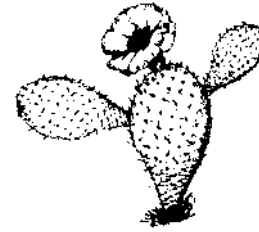




Another of Sydney  
Kelley's Photos

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 8    **December 2005**    Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

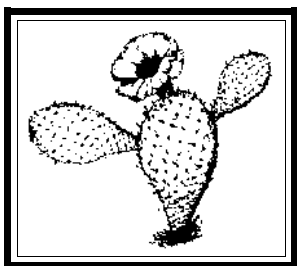
## **Fabulous Festive Holiday Gathering and Potluck**

### **Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, Dec 13**

Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at **6:00 PM**  
(West of 99 freeway  
on corner of Olive drive &  
Victor street)

**Meeting  
Starts  
at 6:00**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 8 Number 12

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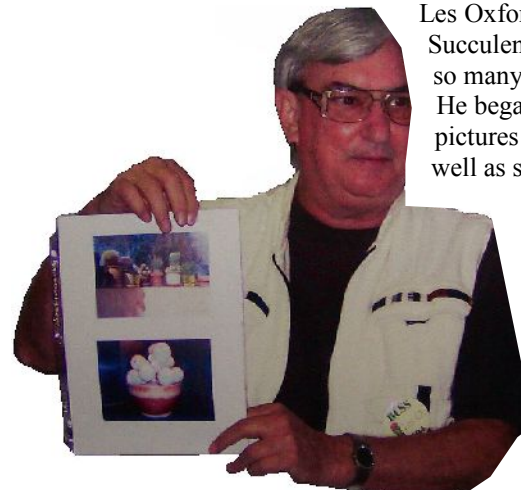
**Hospitality - Bill McDonald**  
**Librarian – James Parker**  
**Field Trips – Lynn McDonald**  
**Historian – open**  
**Show & Sale – Maynard Moe**

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President Vonne began the meeting by welcoming the new members and guests. She reminded us that new officers need to be installed for the coming year. The Secretary & Vice-President positions need to be filled! We had a treasurer's report and Vonne asked for ideas on ways to spend our money.

Les Oxford then began moderating our program: Succulent Photography. He said he was glad to see so many good pictures brought in by the members. He began by showing some of his & Donna's pictures from their recent trip to Oaxaca, Mexico as well as some from Morro Bay and his patio.



Others bringing photos include Debbie & Erin Johnston, Anne Lee (who only brought a few of the 1000 photos she took in Southern Africa), Stephen Cooley, and Sydney Kelley (I'm sorry if I missed anyone).



New member Erin Johnston shows some photos

## DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

### **Fabulous Festive Holiday Gathering, Stupendous Silent Auction, Sumptuous Succulents, Cacti Cognizant Company**

Where can you find all these things wrapped up into one evening?? The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society's annual December pot-luck.

We will gather around 6:00 to dine together. We will have lots of time to admire the many unusual plants on hand for the silent auction. We will casually dine. Then... the fun will begin!!! If you spy the perfect plant, you must then try to keep ahead of the few others who couldn't possibly want that same succulent, but seen to be admiring it, so that it will be an addition to *your* collection at the end of the evening. You do this by bidding, rechecking, and bidding again.

For dinner the club will provide drinks, and table settings. Please bring a dish to share. We always seem to have a great variety of dishes, so just bring what sounds good to you.

If you have any cactus related items you'd like to donate to the club, we can add those to the silent auction. In the past this has included such items as painted dishes, a magazine holder in the shape of a cactus, hats that resemble cactus, margarita glasses with cacti stems (of course), and many more clever creations. These can be purchased or home-made. If you like it, probably one of your club buddies will admire it too. This is a chance to celebrate, and reflect on another fabulous year with the club! Please join us.

Your very appreciative president,  
Vonne Zdenek

## 4 THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Garden Journal, Dec. 4, 2005

It was a beautiful sunny, crisp, cold morning in the garden. The garden looked great. The plants really responded to the rain. Steve L. and I weeded some; there wasn't much else to do. Jack and Sidney came by to bring faucets and to talk a bit. Thanks to Sidney and Jack we have 12 faucets for "Faucet Creek" and just need some pipe to put them on.

We will really need more people if we are going to put in the walkway and build the raised beds. I wonder if enough people are still interested?? Maybe you can discuss this at the next meeting...If not too many are truly willing to help, then I will revise the plans into something I can do with just a couple of people...Or, if someone else wants to direct the efforts, that is okay too. I think it is probably not the proper weather for doing concrete, but I don't know much about that....James Parker is our expert on the "soil cement"!

Anyway, we will keep on top of the weeds. We would like to go out and get more rocks some time, and even purchase some mixed gravel to spread over the soil. Keep tuned for more information!

Linda



"Faucet Creek"

photo by Sydney Kelley

## 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 TWO

The next day our journey took us from here to the camp of a German by name of Georg Vornberg, a friend of mine from Baden who owns several gold mines in the area. His camp was located at the foot of Argus Peak, at 2000 m the highest peak in the range. I stopped here for several days. The following day I explored the eastern part of the Argus Range. I found the stunning *Echinocactus polyancistrus* scattered in gravelly soil, usually in porphyry, slate, or granite, in association with *Echinocereus engelmannii* Lem., which more characteristically grows in the rocks. Whereas *Echinocactus polycephalus* barely extended above 1300 m, *Echinocactus polyancistrus* first appeared at this altitude. We later discovered that in other places the species first appears as high as 2000 m and then extends up to 2500 m, where its limit coincides with that of *Echinocereus mojavensis* Ruempl. In sandy soil, *Opuntia echinocarpa* and *O. basilaris* grew in abundance!

After tarrying for several more days, we set out on the continuation of our journey. Our route skirted the imposing Madurango Range over a plateau covered with *Yucca arborescens*, intermixed with the shrubs and *Opuntia* species previously mentioned. The following day, after crossing an arid desert-like area, we reached the small mining town of Darwin. A white-flowered form of *Opuntia basilaris* occurred here, where it had likewise been collected by Coville. From here we proceeded to Owens Lake, skirting it to reach Keeler and continuing up the valley. To the west rose the snow-capped Sierra Nevada. Its jagged peaks, whose sides drop almost vertically into the valley, made an imposing impression. To our right were the Inyo Mountains, a very dry, partly volcanic range on whose highest peak grew scattered *Pinus monophylla* Torr. & Frem. and *Juniperus californica* Carr. var. *utahensis* Engelm. We arrived at Big Pine after several days' travel!

From here we turned eastward toward [Westgard] pass that cuts between the Inyo and White Mountains, where I decided to stay for several days. I climbed the mountains to the left of the pass on the following morning. *Opuntia rutila* and *O. basilaris* grew next to *Echinocereus engelmannii* on the lower slopes. *Echinocereus mojavensis* occurred at 2000 m, growing in large clusters on the limestone outcrops. It was absolutely covered with blood-red, golden-centered flowers. It strongly reminded me of the closely related *Echinocereus phoeniceus* Lem., of which it is probably only a variety. At higher elevations I encountered an *Opuntia* similar to *O. rutila*, differing in its spines but probably only a form of this species.

On one of the subsequent days we continued across a plateau where *Pinus monophylla*, *Juniperus californica* var. *utahensis*, and *Artemisia*

*tridentata* grew, enroute to Deep Spring Valley. At the lower end of this desert-like valley was a small lake fed by strong springs on its southern margin. In the evening we arrived at the solitary ranch in the valley, where I hoped to remain for a few days. On the way I found the attractive *Opuntia pulchella* Engelm., whose large dark red flowers made a lovely display. I collected this *Opuntia* between 2300 and 2600 m, as we were later to discover, so I therefore believe it to be winter-hardy. Because the plants grow here in pure sand, they should not be difficult to cultivate. I explored the granitic mountains south of the ranch the next day, and encountered splendid specimens of *Echinocactus polyancistrus* growing in gravelly loam.

