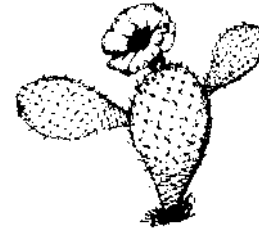




Drosanthemum bicolor
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 5 **April 2002** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

The succulent Karoo

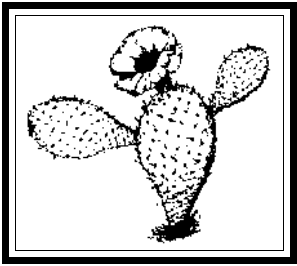
presented by
Rob Skillin

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 9
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

Wind Wolves
Field Trip
April 6



The Cactus Patch

Volume 5 Number 4
April 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

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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

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

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BCSS Executive Board Meeting: March 19, 2002

A smaller group than is normal met for the executive meeting; Bonnie was ill, so Rob, Maynard, Lynn and Linda forged on without her, with some frequent contributions from Terry. The Yard Sale was first on the list. Terry will coordinate, but would like some other members to help with advertising and labeling the items. The date for the Yard Sale is May 18-19. Saturday, April 20 is a very popular date. CALM will be having a birthday bash and has invited us to set up a table and hand out info about the club, it's the spring sale at Cactus Data Plants, and we are scheduled to go see rocks in the desert. We discussed the Fall Show and Sale: some considerations about the date were mentioned (the business conference, the San Gabriel show and sale, etc.) It was decided that we need a chairperson soon, so these things can be dealt with. A tentative date is Oct. 5 and 6. Rob will contact Lee and Woody to see if they can sell plants on those dates. We discussed having one of our general meetings at CALM, perhaps in April or May. Maynard thought we should delay so as to use it as an opportunity for a special program to attract members. The Cactus garden at CSUB has been neglected, since a work date was not set at the last general meeting. The work that needs to be done at this point is upkeep, mostly weeding and watering. The Panama Lane cactus were again discussed, with no more information available at this time. The situation regarding "All or nothing" must be clarified before anything else can be done. A watering system should be planned soon, before summer. Lynn listed the upcoming programs: Apr: Rob, May: Sansevieria, June: pottery (special meeting day and place) with a picnic meeting at the cactus garden at our usual time and date, July: ?? maybe a dinner meeting at Cactus Valley, August: demo by Rob, Sept: a "Show and Sale" program. The next meeting will be on April 30 at Bill and Lynn's house.

*Thank You Everyone Who Brought
the March Treats!*

BCSS General Meeting: March 12, 2002

The meeting opened with a discussion of trips and events. The tour of the Windwolves Preserve will happen on Saturday, April 6. Interested parties will meet at the sign to the Preserve located at the gravel road and Hwy. 166. More info will be in the newsletter. The June 15 Pottery workshop is still on, with the possible postponement due to some work being done at BC. More info to come! Jack and Sidney spoke about their Rock Connection. They explained that the rocks are more than just landscape rocks; they are beautiful specimens of rocks and minerals and cost 25 cents a pound. They would be a nice addition in a few special places as an educational part of our garden. Some members will check out the rocks on Sat., April 20, in conjunction with a trip to Cactus Data Plants for the spring sale. April 20th is also the Birthday Celebration at CALM and we have been invited to set up a table and give out info about the club. We are considering having one our meetings there in the future. The Panama Lane cactus have been offered to the club, but there are several glitches: the most daunting part of the offer is moving the cactus, many of which are HUGE. Another consideration is that we may be required to take all or nothing. We will be finding out more as time goes on. The Yard Sale will be May 18 and 19, at Rob and Terry's house. Members are needed to assist Terry in getting this event organized.

Upcoming programs were discussed. In April, Rob will speak to us about The Succulent Karoo. The Plant of the Month will be *Haworthia*. In May, we will hear all about *Sansevieria* with Bill Kurtz as our speaker. The (obvious) Plant of the Month will be *Sansevieria*.

Maynard reported that the Club is still solvent, and has enough money to buy about 3 tons of rocks! The next executive meeting will be March 19 at Rob and Terry's house.

Our program was presented by Inge Hoffmann, who spoke



to us about plant hunting in Brazil. She has traveled to Brazil four times and is very knowledgeable about the plants that live there. The area of Brazil she spoke about was relatively small area (compared to the size of the country!) near Cabo Frio. She took us on a tour along the coast and then inland in search of *Uebelmannia* and other cool succulents. There were a variety of habitats and microclimates, with very interesting plants growing in them. Who would have believed that *Cereus decumbens* and *Buiningia* would grow along the beach? And what about that *Melocactus* growing half buried in the sand, right on the beach!! Amazing. After the coastal areas, our tour took us inland to the Cerrado. This is a much drier climate--definitely not a rain forest! Here we saw slides of *Arthroceus*, *Dykia*, and *Euphorbia*



phosphorea. The ultimate find was *Uebelmannia pectinifera* var. *pseudopectinifera*, as well as *U. crispispina* and *U. flavispina* and some *Discocactus*. We ended our tour with the Morass, a wetlands area. In this area we saw slides of *Pilocereus densilandus* and *Uebelmannia buiningii*. It was a fascinating program, showing a part of Brazil little seen. Thanks to Ms. Hoffmann for sharing her trip and knowledge with us.

We then went to the Plant of the Month table and saw plants of Brazil brought in by Ed, Rob, Jack and Sidney, and Linda. As usual, we ended with refreshments and the Raffle.

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

Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor

PROGRAM NOTES & PLANT OF THE MONTH

The Succulent Karoo presented by Rob Skillin

The Succulent Karoo is a winter rainfall area in Western South Africa. Here are found a profusion of succulent plants, among them; *Aloe*, *Tylecodon*, *Othonna*, *Crassula*, *Sarcocaulon*, too many geophytes ("bulbs") to count, and of course, just about every mesemb in the book. There are perhaps more succulent species here than anywhere else in the world -- about 1700 species of leaf succulents.

The Plant-of-the-Month is *Haworthia*, a plant of the Succulent Karoo that is popular with many collectors.

So, What Are *YOU* Doing April 20th?

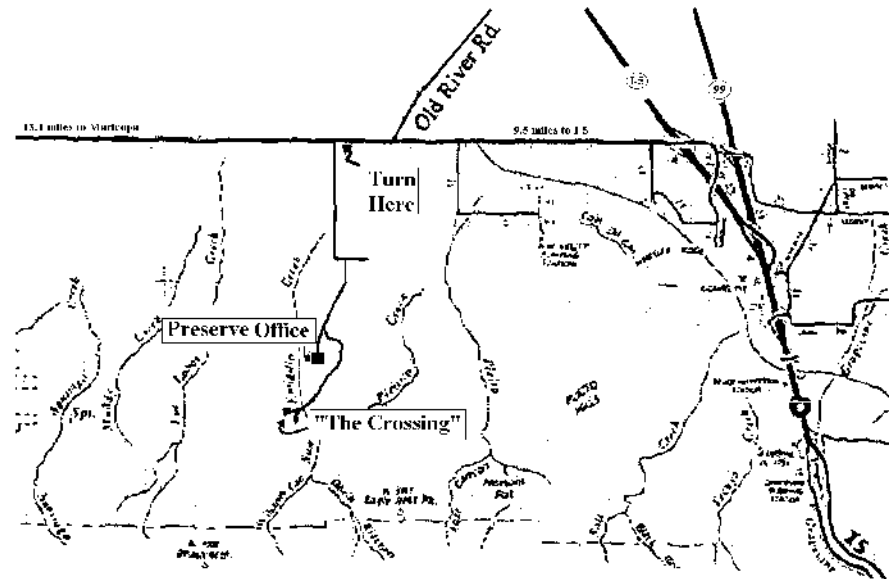
At our last board meeting, we discussed a way to resolve the conflict of Jack and Sydney being on the Ridge Route tour, and the possibility of a BCSS display table at CALM, on the 20th. We decided to have the trip to Woody's on the 21st. HOWEVER, I just spoke to Woody regarding our October Show & Sale (October 5&6 is good for him- and Lee too), and it came out in our conversation that the potters will only be at Woody's on the 20th (Carol and Joe Wujcik, Erika and Al Van Auker, and someone new from Las Vegas). SO- we should discuss this some more at the April meeting and see what the best solution is.

Rob Skillin

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Directions to Wind Wolves Preserve, San Emigdio Ranch April 6th Field Trip

The road to Wind Wolves Preserve heads South from Highway 166, between Maricopa and Interstate 5; it is marked by a sign that says "Wind Wolves Preserve San Emigdio Ranch". Look for this sign on the South side of Highway 166, 1.8 miles west of the junction of Old River Road (if you're driving West), or 13 miles from Maricopa (if you're driving East). Travel South on the gravel road for three miles; then you will pass over a yellow cattle guard as the road bends to the left. About 100 yards after this first cattle guard, turn right and go over a second one. This turn is marked by a big granite boulder, and a tan-colored arrow. To reach San Emigdio Canyon, take the left fork at the "Y" instead of going straight. You will come to a gate over a cattle guard that may be locked unless we are expecting you. Go through this gate and continue up the road, travelling straight through two intersections, following the direction pointed by the tan-colored arrows. You will reach a cement crossing of San Emigdio Creek. The camping area is on the hilltop straight up through this crossing.



A BETTER MONTH A Letter From Bruce



It is still hot, but a bit cloudy, which helps. On the 14th we had fog - it looked like San Francisco! The e-mail is back up and the mail coming in (we got the Cactus Patch on Monday the 18th). If only we could get electricity for the stifling offices!

We had a couple of successful collecting trips. On the 10th we went to Pyetle Hill, an odd peak surrounded by a hanging marsh which is, in turn, surrounded by hills. I was looking for a part of the hills southwest of here to be designated as a National Monument. I'm still looking, but next to a blooming *Aloe zebrine*, we found a blooming orchid at Pyetle. This is the first time I have seen *Bonatea speciosa* in Botswana. (The drawing in "Succulents of Botswana" is from Lesotho!)

Then on the 15th we went with the Bird Club to Darnaway Farms at the upper end of the Limpopo. The farmhouse is surrounded by *Aloe littoralis* under which were blooming plants of the smelly succulent mint *Plectranthus cylindricus*. One of the aloes had seven heads. None of the aloes had prickles on the back of the leaf as found elsewhere (e.g. North of Francistown and at Mamuno on the Namibian border). Incidentally, the species is named from the beach locality it was first found in at Angola. It grows to tree size, but is often shorter. I failed to find *Euphorbia waterbergensis* which has been given to me from the South African side of the river near nearby Buffelsdrift. We camped by the river and on Saturday all 32 of us had a candle-lit dinner in the bush (to celebrate a birthday and the departure of a past president). Next day (St. Patrick's) we had corn beef and cabbage for breakfast. On the way home we saw a pair of the rare ground hornbills.

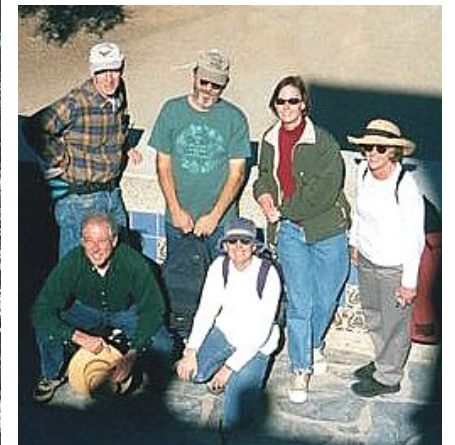
We have just received Vol. 9 part 5 of *Flora Zambesiaca* which covers the subfamily Euphorbioideae tribe Euphorbieae of the Euphorbiaceae. It is a masterful production by Susan Carter of Kew in conjunction with the late Larry Leach of southern Africa. I'm going to need a lot of time to absorb all of it, but I noticed immediately that the fight is lost against separating those weedy garden spurges into a separate genus *Chamaesyce*! In a footnote on the opening page Susan Carter says, "Section *Chamaesyce*, as it occurs in tropical Africa,

would be particularly easy to distinguish as a genus, and since this account was submitted for publication the evidence for doing so has been accepted by almost all workers." This does help reduce the overwhelming number of species in the genus *Euphorbia*.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

Catalina Island Field Trip Feb 2-3, 2002

Pictures by Lynn McDonald



Some Tips On Acquiring Cacti in the Bakersfield Area

By James Parker

In my many travels around Bakersfield to satisfy my cactus cravings I have discovered some good sources. For those who are inquisitive and patient there are some real bargains. The following are some of my favorites:

1. Home Centers

Most of the Home Centers have cactus in their nursery departments. Lowe's and Home Depot have the largest displays. For the best selection it is a good idea to get there when a new delivery arrives. You may want to check with the store manager on delivery times.

2. Department Stores

Some large department stores also have nursery departments, my favorite is Target. Each fall Target will sell their remaining stock of cactus at discount prices. Be sure to be there on time as they really go fast.

3. Grocery Stores

Occasionally grocery stores may offer cacti in their floral sections. Once a year some of the Vons Markets will stock cacti, what is not sold in two to three weeks is usually sold as clearance items. Again, check with the store manager if you are hunting for bargains

4. Nurseries

Several years ago Majestic Palms offered a selection of large specimen cacti. If you are looking for landscaping cacti, including Saguaro, they may have a few left. White Forest and Robby's nurseries still have some remnant of the Muller cactus collection, check with the store manager as they have them hidden away.

5. Friends and Neighbors

Keeping your eyes and ears open can really payoff, I once read the following advertisement in the Bakersfield California "Free cactus, bring your own shovel." Often when property changes ownership, the new owner may not share the previous owners passion and will not object to getting rid of cactus. By being inquisitive you may find some real bargains.

The Midwestern Cactus & Succulent Conference

The Kansas City Cactus & Succulent Society is excited to be hosting the Midwestern Cactus & Succulent Conference to be held in Kansas City June 7, 8, & 9, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Mission/Overland Park. The Conference will be featuring outstanding speakers, a Workshop, Growers Forum, Judged Mini Show, Plant Sales, Friday Night "Welcome to Kansas City Party" (Cash Bar), Saturday Evening Banquet (followed by a Rare Plant Auction benefiting the CSSA Research Fund) and a Post Conference Trip to Omaha to visit the Desert Biome at the Henry Doorly Zoo. The Conference will feature John Spain, Middlebury, Connecticut, winter hardy cactus grower and author of Growing Winter Hardy Cacti in Cold/West Climate Conditions. His garden holds one of the largest winter hardy collections in the country, as well as premier rock garden plants from around the world. Chuck Hanson, southwestern Iowa, owner of Arid Lands Greenhouses, will be giving two presentations and have rare succulents for sale. Dr. Rob Wallace, an Associate Professor of Botany at Iowa State University will give two presentations. His research focuses primarily on understanding the evolutionary relationships between plants. His doctoral research was on the genus Lithops. Bob Smoley, Gardenworld, Pennsylvania, will give a slide presentation of Greenhouses around the world and have plants for sale. David Bird, of Powell Gardens, Lone Jack, Missouri, and Bird's Botanicals, will give a talk on container gardening. Robert Harris, Present of the Bonsai Society of Greater St. Louis, will give a presentation on Succulent Bonsai. Kathy Malon, Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society, will give a workshop on Miniature Spoon Gardens.

Chuck Hanson's "Arid Lands Greenhouses", Tucson, Arizona, Bob Smoley's "Gardenworld", Gibsonia, Pennsylvania, Lynn & LoWilla Wilson's "Exotic Succulents & Cacti", Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and Joyce Batemann-Hochtritt's "J & J Cactus & Succulents", Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, will feature an outstanding selection of plants for sale.

Conference Registration as follows: Postmarked by May 1, 2002 --- \$75.00, by June 6, 2002 ---\$90.00, at the door ---\$100.00. Registration includes Friday night Welcome to Kansas City Party (Cash Bar) and Saturday Evening Banquet.

Please make any needed hotel reservations with the Holiday Inn Mission/Overland Park, Kansas, 913-262-3010. Mention the Conference to receive the special room rate of \$74.00 per night.

For more information contact:

Eva Allen, Chair
Linda Tamblyn, Co-chair
Judy Pigue, KCCSS Pres.

The Quest for the Crest

By Stephen Cooley

A year ago, in March 2001, Maynard Moe and I went out on our annual trip to the deserts of California. We made a change of plans and, since we were in the neighborhood, went to Tucson, instead. After visits to the Sonoran Desert Museum, Living Stones Nursery, and Miles to Go Nursery we headed back towards California via Organ Pipe National Park. We took in our fill of Arizona and departed. Arriving at our last camp in the Chuckwalla Mountains we hiked out over the washes and hills. At one point, while carefully navigating our way through a thicket of Teddy Bear Cholla (*Opuntia bigelovii*) we noticed a peculiar looking barrel cactus up the hill.



Turning uphill, we discovered a crested *Ferocactus cylindraceus*! After we recovered from the giddy enthusiasm that often overwhelms cactophiles when they see something new, Maynard dutifully took pictures of the specimen and we headed back to camp. The next morning as we prepared to leave, we found that the car had a flat tire. We fixed it just in

time to discover the other flat tire. From here on, the story gets too gruesome to tell, so I'll just say that we happened to arrive home very late that night and that none of the pictures came out.

Ferocactus cylindraceus is the most common of the two *Ferocactus* in California (the other is *F. viridescens* from San Diego County). Those who went on one of the New York Mountains field trips saw splendid specimens of the variety *lecontei*. In the desert, *Ferocactus cylindraceus* is a single stemmed barrel, which helps identify it from *Echinocactus polycephalus*, that usually is in clumps and has wool at the crown. Of the thousands of these that I have seen, I have never seen one that was crested. This year as Maynard and I trekked out into the desert once again, we made it a point to relocate the crested cactus. We arrived at 'Two



Flats Camp', checked the tires, and headed off in the direction we remembered from the previous year. There it was, protected by an army of cholla, the 9-headed barrel cactus. This time the pictures made it home, as did we, with our only delay being a date shake at Hadley's.

To see more pictures (in color!) go to:

www.bakersfieldcactus.org/thecactuspatch/articles/crest/crest.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan to spend a beautiful spring day at the **Windwolves Preserve**, enjoying nature and possibly sighting a Bakersfield cactus. The date is April 6; car pooling is encouraged.

The **Annual Yard Sale** Event will be help on May 18 and 19. We need all members to contribute items and to help with the sale. Working at the sale is easy and fun!! Put these dates on your calendar and consider contributing an hour or two of your time to help out!

Needed: a **Chairperson** for the Club's annual **Show and Sale** in October. This event needs some advanced planning and a committee should be formed soon! Interested members are urged to seek out Maynard (last year's chair) or Rob (our prez) and get more info.

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

CALENDAR

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

www.iosweb.org

Apr. 6 Windwolves Field Trip

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

speaker: Rob Skillin

subject: South Africa

plant of the month: *Haworthia*

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

Apr 20 Check out Rocks for CSUB Cactus Garden, along with the Spring Sale at Cactus Data Plants (Woody Minnich).

CALM Birthday Celebration information table.

Apr 27-28 Monterey Bay Area C&SS Show. Jardines Restaurant, San Juan Bautista

Apr. 30 BCSS Executive at Lynn's house

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

speaker: Bill Kurtz

subject(& Plant of the Month): Sansevierias

May 18-19 Annual Yard Sale at Rob & Terry's house.

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

June BCSS meeting: time and date to be announced

Pottery and Cactus Garden.

June 7-8 Midwest Cactus & Succulent Conference, Kansas City.

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

July BCSS meeting: Dinner meeting at Cactus Valley?

Aug 13 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

speaker: Rob Skillin

subject: Demo program

Sept 10 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

subject: Show & Sale

Oct 5-6? Show & Sale

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*

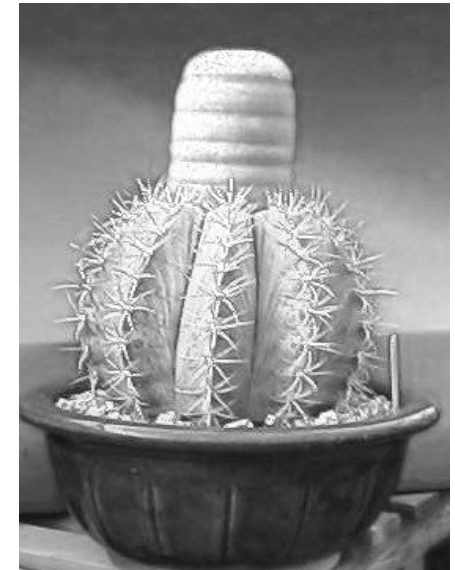
For more information contact:

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!

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editor