

THE OFFSET

April 2014

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 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).

IN THIS ISSUE

Club News	pp 2-6
From the members	pp 7
Cactus and Succulent	
Happenings in the region	pp 8
Succulent Plants	pp 9-10
Miscellaneous	pp 11
Article of the month	pp12-17
What is blooming?	Pp 18
The Botanical corner	pp 19

CLUB NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE APRIL, 2014

Due to some intestinal upset, Tony and I didn't make the March meeting but want to assure everyone that we are still kicking and slowly trying to get back into a 'normal' schedule (whatever that may be). I want to thank the other officers for filling in for me the past couple of months while Tony and I have dealt with family and personal issues which seem to be finally slowing down, however, not completely resolved yet. Without good and resourceful friends in the club I'm afraid I would have had to resign my office but others did not seem to think this would accomplish much for the club in the long-run so I'm still here!

With the warmer weather and everything starting to 'wake up', spring is seeming more real every day and I'm looking forward to it. The Garden Festival was a lot of fun last year and great advertising for our Annual Show & Sale in June so I hope we can work out a schedule for members to take turns in manning a booth.

See you at the April meeting!

Niki

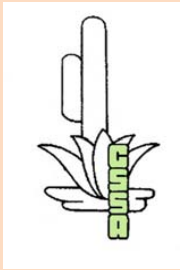


The next page has an appeal by the CSSA to the membership in general. This appeal refers to possible monetary contributions by the different cactus club to the CSSA. This is to help defray the cost of bringing speakers for the biennial CSSA conventions. We have posted it here so you can read it and have an opinion one way or the other about this. This will be discussed at the next meeting.



I would like to thank all members that contribute to the newsletter. I would also like to encourage other members to contribute as well. You may have a comment or suggestion or may have found some interesting article or you may have a question. Any comments are welcome. The newsletter usually goes out on the 8th of the month, so it is best to send any comments or questions or materials before that date.

Rosario Douglas
Newsletter editor



Contribution to CSSA Convention Speaker Fund.



In order to bring the highest quality speakers to the bi-ennial CSSA Convention, the CSSA is asking the local affiliates to help out, financially.

Our 2015 Convention is coming up before we know it. June 2015 is just 1½ years in the future. As non-profit organizations, it is the responsibility of each affiliate organization to help sponsor the dissemination of information about our hobby. With this in mind, each club should feel free to use any donation to the Speaker Fund for CSSA's Conventions as a qualifier in this part of club's charter.

Following is a partial list of speakers who are being invited to participate. Our planned speakers for 2015 are:

- 1.Andry Pettignat Tulear Botanical Garden Baobabs/ Succulent flora
- 2.Julia Etter Mexico Crassulacea/ Agavacea
- 3.Ernst Van Jaarsveld South Africa Gasterias/ Tylecodon & Cotyledon
- 4.John Pilbeam Mammillarias / Agaves (new book?)
- 6.Nick Macer England / plant exploration / new discoveries (could travel with John and assist?)

Domestic Speakers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1.Gary James (Explorations) | 8.Tom McCoy Saudi Arabia or Oman |
| 2.Steve McCabe UCSC (Dudleyas) | 9.Dr Tim Harvey Namibia |
| 3.Sula Vanderplank HBG (research) | 10.Rob Skillin TBA |
| 4.Jon Rebman SDNHM (Baja) | 11.Mark Olson Research |
| 5.Panayoti Kelaidis Denver BG (winter hard succulents) | 12.K. Griffin AP |
| 6.Doug Dawson (specifically Lithops) | 13.Keynote @ Huntington / Jim Folsom Presenting |
| 7.Exequiel Ezcurra UC Riverside | |

You are invited to contribute to the fund in any amount that the club feels comfortable with. Following are suggestions:

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Level 1 - | \$500, helps pay domestic transportation for a US domiciled speaker |
| Level 2 - | \$1,500 Pays the entire cost of the Convention for a domestic speaker |
| Level 3 - | \$2,500 Pays transportation of an international speaker |
| Level 4 - | \$3,000 Pays The entire cost of an international speaker. |

Contributions at level 3 will allow one club member full access to the Convention. All food and conference attendance paid.

