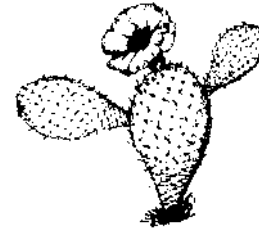




Mammillaria dioica
A California Native
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 7 **July 2004** Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

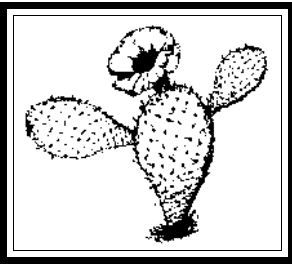
California Cacti Slide Show

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 13
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**

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

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



The Cactus Patch

Volume 7 Number 7
July 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 Zdeneck
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary – Les Oxford
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

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CSSA Representative - open
Past President – Bonnie East

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

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photo by Terry Skillin

June's meeting was a potluck at Cal State Bakersfield's Environmental Studies Area (ESA). Here we enjoyed all the wonderful food brought in by the members (there was quite a turn-out!). We also got to meet our youngest member, James Daniel Ekegren, who made his first appearance at a BCSS meeting.



photo by Terry Skillin

Linda gave us a quick tour of the Succulent garden that the club has been constructing. Members learned about the work that had been done, the work still to be done, the plants we have and the plants we want. I think everyone present would agree that the garden is coming along nicely – but there is still a huge amount of work to be completed! Our weekly Saturday work days will probably be suspended until the weather starts to cool down.

All-in-all it was a pleasant evening that was not too hot (a little breezy perhaps) and the food, as well as the company, was good. Thanks to Cal State for inviting us to have our meeting at the ESA!



photo by Stephen Cooley

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

There was no Executive meeting in June due to so many of the board members being on vacation.

ENCORE YARD SALE WRAP-UP

Many thanks to the members who contributed to the two yard sales this year! We were able to bring our total up to an all time high for our yard sale/fund raiser. Over \$700 the first two-day sale, and an additional \$530+ for the second, one-day sale. Plants and clothes sold incredibly well. We down-sized quite a lot of clothes, thanks to the organizational skills of Silvia, and the wonderful clothing racks lent to us by Lynn's good friend. Of course, Ed was a real help with the terrific tables from Chevron/Texaco. This time we had a line of buyers waiting to come in, so we opened a bit early. Matt, Silvia and Jim were terrific helpers, without who we wouldn't be able to have managed the sale. Rob entertained four members from the Fresno club, who also bought our plants for sale! We look forward to seeing more from the Fresno Club, at the October Show and Sale.

Good news, too, we have 11 new names to send newsletters to! It's amazing the amount of Cactus and Succulent people and interest there is out there!

Be sure to ask Mary what she spent money on, she certainly donated some hot items for sale, and her plants sold really well.

Again, THANKS to all for your help and donations! Start saving up your junk for next years sale!

Terry

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

While trying to catch a glimpse of the cougar on the bake path this week, I found myself pedaling by our BCSS/ESA cactus garden site. I am happy to report that the dirt pile has been moved, as promised, and looks just fine in its new location. The garden is ready for more dirt mounds, rocks, path, and forced labor in the autumn.

Lynn

JULY'S PROGRAM

July's program will be a slide show about **California Cacti**.

Below is a list of California Cacti reprinted from the article **California Succulents** by L. Maynard Moe which appeared in the August 2001 issue of **The Cactus Patch**.

Bergerocactus emoryi

"golden cereus" San Diego south.

Carnegie gigantea

"saguaro" Eastern Sonoran Desert.

Echinocactus polycephalus

"clustered barrel cactus" San Bernardino County south.

Echinocereus engelmannii

"hedgehog cactus" San Bernardino County south.

Echinocereus triglochidiatus

"hedgehog cactus" San Bernardino County south.

Escobaria vivipera

"beehive or foxtail cactus" Mojave Desert south.

Ferocactus cylindraceus

"California barrel cactus" Eastern Mojave Desert south.

Ferocactus viridescens

"coast barrel cactus" San Diego south.

Mammillaria dioica

"fish-hook cactus" Coastal Southern California south.

Mammillaria milleri

"fish-hook cactus" San Bernardino County south.

Mammillaria tetrancistra

"fish-hook cactus" Mojave Desert south.

OPUNTIA "chollas, beaver-tails, etc" Widespread.

Opuntia acanthocarpa* var. *coloradensis

"buckhorn cholla"

Opuntia basilaris* var. *basilaris

"beavertail"

Opuntia basilaris* var. *brachyclada

"short-joint beavertail"

Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei

"Bakersfield cactus"

- Opuntia bigelovii*
"teddy-bear cholla"
- Opuntia chlorotica*
"pancake prickly-pear"
- Opuntia echinocarpa*
"silver or golden cholla"
- Opuntia engelmannii* var. *engelmannii*
"Engelmann prickly-pear"
- Opuntia erinacea* var. *erinacea*
"Mojave prickly-pear"
- Opuntia erinacea* var. *utahensis*
- Opuntia ficus-indica*
introduced species
- Opuntia xfosbergii*
"pink teddy-bear cholla"
- Opuntia fragilis*
"brittle prickly-pear"
- Opuntia littoralis*
- Opuntia xmunzii*
"Munz's cholla"
- Opuntia xoccidentalis*
- Opuntia oricola*
- Opuntia parishii*
"mat cholla"
- Opuntia parryi*
"cane cholla"
- Opuntia phaecantha*
- Opuntia prolifera*
- Opuntia pulchella*
"sand cholla"
- Opuntia ramosissima*
"pencil cholla"
- Opuntia xvaseyi*
- Opuntia wolfii*
"Wolf's cholla"
- Sclerocactus johnsonii*
"pineapple cactus" Mojave Desert east and south.
- Sclerocactus polyancistrus*
"Mojave fish-hook cactus" Mojave Desert east.

July
Plant of the
Month
California
Cacti



Opuntia parishii
at the California Living Museum
picture by Stephen Cooley

**If it's Flowers You Want,
Then it's *Echinopsis* You Need!**

by Emy de la Fuente, Jr.
from Cereus Chatter, South Florida C&S

The genus *Echinopsis* was established in 1837 making it one of the oldest cactus genera. These plants are native of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The plants are generally green and globular with 8 to 30 sharp and continuous ribs. Their spines are usually uniform without any major differentiation of the central or radial spines. Older specimens tend to become somewhat elongated.

While the plants in this genus are generally not spectacular in appearance, their flowers more than make up for it. Their flowers are large and quite colorful. They appear laterally and are long and trumpet-like in shape. They are also very scaly and hairy. They bear a distinct ring of throat stamens that separate them from the stamens of other cacti.

The genus *Echinopsis* is related to the genera *Lobivia*, *Pseudolobivia*, *Helianthocereus* and *Soiehrensia*. All these plants have flowers which are scaly and hairy with a recessed ring of throat stamens. *Echinopsis* are very easy to hybridize. In fact, there are many species of well-known hybrids which are sought for their beautiful and profuse flowers. As a matter of fact, for the last several years, Huntington Botanical Gardens has offered the world famous Bob Schick hybrids for sale as part of the ISI program. Some species of *Echinopsis* have even been hybridized with species of related genera.

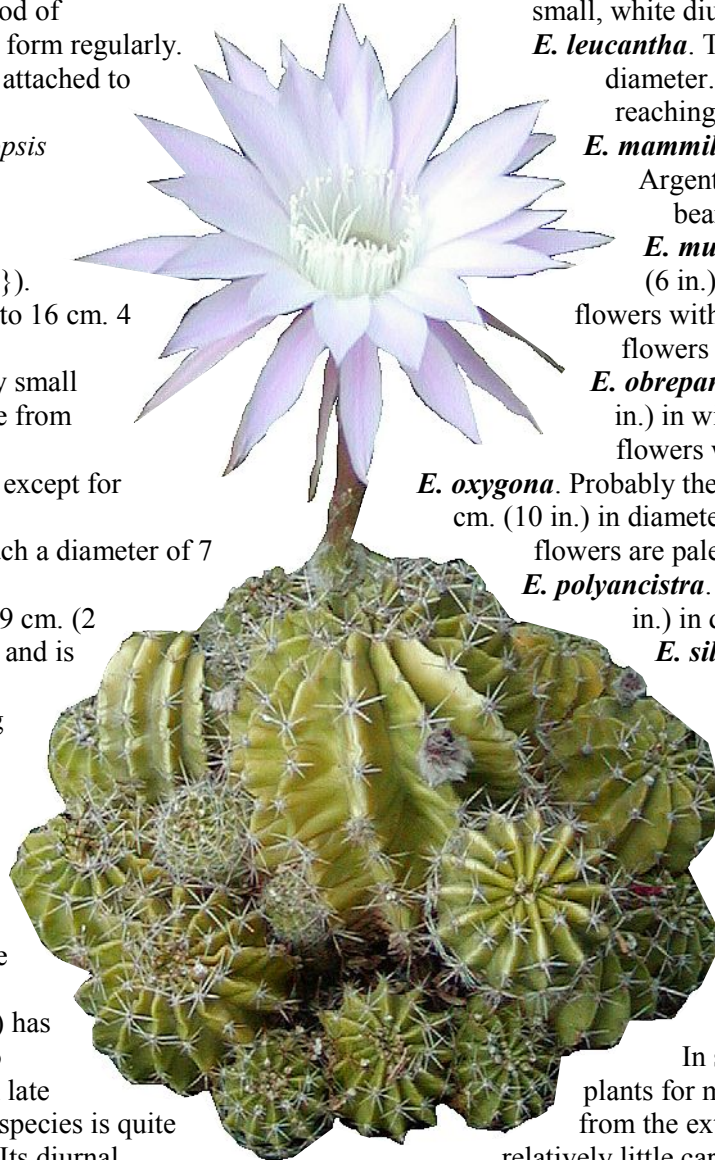
Their flowers can be both diurnal or nocturnal. Those specimens which flower during the day bear flowers which range from yellow to red. Those which flower at night bear white or pale lilac flowers with a very pleasant scent. Diurnal and nocturnal flowers are identical in shape. Flowers may open for only a day or may remain open for three days, depending on the species. It appears that specimens bearing diurnal flowers are endemic of regions of high altitudes (1,700 to 3,500 meters {5,600 to 11,500 feet}). Those bearing flowers during the evening appear in locations of lower altitudes.

To care for these plants in cultivation, they should be provided with well drained soil which is rich in humus. They should be kept relatively warm in the winter being careful not to expose them to temperatures below 50F. They should not be allowed to dry out completely. If exposed to extreme cold and/or dryness in the winter, they may not come out of dormancy at spring-time. During their growth period

(spring through early fall), they should be watered and fertilized often. They should be kept in very bright conditions but care should be exercised not to expose them directly to the scorching midday sun. Plants in this genus can be propagated from seed with seedlings being able to flower after they are four years old. A faster method of propagation is from pups, which these plants tend to form regularly. Pups may begin to produce roots while they are still attached to their mother plant.

Some of the better-known species of *Echinopsis* include:

- E. ancistrophora***. This is native of Argentina. It is a relatively small species (5 to 8 cm. {2 to 3 1/4 in.}). Its flowers are white, diurnal and range from (12 to 16 cm. 4 3/4 to 6 1/4 in.}).
- E. arachnacantha***. This species from Bolivia is very small (up to 4 cm. {1 1/2 in.}). Its diurnal flowers range from golden yellow to orange.
- E. arachnacanta* v. *torrecillasensis***. Same as above except for carmine red flowers.
- E. aurea***. A native of Argentina, this species can reach a diameter of 7 cm. (2 3/4 in). Its diurnal flowers can are yellow.
- E. calochlora***. This plant's diameter is between 6 to 9 cm. (2 1/4 to 3 1/2 in.). It bears white, nocturnal flowers and is a native of Brazil.
- E. calorubra***. This species is relative larger reaching diameters of 14 cm. (5 1/2 in.). It is native of Bolivia and bears flowers which orange-red, bluish pink towards the base. The flowers can be 15 cm. (6 in.) in length.
- E. cardenasiana***. Also a native of Bolivia, this plant can reach 10 cm. (4 in.) in diameter. Its diurnal flowers are bluish red with greenish-white throats.
- E. eyriesii***. This plant (up to 15 cm. {6 in.} in width) has a wide habitat from South Brazil to Argentina to Uruguay. It is nocturnal with flowers opening in late afternoon. It bears white flowers. *E. ferox*. This species is quite large with diameters reaching 20 cm. (73/4 in.). Its diurnal flowers can range from the usual white to pink or yellow. It is a native of Bolivia.



E. hamatacantha. A native of Argentina, this species can reach 15 cm. (6 in.) in diameter. Its flowers are nocturnal, white, scented and up to 20 cm. (73/4 in.) long.

E. kratochviliana. This plant reaches a width of 6 cm. (21/4 in.). It bears small, white diurnal flowers. It is a native of Argentina.

E. leucantha. This native of Argentina can reach 15 cm. (6 in.) in diameter. It bears white, scented, nocturnal flowers reaching 20 cm. (73/4 in.).

E. mammillosa* v. *kermesina. This plant is native of Argentina and can reach 15 cm. (6 in.) in diameter. It bears red, diurnal flowers reaching 18 cm. (7 in.).

E. multiplex. This native of S. Brazil can reach 15 cm. (6 in.) in diameter. It bears flesh-colored nocturnal flowers with pink at the tip reaching 20 cm. (73/4 in.) The flowers have a strong pleasant scent.

E. obrepanda* v. *calorubra. This plant reaches 14 cm. (51/2 in.) in width. It is native of Bolivia and bears red, diurnal flowers which may reach 15 cm. (6 in.).

E. oxygona. Probably the largest in the genus, this species may reach 25 cm. (10 in.) in diameter. It is native of S. Brazil and Uruguay. Its flowers are pale red, diurnal and may also reach 25 cm. (10 in.).

E. polyancistra. This native of Argentina only reaches 6 cm. (21/4 in.) in diameter. Its flowers are thin, white and scented.

E. silvestrii. This plant's diameter can reach 15 cm. (6 in.). It is a native of Argentina. Its flowers are white and can reach 20 cm. (73/4 in.) in length.

E. toralapana. This Bolivian species can reach 16 cm. (61/4 in.) across. Its flowers are bluish-red.

E. tubiflora. This native of Argentina has white, nocturnal flowers, which can reach 20 cm. (73/4 in) in length. The plant can reach a diameter of 12 cm. (43/4 in.).

In summary, *Echinopsis* are classified as excellent plants for moderate, well balanced cultural conditions. Aside from the extremes mentioned earlier, they will thrive with relatively little care. Just think of it, a relatively easy plant to cultivate, which will reward you with plenty of large, bright colorful flowers! How can you resist?

A WHIRLWIND HOME LEAVE A Letter From Bruce



On the 25th of April we flew from the Canaries to Gatwick Airport in London.

We arrived at 12:35 a.m. and had a cup of tea, noting that the plant by our table was *Zamioculcus zamiifolia!* This is an unusual succulent in the Araceae (Arum family) which is on the red data list as endangered in Zimbabwe. I noticed one at the Tri-City Show in California in 2000 and have found it for sale in Botswana (I now have one).

We took an early morning bus across London to Heathrow Airport and had a full English breakfast while waiting for our flight out at 11:50 a.m.. We watched 3 1/2 movies and had a good view of ice on Hudson's Bay on our way to L.A. We had a long wait in L.A. and finally landed in Bakersfield at 11:17 p.m.. James and Emily met us with their surprisingly quiet hybrid car (the first we had seen) and we settled into Pryor St. at midnight.

Not wishing to let us recover, the family threw a belated birthday party for me at Anne's on the 26th. Being gluttons for punishment, Polly and I went to the BCSS board meeting on the 27th. The only event on the 28th was a pizza dinner at the Olive Drive Church. On the 29th the family again gathered (this time at the Red Lobster) for Alice's 87th birthday. Even John was there from Sacramento to help tease the poor lobsters.

As reported already, we helped set up the BCSS Yard Sale on the 30th and bought everything on the 1st of May. Having nothing better to do we drove to Culver City on the 2nd for the Sunset C&SS Show & Sale. I bought a small *Hoodia*. As a bonus, there was a Bromeliad (pineapple family) Show and Sale there too! On the way we noted a few Yuccas still in bloom by Pyramid Lake and some monkey flowers in bloom just north of L.A. After lunch we went across to Orange for a wedding reception for Polly's niece Marina. After pictures in the park, we all had a great mid-eastern dinner at the Byblos Restaurant. The chocolate cake with berries on top was much too rich, but we ate it anyway.

Next morning we had breakfast at Polly's (where else?) with Cathy, mother of Marina, who had come out from Detroit. Then it was off to Joshua Tree to see Ginny, Polly's one sister who didn't get to Orange. The Joshua Trees were mostly in fruit, but a couple were in bloom. The ocotillo in the front yard (planted) was also in bloom. That night we watched the finish of "10.5" on TV and were glad to see it followed by experts laughing their heads off as they watched it. The special effects were great, but the "science" sucked. I hope I'm right in

saying a 10.5 earthquake will never happen.

On the 4th we returned to Bakersfield by way of Woody's in Little Rock where we watched a humming bird on his flowers and saw a mockingbird chase a crow. His leopard tortoises (native to Botswana) were also entertaining. I bought two more Hoodias. The 5th was a quiet day with just a bit of shopping. A scrub jay was noted in the yard.

On the 6th we drove up to Fresno, had Chinese lunch with Polly's sisters Nancy and Martha (a starling was nesting in the eaves), visited Thrift Shops, had dinner at Acapulco with the Fresno CSS and I gave a talk on "Hoodia Hoodoo". Next day we did more shopping and had lunch at the hokey "Elephant Bar". On the 8th Polly went to a Mother/Daughter Brunch with her sisters and niece Margaret (three "mothers" & one daughter?), we noted a hawk chased by crows and we returned to Bakersfield. We had a phone call from Herb Thorne in Fresno to say his wife, Sue, was in a coma and not expected to live. Her obituary appeared in the Californian on the 18th. The Thornes were stalwarts in the Kern Cactus Club in the 60's & 70s. On Mother's Day we went to church with Alice and had a family lunch at the Pedal Car.

On the 10th Alice went to a memorial service for John Hershey, a long-time family friend, and we sat in on the rehearsal of the Community Choir at Cal State. On the 11th a thrush (American robin) was building a nest out front and we had lunch at Cactus Valley. On the 13th did more shopping. On the 14th James and Emily took us to see "A Day Without a Mexican". (James thinks that's a horrible idea.)



The Hargreaves: top row, left to right – Emily, Polly, Bruce
Bottom row, left to right – James, John
James' shirt, left to right – John, Ringo, Paul, George

On the 15th I sang with the Men's Chorus at a memorial for Slim Gordon, another long-time family friend. Then we drove up to Fresno for the FCSS Show and Sale. I must say the presentation of specimens at these shows is great! I bought a small euphorbia because I liked its pot and we won a couple of garden stepping-stones in the raffle. We then drove on to Sacramento and had a Mongolian BBQ with relatives there.

Next day we went to Imax with John and saw "Roar", a film about the lions of the Kgalagadi (which they referred to as the Kalahari Desert!). We also watched the "Nascar" film because it was 3D (and the second film was half-price). I am happy to report no trouble in seeing the 3D. We then toured old Sacramento and had another family dinner at Joe's Crab Shop. We had a dancing waiter that looked like the Fonz, but he didn't know the song "Happy Days"!

Next day it was back to Bakersfield where Polly managed to throw her knee out hopping up on the bed to close the curtain. On the 18th she was x-rayed at Mercy and nothing was broken - just a pulled ligament - but the pain persists. We managed to get to "Shrek II" (not as good as the first) on the 19th, did more shopping on the 20th and cheered for Emily at her graduation from BC on the 21st. We went to J&E's apartment afterwards for a party.

On the 22nd J&E drove us down to Universal Studios (we'd never been) and we took turns pushing Polly around in a wheelchair. We saw a deer next to some flowering broom at Pyramid Lake on the way. We also noted the Prince's Plume in bloom just before Castaic. It was a hectic day, but well worth it. Laurel & Hardy met us first thing in the morning and wished us "Good afternoon" to which I replied "Good evening". The only thing I saw of Mickey was his ears in the "Jurassic Park" muck (no respect!), but the drop on that ride wasn't as bad as expected. I especially liked the donkey "spit" and spider "tickling" effects on the "3D Shrek" flick. The noise of "Spiderman" (even with earplugs) was a bit of a downer. All in all, one of the best theme parks. We stopped at Gorman on the way back and a field mouse was caught in the headlights.

We packed on the 23rd, had a farewell lunch at the Thai Garden and left on the 24th. We were met with a wheel chair for Polly at all the airports. After a long stopover in LA, we flew to Atlanta where we had breakfast on the 25th. Then we watched 5 movies on the long flight to Cape Town, arriving on the 26th. After a short wait we flew to Johannesburg and then Gaborone. The arrival and subsequent marathon will be next month's topic.

We regret not getting out to the Cal State garden or going on the Ojai trip and all the other things we didn't do. There are always too many choices.

Among the many books I bought while in California were two ordered from Rainbow Gardens Bookshop. Fortunately they kindly rushed my order and I got them before leaving. The first is "Monograph of *Orbea* and *Ballyanthus*" by P. V. Bruyns (Vol. 63 in the Systematic Botany Monographs, Am. Soc. of Plant Taxonomists, 2002). Warning! This is a highly technical book. It lumps *Orbeopsis*, *Orbeanthus*, *Pachycymbium*, and *Angolumma* into a much broader definition of *Orbea*. These are all carrion flowers related to stapelias. I find that *Orbea gossweileri*, which I have just managed to locate in Botswana, is subsumed under *Orbea huillensis*. I am a lumpner, so I appreciate this approach.

The other book is one which ordinary mortals can appreciate: "Flowering Plants of the Galapagos" (C. K. McMullen, 1999, Comstock Pub., Ithaca.) It is simply written and well illustrated. I am glad to finally see the plants get the same recognition as the animals. (Guess where Polly is planning to deviate to on our next home trip.)

Bruce J. Hargreaves

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



BE SURE TO CHECK US OUT

ON THE WEB AT:

www.BakersfieldCactus.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBER:

Carol Benston

Hulda Magnus, an elderly lady who lives in East Bakersfield, has some cacti in pots that have outgrown their living quarters. She would greatly appreciate it if someone could help her repot/plant them. If you could find time to help please contact her.

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

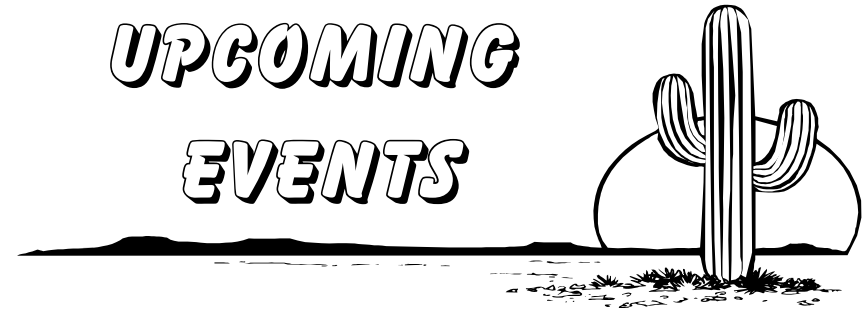
Stephen Cooley

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

Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley, editor

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 13 BCSS meeting

program: California Succulents - CSSA Slide Show

Aug 10 BCSS meeting at Cactus Valley Restaurant

program: cuisine of Mexico

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

Info: Tom Glavich

Sept 14 BCSS meeting

program: Staging your Plants

speaker: Joe Wujcik

Oct 9-10 BCSS Annual Show &

Sale East Hills Mall

Oct 12 BCSS meeting

Nov 9 BCSS meeting

Dec 14 BCSS Annual Potluck

For more information concerning calendar events, contact the editors

My son took this picture of Jack and me at The Valley of the Giants, a forest of huge cardon (*Pachycereus pringlei*) cacti, about nine miles south of San Felipe, Baja California.

-Sydney

