

THE OFFSET



Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society

September 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

ANNUAL PICNIC

Date: September 21

Time: 6 pm

Place: Peggy Anglin's house at 6529 Chelsey Lane, Oklahoma City 73132. Turn west on NW 63rd St from Council, right on Green Meadow, left on Chelsey, we are the 5th mailbox on the left. Home Phone: 728-3396

Bring: Side dish, but no desserts (will be furnished).





CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Oklahomacactus.com

September 2017



President's message

Niki Furrh

We are slipping into fall! My neighbors were rather shocked at us covering our cacti because of the rain but I explained that August's 'usual' water numbers were drowning us out!

Be sure and read the newsletter for all the upcoming activities and try your best to support the club. We are working on having another guest speaker in October and/or November. If you need to, be sure and check the website periodically for any last minute news or special needs of the club.

Our August speaker was very informative and has a special interest in cacti also so we may be able to talk him into joining the club and adding his particular interests. He works at the OKC Zoo and his and our interests in plants intertwine remarkably well and I believe he will have many occasions to add to our programs and bring ideas of interest for everyone.

I am pleased to report that we have several new members and I want to take this opportunity to welcome them to the club and we look forward to not only being able to share lots of information with them but "new blood" in the group is exciting and I'm sure they will have lots of new ideas and opinions.

As we try to shake up the club for 2017-18 remember that ideas for programs, field trips, etc. are always welcome and encouraged. As some have some extra time, I am asking that you email me with any suggestions for the club. Do we enjoy having 'raffle plants' and, if so, would 50 cents a ticket be acceptable among the group(?); Is there a particular topic or two that you would like addressed at some point(?); If we are needing some help for a meeting or event, would it be OK to contact you if needed and ask for help(?) We need to begin working on the Show and Sale for 2018 – do you have any particular interest or job you would like to help with(?); We have several members with some health problems – would you be willing to help a member out occasionally if your time permits(?)

See you on Sept 21st.

Niki Furrh



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Oklahomacactus.com

September 2017

COC&SS Coffee/tea in the garden

September 16

Joyce Hochtritt of J&J Cactus and Succulents

Time: 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Address: 600 N. Pine St., Midwest City

Phone: 737-1831 Email: cactibud@cox.net

Visitors are welcome to come, visit the greenhouse and check out the plants. Hundreds of cactus and Succulents are available for purchase. Visitors will need to park in the circle drive under the shade trees so not to block the driveway to the back.





CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2017

From the Editor *Rosario Douglas*



Dear members,

September is full of activities. During our annual picnic on the 21st you will have a chance to admire Peggy's garden and Tony and Niki's garden and greenhouse. Dinner is at Peggy Anglin's house but dessert is at Tony and Niki's (4 houses down).

On September 28th Lance Swearingen (horticultural curator) at the Oklahoma City Zoo will be taking us on a private tour of the zoo gardens. See next page for details.

If you want to volunteer your time at the garden's greenhouse and are not sure what you can do there feel free to contact Tony at (tonynikifurrh@gmail.com 405-722-1718). A space at the greenhouse is available to our club for growing and propagating plants. Watering is needed especially in the summer months.

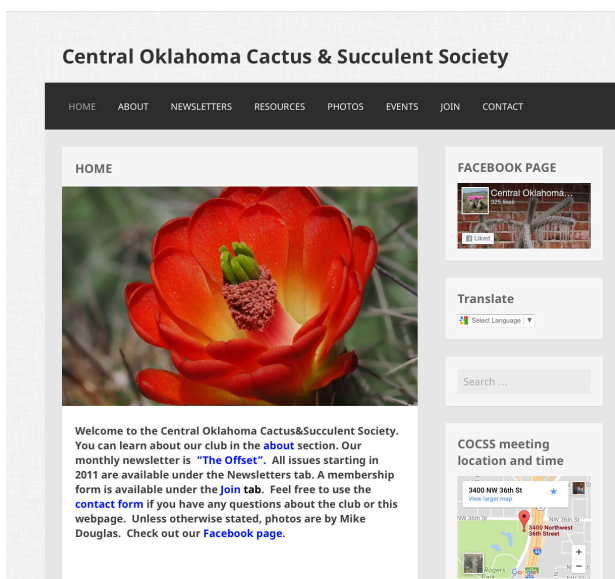
Here are two corrections to the article about Succulent Tree Aloes.