Contributions at level 4 will allow two club members full access to the Convention. All food and conference attendance paid.

Please respond when your Board of Directors has had a chance to look at this proposal.

Best regards,
Buck Hemenway

1-951-360-8802

buck@pricklypalace.com

CLUB NEWS**MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 20, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM at the Will Rogers Garden Center. The following members were present: Peggy Anglin, Mike & Rosario Douglas, Tom & Joan Galbraith, Jean Hart, Fred Hill, Helen Hill, Joyce Hochtritt, Peggy Holland, Robert Millison, Deb Trimble and Ed Vermillion.

In the absence of our president, Niki Furrh, Rosario Douglas and Peggy Anglin presided. Peggy made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the newsletter. Motion carried.

Treasurer Peggy Anglin reported 22 paid members to date and a bank balance of \$5,050.15.

Joyce Hochtritt turned in two vendor contracts for the annual show. Rosario Douglas reported that she has prepared a show flyer and will put it on the website as well as email it to our members. Paper copies will be available at our next meeting. Peggy Anglin will bring the mailing labels for our post cards to the next meeting. Fred Hill will provide an estimate of his postage and other mailing costs, and Peggy will send him a check.

Mike Douglas reported that he has had no response from the Texas clubs he contacted regarding a possible field trip to Mexico in coordination with a local club in the Monterrey, Mexico area.

Tom Galbraith conveyed a request from the Pioneer Women's Museum in Ponca City. They would like someone to do a presentation on the medicinal uses of cactus on the first weekend in June, which is when that city's annual Herb Festival is held. He indicated that there might be a small stipend and that plants could be offered for sale. Joyce Hochtritt volunteered to give the presentation.

Rosario Douglas reported that she had received an email from CSSA soliciting donations for the National Conference. She or Joyce will bring a copy of the request to next month's meeting for consideration.

The business meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. After refreshments provided by Rosario Douglas and Jean Hart, Mike Douglas gave an excellent program on the botanical gardens of Mexico.

***Submitted by,
Treasurer Peggy Anglin***

COCSS April 17th Program

Gardens of Alcatraz by Fred Hill



Alcatraz Island has had gardens for the entire 100 years it was in use. In 2003, three garden groups began undertaking the task of restoring the gardens created by prisoners, guards families and other sources. This will show you the beautiful results of this ongoing endeavor.

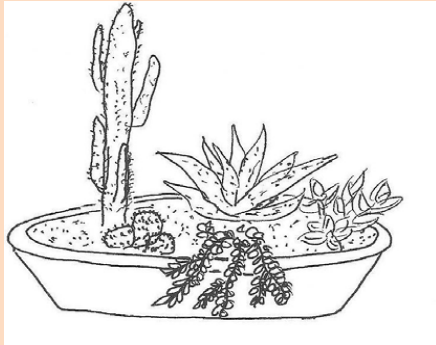
Place: Will Rogers Garden at 34000 NW 36th- Oklahoma City

Time: 7 pm

Refreshments: Peggy Holland and Hellen Hill

THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

‘BUILD YOUR OWN DISH GARDEN’



WHEN: July 17th, 2014

TIME: 7pm-8:30 pm

PLACE: Will Rogers Garden Center 3400
NW 36th, 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/succulent plants, potting soil, top
dressing gravel and other decorative items.
There will be other cactus/succulent 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 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



This is our flyer for the Dish Garden workshop. The PDF is on our webpage if you want to download it.

FROM THE MEMBERS*An open message to fellow CSSA chapters**Cactus and Succulent talks are online now for your perusal and use in your chapter's presentations*

Over the years I have given many talks related to our travels to see succulent plants in habitat. Now that I have taken early retirement I have been building a website that will, in small part, serve as “outreach” to some members of the cactus and succulent community. Most of us know how difficult it is to develop new programs for our monthly meetings, and many times a relatively few speakers provide most of the outside talks to local CSSA chapters. To partially help with the need for new (and hopefully interesting) materials I have been putting some of our previous talks online, so that anyone interested can see them. Because there is no audio (for the moment at least) I have often added more text to each slide to help make the talks more self-contained. You can peruse these talks on your own high-resolution computer monitor which often gives a better view (sharper, better color) than when the material is projected with a laptop projector in a large room.

If you have internet access at your chapter's meeting location you should be able to present these talks directly to your local chapter. For this reason I haven't added powerpoints or pdf files on the website to download (though I could do this if needed).

The talks usually emphasize the geography, climate, and how to travel around in these areas (most talks related to travel in Latin America or Africa). We would be happy to present any of these talks to any group who might want to hear them. The talks that can be viewed online now can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/metforbio/slide-shows/cssa-talks>

(you can also just google “meteorology for biologists” to find this link)

These include presentations on trips to Argentina/Chile, Brazil, South Africa, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands and the Dominican Republic (among others). The astute will notice that the link above is part of a larger page entitled “Meteorology for biologists”, with more technical material which is also available for perusal by those interested:

<https://sites.google.com/site/metforbio>

Mike Douglas (douglasnoaaa@gmail.com)

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION



April 17th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: **Gardens of Alcatraz.** By Fred Hill

Refreshments: *Peggy Holand and Helen Hill*

April 25-26-27 - San Antonio Cactus and Xerophyte Society's Annual Show and Sale, San Antonio Garden Center, San Antonio, TX.

May 15th- Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: **Preparation for the Show&Sale**

Refreshments:

June 21 - 22 - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Will Rogers Garden Center, Oklahoma City, OK.

July 17th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: **Dish garden Workshop (open to the public)**

Refreshments:

August 9 - 10 - Kansas City Cactus and Succulent Society's Annual Show and Sale, Loose Park Garden Center, Kansas City, MO.

August 30 - 31 - Austin CSS Fall Show & Sale, Zilker Botanical Gardens, Austin, TX.

August 21st Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: By Rodd Moesel President of American Plant Products and Services Inc.

Title to be announced

Refreshments

September 18th - Annual picnic at Niki and Tony Furrh's house

October 16th - Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: **Will Rogers Gardens - Planning for the next Millennium** by Melinda MacMillan

Refreshments:

November 20th Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society monthly meeting at 7:00 pm at the Will Rogers Garden Center.

Program: By Steve Owens, co-owner of Bustani Plant Farm in Stillwater.

Title to be announced

Refreshments:

December 11th - Christmas party

SUCCULENT PLANTS *by Rosario Douglas*



THE GENUS THELOCACTUS

The genus *Thelocactus* comprises a few dozen species all found in the Chichuahuan desert. Most plants of this genus are found in Central and Northern Mexico. Some species are found in Texas. The name *Thelocactus* comes from the Greek and it means “nipple cactus”.

The plants are globose or short cylindrical and have strongly tuberculate (covered with tubercles which are defined as “small rounded projecting part or outgrowth) ribs.

Most plants have a single stem, although a few can form clusters. The flowers grow from the top of the plant.

Thelocactus are relatively easy to cultivate if kept in well drained soils.

You can read more about this interesting genus at:

<http://www.thelocactus.cactus-mall.com/index.html>



Upper left: *Thelocactus haexadrophorus*, an illustration by French botanical illustrator Antoine Lemaire (1840-47). Wikipedia commons. Lower left: A 2007 Romanian stamp depicting *Thelocactus rinconensis*. Wikipedia commons. Lower right: *Thelocactus setispinus*. Wikipedia commons.



Thelocactus horripilus at the Metztitlan cactus sanctuary, about 80 miles northwest of Mexico City. Photos by Rosario Douglas, September, 2103

The Cactus Explorer

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



Number 11
ISSN 2048-0482
April 2014

1 The first Lobivia

2 Borzicactus hoxeyi

3 Nicaragua adventure

4 Coloradoa mesae-verde

5 Maihueniopsis glomerata

Another great issue of the Cactus explorer. Many interesting articles and a good list of different societies. You can download it at:

<http://jwf.r.mailjet.com/redirect/yd86tqfgj5wm1jo0o89dfs/www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

ARTICLE OF THE MONTH



Metztitlan Canyon – a succulent botanical paradise



Last year Mike and I spent 6 weeks in Mexico, 4 weeks were work but for two weeks we rented a car and travelled to a number of well-known cactus locations. We had visited all these areas in the past, but we last visited Metztitlan 17 years ago.

