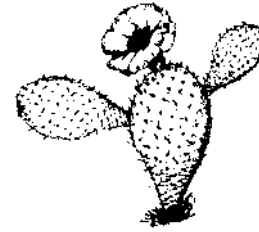




Haworthia venosa ssp. *tessellata*
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. *treleasei*

Volume 6 **January 2003** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

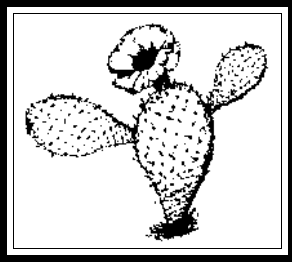
This Month's Program
The Old Ridge Route
Presented by
Jack Kelley

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 14
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 6 Number 1
January 2003

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

2003 Officers

President - Bonnie East
Vice-President - Terry Skillin
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary - Lynn McDonald
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

2003 Directors

CSSA Representative - Bobby Williams
Past President - Rob Skillin

2003 Chairpersons

Hospitality - Bill McDonald
Historian - Bobby Williams
Librarian - Bobby Williams

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Lots of members--new and old--came to our potluck dinner/silent auction/raffle meeting. A wide variety of delicious food was consumed, after which the bidding on the silent auction items resumed at a fast and furious pace! The most intense bidding centered on a Sansevieria! There were lots of items to bid on, ranging from cacti and succulents to hats to mystery packages. After the silent auction, we had our membership raffle, which featured really nice plants and lots of tense waiting! Everyone went away with a nice plant. It seems like everyone had a great time!

During the meeting, we also met our new officers! They are:

President--Bonnie East
Vice-president--Terry Skillin
Secretary--Lynn McDonald
Treasurer--Maynard Moe
Editor-in-chief--Stephen Cooley



Also, continuing in their non-elected roles are:

Bill McDonald--Hospitality
Linda Cooley--Cub Reporter
Bobbie Williams--Librarian and Club Historian



PROGRAM NOTES

This month's program will be presented by Jack Kelley and will be on the old Ridge Route (what is now generally called "The Grapevine") long before it was the super-highway it is now. Not a lot of succulents, but great local history!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

The December executive board meeting was held at the Skillin residence. Rob, Terry, Bonnie, Maynard, Linda & Lynn were present and in their usual lively spirits.

The bylaws were consulted to determine who should chair the meeting -- the current or the newly elected president. Bonnie presided. The bylaws and duties of officers were also reviewed.

The January meeting will be presented by club member Jack Kelley. He and Sidney give tours of the Old Ridge Route to interested persons and he will give us an armchair tour. The plant of the month will be *Haworthia*.

The club library was discussed. Perhaps it is time to review the use of the books we have and consider choosing some additions. It was suggested we see about joining other societies, such as the British or South African, in order to receive some of their interesting journals.

Rob thanked Maynard again for all the work he has done for the year and the varied roles he has taken as treasurer, co-chair of show & sale, and his help with the CSUB garden project, to name a few. Bonnie & Lynn volunteered to help coordinate some of the year's field trips. There was some discussion about whether to change the show & sale to a spring date when more plants are flowering. Linda suggested possibly participating as a club in the city Christmas parade next year. And a suggestion was made that it may be time to think of a new club T-shirt design. Board members with interesting shirts will bring them to the next meeting to give our artistic members some ideas. The Groundskeepers at CSUB will be able to provide us with some soil & rocks for our garden project. Terry mentioned the upcoming February potluck to be held at the home of Roger Mellencamp & Hoolyse Davajian. The time will be announced at our meeting.

The next executive board meeting will be held @ 7 PM January 28th, either at Maynard & Linda's or at the downtown library. All members are welcome to attend.

Lynn McDonald
secretary

Plant of the Month



Haworthia emelyae

Notes on *Haworthia* by L. M. Moe

The plant of the month for January is *Haworthia*, a group of small succulent perennial monocot herbs confined in the wild almost exclusively to the Republic of South Africa. They are related to lilies (see below) and look like miniature aloes but, unlike aloes, have small 2-lipped white flowers. *Haworthias* are all rosette shaped succulents, although

some have rather grassy leaves (e.g., *H. longiana*). Some can add leaves until they are somewhat *columnar* (*H. venosa* and *H. glauca*), while other remain as flat rosettes. Some of the most popular *Haworthias* have translucent 'windows' at the end of their *leaves* (*H. truncata*, *H. retusa*, *H. emelyae* - see photo of *H. emelyae* from my outside garden) where photosynthesis occurs inside the leaf that is filled with a translucent jelly.

Charles Duval gave this group of plants the name *Haworthia* in 1809 to commemorate Adrian H. Haworth, an English entomologist and botanist who specialized in succulents. Since then, *Haworthia* nomenclature has been continuously changing, fueled by how different clones of the same plant can vary according to their growing conditions, and by the ease by which many species interbreed. In the literature there are over 400 species named, but currently these have been reduced to about 60 species with about 100 subspecies.

Haworthias rarely require a pot larger than 4 inches in diameter making them ideally suited for a bright windowsill. Although some *haworthias* are more difficult to cultivate than others, most are very easy to grow. They require abundant bright light, but need light shade to shade to grow well. They also require a well drained soil that approaches dryness between watering. It is best to fertilize only sparingly (only during active growth, not at all if the plant is resting) using a water soluble house plant fertilizer diluted to 1/4 strength.

Propagation for many species is done easily by separating offsets. For others that offset slowly or not at all, seeds are the best way

to propagate. Leaf cuttings are possible for some of the species (generally those with thick leaves).

A note on taxonomy: In the past, Haworthias, Aloes, Gasterias, and their relatives were treated as a tribe in the Liliaceae, a huge family of monocots that also included lilies, onions, agaves, and yuccas. All of these plants have colorful petals, arranged in threes, and six stamens.

More recently, botanists have discovered phytochemical and molecular evidence that shows this concept of Liliaceae to be artificial and unnatural (meaning that it does not conform to evolutionary relationships). A more accurate classification, one that is based on all available characteristics, reveals that the old "Liliaceae" are best classified into two major groups (or orders, in taxonomic parlance) - the LILIALES and the ASPARAGALES. Lilies, Trilliums, and a few others are in the Liliales. Onions, agaves, yuccas, haworthias, irises, and orchids are placed in the Asparagales. Within the Asparagales there are several families, two of which include succulents - the Agavaceae (Agaves, Yuccas) and the Asphodelaceae (Aloes, Gasterias, Haworthias, and Bulbines). Some experts on succulent plants tend to recognize the haworthias, gasterias and aloes, all of which are especially succulent, in a separate family - Aloaceae. Whereas, the professional taxonomic botanists tend to recognize the larger family, based on molecular data, and call it the Asphodelaceae.

A good internet site for Haworthias is maintained by the Haworthia Society which embraces the genera *Aloe*, *Astroloba*, *Gasteria*, *Haworthia*, related small genera and *Bulbine* together with their hybrids and cultivars. < cactus-mall.com/Haworthia-Society > A site with many good photographs can be found at:

www.haworthia.com/Species/haworthia.htm

Two good books are: *The Illustrated Handbook of Succulent Plants: Monocotyledons* edited by Urs Egli and *Haworthia Revisited* by Bruce Bayer (both are in our library).



Haworthia cymbiformis
var. *transiens*

H

A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER December 2002 A Letter From Bruce



The marathon actually began on the 29 of Nov. with "Hallelujah Handel", a mix of Messiah, Israel in Egypt and other Handel numbers sung by six choirs (including our own Gaborone Music Society) accompanied by the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra. Polly sang a solo well and we both sang in the choir. President Mogae was there for the first night. The second night was even more exciting as James and Emily flew in at noon, had lunch at Wimpy's (a burger chain - we have no golden arches!) and a brief rest before the concert.

We managed to get the exhausted couple up next morning for the monthly bird walk at 6:30. We went out to Crocodile Pools but saw very few birds due to drought. The only excitement was a huge *Adenia glauca*. Nonetheless we had a delightful picnic breakfast afterward and celebrated the birthday of our host Bob McColaugh. Emily was surprised to find that he comes from Fresno! (Incidentally, Doreen, his wife, has written a good guide to the garden trees here. Called "Gaborone in Bloom"[1997, Univ. Botswana, Gaborone], it describes all those pesky foreigners I always get stumped by.)

On Monday we took J&E to the Thrift Shop where Polly helps out, the garden where I work and River Walk, the older of the new malls. After lunch we saw the second Harry Potter movie there. Then we went out to our friends the Teed/Rollos for a swim.

Tues. 3 Dec. began the BIG tour. Driving North, we had breakfast at the Whistle Stop in Mahalapye and then stopped for tea with the Sobottas (dentist, formerly in Gaborone). Unfortunately, we had a flat, found the spare was flat and learned our new car had no jack. Our friends helped us out and we drove on up to Francistown and bought a jack. Finally we arrive at Nata Lodge where we settled into real luxury "Safari" tents (complete with shower and toilet!) and had a relaxing swim and buffet dinner. Andrena Teed and daughter Catriona joined us. Unfortunately Nigel Rollo had to go to Nigeria to replace one of his staff who walked out on him.

We were up at dawn on the 4th and drove North to Sibuyu Forest Reserve in time for the start of the eclipse of the sun at 7:05. Oddly enough, we passed lots of watchers before and after the forest, but we were alone for totality at 8:08. It was quite an experience (1st for J&E, 2nd for P&I). We also saw a huge ground hornbill. We then continued

North to Mpandamatenga where I collected a few bulbs but failed to find the *Aloe christianii* and *Huernia levyi* which are only known from there in Botswana. We stopped for breakfast at "Touch of Africa" but had to wait over an hour as the generator was out. Just North of there we passed through a herd of about 50 sable antelope! Finally at 12:26 we checked into Kubu(Hippo)Lodge at Kasane on the Chobe River (just above the confluence with the Zambezi).

On the 5th we headed off in a tour van for Zimbabwe. Just across the border we saw our first elephants (we saw lots more on both sides later - they are really decimating the trees). We arrived at Mose oa Tunya (a.k.a Victoria Falls) at 10. I have never seen the falls so dry! Bathers on the Zambian side were right out on the edge - especially the nude one). We were thrilled to watch a Trumpeter hornbill eating water berries (*Syzgium guineense*).



James & Emily at the Big Tree (baobab) in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

The driver took us to The Kingdom - a casino cum food mall to buy our own lunch although we had been promised a box lunch over the phone. Finding food began at US\$7 for French fries we decided we weren't hungry. The driver offered to exchange money on the black market, but we refused. Zimbabwe is really cutting its own throat on tourism (etc. etc.) We then went out to the big tree (a baobab) and ended our visit at the Victoria Falls Hotel, a real colonial relict. By 3:35 we were back at Kubu Lodge. J,E & I tried to follow the nature trail there but ended up lost at dusk with vervets chased by warthogs chased by baboons between us and the lodge.

etc. etc. Back in Kasane we saw a warthog with four spindly-legged hoglets, shopped for souvenirs and had drinks at the Tea Garden. That evening we set off for a sundown cruise up the Chobe to the park, but had to wait an hour while the rain bucketed down. (Is this the start to

the end of the present drought?) In spite of the late start we had a good tour with plenty of crocs, hippos etc. We touched briefly on Sedudu Island in the middle of the River and noted Botswana is flying its flag there since Namibia tried to claim it. We ended the day back at Kubu Lodge with a birthday dinner for Emily.

On the 7th we visited the croc farm next to the lodge and then went to Mowana (baobab) Lodge for drinks. I was sad to find dead elephant vines (*Fockea multiflora*) since there had been eight when the hotel was built - the largest population in Botswana. I suspect they were over watered. We drove south towards Nata and came to a huge brush fire - the biggest I've seen in Botswana. Fortunately it hadn't jumped the road. Back at Nata Lodge we had a swim and a good rest (except for being woken at 5:30 to be given candles since the power was out.)

Next morning after a leisurely breakfast we drove south with a brief stop at Sowa where they mine soda ash from the salt pan. We were disappointed to find we couldn't get near the pan and, anyway, the flamingoes weren't there. We went on to Francistown but found the power was out. We still managed to get lunch at the Whistle Stop and then report to Mater Spei "College" (a private high school) for music camp. Everyone complained about the mess the dorms were in, but we managed to make them livable. After dinner we had an introductory lecture and were entertained by local singers and dancers.

The rest of the week followed a routine: camp choir at classes at 9 (J&E did marimba, P I did setinkane [thumb piano]), appreciation (an intro to other classes) at 11:30, practice at 2:30, lecture by one of the instructors 4:50 and entertainment at 8. On Monday we had more dancers and AIDS awareness music at top volume.



Rahionacme burkei - used as an emergency water source (bitter) - Khutse Game Reserve

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at

On Tues. we went to a nearby church to hear their choirs followed by loud Gospel (Botswana style) back at the "college". On Wed. the staff entertained us and on Thurs. we entertained them (e.g. I played "Summertime" on my clarinet along with another "camper" who was my roommate at the 95 camp & inspired to take up the instrument then.) On Friday we had a general meeting and rehearsed a camp song. Saturday ended with a camp concert and party.

There was also a break Thursday afternoon when we went up to Dombashaba National Monument to see 15th century ruins from the ancient Zimbabwe Empire. (There were also huge *Euphorbia ingens* trees, a chameleon, a thread snake[worm size] etc.)

Sunday 15th Dec. we left Francistown and made a detour to Serowe to visit the Khama Rhino Sanctuary but didn't see any Rhinos since it was midday and they were sleeping. We had takeaway lunch at Kaytee's in Mahalapye and arrive back home at 4:52. We were exhausted but managed a late supper at Wimpy's.

Next Morning I went back to work and E&J went to Khutse Game Reserve with our friend Chris Toye. He had San (Bushman) guides teach them to eat wild plants (a *Ceropegia* no less!), make bow string from *Sansevieria aethiopica*, make fire by twirling sticks etc. They also saw Oryx and other animals. They came back exhausted on Wednesday.



Ceropegia - edible, but Emily does not recommend the flavor - Khutse Game Reserve

We will have a less exhausting time over Christmas & New Years and perhaps E&J will survive to return to Bakersfield. More on that next month.

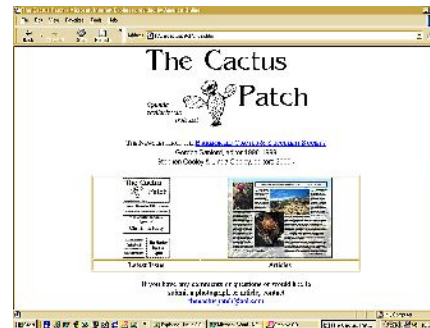
Bruce J. Hargreaves

P.S. The December issue of "The Euphorbiaceae Study Group Bulletin" is the final one! Where will I send articles now?

WEB REVIEW



The Cactus Patch on the World Wide Web



Recently, I decided that it might be nice to put our club's newsletter on the internet. Being the indispensable publication that it is, I thought that it would be polite if we shared it with billions of others (many of which do not yet fully realize that they are destined to be succulent fanatics).

The website will have the most current issue of *The Cactus Patch* as well as many past articles that I thought were noteworthy - including all the letters Bruce Hargreaves has written from Botswana. As of today, I have added about 25 articles and most of Bruce's letters. Most of the articles are from the last few years as I have an easier time transferring them since they are already on my computer. Still, I've managed to get a few from as far back as the first issue in January of 1998 and will do more as time permits. Though every issue of *The Cactus Patch* is available for viewing in our library, the website will allow you to read old articles at your leisure elsewhere. Also, the pictures on the website will be in color, and in a few cases I have added pictures that would not fit into the newsletter.

The website can be viewed by clicking on "Newsletter" at the BCSS home page: www.BakersfieldCactus.org.

Stephen Cooley

If you have a personal website that shows off some of your plants, a link to it can be put on the BCSS website. Contact Maynard Moe - Lithops44@bak.rr.com or Stephen Cooley - thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com for info.

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

2003 CSSA CONVENTION

Once again it is time for the Cactus & Succulent Society of America to have its biennial convention. This time around, it is being held in St. Louis, home of the world-renowned Missouri Botanical Gardens. Below, I have an abbreviated list of the events & speakers that will be at the convention. For more information on events, times, and costs contact the editor or go online to: www.cssainc.org/convent.html

Abbreviated Schedule of Speakers & Events

Sunday, June 15, 2003: Succulents Day 1

Gideon Smith: Southern Africa, Succulent Paradise.
John Lavranos: Horn of Africa Pt. I.
Sheila Collenette: Travels in Djibouti.
Roger Brown: Pseudolithos.
Alan Butler: Sansevieria for the Connoisseur.
Bob Kent: Haworthia from Seed.
Banquet. Peter Raven: Threatened Species

Monday, June 16, 2003: Succulents Day 2

Alan Butler: Flora of Oman.
Gideon Smith: Plant Systematics in South Africa.
Tim Jackson: Winter-Growing Mesembs from Seed - It's Easy.
Sheila Collenette: Aloes of Saudi Arabia and Oman.
John Lavranos: Horn of Africa Pt. II.
Bob Harris: Bonsai Techniques for Succulents.

Tuesday, June 17, 2003: Field Trips

Riverboat Cruise with dinner.

Wednesday, June 18, 2003: Cacti Day 1

Jim Mauseth: What Basic Botany Teaches Us About Better Growing.
Jon Rebman: Cacti of Baja California, Part 1.
Hugo Cota-Sanchez: Survival Strategies of Epiphytic Cacti.
Joe Clements: Cacti from Seed.
John Spain: Beds and Containers for Hardy Cacti.

Thursday, June 19, 2003: Cacti Day 2

Rob Wallace: What Is DNA & What Do I Do With It? Pt 1
Hugo Cota-Sanchez: Epiphytic & Semi-Epiphytic Cacti You Can Grow.
John Spain: Hardy Cacti For Your New Beds and Containers.
Jon Rebman: Cacti of Baja California, Part 2.
Roger Brown: Pampering Your Cacti.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

'T'-shirt Design Contest

After a short discussion, the board decided to inspire the artists of our club to design a new 'T'-shirt logo for the club. A design contest was discussed. We will present the idea to the club at the January meeting, and intend to receive all ideas for the new shirt by the February meeting, where we will let the general membership vote on their favorite logo. Several members will bring in examples of other cactus and succulent 'T's to the January meeting so the group can get a look-see.

Meanwhile, we are looking for anyone who has silk-screening abilities, and/or who may have connections to a company that can get these done for us at a nice, inexpensive price. We would like to get more color on this new shirt, and make it a real attention grabber for the club. **You can give Terry a call** if you have any connections that might be helpful. Ladies and gentleman, "Start those pens and brushes!"

February Pot-luck

After the Cal-State garden planning committee (and others) met in early December at the Jeffery Street home of Roger and Hooliese, I received a very nice phone call from our hostess, Hooliese. She was happy to have met those club members that showed up, and had relayed to Roger (who is out of town until February) the excitement the group had generated from seeing their Jeffery Street garden. Roger and Hooliese then decided to invite the entire club over to their place on the **first Friday of February** for a pot-luck dinner and a tour of the place. More information as to the time of this event and specifics involved, as soon as they become available. Baring any changes, all other information will be available at the next general meeting. I do understand that several of our club members went home with nice samples of the prolific Agaves in the garden!



*Hope your holiday
is decorated with happiness
and filled with joy.*

**Happy Holidays!
East Hills Mall**

Dina

CALENDAR

**Jan 14 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church
Program: The Old Ridge Route**

Speaker: Jack Kelly

Jan 28 BCSS Executive Board meeting; 7:00 pm

At Maynard & Linda's or the Downtown Library

All members are welcome to attend.

Feb 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

Mar 11 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

Mar 29-30 Colorado C& SS Show and Sale, Denver Botanic Gardens.

9am to 5pm each day.

Brad Johnson, Show & Sale Co-Chair

Kenneth Wilkie, Show & Sale Co-Chair

May 18 Epiphyllum Society of America Show and Sale.

Ayers Hall, Arboretum of LA Caounty, Arcadia

www.epiphyllum.org

June 11 - Aug 22 Cactus & Succulent Photo Exhibit.

Missouri Botanical Gardens, St. Louis.

June 14-19 CSSA 30th Biennial Convention, St. Louis

July 5-6 CSSA Show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Gardens

Aug 30 20th Succulent Plant Symposium, Huntington Gardens

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$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

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

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

Stephen Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor