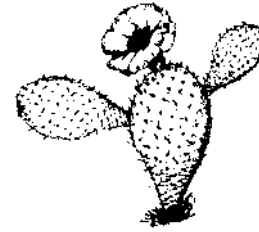




*Cerochlamys pachyphylla*  
photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 5    **March 2002**    Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## **Cacti of Brazil**

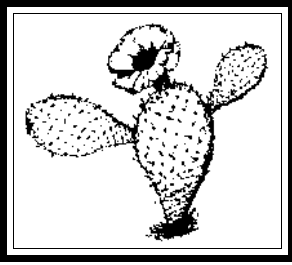
presented by  
**Inga Hoffmann**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Mar. 12**  
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 3  
March 2002

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**

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**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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## **BCSS Executive Board Meeting: February 26, 2002**

Rob, Lynn, Maynard, Bonnie, and Linda were in attendance. Lynn reported on the Windwolves field trip. We decided that the trip would most likely be on the weekend of April 6 or 7...it is only a day trip and Lynn will find out which day will work the best and get it set up. Future programs were discussed: Inge Hoffmann will present March's program, Rob will be our speaker in April (the plant of the month will be Haworthia), and in May Bill Kurtz will be speaking about Sansevieras (a hands-on program, no slides!) The BC pottery workshop will be held on June 15. We discussed the possibility of having the General meeting for June at FACT, so people can see the garden. The possibility of purchasing some large landscape rocks from Jack and Sidney's friend was discussed; these rocks would be placed in the garden. The Yard Sale date needs to be set; several dates were mentioned and need to be voted on by the members. Maynard reported that we now have 32 members! (and around \$1600 in the bank.) The next executive meeting will be held March 19 (instead of the usual time, due to Easter vacation...) at Rob and Terry's house.



photo by Sydney Kelley

James Parker Rock 'n Roll

## **BCSS General Meeting: February 12, 2002**

We were pleased to welcome visitors Kay and Gwen to our February meeting. We hope to see both of you again!

Rob started the meeting by reminding us that dues are due! Members who have not renewed their membership will not be receiving this newsletter in the future! The next item was the

BCSS/CSUB cactus/succulent garden (cactulent garden? Succus garden??) (Can anybody figure out a good name for this place??). Maynard reported that a large area had been rototilled and cleared of



photo by  
Sydney  
Kelley

grass (yeah, right) at the last work day. The garden area is now approx. 41'x71'. We are also investigating the large Panama Lane cactus, hoping to acquire some. At the next work day, we might remove more grass, plant cacti and

succulents and/or weed. We need also to come up with some ideas about the eventual finished layout. The next work day was planned for Feb. 24th at 9 am. Various field trips were then discussed:

Windwolves preserve to see Bakersfield cactus and other spring

wildflowers and the June 15th pottery workshop at BC.

These will be finalized soon. The Yard Sale was briefly brought up. We need to set a date; the Skillins are willing to host it again. Members are

encouraged to start finding stuff to

donate. Bobbie reported on the new library books that have been acquired: Euphorbia Journal #5, Cacti of Brazil, Vyggies, and the Ultimate Book of Cacti and Succulents. Lynn reported that the Green Thumb Garden Club collects cancelled commemorative stamps and donates them for eagle habitat. Lynn will be glad to collect any the club members bring and give them to the garden club. Maynard reported that the club has about \$1800 in the bank. Our March program will be Cacti of Brazil



Photo by Stephen Cooley

by Inge Hoffmann. The Plant of the Month will be Cacti of Brazil! Rob reminded members that the next Executive meeting will be held on Feb. 26 at Bonnie's home. Many members brought plants in for the program and Rob brought in some soon-to-be-dormant mesembs so everyone could see what that looks like. Then Lynn presented her program: hanging succulent baskets. She showed us the basic procedure and let us go! I need hardly say how much everyone enjoyed this very different sort of program! Everyone left with a beautiful basket stuffed with succulents. Even now, as I write this, my basket of plants still lives!! In fact it looks great and I look forward to seeing it thrive this spring and summer. It was a lot of fun. Thanks, Lynn, for taking the time to get this program together for us!

