCF Clean & Beautiful Schools project has also assisted more than 100 elementary schools in Oklahoma County with campus improvement and enhancement plans and continues to host the Landscape Maintenance Network Seminars twice a year.

Over the years Brian has accumulated a large collection of historic books, pictures and other publications documenting the value of planning, planting and maintenance of public grounds. He often makes presentations highlighting and documenting the importance of parks and public grounds in our communities. Brian also co-hosted radio Garden Programs on both WKY and on KTOK every Saturday for 8 years answering gardening questions and discussing horticulture and beautification topics. Brian hung up his headphones to spend more time restoring 80 acres of pastures and native habitats at his family's farm at Hinton with his wife and family.

Brian was appointed by Governors Belmon and Keating to the Oklahoma State Board of Architects and Landscape Architects serving three terms. Following those appointments he served two terms as the Oklahoma Chapter Trustee for the American Society of Landscape Architects and completed his tenure as the National Vice President of Membership. He also serves as a Trustee for the Oklahoma City Riverfront Redevelopment Authority, the Riverfront Design Committee, the Board of Directors for Automobile Alley and the Citizens Oversight Committee for the MAPS 3 Riverfront projects. In addition Brian also serves on the OSU OKC Horticulture Advisory board, Oklahoma County OSU Extension Advisory Board and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments Encompass 2040 Citizens Advisory Committee. In July of last year Brian was selected and appointed back on the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Architects, Landscape Architects and Registered Interior Designers by Governor Fallén.

In 1998, Brian was named as the first Landscape Architect, 'Artist in Residence' by the Oklahoma State Arts Council. He co-authored a publication by the Community Foundation titled "Parks and Related Public Facilities in Oklahoma County: a Baseline Report" which received a state award through the Oklahoma Chapter of ASLA. In 2007, Brian was nominated by the Oklahoma Chapter and inducted as a Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects at the annual National Meeting in San Francisco for his service to the profession. On November 12, 2009, Brian was recognized and received the Neighborhood Alliance 'Board of Directors Honor Award' at their annual banquet for his 'continuing commitment to beautifying neighborhoods, parks and green spaces throughout all of Oklahoma City'.



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Minutes of last meeting

Robert Millison



COCSS was privileged to have Bill Utley from the Fort Worth Cactus & Succulent Society as our special guest speaker. Mr. Utley presented a program titled "My Experience With Dyckias & Small Aloes". The first part of his program focused on Dyckias; he discussed their native environment and presented numerous pictorial examples of Dyckias and their hybrids. The range of colors/sizes, shapes was very impressive. Propagation by seed and offsets was discussed. He also showed some slides of Dyckia's growing in his yard. Mr. Utley then presented a brief presentation of a Huernia that produced seed pods; seedlings from the parent plant showed an impressive range of flower colors/shapes, most likely indicating that the parent plant cross-bred with another plant. He then progressed to his presentation on small aloes, showing numerous slides of various smaller aloes. His slides showed a wide variety of leaf shapes/colors that can be found in the smaller aloes. Cultivation and propagation of the small aloes was discussed. Mr. Utley was kind enough to provide numerous plants distributed to members via raffle. Thank You Bill Utley for the fine presentation!

The Business meeting was called to order at 8:10pm with 18 members and one guest present. The Treasurer reported a bank balance of \$10,423.43.

Old Business:

Attendees discussed the recent Zoo Tour and summer picnic.

New Business:

The Christmas party was discussed. Joyce motioned that it be held at Sal-Grass Steakhouse; motioned was seconded. It is scheduled for Thursday 12-21-17 @6pm to be held at Salt Grass Steakhouse (not sure which location: I-240 Service Rd & S. Penn). The club covers the cost of the meal. All paid members are welcome to attend; a Single membership covers one meal; a Family membership covers two meals. All members attending are asked to bring a Dirty Santa gift valued at \$10-\$15.

Rosario reported that Matt has agreed to be the new COCSS Librarian.

Show/Sale responsibilities were discussed. Joyce will be contacting the vendors. Robert has volunteered to oversee the Show part of the Show/Sale with help from Sarah and Fred.

