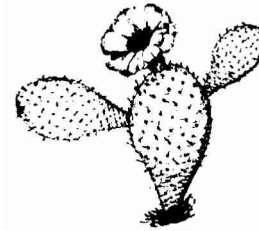




The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@aol.com

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 3 **February 2000** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, February 8

First Baptist Church
Christian Life Center
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

(West of 99 freeway on corner of
Olive drive & Victor street)

IN THIS ISSUE

Travels with Rob

Killer Book Review

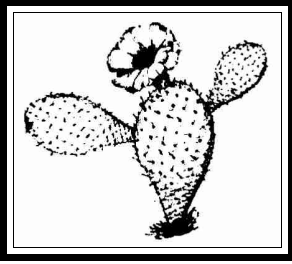
A Letter from
the CSSA

BCSS Web Page

Photos

Much More!

**HAVE YOU PAID
YOUR DUES?**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 3 Number 2
February 2000

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society (BCSS) of Bakersfield, California. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the times and places noted within. GUEST ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

2000 Officers

President - Rob Skillin
Vice-President - Lynn McDonald
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary - Bonnie East
Editor - Stephen Cooley

2000 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Bruce Hargreaves

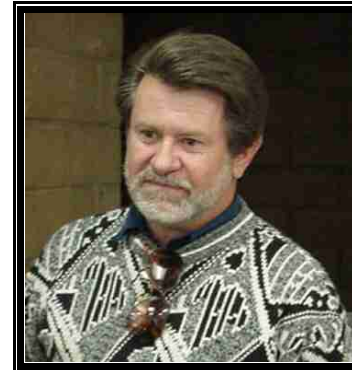
2000 Chairpersons

Refreshments - Bill McDonald
Historian - Bobby Williams
Librarian - Bobby Williams
Field Trips - Dan French

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BCSS general meeting: Jan 11, 2000

The January meeting had a great turnout!! There were 27 members and visitors present for Woody Minnich's talk about the Cacti of Big Bend. We welcomed visitors Debbie and Nancy and hope to see them again! Among the business items discussed was the Home and Garden Show coming up in February. It was decided that we would not participate this year, due to a lack of interest (no one volunteered to be in charge.) Also discussed was our first Show and Sale. It was generally accepted that the show would be non-competitive and would include educational displays. Terry, Linda, and Bonnie volunteered to co-chair this event. Lynn expressed a wish that members would let her know what kind of programs they are interested in, so she can try to arrange them! The new name tag policy was discussed, with general approval. Bonnie mentioned that there are 2 large and 1 extra-large T-shirts left. The Bylaws are available for perusal and comment. Bobby mentioned that Lee Eby has donated several books about succulents to our Library. Thanks, Lee! Gordon has put the back issues of the Cactus Patch in a binder and they are available from the Library, as well. Thanks, Gordon!



The business portion of the meeting being concluded, Woody's program about the Cacti of Big Bend began. Early on, technical difficulties intervened, and we moved to the Plant of the Month portion of the program to allow Woody time to fix his slides. Stephen, Gordon, Ed, Linda, Maynard, Bruce and Rob all brought some beautiful plants to show off. Thanks to all for participating. We then moved to the Raffle, after which we were ready for Woody's program and it was ready for us! Woody showed us beautiful slides of spectacular scenery and cacti in the inaccessible Big Bend National Park. I'm sure that many members wished they could visit the areas shown to us by Woody. The program was definitely worth the wait! Thanks, Woody. The program ended with the Name-Tag Raffle. The winner of the beautiful Cactus Stamp poster (donated by Steve K.--Thanks!!) was Marilyn Cowie. Congratulations, Marilyn! The meeting was then adjourned. We hope to see everyone back at the February meeting.

BCSS Executive Board Meeting: Jan. 25, 2000

Here's a brief summary of what happened:

Bruce passed on a couple of e-mails he received: one requested an article from a back issue of the CSSA journal and the other was a request for phone cards with cacti/succulents on them

Lynn reported that she had investigated some sources of free publicity the club could use and passed on the information to the newsletter. She also informed us that upcoming programs would be: Naomi Bloss speaking about the Cape and Namibia for February; Bruce speaking about the Pedaliaceae (Sesame family) for March; and Dorothy Byers speaking about Botanical Illustration (especially of succulents) for the April meeting.

Maynard stated that the finances were in good shape.

