

# THE OFFSET

**JULY 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 36<sup>th</sup>  
in Oklahoma City (except for the month of our  
Show&Sale, picnic and Christmas party).

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## CLUB NEWS



This month I am writing our president's message on behalf of Niki who is away on a well-deserved break.

We had a very successful Show and Sale this year, topping our previous sales record as our treasurer Peggy Anglin indicated. I myself sold all the winter hardy cacti I brought to sell and I too had my best sale so far. We managed to get some new members as well. The week after our show and sale saw member Fred Hill participate in a garden tour of his newly rebuilt garden. Fred's house was damaged during our tornado outbreak last year and he has managed to reconstruct a nice-looking garden with the help of members and others. Our next event will be this month with a workshop designed to build your own dish garden.

The year is rapidly passing and before we know it will time for our September annual picnic. More details will be available in next month's newsletter.

For now we just need to get through the hot months of summer, yes the heat is finally arriving, but then who can complain when we later get wonderful Fall weather.

Hope to see you at the workshop on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

Rosario Douglas  
Vice-President



### Show report



We had a great turnout for the show and sale (good job advertising!). We sold \$1,400 more than ever before, and the customers were very complimentary about the selection and prices (good job vendors!). Everything seemed to run smoothly, with plants flying out the door, door prizes and kids' plants being awarded, potting demos happening and bountiful lunches (good job everyone who helped!). We welcomed back former member Ralph Shadid and added new members Katie Pendley, Don Harden and Ashley Smith.

We currently have 40 paid members.

Peggy Anglin  
Treasurer

## CLUB NEWS

### From the editor



This month the newsletter is not too long. We are working on a series of articles about our latest trip to Romania and the Canary Islands. We took thousands of photographs during this 32 day trip this May-June and we are still going through them, looking for the best ones. Next month we hope to publish the first installment of our 18 day trip to the Canary Islands. Landscapes, succulents and habitats unique to the islands will be among the subjects we plan to cover in this travel log series. We will also be featuring unique succulent genera found in the islands.

I would also like to remind members and new members to check our webpage at:

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

Here you can see all the issues of the OFFSET from 2012 on. The newsletters contain a variety of articles and information about cacti and succulents in general. I would also urge all members to contribute materials, questions, comments, photos etc to the newsletter.

# COCSS Program

## July 17th

### THE CENTRAL OKLAHOMA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

### ‘BUILD YOUR OWN DISH GARDEN’

**WHEN:** July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**TIME:** 7pm-8:30 pm

**PLACE:** Will Rogers Garden Center 3400  
NW 36<sup>th</sup>, Oklahoma City.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Your own dish, planter  
or container. It is best to use a container  
that has drainage holes

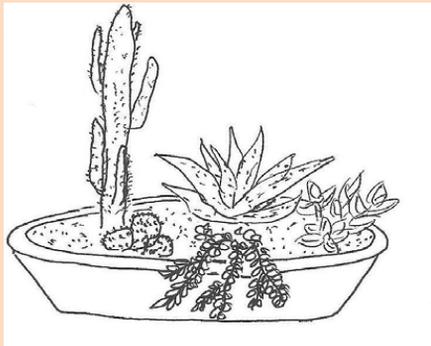
#### THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE:

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](mailto:cactibud@cox.net)



## CACTUS AND SUCCULENT HAPPENINGS IN THE REGION



**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)

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

## ARTICLE OF THE MONTH

We are having a “Build your own dish garden” workshop this month so I thought I would include an article about dish gardens. This article is taken verbatim from the Home Depot Garden Club at: <http://gardenclub.homedepot.com/make-a-succulent-dish-garden/>



Trendy succulents are fun and easy to grow, which makes them perfect for dish gardens. Because they come from parts of the world with hot, arid climates, they can tolerate the dry air inside most homes, and they're happy with little more than a spot by a sunny window.

Since these undemanding plants often have small root systems, you can pot them up in a shallow dish, saucer, or other container. They're seldom bothered by pests or diseases, but be sure to give them well-drained soil, and water only when the soil feels dry, to prevent possible rot.

You can change up your succulent dish garden in many ways. Try growing the plants in a half of a clam shell or conch, and add a bit of driftwood or a piece of beach glass for whimsy. Containers like this easy to make concrete planter are perfect for setting off the sculptural forms of succulents.

To pick up subtle colors in their leaves, grow your succulents in a ceramic pot with a complementary glaze. They also look great in simple clay pots or garden urns. You can plant them in large containers, too, and some succulents, like jade plants, will grow as big as the container will allow. Read the tags on your plants to learn about its mature size.

**SKILL LEVEL**      **Easy**  
**TIME REQUIRED**   **30 minutes**  
**TOOLS**    Drill  
 Optional: Watering can

**MATERIALS**

Succulents  
 Cacti and succulent potting mix  
 Small rocks or pea gravel  
 Pot  
 Optional: Shells, stones, polished rocks (available at craft stores)

## INSTRUCTIONS



1. Since succulents dislike standing water, try to use a dish, saucer or other container with a drainage hole. If your pot doesn't have one, drill one in it or put a layer of small rocks or pea gravel on the bottom. This will help drain water away from the roots.

2. Fill your container with a potting soil made for cacti and succulents, or make your own by mixing 4 parts regular potting soil, 4 parts perlite, and one part coarse builder's sand. Leave about an inch of room at the top for the small rocks in step 3.

3. Plant the succulents using your fingers or a small trowel and gently firm the soil around them. Cover the soil with a layer of pea gravel or small river rocks. This helps keep moisture away from the base of the plants, which might cause them to rot. Water lightly, and keep your dish garden near a sunny window. A southern exposure is fine.

4. Wait until the soil feels dry before you water again. If your dish garden is sitting in a saucer to catch any drainage, be sure to empty it. When your succulents are actively growing, feed them with a fertilizer made for cacti and succulents, following the product directions. If you use a potting soil that already has fertilizer in it, you won't have to fertilize for about six months.

5. Succulents need a rest period of about 2 or 3 months each winter, so when the growing season ends, move them to a spot that stays around 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. While they're resting, water no more than once a month, and don't fertilize until you move them back into a warm place and they're actively growing again.



Upper left photo taken from dish garden ideas at: <http://www.gardenideaspicture.us/2013/08/dish-garden-ideas.html>,  
middle photo taken from Planted Tank at: <http://www.plantedtank.net/forums/showthread.php?t=94766>,  
bottom photo taken from Holly rocks at: <http://hollyrocksjewelry.blogspot.com/2011/05/dish-garden.html>

## SUCCULENT PLANTS *by Rosario Douglas*

### The genus *Stapelia*

The genus was named by Linnaeus in 1737 after Dutch physician Johanes Bodaeus Van Stapel. : Depending on what source you read *Stapelia* is either in the Asclepiadiaceae or in the Apocynaceae family. The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) places the genus in the Apocynaceae family. Source: SANBI at <http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantqrs/voteplant.php>

A genus primarily found in Southern Africa (Botswana, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe). Some species are also found in Angola, Malawi Northern Zambia. The genus has about 43 species of low and spineless succulent plants.

The common names are African starfish or carryon flower. The latter is a reference to most flower's rotten meat smell. The flowers are are pollinated by flies.

*Stapelias* are perennial plants and their flowers are star-shaped. Some flowers can be fairly large and in this case they are found at the base of the plant. *Stapelia gigantea* has flowers that can reach 16 inches in diameter.

Easily propagated from cuttings plants can flower readily if given a warm sunny location and are not overwatered. Sources: Wikipedia and The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI).

Upper right and middle *Stapelia garipiensis* photographed by Mike Douglas in the Richtersveld, South Africa.

Bottom right: *Stapeliad flavopurpurea* from SANBI's webpage:

<http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantqrs/stapelia.htm>





Upper left: *Orbea variegata* (*Stapelia pulchellus*) . From Wikipedia Commons. Upper right: The pollinator of *Orbea variegata*: taken from Stapeliads hidden treasures of the desert at: [http://anti-matter-3d.com/Stapeliads/Stapeliad\\_Pollination.html](http://anti-matter-3d.com/Stapeliads/Stapeliad_Pollination.html), lower left: *Stapelia olivacea* from the South African National Biodiversity Institute's plant information website: <http://www.plantzafrica.com/plantqrs/stapelia.htm> lower right: *Stapelia gigantea*. Wikipedia Commons.

## THE BOTANICAL CORNER

by Rosario Douglas



<b>Astrispinus</b>	<b>Star-spined</b>
<b>Atratus</b>	<b>Garbed in black</b>
<b>Atrovirens</b>	<b>Dark green</b>
<b>Atrorubens</b>	<b>Dark red</b>
<b>Augustissimus</b>	<b>Very majestic</b>
<b>Aurivillus</b>	<b>With golden shaggy hair</b>
<b>Aureus</b>	<b>Golden</b>
<b>Aurantiacus</b>	<b>Orange color</b>



*Coleocephalocereus aureus*



**Lampranthus aurantiacus - Bush Iceplant**

Top right photo: from Wikipedia Commons  
 Lower left photo: from the Evergreen  
 Nursery webpage  
 ([www.evergreennursery.com](http://www.evergreennursery.com))

Terms from a book by W. Taylor Marshall and R.S. Woods. The book is titled, **Glossary of succulent plant terms**, published in 1938. The Cactus Museum at [www.CactusMuseum.com](http://www.CactusMuseum.com), Wikipedia, A glossary put together by John Chippindale of Leeds England. Also terms from CactiGuide.com at <http://cactiguide.com/glossary/>.