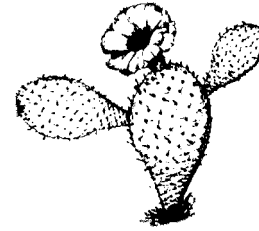




*Glottiphyllum* seed capsule  
opened after a rain.  
photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 4    **December 2001**    Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

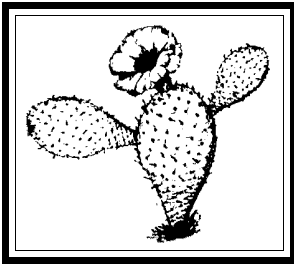
**Annual Potluck,  
Free Raffle,  
& Silent Auction**

## Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Dec. 11**  
Olive Drive Church  
5500 Olive drive at 6 PM

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

**The Meeting  
starts at  
6pm**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 4    Number 15  
December 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**

Our December meeting is special each year for several reasons: The Pot Luck Dinner, the Silent Auction, and the Free Plant Raffle. The Pot Luck is described elsewhere in the newsletter, and you can read below for descriptions of the auction and raffle.

### Silent Auction

We have an excellent assortment of both cacti and succulents for auction this year, which will be offered at starting bids of just a fraction of their retail value. There are 30 plants total, most of them are older, specimen sized plants in excellent condition, and many are rare or hard to find, not available elsewhere in Bakersfield. Additionally, there will be associated craft items available, such as Linda's unique hand knitted cactus hats, and Terry's beautiful cactus and succulent plates.

Here are the rules for the auction:

- 1) It's only open to members. If you are new to the club, you can participate by paying your 2002 dues to Maynard at the beginning of the meeting.
- 2) There will be a bid sheet for each plant. The sheets will show the minimum, or starting bid for each plant.
- 3) The smallest bid increment for any plant is \$.50
- 4) Members will have from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. to place bids on the bid sheets. No changes allowed to the bids after the final bell.
- 5) The highest bid wins!
- 6) Take your winning bid sheet to Maynard after the close for payment.

It's a lot of fun, and a chance to get some really nice plants at a bargain price.

### Free Plant Raffle

After the auction, there will be a Free Plant Raffle. Each member will receive a raffle ticket (2 tickets for family memberships). As with the auction, new members can participate by paying their 2002 dues to Maynard at the beginning of the meeting. There will be a plant for each member, and selection will proceed by random drawing.

See you there!

**Rob Skillin**

## **BCSS Executive Board Meeting: November 27, 2001**

We first discussed OFFICERS. It seems that we will have reruns next year due to a lack of interest by members. We are extremely lucky it seems that the current roster of officers are willing to continue in their present roles. Next, we discussed the upcoming meeting. Rob agreed to write up a short article for the newsletter explaining the Silent Auction rules and procedures. The possibility of a Spring Show and Sale came up; it was agreed to wait until the January meeting to come to a decision about this. The Catalina field trip was brought up. Lynn will have some up to date info for the December meeting. We need to set a date and finalize this trip. The Potluck was discussed; Terry will write an article for the newsletter. The committee decided to continue the annual donation of \$150 to the church for letting us meet in their facility. An amount of \$250 was budgeted for new Library books. Members will be polled to find out what kinds of books are desired. Other possible budget items were: CSUB garden, field trips and refreshments, speakers, newsletter, taxes, raffle plants, and show and sale expenses. Bonnie brought up the T-shirts; we would like to liquidate our supply and will possibly raffle some off or offer them at cost. We are still discussing the need for a Banner for the club. Lynn asked us which slide program we wanted for the January meeting: Winter Hardy Cacti in Central Connecticut or Hardy Succulents in England. We decided on the latter. Our Plant of the Month will be "Hardy Succulents in Central California". (Perhaps we should put together our own slide show!) Please note that "hardy" means that the plants can grow outside in the winter in the Bakersfield area. We need to remind members that Dues are Due! We also decided that any new members joining for 2002 will be able to apply that membership to Dec. 2001, so they will be able to join in the Silent Auction and Free Plant Raffle (for members only). We decided to change the date of the next Executive meeting to Dec. 20 (a Thursday) since our regular meeting date is Christmas, and a week after that is New Year's Day. The next executive meeting will be held at Bill and Lynn's.

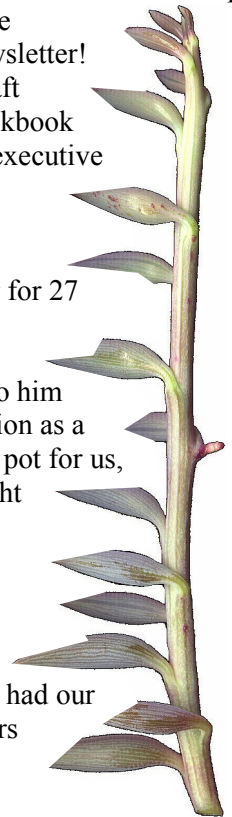
## **BCSS General Meeting: November 13, 2001**

Wow! We had a lot of visitors at this meeting! We welcomed Rosemarie, Vonne, Carol, Mickey, Jim, and Joe. We hope to see all of you again. Sidney brought lots of photos of the Show and Sale to share.

They were great. Rob started the Business portion of our meeting with a Show and Sale recap. Maynard reported that the club made around \$550. There was a lot of club participation during the show, which was instrumental in making it a success. We are now considering doing a judged show and sale in the spring, if member interest will support it. The next item was "new" officers. It seems that our current officers will remain for another year. They will be formally installed at the next meeting. Upcoming events and field trips were discussed. We are still looking at going to Catalina Island in January. We will have to decide on a date at the December meeting, so check your calendars, if you're interested. Another interesting trip possibly in the offing is a trip to the Vista nurseries (Grigsby's, Rainbow Gardens, etc.) If you find this intriguing, be sure to let Rob know! Maynard organized a Cal State Cactus Garden work day -- November 18, at 9-ish. Grass needs to be dug and plants need to be put in the ground. Terry spoke to us about the upcoming potluck at the December meeting. She assured that we need not sign up for a particular type of dish -- it's a lot more fun to be surprised by the culinary offerings brought by the members! Terry and Lynn would welcome some help setting up and request that helpers come at 5:30 to help set tables, decorate, etc. For more information about the potluck, see the separate article in this issue of the Newsletter! Rob assured us that there would be great plants and craft items available at the silent auction, so bring your checkbook and/or cash! It was mentioned in closing that the next executive meeting would be at Maynard and Linda's house on November 27.

Joe Wujcik then spoke to us about his pottery created for cactus and succulents. Joe has been a potter for 27 years and started his career creating pots for his wife's collection. He gets his inspiration from observing the world around him. Sometimes a theme presents itself to him and only later does he realize the source of the inspiration as a past experience. He also demonstrated the making of a pot for us, which was very interesting. It looks so easy! Joe brought lots of pots to sell, which were eagerly snatched up by members. Thanks to Joe for a great presentation (and thanks to Lynn for thinking of it!)

We ended our meeting with the Plant of the Month (Precious Pots with Pretty Plants...) Several members brought pots and plants to show off. We then had our raffles; we are pleased to report that some of our visitors were winners! We hope you will come back and win some more.



## PROGRAM NOTES

### ANNUAL POTLUCK



Our December meeting is of course, our annual club 'Pot-luck'. We will do as we have done in the past and ask everyone to bring the dish of your choice. Last year was quite the spread.

Everyone brought what they do best, and there was plenty of good-stuff for all. Main dishes, casseroles, side dishes, salads, and don't forget the dessert! Once again, the club will provide the drinks, napkins, plates and, between Bill and I, I think we'll all be

able to eat off of 'stainless-ware', rather than plastic.

At the last meeting I had a nice show of hands volunteering to help set up the tables and decorate. **We'll start set-up at 5:30.** I've got table cloths and centerpiece stuff to work with. If you have any other ideas, give me a call! **The meeting starts at 6:00,** and we'll start eating between 6 and 6:30. Don't forget, if you can't get there early to help set-up, we could always use your help with the 'take-down'.

See you there, and happy cooking!

Terry

### A Note About the Garden at Cal State

A couple of Sundays ago several members met at Cal State to work on the new cactus and succulent garden. Everyone, kids included, worked very hard digging out the Bermuda grass. Ed found lots of treasures where he was digging - old rusty chains, pipes, and miscellaneous pieces of metal. Rob brought a pick ax (mattock) that really worked well. That terrible Bermuda grass was really hard to remove, but we managed to get a lot of it out. We plan to use a "roto-tiller" next time and then use round-up to get the last of the grass.

Members also donated lots of nice plants for the garden. Many were planted but several were left for planting by the next work party - tentatively planned for a weekend in January. Terry and Linda brought drinks and goodies - much appreciated by all (especially Julia)! Everyone should come out to see it (and maybe pull out a little grass??). It is starting to look good!

L. M. Moe

## Failure and Music

### A Letter From Bruce

Somewhere the sun is shining  
Somewhere the people shout,  
But there is no joy in Sandville,  
For the Players have struck out!  
(with apologies to Casey & Mudville,  
the town I was born & raised in).

Polly & I were going to be minor participants in our first ever Christmas Pantomime (a strange British custom where a fairy tale is combined with music and slapstick, the prince is played by a female and the old crone is played by a man etc. -- nothing to do with "mime"), but due to managerial and financial squabbles it has been cancelled. A real pity -- I thought "Snow White & the 7 Dorks" with the lead played by the darkest girl in town was great. I fear Capital Players may be doomed.

At least the Music Society is still functioning. We managed to put on a Christmas show called "Music, Marimbas and Mince Pies" which went well. It was a bit weird in combining Faure's Requiem and Britton's Ceremony of Carols with harp, violin and vocal solos. The marimbas were played by a primary school group during intermission while the audience dined on the traditional British cupcake-sized mince pies and wine. We tend to mix up traditions here.

It has not been good weather for field work. We have had extraordinary rain, lightning and hail. The offices downstairs at the museum are under 4 inches of water. I suspect all this water will wend its way to Mozambique via the Limpopo and you will be hearing of more floods there. Botswana is very green right now, even out in the Kgalagadi. We had a collection of plant specimens from Khutse to look at this week - only three succulents (*Sarcostemma viminalis*, *Talinum arnoti* and *Raphionacme burkei*) but I've learned some interesting uses. The *Raphionacme* tuber (which I knew was an emergency water supply, but a bitter one - see "The Gods Must Be Crazy II") is best used with the silver cluster leaf (*Terminalia sericea*) which I suppose neutralises the bitterness. I managed to visit a small rocky area south of here on the 16 of November and found *Huernia longituba* in bloom. I also found *Orbea lutea* and *Huerniopsis atrosanguinea*, but not in bloom. The area abounds in *Euphorbia schinzii*, a *Cyanotis* species, *Ipomoea bolusanthus* (in bloom) and various lilies including a tiny one with pink fleshy bulbs which I haven't identified.

Next we will have two camps: Lugards'

Bruce J. Hargreaves

## Promoting the CSSA in 2001

A Letter from Bob Barth, CSSA Publicity Chair

As I'm sure you are all aware, the CSSA is always looking to increase its membership. The more members we have, the more benefits we can offer our membership. I know from many years of experience with the Texas Affiliate clubs 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. Apologizing in advance for the redundancy, I will reiterate once again the benefits of CSSA membership. One of the chief benefits of a \$35 a year CSSA membership (\$40 for overseas members) is receiving your own copy of the Cactus and Succulent Journal six times a year, so you don't have to wait hoping your club librarian will remember to bring the club's copy to the next meeting.

The journal has a classy new look for 2001, as well as a new format making more user-friendly than ever. Under the able editorship of Myron Kimmach and with two new co-editors, the journal has increased its breadth of coverage and now has articles appealing to every level of interest within the cactus and succulent hobby. Increased use of color photography together with the new format has greatly enhanced the attractiveness of the journal, as well. The accompanying newsletter *To the Point* has a new editor, "Cactus" Carol Clapp, who has added a number of new features. It's packed with news items from CSSA and the various affiliates together with various tidbits of information of interest to succulentophiles, a calendar of upcoming events in the U.S. and around the world. If you haven't perused these publications in recent years, take a look. You'll be impressed with the improvements that have been made.

A subscription to the journal and the newsletter is far from the only benefit of CSSA membership. Many of our members patronize the

CSSA Seed Depot, which offers seeds of many rare succulents at very reasonable prices. This facility, efficiently managed by Sue Haffner is open to CSSA members only.

The CSSA holds conventions every other year open to members only. As a result, we generally experience a boost in membership in convention



A recent cover of the CSSA Journal featuring a photograph by our own Rob Skillin

it

years and a decline in intervening years. Consequently we have initiated non-convention year field trips, which hopefully will help to alleviate this problem (see below). The 2001 Convention held at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills California, July 1-6 and hosted by the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society was a highly successful affair. It featured excellent speakers from around the world, fantastic plant and book sales, an auction which raised over \$10,000 for our research fund, which supports scientific studies of our favorite plants, and highly enjoyable day trips to Lotus Land, the fabulous succulent garden in Santa Barbara, and elsewhere. For a more complete summary of the various activities and events, see the excellent article in the *To the Point* issue for July – August 2001 by fellow board member, Leo Martin. The next convention in 2003 in St. Louis, home of the famous Missouri Botanical Garden promises according to the local organizers to be bigger and better than ever. Keep it in mind, all you mid-westerners who decided Los Angeles was a bit too far to travel.

In my final paragraph, I'd like to elaborate on the CSSA Field Trip Program, another benefit open to members only. Suffice it to say that experiencing succulent plants in habitat is extremely important in helping to understand how to grow them in cultivation. Moreover, trips into habitat are always exciting as I can readily attest from my frequent trips to Southern Africa and elsewhere. CSSA has been offering pre- and post-convention trips for several years. This year, unfortunately, only the pre-convention trip attracted a sufficient number of participants. The trip, organized by yours truly and ably implemented by AAA 5-Star Adventures of Palm Springs, was a great success. We visited Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, the Palm Springs area and Joshua Tree National Park. Jim Dice, an authority on the California deserts was our special guide for Anza-Borrego and was absolutely superb. We saw and were able to photograph virtually all the succulents possible in those areas visited. Food and accommodations were excellent and a good time was had by all. In 2000 we initiated our interim year field tips for reasons alluded to above. We began modestly by offering a trip to the Big Bend region of Texas in April 2000 (peak blooming season for cacti). The trip was fully subscribed and very successful. (See recent articles by Dan Mahr, our Field Trip Committee Chairman, in *To the Point*.) For the future, we plan more adventurous trips to the various corners of the globe where succulents abound. Our May-June 2002 trip to Madagascar with the incomparable John Lavranos as tour leader is already fully subscribed, though there may be a waiting list developed. If so, it will be advertised. Future destinations include Chile, probably in 2004 (see those wonderful copiapoa in habitat) and on down the line Socotra and elsewhere. All the more reason to become CSSA members.

Hoping this generates some new members.

Good growing!  
Bob Barth

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Cal State Cactus and Succulent Garden is a reality! Several members met and removed grass from a large area and planted lots of plants donated by members. There is a lot more grass to be removed; members will be asked for their continuing support to help turn this area into the cactus and succulent garden of our dreams!

Catalina Field trip: Check your calendars to see which weekend--either Jan. 13th or Jan. 26th--would be the best for you. We are thinking of going for an overnight trip, visiting the botanical garden and exploring.

Are you interested in going to Vista, the Cactus and Succulent center of the Universe? If so, let Rob know. A field trip with possible camping at the beach has been proposed. There are also lots of other kinds of shopping and tourist experiences to be had in the area...

Members are reminded that it's time to renew their memberships in the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society!! Just think, another year of fun and learning with all these great people! How can you resist?

The Plant of the Month for January will be Hardy Succulents of the Central California area (mostly Bakersfield). If you have plants in the ground, perhaps you could bring a few photos or even slides to share with everyone. If you have plants in pots, please plan on bring these to the meeting!

## CALENDAR

**Dec. 11 BCSS meeting; 6:00 pm Olive Drive Church**

Program: Annual Potluck and Silent Raffle

**Dec. 20 (Thursday) BCSS Executive meeting at Bill & Lynn's**

**Jan. 8 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**

Program: Hardy Succulents in England (Slide Show)

Plant of the Month: Hardy Succulents in Central California

**Feb. 12 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**



*Thank You  
Sydney and Bill  
For bringing the November Treats!*

## BCSS T-SHIRTS



Long Sleeve \$16  
S, M, L  
Sage Green

Short Sleeve \$13  
S, M, L, XL  
Sand Brown

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