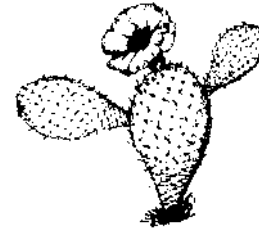


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Poppy Reserve on the way back
from Cactus Data Plants

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 6 **April 2003** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Organpipe Cactus N.M. & Tucson Nurseries

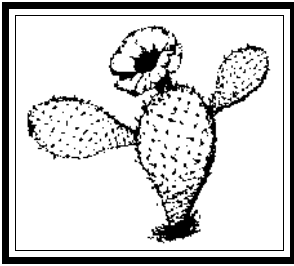
Presented by **Jerry Krulik**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 8
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive drive at 7 PM

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

**Plant of the
Month
Sonoran
Desert**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 6 Number 4
April 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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We began our meeting by welcoming 4 visitors!! Our club is really growing!!

Bonnie praised and thanked all members who have made our club a great organization. Members were reminded about the yard sale, coming up on May 17-18, and asked to start setting aside items that they could donate to help the club. Terry shared the results of the T-shirt design "contest": our new shirt will feature the Yin-Yang design with a Bakersfield cactus and Haworthia in the center. Vonne volunteered to find a vendor to actually print the shirts. Bonnie mentioned that we are looking for a new librarian/historian. She listed the responsibilities of the job and asked members to consider getting involved in this capacity. Next on the agenda was the bylaws. The executive committee is considering a few changes and needs the members to approve or disapprove of them. This will be discussed at a future meeting. Upcoming field trips were mentioned, but Lynn was gone to Vietnam and was unable to bring us up to date. See the related article in this newsletter. The fast-approaching sale of pottery and plants at Cactus



Data Plants in Littlerock was mentioned; some of the members were interested in heading out there. Charles mentioned that the garden at the continuation school would be dedicated to his late wife, Marilyn, soon (see related article in newsletter).

The business part of the meeting was done and the fun began!

We had a very fun and informative and educational quiz show for our

program! Terry has written a summary of the results, so read her article if you want to know how it came out! After the show, we talked about bizarre plants: crested and monstrose plants brought in by members. Many members find these plants irresistible! After the refreshments and talk, we had our raffle and then everyone went home!!



Game show madness hit the club during our March general meeting, as club members played the CSSA show, 'Gordon Rowley's Succulent Plant Quiz #1. As teams of 5 and 6 competed, to answer the 36 different questions, answers got pretty interesting. At one point during the 'Spot the Celebrities' portion of the Quiz Show, teams were required to come up with the names of three famous cacti personalities, as their photos were shown. Yes, most guesses yelled out were "A friend of Bruce Hargreaves!" or "Someone that knows Bruce!" Of course, since we couldn't confirm or deny these responses, we had to stick with the appropriate answer of Curt Backeberg, Harry Hall and Horst Uebelmann. (Sorry Bruce.)

In the end, the winning team was "The "Duds" which consisted of Captain Rob Skillin, Bill Mac Donald, and four new club members; Teresa Strickland and guest, Steve and Steve Jr. The winning team went home with each member receiving a new plant. Second place team, 'Team Tricky Cereus' was under the leadership of Linda Cooley. Third place under captain Maynard Moe was 'Team Astrofighters'. Last, but not far behind was the team led by Stephen Cooley, which didn't announce it's name.

This show proved one thing clearly; you're never too old to learn something new. I thank all present members for making the game an enjoyable and fun experience.

Terry Skillin

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Your executive board met at the Skillin's home on March 25th. Present were Bonnie, Terry, Linda, and Lynn, with an occasional appearance by Rob. We discussed upcoming field trips and set a loose schedule for some. We also discussed the idea of **changing our meeting time**. It will be proposed to the members at the next meeting that we begin our socializing at 6:30pm, in order to begin the meeting at 7:00 & thus finish a little earlier each time.