The following day we proceeded over volcanic ridges to Fish Spring Valley. On the slopes of the trachyte mountains I saw more examples of *Echinocactus polyancistrus* covered with lovely magenta flowers, an incomparably beautiful sight. Fish Spring Valley is a fairly high valley ranging from 1400 m to over 1600 m in elevation. To the west rose the peaks of the White Mountains, well over 3500 m tall, and to the east was the Palmetto Range, which attained nearly the same altitude [incorrect]. The highest peak in this range is Mt. Magruder at 3300-3500 m. A strong wind came up that evening, black clouds blew in from the west over the White Mountains, and it began to rain.

When we awoke the following morning, the lower reaches of both mountain ranges had been whitened with snow. We broke camp rather early and reached the border of Nevada after a short hike. *Yucca arborescens* gradually reappeared, not in concentrated stands but instead scattered over the slopes.. We stopped at Palmetto Mine, where I decided to camp for a week.

The next morning I climbed Mount Magruder, which was still partly covered with freshly fallen snow. Enroute I found spectacular specimens of *Echinocactus polyancistrus* on the limestone and slate, in greater numbers than I had yet seen it. On the mountain I observed it at 2000 m elevation, extending to nearly 2600 m. Now and again I also noticed *Echinocereus engelmannii*, but not above 2100 m. I also found *Opuntia pulchella* growing only on level plains, beginning at 2050 m and extending up to 2600 m. At the time it was still covered with buds. Shortly past noon I reached the summit of the mountain, after trudging through snow in places. I was surprised to find the yellow flowers of an *Opuntia* intermediate between *O. rutila* and *O. missouriensis* P. DC. at 3200 m. It must be fully winter-hardy. My vantage afforded a view over a large portion of the desert area of Nevada, with its separate mountain ranges whose highest peaks were still covered with snow! After I had explored other directions on this very interesting mountain, we departed one beautiful June morning to continue our journey toward Gold Mountain on the northern edge of Death Valley. On the way I noticed *Echinocereus engelmannii*, *Opuntia echinocarpus*, and *O. rutila* growing in slate-like stone. After traversing a desert valley that was connected to the ill-famed Death Valley, we reached Gold Mountain on the following day.

Gold Mountain is an extremely dry, nearly waterless mountain, partly volcanic, partly sedimentary and plutonic. *Yucca arborescens* grew scattered on

its slopes. I saw large quantities of *Opuntia basilaris* in many places, covered with its deep red flowers. *Opuntia echinocarpa* and solitary specimens of *Echinocactus polyancistrus* were also present.

We stayed at Gold Mountain for several days and then proceeded to Sarcobatus Flat. The greater portion of this flat was occupied by a so-called "Dry Lake" that shimmered whitely in the sun. The surface had a thin alkali crust that blinded the eyes as did a snowfield. The center of the dry lake appeared to be covered with water, but upon closer approach this proved to be a deceptive mirage. The reddish brown, mostly bare Grapevine Mountains rose over the desert to the west. The highest peaks were crowned with a thin forest of *Pinus monophylla* and *Juniperus californica* var. *utahensis*. The mountain range separated this desert from Death Valley, which lay 60-90 m below the level of the Pacific Ocean.

Late in the evening we reached Oasis Valley. Here were found the springs of the Amargosa River that disappear into the sand after a brief existence. The river consists of one such dried bed that traverses the Amargosa Desert and wends its way to Death Valley. The following day we reached the Amargosa Desert, a totally waterless undulating plain forty miles long. It is flanked to the right by the Grapevine Mountains and to the left by the notorious Funeral Mountains, an extremely dry range that is nearly devoid of springs.



## Visitors & A New Spurge A Letter From Bruce

Ron & Charlene Stebles arrived from California on 13 October. They are the first non-relatives to take us up on our offer to host anyone who can get here. (We had met them at the Fresno Cactus & Succ. Society.) After recovering on Friday with a brief visit to the Thrift Shop, the botanic garden, lunch at the nearby Belgrade take-away, and an oriental dinner at 25 Degrees East, we hit hard on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> with the annual visual & performing arts at the museum. One interesting interlude was when the usual parade came in the front of the museum. The horses went in with no problem, but the donkeys (pulling a cart) refused to go through the rather enclosed entryway!

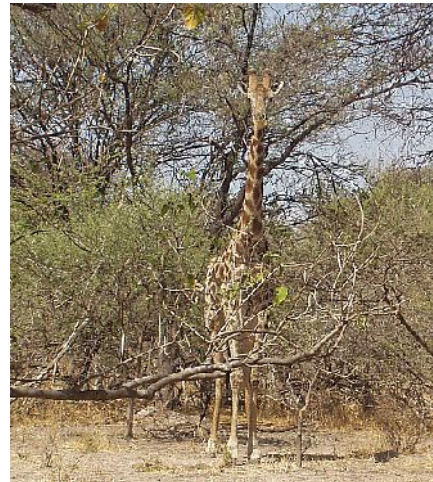
We left early and after lunch hit the road to the northwest. Near Shoshong I started screeching and we came to a sudden stop at a hillside full of candelabra shrubs. Although I had been by the spot a number of times, I had not noted these rather obvious succulent spurges. They are related to *Euphorbia cooperi*, but are shorter with skinnier stems. I suspect they may be a new species! At any rate, I pressed a branch and will return next year to see the flowers and fruit. The rest of the trip was uneventful and we stopped at the Lentswe Lodge in



Grey-billed hornbills at the Island Safari. The next picture Polly took shows them mating, but I thought that might be too much for the general public.

Polly took the Stebles shopping in Maun on Monday and the three of them flew over the Okavango on Tuesday. They saw plenty of game, but the Stebels wanted more so they moved to a related hotel on the Boteti River on Wednesday, returning on Thursday. Among numerous animals they saw a number of lions.

I repeated my bird club talk to the Maun branch (a very small group showed up) on Wednesday and on Thursday we had a wildlife officer speak to the foresters. They were quite outspoken when he defined wildlife as "vertebrates" and said elephants were good because they cleared the forest. Both are dangerous things to say to plant people.



A giraffe in the Maun Game Reserve. Polly walked there while the Stebles were off to the Boteti

Serowe.

In the morning I looked out the window to identify a noisy bird (Burchell's coucal) and was immediately struck by the six-foot green caudex growing on the hillside. It turns out there are a number of plants of *Adenia fruticosa* growing there! This plus the carrot trees (*Steganotaenia araliaced*) and Commiphoras (relatives of the elephant trees or Bursuras) makes this an ideal nature reserve. I shall try to encourage the hotel to make a path with labels for the plants. They are obviously interested in plants, as there are three newly transplanted Sesame bushes (*Sesamothamnus lugardii*) at the entrance.

We arrived in Maun in good time and settled in at the Island Safari Lodge where we had stayed before. I then spent the next four days teaching tree identification to foresters.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> we drove down to Ghanzi. Just before D'Kar the radiator hose burst. A local farmer went to D'Kar and got us a new hose. While we were waiting, a government car from the Tree Course came by, so we would have been rescued at any rate. We stopped at D'Kar and I bought another painting by Dada. She happened to be there and posed for another picture. We had a restful night at the Kalahari Arms in Ghanzi and reached Kang for brunch the next day. Just past Kang the car died and we had to get jump-started to limp back to Kang and buy a new battery. We still reached Gaborone by supertime. We went to the Mugg & Bean, a restaurant allegedly of American origin.

On Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> we went out to Rob Patterson's nursery which is the best

9

succulent one in Botswana. Then we had a poolside lunch at the Grand Palm and walked around the pond there to look at birds. In the evening we drove around the Gaborone Game Reserve and found the pond there full of flamingos.



*Adenia fruticosa* at the Lentswe Lodge in Serowe.

On Monday Polly took the Stebles to Odi weavers. Then on Tuesday Polly and the Stebles set off in the Land Rover for Khutse Lodge. I thought with the new lodge and ongoing roadwork they might have gone in the car, but Polly says there is still too much sand. They were very lucky and saw a leopard and a couple of honey badgers. The lodge is quite luxurious compared to the camping I had to put up with in the past.

On Thursday we had lunch at Sanitas, the most expensive nursery in town and went to a high school production called "House of Kalumba" at Maitisong. The play was about a woman who rebelled against her husband-chief. Unfortunately for women's lib, she loses.

From the 28<sup>th</sup> to 1 Nov. the Stebles were up north touring Chobe National Park and Mose oa Tunya (a.k.a.

Victoria Falls). They reported plenty of game despite the outbreak of anthrax which has led to the burning of animal carcasses

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> I was part of the museum team to greet the House of Chiefs who decided to visit the Three Chiefs Monument. All three women, including the newest who was just appointed, were there. I was honored to greet Chief Seepapitso. (In 1969 I taught at Seepapitso Secondary School when Batoen II was chief. The present Seepapitso posed for pictures in front of the statue of his great-grandfather Batoen I.)

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> we went to Ramotswa to see 2.5 billion year-old fossil stromatolites and plants of *Euphorbia schinzii*. Then we went to Boatle to see a hybrid aloe with its two parents, *Aloe marlothii* and *Aloe leutescens*. Finally, we visited rock paintings and Livingstone's fig (*Ficus ingens*) at Manyana. We had dinner that evening at Primi Piatta, a very noisy restaurant.

The Stebles tried to leave on the 4<sup>th</sup>, but the plane was delayed by a storm (unfortunately not here) and they spent an extra night in Johannesburg. They did, however, eventually make it back to Clovis.

On the 29<sup>th</sup>, while the Stebles were up at Chobe, there was a book sale in Gaborone. Among others, I bought The Story of Earth and Life by Terence McCarthy and Bruce Rubidge (Struik, 2005). It is lavishly illustrated and a bargain at R194 (\$28). It is a rather inclusive geology text written from a Southern African perspective. Gabadirwe, the head geologist at the museum is thrilled. Bruce Rubidge is a specialist on Karoo fossils. When I was head of the

Protection and Preservation Commission in Lesotho, I gave him a permit to export fossils for study. After I left an officious bigwig in Government demanded their return as he interpreted this as theft! Bruce hadn't even cleaned them! The other author is a specialist on the geology of the Okavango, but I haven't met him. The first half of the book is a bit boring as it only talks about rocks, but the second part is a fascinating account of fossils.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

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## CHINA

### A Letter From Lynn



The first chance I had to write was from Bangkok. The E-mail was blocked in China. Some could get through on Yahoo using a special code, but I have forgotten my yahoo password & anyway, would rather be in town looking around & shopping than sit in Internet cafe! We were in a college area in Bei Bei & the Internet cafes were filled with young people, all gaming.

Anyway, here I sit in Bangkok. My friend Jane is playing her recorder & Ben (aged 9) is working on learning the violin. Arrived here last night late. The flight here from

Chongqing was fun, talking with my interesting seat mates, being helped to the correct line in Hong Kong airport by an Ethiopian man whom I began chatting up. I said something like "my, you have some fabulous succulent plants there" & he replied that they have quite a few social problems. Then the Chinese man behind me (sewage specialist) who wanted to practice his English. Today we have been to the British Club (sounds so civilized!) for breakfast while Ben had a tennis lesson. Then shopping at a favorite store & lunch. We have come home early because my Thai friend (Jane's husband) Kittisak's mother died today. She has been ill for years. There will be five nights for the funeral activities and I feel lucky to be able to attend some of the services at the local Wat (Buddhist temple)

It would be so difficult to describe this trip (and who is really interested in hearing it all anyway!!) But, I will try. Our team all met up in Hong Kong. It was an experienced team with 3 Mandarin speakers. We could not have done without them. Lots of varied personalities, but we all seemed to work well together. It was the first trip ever to this city & the second in China. This was the cleanest hospital I had ever seen in China & have ever worked in on such a trip.



Two large, bright ORs, and the supply room, recovery room all so close. We saw 100 patients and 72 had surgery. The others were ill or whatever, but most were great candidates & the children healthy with really no anemia. There are 600 more cleft patients in that district alone to be seen. Those little babies with cleft lips are so adorable, trying to smile with those funny little faces. So sweet. One looks at normal babies now and think they look a little odd.