Joyce suggested that COCSS contact other clubs regarding possible out-of-town speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm.



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Club News

Our October speaker Bill Utley, sent a message letting us know what a great time he and his wife Mary had coming over to speak at our club. Bill brought some really nice giveaway plants and we all thank him for that. He also said: I would like for you to relay a message to the lady who brought the *Huernia plant* to your meeting. She donated the plant and Mark passed out cuttings from it. I got a cutting. So, I would like to thank her and to tell her the name of the plant. She said she had been trying to find out the name of it. It is a *Huernia macrocarpa*.

Thank you Shirley for sharing your amazing plant with the members.

Happenings *Joyce Hochtritt and Rosario Douglas*

November 16: COCSS Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm – Will Rogers Exhibition Center

Program: **History and Significance of Parks** by *Brian Dougherty*

Refreshments: Peggy Holland

December 21 Christmas Party. Location: Saltgrass Steakhouse in Oklahoma City. Time: 6 pm. Will be playing dirty Santa so bring a gift to participate (\$10-15 value).

2018

June 15-16-17 Mark your calendars for our annual Show&Sale at the Will Rogers Garden Center in Oklahoma City

We would like to welcome new members: **Harris Brad from Coweta, Carol Thomson from Edmond, David Thomas and Molly O'Mealy from Norman**

Our Facebook page currently has 418 followers. Check our Facebook page if you have not and share if you like it.



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DORMANCY IN SOME SUCCULENTS *by Rosario Douglas*

We had a small taste of winter and now we can enjoy another week or so of good weather. While we are getting ready for winter in the Northern Hemisphere, remember that the opposite is happening in the Southern Hemisphere. Spring is coming south of the Equator. Some succulent plants like *Conophytums* and *Lithops* (both from South Africa – Southern Hemisphere) have developed survival strategies to cope with the heat and lack of water. During this period of “dormancy” these succulents develop an outer covering or sheath that protect the plant. At this time they look dead, but wait, don't pull that plant and toss it in the trash, it may be alive. Come Spring (or Fall if you are growing those plants in the Northern Hemisphere), they come back to life and begin to bloom. A member of our club has some South African succulents growing in his greenhouse. They are currently blooming profusely and are a feast for the senses. The flowers are stunning and many of them have fragrant flowers thus permeating the greenhouse with their sweet aroma. Here are some pictures of the “before” and “after” of the first watering of the season, showing the amazing transformation from looking dead to coming back to life.



a. Before (our hot and dry summer months. *Conophytum* sp.

b. After (our late Fall/early winter. Plant beginning to flower.

c. Another example of the beautiful blooms *Lithops* are able to produce once they come back to life after their hot and dry dormancy period.

All photos by Mike Douglas taken in the greenhouse – Summer and October, 2017.



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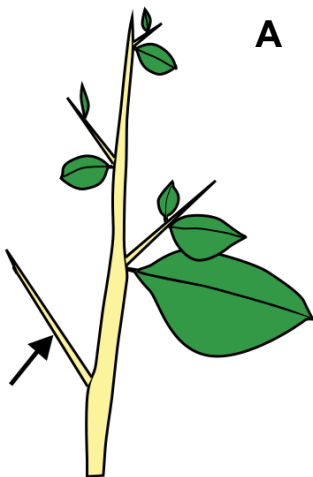
Article of the month

