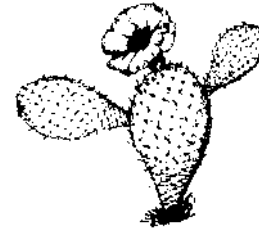




A leaf from *Crassula portulacacea* 'Gollum'
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 7 **February 2004** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Crassula

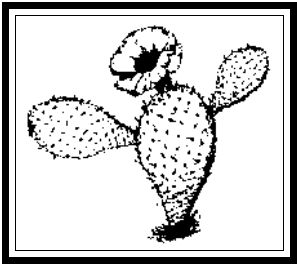
Presented by Tom Glavich

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 10
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**

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

**Dues
Are
Due!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 7 Number 2
February 2004

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

2004 Officers

President – Matt Ekegren
Vice-President – Vonne Zdneck
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary – Les Oxford
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

2004 Directors

CSSA Representative - open
Past President – Bonnie East

2004 Chairpersons

Hospitality - Bill McDonald
Librarians - Matt & Silvia Ekegren
Field Trips – Lynn McDonald
Cal State Garden – Bonnie East
Historian – open
Show & Sale - open

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to all our new members. Not so long ago, Silvia and I were new members, too, and the key reasons we kept coming back were the warmth, generosity, and passionate interest in cacti and succulents exhibited by the members of the Society. We want you to have that same experience, so we have a great year planned for you.

Welcome back to our continuing membership. As you may know, our By-Laws mandate that, “the Executive Board shall periodically review the By-laws and formulate changes as deemed necessary.” (Article XIII, Sec 1). What a drudge, right? Well yes, to some extent. But, and now I want to make clear that what I am about to say is my own and does not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of the executive board or its officers, for me, reviewing the By-Laws turned out to be a positive, energizing experience.

It gave me a chance to tune-in to the objectives and purposes of the Society, just as they were envisioned by its founding members. It also caused me to dream a little about how we might grow in the future. Let me give you just one quick example: I was struck by the phrase, “...to favor the protection of endangered and threatened species of cacti and other succulent plants.” (Article III, Section 2, Objectives) And it got me to thinking about just what that could mean for us. So, I hope, as the board presents proposals for changes to the By-Laws to the general membership, you will find it both a positive and energizing experience as well and that you will dream some, too.

See you at the meeting!!

Matt Ekegren

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

January 9, 2004

[Due to the lateness of this meeting it could not be included in last month's Cactus Patch -editor]

The first board meeting of 2004 was held at Bill and Lynn's home and called to order by the new president, Matt Ekegren. The meeting was opened with introductions by the new board members.

Lynn McDonald suggested a field trip to Ojai and she passed out a brochure of "Winter 2003-2004 Trips" from Desert Survivors.

Rob and Terry Skillin, past President and Vice President, are moving to Arroyo Grande in July of this year and will be greatly missed.

Matt suggested that the board meetings be "streamlined" and try to limit meetings to an hour.

Terry is working on a welcome packet to give to new comers to encourage joining BCSS.

The program for the next meeting will be a workshop, "Preparing A Dish Garden" by Bonnie East. Plants and soil will be available and members are encouraged to bring a dish to work on. There will be a minimum charge to non-members.

Maynard gave a detailed treasury report for year 2003. Several areas of Income and Expenses were noted and suggestions were made to up the Income and down the Expenses. Further discussions will be made.

Also, Maynard passed out BCSS By-Laws and Standing Rules. Any changes need to be submitted to the board for approval.

Our first board meeting of the year was off to a great start for 2004!

The next board meeting will be at Linda and Maynard's home on January 27th.

Les Oxford



Photo by Les Oxford



Our new President, Matt Ekegren, called the meeting to order. At 6:30pm Matt stressed that the meetings would be "streamlined" to get into the programs offered

Maynard Moe gave a Treasurer's report on assets and liabilities. The idea of raising the yearly dues \$5.00 and also suggested that "The Cactus Patch"

be changed from a costly printed copy to an email publication. Save on stamps too! Sounds good to me! Maynard also brought up the subject of our By-Laws. Anybody that would like to suggest any changes, just bring it up to the board members to consider any changes.

As for the program, Bonnie East introduced the art of "Dish Gardens." The club furnished many plants and cuts, soil and rocks. All you had to do is bring a dish to decorate. It was a great time learning this type of garden art (more about this on the page 11).

Looks like a great start for BCSS this year. Lets keep it moving!

Les Oxford



Photo by Stephen Cooley

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

January 27, 2004

Present: Maynard Moe, Bonnie East, Vonne Zdneck, Matt Ekegren, Terry Skillin.

The meeting was called to order and began with the choice of *Crassula* as the Plant of the Month.

A proposed agenda for the February regular meeting was developed.

The entire rest of the meeting focused on a section by section review of the Society's By-Laws, in which proposed changes were discussed and noted. A list of proposed changes will be prepared for the membership to consider.

The next meeting will be held at the Cooley/Moe home on February 24, 2004, 7pm.

Matt Ekegren

[Editor's note: President Matt is filling in for the Secretary as Les reluctantly had to go to Hawaii instead of the board meeting]

Another year has started and this means it is time to pay your dues! Dues are:

Individual \$10

Family \$15

Membership includes our monthly Newsletter, a roster of members, and, of course, good fellowship with other succulent enthusiasts.

Please pay on or before the March meeting

See the treasurer for more information:
Maynard Moe, treasurer

Plant of the Month

CRASSULA

By L. M. Moe

The "Plant" of the month for January was the family Crassulaceae. One of the largest genera in the family is the genus *Crassula*, from which the family gets its name. (The next largest genus in the family is *Sedum*.)

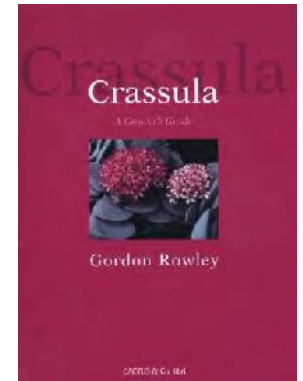
There have been over 300 *Crassula* species described, but the most recent treatment by Gordon Rowley recognizes only 144*. They range in form from annuals to perennials, many of which are succulent. The genus is nearly cosmopolitan in distribution with the greatest number of species occurring in South Africa and Madagascar. The succulents in this group vary greatly in shape and size. Some varieties only grow an inch high at maturity, while others become 15-foot trees. *Crassula ovata* (Jade Plant; Chinese Rubber Tree; Money Plant) is an evergreen succulent that forms a large bush or small tree up to 15 feet high and 5 feet wide. *Crassula falcata* (Airplane Plant; Propeller Plant; Scarlet Paintbrush) is an interesting plant that grows up to 9 inches high with a spread of 10 feet.

Other more "flowerpot-friendly" species include many hybrids such as 'Buddha's Temple', 'Ivory Pagoda', 'Tom Thumb', and 'Moon Glow.' A fascinating plant is *Crassula portulacacea* (Trumpet Jade, Hobbit Plant 'Gollum') which has stubby cylindrical leaves with "windows" in the flattened tips.

To grow most of these in Bakersfield, they must be protected in winters and summers. However, rattail plant (*Crassula muscosa*) grows well outside, in full sunshine, in my backyard.

A good internet site for photos (If you can stand all the pop-ups) is:
www.desert-tropicals.com/Plants/Crassulaceae/

* If you are interested in why there is so much disagreement about the numbers of species in genera, or the number of genera in families, or even whether *Lithops* is in the Aizoaceae or the Mesembryanthemaceae, I understand there will be a "fantastic" program on this subject at a future meeting.

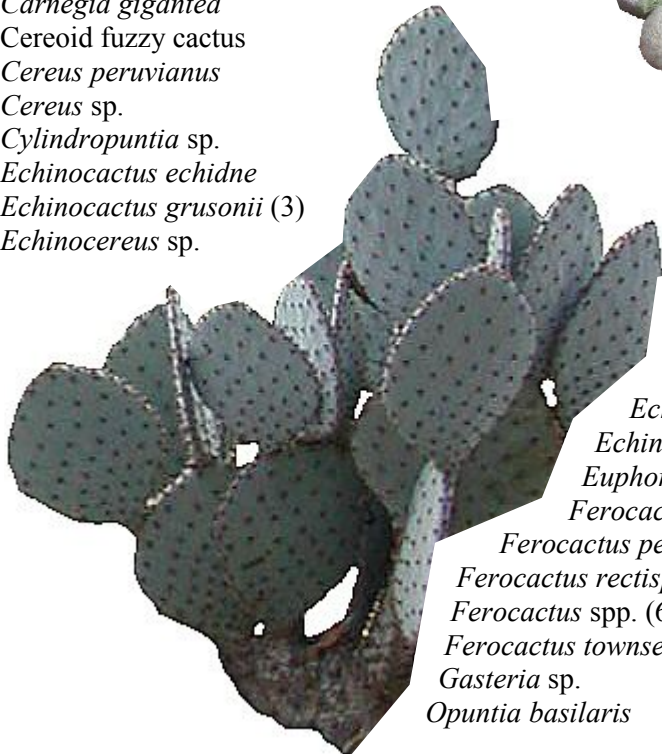


The Succulent Garden at Cal State

The BCSS/CSUB cactus and succulent garden is looking good! Now we need some muscle power to help dig out more grass on the north and east side of the planted area. We will be working out there on **Saturday, Feb. 7 from 9-12**. We can use all our members to help!! Please bring a shovel, gloves, a bucket or tub, kneeling pads, a wheel barrow, water, snacks, etc. (please do not bring any plants as we have no prepared ground in which to put them). The bulk of the work will be digging and removing Bermuda grass.

Cactus/Succulent Garden Inventory, Feb. 1, 2004

- Agave parryi* (2)
- Agave* spp. (10 unidentified)
- Agave victoria-reginae*
- Aloe pachygaster*
- Aloe* spp. (10 unidentified)
- Bromeliad
- Carnegia gigantea*
- Cereoid fuzzy cactus
- Cereus peruvianus*
- Cereus* sp.
- Cylindropuntia* sp.
- Echinocactus echidne*
- Echinocactus grusonii* (3)
- Echinocereus* sp.



- Echinopsis* sp. (8+)
- Echinopsis sylvestris*
- Euphorbia resinifera*
- Ferocactus gracilis*
- Ferocactus peninsulae*
- Ferocactus rectispinus*
- Ferocactus* spp. (6 unidentified)
- Ferocactus townsendianus*
- Gasteria* sp.
- Opuntia basilaris*



- Opuntia erinacea*
- Opuntia parryi* (?)
- Opuntia phaeacantha*
- Opuntia robusta*
- Opuntia* sp.
- Opuntia subulatus* (2)

- Opuntia violacea* (?2)
- Sedum* sp.
- Stapeliad (unknown Genus)

- Stenocereus marginatus*
- Trichocereus candicans*
- Trichocereus macrogonus*
- Trichocereus* sp (2 unidentified)
- Trichocereus spachianus*
- Yucca* sp.



There is about 3500 square feet to work with, so there is plenty of room for a good variety of plants (there may be more available to us in the future).



The next volunteer work party at WINDWOLVES Preserve will be on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Call Dave for information.

There is a one day field trip in the works for this spring. I am contacting Rancho Camulos in Piru for a tour of their historic museum & grounds. They are open for public tours Wednesdays & Saturdays from 1-4 PM. We will plan to begin our day at the **Desert Images nursery** in Ojai, then make our way back on Hwy. 126 to Piru. There is a **pottery shop** along the highway in Santa Paula, as well as the **Cactus Mart** "dig your own for 39 cents!" near Fillmore/Piru area. Lots to keep us interested. We will be able to set a date at one of our meetings. Might be fun to see some blooms. Members can learn about Rancho Camulos at their website: www.ranchocamulos.org

Lynn

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Crassula

presented by Tom Glavich

As many of you will recall, Tom gave us a great presentation back in November on Succulent Bromeliads. He is back again this month to tell us all about *Crassulas*! Now maybe we'll be able to identify all those cuttings that we put into our Dish Gardens last month.

An Email From Bruce & Polly

Bruce has just been told that his contract is being renewed, so we are making plans to visit California in April/May 2004. We may only be there for 2 or 3 weeks! Then it's back here for 3 years!!

Bruce would be happy to present a talk in Fresno (May 6?) and Bakersfield (May 11?). His slide show is entitled "Hoodia Hoodoo".

Polly

Getting Potted

After the business portion of the meeting, we looked at a few plants in the *Crassula* family; Stephen explained that we would be seeing a lot more of them when we started making our dish gardens! We then moved into the "workroom" and participated in a workshop session on dish gardens. Bonnie explained some basic guidelines for assembling a dish garden and then members chose a pot or used their own. The club provided potting soil, top dressing and some succulents; members contributed many, many cuttings and plants to be used; Sidney and Jack brought incredible rocks for us to use to set off our plants. The room was packed with members happily choosing plants, some arranging them in their unique and interesting pots that Terry had located for us at the Goodwill.



Thanks to all the members who contributed plants, pots, rocks, etc; thanks also to those members who pitched in and helped clean up our mess! Most members went home with nice gardens that will grow into great additions to our fall Show and Sale!

BCSS Program Summary

1997 - 2003

compiled by L. M. Moe

The BCSS has been a formal organization for a little over six and a half years, during which we have had an interesting variety of programs. I thought it would be interesting for our new members to see what we have done over the years. I also thought our continuing members would be interested to recall the range of programs we have had. If any member missed a program or would like to see it again, or if any of the programs look interesting to a new member, just let a Board member know.

(an * indicates a BCSS member)

SPEAKER	PROGRAM
Bill Kurtz	Sansevieria
Brian Kemble	Mexican Succulents
Bruce Hargreaves*	Euphorbias, Stapeliads, Adenia & Adenium, Pedaliaceae, Botswana
Charles Spotts	Gems of Mexico, Opuntias, Peru
CSSA Slide shows	South Africa 1, South Africa 2, Shows, Treasures of the Sierra Madre, Hardy plants of England, CSSA Quiz #1, Oldies but Goodies
Dorothy Byer	Botanical Illustration
Dylan Hannon	Propagation
Elton Roberts	Micropuntia
Erika van Auken	Pottery
Gary Duke	Chihuahuan Desert
Gary James	Socotra
Guy Wrinkle	Amazonian Peru
Inge Hoffmann	Cacti of Brazil #1, Cacti of Brazil #2
Jerry Krulik	Organpipe Nat'l. Mon. & Tucson Nurseries
Jim Boehmke	Germination
Joe Clemmets	Landscaping
Joe Wujcik	Pottery
Kelly Griffin	Plants of Maui
Larry Grammer	Potting and Staging, Staging II
Lynn McDonald*	Travels, Basket Cases
Mark Muradian	The Mystique of Socotra
Maynard Moe*	Namaqualand, Taxonomy
Members*	Show-and-Tell, Slide show
Michael Vasser	Pelargonium & Sarcocaulon

Mike Navolio*	Crests & Monstrose
Naomi Bloss	Namibia
Norma Lewis	Crassulas
Petra Crist	S. African Succulents
Richard Basta*	Mesembs
Rob Skillin*	Lithops
& Stephen Cooley*	Seeds & Seedlings
Rob Skillin*	Mexico, Soil culture, Colorado Plateau, Cacti & Conquistadors, Succulent Karoo, Do-It-Yourself Potting
Russ Lewis*	Baja Cacti
Steve Southwell	South Africa
Terry & Paul Skillin*	Preparing for the Show and Sale
Terry Skillin*	Crests, Preparing Show Plants
Tim Metcalf	Soils
Tom Glavich	Succulent Bromeliads
Tom Knapic	Bromeliads
Woody Minnich*	uropean collections
	Baja California, Atacama, Big Bend, Shows and Judging, Succulent Care & Identification



2004 BCSS Officers, Board Members, Movers-and-Shakers, and All-Around-Good-Guys (left to right): Stephen Cooley, Maynard Moe, Vonne Zdneck, Lynn McDonald, Les Oxford, Matt Ekegren, Bonnie East

ANNOUNCEMENTS

 emails received 

Speaker Wanted

Hello, I got your email off a website for the cactus club here in Bakersfield. My name is Audrey Polanco and I'm the President for the Kern County Turtle & Tortoise Club here in Bakersfield. We are always looking for different speakers and I was wondering if you might be interested in speaking at one our meetings. Since some of our tortoises enjoy/live off of different types of cacti and succulents, I thought it might be nice to learn about some of the different types out there. Our meetings are every 3rd Thursday of the month and start at about 7:00pm. The "talk" would only have to be about 20-30 minutes long. Or you can bring slides as well. Its up to you. If you or someone in your club would be interested in being a speaker for our club, I can be contacted at this email address:

xxxxxxx

Thank you in advance, I look forward to hearing from you.

Audrey Polanco

KCTTC President, Vice President, Sales & Crafts

Argentine Cactus Expeditions

My name is Guillermo Rivera, I am from Cordoba Argentina, and organize trips and expeditions in northern Argentina to see cactus in their habitat. More than 100 species of cactus were seen in our last tour in October 2003. Sixteen people, (Americans and French), participated in our last expedition. Twelve days, all inclusive 925 Euros (ground transportation, hotels, park fees, all meals included),. Please visit www.cactusexpeditions.com.ar for additional information, itinerary, list of species and dates. You can contact me directly at rivera@intecar.com.ar

Thank you

Guillermo Rivera

South America Cactus Expeditions

[editor's note: Apparently several people from the San Francisco Cactus & Succulent Society have been on one of these expeditions. I have a list of people you can contact if you wish to inquire further]



CALENDAR



Feb 7 Cactus Garden Work day 9am Cal State ESA (FACT)

Feb 10 BCSS meeting Olive Drive Church 6:30pm

Feb 14 Windwolves volunteer work party.

Feb 24 BCSS Executive Board Meeting at the Cooley/Moe 7pm.

Mar 9 BCSS meeting. Olive Drive Church 6:30pm

April South Bay Epiphyllum Society Annual Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Garden

April 10-11 South Coast C & SS Annual Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Garden 26390 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes

Apr 13 BCSS meeting. Olive Drive Church 6:30pm

May Epiphyllum Society of America Annual Show LA Arboretum

May San Diego Epiphyllum Society of America Annual Show & Sale Balboa Park

May 1-2 Sunset Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale, Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Rm. 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City

May 3-5 Sonoran V Conference, Tucson.

Info: Dick Wiedhopf

May 16 Huntington Botanical Garden Spring Sale 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino

July 1-3 CSSA Show & Sale Huntington Botanical Garden (HBG closed

July 4, admission free July 1)

Aug 14-15 Intercity Show & Sale 9am-5pm both days. LA Arboretum

Info: Tom Glavich

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

**To have your article printed in
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Linda Cooley, editor