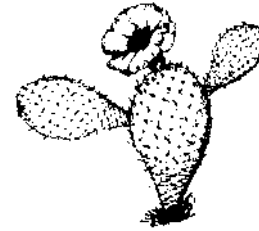




Another of Sydney's
great photographs

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 6 **June 2003** Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Little Gems of Mexico

Presented by Charles Spotts

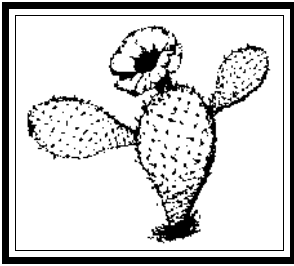
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 10
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive dr. @ 6:30 PM

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

**Come Early
to Socialize!**

**Meeting to start
promptly at 7**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 6 Number 6
June 2003

BCSS Meeting May 13, 2003

Our meeting got a little bit earlier start this time, due to our earlier "socializing" time of 6:30. Bonnie got the meeting started with Terry talking about the Yard Sale. Members were asked to sign up to work and to bring their stuff to sell. It was reported that the dedication of the cactus garden to Marilyn Cowie went well and several members were their to represent the club. A trip to Cactus Data Plants was finalized. Matt and Silvia Ekegren volunteered to be our new librarians! Lynn got us up to date on the next field trip: Mourning Cloak Ranch in Tehachapi. to see native plants and succulents. (**Important info about the trip on Page 13!**) Rosemarie suggested another possible field trip, this one to Hemet to the "Home of Ramona" which features a 150 year old cactus garden. Sounds like a winner! Book review forms should be available at the next meeting. The date for **our next Show and Sale will be Oct. 4-5**. Jack and Sidney announced that they will be doing a ridge route tour with Huell Howser! Then we started our program.

Gary Duke led us through "Diversity and Density in the Northern Chihuahuan Desert." His research took place in the White Sands area of southern New Mexico, where the dunes can move up to 1" a year, covering anything in the way. His project kept track of the diversity of plants and their density in several identified plots of land. He studied a variety of plants, including *Echinocereus triglochidiatus*, *Agave parryi*, *Echinocereus dasyacanthus*, *Echinocereus stramineus*, *Echinocereus polyacanthus*, *Yucca torreyi*, *Yucca alata*, *Yucca baccata*, and *Mammillaria lasiacantha*, just to mention a few. It was fascinating to see how many of these plants survived in each of his plots over the years.

After the program, we had a look at some of the plants of the month, and had a raffle. Everyone enjoyed the good food, good program, and good company.

PROGRAM NOTES

Our speaker for the June 10th meeting will be **Charles Spotts**. His talk will be on the people, places and plants of Mexico, called; "**Little Gems of Mexico**".

Charles is no stranger to our club having given presentations on *Opuntias* at the September meeting in 1997 and a presentation on Peru in November of 2000.

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
Librarians - Matt and Silvia Ekegren

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EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

Another monthly executive board meeting was held, this time on May 27, at Bonnie's home. Bonnie (of course), Vonne, Mickey, Terry, Linda, Maynard & Lynn were present. One of the biggest crowds ever recorded! We had delicious hors d'oeuvres, beverages, cookies & fresh boysenberry cobbler with whipped creme.

The first event of the meeting was the unveiling of our club's new canvas banner. It was created by Linda, Terry & Maynard & post-grommeting will appear at our functions. The design for our new T-shirts was agreed upon & colors discussed (only I disagreed). A sign-up list will be available at our regular meeting to determine sizes & numbers for members & families. Be there or B-square!

Also discussed were the Mourning Cloak Ranch field trip; our successful yard-sale; future speakers & events; and the annual Show & Sale. The plaque for Marilyn Cowie has arrived & the quest is on to find just the right rock.

Lynn McDonald
secretary

Plants of the Month

The Plants of the Month for June are:



Astrophytum

Echeveria

Mammillaria

A Brief History Of The Genus *Mammillaria* and *Mammillaria mammillaris* (Linnaeus) Karsten

by Chuck Staples

Mid-Iowa Cactus & Succulent Society

The genus *Mammillaria* is a part of the family Cactaceae and was first described by Adrian Hardy Haworth (1768-1833) in 1812. He was an English gardener, amateur botanist and entomologist, who studied natural history all his life. He was the leading English authority of his time on succulent type plants. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1798.

The name *Mammillaria* is derived from the Latin *mamilla* (meaning nipple or teat) which refers to the tubercles of the plant. These tubercles are very pronounced in the species *Mammillaria longimamma* A.P. de Candolle 1828.

Spelling of the genus was a problem in the early 1800s. Author Ludwig Reichenbach (1793-1879) used the spelling '*Mamillaria*' in 1827, while authors John Torrey (1796-1873) and Asa Gray (1810-1888) came up with the spelling '*Mammillaria*' in 1840. Various authors have used these two spellings over the years; however, the accepted spelling for this genus is *Mammillaria* (with two ms and two ls).

Unknown to A.H. Haworth in 1812, a John Stackhouse (1742-1819) used the name *Mammillaria* for a genus of algae in 1809. According to strict taxonomic rules the algae genus takes precedence for the *Mammillaria* name. It's interesting to note that cactologists Nathaniel Lord Britton (1859-1934) and Joseph Nelson Rose (1862-1928) were familiar with the algae problem with the name *Mammillaria*, and by following the strict rules of priority came up with a new name, *Neomammillaria*, to take its place in 1923 for the cactus plant genus.

However, since Stackhouse's algae name never came into actual use, the International Botanical Congress of 1930 decided to conserve Haworth's *Mammillaria* name under the family Cactaceae. (What a sigh of relief that must have been at the time for people that didn't like the change to *Neomammillaria*.)

In his book "The Cactus Family" (2001), Edward Frederick Anderson (1932-2001) gives the following as synonyms of the

genus *Mammillaria*:

Cactus Linnaeus 1753

Bartschella Britton & Rose 1923

Dolichothele Britton & Rose 1923

Mamillopsis Britton & Rose 1923

Neomammillaria Britton & Rose 1923

Phellosperma Britton & Rose 1923

Solisia Britton & Rose 1923

Chilita Orcutt 1926

Porfiria Boedeker 1926

Krainzia Backeberg 1938

Ebnerella Buxbaum 1951

Oehmea Buxbaum 1951

Leptocladodia Buxbaum 1951

Pseudomammillaria Buxbaum 1951

It's apparent that Britton & Rose split out a number of *Mammillarias* due to the shape of the plant or the color of the flower; as did Buxbaum. You may recognize some of the names. Two other genera, *Cochemiea* and *Mammilloidia*, having been associated with the genus *Mammillaria* in the past, have been recognized as distinct genera.

Mammillaria mammillaris

This plant has an interesting history. It evidently was the first known species of the genus and the only one known to Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1777) according to Britton & Rose. It was earlier described and illustrated in a 1697 book by Johannes Commelijn (1620-1692), published after his death by his nephew, Caspar Commelijn (1667-1731). The illustrated plate was from a colored drawing by Maria Moninckx (1673-1757) and has been used by many books over the last 300 years.

David Hunt (1938-) tells us in his 1987 book "A New Review of *Mammillaria* Names" that this species was well known in Europe by the end of the 17th century. And, that it was illustrated in the book "Phytographia" (1691) by Leonard Plukenet (1641-1706) under the pre-Linnaeus Latin name 'Ficoides s(ive) Melocactus mammillaris glabra, sulcis carens, fructum suum undique fundens'. He further says that the illustration may have

been drawn from a plant in the famous garden of Henry Compton at Fulham, England. Since Compton exchanged a lot of material with the European Dutch gardens of the time, it is thought that this cactus plant came from the Dutch island of Curacao in the Netherlands Antilles of the West Indies in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela, South America.

Linnaeus, when setting up his binomial nomenclature system of naming plants in his 1753 book, *Species Plantarum*, gave this plant the species name *Cactus mammillaris*. His description of the plant was 'Cactus subrotundus tectus tuberculis ovatis barbatis' meaning '...the nearly round cactus covered with ovate, bearded tubercles...'. That description would fit a number of *Mammillaria* species today; however, in 1753 Linnaeus' description would be appropriate since it was the only cactus he knew of at the time with that shape.