Spines and thorns *by Rosario Douglas*

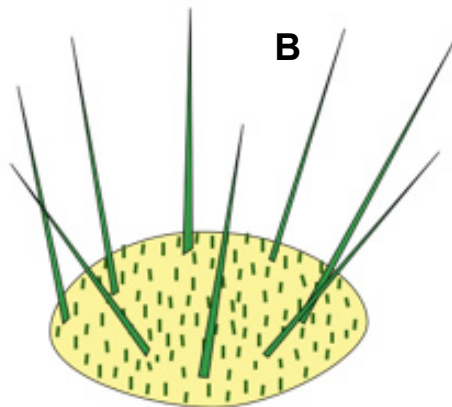
A common question about cactus and other succulents is related to the confusion associated with differentiating spines from thorns. Most people are familiar with spines as structures present in cacti. Of course not all spines are the same. The color, size and shape of a spine can be very variable depending on the type of cacti. Things get complicated when people point at a Euphorbia or other thorn-bearing succulent and call it a cactus. A common statement would be “oh but it has spines so it is a cactus”. Of course at this point we would point out that those are not spines but thorns and that the only spine-bearing succulents are cacti. Unfortunately, the difference between spines and thorns is hard to explain unless we approach the subject from a botanical perspective.

Spines and thorns, while similar in appearance, have different origins. Thorns are modified branches or stems that arise from buds (see figure A). Once leaves fall the modified stem that remains is technically a thorn. Spines, on the other hand, are modified leaves or parts of leaves that are produced from specialized structures called **areoles** (see figure B), that are only found in cacti.

For reasons that are not very well known, cacti are the only succulents that bear spines.



A



B

A. Stem morphology type thorn. Simpson (2005) Plant Systematics. From Wikipedia Commons.

B. Cactus areoles; shoot (yellow), spines (green) and glochids (also spines, green and little). From Wikipedia Common

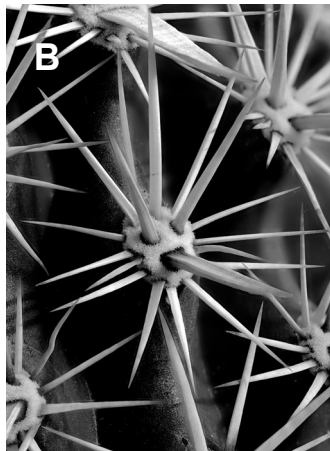


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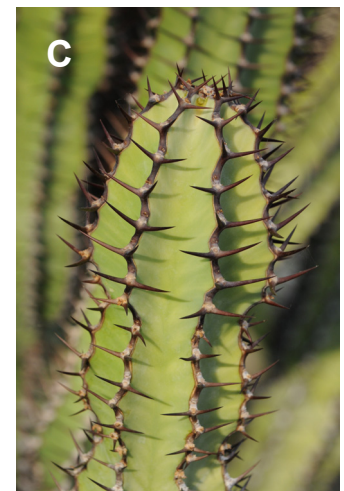
Spines and thorns cont.

It is interesting to note that the presence of thorns or spines is believed to have multiple functions, one being a type of defense mechanism that protects the plants from plant-eating animals. The second function is that of providing shade for the growing part of the plant, thus protecting this sensible area from excessively high temperatures. This



appears to be the case with cacti like the Saguaro.

This information may help, but it may still be confusing to cactophiles new to this hobby to differentiate between cacti and cacti look-alike succulents. My best advice is to approach this problem as if you were learning to read. You start slow and begin to recognize shapes of letters and then you begin to associate the letters with the sounds and so on. Basically the more familiar you become with succulents of all kinds, cacti included, the easier it will be for you to identify cacti from



other succulents that look like cacti. The best way to do this is by reading about succulents, looking at photos and live succulents of all types, going to shows and nurseries and growing your own succulents. tip to remember is that succulents in the genus *Euphorbia* (a genus in the very large Euphorbiaceae family) are often mistaken by cacti (Cactaceae family). There are hundreds of succulent *Euphorbias*, but they all have very small flowers and the plant secretes a milky sap when punctured. These two characteristics are not found in cacti.

The similarity of thorn-bearing succulents to spine-bearing cacti (also succulents) is a great example of convergent evolution, a phenomena that is evident in some plants and animals that occur in similar environments in widely separated locations (e.g. deserts of Africa versus the deserts of the Americas). As the topic of convergent evolution is easily a subject for a different botanical article, we shall stop here for now.



A. *Ancistrocactus* sps. a cactus Photo by Mike Douglas

B. *Stenocereus eruca* a cactus Photo by Mike Douglas

C. *Euphorbia* sps. Photo by Mike Douglas

D. *Euphorbia aeruginosa*. Wikipedia Commons.



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The Botanical Corner

By Rosario Douglas

Formosus Finely formed

Form Cultivated or naturally occurring variant of a species, denoting a group of plants with several common characteristics.

Fossulatus Grooved

Fragilis Easily broken

Fragrans Odorous, sweet-smelling.

Fringed Margined with hair-like appendages

Fruit The ripened ovary of a seed plant with its contents and various envelopes.



A and B Prickly pear fruits. The fruits of some prickly pears like those shown on B are edible.

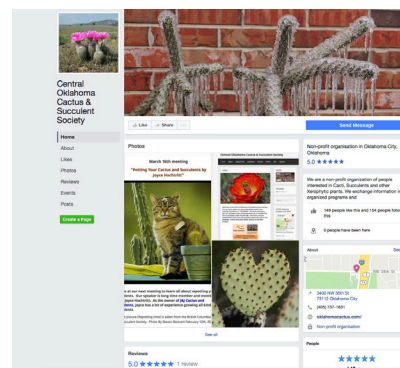
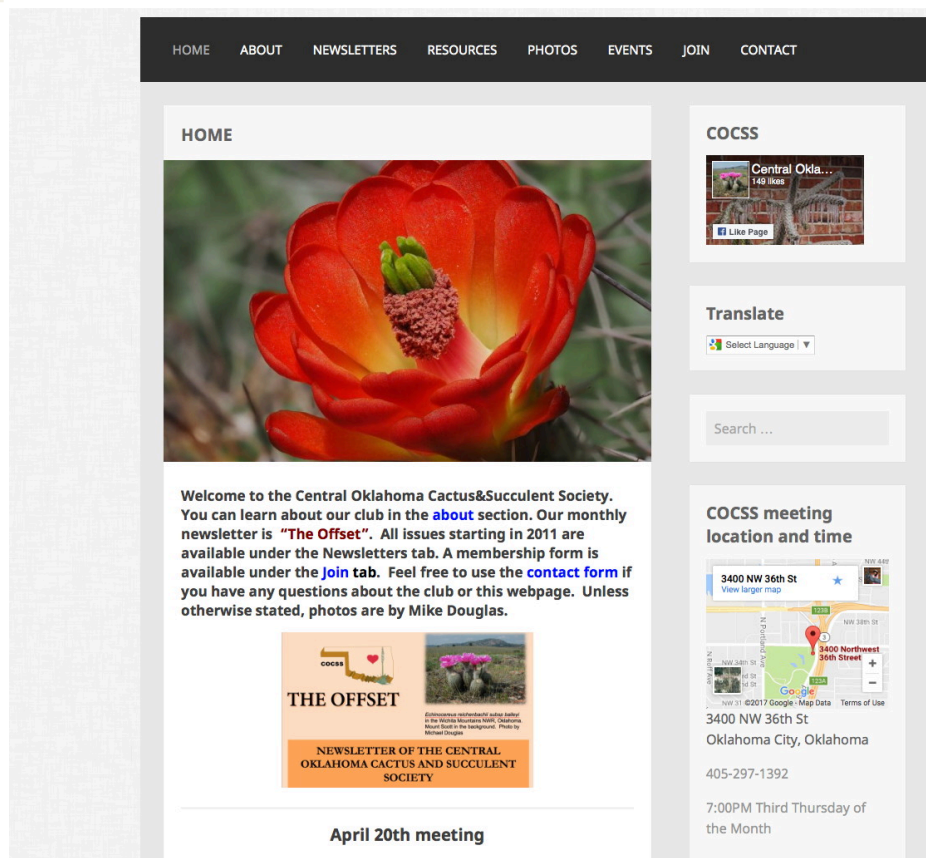
Photos from Wikipedia Creative Commons.

Terms from a book by W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods. The book is titled, *Glossary of succulent plant terms*, published in 1938. Also Wikipedia and from CactiGuide.com at <http://cactiguide.com/glossary/>.



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Oklahomacactus.com and our Facebook page (upper right)

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