We also discussed and decided to purchase a bronze plaque to place in the garden of the Continuation School. The plaque will honor Marilyn Cowie. She and her husband Charles were instrumental in beginning the cactus garden which is maintained by the school's students. We will need to find a heavy boulder with a flat top to attach the plaque in the garden.

We also discussed the upcoming yard sale, May 17 & 18. And our proposed cactus garden at CSUB/FACT.

The next board meeting will be at the Skillin home April 29th.

Lynn McDonald
secretary

PROGRAM NOTES

The BCSS April meeting on April 8th will feature the well traveled speaker from Orange County, Jerry Krulik. Jerry will be speaking on Organpipe Cactus National Monument and Tucson Nurseries. This show is a brief tour of the famous monument. One of the highlights was the largest crested cactus in the world...according to Mr.. Krulik. He also includes lots of shots of the two famous Tucson Nurseries, Arid Lands and Steve Brack's.

As we come into spring, and think of Spring travel, Jerry's show is certainly one you don't want to miss.

Terry Skillin

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

More Reports From Southeast Asia

By Lynn McDonald



We had a fabulous day at Bach MA (white horse) National park. We began at summit 1400+ meters & worked our way down through forest -- any vista could give one 30 species of plant. We saw yellow throated barbet, red-whiskered bulbul, black eagle, treepies & forest wagtails. Beautiful pools & we all had leeches,

two were bitten!

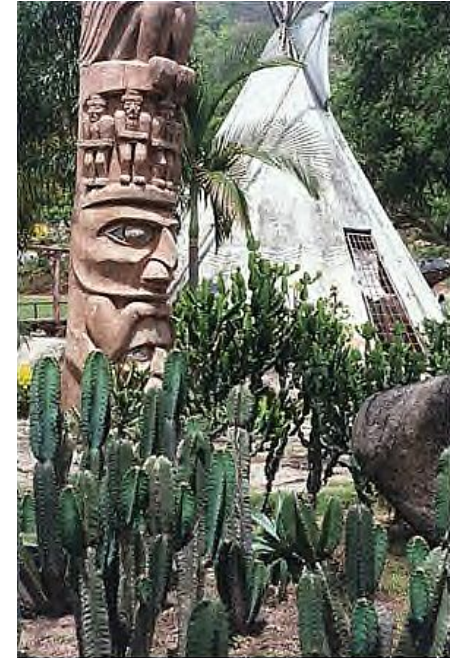
Xin Chao -- I forgot to mention that the Bach Ma area was the site of some big battles during the "American" war. US helicopters landed atop, and the Viet Cong were in tunnels in the mountain. Some of those tunnels are now inhabited by bats. Our guide pointed out rusted pieces of helicopter parts, and an area that was later searched for MIAs.

The rest of our work week went well, though we could have had a few more surgical patients. Our youngest cleft lip repair was 2.5 months & our eldest a 75 year old man who had stopped into the local clinic for some meds & was sent to us. Imagine, leaving home for some errands & coming home with a new look! At the end of the week, the local hospital & party leaders and we had a couple of meals together, which included some amount of Tiger beer drinking contests. At least I was able to get out of that!

We also had a lovely morning swim in the South China Sea and then were treated to the last day of cooler weather. The group flew off via Hanoi this morning & I am about to take a cab to the airport and to Bangkok. We will go to a beach for a couple days. If I see some interesting sights I will write more.

Tomorrow morning the trip home begins. It has been a good time here. Lots of fun catching up with our friends here. And lots of great food, as you know. We took a two day trip east to a resort at Rayong beach. Kind of funky getting there, but a lovely setting. It was a bigish place, but not many folks there, so we really enjoyed the lovely pools. The next day we took a boat trip to Koh Samet, a small island a short distance across the

Gulf of Thailand. Nice beach, and the route filled with low budget backpacking places, and rubbish dumps! Odd there were so many signs about keeping it clean. Also, hard to believe all the street dogs were vaccinated for rabies, but it was declared a rabies free zone. Anyway, the beach was lovely, and shallow enough to feel safe, with a six year old to keep track of. We did stop at an "open zoo" on the way down and there was an interesting succulent display. I saw some painted stork, seemingly resident, but they could fly about freely. So I think they were migrating and just popped in for a (long?) while. Today was spent shopping in the city. Thank goodness Jane was there to drive and sky-train me about, else I'd be still hopelessly lost in the maze. It is a much cleaner city than when I first began going ten years ago. Better air quality and even upscale international stores. Not that I could shop three, but it is a major world city now. Hope you all are well and I'll see you at the April meeting.



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

March 2nd Potluck

By Terry Skillin

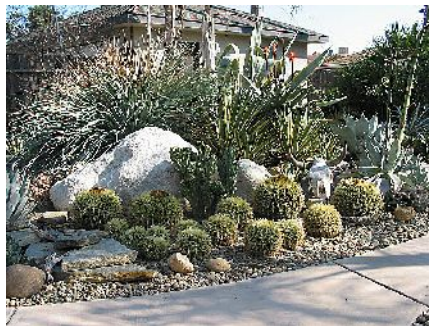
Photos by Vonne Zdenek

A big 'THANK YOU' to Hoolese and Roger for hosting the Sunday pot-luck in their garden. Also, thanks to all who attended. Although I was out of town, the younger cactus members said it was an enjoyable afternoon, and people even ate their contribution of Mac and Cheese (thank you Mr.. KRAFT!). According to



young member, Paul, "Roger gave us a tour of the garden, identified plants and gave the group some interesting facts about the Agaves and some other cactus. He explained that he was trying to have North American plants in the garden." Some of the new

members were equally impressed by the types of plants Roger had. Paul reported that there was Mexican, Indian, and American foods, and that it was all good. Julia reported that Hoolese took Anna and herself out to pick lemons off their tree. I can verify



that, since I am the proud recipient of their efforts, and need to break out the pie recipes! Glad to see club members enjoying the efforts of a great garden.

Plant of the Month

Succulents of the Sonoran Desert

In the United States and northern Mexico there are basically four distinct deserts based on floristic composition and geographical distribution - the Chihuahuan, Sonoran, Mojave and the Great Basin. Three of these deserts, the Chihuahuan, Sonoran and Mojave, are called "hot deserts" because of their high summer temperatures and because their plants are related the subtropical plants to the south. The Great Basin Desert is called a "cold desert" because it is generally cooler and its dominant plant life is not subtropical in origin.

The Sonoran Desert is an arid region covering 120,000 square miles in southwestern Arizona and southeastern California, as well as most of Baja California and the western half of the state of Sonora, Mexico. This is the hottest of our North American deserts and it has a distinctly bimodal rainfall pattern that produces a high biological diversity. Winter storms move in from the Pacific and well-developed summer monsoons come in from the south. Freezing conditions can be expected for a few nights in winter.

Because of the hot, dry conditions there are many drought-tolerant succulents and xerophytic plant species. Four popular, distinctly Sonoran, species are the saguaro (*Carnegiea*) and organ pipe (*Stenocereus*) cacti and the xerophytic ocotillo and boojum (*Fouquieria*). There are also many beavertail and cholla (*Opuntia*), barrel (*Ferocactus*), hedgehog (*Echinocereus*), and fishhook (*Mammillaria*) cacti. Xerophytic, semi-succulent Yuccas and Nolinias also occur throughout the Sonoran Desert.

More information on the Sonoran and other deserts can be found at www.desertusa.com

L. M. Moe

MEETINGS!!!!

A Letter From Bruce



In February, our garden head Nonofu Mosesane & I gave talks at the University. Short and to the point! But lately the number of meetings has gotten out of hand. We've spent over a week organising museum projects for the next year. Participatory democracy is great in principal, but one person could have done the job in a few hours. Then there was a two-day workshop on wetlands (not really my cup of tea). People came from all over southern Africa but I was notified at 8 for a 9 am start! And now we are involved in an "end-users" workshop on plants. It's really a way to use up funds as SABONET (Southern African Botanic Diversity Network) draws to a close. I hope the workshop next week is worth all the planning.

