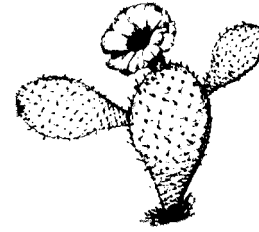


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatc@bak.rr.com



*Crassula columnaris* in habitat  
Photo by Maynard Moe

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*

Volume 4    **October 2001**    Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## The Mystique of Socotra

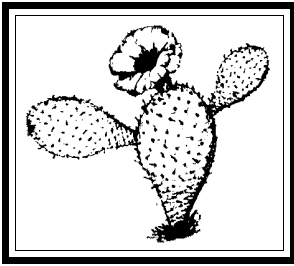
presented by **Mark Muradian**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**  
Olive Drive Church  
Christian Life Center  
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**2nd Annual  
Show & Sale  
Oct. 13-14  
East Hills Mall**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 4    Number 10  
October 2001

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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## **A Message From The President**

As we enter the last quarter of the year, some of the most exciting days lie ahead for our club. Coming up the weekend after our October meeting is the Show and Sale. I don't have to remind you what a fantastic presentation we made our first year, and how well it was received by the public. This year will certainly be even better, as we leverage off of last year's success. I invite everyone in the club to participate in some way; by bringing a few plants (everyone has a favorite plant to bring!), or by volunteering to help at the sales table or meet the public. Many volunteers last year signed up for one time slot, but had such a good time, they stayed the whole day! A special position that needs filling is someone to help with the art contest table. It was a great hit with the kids in 2000, and generated a lot of very thoughtfully drawn pictures. The Show and Sale is our best opportunity to show Kern County who we are, and what fascinating plants these cacti and succulents are.

Also coming up are plans for a trip to Catalina Island in November, and our usual December pot-luck dinner and silent auction.

Something I would like everyone to consider is the upcoming election of new officers for 2002. This presents an excellent opportunity for several people to become more involved in the leadership of the club. The positions aren't demanding, and although several of the incumbents are willing to carry on into next year, an influx of new blood would help to keep the club invigorated. Here are the positions and what is involved.

**President:** Develops agendas for each of the meetings, leads the meetings, and gets to exercise unrelenting power and dominance over the other officers.

**Past-President:** I'm the only person currently qualified for this position, but can only get it by losing the election. Go figure. Maybe the current Past President could explain it better, but he is off boondoggling half way around the world.

**Vice President:** Primarily responsible for setting up each month's program, and fills in for the President when he is off boondoggling half way around the world.

**Treasurer:** Keeps track of the club's finances, writes checks, sells raffle tickets, and funds the president's boondoggles. Even a botanist can do it!

**Secretary:** Keeps minutes of the meetings, and reminds the other officers of what they promised to do. Gets to write lies about the what the president did when he wasn't even there!

**Newsletter Editor** (and Cub Reporter): They put out one of the best communiqués around. The real power behind the scenes, all the other officers try to stay on their good side to get flattering write ups each month.

We also have a couple of unofficial (meaning they don't have to get elected), but important standing positions: **Librarian**, and **Refreshments Chairman**.

If you are wondering what it's REALLY like to be an officer, stop by and visit one of the executive meetings, its fun!

**Rob Skillin**

## **BCSS Executive Board Meeting: September 25, 2001**

The meeting began with an update about field trips. Lynn spoke about Catalina, and it was mentioned that the group thought that the first weekend of November might be a good time. Lynn reported that the garden tour costs \$3 and the boat trip would be around \$45 round trip. Lynn will be presenting some options for lodgings. It seemed that most people were interested in staying over for one night.

The show and Sale was discussed. Fliers are available and should be passed out soon. East Hills Mall is ready for us; the display boards were available and members were encouraged to check them. Bruce's board on Madagascar needs to be adopted or replaced. Bonnie and Linda decided to adopt it and find plants to go with it. It was decided that the sign-up list for the Show and Sale will be printed in the Newsletter so that members will know when they are working.

Bonnie will put an "ad" in the newsletter and try to sell some of the T-shirts.

Rob spoke about the difficulties of finding members willing to be officers for the club. He wrote up a Presidential memo for the newsletter explaining the roles of each officer and encouraging members to consider playing a more active part in the club.

The next meeting will be October 30 at Bonnie's home.

## **BCSS General Meeting: September 11, 2001**

The meeting began with an update about the show and sale. The S&S committee will meet at Barnes and Noble on 9-13 at 7 pm to work out nearly final details. Field trips were discussed: many people were interested in Catalina Island and a tentative date of Nov. 3-4 was decided on. Lynn will be at the next meeting and will have more details. The treasurer stated that the club has about \$1400 in the bank. The next executive meeting will be Sept. 25 at Rob and Terry's.

Our program for the evening was presented by Terry Skillin. Ms. Skillin is the veteran of many shows and sales and spoke to us about the all-important task of preparing our plants for the show! She emphasized that plants need to be clean! Even the top dressing should be inspected and any unsightly blemishes on the pot be scrubbed away. Terry mentioned that she always looks out for neat pots and buys them even if she doesn't have a plant specifically in mind. Now she and Rob have quite a collection to choose from when repotting is necessary. In addition to being clean, plants must also be pest-free. The show chairman has the option of asking that a plant be removed from the show if the plant has pests on it. Terry demonstrated a few of her favorite tools and techniques, such as using long tweezers to remove dead leaves and debris from deep inside the leaves of a plant. Thank you, Terry for an interesting and informative talk!

After the program, we had our usual period of mingling and eating. Then, of course, we moved to the Plants of the month which featured many members' show plants. Some people brought plants that were already lovely,



*Aloe pillansii* Photo by Maynard Moe

while other members sought advice. Thanks to all who were willing to put their plants on display! We then ended our evening with the raffle.

## A Letter To The Editor

September 25, 2001

Having just returned from a BCSS Board Meeting I feel compelled to write a letter to my fellow members and readers of the BCSS newsletter. There is talk about some of the enthusiasm waning in our dear little club. Well, I tend to believe that events and even clubs, function in cycles. Perhaps we are going through a slower cycle in terms of membership involvement or interest right now, but I believe it is a temporary thing.

So, what can I or any of the club members do to put some pizzazz back into *The Club*? It is simple – GET INVOLVED AND HAVE SOME FUN. WE WANT AND WELCOME NEW IDEAS INTO THIS CLUB. We are not an exclusive gathering of souls. We welcome all the creativity and input you may have. Plus it makes our jobs a little easier when others get involved also. I hope by now that everyone reading this knows we are having our second annual Show and Sale on Oct. 13 and 14 at the East Hills Mall.

Did you also know that there are a few people in our club who are working very hard to get this whole event put together, again, for the second year in a row? I appreciate those members because I'm learning a lot from them and as a result I can be of more help. I would like to thank them right now (they know who they are) for all they are doing to make our show and sale possible.

Did you know that the folks out at the East Hills Mall love us? Deena is the woman in charge of letting us hold our show. Deena is giving us the royal treatment. We are receiving free publicity, professional posters, the use of tables and table coverings – all of these things would be cost prohibitive for the club to pay for up front. This generosity adds sophistication and a feeling of community to the whole event. I think anyone of us could relate to that feeling right now considering the recent events in our country.

The BCSS Show and Sale is not something to participate in or attend only if you are an expert on succulents and cacti. Everyone is welcomed! It is a promotion to ourselves and the community about the greatness of succulents and cacti. It is a chance to learn, grow, socialize and have some good ol' fun. We need plants and bodies to make this show a success. Bring your succulents or cacti to this month's meeting and we'll help you identify them so you can put them in the show. I hope to see you there. Until we meet again.

**Bonnie**

BCSS Secretary

## Celebration

### A Letter From Bruce

I forgot to note one interesting connection between the Limpopo and the Kora Preserve in Kenya. George Adamson used the Kora Preserve to introduce lions to the wild. Because of its remoteness it apparently worked, but some of the same batch of lions was introduced to the Limpopo area with disastrous results in which the lions were killed. The Limpopo was designated for farms and known as the Tuli Block, but is gradually changing to a wildlife area with a bit of conflict. At the North end the elephants were quite placid, but the stampeding ones down at the Limpopo Lodge reflected the fact that neighboring farms shot at them. (The fence had broken and there were cows in the game park. Should the manager there have the right to shoot them?)

But on to September. The month began with an exhibit called "A Celebration of Succulents". This month was chosen because the tree aloes (*Aloe marlothii*) are in bloom. Unfortunately, the local schools were on holiday so we had a poor turnout. Andrena Teed, a primary school teacher, spoke on "An Amateur's View of Succulents."

In addition to exhibits we had a tour of the botanic garden. We have had a class from the University and the Women's Corona Society (British Women) come out, so it hasn't been a total bust. I'm glad I didn't get those paper doll cacti before the exhibit was set up. I would have been tempted to add them.

While working on the exhibit I read a couple of good succulent books. The first is: "Mesembryanthemaceae of the World", 1998, Briza Pubs., Pretoria. It has nine authors of whom I know Gideon Smith, Ernst van Jarsveld, Heidi Hartman and Steven Hammer. As usual there is too much splitting and some of the grouping (e.g flat leaved and weedy) is a bit artificial. Also I object to calling those colorful flower appendages petals. As far as I'm concerned they are staminodes (broad sterile stamens). But this is being picky and it is an excellent book which is needed since H. Herre's "The Genera of the Mesembryanthemaceae", 1971, Tafelberg, Cape Town is out of print.

The other is: "Guide to the Aloes of South Africa", Van Wyk and Smith, 1996, Briza. Here I would congratulate them on subsuming *Aloe transvaalensis* under *Aloe zebrina*, but I wonder why they still separate *Aloe cryptopoda* and *Aloe leutescens*. They include *Aloe wickensii* as a bicolored form of *A. cryptopoda*, but say that *A. cryptopoda* is south of *A. leutescens*. (Though I know it from as far north as Malawi.) Also they admit "In the Western extreme of the distribution area, plants are found



which appear to be intermediate...". But again I am too picky and it is overall an excellent book, although there is no shortage of *Aloe* books.

On the 2nd, the Bird Club drove south to Manyelanong (Vulture Shitting Place), a reserve at Otse. They could be seen on their nests with new chicks, but I thought the succulents were more interesting. We parked in a field of bulbinas in full bloom and we passed *Aloe marlothii* in massive bloom the whole way down. In addition to succulents there were white flowers of *Acacia melifera* and *Dombeya* (of the Sterculia family).

On the 5th we went to the opening of the Botswana International Trade Fair and heard the President speak. We then headed for the pigs as a friend of ours had a prize sow, but we had to wait while President Mogae had a look. He got there first by driving. The museum did not have an exhibit, but we did lend some stuffed birds to Wildlife. As Calvin Sabole, our taxidermist, commented, next year we should enter ourselves and get some credit. (Would I have to paint a background?)

Polly has been kept busy caring for Dr Lilian Turton, retired chemistry professor who helped establish our herbarium. She has been bedridden with a bad back, but is getting better (which should be a relief to Polly).

Next Children and "A Child".

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

[both books, "Mesembs of the World" and "Guide to the Aloes of South Africa" are in the club library. Check it out! - ed.]



*Agyroderma* in habitat  
Photo by Maynard Moe

## PROGRAM NOTES

### The Mystique of Socotra

Presented by Mark Muradian

The speaker for our Oct. 9, 2001 meeting will be Mark Muradian. The program is entitled "The Mystique of Socotra." The program is about Marks three week trip to Yemen and Socotra. Mark is a peach and grape grower in the Kingsburg area. He has also been involved with cacti and succulents for 15 years.

Lynn

## PLANT OF THE MONTH:

### *Plants from Socotra* and *Member's show Plants*



If you're going to be stuck, it might as well be in South Africa  
Photo by Maynard Moe

## Notes On The Catalina Trip

September 26, 2001

I looked in my AAA travel book today and it seems most of those listed hotels/motels have lower rates after 11/11. And sometimes it is quite a bit less, which may matter to some of us. We may wish to consider moving the trip back a weekend. I will call a number tomorrow when the office is open re: single night stays, and that may be fine at the slower time of year.

The boats leave San Pedro at:	Return to San Pedro from Avalon:
0645 daily	0830 daily
0900 Fri-Sun	1045 Fri-Sun
1030 daily	1215 & 1500 daily
1230 M-F via two harbors	1645 Sat & Sun
1300 & 1500 Sat & Sun	1845 daily
1700 daily	2030 Fri-Sun
1845 Fri-Sun	

All passengers 16+ must carry photo ID, bags may be searched -- new Coast Guard rules.

New prices were quoted on the phone today:

Children 2-11 \$32 RT  
Adults 12-54 \$42 RT  
Seniors 55+ \$38.50 RT (I used to be 55)

Website is [www.catalina.com](http://www.catalina.com) and there is camping info there as well.

Lynn



*Thank You Sydney & Maynard  
For bringing the September Treats!*

**BE SURE TO VISIT US AT**  
**[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Does anyone really need to be reminded about the  
BCSS 2nd Annual Show & Sale at the East Hills Mall  
October 13 & 14?

## CALENDAR

**Oct. 9 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**  
**speaker: Mark Muradian** (from the Fresno Club)  
**program: Socotra**

**Oct. 13-14 BCSS 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show & Sale!**

Oct. 13-14 C&S Society of California Show & Sale. Lakeside Garden Center, Lake Merritt, 666 Bellevue, Oakland.

Oct. 20-21 San Gabriel Valley C&S Society 7th Annual Winter Show. Los Angeles Arboretum.

**Nov. 13 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**

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

Stephen Cooley, editor                      Linda Cooley, editor  
**[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)**

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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](mailto:Lithops44@bak.rr.com)**