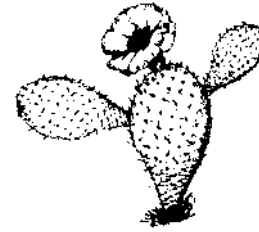




Echinocactus grusonii
the latest addition to the
succulent garden at Cal State.
photo by Linda Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 8 **October 2005** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Strange Plants of South Africa

Or, Why is the South African Flora So Diverse?

Presented by Maynard Moe

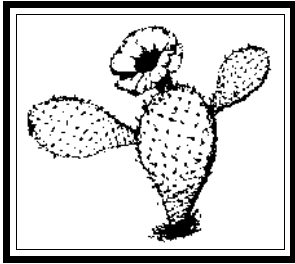
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 11

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

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

**2005
Show & Sale
October 8-9!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 8 Number 10
October 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

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Vice-President – Bonnie East
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
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Linda Cooley

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

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September 13, 2005



President Vonne started off the meeting with a short story about her recent trip to Alaska where she didn't see any succulents but did have a bit of a scare regarding salmon and grizzly bears (I think it was the grizzly bears that scared her the most). I'm happy to say that all turned out well (for her and the grizzly bears, I'm not sure about the salmon).

Show & Sale Chairman Maynard gave us a pep talk concerning the show and sale. The important part, he says, is to bring your plants! Plan on sticking around a bit to help as well.

We then decided to have the raffle before the program so that the raffle plants could be used as part of the program.

The program, a hands on Show & sale Workshop had the members getting their hands dirty repotting all sorts of succulents into all sorts of pots. They all came out looking great and ready for the Show & Sale!



OCTOBER'S PROGRAM

Strange Plants of South Africa Or, Why is the South African flora so diverse? Presented by Maynard Moe

This is a talk I prepared for the "Coffee with a Professor" program at Cal State. It deals with the familiar and less familiar succulents (mostly) of South Africa and addresses the question why the South African flora is so incredibly diverse. Similar regions on other continents do not have floras nearly as diverse as found in South Africa. The talk will not be too technical and there will be lots of nice photographs.

Maynard

Plant of the Month

SUCCULENTS OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a treasure trove of succulent plants. Included are nearly all the mesembs, as well as some Caudiciforms and many other well-known succulents like the crassulas and aloes. Here is an incomplete list of genera to help you in choosing your plant of the month:

<i>Adenia</i>	<i>Conophytum</i>	<i>Hoodia</i>
<i>Adenium</i>	<i>Cotyledon</i>	<i>Huernia</i>
<i>Adromischu</i>	<i>Crassula</i>	<i>Kalanchoe</i>
<i>Aloe</i>	<i>Duvalia</i>	<i>Lithops</i>
<i>Aloinopsis</i>	<i>Euphorbia</i>	<i>Orbea</i>
<i>Anacampseros</i>	<i>Faucaria</i>	<i>Ornithogalum</i>
<i>Argyroderma</i>	<i>Fenestraria</i>	<i>Pleiospilos</i>
<i>Astroloba</i>	<i>Gasteria</i>	<i>Sarcocaulon</i>
<i>Avonia</i>	<i>Gibbaeum</i>	<i>Stapelia</i>
<i>Caralluma</i>	<i>Glottiphyllum</i>	<i>Trichodiadema</i>
<i>Ceraria</i>	<i>Haworthia</i>	<i>Tylecodon</i>
<i>Cheiridopsis</i>		

SHOW & SALE "Things To Do"

- Please bring plants. It does not matter whether they are "staged" with special pots, top dressing and rocks. We want diversity. The only thing to watch for is mealy bugs or scale insects. We can't accept any "buggy" plants.
- If you don't have entry cards, don't worry. You can fill one out on Saturday morning.
- BRING PLANTS. Bring them Saturday morning between 7 and 9 am so we can set up the show. It is really difficult to add plants after the show is set up.
- BRING "allied interests" such as photographs, ceramic succulents, etc.
 - any arts and crafts display dealing with cacti and other succulents.
- Pick up your plants between 3 and 4 on Sunday afternoon.
- The Show and Sale is officially open from 10am – 6pm on Saturday and 11am – 4pm on Sunday (October 8-9). Even if you have not signed up, please "hang around" and talk to visitors. No special expertise is required. It is lots of fun to share our enthusiasm with the public.
- Be sure to wear your BCSS t-shirt.



ON-THE-ROAD with Bonnie
Hesperaloe parviflora, Red-flower False Yucca
located in one of the numerous desert garden
areas at the Denver Botanic Garden

AUTUMN IN SVERIGE (SWEDEN)

By Lynn McDonald

We recently took a two week holiday to Scandinavia. It began with a short 2-day visit to Copenhagen, before going on to Sweden. Our main purpose was to relax and visit some of the many students who have stayed with us here in Bakersfield. Several have attended our summer BCSS potluck meetings at our ESA garden. We had our Scanrail passes and traveled easily around the lower half of the country. From Kobenhavn to Malmo, Gothenberg to Eksjo, Karlskrona to Norrkoping & Koping, then to Uppsala & home from Arlanda aritport, just north of Stockholm.

The Danish & Swedish people seem to enjoy succulent plants and pot them in a special way, not with rocky top dressings as we do. One plant was seen in nearly every Swedish home we visited -- *Zamioculcas zamiifolia*. A great plant that can tolerate bright or low light, moisture or drought. I'd like to find one of these I think, if anyone sees them.

One of the trip highlights was a trip to the glass district. We toured several shops, Kosta, Orrefors, Boda, Sea, & Pukeberg. We were able to see the artisans blowing glass, making wine glasses while we were there.

We visited our very first student, who came to us Christmas 1998. He is now 25 and working on his Master's thesis at the University in Norrkoping. It is an interesting setting. The University is built in the old textile warehouses along the river in the center of the city. It is very picturesque with a river walk/deck around the school. The city of Norrkoping has a summer cactus & succulent display, sponsored by a different organization each year.

We spent time walking in the city of Uppsala, before we met our student from this summer, Alexander. The University there is the oldest university in Scandinavia. There is a wonderful Cathedral there, which alas, was closed when we arrived. We were able to take a walk through the University Botanic garden. It was originally part of the castle grounds and later given to the school. One very nice part was a succulent section, set in a circle, filled with Sedum, Sempervivum, and a few other cold tolerant, carpet-like species. I recorded some names, but promptly lost that list.

We were very well treated by our friends & their families. Sweden is a beautiful place with forests, lakes, seaside, great food, and friendly people, and easy to navigate. Highly recommended.

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE



Work in the garden has been sporadic and has consisted mainly of moving in rocks and one large cactus, as well as watering and a little weeding. Four of us (Andy, Sasha, Steve H. and Linda) managed to move a very large Golden Barrel cactus into the garden. This cactus was donated by Joel who lives on Fairfax. It is about 20" in diameter and 30 inches high. Moving it was quite the

adventure! We managed to dig it up (an interesting experience since it had more cactus growing near it...) and then used two-by-fours to irritate it (and us) a bit, and then finally used a sling to lift it into the bed of Andy's truck. Getting it out was easier than expected and it was planted fairly



quickly at the garden. Thanks to Andy and Sasha Honig and Steve Hampson for their help.

We will begin to work more regularly in the garden after the Show and Sale. We will be moving plants and rocks around, as well as putting in the walkways and working on the "Old World" section of the garden. I look forward to seeing lots of you there! Fall is a great time to plant, so we should schedule a work day sometime this month.

Linda

BCSS SHOW & SALE CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION I: CACTI, Individual Potted Specimens

1. Ariocarpus, Obregonia
2. Turbinicarpus, Epithelantha, Gymnocactus, Strombocactus, Pelecyphora, Ortegocactus, Aztekium, Geohintonia, Neolloydia
3. Coryphantha, Escobaria, Neobesseyia, Echinomastus
4. Thelocactus
5. Astrophytum
6. Ferocactus, Echinocactus, Echinofossulocactus, Ancistrocactus
7. Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
8. Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Toumeyia
9. Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Pereskiaopsis
10. Mammillaria
11. Columnar cacti
12. Copiapoa
13. Matucana, Submatucana, Oroya, Arequipa, Denmoza
14. Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Horridocactus, Pyrrhocactus, Islaya
15. Lobivia, Echinopsis, Mila, Acanthocalycium
16. Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
17. Notocactus, Wigginsia, Malacocarpus, Eriocactus
18. Parodia
19. Gymnocalycium
20. Frailea, Blossfeldia
21. Melocactus, Discocactus, Buiningia, Uebelmannia
22. Epiphytic cacti
23. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates
24. All other genera
25. Seed grown by exhibitor

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS, Individual Potted Specimens

26. Mesembryanthemaceae: Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria, etc.
27. Stapeliads: Huernia, Caralluma, Pseudolithos, Trichocaulon, etc.
28. Other Asclepiads: Fockea, Ceropegia, Hoya, Brachystelma, Raphionacme, Gonolobus, etc.

29. Crassula
30. Curcubitaceae: Momordica, Kedrostis, Cephalopentandra, Zygosicyos, etc
31. Adenia
32. Dorstenia
33. Ficus, Bombax
34. Echeveria, Graptopetalum, Dudleya, Pachyphytum
35. Sedum, Tacitus, Rosularia, Orostachys, Sinocrassula
36. Adromischus, Cotyledon, Tylecodon
37. Aeonium, Aichryson, Sempervivum, Monanthes, Greenovia, Kalanchoe
38. Composites: Senecio, Kleinia, Othonna, etc.
39. Aloe
40. Haworthia, Astroloba, Gasteria
41. Euphorbia
42. Other Euphorbiaceae: Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.
43. Pachypodium, Adenium
44. Portulacaceae: Ceraria, Anacampseros, Talinum, etc.
45. Sansevieria
46. Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
47. Bursera, Pachycormus, Fouquieria, Commiphora
48. Cyphostemma, Cissus
49. Agave, Yucca, Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Dracaena, Nolina
50. Bromeliaceae; Dyckia, Hecthia, Bromeliad, Tillandsia
51. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates
52. All other genera
53. Seed grown by exhibitor

DIVISION III: ARRANGEMENTS

54. Cactus Collections
55. Succulent Collections
56. Dish Gardens

DIVISION IV: ALLIED INTERESTS

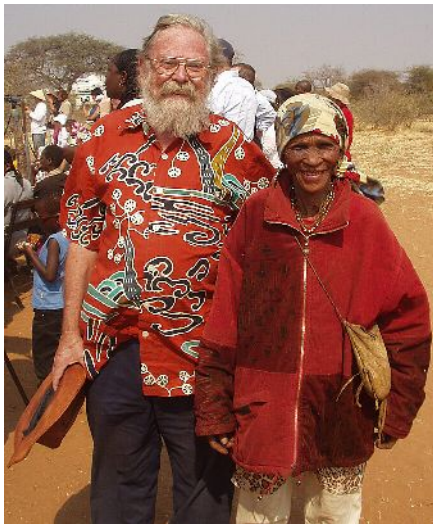
57. Photography, Crafts, etc.



OVER-CULTURED A Letter From Bruce

We finally saw "Hotel Rwanda". I had feared it was just another pessimistic account of gross inhumanity. To my joy, it is a positive report on one man's effort to counter such inhumanity. It is good to be reminded that one man can make a difference. (We have never been to Rwanda except for a brief stopover at Kigale airport on the way back from Bujumbura to Kampala, but the cultural conflict is the same as Burundi which we have visited. I would not want to live in that neighborhood.)

Fortunately the cultural conflicts in Botswana are relatively mild.



Bruce & Dada

The Tswana peoples are by far the majority. We have had ample opportunity recently to see that there are problems in accommodating the minorities. We started on the 19th of August with a visit to D'Kar, a Naro San (Bushman) settlement north of Ghanzi (the far West of Botswana). That Friday evening we watched 16 groups demonstrate healing dances. This emphasizes the truth that there are many different groups of San. Some were from South Africa and Namibia, but the majority were from parts of Botswana, which has the largest population.

Interestingly, two of the groups (the Hambukushu and Herero) are black Africans rather than San. Some people are surprised to learn that the San are not the only people to use trance and dance for healing.

Saturday there was a marathon of dancing. The morning started with a nursery school group. They were cute (except for the kid who was drug in and ran off screaming). The rest of the morning was spent in watching "Entertainment" dances. These are basic stories such as hunting for oryx or being attacked by lions. In the afternoon they had a series of games. The commonest one was a dance where each woman threw a small melon (or orange in an updated version) behind her while dancing. The groups varied from one which dropped them all to another

which adroitly caught every throw.

There were crafts for sale and I bought a print by "Dada" Coex'ae Qgam. We found her in the crowd and were happy to answer her complaint that no-one buys her work by telling her I had bought one. Even with the help of our host Hessel Visser, author of the Naro Dictionary, we were unable to identify the plant in the print. We only have the Naro name, but I suspect it is Indigofera, a plant which has long been used for the dye indigo in many places.

Incidentally, this trip was the inaugural use of our Land Rover. There were continuous problems starting with a rotten intake hose that had to be replaced the day we started out, to continuous overheating. The last straw was at Jwaneng where we stopped for fuel on the way back. We got hit by another vehicle (nothing serious) and had to wait a long time for the police to determine it was the other driver's fault.

Another vehicular problem occurred when we went out to Mokolodi Nature Reserve on the 28th. Polly locked the keys in the car and I had left the spare set at home. We were rescued by our friend Ian Kirby who happened by as he was checking how things were going at the Nature Reserve he founded. (Incidentally, he is also Attorney-General for the country and represents a very small, but powerful, minority of white citizens)

On the 4th of Sept. we went to Bokaa Dam (now the main water supply for Gaborone as the main dam is down) with the Bird Club and saw flamingos, spoonbills, cormorants etc. We saw the first yellow-billed kite of the season -being mobbed by a pair of pied kingfishers who are much smaller! It was good to see that African participation is up, but the club is still largely White expatriates.

On the 9th we went to a launching of the book "Reasonable Radicals" (Richard Werbner, 2004, Indiana U. Press). It describes the elite of the Kalanga, Botswana's largest minority. They are related to the majority in Zimbabwe and are under considerable pressure as more and more illegal immigrants sneak in from there.

Tuesday the 13th we went to the old Village Cinema (good to see it used once again) for a live music and dance show "Sidadi". This was a Namibian group which had a wide variety of instruments (from the largest mouth bow I've seen to an obnoxiously loud keyboard) and gave us a sample of the wide variety of cultural groups in Namibian.

On Thursday there was an opening of a Chinese photo exhibit at the museum. It focused on Beijing and the 2008 Olympics. Another culture heard from! (The closest we've been is Hong Kong back in 1984.)

Then on Friday we went to David Slater's house for an evening

of classical music. Most of the numbers were sung by an American volunteer who has an amazing Baritone voice, but all the others were local talent. Quite a contrast to the music they grew up with.

Finally, on the 17th we went to a 20th reunion of the Botswana Music Camp. We were hoping that Hugh Masekela, one of the founders and the most famous of the leaders, would be there. I even bought and read his book "Still Grazing" (Hugh Masejela and D. Micael Cheers, 2004, Crown Pubs., New York). Unfortunately, they had to settle for lesser lights. (Polly & I sang a short number.) Still, it was memorable day.

That same evening the Bird Club had its annual dinner. The food was so-so and the speaker, Tim Crowe, was much too detailed and went on far too long. I have his book on game birds and understood what he was getting at with his numerous family trees, but I think most of the audience was lost.

I'll end on a non-cultural note. A hybrid aloe appeared in the Botanic Garden some time ago and has finally bloomed. It is interesting in that it lies somewhat between the two parents *Aloe globuligemma* and *Aloe marlothii*.



Hybrid Aloe
A. marlothii and *A. globuligemma*

These are the only two in Botswana which have horizontal flower stalks (which the birds love as it gives them a ready perch). In the wild they are

not known to meet and therefore don't cross. Incidentally, the *Aloe globuligemma* bloomed earlier than the *Aloe marlothii*, so even the timing goes against such a hybrid (which, incidentally, bloomed between the other two).

Bruce J. Hargreaves

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

2005



Saturday, October 8 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, October 9 11 am to 4 pm

(Plant set up 7 am to 9 am Saturday)

Center Court, East Hills Mall
Bakersfield



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Elections

It is that time of year again, no, not the holiday season (which is now being pushed in September and in some places August!). It is time to start thinking of how you could make a change or add to the delight of the BCSS Executive Board. Yes, I did say it is time to be thinking about it and perhaps even running for a position. If you have any questions please contact any Board member listed in the BCSS Newsletter or Roster.

Bonnie

To have your article printed in

The Cactus Patch get in touch with:

Stephen Cooley, editor

Linda Cooley, editor

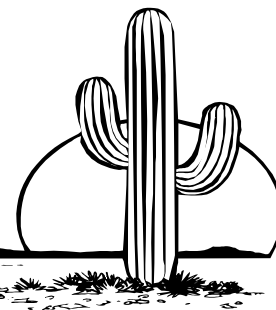
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Oct 8-9 Annual BCSS Show & Sale. East Hills Mall

PLANT SET UP: Saturday 7am-9am

SHOW: Saturday 10am – 6pm Sunday 11am-4pm

Oct 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.

PROGRAM: Strange 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!

Dec 13 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.

PROGRAM: Annual Holiday Potluck/Auction/Raffle

Jan 10 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.

PROGRAM: The Canaries & the Origin of the Sahara

SPEAKER: Bruce Hargreaves

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

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

contact the editors (page 14) for more information