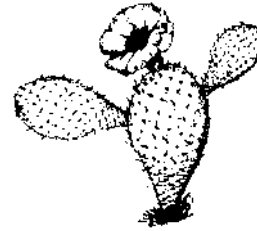




*Ferocactus latispinus*

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 6 **February 2003** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Succulent Care & Identification

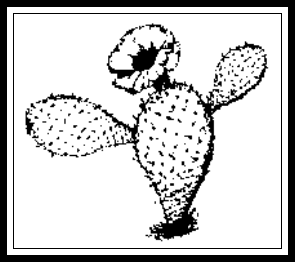
Presented by **Woody Minnich**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Feb. 11**  
Olive Drive Church  
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**Plant of the**  
**Month**  
**any Plant you**  
**need help with**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 6    Number 2  
February 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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## A Message From The President

Have you heard the latest news at BCSS? There is a new president and she is excited to be in such a coveted position. Let me introduce you. Hi! My name is Bonnie East; I was club secretary for four years prior to becoming head honchette. I decided that I preferred talking more at the club board meetings than just writing everything down. I want to welcome all of you to a new year with BCSS.

Right now we have quite a few new members and attendees coming to meetings with some already being very generous with their time and donations (especially at our 2002 Christmas potluck dinner and silent auction). you know that our club is in its sixth year? A lot happened in those years. For one thing, I have learned about many types of cacti and succulents from around the world. Many of these plants look very different in their native habitat than when we them potted up as a part of someone's collection.



Did  
has

see

Our club has had many interesting guest speakers over the years. I recall one gentleman who had to hire armed guards in order to complete one leg of a journey on a distant continent. I remember wondering to myself if I would ever be so compelled to search out the far-ends of the earth to see that one particular or spectacular species of plant in habitat. Might you be so compelled? Do those of us who really dig cacti and succulents need to be in the fringe zones of extremism to really make a statement about our interests? If that's what suits you-the answer is yes!

My extremism with cacti and succulents so far, grew out of my interest in native plants found in California and the southwest, gardening with them and ultimately growing them successfully. It is all a challenge and a creative outlet for me. What has drawn you to the world of cacti and succulents? Do you want to learn more about identifying species types? How about learning how to care for and grow the plants you have acquired? Or would you like to take a visual journey with those who have traveled to those interesting places and come to our meetings to share their journey with us?

What ever reason(s), the BCSS welcomes you. Seeing so many new faces recently is encouraging. Here's to a new year, new journeys and potential fun for all. Be sure to check out the upcoming fieldtrips, campouts, shows and sales previewed in this newsletter.

Until we meet again,

*Bonnie*



We welcomed our new officers at this first meeting of the new year. Bonnie East presided as President, Terry Skillin is now Vice-President, Lynn McDonald is now Secretary, and Maynard Moe continues as Treasurer. Bonnie and Terry discussed various items with the club members: a T-shirt design contest, a possible pot luck, Roster info, Library news, and field trips were all mentioned. (more info on some of these items is in the current newsletter you are now reading...). Special recognition was given to outgoing President Rob Skillin and our Newsletter editor, Stephen Cooley. Both were presented with gift certificates for plants from Cactus Data Plants. The treasurer (Maynard) told the club that our finances look good and we have around \$2400 in the bank.

After the Business part of the meeting, we welcomed member Jack Kelley who presented an excellent, entertaining program on the Old Ridge Route. We enjoyed hearing about local history and seeing excellent photos of the old road between Bakersfield and Los Angeles. I'm sure that somewhere on the 697 curves of



the old road there must have been a few succulents! Maybe we should all go on the tour and search them out. If we drive at the old speed limit of 15 mph we should be able to see them easily. Thanks to Jack (and Sidney)



for an informative and entertaining talk.

After the program, we enjoyed seeing the Plants of the Month,

brought in by several members. The *Haworthias* were very impressive! Thanks to all members who shared with us. We enjoyed excellent snacks during our break, even though hospitality host Bill McDonald was at home, resting his ruptured Achilles tendon. We were happy to see Sidney and Jack at the meeting and happy to find out that they are both healthy! We had a very large number of people participating in the raffle, and a lot of people went home with very nice plants!



Next month Woody Minnich will be speaking to us and he always brings nice plants for sale, so bring your Mad Money!

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

January 28, 2003

The board meeting was held this month at the home of Maynard Moe & Linda Cooley. Bonnie, Terry, Lynn, Linda & Maynard were present. Linda, once again, delighted the group with a delicious snack -- a warm-from-the-oven Italian chocolate espresso torte!

We discussed the possibility of switching our annual sale from the autumn to spring. The idea was not met with enthusiasm.

It was decided to join the British C&SS to receive their journal for our library.

We discussed the need to repay our obligation to CALM. Otherwise we should pay them for the use of the room, which is rather expensive.

For the benefit for our new members, we plan to review the club's by-laws at our next general meeting.

We set the date for the Spring yard sale -- the weekend of May 17-18.

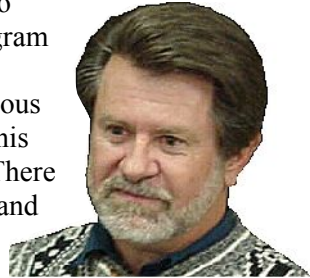
The next meeting will be held at the KC library (I do not know when, I wasn't listening)

Lynn McDonald



## PROGRAM NOTES

Once again, long time grower, presenter, traveler, botanist, judge, photographer, writer, artist and owner of Cactus Data Plants, **Woody Minnich** will be our guest speaker for the February 11th meeting. This is one you won't want to miss! Woody is 'the man' to speak to with all your mysterious plants. His program will be a general refresher course on plant identification as well as general cultivation of various species. Old and new collectors alike will enjoy this program, as Woody makes all things interesting. There will be a slide show to give us easy identification and cultivation tips.



Woody's talk will be a great segway to our plant of the month; 'Mystery Cactus and Succulents We Own and Love'. Be sure to bring all the plants you've been questioning pedigree on. Maybe you've got one or two you don't want to kill, be sure to bring those along to see if Woody or any of our more learned club members can give you some easy tips on proper cultivation.

Be sure NOT to miss this speaker, as Woody is sure to entice us with some of his wonderful plants for sale. Add to your collection, and know how to take care of them, all in one meeting.

(Special note: by attending this meeting, you'll have a head-start on the March meeting, where you can put your new/renewed knowledge to work and possibly win more plants for your collection! Stay tuned to next months newsletter for more information.)

*Terry Skillin*

### Grigsby Cactus Gardens 38th Anniversary Sale

Feb 7th - 15th 8am - 2:30 pm  
(see page 13 for more information)

This is a little late to get into the newsletter for this month. Maynard is interested in going. You can give him a call @ 861-0238. This is the only Vista nursery that is open on the weekends. There would be a small chance we could check into the Rancho Soledad nursery, where Kelly Griffin works (he gave a recent, excellent presentation to our club).

Lynn

## Pot-Luck

Our most hospitable members, Roger Melenberg and Hoolyse Davajian, who wowed members of the FACT garden committee with their beautifully landscaped agave/cactus/succulent garden, have extended an invitation to the entire club, for a casual potluck dinner at their home at 25 Jeffery Street. The date will be Sunday afternoon, March 2nd, from 3-5. The reason is to have the entire club have a chance to view their garden as well as to hear how it was transformed from a slab of green concrete to the wondrous thing of beauty it is now. It is certainly an inspiration when considering the job we have ahead of us in the development of the garden at FACT. The club members should bring a dish to share, their own beverage and the club will provide paper plates and plasticwear. A sign-up will be at the February meeting, or you can call Terry if you plan on attending. Of course, if it rains, we'll have to postpone until a later date.

*Terry Skillin*

## 'T'-Shirt Art Contest

REMINDER! Don't forget we are looking for a new idea for our club T-shirt and logo. We announced last meeting that there is to be a contest (of sorts) where the total membership will decide what the logo will be, and the ideas will come from our own membership.

Bring your 'T'-shirt ideas to the February meeting. Come on, shy artist, diddle an idea, color a picture, put something down on paper and show your creativeness to the club. If we want to be identified as the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society, then a creative, great shirt will do the trick! We're looking for total group participation on this one, so let's get a move-on and bring those creative ideas to the meeting. As an incentive, should your design be selected, you will receive a FREE 'T'-shirt! Hey, not bad for a doodle and a little effort!

Looking forward to seeing you and all the creative designs!

*Terry Skillin*

# Plant of the Month

## PLANTS OF MYSTERY

Every collection seems to have one or two or twenty: Plants of Mystery. I'm not talking about the subtle mysteries that most succulents have. This is not a question of how they survive great heat or drought, or why spines are long on one and short on another, or why the plant looks dead when it isn't. What I'm talking about is a much greater mystery -- Just what the heck is this plant?



I'd like to think that I know a bit about succulents and have always been good at plant names. But admittedly, there are several in my collection that I'm not too sure about and even a few that I have no idea whatsoever. The picture to the left is one of them.

Here's what I know about it: I bought it last summer for about one dollar at the Cambria nursery in a one inch pot nestled among the other succulents. It is some sort of caudiciform and had a small caudex even in the original pot. It did not go deciduous this winter in my unheated greenhouse.

Here's what I want to know about it: WHAT IS IT???

I will be bringing this plant to the next meeting because the plant of the month is any plant that is a mystery to you. In our cozy little group of succulentophiles we have many who are good at identifying plants. We also have the great fortune of have Woody Minnich as our speaker. Woody is quite knowledgeable about all succulents and is happy to share that knowledge.

Now, you might be saying to yourself that no one would care about that common little unnamed thing you found at Wal-Mart. Not So! Take a look at the next picture. What is it? My son picked it

out at Wal-Mart. It was labeled "Cactus- General." It is certainly not a cactus -- already I know more than Wal-Mart. But is it *Echeverria*? *Aeonium*? *Pachyphytum*? *Pachyveria*? *Sempervivum*, *Graptopetalum*? *Graptoveria*? I'm not sure, but I do know it is not a rare, hard to find plant. I see it every time I'm looking through the selection at Home Depot. I just don't know what it is.



*Echaeonigraptopachysemperverioides?*

So, bring in your mystery plants and maybe you can get a name (and most probably a lot more information). For once you have the name you can begin to discover all the other little fascinating things about your plant. Maybe it grows right here in our desert? Maybe it comes from the area where your ancestors lived? Maybe you have visited the place where it grows (No, I don't mean Wal-Mart!). Perhaps it is the only member of its Genus or family? Perhaps it only comes from one hillside in South Africa. There is always something more to be learned even about the most common plant in your collection.

Stephen Cooley

"A spine in the hand is worth two in the foot."

-Anonymous

## FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE

Saturday, February 2, the Field Trip Committee (Bonnie & Lynn) met. We believe there is another interested member, but we could not remember who she/he is.

Reviewing the check list filled in by members, there are many activities from which to choose. And many need to be visited in the spring, while there may be some flowers in bloom.

The most desirous have been addressed below:

Many members have expressed interest in the **Mojave National Preserve**. A potential time for this trip could be the weekend of **May 10&11**. This is Mother's Day weekend, however. For those who wish, it could be a (long) day trip on Saturday. For those who would like to camp that evening, we could return to the New York Mountains campsite & then return on home Sunday. Kramer Junction can be visited to or fro.

Bonnie East and a friend are planning to go to **the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park** in April, probably **April 12-15**. Anyone who wishes to, could coordinate with her as the time draws nearer. If we have more rain, it should be a wonderful trip!

I have written to **Huntington Gardens** re: the reopening of the desert section. That can be a day trip, as can any trip to the **LA County Museum of Natural History**.

Mr. Ed Sampson, of **Mourning Cloak Ranch**, was enthusiastic about our desire to have a tour there in Tehachapi. He said perhaps **June** would be the best time for us to visit. He will be sure the Carriage House is open for us that day. We can decide on a possible date at our next meetings

The **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden** is open daily from 9:00am to 4,5, or 6pm, depending on the time of year. That can also be a day trip.

A half day trip to **Sand Ridge Preserve**, home of a fine stand of the **Bakersfield cactus**, *Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*, can be easily arranged. It would be a half day trip. We will try to go when the plants are flowering and can perhaps have a week or two notice before the outing.

We will again organize a day tour to **Windwolves Preserve**, a fabulous place, just south of town, in San Emigdio Canyon. In order to see more, we need to wait until the roads are dry, so we can go further up in elevation in the canyon. This may be a two part trip, depending on interest. For those who have never been, we can arrange a tour by one of the staff. There is also the opportunity to arrange a work weekend there. That includes a Saturday of work -- clearing trails, chopping brush, etc. We may camp there and on Sunday morning we will be taken to an area of our choice. The high country can only be accessed by 4WD vehicles.

We can plan day trips to the **various state club's shows** as we receive notice of them. We are looking into the cost/liability of renting a vehicle for some of these trips.



Linda Cooley took this picture on one of the club's previous New York Mountains field trips.

We had a suggestion from a member, T. Hylton, about a place in the Inyo Mountains east of Lone Pine, **Cerro Gordo**. We would love to hear more about this!

Other trips, such as **Baja California** & the **Tucson** area, are longer trips and may need to be planned for next winter or spring.

These trips will be discussed further at our upcoming meetings and members' input is important and welcomed. It is difficult to find the best date for everyone, we know.



# ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

Woody Minnich of Cactus Data Plants will be selling plants at our February meeting, so be prepared to buy lots of nice plants!

The BCSS Annual Yard Sale will be held on May 17-18. Start looking through your stuff and setting aside items to donate to the club. Maybe it's time to get new dishes, or furniture, or.....?

The Plant of the Month for February will be any plant that you can't identify. We hope that Woody and others will be able to help us out!

The next executive meeting will be held on Feb. 25th at the Beale Library (on Truxtun) in the Lake Room at 7 pm. It's okay to bring snacks....

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](mailto:Lithops44@bak.rr.com)



We are all saddened at the news that long time member Marilyn Cowie, wife of Charles, passed away in January. There will be a memorial service for Marilyn at 10:30 AM February 15. It will be held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Greenfield -- 9915 Ramos Avenue.

## **You are Invited to Grigsby Cactus Gardens' 38th Anniversary Sale**

As we show our appreciation to those who have supported us for the last 38 years we are celebrating with a **special** thank you sale.

~~~\*~~~

Pick out thay new plant or a plant for your collection  
or a nice BIG plant for your garden!  
(Bring some padding for thhe BIG ones!!!)

~~~\*~~~

### **GREAT DISCOUNTS**

Purchases over \$25 = 25% discount

Purchases over \$100 = 30% discount  
(Discounts apply to priced plants only.)

(Does NOT include BLUE or PINK LABEL SPECIALS  
or items marked "NET".)

**Special** selection of blue or pink label plants with a  
50% - 70% discount!  
(no other discounts will apply)

~~~\*~~~

### **SPECIAL DRAWING**

3 - \$100 gift certificates

**DROP BY FROM  
FEBRUARY 7th - 15th, 2003**  
(from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm)

Grigsby Cactus Gardens  
2354 Bella Vista Drive Vista CA 92084  
760-727-1323 fax 760-727-1578

# CACTUS and SUCCULENT SHOW and SALE



**SAT. & SUN. APRIL 12 & 13, 2003, 9am to 4pm**  
**SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS**  
**26300 CRENSHAW BLVD. PALOS VERDES PENINSULA**

**SEE outstanding displays by selected growers!**  
**VOTE for the best!**  
**ASK experts how they grow their plants!**  
**BUY plants from top growers!**

For more information contact Dick Hulett at 310-832-2262 (E-mail [airobatic@aol.com](mailto:airobatic@aol.com));  
Carol Causey at 310-675-5843; Jim Hanna at 562-920-3046 or [aloccats1@aol.com](mailto:aloccats1@aol.com).

**DIRECTIONS:** From I 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.

**A SOUTH COAST CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY PRESENTATION**

**BE SURE TO VISIT US AT**

**[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)**

## CALENDAR

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

**Speaker: Woody Minnich**

**Program: Succulent Care & Identification**

**Mar 2 Potluck Dinner 3-5pm at**

**Roger Melenberg & Hoolyse Davajian's house, 25 Jeffery St.**

**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**

**Apr 12-13 Cactus Show & Sale presented by the South Coast C&SS.**

**9am to 4pm South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd,**

**Palos Verdes Peninsula. For information contact:**

**Dick Hulett**

**Carol Causey**

**Jim Hanna**

**May 17-18 BCSS Spring Yard Sale**

**May 18 Eiphyllum Society of America Show and Sale.**

**Ayers Hall, Arboretum of LA Caounty, Arcadia**

**[www.epiphyllum.org](http://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**

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

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**Linda Cooley, editor**