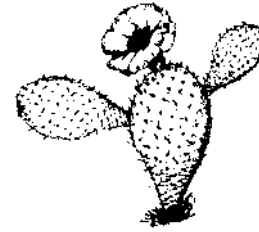




Aeonium canariense in the
Moonstone Gardens at the Hamlet Restaurant.
photo by Sidney Kelley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 8 **September 2005** Number 9

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

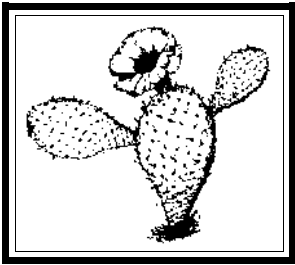
Show & Sale Workshop

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 13

Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**
(West of 99 freeway
on corner of Olive drive &
Victor street)

**Prepare For
The Show
& Sale!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 8 Number 9

September 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

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CSSA Representative - open
Past President – Matt Ekegren

2005 Chairpersons

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

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Our August meeting was held at the Cactus Valley Restaurant where we socialized and ate fantastic food (Thanks Mary)! With both President Vonne and VP Bonnie absent, Treasurer Maynard conducted a short business meeting (We weren't sure about the order of succession, so there was a quick vote by the officers



Pictures by Les Oxford



present – Maynard lost).

We were reminded that the Show & Sale will be October 8-9 at the East Hills Mall and that the



September meeting will be the last general meeting before the show. Plans to organize a way to retrieve one of the large *Trichocereus* Cacti from Panama lane were discussed. This is a topic we have considered before, but this is our last chance. [ed. note: It now seems that all the good large Cacti are gone and the chances of getting even an arm off one is slim.]

BCSS BOARD MEETING: August 30TH 2005

BARNES & NOBLE

The board meeting attendance: Maynard Moe, Bonnie East and Les Oxford.

[The main topic at the board meeting seems to have been the September meeting so I took it out and put it on the next page under the title "September's Program." - editor]

The next board meeting will be on September 28th at Barnes & Noble Book Store.

At the October meeting, Maynard Moe will present "Amazing Plants of South Africa."

At the November meeting, bring photos of your favorite plants. Be creative!

Les Oxford, Secretary



Be Sure To Check Us Out
On The Web At:
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM

Our next meeting will be September 13, 2005 starting at 6:30pm. This will be your chance to bring your favorite plants and pots that you want to present at our "SHOW AND SALE" at East Hills Mall on October 8th & 9th! This will be a "hands" on planting session.

There will be plenty of soil mixture, aquarium rocks for top dressing and plenty of help. If you can, bring gloves, newspaper, tools for prepping and moving plant material, tweezers, trowels, scissors and any other tool that will help you in planting or transplanting plants into other pots. Stephen Cooley and others have offered to help ID your plants.

We need all the "show" plants that we can to bring to the "Show & Sale for presentation and judging.

Also this will be your opportunity to "sign-up" for time slots to work at the "Show & Sale."

Les Oxford, Secretary

Bonnie Adds: Please bring plants you want to prep for the Show & Sale in pots to fix up or to transplant into other pots (also to bring wood pieces, etc. for staging)

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



MOVIES TO THE MAX

A Letter From Bruce

Now that Anne is gone things are very quiet. We also had a four day weekend in the middle of July to celebrate Presidents' Day. This may explain why we've seen a surfeit of movies.

First there are all the remakes: Guess Who (more comic & less topical), Charlie & the Chocolate Factory (more Gothic & less suitable for kids), yet another Batman (also Gothic - but with a love interest), and War of the Worlds (much too scary for kids). Incidentally, they don't enforce ratings here. Kids get to see the darndest things.

There has also been a spate of movies on Africa. Even British Broadcasting Corporation had a review of them on their regular "Talking Movies" broadcast from New York. The one we haven't seen is "Hotel Rwanda" which is now at the theater that banned us, but it will probably get to the other mall next week. When Anne was here we saw "Madagascar" which is fantastic.

The Central Park Zoo is totally real, but I never met such animals there. In Madagascar they must have recruited every fossa on the island to have a group that large. The zoo animals' reaction to Madagascar reminded me of the reaction of many Black Americans when they visit Africa and find the "homeland" is not so homey.

The opposite was true of a group of American musicians (including Tina Turner) shown in the film "Soul to Soul" about their visit to Ghana in 1971. They really related to their "soul brothers"(and sisters). We could relate as we had visited Ghana four years earlier., The film was rather poorly done (reminiscent of a home movie) and is probably not widely known. We saw it at the local film club.

We were surprised to see "Sahara" listed on the BBC as one of the films presenting a new image of Africa. When analysed, it does, indeed, fit in. We loved it just for the improbable adventure typical of Dirk Pitt. We would have rushed to see it sooner if we'd realized it was based on a Clive Cussler novel. We've read them all.

I don't know if "Drum" will circulate in the States, but I recommend it if it does. It tells how one magazine (still being published) was instrumental in fighting apartheid. It also is a good portrayal of what it means to be poor in South Africa.

On the 14th of Aug. the BBC showed a "documentary" on their series "Reporters" which purported to explain the ongoing saga of the San (Bushmen) and the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. I have never seen such biased reporting! All the San they interviewed were anti Botswana Government and told blatant lies about there being no cattle, cash etc. as compensation for moving. They also repeated the myth about diamonds being the reason for the move. I visited the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in 1995, shortly before the San moved and found the conditions totally unlike the idyllic life portrayed on the BBC. Imagine tick bearing livestock, cultivation, hunting with rifles and water brought in tankers. This is a game reserve? We'll be at the Kuru Dance Festival near Ghanzi on the 19th and 20th of August and see just how "terrible" life is for San outside the Game Reserve.

We also saw a live production of "Joseph & His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" which billed as "Broadway comes to Botswana." They'll probably get away with it as few people here have seen an actual Broadway production. In spite of spending an absolute fortune and actually recruiting people who could sing, they ruined it by having mikes on the main characters which were much too loud and overbalanced everyone else. The orchestra could also have been cut in half. As one person summed it up, "Raucous". (A production we saw years ago in Bloemfontein was better, and I wouldn't even classify it as Broadway.)

The Millenium Seed Bank had a day trip on the 4th of Aug. which didn't yield much. It is totally dry and another drought emergency has been declared to release funds to keep things going. It doesn't help the budget! At least things are not the disaster which is occurring elsewhere. We did find *Stapelia gigantea* with enough fruit for a collection. *Euphorbia schinzii* was in bud and *E. griseola* was just hanging in there. Next to these two we found *Bridelia mollis*, a tree in the Euphorbia family with edible fruit and collected some. Elsewhere we found *Babiana hypogea*, a member of the Iris family, which has edible corms. (It also has beautiful blue flowers, but these come later.)

On the 2nd our entomologist, Sithole, presented a paper on the insects of Botswana using electron micrographs done at the



University. I don't know if many people understood what they were seeing, but I found it fascinating- especially when I learned that the spots on a lady bird beetle don't show up on an electro micrograph. (Other beetles have structural spots which do show up!)

On the 9th the Museum opened its annual Basket and Craft exhibit. The baskets continue to be among the best in the world and other crafts are developing. The prices are higher than ever, but still not unreasonable.

I managed to borrow a book with the interesting title "The Orchid Thief" (Susan Orleany, 2000, Vintage, London).

Apparently orchids are as addictive as succulents. As it says in this book, "To desire orchids is to have a desire that will never be, can never be, fully requited. A collector who wants one of every orchid species on earth will certainly die before even coming close." The book manages to squeeze in everything you never wanted to

know about orchids as well as quite a bit on bromeliads (the pineapple family). Both of these groups contain some succulents, but heed the warning and don't go in too deeply.

The story hidden in all this concerns a man who is arrested for stealing the rare ghost orchid from a preserve in Florida. The

ghost orchid (*Polyrrhiza lindenii*) consists of a bunch of roots fastened to the bark of a host tree. Occasionally a stalk of white flowers appears out of this. This sounds rather hard to believe, but I have seen similar orchids of the genus *Microcoelia* in Malawi.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

THE UPCOMING SHOW & SALE

Our 6th Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale is coming up on October 8 and 9 at the East Hills Mall. This is by far the biggest event we do each year and member support is crucial to its success. Our previous Shows have all been very successful – we've had plenty of plants in the show and plenty of plants to sell. The responses from the people that came to see the show were always complimentary. Now is the time to put our efforts into high gear.

The most important element to our show is the plants themselves. Our show has always been different from most others in that its emphasis has been on education and not competition. We need a large variety of plants to show the public the great diversity that exists among the succulents. Many people are unaware of just how many weird and wonderful plants there are. In considering which plants you might want to bring to the show, remember that your most 'ordinary' plant may be extraordinary to those viewing the show. No plant is too small to bring, it just needs to look nice. That is what this month's meeting can show you how to do (it's really easy).

Another key element is to have members available to talk to the public about the plants and about our club. This requires a lot of hours, but there are plenty of members to share the workload (check out the sign-up sheet at the next meeting).

There is also the need for helpers in the initial set up (I think this happens the night before), after hours security, and take down. Here are some days and times that you need to be aware of:

PLANT SET UP:	Saturday 7 am to 10 am
SHOW HOURS:	Saturday 10 am to 6 pm
	Sunday 11 am to 4 pm
TAKE DOWN:	Sunday 4 pm to 6 pm.

If you have questions and/or would like to help out, come to the next meeting or contact Maynard at Lithops44@bak.rr.com

Beat-the Heat Field Trip August 20 & 21

Our field trip participants (Jack, Sidney, Bonnie, Anne, Bill & Lynn) met at Mervyn's parking lot Saturday morning and immediately began discussing where to have breakfast. In order to get out of town then, we decided on the Jack Ranch Cafe on highway 46. The food was good, but the service was reluctant.

Our first stop in Cambria was at the ExotiScapes Nursery at Moonstone Beach. We arrived just before it opened. There we were joined by Matt, Silvia & young James Diego. We ambled around the long neglected gardens & admired some of the huge specimen succulents. The nursery had an interesting variety of plants & a few were destined to make the trip back to Bakersfield. The Hamlet restaurant was open & we enjoyed splitting among us, some of their famous lemon ice cream with raspberries. Yummm.



We then went to another nursery on Burton drive. They had some cacti & succulents and also several CA native plants for sale. After some strolling around Cambria's east village, we enjoyed lunch. We all went our separate ways for the evening.

In the morning, some group members traveled to the relatively new San Luis Obispo Botanic Garden in El Chorro Regional Park. Members really enjoyed this visit. At least half of the plants were in bloom. Many birds & butterflies were seen. Another trip there

might be in the future, as there were some interesting design features we may be able to use in our garden.

Next we all met in the Huasna area of Arroyo Grande for a visit with our longtime members & friends, the Skillin family. We had a delicious lunch & visit. Then we consolidated vehicles for a tour of a neighbor's ghost town, where there were many old buildings salvaged over the years from local coast towns -- a barber shop, photographer's shop, post office. Lots of memorabilia, 2 old fire engines, and countless other interesting attractions among the oak trees. Then we all headed up to their home site & enjoyed a tour. A wonderful home it will be, with lovely vistas & lots of privacy. We



also got to meet the Percherons -- Mom, Black Pearl & 2-month old Opal. A beautiful & lively pair they are.

Terry then took us to a friend's place -- a bed & breakfast with

much landscaping done in cacti & succulents. One day, there will be some to sell, when Whimsy Farms gets more established. The owner, along with Rob & Terry are trying to revive the Central Coast C&SS. Good luck to them.

Thanks again to Jack & Sidney for suggesting this relaxing summer trip.

San Luis Obispo Botanic Garden

Mission Statement

The mission of the San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden is to display the diverse plant life of the Mediterranean climate zones of the world and to provide opportunities for education, recreation, conservation and research. Through its programs and facilities, the

Garden will foster an appreciation and understanding of the relationship between people and nature and will encourage a sense of stewardship toward the natural environment.

Webpage: www.slobg.org

Other possible day trip destinations:

Fullerton Arboretum

California Native and Fall Plant Sale-October 15 & 16

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Plant Sale Spectacular

Saturday, October 15

10:00am -- 12:30pm - Members Sale

1:00pm -- 4:00pm - Public Sale

An outstanding selection of California native and Mediterranean plants, including the Garden's newest cultivars. Parking is limited, please carpool.

Lynn

Please Make The Following Changes to the Addresses In Your Roster

Brian & Teresa Adams

Ed Colley

To have your article printed in

The Cactus Patch get in touch with:

Stephen Cooley, editor

Linda Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Work in the garden has been intermittent throughout the summer. Watering has been done off and on; the most recent time was yesterday. Most of the plants look surprisingly good! A couple of large barrel cacti were even blooming. Some of the smaller mesembs looked pretty fried, and will have to be replaced. All of the spring-planted native shrubs and trees looked great. Weeds were sparse, except for a few around the plants where they could get water. Most of the Echinopsis were yellowing, due (I think) to the intense sun. I think they will recover.

Today Steve Hampson and I spent the afternoon picking up beautiful rocks that had been donated by a man who was cleaning up a house. These rocks varied in size from large potato-size to the size of a medium sized dog. They look like they were collected by a rockhound. Also donated was a very large Golden Barrel Cactus, which is about 2 feet in diameter and 2.5 feet tall. We're going to need help with this one!

So we are slowly gearing up to begin working in the garden more intensively. Stephen and I worked on making labels for all the plants in the garden and those should be in place soon. We will be installing a drip system at some point, as well as putting in walkways and moving all those rocks into the landscape. I hope you will join us sometime!



Opuntia robusta
takes root in its new home

Linda



ANNOUNCEMENTS

More About Perry Aminian

The Bakersfield gardening community lost one of its most active citizens this summer with the passing of Perry Aminian on June 17. After working 23 years for Tejon Farms, he became involved with many organizations, having a love of all plants. He was also an accomplished potter, who used some of his own creations in flower arranging competitions. He was one of the founders of the Kern County Rose Society, active in our Green Thumb Garden Club, and local art associations, among others. He is survived by his wife Gloria & family. The California Garden Clubs have begun a scholarship in his name. For information, contact the Green Thumb Garden Club.

The California Garden Clubs Inc. are establishing a memorial scholarship in his name. For information, contact the Green Thumb Garden Club. They meet at 0900, 3rd Saturday of the month, at the Church of the Brethren, corner of Palm & A streets. Checks can be made to CGCI. with a notation "for Perry Aminian scholarship fund."

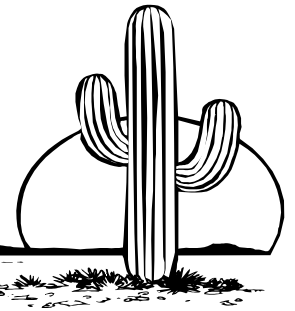
Lynn

Succulent Wreath Workshop

The Green Thumb Club has extended an invitation to BCSS members to attend a Succulent Wreaths Workshop to be held on Saturday, Sept. 17 at the Church of the Brethren located at A and Palm Streets. Coffee will be served at 9am and the workshop will start sometime after that. There is no fee but if you would like to bring cuttings of succulents, that would be fine. Information about contacts for the Green Thumb Club can be found in the local newspaper under club listings (Sat or Sun Paper?)

Bonnie

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Sept 13 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.
PROGRAM: Hands-On Planting Session
SPEAKERS: Everyone!
- Sept 28 BCSS Executive Board Meeting, Barnes & Noble 7pm
Oct 8-9 Annual BCSS Show & Sale. East Hills Mall
- Oct 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.
PROGRAM: Amazing Plants of South Africa
SPEAKER: Maynard Moe
- Oct 15 Possible FIELD TRIP to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
Oct 15-16 Possible FIELD TRIP to the Fullerton Arboretum
Oct 25 BCSS Executive Board Meeting
Nov 8 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.
PROGRAM: Succulent Photography
SPEAKERS: Everyone bring your photos!

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- Oct 15-16 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Winter Show & Sale, LA Arboretum

contact the editors (page 12) for more information