Other business attended to included: an update of the Standing Rules to clarify Honorary memberships and to increase the amount we pay for speakers (the previous amount was a little low...). It was noted that the "30% rule" for people selling plants at our meetings needed to be enforced more strictly and the treasurer was instructed to remind the sellers to pay the 30%. Maynard said that many members had not renewed their memberships yet. Rob presented the budget for this year; we will be adding some money to the library budget. Bobbie will be speaking with members at the Feb. meeting to ascertain what kinds of books should be ordered. Rob displayed a flyer to distribute to nurseries to advertise the club. The Yard Sale was discussed and a date was decided on. It will be held on the weekend of May 6-7 (Saturday and Sunday). Bruce has tentatively offered his yard for the sale.

After consuming many yummy cookies and cupcakes and the delicious coffee provided by Lynn and Bill, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be held at the residence of Linda and Maynard on Feb. 29.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a "special plant" raffled off after the regular raffle. The winner will be selected from the name tags of those present. The idea is to do this a couple of times to encourage regular wearing of name tags. If you didn't leave them last month, Be sure to **bring your name tags** to the next meeting!

It has been brought to the editor's attention that Paul's head has been located.

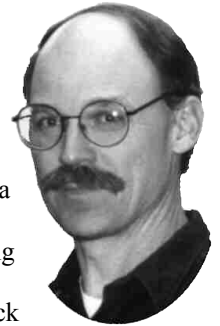
Dear BCSS members: Edison Middle School is in need of volunteer judges for the Science Fair. The Fair will be held on Wed., March 8, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Edison Middle School. Lunch will be provided. Give Bonnie East a call.



The goodies for the February meeting will be provided by Gordon and Freda Sanford. Thanks so much in advance!!

🏠🚗🚙🚘 Travels With Rob 🚗🚙🚘

November is a great time to visit Mexico and catch the *Ariocarpus* in bloom. This last year I traveled there on a plant photography expedition with Mike Navolio and two other friends, Larry Nicholes and Jim Boehmke. We met in Laredo Texas, where we crossed into Mexico, and headed towards the Sierra Madre Oriental and the Chihuahua Desert. We traveled in two cars; always good insurance against possible breakdowns and flat tires. We brought along all our food, camping gear, and detailed maps marked with locations of cacti that had been gleaned from friends and back issues of the Cactus and Succulent Journal.



The most frustrating part of any trip to Mexico is getting through the confusion and lines of the Mexican customs bureaucracy, changing money, and taking care of last minute details like getting ice and car insurance. But by midmorning we were speeding south towards Monterey on one of the fast, new (and expensive!), toll roads that are making travel there so much easier than just a few years ago. In much less time than I could have believed, we were past Monterey, past Saltillo, and climbing the grade to the high plateau of central Mexico. It was there that we left the highways, and took small, often unpaved roads into the remotest parts of rural Mexico.

Wherever you look in Mexico there are interesting succulents and cacti. Every stop is different and exciting, but for me, the real thrill of the trip was finding both *Ariocarpus bravoanus* v. *bravoanus*, and v. *hintoni*. These two plants are so new that they are virtually unknown in the US. But just as good was *Turbincarpus alonsoi*, which took us into entirely new terrain for me - misty pine mountains, and deep, deep gorges, where we also saw *Mammillaria schiedeana* and *Bombax ellipticum*. We found several other interesting *Turbincarpus* sites, many *Ariocarpus retusus* locations, and an *A. agavoides* hill that was new to me (we were helped with that one by a shepherd - it helps to have a Spanish speaker along). The *agavoides* were flowering, as were the *A. scapharostrus*. And we scouted out an amazing location for *A. trigonus* containing hundreds of plants. We never did find the limits of that population. We also saw *Obregonia*, many different Mamms, Feros, Corys, Thelos, Gymnos, Astros, and a *Neolloydia*. Thinking back on it, its hard to believe that we could see all that in just over a week. Oops, forgot to mention *Calabanus*! Not to mention *Aztekium ritteri*, and various Burseras, Cycads, Yuccas, and Agaves. Mexico is just that way- incredible.

We saw some of the destruction caused by illegal collecting. (ALL cacti collecting in Mexico is illegal.) On an isolated hilltop, after a long climb, we were only able to find a few plants of *Turbincarpus panarotoi*. But evidence of collecting abounded, and it was plain to see how the greed of commercial collectors had nearly stripped this hill of its recently discovered new species.



Populations of other plants seemed to be having better luck. I had been concerned especially about the *Ariocarpus bravoanus* v. *bravoanus*, which I had heard had come under heavy collecting pressure. But the colony we found seemed intact, as did that of v. *hintonii*. There also seemed to be a shift in the attitudes of some of the Mexicans we met. Whereas at times in the past I had been met by villagers attempting to sell me plants from gunny sacks they had filled, at several locations on this trip the locals were protective of the plants, and suspicious of our intentions. This is a good development.

The trip was wonderful. The weather was good, we had no hassles with the authorities, and we were so successful in finding the plants. It was a first for Mike, but I'm sure, not the last. And already, I'm starting to put together a mental list of plants and destinations for next time.

Rob Skillin

THE CACTUS CLUB KILLINGS

by Nathan Walpow; 1999; Dell Books; New York.

This is a must for those of us who like the challenge of a good murder mystery. It is doubly good because it is an excellent portrayal of a "typical" succulent society. I could swear that Nathan had me in mind when he has a character explaining that the murder weapon is a spurge and not a cactus. (He claims otherwise.)

Nathan admits to one error- *Euphorbia abdelkuri* is from the island of that name and not nearby Socotra as stated. Other errors which I have noted are:

Pseudolithos is not from Namibia. All four species are from Somalia.

Rhipsalis, the only cactus natural outside of the Americas, is widespread in tropical Africa as well as Madagascar and Sri Lanka.

Not all euphorbias have irritating or caustic latex. (But why take chances?)

Milk is a handier antidote for euphorbia latex than *Aeonium lindleyi*.

A new "Joe Portugal mystery" will be out soon. It will center on orchids. Will they kill off that noted fancier Nero Wolf?

On a sad note, Dr. Phillip Downs, editor of ASKLEPIOS has announced that he will step down after the next issue. No one is in sight to take over, so this may be the last issue. It will be a loss for those of us interested in milkweeds.

Did anyone note the article on Tequila in the business section of the New Year's Californian? Twice they referred to agaves as "cactus-like". Obviously someone cannot tell monocots from dicots or leaf succulents from stem succulents.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

A Letter From Bob Barth

Publicity Chair, CSSA Board of Directors

There will be no CSSA Convention in the year 2000, but there are plenty of regional conferences in the off year featuring well known speakers, rare plant auctions, plant sales and local tours, more than enough to pique the interest of succulentophiles. Information for all of these events may be found in recent and future issues of the CSSA newsletter, [To the Point](#).

Meanwhile, plans are well underway for the 29th Biennial Convention of the CSSA. The convention is to be held July 1-6, 2001 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California, hosted by the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society. In addition to the usual array of internationally known speakers, fabulous plant and book sales, rare plant auction, and convivial social events, there will be an opportunity on July 1 to visit the CSSA's annual show at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

The CSSA Board of Directors has established a new field trip committee consisting of Dan Mahr, Lee Miller and myself. Owing to the success of recent pre- and post convention field trips, the board decided to offer non-convention year trips in order to cater to those of you who enjoy seeing and photographing our favorite plants in habitat. The first of these offerings, to the Big Bend region of Texas, is scheduled for April 8-15, 2000. Although the trip is fully subscribed, a waiting list has been initiated. Anyone interested should contact Borderland Tours, 2550 W. Calle Padilla, Tucson, AZ 85745 (1-800-526-7753) as soon as possible. For future non-convention year trips we'd like to focus farther afield. Chile and Madagascar have been mentioned as possibilities, but we'd like to have input from any and all interested persons. Where would you like to go to see plants in habitat in future years?

We know there are members of affiliate societies who are not members of CSSA and the purpose of these occasional articles for affiliate newsletters is to encourage additional memberships in CSSA. Let me reiterate once again some of the advantages of CSSA membership. First of all, you get your very own copies of the CSSA Journal and Newsletter. The new improved journal under the able leadership of Editor Myron Kimnach has an excellent mix of scientific and horticultural articles. There is more of interest to the hobbyist and more color illustrations than in the past. For example, the special issue for July/August, 2000, will be on the genus *Euphorbia*, the favorite of many growers. The newsletter also contains much of interest to the hobbyist: the continuing series "Growing Cacti and Succulents for the Beginner" by Roger Brown (a series loaded with useful information for beginners and professionals alike). There are reports of CSSA field trips (most notably Dan Mahr's series on our fabulous trip to Baja California in July 1997), as well as general news of the society and the affiliates, and a calendar of upcoming events. Another advantage of CSSA membership is access to the seed depot, a fantastic (and inexpensive) source of succulent plant seeds (including those of many rare species) most efficiently managed by Sue Haffner. Finally, CSSA members receive discounts on CSSA convention fees and on certain field trip fees. All this for \$35 per year!. Who could ask for more!

(Editor's note: I have found the Internet to be a valuable source of information regarding succulents. There are many good web sites that are dedicated to those plants we find so endearing. Some are general in nature and others are much more specific. I hope to make the Web Review a regular part of the newsletter. If you have a favorite site, let me know.)

BCSS

The idea of organizing a club of fellow "cactophiles" began with Mike Navello and Richard Batts who planted the seed for the eventual founding of the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society in 1997. Our club now has about 30 active members.

Our club logo is the Bakersfield Cactus, *Opuntia basilaris* var. *triflexa*, which grows in the grassy hills and mesas north, east, and south of Bakersfield in Kern County, California. The Bakersfield Cactus is listed as endangered by State and Federal agencies. For additional information on its legal status, you can go to the California Native Plant Society web pages.


PURPOSE

The purpose of the society is to foster an understanding of cultivating cactus and other succulent plants through the sharing of our own experiences, guest lectures, field trips, and shows.

We have recently added a library that is full of excellent books and continues to grow along with the club. Our members range from novice to experts in the field and all are more than willing to share their knowledge and experiences.

[Return to BCSS home page](#)

As a member of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society your first stop on the internet should be to none other than our own web page. Presently maintained by Maynard Moe, the BCSS web pages include important information about when and where our club holds



**BAKERSFIELD CACTUS
and
SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

.....Welcome

.....to the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society

.....Web Pages

MENU

[Purpose -] [Meetings -] [Contact Information]
[Member's Page -] [Newsletter]

2007

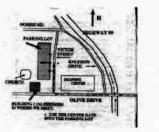
BCSS

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 7pm:

First Baptist Church
Christian Life Center, Building #1
5500 Olive Drive
Bakersfield, CA.

(West of 99 Freeway on corner of Olive Drive & Victor St. - see map below)




[Return to BCSS home page](#)

its meetings. It also includes a short history and purpose of the club. The Cactus Patch is included on the web pages as well - and the pictures are in color. You can also go to pages that showcase some of our members' plants and gardens. Here you can look at pictures of Ed Colley's collection, see some wonderful pictures of cactus

Mesembts that have been outside in the ground

L. M. Moe
Bakersfield, California

Half-year view of my Mesemb garden outside in Bakersfield, CA. Winters are cold (to 10 degrees F) and sometimes wet (see above 7). Summers are hot (to 110 degrees F) and dry. These numbered plants have survived at least one year.



1 = *Chenopodium derolesianum* 2 = *Carranthis perulifera* 3 = *Yucca* 4 = *Cephalophyllum stipitatum* 5 = *Chenopodium* 6 = *Stemodia* 7 = *Desmodium* 8 = *Portulaca* 9 = *Portulaca* 10 = *Portulaca* 11 = *Portulaca* 12 = *Portulaca* 13 = *Portulaca* 14 = *Portulaca* 15 = *Portulaca*

(Mesembts are due to your smiling labels - if you recognize them, please e-mail me.)

flowers taken by Sydney Kelley, or inspect Maynard Moe's outside mesemb garden. The BCSS web page presents an excellent opportunity for us to exhibit our club and its members. Maynard can help get your pictures, musings, advice, comments, -- just about anything -- on the web page. Talk to Maynard at the next meeting and find out how to get your stuff on the internet.

The BCSS web page can be found at:

<http://members.aol.com/Lithops44/>

Program Notes

The February speaker will be Naomi Bloss from Watsonville. She's been interested in succulents for 25 years. She does propagating at her home & sells enough plants to "pay for her habit." She is a Master gardener and volunteers at UC Santa Cruz arboretum. Her husband Frank is the photographer and will accompany her. I believe she will bring some plants along to sell.

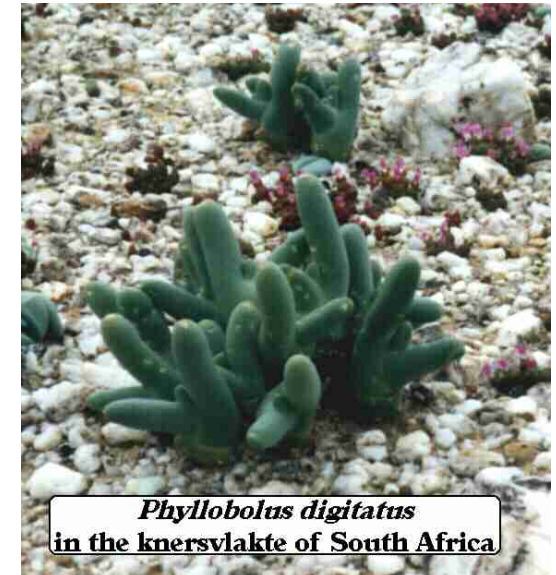
Lynn

Plant of the Month: Anything from the Cape or Namibia

Brief comments on the flora of southwest South Africa

The vegetation of Southwest South Africa is ecologically like that of California and other regions with a Mediterranean climate. However, Southwest South Africa is so unique it is considered a separate Floristic Kingdom (all of North America is a single Floristic Kingdom). This Cape Floristic Kingdom is home to an astounding diversity of flowering plants, over 68% of which are found nowhere else. Although the vegetation is much like the California Chaparral and semideserts (called Fynbos and Succulent Karoo in South Africa), the species diversity is several times greater. To give you an idea as to how much greater, consider an index where we can estimate the total number of plant species per 100 square kilometers (1 square kilometer is about 0.4 square miles or 1 square mile is about 2.6 square kilometers) - this can be called species density. Here are some species densities of selected regions of the world: Canada (0.02), California (1.5), Kern County (7.4), Costa Rica (194), Cape Floristic Province (95), Cape Peninsula (486.3).

Major plant families of the Cape include the proteoids (*Protea* relatives), ericoids (heaths), restioids (grass relatives), vygies (mesembs), stapeliads, crassulas, euphorbias, haworthias, aloes, and the greatest number of geophytes (gladiolus, Lachenalias, Ixias) in the world.



***Phyllobolus digitatus*
in the knersvlakte of South Africa**

WORDSEARCH

A H N S I S P O D I R I E H C C I M G E
 N J Q C O Y Y M R O H P U E Y S T M G K
 A V A F R Q O T R I C H O C A U L O N Y
 C T I Z W A A I H C S T I W L E W O V O
 A Q B O O C E L Y T G Q A O U O O E T N
 M Q R O R M A L U S S A R C R Z D H R K
 P N O L U A C O C R A S I G L W O J A L
 S V H T S P X T M L D K D J Y N N L A G
 E P P J C K I N U M R L A V N U A M F L
 R K U W H I E O M U O G R A J N P Y A A
 O A E T I X K D E T M B I C C R A C R M
 S L G E A B H E H Y I M A H A I H N G R
 Y A V S U Q O L T H S C O N D E O F Y E
 N N B A E L B Y N P C E T O N D A H R P
 M C G O E P D T A O H H O A O N I A O S
 X Q L M S B Z O S O U H L C T P R P D O
 Y A L S W I R C O S S I E X T O A X E L
 G E Q M E J D O R P A L U S Z O R L R E
 S A R C O C V K D U Y E S J R Q E B M D
 Q Q L V L F Y M U T Y H P O N O C I A X

Cape/Namibia Succulents

Can you find these succulent Genera in the puzzle above?

Adromischus	Ceraria	Delosperma	Lachenalia	Ruschia
Aloe	Cheiridopsis	Drosanthemum	Lampranthus	Sarcocaulon
Anacampseros	Conophytum	Euphorbia	Oophytum	Trichocaulon
Argyroderma	Cotyledon	Hoodia	Orbea	Tylecodon
Aridaria	Crassula	Kalanchoe	Othonna	Welwitschia

HOW ARE ELVIS IMPERSONATORS AND LITHOPS ALIKE?
 THEY'RE BOTH ROCK MIMICS!

Do you have a choice cactus picture? A piquant observation? An enchanting narrative? Let your voice be heard! Submit to The Cactus Patch!

Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@aol.com

Linda Cooley, editor



CALENDAR



Here are some spring dates to mark on your calendar:

February 8

BCSS meeting; 7:00 p.m. at Bakersfield Christian Life Center

February 18-20

Bakersfield Home & Garden Show

February 29

Executive meeting, 7:00 p.m. at Linda and Maynard's home

March 14

BCSS meeting; 7:00 p.m. at Bakersfield Christian Life Center

Plant of the Month: Sesame family (Pedaliaceae)

March 28

Executive meeting, 7:00 p.m. at ???

April 11

BCSS meeting; 7:00 p.m. at Bakersfield Christian Life Center

Plant of the Month: anything blooming and any botanical illustrations of succulents you might have.

April 15-20?

BCSS Baja field trip - contact Dan French for info.

April 25

Executive meeting, 7:00 p.m. at ???

February					March					April					1
		1					1								
		8										11			15
				18 19		14				16 17 18 19 20					
20												25			
		29				28		31		30					

The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society would like to thank Debbie and Nancy for coming to the January meeting. We always enjoy having guests and hope you come back again! Leave your address and we'll send you a complimentary newsletter!