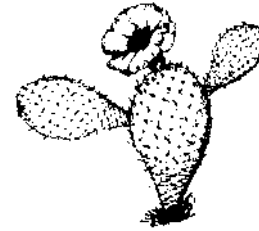




Conophytum calcitus
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 5 **November 2002** Number 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

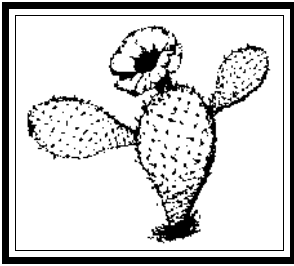
This Month's Program
will be presented by
Kelly Griffin
of the San Diego Club

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 12
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**It's time to
elect new
officers!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 5 Number 11
November 2002

BCSS General Meeting: October 8, 2002

In October we met at Maynard and Linda's home for an outdoor program. Members brought photos and slides to share, as well as lots of good snacks. We enjoyed seeing photos from members' vacations and slides of succulents from far away. We discussed new officers, field trip possibilities, the CSUB cactus garden, and a follow-up pottery workshop.

also....

One day, Tuesday, we went to a cactus meeting. We got to light the candles. There was a pond full of fish. There was cactus and other plants. There was a plant that looked like an elephant ear.

Nathaniel Cooley, age 7

BCSS Executive Meeting

There is no report about the Executive meeting because we haven't had it yet!!

Pottery Workshop Follow-Up

The pottery follow-up workshop was held on November 3 at 11 am. We had lots of good lunch potluck, and could have easily served more than the 4 people who attended! However, Bonnie, Lynn, Maynard, and Linda had lots of fun making pots (20 of them). We still have one more bag of clay and lots of glazes, so maybe we'll get together again.

3rd Annual Show & Sale

Thank you all who helped at the show and sale! It was a great success, thanks to those who donated their plants, time, and their energy to put the show on. This year, we made about \$500 more than last year, and maybe gained a few members. That is the main purpose for our club, to educate and grow. All of our efforts were met with public enthusiasm and interest in our plants, and I think that members who helped out certainly enjoyed themselves and everyone had a great time.

Paul Skillin

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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PROGRAM NOTES

The November meeting will be held at our usual location on Olive Dr. We will be hearing from Kelly Griffin from the San Diego Club on an unknown topic! How mysterious!

We hope to see some new faces at this meeting and will be giving out free plants to those who signed up at our Show and Sale if they attend this meeting.

A FIERY MONTH A Letter From Bruce



On the 28th of September we drove down just south of Lobatse to join an advertised bird club campout at a place called Lobatse Bush Getaway. When we got to the farm-house where we were instructed to report in, we were told that the club president had already come and gone since no one had shown up. Since the 29th was Polly's birthday, we decided to make the best of it and rented a chalet instead of camping alone. A fellow who called himself Bob the "mad" Greek (even though he's actually George and half Irish) occupied the chalet next to us. He had his wife and granddaughter and we had a great visit. He's been around since he was a kid in the 50's and we found we had a number of friends in common.



We went down to the small pond in the morning and saw a number of water birds, but the best bird viewing was right outside our front door – a scimitar-billed woodhoopoe nesting in a tree hole. There were few succulents – *Aloe marlothii*, *Aloe leutescens**, *Kalanchoe rotundifolia*, a *Plectranthus*, *Bulbine narcissifolia*, *Bulbine abyssinica* (in bloom), *Sansevieria aethiopica* – but nothing new.

On the 6th of October the Bird Club went to the Phakalane Sewage Ponds north of Gaborone and a good number turned up. I was impressed by Grebes, but Polly thought all the herons were best. She also noted the Golf Club building which now towers over the ponds. There were no flamingoes this time.

On the 9th (Wednesday) I observed a crested barbet in the botanic garden which decided to attack a car windshield. (I've seen sparrows attack car mirrors, but this was a new one.)

On Friday the 11th the Assistant Minister of Labour & Home Affairs, Lesego Motsumi, visited the museum, including a short visit to Natural History. I

hope we will get more attention from the Ministry now, but it's the largest in government and has to balance everything from Prisons to Sports.

On Sunday the 13th Polly & I collected *Aloes* from the "empty lot" two blocks south of our house. The area looks terrible as it has been burnt over. There were *Talinums* in bloom and *Albuscas* in seed.

On Tuesday the 15th I arrived at the Garden to find the SW corner had been burnt, probably by beer drinkers who hang out in the unfenced portion there. Fortunately none of the plantings were involved and the fire didn't reach the prison housing on the other side.

Everything is hot and dry right now. It's only spring, but it feels like a Bakersfield summer. I hope we get some rain soon.

A fancy hardcover book on "Southern African Plant Red Data Lists" (J. Golding ed., 2002, Southern African Botanical Diversity Network Report #14). The Chapter on Botswana is by Moffat Setshogo (Univ. Botswana) and myself. It's a bit embarrassing. All I did was make comments on the list proposed by Janet Golding. Of the 43 species listed, 22 are labeled "data deficient" meaning I haven't a clue. Botswana is not rich in species. There are only 15 species listed as endemic (found nowhere else) and of these 9 are only "suspected" endemics. The book was hurriedly put together and has many errors and inconsistencies. The population of Botswana is given as 15,881,220 – about 10 times too many. A picture of a sausage tree (*Kigellia pinnata*) in Botswana is labeled *Acacia hebeclada*. There is a lack of consistency between Country reports. In Zambia, *Euphorbia decidua* and varieties of *Euphorbia cooperi* are listed as endemic, yet in Zimbabwe the same species appear! In Zimbabwe, the *Aloes* are in the family Asphodelaceae yet other countries list them in Aloeaceae. In Swaziland, *Gasteria* and *Haworthia* are listed as Asphodelaceae and *Aloes* as Aloeaceae. (If Aloeaceae is separated from Asphodelaceae it should include all three genera.) At any rate, the book is a good beginning, but certainly not the last word.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

*In Flora Zambesiaca Susan Carter says the plants in Botswana are this rather than *Aloe cryptopoda*. I'm not convinced they are divisible.

TO HAVE YOUR ARTICLE PRINTED IN The Cactus Patch CONTACT:

Stephen Cooley, editor email: thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor

The Succulents of Disneyland

by Stephen Cooley

If you should happen to be going to Disneyland in the future, you might want to check out the wonderful succulents they have put here and there in the landscape. First, I should mention that the Disneyland I went to in October 2002 was not the Disneyland of my youth. The park (more correctly, the "resort") is very much different than it was just three years ago. Disneyland itself is pretty much the same. However, across from the entrance, where there used to be a parking lot, is a new park, Disney's California Adventure. Between these parks is a walking mall called Downtown Disney that takes you all the way to the old Disneyland Hotel complex (which also has had an upgrade). All of this new remodeling has been accompanied by typically well-done lavish Disney landscaping -- including numerous succulents interspersed throughout as well as in gardens dedicated entirely to desert-type plants.

In the original park, Disneyland, along with the dinosaur and Mickey Mouse shaped shrubberies you can find various succulents including *Kalanchoe*, *Crassula*, and *Pachypodium*. The Storyland boat ride (the one where you begin by going inside Monstro - the whale that swallowed Pinocchio's Father) has numerous small succulents, mainly *Sedum*, *Crassula*, and *Echeveria*, as part of the miniature garden scenes. The best place to look for succulents is in Frontierland, especially around Thunder Mountain. Here you will find garden spaces devoted to desert plants. Large specimens of *Agave*, *Ferocactus*, *Notocactus*, *Cereus*, *Euphorbia* and



Desert garden in Frontierland

Opuntia can be seen in the area along with the less succulent *Yucca* and *Ocotillo* (*Fouquieria splendens*). Don't forget to look for the plastic *Echinocactus grusonii* while in "Its A Small World".

Disney's California Adventure is a new park and the landscape is not as mature. Along the hillsides near the "Baker's Field Bakery" many cacti can be seen - especially *Opuntia*. *Agaves*, and *Echinocactus* are around as well.



The best *Aloes* are found near the Disneyland Hotel. Here, many large tree aloes can be seen (perhaps *Aloe pillansii* and *Aloe bainesii* and maybe some others as I soon became overwhelmed and confused as to which were which). *Aloe arborescens* is used quite extensively near the road. Among the tree aloes are young Dragon Trees (*Dracaena draco*), as well as many young *Chorisia speciosa*. *Chorisia* is the tree with the large spines on the trunk and big orchid-like flowers. When young they appear to be progressing towards a fat pachycaul trunk but I am sorry to say that they will lose this with age. A tree that has not lost its fat base is a wonderful specimen of the Bottle Tree, *Brachychiton*. This tree used to be planted close to the main tower of the Disneyland Hotel



A *Brachychiton* near the Koi pond at the Disneyland Hotel

and to my dismay it had been replaced with walkways and different landscaping. I 'discovered' it again down by the Koi pond, where this 15 foot tree had been successfully transplanted. It is mislabeled as *Brachychiton populneus* (a common landscape tree in Bakersfield that survives the frost but does not acquire such a conspicuous bottle-shaped base). My guess is that it is actually *Brachychiton rupestris*.

Downtown Disney, the newest addition to the resort, has several large beds devoted to succulents. These are located near the Monorail station. These new beds contain beautiful specimens of *Kalanchoe beharansis* (with big felt-covered leaves), *Euphorbia milii*, *Aloe marlothii*, *Senecio (mandraliscae?)* and *Agave attenuata*, along with many others I was not prepared to identify. Notably, a *Pachypodium lamerii* was in bloom here and a small *Fouquieria columnaris*, the Cirio (Boojum tree) of Baja, resides in one of the beds and should be a great sight when my great grandchildren go to see it.

All in all, Disney has some wonderful specimens of succulents throughout the resort. Be sure to visit and see them the next time your in Anaheim. And by the way, I understand there may be other things to do while you're there as well.



Aloe and Senecio in Downtown Disney

CSSA Promotional Article (2002 #1)

As you have probably figured out by now, these occasional affiliate newsletter articles are aimed at affiliate club members who are not members of CSSA. We are, of course, hoping that a number of you will actually join CSSA. Membership at \$35 a year is a real bargain these days. Your club doubtless has membership application forms available.

There are many reasons for being a member of CSSA in addition to being a member of your local club. First of all you will get your own copy of the CSSA Journal and newsletter six times a year. These publications are full of valuable information for the dedicated cactophile/succulentophile, and while they are sometimes late in arriving, they are always well worth the wait. In addition, as a member of CSSA you will have access to the Seed Depot, the Round Robins, the CSSA Slide Show Library, and be able to participate in CSSA field trips in the USA and abroad. You will also have the opportunity to compete for one of the Herman Schwartz travel grants to visit one of the succulent plant rich areas around the globe.

By joining CSSA for 2003, you will be able to attend our biennial convention to be held in St. Louis, Saturday through Thursday, June 14 – 19, 2003. Convention attendance is restricted to CSSA members. Our co-hosts in St. Louis this year are the Henry Shaw Cactus Society and the Missouri Botanical Garden. Though not located in cactus country, the St. Louis area has much to offer succulent plant enthusiasts. The Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the premiere botanical gardens of the world and, of course, had a prominent role in plant exploration in Western North America leading to the discovery of many new cactus species. One can learn much of this fascinating history by visiting the well-designed exhibits in the Botanical garden's herbarium, an opportunity that will likely be available to convention attendees.

The convention itself is to be held at the Marriott Saint Louis Airport Hotel, an extremely convenient venue for travelers to the city. Located in the center of the country, St. Louis can be reached relatively quickly and inexpensively from either coast. The hotel itself has all the amenities expected of a first class hotel.

For any serious cactophile/succulentophile, the guts of the convention are the various speaker programs. Leo Martin has put together an excellent roster of speakers covering every aspect of the hobby, from hard-core science to travelogues to succulent culture for amateur collectors, etc. The speakers roster includes several old time favorites from past conventions including inveterate plant explorers John Lavranos and Sheila Collenette, who will talk on their travels to exotic venues. My University of Texas colleague, James Mauseth, voted most popular speaker at the San Diego Convention in 1997, who will speak on cactus botany and what it teaches us about cactus cultivation. Rob Wallace will regale us with tales of succulent plant classification based on

analysis of DNA (ask him about the botany of beer – another of his areas of expertise). In addition there are a number of new speakers that I'm really

looking forward to hearing. Space allows me to mention only a few. One of the new speakers includes Roger Brown, well known to many of us through his cultivation articles in the CSSA newsletter *To the Point*. Joe Clements, a fellow board member, will speak on growing cacti from seed, and Bob Kent (one of the truly superb growers of Haworthias) will give a talk on how to grow these wonderful plants. Also, Jon Rebman will talk about the cacti of Baja California and Gideon Smith of South Africa, co-author of the *Guide to the Aloes of South Africa* and *Regions of Floristic Endemism in Southern Africa*. The latter is a wonderful book, destined to become a classic of succulent plant biogeography. Some of the other topics to be covered include sansevierias, epiphytic cacti, succulent bonsai techniques, winter-growing mesembs, and winter-hardy cacti.

The folks at the Henry Shaw Cactus Society are well aware of the fact that many of us have family members who are not cactophiles so they are trying to promote coming to St. Louis for the convention as a family vacation. To that end, they are publicizing lots of other interesting sites and activities available in the St. Louis area. Space prevents me from mentioning all of them all here, but there is, of course, the famous Gateway Arch, the Mastodon State Historic Site, the Shaw Nature Reserve, Grant's Farm, the Sophia Sachs Butterfly House, the Stone Hill Winery, Brewery tours and the very fine St. Louis Zoo. For more information about these various offerings as well as other aspects of the upcoming St. Louis Convention, please see recent and upcoming issues of *To the Point*, the CSSA newsletter. You may also want to visit the CSSA website (www.cssainc.org/convent.html), which is updated regularly, for additional information.

I wish you all good growing,

Bob Barth, Publicity Chair,
CSSA Board of Directors

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A camping trip is being planned for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 9-10. We want to go out into the desert and search for rocks and top dressing. If you are interested, call Bonnie or Linda or Maynard for last minute information.

CALENDAR

**Nov 12 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church
speaker: Kelly Griffin from the San Diego club**

Dec 10 BCSS meeting; 6:00 pm? Olive Drive Church

Program: Annual Winter Party, silent raffle, potluck, etc.

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors



"The Desert" by Nathaniel Cooley age 7