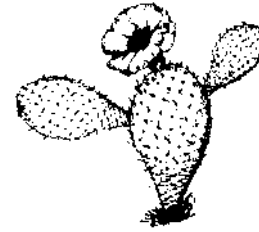


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Sempervivum
in the 'wilds' of Italy
Photo by Linda Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 7 **August 2004** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
**Dinner at
Cactus Valley**

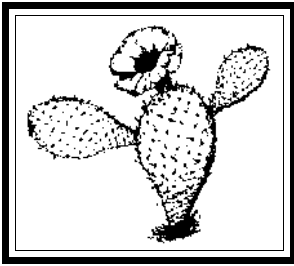
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 10

The Cactus Valley
Restaurant

4215 Rosedale Highway
at 6:30 PM

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



The Cactus Patch

Volume 7 Number 8
August 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

2004 Directors

CSSA Representative - open
Past President – Bonnie East

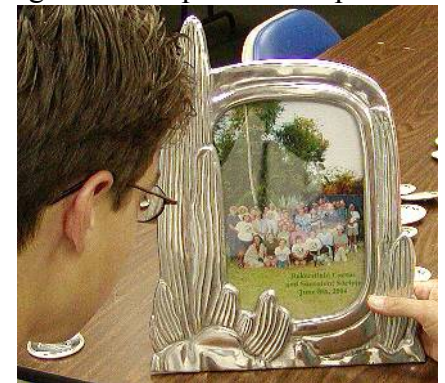
2004 Chairpersons

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

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We began the meeting with approx. 26 people attending. Lynn talked a bit about field trips and said she is willing to set them up. She mentioned Catalina and asked if anyone was interested. The issue of missing newsletters came up--apparently most people didn't get one this month. Stephen mentioned that the newsletter is also available online. The second yard sale brought in \$570!! Thanks to the Skillins and all the members who helped out. Our treasury is looking good. Maynard pointed out that a photo Rob took is on the cover of the British Cactus and Succulent Journal and also made available a Miles To Go plant list. We were reminded that the show and sale is on Oct. 9&10 and that members are needed to help out! Congratulations to Rob, Maynard Stephen, and Woody who are all going to Chile on a Cactus and Succulent search with other cactophiles. We were reminded that our next meeting will be the annual dinner at Cactus Valley at 6:30. One of the members requested a program on seed starting. The club presented a photo of the club members to the Skillin family--they are moving at the end of the month. Our program was a very entertaining slide show, read and corrected by Maynard. It was about California Cacti and Wildflowers. After viewing it, many members probably felt that they could do a program at least as well! We ended as usual





EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOTES

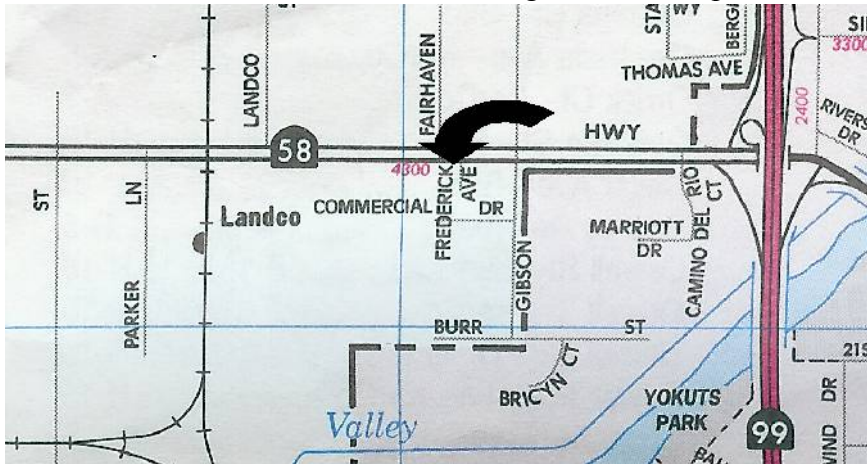
There was no Executive meeting in July due to so many of the board members being on vacation.

AUGUST'S PROGRAM

DINNER AT CACTUS VALLEY

4215 Rosedale Highway 633-1948

August's program will be our annual dinner meeting at the Cactus Valley Restaurant. Come join your fellow members for wonderful food and conversation! Meeting starts at 6:30pm.



SEMPERVIVUMS IN ITALY

By Linda Cooley



On my recent trip to Italy, I was fortunate enough to see and photograph many sempervivums--that is, I have lots of pictures of the 2 or 3 types that occur where I visited! My first species was found growing in rock walls in the foothills of the Apennines,

in Rovonalgia (between Parma and La Sepia). This photo shows a rock wall with a sempervivum (*S. tectorum*?) growing in it--this wall had about 12 such clumps in it. In this area, there is a lot of agriculture and I did not have the opportunity to observe the plants in a more natural habitat--although I think it is safe to say that the rock walls of the area have been a habitat for quite some time! The plants in the wall all grew upward and were sort of "craning their necks" to see the sun. The 2nd photo shows the landscape in which they grow.



Next the journey took me to the Italian Alps, in the area of Sestriere (very near to France), site of the 2006 Winter Olympics skiing events. Here the sempervivums grew robustly in their "natural" habitat--at least, as natural as centuries of human and bovine civilization have left it. Mostly I saw Sempervivum

arachnoideum, very cobwebby and tightly closed up, growing in the full, bright sun--and yet still flowering! It was a surprise to see the small, closed up plants sending up a very thick stalk with pink flowers in the midst of the grasses. Less



common, but still growing very healthily, was Sempervivum montanum, which is not cobwebby. Its flowers are not quite so reddish--more of a pink color. These plants were mostly growing at higher elevations than S. arachnoideum, although it occurs at high elevations, too. The photos show many examples of both of these species and illustrate how they colonize the rocky areas (especially S. arachnoideum!)

Seeing plants in habitat gives the collector a better understanding of how to grow these plants. For instance, the Sempervivum tectorum plants were growing in an area that seems to get plenty of summer moisture; it is also a very humid area and does get quite warm. So, no wonder it doesn't like Bakersfield's dry heat and intense sun! It's used to

humidity, haze and clouds along with its heat. In the Alps, it isn't nearly as hot, probably maxing out at 75 degrees F., but the sun is intense! Clearly Sempervivums like the sunny exposure in Bakersfield, but the heat is too much! Also, they seem to get rained on about once a week (thunderstorms...)

I have grown Sempervivums in my garden, but their success seems to be a matter of luck--finding just the right amount of shade at the right time of day, and getting the watering interval right. I had a great clump of them growing, but then I took out the apricot tree that gave them afternoon shade and that was the end of them! I now have some growing in a pot with Aeoniums and so far, so good. I am able to move them around so that they get enough shade (and sun) in the summer--lots of sun in the winter!



Bibliography:

Illustrated
Handbook of Succulent
Plants, Urs Eggli, ed.,
Springer Verlag, Berlin, 2003

Fiore delle Nostre Alpi, Pessot, S,
and L. Cusini, Nordpress, Italy, 2001

The Concise Flowers of Europe, Pulunin,
O. Oxford University Press, London, 1972.

JUMPING BACK IN A Letter From Bruce

We arrived back in Botswana on the 26th of May and Polly went to her Book Club meeting that same evening. Next day we went to see "The Day After Tomorrow". We saw it at 5:15 local time which was still "yesterday" in California! Although the climate change is exaggerated, I believe there is a real threat. This was brought home by an article in the Californian on 23rd May which had a picture of palm trees downed by rising seas in Majuro, capital of the Marshall Islands. It reminded me of the remark of Joshua, adopted Micronesian nephew, who commented on the fact that Catalina Island was made of a mountain. When asked what his



home island of Kwajelein was made of, he replied, "Whatever people put on it".

On the 28th I looked in on the Botanic Garden and noted that monkeys had nibbled on *Stapelia gigantea* fruits. We had lunch at Sanitas with Lilian Turton and looked at plants which Queen Turner (herbarium head) had brought back from Bokspits at the far Southwest. Among them were plants of *Hoodia officinalis*, a new record for Botswana. On the 29th Polly helped man a quilting booth at a local craft fair and on the 30th we went to a BBQ at the new site for a Capital Players playhouse in Tlokweng Village. It was held



Queen Turner
with *Hoodia officinalis*

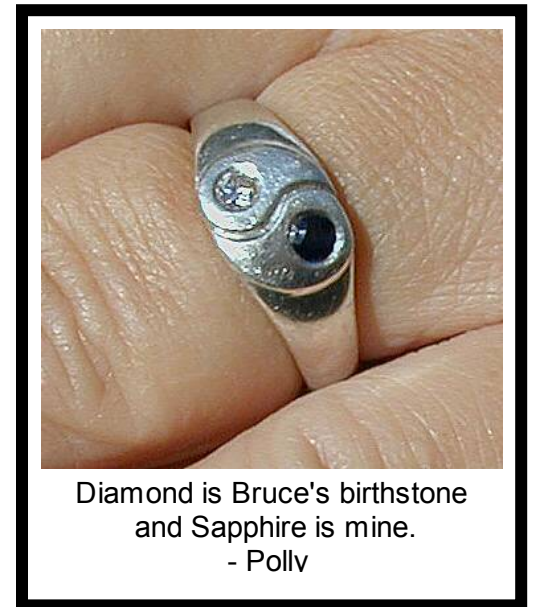
jointly with the Hash House Harriers who outnumbered us. I collected *Duvalia polita* from the empty lot.

On the 31st I officially reported back to work and we went to choir rehearsal in the evening. Next day the museum opened a fantastic exhibit of San art (though the prices are now unaffordable) and the film club showed "Run Lola Run" a strange German production. Polly won a chocolate egg for remembering the title of another such film "Das Boat".

On the 5th we went to see "The Passion of Christ" which we had skipped in the Canaries because it had Spanish subtitles. (The spoken words are a mix of Aramaic and Latin.) Despite all the hype, it is a strange mix of modern myth and somewhat mixed Biblical references. It is certainly gratuitously violent.

Next day we went on a bird club walk at Ditubamaruba, an area of settlement in the 1820s which still has stone walls and hut foundations. Polly stayed back at the cars where there are foundations from a German mission of the late 1800s. Despite being unable to walk far, she did witness a hoopoo chased by a drongo.

On the 8th we tried to watch the transit of Venus across the sun, but found it was too small to detect. There was a book signing on the 12th for Unity Dow's new novel "Juggling Truths". It is a little more positive than the previous one. It is a very good description of the process we all go through in trying to balance various "truths" which is exaggerated in areas where a colonial "truth" is imposed over local ones. On the 16th I collected plants in the Kanye area (nothing exciting). There was also a book signing for a new book on Grasses of Botswana (a simple



Diamond is Bruce's birthstone
and Sapphire is mine.
- Polly

listing by Monicah Kabelo and Daniel Mafokate of our herbarium) as well as the Trees of Botswana which has actually been out for some time. Some of the photos in the grass book are by Polly.

On the 18th Polly ordered a diamond and sapphire ring for our 40th anniversary. The diamond is a certified Botswana one! We celebrated our actual anniversary next day at our friend Brian's BBQ (lovely prawns!) - it was his 40th birthday. We rushed from the BBQ to a farewell party for our friend Nigel Rollo. There we met an old friend Gabriella who was a fellow teacher with Andrena Teed (Nigel's wife). Gabriella is still just as short as the second graders



Chips (girl) is 10 years old, I've known her from a puppy. Spike (boy) is seven and sounds just like one of those battery jobs for sale at the fair. - Polly

she taught. On Monday the 21st we inherited the Teed/Rollo dogs - two little white Maltese dustmops named Spike and Chips.

On the 24th there was a booksale at a local shop and on the 26th we went to buy books from Polly's friend Sheila whose husband died in April. It turns out her husband was the John Case I mentioned last year. She also was a volunteer (British) in Malawi! While we selected books, an olive thrush (rather like the American "robin") was eating a horned melon in the garden outside. That afternoon the Choir had a picnic at the Gaborone Game Reserve which was

attended by Margaret Nash, Minister of Lands, who is a choir patron.

On the 30th there was a farewell for the Museum Director

Tickey Pule who is promoted higher up in the Ministry of Labour & Home Affairs. We are now in limbo awaiting a new one. That same evening Polly hosted her book club at our house with a Mexican dinner and even a string of parrot lights to give the proper Cantina atmosphere.

The 1st of July was a holiday (Seretse Khama Day) and on the 2nd we set off for a grand tour of the Land of the Rooibos. But more of that later.

Back at the end of April, California hit us with a heat wave (ending with a visit to Joshua tree!) When we returned to Botswana we had nights hovering just above freezing which lasted until the 29th of June when it clouded over and warmed up. We had an unusual rainstorm that night. (Botswana usually has summer rain.)

Bruce J. Hargreaves



I called the hotel MacRae in Avalon. Some of us stayed there on our Catalina Island trip a couple of years ago. I was told that their less expensive "winter rates" begin at the end of October & run through February. Of course, holiday weekends are not at that rate. I am sure other hotels will have the same time-frame. We can decide if & when we'd like to go. Last time we walked to the botanical garden, picnicked, some went on a submarine ride, some to a movie, and of course, we'd not want to miss a dinner. With some research we may be able to go another place on the island, camp if anyone would like. Last trip, some folks made it a day trip. It can kind of be up to us. I was thinking early November, before holidays & then we could still plan a mainland spring trip or two. I will be happy to receive input at one of our meetings or via phone or e-mail.

Lynn

CACTUS HANG-UPS

Phone Number Puzzles

Being summer, We thought that it might be nice to bring a little bit of amusement into the newsletter. Therefore, your intrepid editors have created a few 'Phone Number' puzzles to challenge you.

The rules are simple: There will be a phone number and some sort of a clue (no guarantee on how well the clues will help.) You need to change the numbers into letters using the phone keypad pictured.

Here are two examples:

222-8871 is the phone number for CACTUS
(2 = C, 2 = A, 2 = C, 8 = T, 8 = U, 7 = S, 1 = blank)

(782)285-3681 is the phone number for SUCCULENT
(7=S, 8=U, 2=C, 2=C, 8=U, 5=L, 3=E, 6=N, 8=T, 1=blank)

#1. Bruce has spent considerable time dialing (387)467-2421.

#2. Call 678-6842 to hear the beaver's tale.

#3. Rob calls (274)622-7787 each time he puts his plants in a show.

#4. Call (673)623-7387 if your serious about cookies.

#5. When you call Linda at 112-5631 she doesn't say, "Hello," she says "????"



Answers can be found on page 14



Last month our very own Rosemarie Delano received some national exposure via bak.rr's People Connection, appearing on the title page of 'Ages & Stages.' Rosemarie is a member of the Kern River Ritzzy Ratz chapter of the Red Hat Society.

AOL People Connection: Ages & Stages

Ages & Stages: Celebrate Life's Journey

Hometown Hatters

- [Red Hat Babes Welcome](#)
- [Ozark "Scarlett Women"](#)
- [Razzle Dazzle Red Hat Society](#)

What Do They Do?

Rosey HAttitudes chronicles the adventures of one chapter of the Red Hat Society.

- [Follow Their Activities](#)

Seeking a Chapter

Birbetty is looking for a chapter to join. She says, "My husband is a stick-in-the-mud who never wants to have any fun."

- [Get Her Started](#)

Seniors & Love: [Meet Others](#)

Coping With Loss: [Get Support](#)

Meet More People

[Browse Our Boards](#) | [Find a Chat](#)

Test Your Knowledge

[Coneyqal's Music Trivia](#)

FREE Credit Report!

[CLICK HERE!](#)

Keyword: Ages & Stages

THE SHOW & SALE IS COMING IN OCTOBER!

Once again it is time to start getting serious about our annual Show & Sale. Please consider helping out this year. We are in need of new volunteers to take the place of the Skillins who have skipped town. Don't be shy, speak up at the next meeting!

As I am going to be in Chile later this month, I will not be able to produce next month's Cactus Patch. Instead, Linda will be sending out some reminder postcards a week before the September meeting (That is unless someone wants to try their hand at doing the September newsletter....)

Stephen Cooley



BE SURE TO CHECK US OUT

ON THE WEB AT:

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

The Cactus Patch can be viewed at:
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Answers to Cactus Hang-Ups

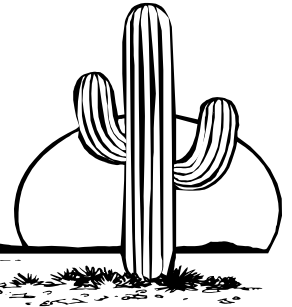
- #1. Euphorbia
- #2. Opuntia
- #3. Ariocarpus
- #4. Oreocereus
- #5. Aloe

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



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

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