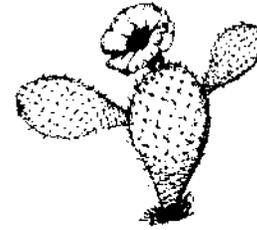




Flower of the California native
Opuntia phaeacantha
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 5 **May 2002** Number 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Sansevieria

presented by Bill Kurtz

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 14

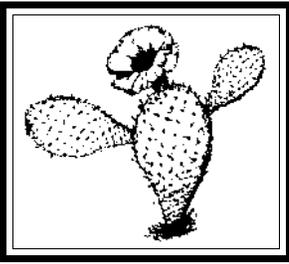
at

CALM

(6-ish) 7 PM

(see map on page 7)

**Annual
Yard Sale
May 18-19**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 5 Number 5
May 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

2002 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Bruce Hargreaves

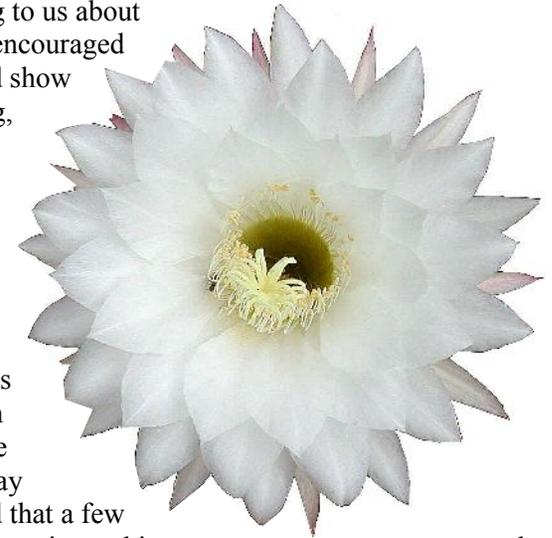
2002 Chairpersons

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

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BCSS Executive Board Meeting: April 30, 2002

Your Officers--Rob, Lynn, Bonnie, and Maynard, plus your intrepid cub reporter, Linda, attended this meeting. Bill was wandering around and frequently joined in, also. Lynn started off by demanding a check from the treasurer, so she could pay for our Pottery program in June. So that is taken care of! (That workshop will be held on June 15 at BC--more details will be available at the May meeting, so be sure you come!!) The Yard Sale will be happening on May 18-19 from 7:30 to noon. Terry will be expecting lots of participation from members--in the form of donations of sale-able "stuff" and help at the sale itself. Friday the 17th, members will be needed to "tag" the "stuff" with prices. Rob requests that members please do not drop off stuff until the 17th, because he finally gets to park in the garage and would like to continue doing so. Our next monthly meeting will be held at CALM and will feature Bill Kurtz, speaking to us about Sansevieria. Members are encouraged to bring a picnic dinner and show up early to enjoy the setting, and to also help identify cactus and succulents growing in the area. The Plant of the Month will be--Surprise!--Sansevieria! Upcoming programs were discussed. More details to come. The Show and Sale is still awaiting a chair person and committee. This will be definitely decided at the May meeting!! It was mentioned that a few



members with a strong interest in working out details about the CSUB cactus/succulent garden should meet with the director of FACT, Dave Germano, to finalize our area. The next executive meeting will be held on May 28th at Linda and Maynard's house. (Believe it or not, it took nearly 2 hours to discuss the above issues. If I wrote down all that we talked about, our newsletter would require extra postage!)

BCSS General Meeting: April 8, 2002

At the April meeting, we had no new visitors, just our usual marvelous members. Rob opened the meeting with a discussion of trips and events that are looming ahead. Members interested in working at "our" garden at CSUB were informed that a very nice member of the community was donating a lot of plants and they needed to be moved by the next weekend. Members were urged to help move plants or to help plant them at Cal State. There was a short update on the Panama Dr. cacti: Mark Muradian will be taking a look at them to get an idea of what they are, if they can be moved and how much they might be worth. April 20-21 was the Annual sale at Cactus Data Plants in Little Rock. Members were encourage to help man a table at CALM on the 20th (Sat.) to advertise the club. Lynn updated us on the June Pottery Project at BC: it will be held on June 15 (a Saturday) and members who attend will be able to make pots! The Yard Sale is approaching! It will be held May 18-19 at Terry and Rob's house. It was mentioned that some members would also like to sell some plants. An appeal was made for a chairperson for our Third Show and Sale. It is confirmed that Lee and Woody will be able to sell plants Oct. 5-6. Upcoming programs are: May--*Sansevieria* by Bill Kurtz. The meeting will be held at CALM and members are encouraged to show up early and bring a picnic dinner. June--the meeting will be held at FACT and will be a picnic meeting with a tour of our garden and possibly some work! July--Dinner meeting at Cactus Valley. August and September--probably something related to the show and sale. The treasurer reported that we have \$1213. We voted to donate \$200 to the Windwolves preserve. The next executive meeting will be April 30 at Lynn and Bill's home.

Rob then presented the Program: The Succulent Karoo. As usual, his slides were excellent and his commentary interesting. We learned about the rainfall patterns of southern Africa and how it influences the growth and distribution of the succulents and other plant life of this area. He informed us that there are more than 1700 species of succulents (which are mostly leaf succulents); these include around 700 species of mimicry plants and about 630 species of geophytes (bulbs). His slide tour took us into the Richtersveld, the Sandveld, the Namaqualand Hills, the Knersvlakte, and the Little Karoo. We were truly impressed with the slides! Thank you, Rob, for a very informative program!

After the program, we looked at some haworthias. Ed, Linda and Rob brought in some great specimens! Thanks to all who participated in the Plant of the Month! As usual, we closed our program with the raffles, with many happy members taking home some very nice plants!

PROGRAM NOTES & PLANT OF THE MONTH

Sansevieria presented by Bill Kurtz

Sansevieria are from tropical Africa that somewhat resemble *Aloe* or *Agave*. Most commonly seen is the Mother-in-Law's Tongue or Snake Plant (*Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii'*). This is a tall, flat-leafed, variegated houseplant that does well in low light and with low water (which has helped make it popular among the houseplant crowd). However, *Sansevieria* is very diverse in it's leaf shape, markings, and size. They can range from small cute rosettes to large and dangerous sword-tipped monsters. Many are just unusual enough to attract the attention of the discriminating succulentophile.

[Please see the announcement concerning the program and meeting location on page 14]

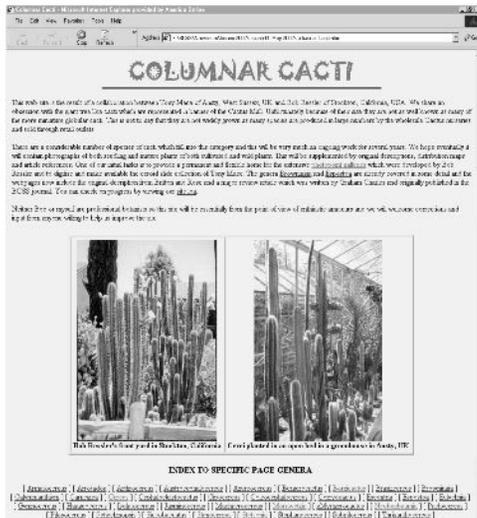
BE SURE TO VISIT US AT

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor



Columnar Cacti www.columnar-cacti.org

There is a new website that concerns itself with Columnar Cacti. Perhaps the best description is to quote directly from their front page:

"This web site is the result of a collaboration between Tony Mace of Ansty, West Sussex, UK and Bob Ressler of Stockton, California, USA. We share an obsession with the giant

tree like cacti which are represented in the banner of the Cactus Mall. Unfortunately because of their size they are not as well known as many of the more miniature globular cacti. This is not to say that they are not widely grown as many species are produced in large numbers by the wholesale Cactus nurseries and sold through retail outlets.

There are a considerable number of species of cacti which fall into this category and this will be very much an ongoing work for several years. We hope eventually it will contain photographs of both seedling and mature plants of both cultivated and wild plants. This will be supplemented by original descriptions, distribution maps and article references. One of our initial tasks is to provide a permanent and flexible home for the extensive photopoint galleries which were developed by Bob Ressler and to digitise and make available the ceroid slide collection of Tony Mace. The genera *Browningia* and *Espostoa* are already covered in some detail and the webpages now include the original description from Britton and Rose and a major review article which was written by Graham Charles and originally published in the BCSS journal. You can check on progress by viewing our site log.

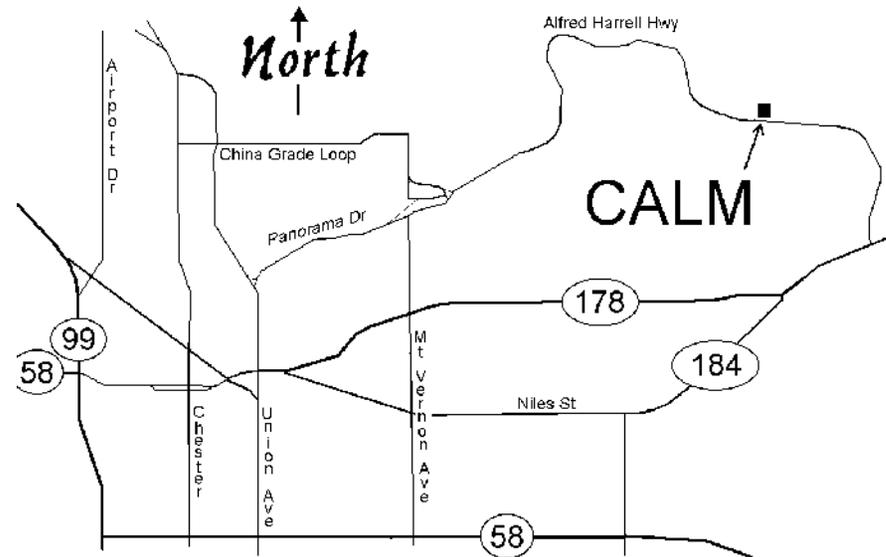
Neither Bob or myself are professional botanists so this site will be essentially from the point of view of enthusiastic amateurs and we will welcome corrections and input from anyone willing to help us improve the site."

Genera currently covered include: *Armatocereus*, *Arrojadoa*,

Arthrocareus, *Austrocephalocereus*, *Azureocereus*, *Bergerocactus*, *Borzicactus*, *Brasilicereus*, *Browningia*, *Calymmanthium*, *Carnegiea*, *Cereus*, *Cephalocleistocactus*, *Cipocereus*, *Coleocephalocereus*, *Corryocactus*, *Escontria*, *Espostoa*, *Eulychnia*, *Gymnocereus*, *Haageocereus*, *Isolatocereus*, *Jasminocereus*, *Machaerocereus*, *Morawetzia*, *xMyrtgerocactus*, *Neobuxbaumia*, *Pachycereus*, *Pilosocereus*, *Setiechinopsis*, *Siccobaccatus*, *Stenocereus*, *Stetsonia*, *Stephanocereus*, *Subpilocereus*, *Thrixanthocereus*.

IMPORTANT!

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BCSS MEMBERS 2002

Linda J. Baze

Edward Colley

Linda Cooley

Stephen Cooley

Marilyn & Charles Cowie

Steve Crippen

Rosmarie Delano

Bonnie East

Lee E. Eby

Georgia V. Farmer

Macario Fernandez

Mylon Filkins

Daniel French

Bruce & Polly Hargreaves

Guadalupe Jimenez

Jack and Sidney Kelley

Anne & Daniel Lee

Bill & Lynn McDonald

Rosaling Mills

Leslie & Lena Moe

Maynard Moe

Mike & Jennifer Navolio

James Parker

Gordon & Freda Sanford

Rob & Terry Skillin

Winnell Spencer

Joe Sprenger

Bobby Williams

Vonne Zdenek

Finding The Perfect Pot

I personally have never had a problem finding the perfect pot. I have lots of them. They're all sitting empty in the backyard. I've even had to build storage shelves to hold them all. My problem has always been in the filling of the pots. I have tried my best to stage my plants correctly but I'm never really satisfied with the results. Recently, while going through my pots and trying (in vain) to imagine which plant I could stage in each, I found that one had already been filled. It seems my enthusiasm has spread and infected a pair of Doves.

These Doves (in an obvious attempt to show me up) have chosen a blue bonsai pot in which they have placed two flawlessly grown white eggs. These eggs are perfectly set off by a top dressing of dry grass along with two clay pots set off to the side just for ornament. It is a striking display, one that has captured the attention of myself and my family.

And the enthusiasm is still spreading -- it seems that the cats have become interested as well.



Stephen Cooley

Wind Wolves Field Trip April 6, 2002



Pictures by
Sydney Kelley



A MARATHON MONTH A Letter From Bruce



The new "Flora Zambesiaca" volume on the Euphorbs has inspired me to take another look at some old friends. The *schinzii* complex has long been one I've looked at both in Malawi and in Botswana. In both cases there is much more variety than is indicated in F.Z. Both *E. schinzii* and *E. limpopoana* as well as the newly named *E. venterii* are listed for Botswana, but there are two populations in the hills just south of Gaborone which don't match these. On the 30th of March we drove down to the pass above Mmankodi and re-collected a population with taller plants and longer spines than normal *E. schinzii*. Then we proceeded back towards the main N-S road, stopping along the way at likely places and collecting another plant of the orchid *Bonetia* as well as some kalanchoes. Across the main road on the outskirts of Ramotswa we recollected from a population which differs from *E. schinzii* in having tuberous roots and spine-shields that stop just below the long pair. We'll try to get these to flower and then see if they deserve a new status.

Another group I'm working on is *Hoodia currorii*. In this case there is no taxonomic dispute -- there is only one *Hoodia* in Botswana. (See my article from Asklepios which should be in the club library.) But I've learned that *Hoodia* is being used as a new weight loss drug in the U.S. and it is alleged that plants are being exported from Botswana. This is probably true since both South Africa and Namibia, unlike Botswana, have laws protecting theirs. At any rate, a book called "People's Plants" (van Wyk and Gurcke, 2000, Briza, Pretoria) lists a number of hoodias and related stapeliads which are traditionally used to relieve hunger. There are excellent pictures in the book. (This is true of many of the other plants of southern Africa described along with their uses.) It is a fascinating book and I sat down and read the whole thing, although I imagine most people will use it more as a reference volume.

On the 7th of April the Bird Club had a field trip just north of Mmankodi, but the only *Euphorbia* was *E. griseola*, a very common species locally.

The Maitisong Festival officially began on 12th April (although Capital Players snuck in a play on the 11th) with a dance

troop from Burkina Faso. Our choir has traditionally ended the festival, but this year we sang "Carmina Burana" on the 13th. Richard Cock (familiar, I'm sure, to all of you who listen to Radio South Africa) brought his larger choir and we all sang under his direction. We also had a local dance group and school choir. It was quite a production and we were the most expensive item on the schedule (P70 = \$10).

Polly and I bought season tickets and averaged two shows per day for the nine day festival. This included an evening of jazz with Steve Dyer and a book fair with local authors, including Travers McNeice, the oldest of three kids who wrote about living in the Okavango. Incidentally, Travers will soon be studying biology at my old alma mater, UCSB. The highlight of the Festival was a play by Maru a Pula, the high school where most of the festival takes place. It was "the" story behind "El Negro", a museum display body which was recently returned to Botswana and given a proper burial. The low point of the festival was the closing concert which featured the Soweto Symphony Orchestra. They have improved since they accompanied our choir in Lesotho fifteen years ago, but they still need practice.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

*Thank You Everyone Who Brought
the April Treats!*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The May meeting (which will happen on the 14th) will be held at **CALM** (which stands for California Living Museum). Members are encouraged to show up early (6-ish) and to bring a picnic dinner. Debbie Kroeger of CALM is letting us hold our meeting at this supreme location and all we have to do is help her identify some plants! So bring your reference books and help out! All the plants at CALM are natives of California, so you won't need those books about South America, Mexico, or even South Africa! We will be hearing about *Sansevieria* from Bill Kurtz, who is bringing lots of plants for us to look at instead of slides. He will also be donating plants to the raffle. So be there! (see the map on page 7)

The **Yard Sale** will be happening soon! Start digging out and dusting off all that great "stuff" you don't need or want and haul it over to the Skillins on the 17th. Also be sure you let Terry know when you can work at the Sale--it's only happening on Saturday and Sunday May 18-19 from 7:30 to Noon.

Come to the meeting and learn more about the **Pottery workshop** that Lynn has set up for us! It will be a great creative outlet! Learn some new skills and just enjoy playing in the mud!

Wanted: a chair person to organize our third **Show and Sale**. Most of the work is already done--and Maynard has offered to assist!

Wanted: members to be on the **Show and Sale** committee! It's fun! It's easy! It's a good way to get to know some other members! And it really doesn't take that much time!

Remember: if you have an idea about a program, let Lynn know! (And start thinking about being our vice president next year!)

CALENDAR

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 18-19 Fresno C&SS Show & Sale, Manchester Center.

Info: Sue Haffner

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

May 28 BCSS Executive meeting: Linda & Maynard's house

June 1-2 Gates C&SS 27th Annual Show & Sale at the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr, Riverside (between Pyrite and Valley Way on Freeway 60). In conjunction with the "Green Faire 2002" - Rare Fruit Growers Association, Quilting Exhibition, etc. Details: Buck Hemenway

June 1-2 San Diego C&SS Show & Sale. Balboa Park room 101. Sale begins at 9am on Saturday and 10am on Sunday. Details:

Tom DeMerritt or Pam Badger

June 11 BCSS meeting: FACT (Cal State) picnic meeting and tour of the cactus garden.

June 15 BCSS Pottery Project at Bakersfield College

June 15-16 *Joint* Los Angeles C&SS and San Fernando Valley Bromeliad Society Show and Sale. Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd, Encino. Sat 9am to 5pm and Sun 9am to 4pm. Info: Gene Oster

July BCSS meeting: Dinner meeting at Cactus Valley.

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

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

speaker: Rob Skillin

subject: Demo program

Aug 24-25 17th Annual Intercity Cactus and Succulent Show & Sale. Los Angeles County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia. Info: www.lacss.com/2002/ or Tom Glavich

Oct 5-6 BCSS 3rd Annual Show & Sale

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editor