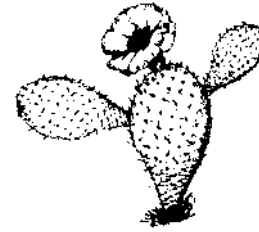




Aloe variegata enjoying
Bakersfield's climate
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 5 **January 2002** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Hardy Succulents in England

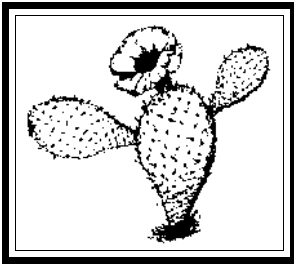
CSSA Slide Show

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 8
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**Have You
Paid Your
Dues?**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 5 Number 1
January 2002

BCSS Executive Board Meeting: December 20, 2001

The meeting was held at Lynn and Bill's domicile. In attendance were: Rob, Lynn, Maynard, Linda, and Bill popped in and out. We discussed the following: CSSA dues are due and Maynard will take care of that. There was no update on the Catalina trip at this time, but Lynn will be ready to discuss it with the general membership at the January meeting. Other possible upcoming field trips were mentioned: New York mountains in the spring, possibly Anza Borrego (should have great wild flowers!), Vista, and the Wind Wolves preserve. It was decided that there should be another day of work scheduled at "our" cactus/succulent garden at Cal State to remove the remaining grass, with the help of some kind of machine. The possibility of a Spring Show and Sale was brought up; there are a few pros and cons that should be presented to the general membership and a decision should be made soon if it is to happen this year. An alternative would be to combine a judged section with the Fall show and sale and to start having "mini-shows" at each meeting to give members a feeling of what that would be like. The newsletter was discussed and several ideas for improving it were suggested. We discussed rearranging the furniture at the general meetings so that the Plant of the Month feature would be easier to access and more connected to the program. If we remember, this will be tried at the January meeting. We also discussed various ideas for increasing member participation and enthusiasm.

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

2002 Officers

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

2002 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Bruce Hargreaves

2002 Chairpersons

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

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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

BCSS General Meeting: December 11, 2001

Annual Potluck

Boy!! What great food!! It is amazing how we end up with plenty of main dishes, salads, bread, and desserts even though it is a "real" potluck with no organized menu. Our fifth annual December potluck and silent auction was a big success with about 30 members and guests present. We all had a great time talking, eating, and making bids on the nice plants, plates, t-shirts, and hats. Terry made the nice cactus plates and Linda knitted some more cactus hats, all of which were donated for the auction. After some frantic last-minute bidding wars (It's always hard to keep ahead of Bobby!), Jenny added up the bid totals. In the end, twenty members won their bidding war and the club made about \$ 166 on the auction.



Then we had the member's free raffle where members got a raffle



ticket that determined the first, second, third, etc. choice on

the raffle plants. Everyone went home with at least one new plant. Steve, a first time visitor, brought a digital camera and sent us photos for this article. Thank you Steve.



Thanks to all for helping with the set up and clean up.

L. M. Moe

Two Camps A Letter From Bruce

First, 2 comments...

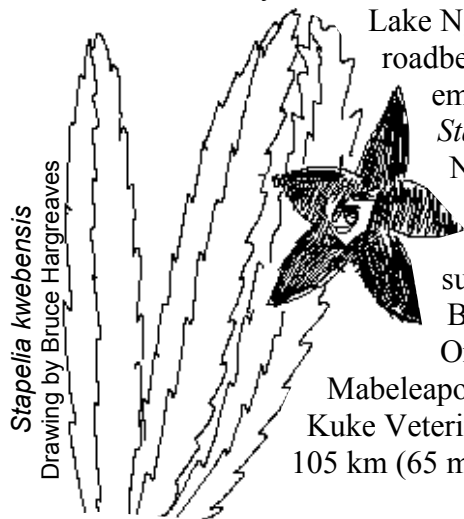
Thanks to Stephen for the Science News article on *Welwitschia* (Oct. 27, 2001). I was interested to learn of third leaves on some. I learned the hard way about fungus infection on seeds. The best solution is to treat all seeds with a fungicide. I also noted that young plants only appear in the savanna (e.g. at the petrified forest near Khorixas) rather than in the Namib Desert. Finally, although *Welwitschias* are not the direct ancestors of flowering plants, they are among the few survivors of the southern hemisphere gymnosperms which probably included such ancestors.

The bird club has been feasting lately. First, there was a brunch on 4 Nov., with about fifty people at the Lion Park south of town (the lions are enclosed) following "Little Birding Day" where teams set out to see who could spot the most birds. Second, there was the annual dinner on 24 Nov., with a hundred of us. The slides of a recent trip to Tanzania were disappointing. We had a better presentation on 20 Nov. at the monthly meeting when Peter Hancock, a conservationist up at Maun described the wattled crane study. He also had the cover story on lily-trotters in the Oct/Nov "Africa Birds and Birding", a slick magazine full of great photos. On 2 Dec., Polly went to another brunch following birding at the

“Crocodile Pools” south of town.

Which leads to the first “Camp”. On 2 Dec., a bunch of us botanists went up to Maun. We were accommodated at Okavango Research Centre Housing on the Thamelekane River just across from Riley’s Hotel (but at \$2/night a better bargain). On the 3rd, we drove out to the Khwebe Hills, 67 km (42 mi.) SW to Toteng, then 14 km, (8.7 mi.) S on the old Ghanzi road – now gravel & much improved from the sand track we drove in 1969 and lost but found again using compass and map -- and finally 26 km (16 mi.) E on dirt (= mud due to recent rains). The Hills were used as head-quarters by Cptn (later Mjr) E.J. Lugard with his wife, Charlotte Eleanor, and his brother in 1897 -- 1898 when they looked for minerals in the Ngamiland area. A number of plants were first collected there including *Monadenium lugardae*, *Stapelia kwebensis*, *Ceropegia floribunda*, *Coccinia rehmanii*, and *C. kwebensis* (now included in *C. purpurascens*). We didn’t find these but did collect 2 talinums, *Corallocarpus bainesii* and a tuberous-rooted *Cyphostemma*, saw *Adenia digitata* and a baobab.

Next morning we drove over to the Peter Smith Herbarium and Library at the back of the research centre. It is just being warehoused at present, but at least, it isn’t being eaten by termites. Peter Smith worked for Water Affairs and in his spare time made the best botanic collection in the country. The collection of the late Dr. Heinz, who filmed San in the 50’s, is also housed there. In the afternoon the second vehicle finally arrived from Gaborone and we drove across



Lake Ngami (the water was mostly in the roadbed). We searched the calcrete embankment unsuccessfully for *Stapelia schinzii*, a species of Namibia which Prof. Hans Schinz collected near Lake Ngami in 1886 and which has never subsequently been seen in Botswana.

On the 5th, I climbed the Mabeleapodi (goat dropping) Hills at the Kuke Veterinary Control Fence Gate some 105 km (65 mi.) SW of Toteng on the new tar

road. We were waiting for the 2nd vehicle which decided to go to the Khwebe Hills but didn’t make it. The rock slabs were loose and covered with nettle spurge (*Tragia* sp. -- a non-succulent in the Euphorbia family) so the climb was miserable. The others (who searched the base) came up with *Stapelia kwebensis* in bud and *Portulaca kermesina* in full bloom. We had cokes at the Kuke Settlement but then had to drive back to the gate to get my leather hat which I left under a shady tree. We met three boys walking toward us -- the middle one was wearing my hat! We spent the night 6 km (3.7 mi.) S of the gate at a Rural Area Dweller (e.g. San or Bushmen) boarding school.

Next day both vehicles drove out to the Tsau (Lion) Hills on the edge of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, 16 km (10 mi.) S on paved road and 60 km (37 mi.) E on dirt through 6 farm gates. We failed to find the *Adenium bohmeinum* which Peter Smith saw there but did not collect (and which is otherwise not known for Botswana.) Back at Kuke we found *Jatropha seyneri* (a tuberous species) in fruit. Next day we drove S to Ghanzi, 111 km (69 mi.), south on paved road, and observed that introduced mesquite has taken over the town. Another 215 km (133.5 mi.) SE brought us to Kang where we found *Orbea knobelii*, a rare Kgalagadi endemic in full bloom on the edge of a quarry at the pan. There were a couple of other stapeliads as well as 2 talinums. That night we stayed at Wildlife housing and next day arrived back in Gaborone.

Then on the 9th, Polly and I joined the second camp: Music Camp, which this year was held in Gaborone. I did a week of Jazz with my clarinet and Polly did solo singing. She was enrolled for Setinkane (finger piano), but the instructor failed to show up. We had a break on Thurs., the 11th, and went out to the site of Roger Price’s mission south of Molepolole. I found two succulent nettles, a bush of Iboza, and 2 portulacas. When we stopped at Kobo (or Livingstone’s Cave -- where David Livingstone spent the night to show Christianity’s power over taboos) Polly and I decided not to climb up. It was just as well -- there were bees inside and Polly used a lot of hydrocortisone cream treating victims! On Saturday, we performed all we had learned for the public and then celebrated with a barbecue (AKA braai).

Next month’s report will be in person -- see you at the board meeting!

Bruce J. Hargreaves

BCSS Activities Summary

1997 - 2001

compiled by L. Maynard Moe

1997

- July Trip to CSSA Show & Sale at the Huntington
- September Kern County Fair - First Place

1998

- February Home & Garden Show
- March Field Trip to Red Rock Canyon & Woody's
- March Launched BCSS web pages
- April Member's garden tours - Navolio & Colley
- May Member's garden tours - Cooley/Moe, Williams, Sanford
- May Sand Ridge field trip
- May Trip to the Huntington Gardens
- June Member's garden tours - Skillins
- September Kern County Fair - First Place
- December Baja California field trip

1999

- February Home & Garden Show
- April Yard Sale
- May Trip to Vista nurseries & Quail Botanic Gardens
- July Trip to NorCal Show and Sale
- August Trip to Tri-City Show and Sale
- September Kern County Fair - First Place & Sweepstakes
- October Tucson nurseries field trip

2000

- February Home & Garden Show
- April Baja California field trip
- April Trip to Cactus Data Plant Sale
- May Yard Sale
- May New York Mountains field trip
- July Trip to Huntington Gardens
- July Trip to Lotusland with the Fresno Club
- August Trip to Intercity Show and Sale
- September Kern County Fair - Second Place
- October First Annual BCSS Show and Sale

2001

- March China Lake Petroglyphs field trip
- April Larry Grammer plant auction at Woody's nursery
- April Start the cactus and succulent garden at CSUB
- May New York Mountains field trip
- May Larry Grammer plant auction II at Woody's nursery
- June Yard Sale
- July Trip to CSSA Convention
- October Second Annual BCSS Show and Sale

BCSS Program Summary

1997 - 2001

The BCSS has been a formal organization for a little over four and a half years, during which we have had an interesting variety of programs. I thought it would be interesting for our new members to see what we have done over the years. I also thought our continuing members would be interested to recall the range of programs we have had. If any member missed a program or would like to see it again, or if any of the programs look interesting to a new member, just let Lynn McDonald know. [* denotes a BCSS member]

L. M. Moe

| <u>1997</u> | <u>Speaker</u> | <u>Topic</u> |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| April | Mike Navolio* | Succulents |
| May | Rob Skillin* | Mexico |
| June | Bruce Hargreaves* | Euphorbias |
| July | Members show-and-tell | |
| August | Rob Skillin* | Soil culture |
| September | Charles Spotts | Opuntias |
| October | Maynard Moe* | Namaqualand |
| November | Woody Minnich* | Baja California |
| December | Year End pot-luck | Silent Auction |

| 1998 | Speaker | Topic |
|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| January | Joe Clemmets | Landscaping |
| February | Rob Skillin*, Stephen Cooley* | Seeds & seedlings |
| March | Slide show | Caudiciforms |
| April | Rob Skillin* | Colorado Plateau |
| May | Bruce Hargreaves* | Stapeliads |
| June | Woody Minnich* | Atacama |
| July | Tim Metcalf | Soils |
| August | Members | show-and-tell |
| September | Mike Navolio* | Crests & Monstrose |
| October | Larry Grammer | Staging |
| November | Richard Basta* | Lithops |
| December | Year End pot-luck | Silent Auction |

| 1999 | Speaker | Topic |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| January | Steve Southwell | South Africa |
| February | Brian Kemble | Mexican Succulents |
| March | Rob*, Gordon* & Bruce* | Baja Trip |
| April | Bruce Hargreaves* | Adenia & Adenium |
| May | Maynard Moe* | Taxonomy |
| June | Gary James | Socotra |
| July | Slide show - Lavranos | South Africa 1 |
| August | Tom Knapic | European collections |
| September | Slide show - Lavranos | South Africa 2 |
| October | Dylan Hannon | Propagation |
| November | Michael Vasser | Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon |
| December | Year End pot-luck | Silent Auction |

| 2000 | Speaker | Topic |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| January | Woody Minnich* | Big Bend |
| February | Naomi Bloss | Namibia |
| March | Bruce Hargreaves* | Pedaliaceae |
| April | Dorothy Byer | Botanical Illustration |
| May | Woody Minnich* | Shows and Judging |
| June | Slides | Shows |
| July | Russ Lewis* | Baja Cacti |
| August | Erika van Auken | Pottery |
| September | Elton Roberts | Micropuntia |
| October | Lynn McDonald* | Travels |
| November | Charles Spotts | Peru |
| December | Year End pot-luck | Silent Auction |

| 2001 | Speaker | Topic |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| January | Bruce Hargreaves* | Botswana |
| February | Rob Skillin* | Cacti & Conquistadors |
| March | Jim Boehmke | Germination |
| April | Guy Wrinkle | Amazonian Peru |
| May | Spring Potluck | |
| June | Norma Lewis | Crassulas |
| July | Slides | Treasures of the Sierra Madre |
| August | no meeting - dinner at Cactus Valley | |
| September | Terry Skillin* | Preparing Show Plants |
| October | Mark Muradian | The Mystique of Socotra |
| November | Joe Wujcik | Pottery |
| December | Year End pot-luck | Silent Auction |

YOUR NEWSLETTER

At the recent executive meeting, several suggestions were made to improve **The Cactus Patch**. Some of these comments and suggestions were:

1. It used to be bigger--perhaps it needs more articles from other sources (like the archives of CSSA).
2. The articles should be more informative or instructive.
3. There used to be member profiles.
4. There used to be presidential messages every month.
5. Birthdays used to be recognized.
6. The plant of the month could be expanded and written about more informatively.

If any of these suggestions and comments sound like a good thing to you, please let the editors (Stephen or Linda) know. We would be glad to change the newsletter to make it more interesting to you. Please also realize that we might need a little help from you to make this happen! It's pretty easy to write one small article--but for one person to write all of the articles is another matter! Several members have written articles for the newsletter in the past and we appreciate their help!

Please consider helping to expand **The Cactus Patch**!

Dances With Cacti

By Bobbie Irwin

From the Chinle Chapter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society
"Points of Interest" newsletter

I call my cacti by their Latin or common names and don't generally use "pet" names for them (such as Ralph or Squeaky). Usually I avoid anthropomorphizing anything, even when I'm traveling through a saguaro forest. But all rules have exceptions, and I have an exceptional cactus.

My husband and I planted him from a seed mix, so I don't know his heritage or generic name. It was long enough ago that I've forgotten many of the details of his youth, but I seem to remember that he was somewhat precocious from the start, sprouting and growing quickly. He's always been long and lean, and his soft whiskers are sparse and irregular, so perhaps he's of mixed parentage; he certainly doesn't look like anything in my cactus books. He's a homely fellow, about six inches long and only a third of an inch in diameter after perhaps 10 years of growth.

He'd never win a beauty contest, but what he lacks in appearance he makes up for in athleticism. Most cacti grow slowly toward the light; ours dances, or at least he used to. Turn his pot and look away for a few hours, or a couple of days, and the next thing you'd know, he'd be pointed a different direction. He'd bend at the waist, spiraling around as the spirit moved him. I've never met as limber or as mobile a cactus (with the possible exception of a jumping cholla that once attacked me in Arizona).

Although his motions were relatively rapid in cactus terms, we rarely saw him move unless he happened to bump up against something. Then, when we'd move his pot away from the obstruction, we could actually watch while he hurriedly finished his interrupted dance.

Our cactus usually moved toward the sun, which was almost his downfall. One day he danced up against a hot window and burned his head off, a most pathetic situation. Ever since that day, I've called him Icarus. I was afraid he was a goner, but he was tougher than he looked.

Icarus stopped dancing for a while, but after a couple months he sprouted a new head at a slight angle to his neck. I

wondered if he might end up with multiple heads, in which case we'd have to change his name to Medusa and deal with the gender confusion, but that didn't happen.

Icarus never bloomed, so we had no idea he was pregnant, but the next thing we knew, a brand new sprout arose from his roots. His offspring (Spike) grew quickly, long and lean like his daddy, and of almost the same girth from the start, but with a more military posture. Evidently, Spike didn't inherit any dancing genes from Icarus, because we've never seen him move.

The pregnancy must have been hard on Icarus, because I've only seen him dance once in the three or four years since Spike was born. During Spike's first growth spurt, Icarus raised himself up one last time to peer down upon his baby, as though with fatherly pride, and then he lay down and has danced no more. Today Icarus remains draped over the edge of the pot as Spike continues to grow straight up, but there's still life in the old fellow. I have to think Icarus is pleased with his progeny, even if Spike shows no inclination to join him in a pas de deux.

PROGRAM NOTES & PLANT OF THE MONTH

Hardy Succulents in England

This month's program will be a CSSA Slide Show about



Euphorbia resinifera
Photo by Stephen Cooley

Winter hardy succulents, so the plants of the month will be Winter Hardy Succulents!! Please bring in plants that will grow in Bakersfield's winter weather--or bring in photos or names of the plants you have in the ground. This should be a very instructive program! It could give us lots of ideas to use in the new Cactus and Succulent garden at CSUB! Please help out!!

The Bakersfield area in general is a very favorable climate for growing succulents. Cacti especially

are well suited to the hot summers and not-quite-too-cold winters. With just a little protection from a scalding sun or a frosty night, and a little added water at the right time, many cacti thrive. My own "in the ground" cactus garden includes several species of *Ferocactus*, *Opuntia*, *Echinocactus*, *Trichocereus*, *Mammillaria*, *Echinocereus*, *Astrophytum*, as well as many others.

Other succulents also do well in our area, including *Agave*, *Aloe*, and the mesembs. I have for several years now been growing South African succulents in the ground -- especially the mesembs. I have found them to be more tolerant of our cold than I had previously been led to believe. Plants like *Cheiridopsis*, *Antimima*, *Glottiphyllum*, *Pleiospilos*, and *Mestoklema* have generally proven themselves to be almost ridiculously easy.



Cheiridopsis peculiaris
Photo by Stephen Cooley

With a little help *Crassula*, *Haworthia*, *Echeveria*, and even a *Euphorbia* or two can be worthy landscape specimens. For the next meeting bring in a potted plant that has spent its life outside or on the patio. Bring in some pictures of the ones you have in the ground. Be prepared to share your experience!

Stephen Cooley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues are due!

CSUB Garden: There is more grass to be removed! If you would like to be involved in this project, a work day will be scheduled at the Jan. meeting. We are almost ready to start more formal planning of the garden area; once the grass is removed we can start deciding on walkways, hills, rocks, themes for planting, whatever!

Library book acquisitions: there will be a list to vote on so the club can purchase additional books for our library. Be ready to choose those books that you think will interest you!

CALENDAR

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 Calif.

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

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

Apr. 5-7 27th Congress of the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS) at The Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix.
www.iosweb.org

Apr. 9 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

May 14 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

May 19 Epiphyllum Society of America's Flower Show & Sale, Ayers Hall, Arboretum of L.A. County, Arcadia. 9am-4pm.
www.epiphyllum.org

June 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

July 6-7 CSSA Show & Sale, Huntington Botanical Gardens

July 9 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com