## PROGRAM NOTES & PLANT OF THE MONTH

### Cacti of Brazil presented by Inge Hoffman

This month's program will be on the Cacti of Brazil, presented by Inge Hoffmann. This should prove to be very interesting as we haven't heard much about cacti in that area of the world. The plant of the month will be, of course, cacti from Brazil. Here is a list of cacti from Brazil that I gleaned from Cacti in Brazil by Konrad Herm, et.al. (Hey everyone! CHECK IT OUT!! From the library...):

Arrojadoa, Arthrocerus, Brasilicereus, Buiningia, Cipocereus, Coleocephalocereus, Discocactus, Echinopsis, Epiphyllum, Espostoopsis, Facheiroa, Frailea, Gymnocalycium, Harrisia, Leocereus, Lepismium, Melocactus, Micranthocereus, Opuntia, Parodia, Pereskia, Pilosocereus, Qiabentia, Stephanocereus, Tacinga, Uebelmannia

# THINGS FALL APART

## A Letter From Bruce



I hope this gets through. The e-mail has been down for over two weeks. Just before leaving for Calif. I moved from the old historic building into a “temporary” one. The electricity has still not been hooked up, so the new office is unbearably hot. Meanwhile the bids on the renovation of the old building are still out even though we’d originally been told work would start at the end of last year!

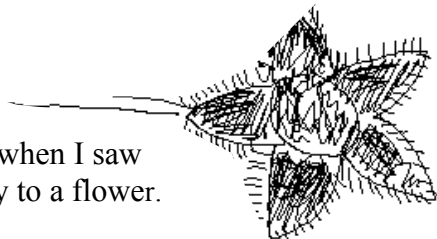
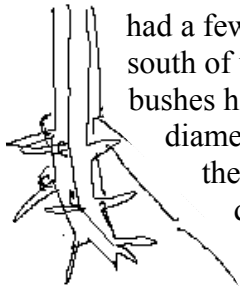
When I returned from Bakersfield both the Nov. and Dec. Cactus Patches were on my desk. The Nov. one was water-soaked, as was a Christmas poem from my mother. Another Christmas letter arrived at the same time as a book from the same friends, the Paweks, even though the book was mailed 11th Sept.!

The book, incidentally, is a real gem – Africa’s Mountains of the Moon by Guy Yeoman, 1989, University Books, N.Y. It is the story of an expedition with botanic illustrator Christobel King and alternates between beautiful paintings and gorgeous photos. There is a section comparing giant senecios and lobelias to desert succulents (freezing nights leave plants deprived of useable water). I have never been to these giants of east Africa, but they have smaller relatives in the Misuku Hills of northern Malawi which I found fascinating enough. The last chapter, a diatribe on conservation, was a bit jarring.

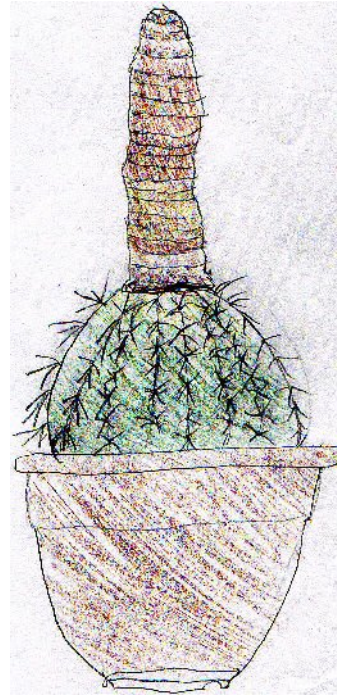
The weather is still beastly hot here, though we have had a few showers of cooling rain. I visited the “empty” lot south of us and found that while we were in Bakersfield the bushes had been uprooted. I managed to rescue a 14 inch diameter *Adenium digitata* tuber among others. This is the biggest I’ve seen. One I also rescued from the development at the old airport was only 8 inches.