(1) *sabbaeum* should be spelt ***sabaeum***

(2) The caption for *Kumara plicatilis* would be better as: ***Kumara plicatilis* was formerly classified as *Aloe plicatilis*.** (This is because the genus *Kumara* has TWO species not one, so isn't monotypic.)

Hope you can all make it to the picnic on the 21st.

Rosario



All the newsletters since 2011 are available in our webpage at: Oklahomacactus.com Follow us on [Facebook](#) to read about events and miscellaneous information about succulents.



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2017

OKLAHOMA CITY ZOO BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR

Join us on what promises to be an informative and interesting tour of the Oklahoma City Zoo gardens. The Zoo is also accredited as a Botanical garden and Lance has been busy trying to implement new ideas. If you are planning to attend please let me know (rd501983@gmail.com). Also feel free to contact me if you have any questions. As you can see the first half of the tour does not require much walking and the second half is open to those who wish to walk a bit more and explore the gardens.

This tour for members only will be a guided tour by horticultural curator Lance Swearingen.

Date: September 28

Time: 9:30 am



Where: Meet at the Global Plaza at the main entrance of the Zoo.

Details: The garden tour will start at 9:45 am and last for two hours. The first hour will feature the water conservation garden (brief walking tour), and the second hour will feature butterfly garden (longer walking tour).



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2017

Minutes of last meeting

The program started at 7:21PM. In spite of technical difficulties (the gardens now have a new system which requires hooking up our laptop to a large TV screen - we did not have the cable to do this properly), we had an interesting presentation by OKC Zoo horticultural curator Lance Swearingin.

Lance took over the position about a year ago and there are big changes and lots of renovations going on at the Zoo gardens and at the Zoo in general. The OKC Zoo is an accredited Botanical Garden as well as a Zoo. The zoo comprises 160 acres of gardens that have to be managed by a staff of 13 and 4 mowers. New animal exhibits continue to be added as well.

Animal browse (Bamboo, fruits, berries etc.), that can be feed to the numerous animals that call the Zoo home), is one of the important aspects of the gardens. There are also collections of plants including tropical and succulent collections. The succulent plant collection takes up ¼ of the greenhouses space. Other activities include outreach, Mother's Day plant sale, Monarch butterfly festival on September 23rd and tours for public schools.

After refreshments, our librarian Tony introduced a new book called "Succulents of South Africa". It is a great book and it is available for members to check out. Books can be checked out for 2-month intervals. Tony requested that you carefully fill out the cards that accompany every book. Be sure to write date in, date out and your name on the card. Legible print is greatly appreciated.

Tony also discussed the need to have regular volunteer workdays at the garden's greenhouse. A space has been allotted for our club to use for propagations and growing cactus and succulent and regular watering etc. are needed. Saturday September 19th was scheduled as the first such work days. If you participate in these garden workdays be sure to bring a hat, paintbrush, gloves and clippers.

Member Fred Hill mentioned that he had 8 visitors to his garden tour in August. Niki reminded us of the Picnic on the 21st. The club will provide grilling items and members will bring sides. Desserts provided by Tony and Niki Furrh.

Member Thomas Galbraith mentioned a visiting exhibit opening at the Oklahoma History Center on November 8-12. It is called "The Wall that Heals". It is the first time in Oklahoma for this exhibit. Volunteers will be needed 24 hours a day and a heated motorhome and snacks will be provided. If you want to volunteer contact him at gbartraders@sbc.global.net.



September 2017

Mid-States Cactus & Succulent CONFERENCE



June 21-24, 2018

St. Louis, Missouri

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Near **Missouri Botanical Garden** and St. Louis' world-famous **Forest Park**.

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Hosted by:
Henry Shaw Cactus & Succulent Society

For more info, contact:
Mike Hellmann
+1-618-444-7860
cactus1803@yahoo.com

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YES! Please send me registration information for the 2018 Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference.

Name _____ COSSA Affiliate (if applicable) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____ Country _____

Please send information by: Postal Mail E-mail _____

Return to Henry Shaw C & S Society: P. O. Box 191552 — St. Louis, Missouri 63119 — www.hscactus.org



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2017

Happenings *Joyce Hochtritt and Rosario Douglas*

September 16 Coffee tea in the garden at Joyce's. I'll be have my Coffee/Tea in the Garden on Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Visitors are welcome to come, visit the greenhouse and check out the plants. We have hundreds of cactus and succulents are available for purchase. Visitors will need to park in the circle drive under the shade trees so not to block the driveway to the back.

Sept 21 Annual picnic. At Peggy Anglin's house. Desserts at Tony and Niki Furrh. 6529 Chelsey Lane, 73132. Turn west on NW 63rd St from Council, right on Green Meadow, left on Chelsey, we are the 5th mailbox on the left. Home Phone: 728-3396

September 28 Private tour of the OKC Zoological gardens for COC&SS **members only**. Time: 9:30 am. Free of charge.

October 19: COCSS Meeting & Program – 7:00 pm – Will Rogers Exhibition Center

Program: **Growing small Aloes and Dickyas.** By Bill Utley member of the Ft. Worth C&SS.

Refreshments: Rosario Douglas

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

Program: To be announced

Refreshments: Peggy Holland

December Christmas Party. Location and time to be announced



Eclipses and cacti do mix

by Rosario Douglas - Photos by Mike Douglas



Millions witnessed the total solar eclipse on August 21st. Mike and I traveled to Wyoming (100 miles east of Casper) to view this celestial event. Coincidentally the place where we pulled off next to the road to set up was full of cacti. This cute little winter hardy cactus was hiding in the tall grasses as many unsuspecting eclipse viewers discovered.

The cactus in question is *Opuntia fragilis*. This little *Opuntia* is considered the hardiest of the hardiest cacti. Common names include brittle prickly pear. It is found in 22 states and 5 Canadian provinces. It is the most widely distributed *Opuntia* in North America. It is found to 8 degrees south of the Arctic! In fact no other cactus is found that far north.



A- The landscapes near Pine Ridge-Nebraska – on the way to our eclipse site.

B- *Opuntia fragilis* firmly attached to our trailer's tire. We saw this after we pulled off the road into the high grass!



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The yellow flowers are 1.5 - 2 inches across. Reports indicate that plants don't flower ever year.

Sources: Wikipedia, The American Rock Garden Society at <https://nargs.org/forum/opuntia-fragilis> and Minnesota Wildflowers at <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/brittle-prickly-pear>

C- *Opuntia fragilis* grows in clumps close to the ground and hidden amidst the grasses. It detaches easily.



D- The flowers. Photo from Minnesota Wildflowers.



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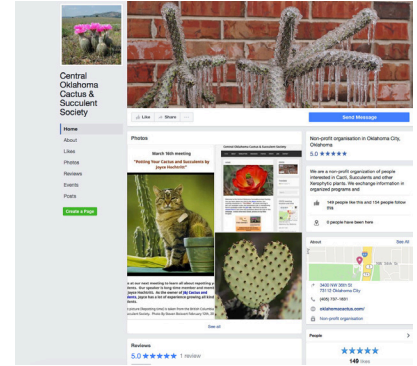


The sequence shows the evolution of the eclipse. The last picture shows a small part of the massive traffic jam after the eclipse. Traffic was bumper to bumper from Cheyenne to Denver.



CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

September 2017



Follow and like our website (upper left) at:

Oklahomacactus.com and our Facebook page (upper right)

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