Despite the week of rain in February, the drought and heat continues. I don't know how the construction workers do it, but foundations are now dug for all the Botanic Garden construction. Despite all the noise and bustle, monkeys and birds are still active, although the hyrax population has diminished as they have sought quieter quarters! The brown-veined whites (resembling cabbage butterflies, but feeding on the caper family) are migrating through (west to east) in their millions again!

I came across a couple of fiction books with orchid titles, but neither one measures up to that terrific one by Nathan Walpow, Death of an Orchid Lover. The first Dream of Orchids (Phyllis A. Whitney, 1985, Doubleday & Co., N.Y.) has more to do with diving for treasure off the Florida Keys than with plants. Even then it makes the rather strange remark that the Keys continue to the Marquesas. I've never been to either, but I thought the Marquesas were in the Pacific and the Keys ended in the Dry Tortugas. As for orchids, the book refers to hybrids and cultivars as species.

The second book, The Trouble with Orchids, (Tim Hulse, 1990, Sidgwick & Jackson, London) contains its own warning on the cover: a cartoon of a naked woman nuzzling a phallic orchid. The book is actually about seduction by the entertainment media, but it uses the pollinating lures of orchids as an analogy.

Speaking of trouble, "The Trouble with Science" (Robert Dunbar, 1995, Faber & Faber, London) is a non-fiction work on the scientific method and how it is misused. Among its wide wanderings it mentions that Chimps use Vernonia against intestinal parasites and Aspidaria versus intestinal upsets. They also note that Geladas (Ethiopian baboons) use rosehips with their high vitamin C for constipation. Humans aren't the only users of herbs.

Speaking of herbs, I just finished "English Life in Chaucer's Day (Roger Hart, 1973, Wayland Pub., London). They didn't have very

sophisticated medicine then and relied a lot on herbs (Vernonia is mentioned!) It was also the time of the Black Death (bubonic plague) which, "seized especially the young and strong, commonly sparing the elderly and feeble." Sounds like AIDS which we are equally unable to deal with despite modern strides in medicine.

Next month I'll report on the "Festival that Almost Wasn't"
Bruce J. Hargreaves

PROPOSED 2003 FIELD TRIPS

APRIL 12-15 **ANZA BORREGA DESERT**
Camping trip. call Bonnie East

APRIL ?? **SAND RIDGE**, Bakersfield Cactus in bloom.
TOO BE ANNOUNCED, in another week or two

MAY 10-11 **MOJAVE DESERT PRESERVE & NEW YORK MTS**
camp out or long day trip.

JUNE 5 **MOURNING CLOAK RANCH** 1:00 PM

JULY 5 or 6? **HUNTINGTON GARDENS, CACTUS S&S**
Rob to check dates & possibility of private tour

AUGUST 16,17 or 18? **INTER CITY CLUB SHOW & SALE**
The BIG ONE! at LA Arboretum

SEPTEMBER **VISTA**: Grigsby's & Rancho Soledad nurseries.
Weekend trip

OCTOBER **SANTA BARBARA BOTANICAL GARDEN**

If you are interested in going on one of these trips please let Lynn or any of the officers know so that plans can be made!

Cactus Data Plants BCSS Field Trip March 29, 2003

The morning of March 29th Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society members Maynard Moe, Linda Cooley, Lynn & Bill McDonald, Matt & Silvia Ekegren, Stephen & Jennifer Cooley and Paul Skillin departed for Cactus Data Plants in Little Rock. Over the green mountains and through the wildflowers of Tehachapi the group wended it's way into the desert, passed Mojave, avoided Lancaster and Palmdale, and soon arrived in the small town where Woody Minnich's cactus, lizards, and turtles grow so well.