On an up-note – I finally got the *Tridentea*

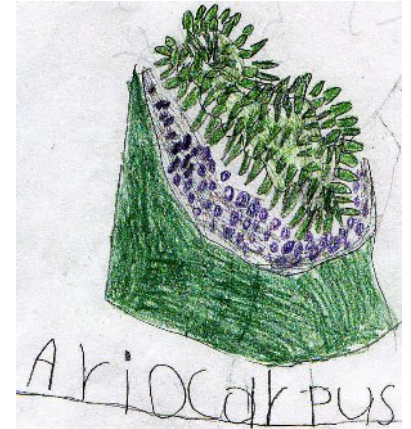
*marientalensis* from Bokspits to bloom. It kept aborting buds, but this time I stopped watering when I saw the bud and it made it all the way to a flower.



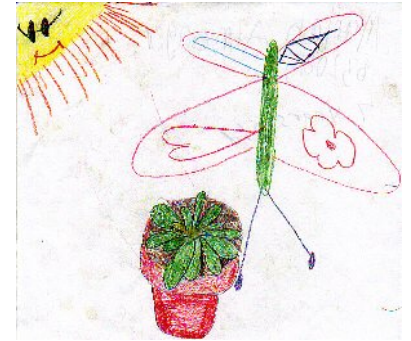
## 2001 BCSS Show & Sale Drawing Contest Winners



Darren Jones age 12



Theresa Rendes age 5



Mariah Amengor age 7



Daryan Maples Age 8



Miguel Ramirez age 3

## Re-potting and Potting Up

by Michael Louie (San Mateo, Ca.)

First of all, what is the difference between these two practices? Re-potting is when you take a plant out of its container, gently remove the old soil, debris, dead roots in exchange for fresh growing medium. Re-potting is something that you must do to keep a plant healthy since it is an opportunity to remove any built up toxins that water cannot flush away. Also, dead, decaying roots and other debris that may encourage bacterial and/or fungal colonization are removed. Re-potting is always a stressful event for the plant and the horticulturist since it is an extremely intrusive technique. Many of the fine root hairs and small feeder roots are damaged or broken off, and these "open injuries" may be an opportunity for an infection to occur. The horticulturist generally feels nervous until the plant gives signs of growth again.

Re-potting should be done every other year or every 3 years depending on how well the plant grows in the medium ("soil") the horticulturist gives it. A lot of the small liliaceous plants: *Haworthia*, *Gasteria* and *Aloe* benefit from re-potting every 1-2 years since they produce a lot of roots and a build-up of organic matter in the soil proves to be toxic to the plant. Many *Euphorbia*, *Tylecodon* and *Cotyledon* benefit from repotting every 1-2 years as well. *Crassula* are generally easy plants to grow the first 1-2 years but if they are not re-potted or stem/leaf cuttings rooted to make new plants, they can languish and suffer great set-back. A few years ago, one of our own members, Paul Heiple, wrote an article on how some of the stemmed mesembs can start to die at the center of a stem and the necrosis spreads outward eventually killing the leaves and meristem of the plant. He called the phenomenon "MesAD" to stand for Mesemb Atrophy Disease. The causes for MesAD are not clearly understood but the best way to salvage the ailing plant was to take stem cuttings at first sign of the disease and re-root them. I have found that MesAD happens more frequently if I do not re-pot my stemmed mesembs every 2-3 years. The stemless mimicry mesembs (lithops and conos) seem to be more resistant to MesAD and can survive in the same pot for 6-7 years.



Potting up is a technique where a plant is carefully taken out from its growing container and put into a larger one where more soil can be added. This gives a plant more "root room" to expand into thus encouraging a plant to continue to grow. The dangers associated with potting up are that the plant is still living with the old soil, debris and toxins that persist. Furthermore, the roots may be stressed from being pot-bound (crowded) or wrapped concentrically so that the roots choke each other as they continue to grow. And finally, the added new soil absorbs moisture and dries out at a different rate as the old soil causing further problems. The benefit to potting up is that the practice is non-intrusive, minimizes root trauma and plant injury. The plants that benefit most from potting up are the ones that produce a low density of roots but grow very quickly or those plants that do not "turn-over" roots at a high rate. These include *Echeveria*, *Aeonium*, *Sempervivum*, *Sedum* and many cacti.

Experience will prove that both techniques, re-potting and potting up, are needed depending on the length of time a particular plant has been in a container, how well and how much a plant has grown in that container. An unhealthy plant with a soil-born infection (fungi, bacteria) or infestation (root mealy, *Sciara* fly...) can benefit from re-potting but special care must be given to remove much of the old soil and effectively ridding the roots of the pest. The plant should not be over-watered or potted up into a larger container that increases the time it takes for the soil to dry out. Only after the plant recovers and begins to thrive again should it be potted up into the larger container.

As a general rule, if I have to change the soil for a plant that is sick or is going into dormancy, I will re-pot. If an actively growing, healthy plant still has good soil and has out-grown a container, I pot up. Finally, if a plant has languished from being in a container that is too large and dries too slowly, I change the soil and pot down (use a smaller container). It can also take many years to understand how a particular soil mix works in your microclimate. Experience and experimentation will be the key to your success and save you from becoming a nervous 'psyduck' sleeplessly worrying about how a plant will fare under your care.

## WORDSEARCH

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

### Cacti of Brazil

Can you find these succulent Genera in the puzzle above?

Arrojadoa	Facheiroa	Parodia
Arthrocerus	Frailea	Pereskia
Buiningia	Gymnocalycium	Pierrebraunia
Cipocereus	Harrisia	Qiabentia
Discocactus	Leocereus	Siccobaccatus
Echinopsis	Lepismium	Tacinga
Epiphyllum	Melocactus	Uebelmannia
Espostoopsis	Opuntia	Wigginsia

## Lithops & Conophytum

### Small Scale Succulents for the Big Time Collector

By Stephen Cooley

When it comes to succulents, it would not be unusual to find yourself short on space but long on enthusiasm. You could take over what's left of the back lawn and put in a few cold frames and a lathe house, or perhaps, try something different:



scale down the size of your plants. *Lithops* and *Conophytum* are ideal for this. Both stay small and can be grown in small pots (the smaller the pot, the smaller the plant stays -- I have a *Lithops terricolor* that has been in a 1.5" tall X

1.5" wide pot for nearly 5 years!)

Though both have a reputation for being finicky and a little hard to grow, that is a distinction given them by those who have purchased them as novelties. The educated and enthusiastic hobbyist should have no difficulty in raising both. Though I will not go into how to cultivate them here, ask around at the next meeting and you'll get all the growing information that you need.

Some of the many attractions that *Lithops* and *Conophytum* have (besides their size) are the various shapes and patterns that decorate their leaves. They both flower abundantly and are readily raised from seed. They have a habit of replacing all their leaves every year, which means that any blemishes are tossed off and replaced with new, unmarked leaves. They look fantastic when staged with the right colored top dressing and a nice pot. And, there are 88 species of *Conophytum* and 36 species of *Lithops* -- with countless variations, both natural and horticultural. *Lithops* tend to be summer growers while *Conophytum* are winter growers, so there is always something going on in the collection.



My favorite source for seeds is:

Mesa Garden, PO Box 72, Belen NM 87002.

Free catalog or view it online at: [www.mesagarden.com](http://www.mesagarden.com)

# ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

## **Windwolves Preserve**

We have been discussing a field trip to Windwolves Preserve -- it is south of town up in the hills of Tejon ranch area west of I-5. It is a wildlife preserve with habitat walk along a creek with flowers and birds, some groups of Bakersfield cactus we think, sometimes Tule elk can be seen. It is used for education by schools during the week. We plan this day trip the weekend of April 6<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. With the lack of rain, it might be a better time for blooming flowers. I would wait till the general meeting to discuss this, but the date is only a month away & I am going out of town for a bit & would like to let the preserve people know soon, so the date is set with them.

I would like to know who might be interested and if that day is best. It is possible we could go on the Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> if no one can go on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Lynn

## **Cactus Update - Panama Lane and Gossford Rd**

I just talked with Stan Antongiovanni. He said that they are interested in donating ALL the cactus - the WHOLE patch! I told him that we were a very small club (no money to move them) and how we came by the garden at Cal State. He said that getting the finances to move the cactus was up to us. He said the first step he would like to have done is to have someone appraise the patch. (We're thinking it's for taxes as he said that they weren't interested in selling them but donating.) So here we are. More cactus than we had ever hoped for!! What to do?

Sydney

Start saving stuff for the Yard Sale!  
We don't exactly know when it will be,  
but it will be here before you know it!!

*Thank You*

*Rosemarie, Bonnie & Jim  
for bringing the February Treats!*

***BE SURE TO VISIT US AT***

**[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)**

**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)

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)

# CALENDAR

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

**speaker: Inge Hoffman**

**subject: Cacti in Brazil**

**Mar. 19 BCSS Executive Board meeting at Rob & Terry's.**

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

**Apr. 6 or 7 Windwolves Field Trip**

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

**speaker: Rob Skillin**

**subject: South Africa**

**Apr 13-14 South Coast C&SS Show & Sale. South Coast Botanical Garden 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes Peninsula. 9am-4pm. Dick Hulett**

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

**speaker: Bill Kurtz**

**subject: Sansevierias**

**May 19 Epiphyllum Society of America's Flower Show & Sale, Ayers Hall, Arboretum of L.A. County, Arcadia. 9am-4pm. [www.epiphyllum.org](http://www.epiphyllum.org)**

**June 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm at Cal State FACT???**

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

**June 15 Pottery Workshop at Bakersfield College**

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

## CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW & SALE

*PRESENTED BY THE  
SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY*

**SAT & SUN APRIL 13 & 14 9am to 4pm**

SOUTH COAST  
BOTANICAL GARDENS  
26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.  
PALOS VERDES  
PENINSULA

**OUTSTANDING  
DISPLAYS BY  
SELECTED  
GROWERS  
INDIVIDUALS AND  
LOCAL CLUBS**

*TWO PEOPLE'S CHOICE  
AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN  
ON SUNDAY FOR THE BEST  
EDUCATIONAL AND  
ARTISTIC DISPLAY.  
TROPHIES DESIGNED BY  
SANDRA FLETCHER*

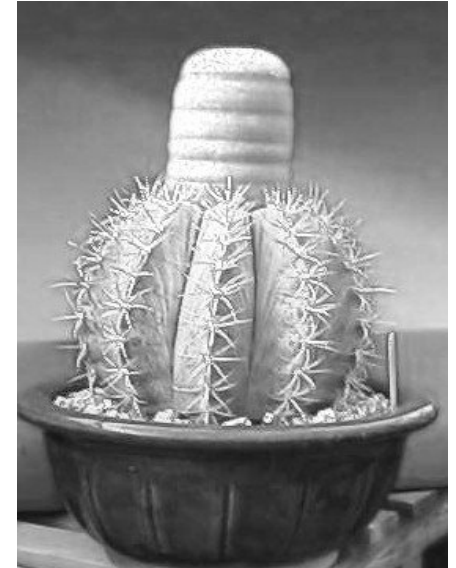
For more information contact:

Dick Hulett

Carol Causey

Jim Hanna

**DIRECTIONS:** Coming from the 10, take 405 south to Crenshaw, go south on Crenshaw or take 110 south to Pacific Coast Hwy., go west to Crenshaw and turn left.



*Melocactus warasii*, called a "Turk's Cap," because it flowers from the dense "cap" of spines at its crown. Come and see more! Or, Come and learn more!