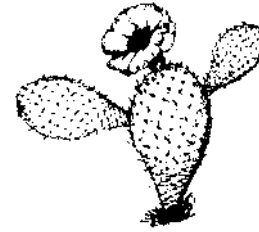




Echinocereus pentalophus
Photo by Vonne Zdnek

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 7 **June 2004** Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

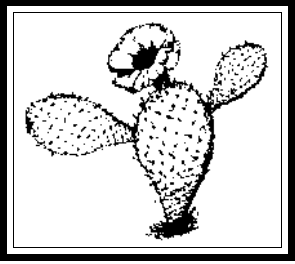
The Succulent Garden at Cal State

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 8
ESA Garden
at Cal State
6:30 PM

(See MAP on Page 5)

**Our Annual
Show & Sale
is Coming!
Please**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 7 Number 6
June 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

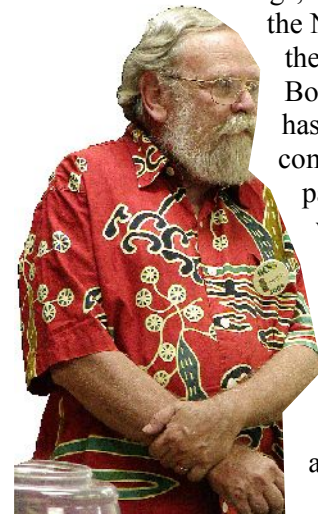
Hospitality - Bill McDonald
Librarian – James Parker
Field Trips – Lynn McDonald
Historian – open
Show & Sale - open

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Once again we had a whopping turnout for our meeting! Over 40 people attended the meeting, including new members and guests. We had fantastic food, brought to us by Fran Colley, who cooked all day! It was great--and then Rosemarie showed up with even more wonderful food (great spoon bread!) After stuffing ourselves, Matt started the meeting. Matt welcomed our special guests, Bruce and Polly Hargreaves, visiting from Botswana. Matt announced that Alice Hargreaves had just celebrated here 87th birthday and we all joined in congratulating her! We learned that the yard sale resulted in over \$700 for the club treasury and that we will have an additional sale at the end of June, thanks to Terry and Rob offering to let us use their yard again! Lynn brought us up to date on the field trip, which is this coming weekend. Linda informed members that work at the Garden will be happening Sunday at 7-ish.

Bruce and Polly then presented our program: *Hoodia* Hoodoo. As usual, Bruce treated us to a multimedia exhibition, including plants, books, artwork, and slides about the uses of *Hoodia*. We learned, among other things, that the Kalahari is not a desert, but a savannah; the Namib is a desert and that most *Hoodias* occur there. There is only one species of *Hoodia* in Botswana (*H. currori*). Bruce explained that *Hoodia* has been identified as containing a weight loss compound and that a drug company had offered to pay big bucks for *Hoodia*. Fortunately, the people who responded to this offer didn't know a *Hoodia* from a hole in the ground and dug up a "weedy" species of naturalized *Trichocereus* instead! We saw lots of slide of plants from the area and also of the people who live there. It was, as usual, very interesting! Thank you, Bruce and Polly!



After the program, Rob spoke briefly about the Plants of the Month (succulent

asclepiads) and we saw many outstanding specimens that club members had brought in. Then it was time for more food and the raffle, which featured many excellent plants. Many, many raffle tickets were sold (so many that I didn't even win once!). Lots of people went home with lovely plants, including Julia who won the name tag raffle plant!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES May 25, 2004

The BCSS board meeting was held at Vonne Zdneck's new home and all Officers were present.

Our next meeting (June 8, 2004) will be a potluck at the CSUB Cactus Garden. A map will be provided in the next edition of "The Cactus Patch." Bring a dish, chair, and plate w/utensils, napkins and enjoy the new Gardens at CSUB! Drinks will be provided.

Maynard Moe will present the plants that have been provided by BCSS.

Our July meeting will present a slide show.

UP AND COMING!

BCSS annual **SHOW AND SALE** at The East Hills Mall. The date set is the weekend of **October 9th**. Planning is crucial now. We need volunteers for the following:

1. Sales
2. Publicity
3. Art Contest
4. Planning Committee

This event is a fun time. It also helps raise money for our treasury to fund other activities.

There will be **another yard sale** scheduled for **June 26th**. Bring your donations to 2910 22nd Street (Rob's Home) on June 25th for pricing. Dig into your garage and closets for anything that can bring cash into our treasury. Plants are a HOT item.

Our August meeting will be held at the Cactus Valley Restaurant, 4215 Rosedale Highway -- **GOOD FOOD AND GOOD VISITING!**

Les Oxford

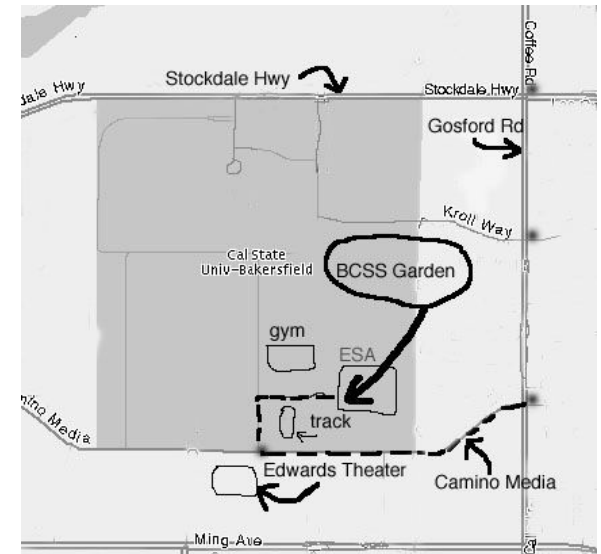
JUNE'S PROGRAM

This month we will be having a POTLUCK meeting at the Succulent Garden that the BCSS is creating in the Environmental Studies Area (ESA) at Cal State.

Please bring a dish (of your choosing, we're not very formal about our potlucks) and you will also need a plate/fork/spoon/etc. If you want to sit in a chair you'll have to bring that, too. The club will provide the drinks as usual.

Come and see what has been done to the garden, I think you'll agree that we've made quite a bit of progress (see Linda's article on the next page for more about the work at the garden).

Please, **DO NOT** bring any plants to be put into the garden. We are not quite ready yet as there is more dirt to be moved and paths to be prepared and plans to be drawn up and pipe to be laid and, well, there's still a lot of groundwork to be done.



Plant of the Month Landscape Succulents

Because Landscape succulents are difficult to bring to meetings (I'm certainly not going to dig up mine!), we can look at the ones in the CSUB Garden.

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

BCSS Garden Journal May 2004

Saturday, May 8, 2004

Today we had the help of Stephen, Nathaniel, Brian, Maynard, and me (Linda). We started by moving a lot of plants that were in a place where dirt needed to be mounded. This included moving a rather large



Photo by Nathaniel Cooley

clump of Golden Barrel Cacti. Unfortunately, we didn't think to get the camera ready before they moved it... and the movers (Stephen and Brian) weren't willing to repeat the act for the camera! After moving the cacti, we once again manned the shovels and moved a bunch of dirt. Also accomplished

today were: widening the paths to a more realistic width and trying to identify some of the cacti that came without names. Luckily, we discovered some of the name tags when we moved a few of the cacti! Nathaniel was a big help in moving cacti and building tunnels. Thanks again to all the helpers! We will work again next weekend, but on Sunday instead of Saturday, since some of us want to go on the field trip on Saturday. See you there--early!

Sunday, May 16

Lots of help today! In addition to me (Linda), Steve H, Maynard, Stephen C, Ralph, Kenneth, Kelly and Lynn came to help! We had 3 wheelbarrows going, as well as watering. After working several hours (and discussing a variety of subjects, such as old-fashioned discipline in the schools, bad backs, solar stills and carnivorous plants), we finished moving enough dirt to make the central "island"



Photo by Nathaniel Cooley

mound. After moving so much dirt by hand, we all agreed that renting a small tractor might be a big help for finishing the rest of the job! Next week we'll meet on Saturday, at 7-ish.



Saturday, May 22

Today there were only two of us to work--Linda and Maynard. We moved a bunch of plants into the central mound and then moved a sizable amount of dirt into the central "desert wash" area. We put in a few hours and managed to get a lot of work done, even for just two of us. There were still lots of plants blooming and as usual the ducks came to visit. Next week we'll work on Saturday, again around 7-ish.

Saturday, May 29

Today we doubled the number of helpers! Linda, Sidney, Stephen C, and Maynard all arrived ready to work. Maynard and Stephen had already picked up some cement blocks and concrete mix for the wall, so Sidney and Linda started laying blocks while the guys made concrete and finished the blocks that were waiting. Sidney and Linda went to Home Depot and got the rest of the supplies so the wall could be finished--and it was finished! We also watered all the plants and weeded! It was a great day to work: the weather was cool and breezy.

We will not work next weekend; we are going to wait a couple of weeks to see if the facilities guy at CSUB will move the rest of the dirt for us and then we will be ready to plant more plants. We will probably take most of the summer "off" due to the heat and plan out exactly which plants we want and where we will put them. Then we will be ready to plant them in the fall when the weather isn't so horrid. We also want to plan a trip or two to the desert to get some landscape rocks. We hope everyone comes to the June meeting at the garden!



A Happy Cactus

ISLES OF THE SINGING DOGS

A Letter From Bruce



We left Botswana on 18th April, the worst birthday of my life. All the way to Madrid there were noisy young people in the aisles of the plane shooting flash pictures. The ride was bumpy but they refused to obey seat belt signs.

[Incidentally, Polly chose Madrid as there were security warnings & delays in London!] Fortunately the onward flight to Los Palmas was better – +we each had three seats and got some sleep. We managed to find an inexpensive but clean hotel (the Valencia) in the downtown area and spent the rest of the day (the 19th) changing money and shopping.

For those not familiar with Los Palmas, it is the largest city in the Canary Islands and is on the island of Gran Canaria. Many people assume the isles are named for birds (they do have canaries), but in fact the name stems from the Latin “canis” or dog. King Juba of next-door Mauritania (now Morocco) named them that after receiving large dogs from there. (Incidentally this is the same king who had a physician Euphorbos (=well fed) from which we get the name “euphorbia” for one of his medicinal plants.)

On the 20th we went to the Canary Museum and learned about the early islands’ inhabitants who came from North Africa and spoke a variation on the Berber language of today. Today the Islands are a part of Spain and the islanders speak a variety of Spanish (or should I say “Thpanith”.)

Next we passed a fountain with a roof to keep the rain off and a large Cathedral with dog statues out front. From there we visited the House of Columbus and learned about his stays there going to and from the New World. We ended the morning with lunch at “La Dolce Vita”, an Italian place.

That afternoon we went to a science museum with lousy Aeoniums and watched an IMAX film on caves – in Spanish. We also looked at a 3-D exhibit on Mars and I found I had no trouble using my new glasses. (Polly also got new ones, but still has



Euphorbia canariensis



trouble.) There was a huge sundial outside which clearly demonstrated that the Canaries are two hours out of the time zone they should be in. (It was dark when we got up and light late in the evening.)

On the 21st we went to the Botanic Garden at Tarifa Baja. The bus stop let us out right at the garden, but then we found the path crawls down a very steep volcanic cliff. It was well worth the climb down with euphorbias, aeoniums, dragon trees etc., all over, but at the bottom we found there was no bus! We were kindly given a ride back around to the top or we might still be standing looking up at that cliff.

The next day we took a three-hour ferry across to the next island, Tenerife, landing at Santa Cruz. We visited a terrific Natural History Museum in which we learned there are caterpillars (of the spurge hawk moth) which eat some of the euphorbias! Then we went up the coast to San Andrea and checked out succulent relatives of carrots, senecios (= kleinias) and more euphorbias. It was a long day – the boat got back to Los Palmas just before midnight.)

On Friday the 23 we took a bus south to Faro de Maspalomas where there is, indeed a faro or lighthouse. We strolled past the nude beach (Polly swears she didn’t notice) to a dune reserve. There we rode camels and Polly got sunburnt. The plants were not great – a lot of invasive foreigners such as wild tobacco, mesembryanthemums and castor oil plants. That evening we had dinner back at Los Palmas at “O Solo Mio” with Sophia Loren and Pavarati (painted on the wall).

On the 24th we did more shopping and then headed out for a plane to take us to a marathon month of visits in California. Incidentally, books were a problem – most were in Spanish. The first I bought was Planta Curativas en Canarias (Healing Plants of the Canaries – Manuel Mora Morales, 1997, Globo, Islas Canarias). I struggled through it and learned (among other things) that the milkweed *Periploca laevigata* is a purgative but is a cure for *Euphorbia canariensis* (also a purgative) when the euphorbia latex gets on the skin. Fortunately we found both the euphorbia and the periploca in bloom.

The best book I found is fortunately in English- Wild Flowers of the Canary Islands (David & Zoe Bramwell, 2001, Rueda, Madrid. It has a history of botanic exploration, descriptions of vegetation on the seven main islands, areas of botanic interest and, of course, pictures and descriptions of each species. Well worth the 33 Euros (about \$39).

Bruce J. Hargreaves

THE CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Cactus & Succulent Show/Sale

July 1, 2 & 3

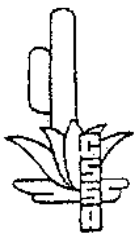
SALE: Thursday, Friday & Saturday

OPENS: 10:30 am

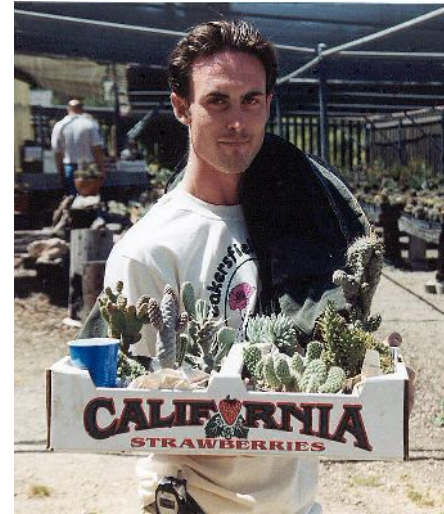
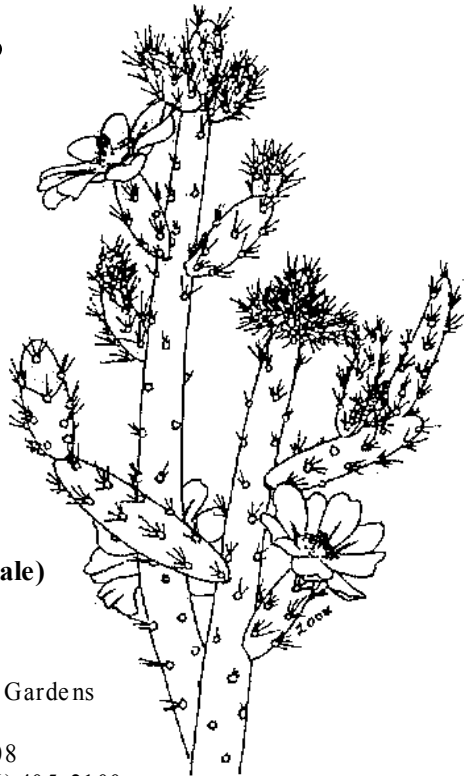
SHOW: Friday & Saturday

OPENS: 1030 am

(Free Admission to Show and Sale)



Huntington Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Rd.
San Marino, CA 91108
For Information: (626) 405-2100



Ken Rogers at Desert Images

Photo by Les Oxford

Mother Nature treated us well on the club's 15 May field trip. Pleasant, sunny weather prevailed. Steve, Sasha, Andy, Kenny, Les, Donna, Mickey, Vonne, Stephen, Maynard & I met to car pool in the morning. We drove to Highway 33 to begin our journey. Rock outcroppings, upthrusts and the drainage patterns were all beautiful in the morning light. The Cuyama Valley was attractive with planted fields and farmhouses. We saw many interesting species of plants, some blooming especially at the higher elevations (summit 5048'). Prickly

poppy, Matilija poppy, indigenous large cone Douglas fir, Woolly Blue Curls, Bush Poppy and many others were observed. Even the reviled tamarisk gave a hint of it's feathery pink bloom. A recent fire area was noted. We made a stop to gather some shale-like top dressing. There were many bicyclists to see & avoid as they made their way uphill north on a ride/race.



We arrived at Desert Images nursery to find Rosemarie & Joe. They had tried to buy all the good stuff, but we managed to find a few nice plants, thank goodness! The Bogarts treated the club to a tax-free day, iced tea & cookies. There were many plants in bloom, which was a treat -- our last visit there was in the autumn.

Our visit to Rancho Camulos in Piru was begun with a picnic

before the docent-led tour:

Museum Buildings and Grounds

The Rancho Camulos Museum is a 40 acre National Historic Landmark, situated within an 1800 acre working ranch known as the Camulos Ranch Company. The 1800 acre ranch is bounded by low hills on the north, Piru Creek to the west, the Santa Clara River and the Oak Ridge Mountains to the south and the Newhall Ranch on the east. The museum comprises 15 structures, the most significant of these are (in chronological order): The Main Adobe, c. 1853-1880, The Fountain, c. 1853, The Chapel, c. 1867, The Bell Structure, The Winery, c. 1867, The Barn, Gas Station and Bunkhouse, c. 1910-1915, The Small Adobe, c. 1920, The Schoolhouse, c. 1930.

Beyond the formal lawn is the family orchard where dozens of varieties of fruit trees are grown. Additional features include an aviary, a partial reconstruction of the once 150 foot long grape arbor (covered in mission grapes), an herb garden, fishpond, and a barbecue area with brick oven. Compacted earth, mature California pepper trees and cork oak trees characterize the working area of the ranch headquarters north of the del Valle adobe. At the entrance to the ranch is a row of Eucalyptus trees, a long arbor with mature wisteria vines and a stone historical marker bearing a bronze plaque denoting the State Landmark status of Rancho Camulos. Directly across from the ranch, north of Highway 126 and the railroad right-of-way, are two railroad-related residences and three farm labor cottages. Located to the northeast of these buildings, outside of the boundaries of the museum, is the del Valle family cemetery.

California Black Walnut Tree:

Of special interest is the California Black Walnut Tree, "El Rey Nogal," the only survivor of four "Black Eagle" seedlings planted by Juventino del Valle sometime during the 1860s. The tree has been noted by Maunsell Van Rensselaer in his publication *Trees of Santa Barbara* as the "Camulos Black Walnut." The author noted that it might be



largest California Black Walnut in the region. When it was measured for this book in 1940, its circumference was eighteen feet with a branch spread of 129 feet. Today, the trunk measures approximately twenty-five feet in circumference with a branch span of approximately half an acre.

For more information go to www.ranchocamulos.org

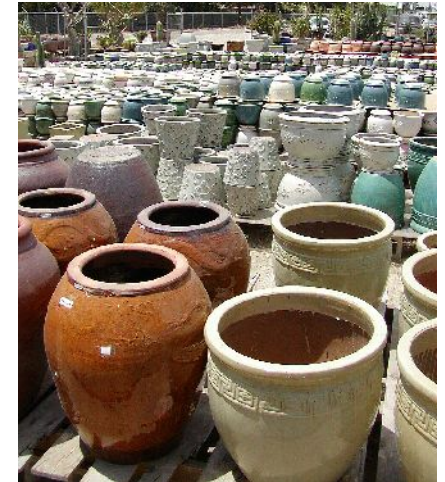
The day was complete with a trip back to Filmore to the Cactus Mart. What a great place to browse & buy (good prices).

Thanks again for all who were able to come & make this an excellent day trip.

Possible upcoming club field trips include:

CSSA Show & Sale Huntington Botanical Garden July 1-3
Intercity Show & Sale LA Arboretum Aug 14-15

Lynn



Pots at the Cactus Mart

Photo by Stephen Cooley



The Cactus Patch is now on the World Wide Web!

Come and see the newsletter online. All the information and articles that you get in the printed version are now available on the internet. Plus, the pictures are in color and there are more of them.

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

If you would be willing to save the club some much needed funds and give up your printed copy for an electronic one, let me know. I will send an email reminder when each issue is online (The issues are uploaded the day I mail the printed copy). Email me at: thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

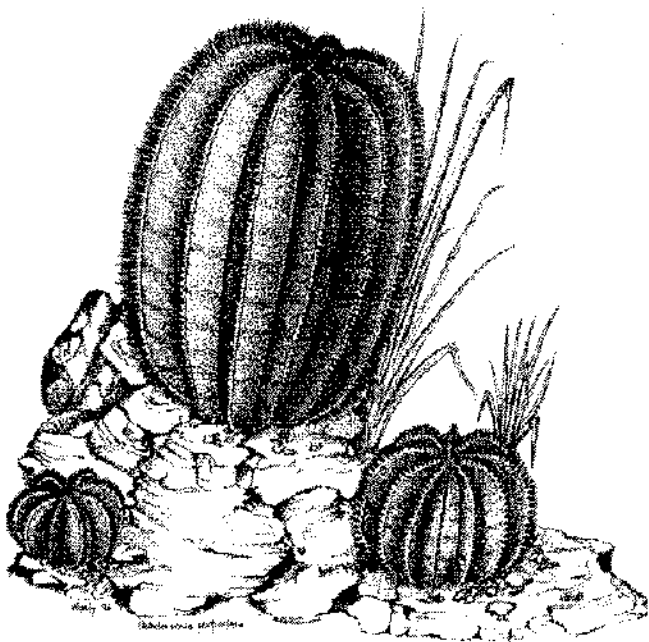
Stephen Cooley

**19th Annual Inter-city
Cactus and Succulent Show and
Sale**

Sat. and Sun. August 14 & 15, 2004 9 to 5

Los Angeles Arboretum and Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave. Arcadia, CA

The Largest and Finest Cactus and Succulent Show Anywhere!



Information, Please contact Tom Glavich 626-798-2430
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078 Gene Oster 818-998-9306

Sponsored by the Long Beach, San Gabriel Valley and Los Angeles
Cactus and Succulent Societies

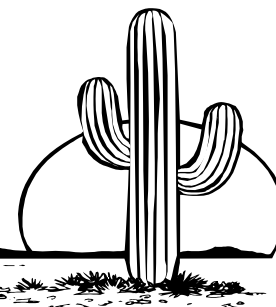
WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Andy & Sasha Honig

Kelly Kulzer

Please add them to your roster.

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



- June 8 BCSS meeting.** CSUB Cactus Garden
- June 26 BCSS Yard Sale** at Rob & Terry's House
- July 1-3 CSSA Show & Sale** Huntington Botanical Garden (HBG closed July 4, admission free July 1)
- July 13 BCSS meeting.** Slide Show
- Aug 10 BCSS meeting at Cactus Valley Restaurant.**
- Aug 14-15 Intercity Show & Sale** 9am-5pm both days. LA Arboretum
Info: Tom Glavich 626-798-2430 tglavich@bak.rr.com
- Oct 9-10 BCSS Annual Show & Sale** East Hills Mall

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

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