



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

# THE OFFSET

October 2013

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

## NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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**MEETING** At Will Rogers Garden Center at 3400 NW 36<sup>th</sup> 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

This year's COC&SS annual picnic was graciously hosted by Joyce and Jim Hochtritt. Many arrived early to visit the greenhouse and several found a special plant or two to adopt. About 15 members enjoyed a fried chicken and pot luck dinner. There were lots of great side dishes and numerous desserts - something for everyone. I ate way too many cookies!



A not-so-dirty Santa plant exchange followed dinner. I don't think anyone stole anyone else's prize, but it was fun and all the gift were very nice. It was great to have time to sit around and visit, something we don't have near enough time for at our meetings.

Hope you were there to enjoy the fun. And thanks, Joyce and Jim, for all you did to make this event a success.

Submitted by Peggy Anglin (Club's treasurer)



Dear members

It has been a busy past few months. Mike retired from his federal job at the end of July and right after that we flew to Colombia to participate in a Botanical congress. Shortly after that trip we went to Mexico for 6 weeks, 4 weeks of work for Mike and 2 weeks of vacation. During our two week vacation we visited many cactus habitats south and north of Mexico City all the way to 4-Cienagas near the US border. Shortly after returning from Mexico we will be traveling to Southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana and Namibia). This is a planned vacation in part to celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary and now Mike's retirement. After all these travels we will have lots of pictures the different locations we have visited.

Due to this latest trip I am sending the October newsletter a bit earlier. I will not be doing a newsletter in November, but hope to be back early enough in December to do the December newsletter.

In the meantime I and other members continue to plan for the 15<sup>th</sup> Biennial Mid-States Conference hosted by our club and to take place next year.

Hope to see you at the Christmas party.

Rosario Douglas  
Editor, Web master and club Vice-president

## COCSS October 17th Program

### **“Wintering Plants Indoors” plus “What Does the CSSA Mean to Us?”**

Presented by **Joyce Hochtritt and Niki Furrh**. Will have a Raffle (\$1 a ticket) – We will have a few plants for the raffle and members are encouraged to bring any plants they absolutely have no room to over-winter, bundle cuttings if you want and add to the Raffle! If you don't win that one plant you wanted, time will be available after the Raffle for winners to exchange any plants.

Refreshments: Tony and Niki Furrh

**CLUB NEWS**

News from club member Jean Heart



I have had that Agave for 10 or 15 years. It became more and more difficult to move in and out and at some point I started to wheel it in and out of my garage as close to the window as possible. For the past two winters and summers I'm afraid it would get neglected from time to time, having very little water over the two years.

This is the first bloom it has ever had, but I think it was very grateful for the summer rains of 2013. Over all these years, she has blessed many friends and my family with her children. I particularly am grateful to it for the gift she gave of "that inner joy of plant love", especially for my Grandchildren. Possibly, the neglect (and perhaps by now it is close to being root bound) led to the blooming.

Those wonderful rains certainly made us all happy.

I don't think I've seen you since the Tour of Succulent Gardens. We had the great pleasure of visiting Robert Millison's

succulent garden. The plant material was so well cared for, placed beautifully, and the guide was very knowledgeable and interesting. The guide was Robert Millison. I'm certain I'll want to rant on



**Welcome new members**

I have received family dues from Larry Erickson and Rita Miller. They are at 610 Parkwild, Council Bluffs, IA 51503, 712-352-3352 email address [goglelgog@gmail.com](mailto:goglelgog@gmail.com). Since it is so late in the year, we will count these dues for 2014, and I assume they would be happy to receive the newsletter by email.

Peggy Anglin

## CLUB NEWS



I would like to thank Jean Heart for taking these great photos at the club's picnic. This year the picnic was at Joyce and Jim Hochtritt's house. I missed this fun event, but Jean's photos captured some of the fun everyone had.



Upper left: Peggy Holland and Joan Galbraith, upper right Jim Hochtritt and Peggy Anglin, Lower left and right more plants from Joyce's greenhouse.



Members enjoyed Joyce's greenhouse. Lots of interesting plants for sale. Lower left eating time. Upper right Peggy Anglin our treasurer. Lower right Robert Millison.



Mathew and Robert looking for plants to buy during the picnic. Nice Agave in the middle and upper shows Joyce's greenhouse.

Lower left hosts Joyce and Jim Hochtritt. Lower right part of Joyce's rock collection.

Joyce Hochtritt sent me this PDF with photos of the picnic. Thank you Joyce

Big Thank you all that came to the Picnic!  
I know I enjoyed myself and it was get  
seeing everyone!



