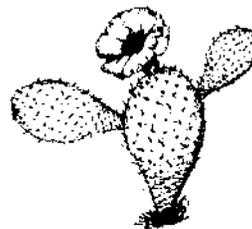




Death Valley wildflowers  
Photo by Sydney Kelley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 8    **April 2005**    Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Xeriscaping

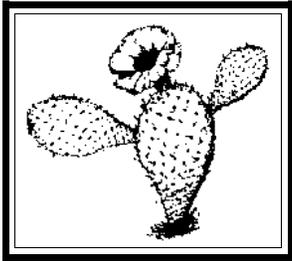
presented by **Larry Nichols**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Apr 12**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at **6:30 PM**

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

**Plant of the  
Month:  
Landscape  
Succulents**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 8    Number 4  
April 2005

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

### 2005 Officers

**President – Vonne Zdenek**  
**Vice-President – Bonnie East**  
**Treasurer - Maynard Moe**  
**Secretary – Les Oxford**  
**Editors - Stephen Cooley**  
**Linda Cooley**

### 2005 Directors

**CSSA Representative - open**  
**Past President – Matt Ekegren**

### 2005 Chairpersons

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

Material in The Cactus Patch may be reprinted by non-profit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided that the proper credit is given to the BCSS & the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the permission of the BCSS editor is prohibited. Contact [thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)

# BCSS MEETING

March 8, 2005

We had our "business" meeting first and discussed the Yard Sale: When and Where. Everyone was urged to start gathering donations. The Show and Sale was also mentioned. A committee needs to be formed, especially for publicity. The Garden was discussed, and the club approved \$400 for use in the garden. Lynn talked about field trips: Palm Desert was coming up, Windwolves looms in the near future, as well as the desert rock trip with Dan French. Sasha mentioned a nursery that is fantastic in Pasadena (California Cactus Center). Bonnie brought up the New York Mts. field trip and Sidney offered to contact the nurseryman in Ojai to see if he will sell plants at the Show and Sale.

Then we had our program: Rob Skillin speaking to us about Chile. He showed great slides of the Atacama Desert. The main genus discussed was *Copiapoa*. We saw plants from the coastal areas up to the higher peaks. It was fascinating! Thanks to Rob for another fine program.



Maynard Moe hikes through *Copiapoa solaris*  
on a Chilean mountain top  
photo by Stephen Cooley

We ended the evening as usual with a round of songs and meditation, ending with some vigorous fox-trotting (is anyone reading this)? No, really, we had our raffle and everyone went home happy.

# BCSS BOARD MEETING

## March 24, 2005

In attendance were Bonnie East and Les Oxford.

The speaker for our April 12, meeting will be Larry Nichols, from Orange County speaking on XERISCAPING (a type of dry gardening).

Our yard sale date has been narrowed down to two dates: Saturday & Sunday either May 14, 15 or May 21, 22. The date will be set at our next meeting on April 12. So clean out your garages and storage rooms and, of course, any plants that you would like to donate.

Our speaker for May will be Woody Minnich speaking on "Exploring Northern Argentina."

The next board meeting will on Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at Bonnie East's home.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual picnic at the cactus garden at CSUB. This will be a potluck and we will need sign-ups for refreshments.

Les Oxford, Secretary

## APRIL'S PROGRAM

### XERISCAPING

presented by **Larry Nichols**

I have scheduled Larry Nichols to speak in April. He and Rob Skillin, who gave last month's talk on Chile, have traveled quite a bit together. His program will be about Xeriscaping his own front yard -- an eight month project

# Plant of the Month

## Landscape Succulents

For our plant of the month we thought it would be nice to see and hear about some of the succulents that our members grow as part of their landscape (yes, potted plants placed in the landscape qualify). Bring in some pictures of your plants, or, better yet, bring in some cuttings to show & share!



*Aloe marlothii*

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](mailto:Lithops44@bak.rr.com)



## FIELD TRIPS

### Windwolves Nature Preserve -- April 16

In the mid 1990s, the Wildlands Conservancy was able to purchase more than 93,000 acres (150 sq. miles), including the historic San Emigdio Ranch, to create the largest privately owned nature preserve on the West Coast. Wind Wolves Preserve is in an ecologically unique region where the Transverse Ranges, Coast Ranges, Sierra Nevada, western Mojave desert and San Joaquin Valley converge. [ed. note: please forgive the possible geographic license, this is condensed from a Conservancy brochure] Due to this singular geographic location and an elevation range from 640 to 6005 feet, the preserve has an impressive array of land forms and habitats.

During our visit to the preserve, April 16, we will have an excellent overview of the history of the area, the current educational program and goals, information about the flora and fauna, and a tour. In years past, BCSS members have seen golden eagles, nesting great horned owl, Tule elk, and a species of *Dudleya*. I think we saw quite a number of non-succulent species as well.

David & Sheryl Clendenen are the preserve directors. They will be giving a presentation about Wind Wolves on the evening of April 16 at the Kern-Kaweah Chapter, Sierra Club spring banquet. Contact Harry Love at 589-6245 if you are interested in attending.

The preserve is also having Spring family tours in March, April 2&3 (long gone) 17, 24, May 7. Saturday tours begin @ 9:00 Am & 1:00 PM, Sundays, 1:00 PM only. Bring a picnic lunch. Make reservations a week ahead, call 858-1115.

David says that travel time from the nearest SW Bakersfield area is about 30 - 35 minutes. From Intersection of Old River and 166, their turnoff is 1.8 miles west.

So, I think we can all meet in town to car pool or caravan @ Home Depot, Gosford & District Blvd. @ 0800 for 0815 departure. Then we will be at the turnoff by 0845 to drive into the preserve.

Bring a lunch, water, sun hat, appropriate attire for the day. We can do some riding, some walking, depending on individual's needs.

### New York Mountains camping April 29-May 1

(details to be decided)

Lynn McDonald



## THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE UGLY A Letter From Bruce

A lot of good things have been happening lately. Ruth and Monicah (Garden and Herbarium workers) came back from a Millennium Seed Bank trip which included the Tsau Hills on the west side of the Central Kgalagadi Game Reserve and brought with them specimens of *Adenium boehmianum* the western Sabi Star which is a first for Botswana. I looked for it there a couple of years ago because the late Peter Smith said he had seen it, but I failed to find it. Although it is only a shrub (unlike the tree adeniums on Socotra) it has the largest leaves of any adenium - almost like a frangepani.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of Feb. we saw "Zimba Marimba", a Swedish group that has learned marimba and African dance well! A good cultural kick. The next day we drove over to Pretoria to visit Isaac Lusunzi and family. Our first stop was the Protea Bookstore which I found by instinct (having been there once). I blew a fortune on antiquarian books, a couple of which are reviewed below. Next stop was the Pretoria herbarium where I looked at a spurge they have from Botswana and we don't! (Unfortunately not succulent.) While waiting out in the botanic garden, Polly ran into an old friend Janet Woods. (We stayed with them in 1996 after "leaving" Botswana to return to California) Finally we checked in with Isaac.

Next day we were taken on a surprise visit to Jo'burg (aka Gauteng & Egoli both of which mean Gold Town). The surprise turned out to be Gold Reef City, an amusement park which has grown out of the older mines. They still have tours of a real (though not working) gold mine. In all these years we'd never actually been down one. The traditional dancing was déjà vu though. Unfortunately I had to pay for a sample of gold - no freebees.



**Polly & Maureen in the gold mine**

Isaac's wife Maureen was the only one to go on one of the modern roller-coaster-type rides. The rest of us watched. We did go up on a ferris wheel to get a good view of Jo'burg.

To end the day we stopped at the Sandton Centre (a huge

shopping complex) to see the Cow parade. They had life-size cow models in numerous modes around every corner from Crafty Cow through Moodona to Ndebele Cow. On Sunday we saw an Imax production on South Pacific coral reefs. We've never seen any, but they look an awful lot like the North Pacific ones we've seen from Guam to Hawaii.

Back in Gaborone the Cuban film festival ended with "Guantanamera" (a hilarious comedy centering on a funeral) - with "Guantanamo" cigars raffled and "The Buena Vista Social Club" a documentary of Cuban Musicians who finally made it to Carnegie Hall. This last film was followed by a demonstration of Cuban dancing and lots of Cuban refreshments. A Russian film festival opened on 8<sup>th</sup> March with "The Barber of Siberia", a hilarious comedy which we had seen on the boat between islands in the Canaries. It was not so well attended but a) it's 3 hours long and b) they had shown it at the Russian Embassy (for bigwigs) in February. Actually, it just left more vodka for the rest of us.

We also saw the film "Max and Mona" which is again a funeral comedy. Max is a professional mourner and Mona is the village sacred goat. They both travel from their home near Rustenburg (Max is of the Bafokeng I mentioned a while back) to Jo'burg and a lot of comedy is drawn from the incongruity of this. It has a lot of English and the Tswana, Zulu etc. has English subtitles. If it appears in the states we highly recommend it.

A live show on the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb. was also poorly attended. "Koitrans" was a CD launch by a group which includes the drummer Myzer who has taught at music camp. The CD was actually better than the live show -- more balanced. Also, this was our first time at the new Botswana TV amphitheatre which has hard concrete backless seating. If we ever go again we'll take cushions.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of March we saw Nonofu off to the Desert Botanic Garden in Phoenix. Now he'll see what I mean when I say the Kgalagadi is not a desert. (Although he e-mailed about a downpour!)

On the 6<sup>th</sup> we were on a Bird Club walk (lots of Abdim's Storks and a carmine bee-eater on the nearby Metsimothlaba River when we learned of a talk on Hoodia and Grapple Thorn at the Mokolodi Nature Reserve that same morning. We made it just in time for me to interrupt the speaker Frank Barsch (a German volunteer and a good friend) with constant comments.

All of the above sounds good? So now for the bad. When we went on the bird club walk our car was sitting at the museum with a flat tire! But we changed that when we got back from Mokolodi and had it repaired on Monday. But then it went flat again on Tuesday. This time they didn't charge us for the repair and it has stayed up.

Also on the down side we visited our friend Renee Cook in hospital for a gallstone. Everything has come out all right, however.

Finally, on the bad side, the rains have tapered off and we are facing a severe drought.

And the ugly? On 1<sup>st</sup> March someone came boldly into the living room and took Polly's purse while we were watching TV in the bedroom. The purse was found within the hour at a house under construction a block away and everything was there except money, but it's still upsetting. The more so because the dogs didn't bark which implies it's someone we know.

Enough of that. The books I mentioned include The Konigsberg Adventure by E.K. Chatterton (Hurst & Blackett, London). It is dateless but lists a 1929 publication so is probably early 30's. It describes the trapping of the German Ship the Konigsberg in the Rufiji River on the coast of what is now Tanzania in World War I. The ship was eventually sunk, but the book takes a while to get there. There are also chapters on the naval battles on Lake Malawi, Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. This confirms what I've learned elsewhere. There are interesting photos.

Another book Marching on Tanga by F. Brett Young (1917, W. Collins, London) is a bit more interesting. It describes a doctor's experience with British Forces in East Africa in World War I. Among other interesting items the Germans used armor-piercing shells from the Konigsberg! There are lots of remarkable pictures and even the mention of "cactus", baobabs and sansevierias. The most interesting event for me is a description of a trance dance used for healing. The hypnotic effect of the drumming is described, but no plant use is mentioned. When I filmed this in Malawi, I, too, found the drumming hypnotic, but, fortunately I was shown the plants which were used (and others seemed to have missed).

There were other books on WW I, but they were on Europe, so I left them. Someone obviously had to sell a valuable collection. I'll comment on two more books (including mention of Bakersfield) in the next letter.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*



MOODONA

## the succulent garden at cal state

bcss garden journal march 2005

I've lost track of the dates we worked! except for today, mar 25.... I know we worked out here twice this month, but did not write the first date down! or who worked that day...sorry! I do remember that Stephen and I discussed which plants we might want to add to the garden for shade and ambiance, and Stephen updated the inventory. on March 25, a day of glorious spring weather, we met out at the garden and through agonizingly hard work managed to move every last speck of dirt into its proper location. this is thanks to Steve H. and Jim P. and Sidney and Jack--with only a little help from a good looking green tractor which showed up after the majority of the dirt had been moved! it was nice to stand back and watch that tractor move the last few wheelbarrow loads! we also planted our newly purchased shrubs and trees into the new world section of the garden. these include: *acacia constricta* (white thorn acacia), *calliandra californica* and *calliandra eriophylla* (red and pink fairy duster), *bursera microphylla* (elephant tree), *chilopsis linearis* (desert willow), *euphorbia misera* and *euphorbia antisyphilitica* (condellia), and *hyptis emoryi* (desert lavender). and we spent a little time admiring how great it looks!! on March 26, a group of us went out into the desert to get more rocks, with Dan in the lead. we found huge mounds of schist! Sidney could not resist Pat's challenge and managed to bring back a huge piece of schist. the rest of us were satisfied with pieces of schist and a white rock that Dan knows the name of. we deposited the rocks out at the garden and it looks great!

Linda Cooley

## GARDEN INVENTORY

### CACTI, OTHER SUCCULECTS AND PACHYFORMS

Agave desertii	Echinopsis sp. 'White'
Agave havardiana	Echinopsis spachianus
Agave macroacantha	Echinopsis sylvestris
Agave ocahui	Euphorbia antisyphilitica
Agave parryi	Euphorbia polygona
Agave sp. (3 unidentified)	Euphorbia resinifera
Agave victoria-regina	Ferocactus alamosanus
Aloe bakeri	Ferocactus glaucescens
Aloe eru	Ferocactus gracilis
Aloe saponaria	Ferocactus horridus
Aloe sp. (2 unidentified)	Ferocactus rectispinus
Aloe variegata	Ferocactus sp. (8 unidentified)
Aloe vera	Ferocactus wislizenii
Beaucarnea recurvata	Gasteria sp.
Braunsia apiculata	Lampranthus godmaniae var. grandiflorus
Bursera microphylla	Opuntia basilaris
Callibanus hookeri	Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei
Carnegia gigantea	Opuntia erinacea
Cereus repandus	Opuntia phaecantha
Cheiridopsis rostrata	Opuntia robusta
Cleistocactus sp.	Opuntia sp. (4 unidentified)
Cotyledon orbiculata	Opuntia subulata
Crassula sp. (2 unidentified)	Opuntia violacea
Drosanthemum barwickii	Orbea variegata
Echinocactus grusonii	Pleiospilos compactus
Echinocactus ingens	Ruschia crassa
Echinocereus coccineus	Ruschia elevata
Echinocereus engelmannii	Ruschia rupicola
Echinocereus sp.	Ruschia sp.
Echinocereus sp. Sun King	Senecio sp.
Echinopsis candicans	Stenocereus marginatus
Echinopsis macrogonus	Trichodiadema intonsum
Echinopsis pachanoi	Yucca sp.
Echinopsis sp.	

### OTHER PLANTS

Asphodelus fistulosus	Cycas revoluta
Calliandra californica	Euphorbia misera
Calliandra eriophylla	Hyptis emoryi
Chilopsis linearis	

## On The Road with Sydney & Jack

March 23, 2005

Yesterday we drove over to Death Valley to view the wildflowers. The plants were sparse but showed well over large areas. It was overcast and chilly. After being in a bad sand storm around 5 pm, we decided to head home. The flowering plants look more plentiful than they are (see the picture on the back cover).

Even more impressive was the great blooming of the Joshua trees on Hwy. 178 - east of Onyx and west of Walker Pass. The plants looked healthy and oh-so-many blooms!! It was drizzling so I had to get a picture of one that was beside the road. They were all over the place. Despite the weather (or maybe because of it) the picture turned out well.



Sydney Kelley

## Gone to Seed

by Stephen Cooley

Due to a lack of space, (I only wish I had that problem every month!) PART FOUR: GETTING READY TO BE A GRANDPARENT will be presented in next month's Cactus Patch.

## CSSA Promotional Article (2005 #1)

The major CSSA event of the past few months was the CSSA-sponsored cactus photo safari to the Atacama Desert of northern Chile. I was fortunate to be one of twelve CSSA member participants. With our two British plant guides and three Chilean tour guides, we traveled for more than three weeks in the field from Santiago to Antofagasta over 2200 miles in all, including side trips. Although we did some strenuous climbing and hiking (one day over ten miles) our lodgings were always comfortable, the food generally good to excellent, and the drinks perhaps even better.

Altogether we made 60 stops to photograph plants in habitat. Our plant guides included Graham Charles, author of *The Cactus File Handbook*, *Copiapoa* and Roger Ferryman, an authority on *Eriosyce* (which according to Fred Kattermann, includes *Neoporteria*, *Neochilenia*, *Horridocactus*, *Islaya*, *Pyrrhocactus*, etc.). Both were extremely knowledgeable, excellent at finding the plants and lots of fun to be with. We saw virtually every species of *Copiapoa* from tiny plants the size of a fingernail to massive clusters 10-15 feet across, and many, many species of *Eriosyce*, *sensu lato*. In addition, we saw all possible columnar cereoids (*Trichocereus* and *Eulychnia*) and opuntoids within the area of our travels. As an added bonus wildflowers were everywhere during the first (southerly) half of our trip, thanks to El Nino. The northern Atacama is incredibly dry with the cacti, especially *Copiapoa*, restricted to immediate coastal areas where the fog can reach them. Farther inland where the fog doesn't reach, the landscape is totally devoid of vegetation until one goes far enough east and high enough in the Andes (to the Altiplano at 10,000 to 14,000 feet) where a few cacti and other plants appear. We spent the last few days of the trip in that habitat where we visited the fantastic El Tatio Geyser Fields and the colorful rock formations of El Valle de la Luna.

Nowadays, CSSA offers plant-photo safaris to members in years alternating with conventions. So far, CSSA trips have been to the Big Bend area of Texas, South Africa/Namibia and Madagascar, in addition to Chile. A trip to Kenya led by Len Newton is being organized for 2006, and 2008 may feature a trip to Brazil. Trips offered in conjunction with conventions are closer to home, within the U.S. or to Mexico. For further information on field trips, contact Dan Mahr, Field Trip Chair at [dmahr@entomology.wisc.edu](mailto:dmahr@entomology.wisc.edu)

The next big CSSA event for CSSA members is the convention in Phoenix, August 5- 10, 2005, which promises to be one of the best ever (see my CSSA Promotional Article – 2004 #2 published in a recent

newsletter of your society). Graham Charles of *Copiapoa* fame is to be one of the speakers, so if you attend the convention, you'll learn more about the cacti of Chile and our recent adventures there. He's also slated to discuss Brazilian cacti, which might pique your interest in the Brazil trip proposed for 2008. In conjunction with the convention, a pre-convention tour of the Four Corners area will be offered. Details can be found in the November/December 2004 issue of the CSSA Newsletter "To the Point." Convention updates are regularly posted on the CSSA web site: [www.cssainc.org](http://www.cssainc.org). I'm hopeful that as many of you as possible will register for the convention and become members of the CSSA in the process.

Good Growing!  
 Bob Barth Publicity Chair  
 CSSA Board of Directors



### Quarterly Review of Refreshment Providers

January: Mary Carrisalez--tasty dinner, Gwen: cookies, Sidney: persimmon pie, Rose Mary M: cookies & mini cakes, Bill & Lynn  
 February: Alice, Rose Mary, Chris (yummy chile dip), Lynn, Bill  
 March: Sasha: rum cake, Bill: cookies & beverages.  
 Be sure to help out and sign up to bring refreshments!

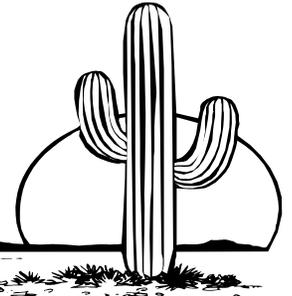
**To have your article printed in  
 The Cactus Patch get in touch with:**

Stephen Cooley, editor      Linda Cooley, editor  
[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)



***Be Sure To Check Us Out  
 On The Web At:  
[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)***

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Apr 12 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.  
 SPEAKER: Larry Nichols  
 PROGRAM: Xeriscaping
- Apr 16 BCSS Field Trip: Windwolves Preserve details to be announced
- Apr 26 BCSS Board Meeting – Bonnie's House 7pm
- Apr 29-May 1 BCSS Field Trip: New York Mountains camping
- May 10 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.  
 SPEAKER: Woody Minnich  
 PROGRAM: Exploring Northern Argentina
- May 14-15 or 21-22 BCSS Yard Sale. Date to be decided soon!
- June 14 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.  
 Potluck Picnic at the CSUB Cactus Garden
- June 28 BCSS Board Meeting

## OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- Apr 24 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale. Address same as above.
- Apr 30-May 1 Sunset C&SS Show & Sale. Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.
- May 15 Huntington Gardens Plant Sale. 10am-5pm.
- May 16 Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, LA Arboretum.
- May 21-22 Gates C&SS Show & Sale Jurupa Mts Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hills Dr., Glen Avon. 9am-4pm.
- June 4-5 Sand Diego C&SS Show & Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101
- July 1-3 CSSA Annual Show & Sale at the Huntington
- Aug 5-11 CSSA Biennial Convention. Scottsdale Plaza Resort, Phoenix.
- Aug 20-21 20<sup>th</sup> Intercity Show & Sale. Los Angeles Arboretum. 9am-5pm
- Sept 3 Huntington Symposium, Huntington Botanical Gardens

contact the editors (page 14) for more information