Metztitlan is a small town in a valley of the same name and is located about 80 miles northeast of Mexico City. The bottom of the valley is agricultural and has been inhabited for hundreds of years. The steep walls that flank the valley floor are not disturbed and are home to many cactus and other succulents. One of the specialties of this canyon is *Cephalocereus senilis* or the old man cactus. The entire valley is now designated a Biosphere reserve. The 16th century Augustinian convent called Atotonilco el Grande is also protected independently.



Upper: Photo of the town, Lower left: the Augustinian convent, lower right: sign indicating the protected status of the canyon (barranca in Spanish) of Metztitlan.



Mexico is very rich in cactus and this is due partly to the varied topography and climate associated with the numerous canyons and valleys found in the country. Metztitlan is a good example of a canyon where the bottom is moist enough for agriculture while the walls of the canyon are not only very steep but also well drained. This provides a good habitat for succulent plants and there is the added bonus of being able to avoid being eaten by hungry goats. Thus the walls are covered with beautiful succulents. This is nice, but it makes it very hard to get close to the plants.



The town of Metztitlan some years ago decided to build a so-called "cactario". This is really nothing more than a steep trail with steps in some areas that winds through the native vegetation. They did not have to plant anything since the succulents were already there.



Upper left: Google Earth view of the Cactario trail. Middle left: A view from the road, note the steep walls of the Canyon. Lower left: Mike starting the



We stayed 2 nights in this town and were able to explore and get a bit closer to some of the plants by making use of the trail in the cactario. The trail was steep but well built and it allowed us to get much closer to the plants than in the past.

A very diverse succulent habitat in a relatively small geographical area. The types and shapes of cactus to be found here are really amazing. We did not have any problems while visiting this town. The roads were good and although there was no internet access, the hotel and restaurant were fine and inexpensive.

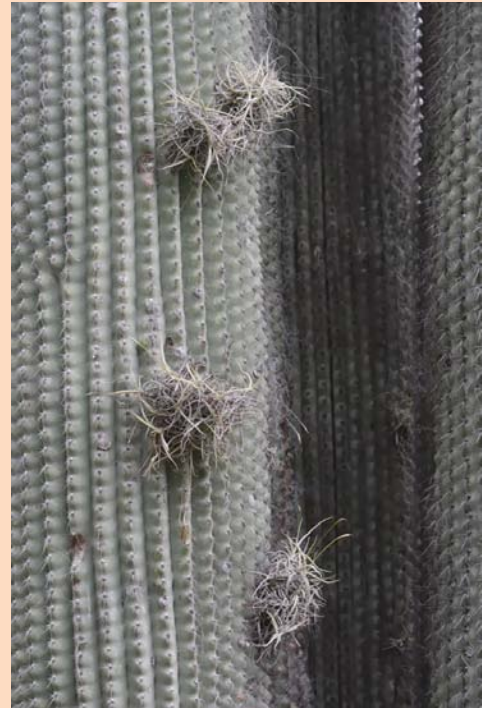


Upper left: Rosario next to *Mammillaria geminispina*, Middle left: *Astrophytum ornatum* growing with *M. geminispina*,

Lower left: a baby *Astrophytum ornatum*. Middle right: Mike with a mature specimen of *Astrophytum ornatum*.



We were glad to have been able to return to this beautiful canyon after so many years.



Upper left: *Echinocactus ingens* (also known as *E. platyacanthus*) growing with *Cephalocereus senilis* and agaves.

Middle left: Rosario and *E. ingens*, Lower left: *Hetchia* spp. Lower right: *Tillandsia recurvata* growing on *C. senilis*. Photos by Mike and Rosario Douglas



Upper left: One of the specialties of this canyon is the arborescent *Cephalocereus senilis*, Lower left: *C. senilis* with Mike for scale, Upper right closer view of the cephalium of *C. senilis* Lower right: *Stenocereus marginatus* with 16 unusual ribs.



Upper photo: A view of the convent from the hills of the cactario. Note the *Myrtillocactus geometrizans* in the foreground. Lower left: second floor of our hotel (orange building). Lower right: A view of the town of Metztitlan with *Tillandsia recurvata* on the telephone lines.

WHAT IS BLOOMING *Photos by Mike Douglas*



Upper left: small Euphorbia flowers ,

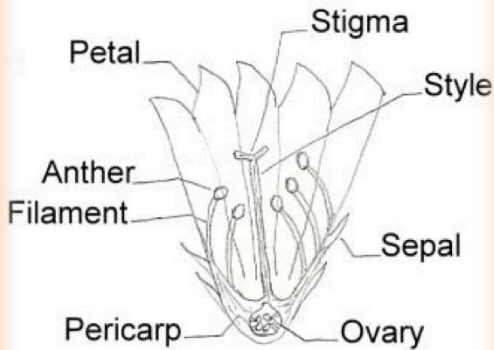
Middle right and lower left show close ups of *Mammillaria candida*.

All photos are taken in our greenhouse. Mike used the Helicon focus technique for close ups.



THE BOTANICAL CORNER

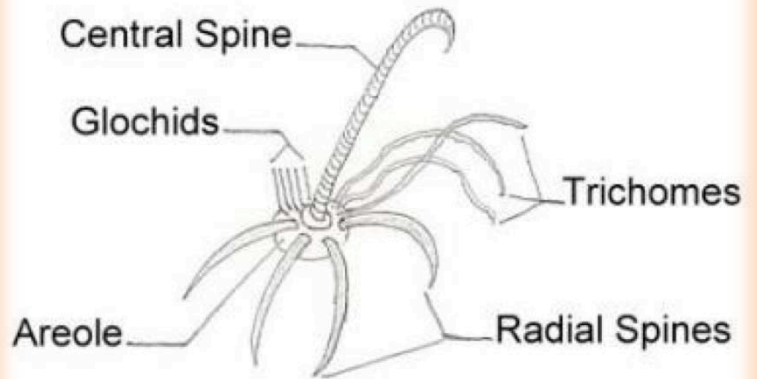
by Rosario Douglas

**Cactus Flower Parts**

Pistil = Stigma + Style + Ovary

Stamen = Anther + Filament

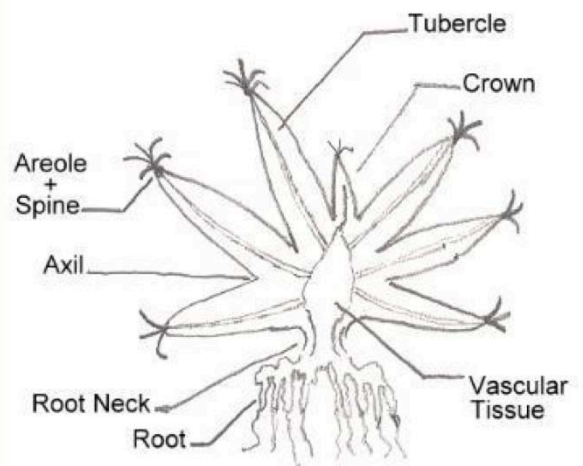
Perianth = Petals + Sepals

**Cactus Areole Structures**

Cactus flowers are distinguished by the presence of an inferior ovary - that is, the ovary is located beneath the other parts of the cactus flower. Cactus flowers come in all colors except for blue.

Drawing shows a longitudinal section of a tuberculate cactus similar to plants in the *Mammillaria* and *Coryphantha* genera. The tubercle, and the rib in columnar cacti, are expandable to allow the cactus to store water during times of plentiful rainfall. In times of drought, these organs contract. The vascular tissue illustrated consists primarily of two tissue types: xylem vessels and phloem. The xylem vessels transport water from the roots. Phloem facilitates the transfer of sugars throughout the plant. As plants age, the vascular tissue produces wood

The presence of an Areole separates the cacti from other succulents. Spines, hairs, flowers, new growth, and fruits originate from this pad-like structure in the majority of cactus species.



Longitudinal section of a tuberculate cactus

This information comes from the webpage of The Cactus Museum at www.CactusMuseum.com, Wikipedia, I have reformatted this article.