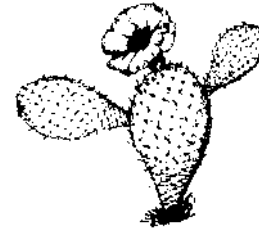


Lapidaria margaretae
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 8 **November 2005** Number 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Succulent Photography

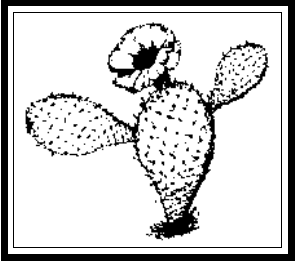
Presented by Les Oxford
Bring your Photos!

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 8

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:
Bromeliads!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 8 Number 11
November 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 – Maynard Moe

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Vonne started the meeting by welcoming four guests, she thanked everyone for bringing their plants and participating in our recent Show & Sale. Special thanks went out to Sydney & Jack, Bill & Lynn, Ed Colley, Mickey McGuire, Stephen Cooley and Maynard Moe for their extra work. A special Thank-You card being signed by the members for Deanna of East Hills Mall who has really worked hard to see that we had everything we needed for the show.



Field Trip Czar Lynn reported that, though there were no organized field trips planned, there were plenty of places to go this month. This includes the San Gabriel C&SS winter show, sales at the Fullerton Arboretum and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, as well as our local CNPS native plant sale. She also mentioned that we should think about some more rock gathering trips now that the weather has cooled (the rocks are being used at the Cal State succulent garden).

Show & Sale chair Maynard gave us some facts and figures about last weekend's show:

342 plants were entered in the show!
We made more money this year than last year.
We netted about \$900.

If you have any ideas about what kind of books to acquire for the library, let an officer know about it (now that we have some cash to spend). Also, if anyone knows of someone that might have a program that the club would like to hear, let us know.

Maynard, meanwhile, slipped into a phone booth and changed from mild-mannered club treasurer to University Professor -- botanist extraordinaire, able to leap tall cactus in a single bound (okay, sometimes it takes him two bounds). He then gave his presentation "Strange Plants of South Africa." The presentation focused on the similarities of plants in South Africa and California as well as the immense diversity of plants that exist in South Africa. This includes a vast number of succulents. Maynard explained some of the reasons that this diversity exists like high seed predation, short-range seed dispersal, and pollinators that travel far. We saw excellent pictures of both landscapes and plants (even the inside of a *Fenestraria*).

The meeting ended with the raffle with members and guests winning some fantastic plants.

Plant of the Month

BROMELIADS

by L. Maynard Moe

Bromeliads, members of the Bromeliaceae, are native to the tropical and warm temperate New World. (A single species (*Pitcairnia feliciana*) is found in western Africa.) There are about 45 genera and 2,500 species that include epiphytes, such as Spanish moss *Tillandsia usneoides*, and ground plants, such as the Pineapple *Ananas comosus*. The largest bromeliad is probably *Puya raimondii*, with a rosette that is 9 – 12 feet tall and a flower spike about 30 feet tall. The smallest is probably Spanish moss. (An aside: "true" Spanish moss is a bromeliad that grows on tree branches in southeastern US. Our "Spanish moss" on oak branches near the coast is actually a lichen.)

After glancing at a few reference books on succulents, it becomes obvious that bromeliads are not nearly as popular as cacti and mesembs. In fact, many books don't include any bromeliads at all. However, there are some familiar bromeliads; we even had some in our Show and Sale. The most common bromeliad is probably *Cryptanthus warasii*. It has a rosette of many leaves spiraled around the central axis and could be mistaken for an aloe or agave when it is not on bloom. In fact, succulent bromeliads often resemble agaves, aloes, or haworthias. The leaves of

succulent bromeliads are usually armed, often viciously, with teeth along the margins.

Unlike their epiphytic relatives the succulent bromeliads develop a large root system and require good-sized pots in order to grow well. Many of them tolerate full sun. Although they are succulent they require a good deal of water during the growing season. During the winter they are best kept, like other succulents, on the dry side at cooler temperatures. Popular genera include: *Abromeitiella*, *Cryptanthus*, *Dyckia*, and *Puya*.

More information can be found at the International Bromeliad Society <http://bsi.org/>

NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

Succulent Photography Presented by Les Oxford



Copiapoa columna-alba
Picture by Stephen Cooley

On the November 8th meeting, this will be your chance to bring a photograph of your favorite plant to present. Let your imagination go! Choose your background, composition and lighting. The photograph could be a 4x6, 8x10 framed or not framed. Lets see what comes up!

Les

[This Meeting is really designed to be a sharing of ideas – bring your photos in whatever format you have and share with the club. We hope to have a good discussion and exchange of photographic techniques. Don't be put off by your lack of expertise, come and learn! – editor]



A Succulent garden in Sweden – from Lynn’s recent trip (see “Autumn in Sverige” in last month’s Cactus Patch). Perhaps there are some ideas here for the succulent garden at Cal State?

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Four of us met out at the garden on October 23. Sidney, Jim, Steve and Linda planted some South African bulbs (mostly *Watsonia* spp.), and moved rocks around. Then Jim got the idea that we needed a dry stream bed in our garden! What a great idea...so Steve and Jim excavated a stream bed and we started lining it with various rocks. After it was finished, we put the hose at the head of the creek to try it out and it works! We have decided to name it Faucet Creek. We would like some old defunct faucets to put at the head of the creek, sort of “tongue in cheek,” to add a fun element. So if you happen to find an old faucet that you no longer want or need, bring it to the meeting or out to the garden.

We will start meeting more regularly to work in the garden now that it is cooler. We still have some formidable tasks ahead: installing the walkways and finishing the borders, for examples. We also need to go out into the desert and gather more rocks for the garden! It’s great weather for visiting the desert. Also, it has been suggested that the club purchase some very large boulders for a couple of strategic locations in the garden, and that it might be possible to have the delivery of them donated. If anyone would like to pursue this, please go ahead!

Let’s plan on the next work day being November 19 or 20. I’ll be emailing you to remind you of the date. See you then.

Linda

A Cactus-Collecting Trip to the Deserts of Southern Nevada, Northwestern Arizona, and Southwestern Utah

By Carl Purpus, Plant Collector in Western America

Translated from German by Barbara Ertter

(Thanks to James Parker for submitting this!)

PART ONE

Toward the middle of April of last year [1898], I departed by wagon from Springville, Tulare Co., California, on a journey to the region described in the title. We proceeded from Springville toward the Greenhorn Pass, which led into the valley of the Kern River, a rather dry area wherein cacti first made their appearance. The eastern slopes of the mountain were covered with masses of *Yucca whipplei* Torr., which had been in full bloom when I was here in May of the previous year [1897], presenting an incomparably beautiful spectacle. At the foot of the range grew large quantities of *Opuntia basilaris* Engelm., completely covering some places on the slopes.

From here our way led toward Walker Pass, which enters into the Mojave Desert. At the upper end we encountered *Opuntia echinocarpa* Engelm. for the first time. This species, the only treelike *Cylindropuntia* of the Mojave Desert, is extraordinarily variable. Its stem and branches are sometimes so thickly covered with vicious straw-colored spines as to be hidden from view. *Yucca arborescens* Torr. (*Yucca brevifolia* Engelm.) appeared at the same time, forming large or small stands all the way to the summit of the pass, over 1600m.

After a two-day rest we continued our journey toward Walker Pass, which we reached after a day of travel. Everywhere along our route I noticed *Opuntia basilaris* Engelm. in moderate abundance. On the eastern slope occurred large stands of *Yucca arborescens*. Underneath the *Yucca* grew *Opuntia basilaris* and *O. echinocarpa*, the only cacti in this part of the Mojave Desert. We camped at a spring in a picturesque area. Jagged peaks ascended to our left, the northern section of the Mojave Desert lay in front of us, and the black, mostly volcanic El Paso Range rose above us to the east.

From here we proceeded to Indian Wells at the foot of the Sierra Nevada, whose sharply cut, steep, rocky peaks rose to our left into the cloudless sky. From Indian Wells we cut across the desert toward the Argus Mountains. The sand flat was largely covered with *Larrea mexicana* Mor., with individual *Opuntia echinocarpa* and additional *O. basilaris* growing in between.

The next morning we reached the Argus Mountains, a stony barren range dissected by deep canyons. *Echinocactus polycephalus* Engelm. appeared here for the first time in very rocky ground of granite and basalt, first as isolated specimens 30-60 cm tall, then growing in clumps 1.2-2 m across. This species seldom occurs above 1300 m, its limit coinciding with that of *Larrea mexicana*.

[Part Two will appear in next month’s Cactus Patch. This is a long article and I can’t seem to fit it in all at once – editor]

The 2005 BCSS 6th Annual Show and Sale

A thank you to the club!!

The Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale this past week-end was amazing. It looked wonderful with all the contributions you so cleverly added to our show. We had a great variety of cacti and succulents and filled our space fabulously. Actually we are planning on expanding the tables next year, so plants will have a little more room!

A special thanks to the following people who helped Saturday and Sunday above and beyond the call of duty. First of all: Sydney Kelley organized much of the details ahead of time for the sale. She and Jack were there many hours greeting people. Maynard Moe also worked ahead of time with the actual S & S meetings and made sure all the i's were dotted and t's crossed. Then he set-up and stayed at the show all week-end. We could not have shown anything without Ed Colley's assistance with tables. Also many of the large cactus were from his collection. Stephen Cooley added his expertise to help the set -up and judging. Jennifer Cooley's clerking



kept people moving comfortably through the displays and check-out. Eugenia and Bonnie ran the art table and Bonnie prepared table decorations. Lynn and Bill helped with the check-out and greeting people. Mickey McGuire helped with dismantling and returning Ed's tables. Many other members came to show their support, thank you to you too.

This past year has been rewarding seeing how we novices have worked together with you experts to make the club continue and prosper. At each juncture we have been concerned if it will work out and everything just keeps improving. You've proved it with your contributions to the yard sale, your attendance at the meetings, and now sharing your plants and time with the public for our Show and Sale. And for that I am exceedingly grateful.

Your friend and president,

Vonne Zdenek





GIANTS & PIRATES

A Letter From Bruce

After 2 1/2 years the orchid *Eulophia latilabris* which was collected in the Okavango has finally bloomed. It is a spectacular pinkish purple flower which occurs in large numbers on a yard high stalk. It has been put on display at the museum as the first



Eulophia latilabris

“plant of the month”. Its tiny relative *E. hereroensis* has also come into bloom and has been added to the display. It is a hardy orchid which grows in dry areas of Botswana.

Botswana went all out for Polly's birthday this year. (Actually Sept. 29th marks the last day of British rule. Independence resumed at midnight in 1966.)

The museum was all set to unveil giant statues of the three Dikgosi (chiefs) (Khama III, Sebele I and Batoen I) the next week, but the vice president insisted this be done on the 29th. (He is the great grandson of Khama III.) These three dikgosi

went to England to plead against the threatened takeover of the Protectorate by Cecil Rhodes. Although they were popular in England, it is doubtful if the government would have listened to them. The abortive raid led by Leander Star Jameson (allegedly planned in the old building still being restored in our botanic garden) was probably the most important factor in preserving the protectorate. (But no one is planning a statue of him!)

The three dikgosi statues are so enormous a fire truck had to be brought in. I'm glad they didn't ask me to go up the ladder. I'm also glad our division was only involved in advising on indigenous plantings. (They got most of them right, although *Aloe arborescens*, *Kalanchoe blossfeldiana* and *Sansevieria trifasciata* are all exotics.) I didn't want to be involved directly because it has become a political issue since these three Dikgosi represent only the three largest groups of Tswana and not the smaller groups or non-Tswana minorities. They did, however, protect everyone by keeping Rhodes out.

On a lighter note, our choir produced "The Pirates of Penzance" by Gilbert & Sullivan on the 7th & 8th of October. (Polly & I were chorus members only.) To make the story more culturally relevant, our director David Slater wrote a narration ostensibly by "Mma Ramotswe" the heroine of "The 1st Lady Detective Agency". Alexander McCall Smith, the author of the lady detective series gave his support and the part was magnificently done by Prof. Sheila Tlou, the Minister of Health. (We all seem to be multi-talented here!) We also had two pianists and a number of local soloists to bring it off. It was a hit.

At long last my "Cucumber Family in Botswana" has been published. I submitted it four years ago for inclusion in the Botswana Notes & Records. They eventually decided it was too long and have printed it as a separate booklet. It is horrible. It abounds in typographical errors and the line drawings are not well computerized. None-the-less, I am glad it is done. I shall, however, seek another publisher in the future. I will bring a number of copies to California in December and will sell them for \$10 each. Unfortunately not all of the Cucurbits are succulent, but there are a sufficient number with caudexes and tubers to be of interest to succulent collectors.



Unveiling the 3 dikgosi

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

2005 SHOW AND SALE RIBBONS

FIRST PLACE

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Abrometiella brevifolia - Sydney Kelley | Adenium obesum - Sydney Kelley |
| Stapelia grandiflora - Vonne Zdenek | Aloe Johnson's Hybrid - Anne Lee |
| Ariocarpus fissuratus - Linda Cooley | Astrophytum ornatum - Ed Colley |
| Bombax ellipticum - Linda Cooley | Cactus Hats - Linda Cooley |
| Carnegia gigantea - Ed Colley | Cotyledon sp. - Lynn McDonald |
| Dinteranthus vanzylii - Stephen Cooley | Dish Garden - Lynn McDonald |
| Echinopsis sp. - Sydney Kelley | Euphorbia cylindrifolia - Anne Lee |
| Euphorbia decaryi - Sydney Kelley | Melocactus sp. - Bonnie East |
| Euphorbia polyacantha - Maynard Moe | Gasteria sp. - Sydney Kelley |
| Glottiphyllum pygmaeum - Stephen Cooley | Notocactus sp. - Bonnie East |
| Haworthia cimifolia - Vonne Zdenek | Mammillaria sp. - Sydney Kelley |
| Opuntia clavaroides - Lynn McDonald | Opuntia monstrose - Sydney Kelley |
| Pachypodium geayi - Ed Colley | Aloe sp. - Linda Cooley |
| Sansevieria Silver Queen - Linda Cooley | Aloe sp. - Vonne Zdenek |
| Tylecodon paniculatus - Sydney Kelley | Agave sp. - Sydney Kelley |
| Zamiacaulcus zamiafolia - Lynn McDonald | |

SECOND PLACE

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Adansonia sp. - Anne Lee | Astrophytum ornatum - Ed Colley |
| Ariocarpus retusus - Lynn McDonald | Aloe sp. - Linda Cooley |
| Cheiridopsis denticulata - Stephen Cooley | Agave sp. - no tag |
| Cheiridopsis robustus - Stephen Cooley | Aloe Winter Sky - Lynn McDonald |
| Cleistocactus strausii - Jennifer Cooley | Euphorbia malottii - Les Oxford |
| Copiapoa hypogaea - Stephen Cooley | Dish Garden - Alice Hargreaves |
| Echeveria cilliata - Lynn McDonald? | Haworthia pumila - Vonne Zdenek |
| Euphorbia horrida - Nathaniel Cooley | Fockea tugelensis - Linda Cooley |
| Haworthia truncata - Nathaniel Cooley | Jatropha sp. - Sydney Kelley |
| Jatropha berlandieri - Lynn McDonald | Crassula sp. - Lynn McDonald |
| Mammillaria sp. - Vonne Zdenek | Opuntia monstrose - Sydney Kelley |
| Obregonia denegrii - Stephen Cooley | Mammillaria sp. - Bonnie East |
| Pachyphytum sp. - Sydney Kelley | Saguaro Candlesticks - Bonnie East |
| Sansevieria cylindrica - Ed Colley | Senecio scaposus - Sydney Kelley |

THIRD PLACE

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Aeonium crest - Sydney Kelley | Agave sp. - no tag |
| Aloe Dorian Black - Lynn McDonald | Copiapoa cinerea - Linda Cooley |
| Cylindrophyllum tugwelliae - S Cooley | Crassula sp. - Bonnie East |
| Kalanchoe sp. - Bonnie East | Drimia maculata - Les Oxford |
| Euphorbia neobosseri - Nathaniel Cooley | Mammillaria sp. - Sydney Kelley |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Euphorbia susAnne Lee - Sydney Kelley | Sansevieria singularis - Ed Colley |
| Pachypodium lameri - Sydney Kelley | Euphorbia poissonii - S Cooley |
| Trichodiadema bulbosum - Bonnie East | Dish Garden - Vonne Zdenek |
| Tephrocactus articulatus - Sydney Kelley | Aloe sp. - Vonne Zdenek |
| Oreocereus hendricksianus - Nathaniel Cooley | |

CLUB RECOGNITION

Abrometiella brevifolia - Sydney Kelley
Echeveria sp. - Sydney Kelley
Epiphytic Cactus - Anne Lee
Euphorbia decaryi - Sydney Kelley

MOST RESEMBLING COW PATTIES

Ariocarpus fissuratus - Stephen Cooley

FUZZIEST

Cephalocereus senilis - Jennifer Cooley

MOST DANGEROUS LOOKING

Ferocactus rectispinus - Linda Cooley

MOST DEAD LOOKING

Euphorbia platyclada - Maynard Moe

MOST FEMININE

Melocactus sp. - Bonnie East

MOST MASCULINE

Oreocereus celsianus - Ed Colley

MOST UNUSUAL

Opuntia monstrose - Sydney Kelley

SHOW FAVORITE

All the Haworthias

Honorary First Place

Aloe plasticifolius - Jack Kelley

[note: I appologize for missing anyone, for instance, I know that Ken Rogers won at least one ribbon, but I didn't have it in my notes.]



Change of Email

Linda Cooley has changed her Email to:

(It's only a bit different than the old one)

**Thanks To All Who Brought Treats
To Our October Meeting**

Gwen & Steve, Sidney & Jack, Sasha, Eugenia, Lynn & Bill



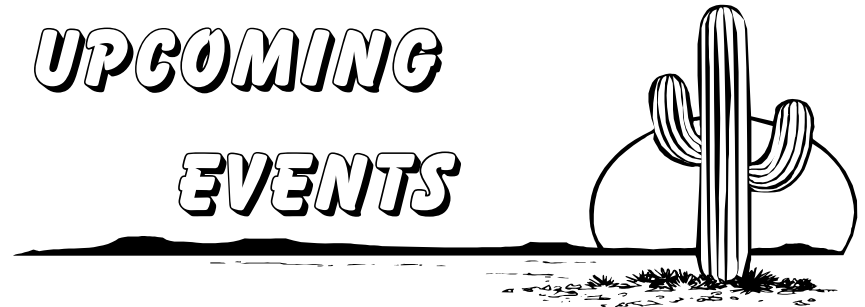
**To have your article printed in
The Cactus Patch get in touch with:**

Stephen Cooley, editor

Linda Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- 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

- Nov 5 Orchid Festival, Rainforest of Wonders, UC Irvine Arboretum, 10AM-3PM,
- Feb 11 San Diego Winter Show & Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

contact the editors (page 14) for more information