When a taxonomist decides to set up a new generic name, this person also adds a specific epithet which together is referred to as the 'type' of the genus. Haworth did this by making *M. simplex* as the 'type' of the genus. As late as 1983 the International Botanical Congress decided that *M. simplex* was an illegitimate name for Linnaeus' *C. mammillaris* and conserved *C. mammillaris* as the type of the genus. What this means is that the earliest specific epithet (in this case 'mammillaris') for that particular plant species must be retained even when a taxonomist splits out a group of plants into another genus. For historical purposes *M. simplex* becomes an illegitimate name and is generally listed as a synonym of *M. mammillaris*.

[For those of you not familiar with the use of initials in the above and following paragraphs, 'M.' stands for *Mammillaria* and 'C.' stands for *Cactus*. This is used to shorten the genus name after it has been established in the article, and each initial refers to the immediately preceding genus name used in the article. The genera *Mammillaria* and *Cactus* were used in previous paragraphs.]

Credit for describing *M. mammillaris* goes to Gustav Karl Wilhelm Hermann Karsten (1817-1908) who described the species name in 1882.

Distribution of this plant is from Curacao and neighboring islands of the Netherlands Antilles, the Lesser Antilles, Trinidad, Tobago,

and Venezuela. It is generally found on limestone hills and/or outcrops in these tropical American sites.

Since Haworth's '*M. simplex*' didn't survive the name game, does any other *Mammillaria* species of his survive? I don't know how many *Mammillaria* species he named in 1812, but I found two still with us from 1812 (according to Anderson's book 'The Cactus Family'): *M. discolor* and *M. prolifera*. There are also two that he named in 1824 that are still with us: *M. geminispina* and *M. magnimamma*.

Mammillarias are wonderful pincushion type cacti. You don't see *Mammillaria mammillaris* in retail stores much due to its difficulty to grow away from the tropics. I hope you enjoyed this little bit of confusing cactus history.

Book References:

Britton, NL & Rose, JN (1923): The Cactaceae, Vol 4.

Craig, RT (1945): The *Mammillaria* Handbook.

Pilbeam, JW (1981): *Mammillaria*, A Collector's Guide. (1999): *Mammillaria*.

Hunt, DR (1987): A New Review of *Mammillaria* Names.

Anderson, EF (2001): The Cactus Family.

YARD SALE WRAP-UP

A VERY BIG 'THANK YOU' to all the members who either contributed items and/or time to make this year's yard sale such a terrific success! One man's junk is definitely another man's treasure, as told by the amount of items we moved out on both Saturday and Sunday. With the addition of the plants from Woody's sale, and a fantastic write-up in Joan Swenson's Bakersfield Californian column on Saturday (thanks to Sidney for the publicity), we netted over **\$925.00!** We also have almost two pages of names and addresses interested in the club newsletter and meetings! I hope they all make it to the June 10th meeting to check out our happening club.

If you missed this event, in any of it's portions, you missed a really fun time. Not only did we get to learn more about our hobby, by listing to club members discuss plants with interested customers, but we got to tour Rob's plant collection AND we got to enjoy the culinary expertise of Silvia Ekegren (see next page). We had terrific signs, thanks to Sydney, with additional banners made by Linda and her helpers, Julia

and Anna. Rob's move to set-up the sale in the backyard helped a lot with the flow of traffic, and kept items from disappearing before we got our nickel. The 'new' backyard location also helped make set-up and closing a whole lot easier, and we even had a church group come pickup the remaining items at the end of the sale, making clean-up a dream.

Again, thanks to the members that helped price items on Friday night; Linda, Maynard, Silvia, Matt, Lynn, Bill, Bonnie, Ed, Paul, and Rob. Bobbie was able to show up both days, and her huge box of hangers helped immensely in displaying the clothing on the racks donated by Lynn and Bill's 'connection'.

Silvia and Matt were signed up for Saturday only, but had so much fun, they spent most of Sunday there, too. Without Ed, Paul and Bill, table set up would have been tough. Thanks for getting the tables, Ed! Vonne and her husband stopped by for a minute on Sunday, but ended up staying for 'Rob's Succulent school'. Even non-members donated, and let us keep the profits for the club; thanks Karen! Ed and Rob spent late Saturday afternoon picking up some really BIG specimen plants and cuttings donated by one of our Saturday visitors, and most sold in a flash on Sunday morning! I believe Rosa came by, and Peggy was a real 'cheer leader' for club newsletter sign-ups. I hope I didn't forget anyone, but I am very thankful for ALL who helped the sale be such a success.