Tom Galbraith and Robert Millison



Joan Galbraith



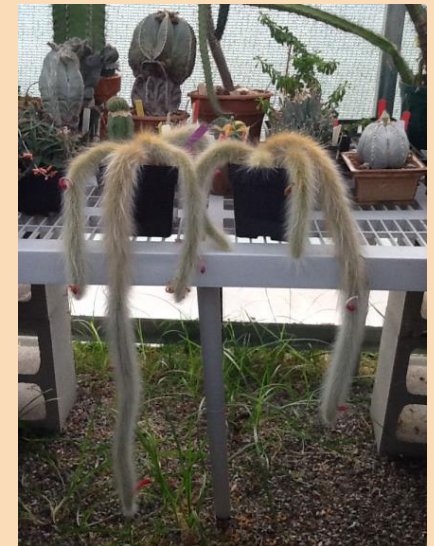
Jean Hart



The Guard Dogs



Helen Hill and Robert Millison



Thank you to Jaen Hart for the photo's. Sorry, our photo's inside the house didn't turn out! Maybe next time?



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

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**

### **7 pm COCSS Monthly meeting**

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



**Program:**

**“Wintering Plants Indoors” plus “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 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **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 12<sup>th</sup>**

### **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- 15<sup>th</sup>** The 15<sup>th</sup> 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

# The Cactus Explorer

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



**Number 9**  
ISSN 2048-0482  
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Available at: <http://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk/journal1.htm>

**From Namaqualand**

Mr Karel Dupuis from Namaqualand-South Africa recently sent me the following photos of winter in Namaqualand. He wrote:

Hi to you all

Will you ever see succulents in snow .....Namaqualand 30 Aug 2013 .....just want to share some photos with you .

Regards Karel







As you can see some of these succulents are able to take cold weather cold and a bit of snow as well.

Thank you Karel for sharing your beautiful photos.

Rosario



## SUCCULENT PLANTS

by Rosario Douglas

### The genus *Aztekium*



The name *aztekium* was chosen to honor the Aztec people. The genus was discovered by F. Ritter in 1929 in the town of Rayones in the state of Nuevo Leon-Mexico. Originally it was believed that there was only one species *A. ritteri*, but today there are 3 known species in the genus. All 3 species are only found in the state of Nuevo Leon. The other species are: *A. hintonii*, was discovered in 1991



by George S. Hinton near the town of Galeana and *A. valdesii* discovered in 2011 by M. A. Alvarado Vazques. This third species was discovered in the Sierra Madre Oriental.



These cacti are small and have a globular shape. *A. ritteri*, for example is about 20 mm wide and the flowers are also small being less than 10 mm wide.

It is interesting to note that both *A. ritteri* and *A. hintonii* grow on gypsum soils and limestone cliffs. These cacti are slow growers and in cultivation it can take up to 2 years for the seedling to reach a diameter of 3mm. Propagation is usually by seed. Source: Wikipedia

These cacti are very attractive to collectors and this has unfortunately resulted in illegal collection of the plants in the wild.

According to the IUCN red list of threatened species, *A. hintonii* has a very small range and illegal collection of this plant has been taking place. Fortunately in spite of this, in 2009 the plant was not classified as threatened because the population is fairly large (estimates range from 100,000 to over one million plants) and the collecting does not appear to be having a huge impact yet.

Upper left: *Aztekium ritteri*. Photo by Christer Johansson.

Lower left: *Aztekium ritteri*. Photo by Stans Shebs. Both in Wikipedia creative commons.

Upper right: The state of Nuevo Leon in Mexico. Wikipedia commons



It appears that the local communities are protecting *Aztekium hintonii* from illegal collectors in order to sell the plants themselves. Unfortunately although the plant is legally protected the area where it is found does not have legal status as a protected area.

(<http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/full/152003/0>)

*A. ritterii* has also been over collected and in the original localities where they were found only plants growing on steep inaccessible cliffs survived. Fortunately other populations have been found which are also somewhat inaccessible so for now it is not considered threatened. (same source as above 152643/0)

It is well known that illegal collecting of desirable plants including cacti is a problem. As I have mentioned in previous newsletter this is a two way problem. The first part of the problem are the illegal collectors and the second and perhaps even more important are the cactus enthusiasts that purchase specimens they likely know are illegally collected in the wild. It appears that some people will stop at nothing to own a rare plant or animal and undoubtedly these people never think or don't care about the consequences to the existence of whole populations of animals and plants. It is a problem of education and the ethical and moral behavior of both sellers and buyers. What you can do is think twice next time you run into a nice specimen of a rare plant. If you are not absolutely sure it was grown from seed don't purchase it. This way you are helping in the war against illegal collection of specimens.

Here are some comments about the discovery of the new *Aztekium valdezii* that I found in CactusWorld-Online: <http://www.bcsc.org.uk/foruma/search.php>

“very interesting. Could it be a new species or a natural hybrid? Who knows, but no doubt there is going to be a frenzy over it. Dan”

“What a discovery! I wonder how long it will take to get it into circulation? Diane”

“I wonder how long the habitat will stay untouched. I hope this *Aztekium* grows on vertical cliffs, high up from the ground and far away from the top edge... Aiko”

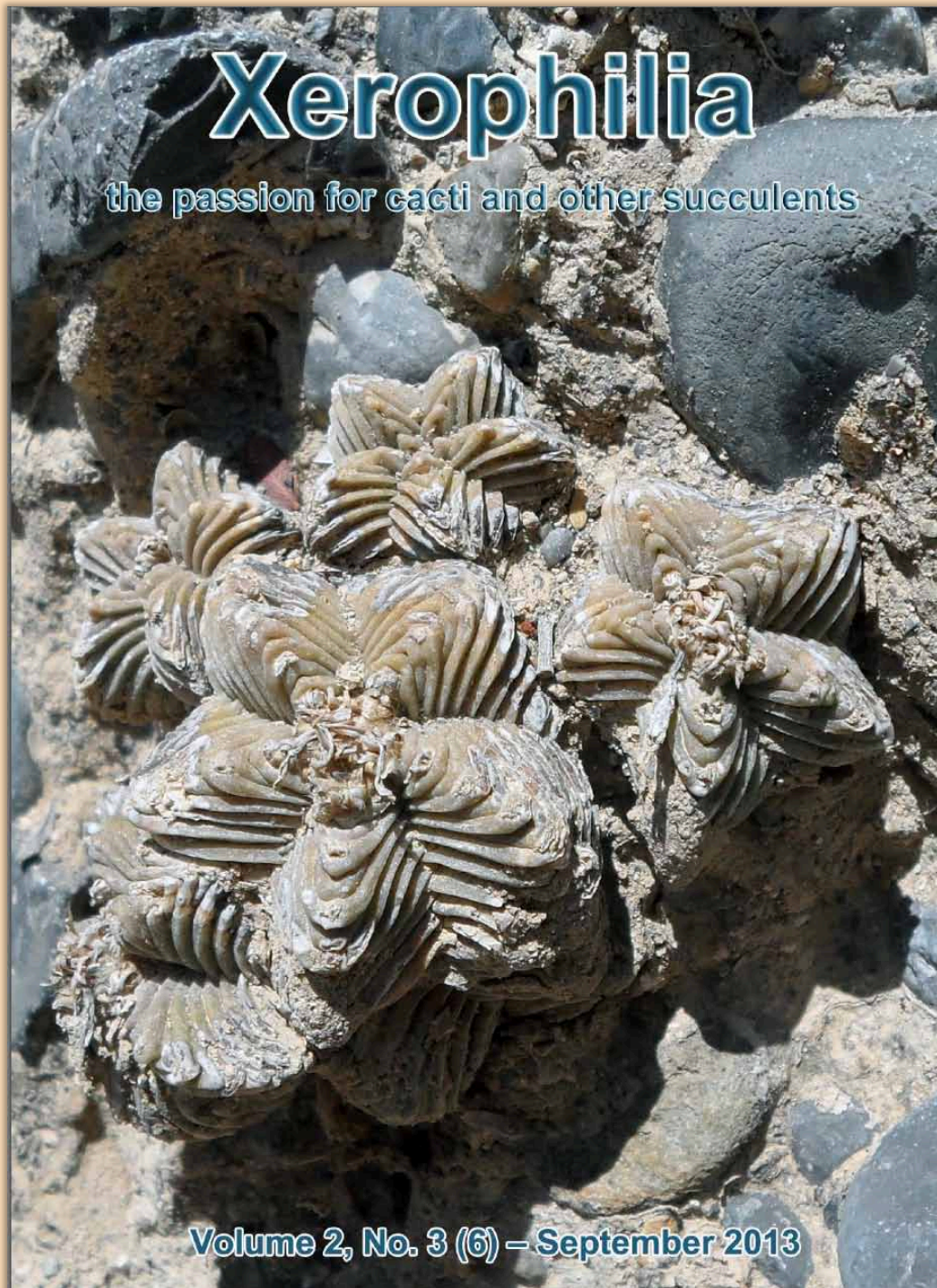
**RK wrote:**

From Facebook, looks like habitat collected plants have already made their way to Thailand...

Upper left: *Aztekium hintonii*. Photo by Michael Wolf. Wikipedia creative commons

I join Aiko hopping for the inaccessibility of this new Aztekium. As far as I know the authors are not disclosing the exact location hoping to keep the population safe for as long as possible.

A new Aztekium has been recently discovered in Mexico in the same area as the other two are found. For a complete description of this new species you can check out the online journal Xerophilia Volume 2, No. 3 (6)- September 2013. (at: <http://xerophilia.ro/>) The cover shows a photo of the new *Aztekium valdezii*.





**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.



- Albidiflorus**      with withish flowers
- Albisetosus**      with white bristles
- Albispinus**      Full of white spines
- Albus**              white in color
- Alcicornis**          With-horns. Note that Alces is the genus for Elk

- Allantoides**      Like a sausage
- Altus**              tall, high
- Alveolate**        pitted like a hone-comb

Upper left: *Cephalocereus senilis* an example of albispinus. Photo by Raul. Wikipedia commons.

Lower right: Examples of Alveolate. Photos by R. A. Harris. 1979. A glossary of surface sculpturing. California Department of Food and Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology, 28, 1-31. Wikipedia commons.