Photo by Jennifer Cooley

Cactus Data Plants is operated by Woody Minnich, who should be familiar to all in our club having just given us a presentation on Succulent Care & Presentation in February (as well as many other programs in the past). His passion and knowledge for succulents carries over into his nursery which is stocked with everything from inexpensive small items you might find anywhere to plants so rare that no one seems

to have heard of them before. It is worth the trip just to look at the variety. As it happens, this was Cactus Data Plants' 3rd Annual Pottery Sale featuring potters who specialize in pots for succulents. Needless to say, the combination of nice pots and nice plants is a dangerous one for the succulent enthusiast on a budget. The group was treated to drinks, sandwiches, cookies and conversation before heading for home.

Some of the group decided to stop at Charlie Brown Farms gift shop for a date shake (or any of the 60 or so other shake flavors they have). Then it was a short detour through the California Poppy Reserve where the hills were completely covered in bright orange. Soon they were back home, wondering where they were going to find room to put their newest succulent acquisitions.



Photo by Jennifer Cooley

If you missed out on going to Cactus Data Plants this time around, another good chance is coming up on May 10 during the Annual Spring Sale (this is the sale where when you're ready to purchase your plants you pick an envelope containing a discount of 10-50%, or perhaps the one that says "FREE!" – Linda was the recipient of the FREE discount a few years ago).

Stephen Cooley



Photo by Stephen Cooley

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

Stephen Cooley, editor

Linda Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drop off your donations for the yard sale at the Skillin's house anytime!! (Unless it's a big item; then please wait until the night before...)

Field trips are being scheduled! Be sure to include them on your calendar. Club trips are fun and interesting and educational for the whole family.

Don't forget--we still need a librarian/historian. Talk to any officer of the club for more information and to volunteer.

The next executive meeting will be April 29 at the Skillin's. Bring a treat to share, so Terry doesn't have to do all the work!

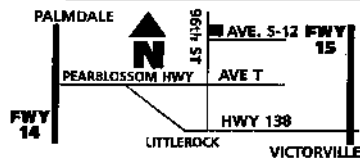
CDP's Annual Spring Sale

This year our traditional Spring Sale will be on **Sat. May 10th from 9:00 to 5:00**

You may draw your discount from **10% to 50% off your total purchase and one person will get their entire order for FREE.**

We are fully stocked with a great selection of rare and show quality plants. We also expect to have our new African plants available at this time.

CACTUS DATA PLANTS
9607 AVE S-12
LITTLEROCK, CA 93543
661-944-2784



CALENDAR

Apr 8 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

Speaker: Jerry Krulik

Presentation: Organpipe Cactus N.M. & the Tucson Nurseries

Apr 12-15 Anza Borrego Desert camping trip.

call Bonnie East

Apr 12-13 Cactus Show & Sale. South Coast C&SS. 9am to 4pm

South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes.

Apr 26-27 C&SS of Monterey Bay Semi-annual Show in the courtyard of Jardines Restaurant, 115 Third St., San Juan Batista. 9am to 5pm.

Apr 29 BCSS Executive Board Meeting at the Skillin's.

May 3-4 Sunset Succulent Society Show & Sale. Garden Room, Veteran's Memorial bldg. 4117 Overland (at Culver), Culver City.

Saturday 10-5 Sunday 10-4 FREE admission

May 3-4 Tucson C&SS Show & Sale at Junior League of Tucson, 2099 E. River Rd., Tucson

May 4 Santa Barbara C&SS Show & Sale (non-judged) McKenzie Park, corner of State and Las Positas Streets. 10am-3pm

May 10-11 Mojave Desert Preserve & New York Mts field trip?

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

May 17-18 BCSS Spring Yard Sale

May 18 Epiphyllum Society of America Show and Sale. Ayers Hall, Arboretum of LA County, Arcadia www.epiphyllum.org

June 5 Mourning Cloak Ranch field trip

June 10 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church

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.

Possibility of a club field trip.

Aug 16-18 Annual Intercity Cactus & Succulent S&S. 9am-5pm.

LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia

Possibility of a club field trip.

Aug 30 20th Succulent Plant Symposium, Huntington Gardens

Sept.?? BCSS Field Trip to Nurseries in Vista?

Oct.?? BCSS Field Trip to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden?

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors