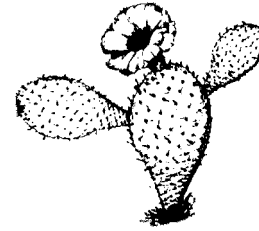




One of Bill Kurtz's  
*Sansevieria*  
photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 5    **June 2002**    Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

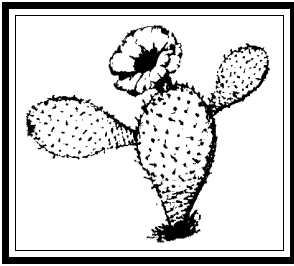
This Month's Program  
**The Cactus Garden  
At Cal state**

## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 11  
at  
**FACT/ESA**  
6:30 PM

(see map on page 4)

**Pottery  
Workshop  
June 15th**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 5    Number 6  
June 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

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## 2002 Chairpersons

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**Historian - Bobby Williams**  
**Librarian - Bobby Williams**  
**Field Trips - Dan French**

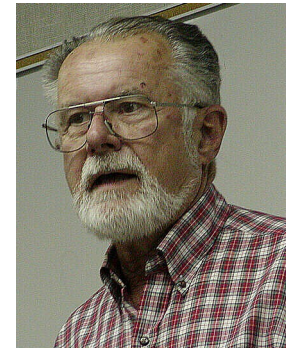
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## **BCSS General Meeting: May 14, 2002**



The meeting was held at CALM and was preceded by a picnic by some of the members. Our speaker was Bill Kurtz, presenting his marvelous Sansevierias. Rob opened the meeting with a reminder about the yard sale, Lynn discussed the Pottery workshop scheduled for June 15, Maynard explained the competition for the date for our Show and Sale, and also scheduled a workday (Sun., June 2 @ 7 am) for the CalState garden. A committee (Lupe, Bonnie, Bobby, and Linda) was gathered for organizing this project. Our next meeting will be a picnic gathering at the cactus garden at Cal State's ESA/FACT. In July, the meeting will be a dinner meeting at Cactus Valley restaurant.

Bill Kurtz spoke with us about his Sansevierias. He brought a lot of these plants with him! We were amazed at the variety they exhibited. He explained about the variations in leaf shape, plant growth forms, and propagation. We saw a variety of inflorescence types as well as blooming plants. He explained that these plants do not need water in the winter, especially variegated types, and if they were wet, they should not get too cold. He donated quite a few of his plants to our raffle, so quite a few of our members left with new Sansevierias! Thanks, Bill! The plant of the month was Sansevieria (of course) and Bobby, Stephen, Terry, and Linda participated in bringing their plants to show.



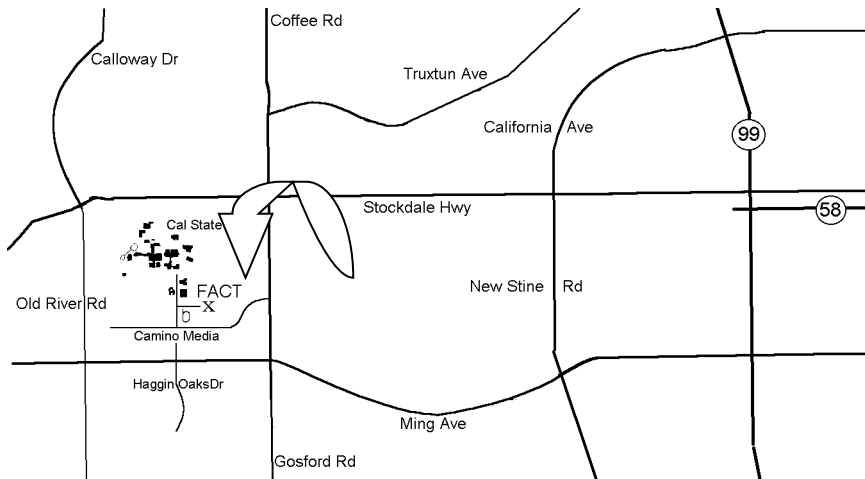
## BCSS Executive Board Meeting: May 28, 2002

The executive meeting met and discussed lots of important things! Maynard reported that the club earned \$818 from the yard sale. That's the most ever! A workday had been scheduled for the CSUB garden and we were reminded that it was Sunday, June 2 at 7 am. Dr. Germano, the director of the ESA/FACT, will be there to discuss our gardening needs. We will be using Round-up to help eradicate weeds, especially bermuda and nut grass. The committee should be there to meet with him. We reviewed upcoming events (pottery workshop, Picnic meeting at ESA/FACT, show and sale) The next executive meeting will be on June 25 at Lynn and Bill's house.

### PROGRAM NOTES

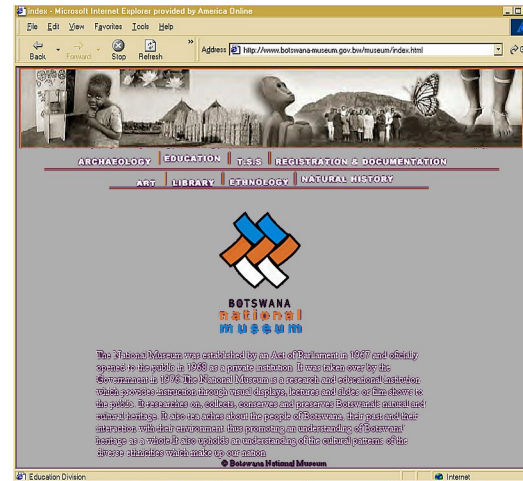
# IMPORTANT!

**This Month's Meeting Will be held  
at the Cal State cactus garden**



**Meeting Time: 6:30 pm**  
see page 14 for more information

## WEB REVIEW



## Botswana National Museum

This is the website mentioned by Bruce in his letter starting on page 12. The website covers all aspects of the Botswana National Museum including Art, Archeology, Ethnology, and Natural History (where you'll find our intrepid Dr.

Hargreaves). Though it doesn't really deal with succulents it is still an interesting site, especially given our club's connection to Botswana via Polly and Bruce. It is very slow loading, so those of us without super high speed connections will have to be patient.

[www.botswana-museum.gov.bw](http://www.botswana-museum.gov.bw)

**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

[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)

Linda Cooley, editor

## Yard Sale Wrap-Up

Monday, the day AFTER the sale...

Trying to open a drawer in the kitchen..."I NEED to clean out THIS mess!..." and when I was finished, I had a stack of things to retire to my 'recycle' cabinet! Already, items for the 2003 BCSS yard sale!

The 2002 sale was a whopping success. We sold about \$1,000.00 worth of merchandise and plants. We have a list of people who would like more information about our club. We enjoyed the company of many of our members over the three day event, and have even better ideas for next years event. I cannot thank those members enough, who contributed their stuff, spent their time, collected racks, tables (Lynn and Ed and ChevronTexaco, respectively), tagged items, set-up and took-down and did all the 'person-power' needed to run an event of this size. Thank you, thank you, thank you. A personal thanks to those at the tagging party, for holding down the fort and transporting me (Bonnie and Tony) when our 'Wiley' dog got hit by a car...he's just fine, but it certainly changed MY direction for the evening! All the commotion and I missed buying several top items prior to the Saturday sale...drat. Of course, as Ed found out...when his wheel-barrel was 'stolen'!...those who snooze, loose!

Things that seem to work well were: Advertising (thanks Sydney). A good amount of larger ticket items, such as chairs, TVs etc. A wide variety of special interest junk like; I sold a baggie of blown-out, real eggs in a simple basket for \$3.50! Some terrific clothes at terrific prices. Having sales people who noticed when someone was interested in an item, and, by knocking off a few cents, got that item SOLD. Plants! Yes, we all know that generic cacti and succulents will sell well, and with little effort, we can make a nice profit on them. Yard cuttings from Bobby (which she had organized complete with the variety of plant in bloom on a photo, a very well organized system), went very well. Other members brought in cuttings from their yard which sold out, as well as Linda's irises! A good thing to note for next year.

Again, I know I had a fantastic time, I hope you all enjoyed yourselves, and look at what our efforts produced! Fantastic! Thank you!

Terry

## Forest or Jungle Cacti

by Deborah Wisniewska-Jones  
from The Cactus Factus - Toronto, November 1999

### PART ONE

(to be continued in next month's Cactus Patch)

*Epiphyllum* -- A genus of 16 species of mostly epiphytic cactus native to tropical America. They have numerous branches formed of short, flattened, bright green joints, and they have large, showy, often fragrant flowers. Commonly known as orchid cactus or pond-lily cactus. Epiphyte -- In botany, a plant that grows on another but does not derive its nourishment from it, such as many ferns, orchids and bromeliads. Epiphytic -- Pertaining to or having the nature of an epiphyte.

### *Epiphyllum* History

The first record of these plants was in 1753, cuttings were brought back to Europe by the early navigators to South and Central America. In 1812 Englishman Adrian H. Haworth (the same for whom the *Haworthia* genus was named) first described *Epiphyllum phyllanthus* and *Epiphyllum* became a valid name for a Genus. This name *Epiphyllum* took the place of *Cactus phyllanthus*, which was the name originally given by Linnaeus. In 1819, Haworth discovered a new type of Epiphyte, which he called *Epiphyllum truncatum*. In 1831 Germany, Link, coined the name *Phyllocactus* (Phyllum meaning a leaf), using it instead of *Epiphyllum* to describe all epiphytes, but it wasn't used by most people as they thought *Epiphyllum* and *Phyllocactus* were synonymous, and preferred *Epiphyllum*. But he kept the name *Epiphyllum truncatum* for Haworth's plant in 1819. This nomenclature stood until 1923 when Britton and Rose took the name *Epiphyllum* for the 12 (or 16) original species. Then came Karl Schumann who brought in the name *Zygocactus* which applies to the 'Christmas cactus' *Zygocactus truncatus*.

The earliest hybrids recorded were made by Jenkinson and Smith in 1830 England, the Germans and French were the next. The original crosses were made with *Heliocereus speciosus* (hee-lee-oh-sehr-ee-uhs) and *Nopalxochia* (noh-puhlks-oh-shee-uh) *phyllanthoides* (feh-lahn-thuh-oids). In 1840 *Epiphyllum crenatum* which flowers on the tips of its stems was brought to France and crossed with *Heliocereus speciosus*, many new flowers from light yellowish-white and rose shade to orange and deep amber were obtained. In 1890 Johannes Nicolai at his nursery in Dresden hybridized *Schlumbergera*, *Zygocactus* and *Rhipsalis* and

introduced 300 new *Epiphyllum* hybrids. But due to a shortage of coal during World War I, all his plants froze.

In 1930 H. M. Wegener of L.A. California imported *Epiphyllum* hybrids into America, he built up a collection of several hundreds. Many more Americans realized that a lot more could be done to produce more hybrids in this warm climate than in Europe and slowly the hybridization work shifted back to America, but this time California. The *Epiphyllum* Society of America was founded in 1940 and it has established the fact that one of the original homes of these plants was along the western coastline of the USA

Most of the blooms of the 16 true *Epiphyllum* species are fragrant and all have white flowers, through some of the outer petals have tinges of yellow, cream and strawcolour. *E. cooperi* flower from the base of the plant, the buds develop slowly at first and may take up to 10 weeks to open. These plants that came from the dense tropical forests of Central and South America live in humid jungle conditions. They live high in the crotches of trees, in pockets of humus, getting partial sun or shade under the swaying branches of the trees. Their branches are jointed with areoles in the sunken crenations (kree-nayt-shuns) of the edges of the stem. The main stems are usually round and woody at the base and then become flat or triangular, (both flat and triangular stems may grow on the same plant), some branches start out triangular and become flat or vice-versa. *Epiphyllums* don't have any true leaves and have a wax-like outer skin to prevent evaporation. Like any other cacti they expand and contract depending on the amount of water around. Branches may be up to 15 ft long and 8 inches across, but most are about 3 inches across. During down pours, rain is quickly absorbed and stored in the branches and stems, the roots retain enough moisture to keep the fine roots from drying out. They do not spread their roots like normal cacti do and their roots live in a very small confined area. They do have air roots and these feed the joints that are the furthest away from the roots. Living in the trees as they do and only getting sun from the swaying branches they remain in sufficient shade to keep them from drying out. Their roots are anchored in the humus that is caught in the fissures of the bark, their roots may be short and fine but are strong enough to support their branches which may hang down for 10 or 15 feet. The humidity may be over 90% in this dark atmosphere but as they grow high up, well above the wet ground, they have good drainage, keeping them damp but not water-logged.

What we call *Epiphyllum* today are actually hybrids of the epiphytic cacti species native to the jungles of South and Central

America and Mexico. The name *Epiphyllum*, epi means "upon" and phyllum means "leaf", because they produced flowers on their leaf-like stems. But they have no leaves, these are actually thickened stems or branches, most are flat but some grown in a triangular shape. *Epiphyllums* are not covered with spines, but have hair bristles or tiny spines in the areolar, some more than others.

Note: 'Night Blooming Cereus' is not a *Cereus* at all but *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*. The flowers of a *Cereus* resemble the *Epiphyllum oxypetalum*. While the bud is forming, it grows pointing downward, a few days before it blooms the bud starts to point upward. The bud opens around 10:00 p.m. and dies around 8:00 a.m. the next morning.

### Other Epiphytic Species:

(The following was taken directly from Myron Kimmach list "The Species of Epiphytic Cacti which was published in the *Epiphyllum* Society of America's Directory.)

The species in the ancestry of epiphytic cactus hybrids are nearly all tree dwelling (epiphytic), though few also grow on cliffs or rocks (saxicolous sak-sihk-uh-luhs). Unlike the better known terrestrial desert cacti, these epiphytes are generally native to forested areas, either perched in the trees with other epiphytes, such as orchids and bromeliads, or rooted in the ground and climbing up tree trunks, to which they adhere by means of aerial roots.

*Epiphyllum*: Haworth. 1812

About 12 species of scandent (skahn-duhnt meaning climbing)-pendent cacti distributed throughout most of Latin America. Stems flat or apically. Flowers usually nocturnal, rarely diurnal (staying open all day, as in *E. crenatum* and *E. laui*), funnellform, white to yellowish.

*Aporocactus* (a-por-oh-kak-tuhs): Lemaire. 1860

Two species of epiphytic or saxicolous, vining cacti with cylindrical, many ribbed, densely spiny stems. In cultivation, plants are usually grown in hanging containers so the stems are pendent. Flowers tubular, spiny, expanded apically, more or less unsymmetrical, petals red or purplish. Popular name: Rat-tail cacti". The genus is close to *Heliocereus* (hee-lee-oh-sehr-ee-uhs) but can be distinguished by its thinner, more ribbed stems and more or less zygomorphic flowers. (meaning-Bi-laterally symmetrical flowers, or flowers with only one

plane of symmetry, ie. mirror-image right and left-hand halves, but with different top and bottom halves (assuming the flower lies horizontally))

*Disocactus*: Lindley. 1845 (*Wittia*, *Wittiocactus*, *Chiapasias*, *Pseudorhipsalis*, *Bonifazia*)

Twelve species of fat-stemmed spineless epiphytes native to many Latin American countries. Flowers small, tubular to expanded, red to yellowish or white. Three groups can be recognized: section *Disocactus* with red, tubular to expanded flowers, and section *Wittiocactus*, with straight, short tubular, unexpanded flowers, the flowers of both sections being pollinated by hummingbirds, and section *Pseudorhipsalis* (soo-do-rip-sa-lis), with whitish, expanded, bee pollinated flowers.

*Heliocereus* (hee-lee-oh-sehr-ee-uhs): (Berger) Britt. and Rose. 1909

Four saxicolous or epiphytic, extremely variable species from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Stems flat to 3-4 angled, often spiny or hairy. Flowers funnellform, tube spiny or hairy, petals red, orange or purplish, rarely white. A large percentage of orchid cacti (epiphyllums) have *Heliocereus speciosus* in their ancestry. The genus is hardly separable from *Nopalxochia*.

*Hylocereus* (high-loh-sihr-ee-uhs) (Berg.) Britt. and Rose. 1909

About 15 species widespread in Latin America. Stems clambering, triangular, more or less spiny. Fls.. usually large to very large, rarely small, nocturnal, the base usually spineless and with large overlapping scales, or rarely with small, separated scales and sometimes spiny (*H. trigonus*), petals usually white, rarely red (*H. extensus*, *H. stenopterus*).

*Lymanbensonia*: Kimn. 1984

A genus mainly differing from *Rhipsalis* by the presence of a floral tube over a centimeter long. The single species is terrestrial.

*Nopalxochia* (no-pal-ho-kee-a): Britt. & Rose. 1923 (*Pseudonopalxochia*, *Lobeira*)

A genus hardly separable from *Heliocereus*, from which it differs in its flattened stems and less spiny or hairy flowers.

*Rhipsalis*: Gaertner. 1788 (*Acanthorhipsalis* (uh-kan-thuh-rip-sal-us), *Erythrorhipsalis* (e-rith-ro-rip-sal-us), *Hatiara*, *Lepisumium* (lep-is-mee-um), *Pfeiffera*, *Pseudozyggocactus* (soo-do-zi-go-cactus), *Rhipsalidopsis* (rihp-sal-ih-dohp-sihs))

About 75 species of pendent or creeping epiphytes from Mexico to southern South America, as well as from the tropics of the Old World. Stems flat to multi-ribbed, with or without spines or hairs. Flowers symmetrical (not zygomorphic), usually very small and yellowish-white, rarely to 2 cm long and reddish (*R. rosea*, *R. gaertneri*), fruits minute.

*Schlumbergera*: Lemaire. 1858 (*Epiphyllanthus*, *Zygocactus*)

Brazilian epiphytes with short jointed stems and long-tubed reddish, often zygomorphic (unsymmetrical) flowers.

*Selenicereus* (seh-lee-nuh-sih-ruhs): (Berg.) Britt. & Rose. 1909 (*Cryptocereus* (krihp-tuh-sih-ruhs), *Deamia*, *Strophocactus* (struh-fo-cactus))

A genus of some 10-20 species, widely distributed throughout Latin America from Texas to northern South America. Stems long and scandent, mostly many-ribbed (*S. testudo*, *S. inermis*, *S. wittii*) or flat and lobed (*S. chrysocardium*, *S. anthonyanus*). Flowers small (*S. innesii*) to very large, nocturnal, funnel form, tube hairy, often spiny, petals white to yellowish.

*Trichocereus* (triik-uh-sih-re-uhs) (Berger) Biccobono. 1909

A genus of some 40 species widely distributed in the Andes from Peru to Argentina. The stems are cylindrical and usually long, thick and spiny, while the large nocturnal flowers are white. All species are terrestrial except for *T. arboicola*, which is epiphytic in cloud forests. It is only distantly related to other epiphytic cacti. *T. arboicola* Kimm 1990. Bolivia. Stems eventually pendent, 2.5-4 cm thick, 9-11 ribbed, spiny. Flowers 12-13 cm long, opening 9-10 cm, petals white.

*Weberocereus*: Britt. & Rose. 1909 (*Eccremocactus* (ehk-ruh-moh-cactus), *Werckleocereus*)

A genus with very diverse stems--short and pendent or long and vining and flat to many-angled, but with similar, small, nocturnal, odd-smelling, bat-pollinated flowers. Some species are often included in *Werckleocereus* (3 angled stems) and *Eccremocactus* (flat-stems).

## A VERY BUSY MONTH A Letter From Bruce



The day after the Maitisong Festival (21 April) friends threw a small party to celebrate my birthday (actually on the 18<sup>th</sup>). I guess I'm now officially three score. Not letting old age slow me down, I set off on the 24<sup>th</sup> for Serowe, recollecting a species of *Euphorbia* listed in the new Flora Zambesiaca as *E. limpopoana* and in an article I wrote in the Euphorbiaceae Study Group Bulletin as *E. aeruginosa*. I suspect it is neither and new. I also collected three stapeliads (all common). Next day we wasted three hours getting a new battery, but eventually got to the area between Mopipi and Rakops where the road is being realigned. We rescued plants of *Hoodia currorii*, a species which may be endangered as it is being marketed in the States as a weight-loss drug.

On Friday one vehicle stayed in Maun and picked up 7 elephant jaws which have been donated to the museum. I went with the other vehicle and reached Gcwihaba (Drotsky's Cave) in time to join a conference of management consultants and the Vice President, Ian Khama to discuss the future of the area which is a National Monument under our section of the museum, but which may be run by the local San community of Caecae. The VP (son of the late Seretse Khama, 1<sup>st</sup> president of Botswana) was there with the Botswana Defense Force to open up new caverns which testing reveals are probably in the area. It's really weird to find them under the Kgalagadi. Next morning the museum



director and the Permanent Secretary of Labour and Home Affairs arrived and we all toured the shafts the VP is working on. Later a number of us were in the main cavern of Gcwihaba and came face to face with the legendary cave mouse as reported by Alec Campbell, founder of the museum. We not only confirmed the mouse by sight,

but one of the consultants grabbed it (suffering two bites) and we now have it at the museum. It may be a new species. It is a voracious carnivore. I confirmed the report that it eats bats. I gave it one and it consumed the whole thing in two days. I also fed it chicken skin and bones as well as insects. We suspect it eats the crickets, cockroaches and spiders in the cave as well.

We had a brief rest of normal activity back in Gaborone and then on 18 May we celebrated International Museums Day with a parade in the center of town led by mounted "warriors" and "police", stilt walkers and dancing, singing school kids. Among the days' activities was the launch of the museum's new web site:

[www.botswana-museum.gov.bw](http://www.botswana-museum.gov.bw) (see page 5)

Earlier in the week I was interviewed on the local radio to explain how globalization effects the environment. (Globalization was the theme of International Museum Day.)

That evening (the 18th) we left the museum program to go to the Annual General Meeting of the Bird Club. (We also had two other things to go to but didn't make.) After electing officers and eating a great supper, we were treated to fantastic pictures of flamingoes. Next morning we went to the town sewage ponds to see a few of them. A few of us then went down to Mokolodi Game reserve for a talk on the fungi of Botswana.

As if we don't have enough to do, they just opened Botswana's first multiplex theater. We tried it out by going to "A Beautiful Mind" – a truly great film. We also continue to attend the local film club. This month they had a great old Australian film "Jeda" about Aborigine/White interactions. When will we ever get to stay home and watch TV? (Mostly American reruns anyway.)

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

## ROSTER CORRECTION!

Please correct Vonne's name and add her telephone number and email to your Roster:

Vonne Zdenek

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Pottery workshop is still on for June 15. Lynn passed around a sign up sheet at the May meeting; if you need more info, come to the meeting this month!

Paul Skillin and Maynard Moe will be co-chairs for the Show and Sale. All interested members are asked to be on the committee.

The next meeting will be a Picnic meeting at the Cactus garden located at Cal State's ESA/FACT. We will meet at 6:30 since we are eating dinner there. Please bring whatever you need to be comfortable in an outdoor setting! This could include chairs and possibly a table! There are no picnic tables available! There are shady areas. Members will have a chance to tour the facility and our garden (you may even wish to do a little weeding), discuss future possibilities for it and just hang out. We will not have a formal program, but we will still have a business meeting and a raffle.

(see the map on page 4)

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

# CALENDAR

**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

**June 25 BCSS Executive Board meeting: Lynn and Bill's house**

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

**July 9 BCSS meeting: Dinner meeting at Cactus Valley.**

**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/](http://www.lacss.com/2002/) or Tom Glavich or Gene Oster

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editor

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society cost \$10 per year for an individual and only \$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 from 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)