THANK YOU!

Terry

Silvia's Tuna Salad

chopped: tomato, onion, cilantro, serrano pepper, bell pepper, corn(frozen/defrosted), tuna, lime juice, salt, ketchup, optional: avocado and little lettuce. Serve on hard taco shells.

Silvia's Avocado Dip

Cook tomatillo with onion, garlic and serrano pepper. Cool, drain and reserve juices, blend, adding juice as needed to smooth. Add fresh cilantro, avocado and salt.

Silvia's Cabbage Salad

Shredded red and green cabbage, onion, carrots. Add, garlic, cascabel pepper, dried and cut-up, and toss with one part vinegar/3 parts water. Add salt. Serve with sour cream. Silvia says, use a good chorizo on top with the sour cream and serve on a tostada shell.

Permission granted to publish these recipes!

TIRES, TREES & ODDITIES

A Letter From Bruce



One of the poisons of urbanization, crime, hit just before Easter Holidays. Polly was getting into the VW Golf at Game City when a man called her attention to a flat tire (slashed, as it turned out). While she was dealing with that, another man took her purse from the front of the car. Then the man in back also disappeared. Gone were cash, driver's license and passport (plus the cost of a new tire!).

My birthday was on Good Friday and I'm still working my way through the hefty tomes that came my way. The heftiest was Trees of Southern Africa, 2002, Struik, Cape Town. It says third edition, but I count the massive Trees of Central Africa which Keith Coates Palgrave published earlier (and which I have in Bakersfield) so that makes this a fourth edition. (Actually it should be a first edition as the updating this time was done by Meg Coates Palgrave.) It is altogether too massive to be practical (1212 pages of text plus 112 pages of color illustrations). It should be divided into two or three volumes. The price is right: P197.30 or about US \$ 40.

It's a great book, even if it continues to have the same old fault - the distribution maps are lacking on Botswana information, often stopping at the border. Under aloes, for instance, it has all three tree species found in Botswana, but it shows *Aloe excelsa* stopping before the Botswana border (when it extends a little way into the country), *Aloe littoralis* extending part way across Botswana instead of all the way and *Aloe marlothii* just about right. I will be publishing my own distribution maps in the new journal *Alsterworthia* (an amalgamation of Aloe, Gasteria and Haworthia) beginning in the November issue with *A. littoralis*.

The distributions of euphorbias are just as bad. *E. cooperi* extends much further West and *E. ingens* does not stop at the border but extends right across to Chief's Island in the Okavango. (My distributions of these were published in the now defunct Euphorbiaceae Study Group Bulletin.) There are also a few name changes. Figs have been renamed and things like *Clerodendron* and *Vitex* which I have always known as Verbenaceae (Verbena family) are placed under Lamiaceae (Mint family). I hate relearning.

Also on my birthday the semi-succulent *Plectranthus hereoensis* from the proposed National Monument near Mogonye Village bloomed. Next day we had Lilian Turton over for lunch and on Easter Sunday she went with us to see "Chicago".



Plectranthus hereoensis

got an enamelled jewel box for Mother's Day. Then went next door at the fairground for a food and beverage exhibit where we bought dried peaches from Lesotho (dried hygienically, not on car hoods as in the past, but still small) as well as a non-alcoholic malt drink from Cuba.

More on the succulent line, Daniel Mofokate and Diphoteng Menyatso (herbarium and garden respectively) returned from a trip to the far North of Botswana on the 8th. I didn't go because I had just been up there last December, but they had better luck. They found both species I was looking for at Mpandamatenga (*Huernia levyi* which features on the new T-shirt of the International Asclepiad Society, and *Aloe christianii* in bloom). They also found a Protea. At the Chobe River they found a spiky-thorned shrub they couldn't identify. After searching the depths of my crowded mind I finally remembered "pupwe", a shrub from the far north of Malawi which has edible leaves with a beautiful lemon smell but an awful sliminess when cooked. Further searching I came up with the name *Zanthoxylum leprieurii*, a member of the Rutaceae or Citrus family. This is a new genus record for Botswana.

Winter has arrived. Two nights have been down to 6 C (41.5 F). Also, there has been so little rain that President Mogae has declared a drought year to release emergency supplies.

I was going to comment on whodunits and poison, but I'll save that for next month. I haven't finished "Murder in Morija" anyway. (It's another monumental tome recording actual history in Lesotho).

On the 25th we had a farewell party for Jimmy Mashonja who is retiring after many years as the museum entomologist. We met at his house, drank St Louis lager and listened to Country Westerns with a huge 2 meter (6 foot) monstrose *Cereus* in the garden behind us. Botswana can be a strange mix.

The strange mix continued from the 5th to 8th of May with Botswana's first ever French Film Festival. It was a series of whodunits and we managed to see half of them. On the 10th we went to an Iranian Trade Fair, where Polly

Bruce J. Hargreaves

**Email from the Hargreaves
received May 25, 2003**

HI EVERYBODY!!

Don't worry if you don't hear much from us soon! Our little VW Golf was totaled Monday night by a red-light running Mercedes! Fortunately, he hit the front wheel and not the passenger compartment. Bruce hit his left shoulder against the door and dislocated it AGAIN. My right arm smacked against the door window and chipped off the end of the ulna at the wrist. I will have surgery next Wednesday. I am also bruised all along the seat-belt, but without them, we would have flown around the car as it spun around.

We will be alright in a couple of months and our other car is an automatic and can be driven with one good arm!!

POLLY & BRUCE

**Email from the Hargreaves
received June 1, 2003**

We are both improving:

Bruce's bruises and aches are beginning to fade. Did I say that his arm relocated itself when he reached up to get into our friend's SUV to go to the emergency room?

Polly was admitted to Princess Marina Hospital on Monday and had surgery on Wednesday morning and went home on Friday afternoon. Her arm x-ray looks like a mechanical thing with three wires snaking through the wrist area and a thin steel rod on the outside bolted to the index finger metacarpal and about 8 inches back of the thumb into the radius (instead of a plaster cast.) Lots of cotton padding and elastic wrapping make the whole thing look tidy. All fingers are swollen, but they all wiggle!

love

Bruce & Polly

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

**Those of you planning to go on the
Mourning Cloak Ranch/Botanical Garden tour
Saturday, June 7th
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!**

We will meet in the parking lot of Mervyn's on California Avenue at **8:45 am** for carpooling & caravan to depart at 9:00. We meet near the coffee stand (Supreme Bean?) The **tour begins at 10:00**. Please bring a lunch if you wish to picnic there afterwards. Bring your sunscreen & a hat, water, etc., in case it is hot. The entrance fee is \$5/person. Thanks & hope you'll be able to attend. Call Linda Cooley or Terry Skillin if you have any questions. (I'll be out of town for the tour)

Our new Librarians will be Matt and Silvia Ekegren. Thanks so much for volunteering for this job! We have a great library and we hope that all members will enjoy checking out the books.

We had great snacks at last month's meeting.



They were provided by
Rosemarie, Gwen,
Terry (I need that
cookie recipe) Bill,
Lynn. Very popular



were the YUMMY cherries brought by Steve Murray!!!

For June's meeting we will have some treat produced by Linda, along with the usual beverages -- soda, tea & coffee.

CALENDAR

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

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

Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor

BE SURE TO VISIT US AT

www.BakersfieldCactus.org



Mammillaria perezdelarosa

- June 7 Mourning Cloak Ranch field trip** meet in the Mervyn's parking lot at 11:00 am
- June 10 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**
Speaker: Charles Spotts
Presentation: Little gems of Mexico.
- 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.
- July 8 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**
Speaker: Petra Crist
Presentation: Honeymoon in South Africa (travel in Namibia and it's plants)
- Aug 12 BCSS meeting**
Cactus Valley Dinner meeting or CSSA Slide Show ???
- 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?**
- Sept 9 BCSS meeting** a program devoted to the show and sale, and preparing plants/staging, etc.
- Oct.?? BCSS Field Trip to the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden?**
- Oct 4-5 BCSS Show and Sale**
- Oct 14 BCSS meeting** might be a pot-luck and organized member slide show at Maynard and Linda's.
- Nov 8 BCSS meeting; 7:00 pm Olive Drive Church**
Speaker: Tom Glavich
Presentation: Succulent Bromeliads
- Dec 9 BCSS meeting. Olive Drive Church**
Auction/raffle/potluck.

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors