

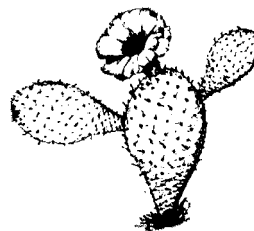
"Icy" stem of *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*



Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 4 **April 2001** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

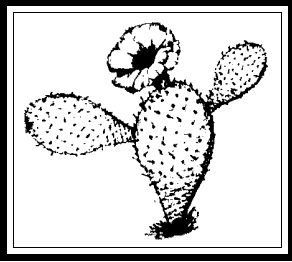
This Month's Program
**The Natural history of
Amazonian Peru**
presented by **Guy Wrinkle**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 10
First Baptist Church
Christian Life Center
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**Get rid of your
old stuff at the
YARD SALE!
May 11-12**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 4 Number 4
April 2001

BCSS General Meeting: March 13, 2001

We welcomed visitor Ron Monroe from Wofford Heights!

Rob opened the meeting; the first item on the agenda was the Show and Sale Committee. Show and Sale chair Maynard mentioned that the Show and Sale would be held October 13-14 at East Hills Mall and that we were officially on the calendar. He asked that any members interested in being on the committee please let him know.

Up-coming events were discussed: At Woody Minnich's nursery (Cactus Data Plants) are several events coming up. The first of these is the auction of Larry Grammar's plants and Woody's Sale on April 14; this will be followed by a pottery sale on April 21-22, and on the 26th of May, the second half of Larry Grammar's plants will be auctioned off. The yard sale will be May 11-12 in Rob and Terry's yard. Guy Wrinkle will be holding a plant auction in Carpenteria on June 23rd. The Executive meeting will be March 27 (later changed to April 2) at Linda and Maynard's. The Petroglyph field trip on March 31st was attended to.

The program for the evening was presented by Jim Boehmke, the "world's greatest seed collector" according to Rob! Jim lives in Livermore and has been in the plant growing business for 10 years. He gave us an abundance of useful information about growing cactus from seeds. He began with handouts on soil mixes, and recommended collecting desert loam. (Check local restrictions and regulations before doing this, please!) He mentioned that cactus seeds would last a long time if properly stored in paper containers in a cool and dry location. He gave us a concise outline of how to germinate cactus seeds: grab a pot, screen the bottom, add mix, add 15-30 seeds on top, make a label with date, tamp the seeds lightly with a block of wood, sprinkle with coarse aquarium sand, saturate with water and then put in the germination chamber. The germination chamber can be a plastic bag or bucket, or the more elaborate, yet still simple, germination box with a heating cable that he designed and demonstrated for us. He let us all try out his technique, supplying us with pots, soil mix, seeds, etc. He then explained that the plants will germinate fairly quickly, within 1-2 weeks, especially if given some "bottom heat". (I put my pot of seeds on top of the aquarium light and had a few seeds sprout within two weeks!) After germination, Jim keeps the tiny plants in the germination chamber for two weeks. He recommends starting seeds early in spring, so that the young plants can get used to the sun before it reaches its summer intensity. He starts treating his baby plants like adults right away--except he waters them when the top 1/2" of soil is dry, instead of waiting for the whole pot to dry out. In April he starts shading with 40% shade cloth,

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

2001 Officers

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

2001 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Bruce Hargreaves

2001 Chairpersons

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

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and at the 2 month mark he starts fertilizing the little plants with very diluted fertilizer about once a week (just like he does with all of his plants). He gave us another useful handout on germination tips. He then proceeded to tell and show us how to make a Boehmke germination chamber. We were also given a handout showing how to do this, so I will not take up the space to describe it here. Perhaps it will show up on the website! He finished his instructive talk by describing how he repots his seedlings. Many of us were quite shocked to see how roughly he handled his beautiful baby plants, but they obviously thrive on it! He pops the whole herd of crowded plants out of the pot and pulls them apart, knocking the soil from their roots. He then snips off one quarter of their little roots and leaves them sitting out for several days. He then returns and grabs them by the roots with his long tweezers and roughly plunges them into their new pot of soil, taps the pot to settle them in and leaves them again for a couple of weeks before watering them. You would have to see it to believe it! Over all, every one enjoyed this participatory program very much and we thank Jim profusely for coming and sharing his time and expertise with us!

We ended our meeting as usual with the Plants of the month and the raffles. A lot of members participated in the plant of the month, which featured Blooming plants. We had a nice representation of beautiful flowering plants. There were lots of nice raffle plants as well; the Name-tag raffle was won by Bobby!!

BCSS Executive Board Meeting: April 2, 2001

Due to the late date of the Executive meeting this month, no details were available at press time.¹

PLANT OF THE MONTH

The Plant-of-the-Month is usually decided at the Executive meeting which is to be held April 2nd -- that means I will not have time to include it in this issue.² However, feel free, as always, to bring any plant that you are proud of, have questions about, or find interesting in any way.

¹ that's newsletter speak for "I put it off too long and now I'm just hustling to get it done."

² though it is possible to include last minute details given today's high-speed digital instant communication technology, it is beyond the scope of our snail publication (see also footnote #1).

PROGRAM NOTES

The Natural History of Amazonian Peru Presented by Guy Wrinkle

Guy Wrinkle says that the presentation he will be giving at our April meeting has nothing to do with succulents but guarantees that everyone will love it. His talk will present the Amazon river and the distinctive plant and animals found there, accompanied by wonderful photographs.

Guy teaches biology and related subjects such as human anatomy, genetics and ecology at the college level in the Los Angeles area of Southern California. In addition to this he runs a nursery in the same area which specializes in cycads, caudiciform plants, rare succulents and other exotics. He is interested in and studies a wide range of natural history related topics including, insects, reptiles, shells, fossils, artifacts etc. as well as several aspects of botany and horticulture. Current projects include chemical stimulation of growth and seed germination in cycads as well as new artificial propagation techniques for these plants. He received his bachelor degree in biology from California State University at Los Angeles where he worked on cycad tissue culture and his masters degree in evolutionary biology specializing in entomology from UCLA. He has traveled and done extensive fieldwork in these areas, including ten trips to Africa and several to Mexico, Central and South America as well as Europe. He also has written several articles of a botanical nature in various journals, written a book on cycad culture and gives slide illustrated lectures to horticultural and natural history societies. He will be speaking at the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) Convention in the Los Angeles area this July.

Guy Wrinkle can be contacted at: 310 670-8637
Email GuyWrinkle@RareExotics.com
Web Site <http://www.rareexotics.com/>

[Thanks to Lynn McDonald and Guy Wrinkle
for providing the Program info]



A photo of
Zygosicyos tripartitus
from Guy Wrinkle's Web
Site

Pitsane & Gaborone A Letter From Bruce

February was mostly settling in. I finally got a house and moved in on the 26th. March has been much more rewarding. On the 2nd I had to go south to a Baralong Landboard workshop 5 miles from the South African border to explain environmental impact assessment. The talk went well (even if the museum slide projector is as bad as ever) and afterward we were entertained with a black-headed oriole, white-fronted bee-eaters and a toad while waiting for lunch. After lunch I made a stop at Pitsane, the historic village where Leander Star Jameson led his abortive raid into South Africa, a raid which foreshadowed the Anglo-Boer war. (Jameson's raid was allegedly planned with Rhodes in the very building - then a coach house- where my office is located in Gaborone. The village has closed on Pitsane Pan and signs of goats, donkeys and vehicles were everywhere. Most of the succulents were hiding under candle thorn (*Acacia hebeclada*) which has upright pods because its so close to the ground it can't hang them down. I noted *Crassula capitella* and *Delosperma herbeum* had been nibbled right at the point when they reached open sky. I was looking for *Orbea tapscottii* which Desmond Cole implies has disappeared (which is somehow my fault?) and couldn't find any stapeliads. Fortunately I was with Rapekenene, the same driver as the trip with Cole, who quickly showed me *Duvalia polita* and *Huernia longituba*. So at least some stapeliads are still there. I also failed to find any *Nananthus* which Cole had taken me there to see. The site is really degraded, but don' blame me. Survivors include *Aloe marlothii*, *Ipomoea bolusiana*, *Bulbine narcissifolia*, *Pterodiscus speciosus*, *Aloe transvaalensis*, *Kalanchoe rotundifolia* and some bulbs of *Albuca* and *Ledebouria* species. The only thing in the Euphorbiaceae was the tuberous *Jatropha zeyheri*.

On the 3rd and 4th I visited an "empty" lot two blocks south from my house and found *Aloe transvaalensis*, *Talinum arnotii*, *Jatropha zeyheri*, *Raphionacme burkei*, *Cyphostemma schlecteri*, *Ipomoea bolusiana*, *Ipomoea holubii*, *Adenia digitata*, *Scilla*, *Ledebouria*, *Commelina*, *Tradescantia*, *Tachyandra* and *Ammocharis*. There were beautiful blue waxbills and bronze mannikins. Many plants were blooming and I'll collect seed when it ripens. I painfully dug one *Raphionacme* tuber only to find it growing in my driveway! (The one I dug is now planted in the botanic garden.)

Next the Morale Hills.

Bruce J. Hargreaves
Principal Curator of Natural History,
National Museum, Botswana

P.S. I meant to reply to the comment some time back that I hadn't given instructions for pronouncing San (Bushman) words. It's really quite simple:
! (also written with a Q) is the palatal click- pop your tongue against the back roof of the mouth to make a "champagne cork popping".
/ (also written C) is the lateral click - make a sound like used for urging a horse (or mule) to move.
// (also written X) is the labial click -often written tsk, tsk in English (tongue inside front teeth).

All else is pronounced phonetically.

Another suggestion is to call the plant in question the "velcro" leaf - the back of the leaves have hairs which allow them to stick together.

Does this help? BJH

A Letter From Bob Barth Publicity Chair, CSSA Board of Directors

The CSSA is always on the lookout for new members. The more members we have, the more benefits we can offer our members. We know that many members of affiliate societies are not members of CSSA. These occasional articles for affiliate newsletters are one of the various ways we try to increase our membership. For a mere \$35 a year you get your own copy of the Cactus and Succulent Journal six times a year. Under the able editorship of Myron Kimmach, the Journal has increased the breadth of its coverage in recent years and now has articles appealing to every level of interest within the cactus and succulent hobby. Increased use of color photographs has enhanced the attractiveness of the Journal. An exciting new format will debut in 2001 and two new co-editors have joined the staff, Steven Hammer and Dylan Hannon. Along with the Journal, CSSA members receive a newsletter entitled "To the Point." The newsletter specializes in articles of particular interest to hobbyist growers such as Roger Brown's long running series on "Growing Cacti and Succulents for the Beginner," and provides news of past and future CSSA and affiliate society activities and events. Under the editorship of our new newsletter editor, "Cactus" Carol Clapp, I'm sure we'll see some exciting changes in our newsletter. CSSA members also have access to our Seed Depot, which offers seeds of many rare and unusual succulents to members at very reasonable prices.

The CSSA holds national conventions every other year open to members only. Consequently, we generally experience a boost in membership in convention years. We expect this to be true in 2001, a

convention year. Keeping convention year members in the intervening year has been something of a problem in the past. Our recently initiated non-convention year fieldtrip program may help to alleviate this problem. This new program will be featured in a subsequent article.

The major CSSA event this year is the 29th biennial International Convention hosted by the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society. It will be held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, California, July 1-6, 2001. Conventions feature world-renowned speakers, plant and book sales, mid-week day tours and longer pre- and post-convention tours, and the upcoming convention is no exception. We have an exciting roster of national and international speakers discussing topics as varied as Socotra Travels (that's about the most exotic succulent locale I can think of –get out your atlases!) and growing Mesembs. If South American cacti are your special interest, you'll find at least five programs devoted to your favorites. Four mid-week day trips are being offered, all of interest, but of special note is the trip to Lotus Land in Santa Barbara, a fantastic succulent garden formerly the private garden of Madame Ganna-Walska. An added bonus for this convention is the opportunity to visit the CSSA's annual Show and Sale at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, June 30 – July 1, and, of course, the wonderful desert garden itself. Convention social events provide plenty of time to renew old friendships and make new ones. To find out more about the upcoming convention have a look at recent issues of the Cactus and Succulent Journal and the newsletter "To the Point" or visit the CSSA Website: <http://www.cactus-mall.com/cssa/> or the specific convention website <http://www.cssainc.org/convent.html>.

Two exciting tours open to CSSA members are being conducted in connection with this year's convention. The pre-convention tour will visit Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Joshua Tree National Park, June 24-29, 2001. Participants will spend six days and five nights exploring some of the most beautiful deserts of southern California. I'm planning on doing this trip myself as it visits areas I've never seen. The post-convention tour entitled "The Coastal Californias" is somewhat longer, ten days and nine nights (July 7-16), and will explore the coastal succulent floras from central California as far north as Santa Cruz, south to Cataviña in north central Baja California. A special feature will be a day trip to Santa Rosa Island to view island endemics. In the north, dudleyas are a prominent feature of the succulent flora, while in Baja California, *Idrias*, Cardons, and Elephant trees are common. Both trips will feature knowledgeable botanical guides, comfortable air-conditioned vehicles, and excellent overnight accommodations. For additional information concerning these spectacular trips visit the special website

designed by Dan Mahr, CSSA Field Trips Chairman at <http://www.cssainc.org/tripscom/tripscomhome.html>. This website provides all the information you need to know about both trips. Hope you'll join us on one or both.

Good growing!

Succulent Survey

Spring arrived quickly in March with temperatures soaring into the 80's, cutting short some of the blooms of my *Dorotheanthus*. *Dorotheanthus* is a Mesemb that produces spectacular bicolored flowers in late winter. It is a bit of a succulent oddity in that it is an annual, living only one season. Seeds can be purchased at many garden centers under the name of Livingstone Daisy. In Bakersfield it is best to scatter the seeds in an open area when the fall rains come. Another oddity is *Cheiridopsis peculiaris*, a Mesemb that produces two distinctly different kinds of leaves during the growing season. The first set of leaves are large, flat, and fat. Flowers come next -- their huge, bright yellow flowers are currently the main attraction in the north end of my Mesemb garden. Soon they will lose the flat leaves as they produce a second set which are fused together into the shape of a notched egg. These it will keep until they dry into a papery sheath during the Summer dormant period. Come late Fall they will split open to magically reveal once again the flat leaves hiding inside. March also means the explosion of what many think of when they hear the word "iceplant" -- the *Lampranthus* and *Drosanthemum* that are commonly used to cover dry slopes. These produce such an abundance of flowers that their leaves cannot be seen beneath the shiny pink, red, purple, or orange petals.

In the cactus garden the *Ferocactus glaucescens* has finally opened its yellow flowers after months of teasing me with buds. It is now the *Echinopsis'* turn to tease with new buds showing everyday. The warm weather has spurred me to repot a number of cactus seedlings into larger pots and to plant new seeds recently arrived from Mesa Garden. The cactus seeds planted during Jim Boehmke's talk at our last meeting have sprouted and I can see more than a dozen little ones through the plastic bag. Before you know it they will be big enough to join their cousins outside.

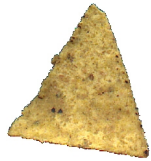
If you would like to share some of your garden happenings, let me known and I'll get it in the newsletter.

Stephen Cooley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Field Trips:

New York Mountains overnight camping trip: May 5-6



*Thank You
Maynard & Lynn
for bringing the March treats:*



BE SURE TO VISIT US AT
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

YARD SALE PEOPLE NEEDED!

PEOPLE ARE NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE YARD SALE ON FRIDAY, MAY 11TH. IF WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH THEN WE WILL HAVE TO CHANGE IT TO A SATURDAY & SUNDAY EVENT. A SIGN-UP SHEET WILL BE AT THE APRIL MEETING.

The annual
Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
Member Roster
will be available to members
at the April meeting.
(Rosters not picked up at the meeting will be mailed.)

CALENDAR

April 10 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Bakersfield Christian Life Center
program: The Natural History of Amazonian Peru
speaker: Guy Wrinkle

April 14 Larry Grammer Plant Auction at Woody's Nursery part 1.

April 21 Pottery Sale at Woody's Nursery.

May 5-6 New York Mountains field trip.

May 8 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm at **Maynard & Linda's**
potluck program - bring your favorite slides and photos!

May 11-12 BCSS yard sale!

May 26 Larry Grammer Plant Auction at Woody's Nursery part 2.

June 12 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Bakersfield Christian Life Center
speaker: Norma Lewis of the Huntington Botanical Garden.

June 30-July 1 CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens

July 1-6 CSSA Convention, Woodland Hills

October 13-14 BCSS 2nd Annual Show & Sale!

Contact the editor for more information concerning calendar events

To have your article printed in The Cactus Patch get in touch with:

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Linda Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@aol.com

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and \$15 a year for a family. This extraordinarily reasonable price not only includes twelve issues of The Cactus Patch but entitles you to participate in club field trips to far-off (out-of-town) and exotic places (more exotic than Bakersfield). You will also receive a nifty name tag that will be your ticket to the members only plant raffle held every meeting featuring the best plant on the raffle table! All this is in addition to the wonderful programs and people at the meetings. To become a member contact:

Maynard Moe, treasurer

lithops44@bak.rr.com