We had two wonderful

nurses in the OR I worked, Ran Su Fang & Chen Xiao Li. Besides being good nurses, they also demonstrated other excellent qualities some of my coworkers (and friends) could learn from. They massaged my back and hands a lot, wanted to carry my backpack for me, and generally showed me the respect I am due at my age! The nurses on the ward were wonderful & absolutely loved our team leader/pediatrician Janet. Since white is the color of mourning, the nurses on the ward wear pink (and look so cute).

We worked from about 0730 until 1800 more or less. In the evenings we walked to dinner in town from our hotel. Lots of good food & some suspicious. Some spicy & some not. One night we did go to a local hot-pot place -- said to be one of the city's famous dishes, summer or winter. Groups sit at these big tables with a gas burner in the center. Then you are brought these huge divided pots that get to boiling & one adds a variety of things to them, some take longer to cook & so you sort of have to watch your area so things cook enough & others do not disintegrate. One group had the real HOT pot & ours was not. Somewhere in between would have suited me. Lots of the stuff was good. Our Chinese team members wanted to give us a good variety & so included plates of bloody eel, pork brains along with more standard fare meat, tofu, noodles & vegetables. Once we were served cooked duck blood. Not for moi.

Other nights we shopped & always strolled the streets because so much is always going on -- street vendors, shops, all manner of activity. The most popular physical activity is done on the local downtown parks in the evening. People all gather & there is a leader & music. More or less like low stress aerobics. A couple of us joined in for a bit. Also, in the hospital front parking lot every morning is Tai Ch'i, save for the last days when it was raining. I wish I could just walk to the neighborhood park to exercise in the evenings.

This time of the year it was always foggy, misty. The sun tried to peek through the first week, without success, It was cooler week #2. We even left the city on the weekend, but no sun there either. And Chongqing is one of the Three Ovens of China, very hot summers (like home?) The change was just amazing since I was last in China in 1992. People more friendly, less spitting in the streets, women much more colorfully dressed with chic pointy shoes; hair colored & styled. The only folks who stared were some of the elderly, not so accustomed to western faces. The countryside did not seem to have changed

much. Still very funky living conditions. The people may have more clothing and food, but it still seemed pretty bleak. Back in the city, there was so much building going on. Huge tall apartment buildings going up everywhere. Shopping malls & big fancy department stores, like any large city. We were a little wrong in our initial figures of population. Chongqing (pronounced more like Chong Ching) has 13 million. We were in suburb about 40 min. away of Bei Bei which has 6 million. The entire region of Chongqing has 32 million. It is a hilly/mountainous area & so there were very few bicycles. Also, gas there is about \$5 for 4 liters, so there are not so many cars either. One does not feel one is in such a populated area.

Some trip highlight for me were the traditional Chinese opera in a wonderful old style theater in Chongqing -- fabulous costumes and little vignettes of singing, dancing, skits. The Foot Massage place. What a blast with thirteen of us in group rooms. First they soak your feet in hot water. The first time it was so hot I thought the plan was to remove the first layer of epithelium to get us clean enough to even touch. It was amazing and they spend a lot of time on the feet, but do one's back & limbs as well -- 90 mins to 2 hours, all for \$5. I only got there twice, sad to say. One of the neatest parts was watching the guys at our feet, it was almost choreographed, their movement, the slapping sounds. Since I lost my digital camera in Sweden I did not take so many photos, but think I got some of this activity. Also, we were working in the Chinese Traditional Medicine Hospital. Some of us were seen by a well known traditional practitioner. I was deemed basically healthy & given a 5-day treatment with herbal infusion. The last work day we could have more massage or acupuncture. I chose acupuncture. That was great. He was able to go exactly to the painful areas.

Another treat was going to the tea departments. What an array of green teas -- from all the regions, first & second places in competitions, etc. Diligent young women there to measure it all out & place into lovely boxes. We did get to take an evening boat cruise at the confluence of the Chang (Yangtze) & Jaling rivers. It was fun, thought we could not really notice the merging, watching instead city lights & spectacular neon displays.

I saw only a few succulent plants, in some small gardens. Sago palms were common. There were a lot of small golden barrel cacti potted in white with blue printed pots to be seen decoratively in department stores & on hotel lobby counters.

Usually Interplast gives a farewell party. But the Population & Child Welfare Foundation insisted on giving it for us & paying. Someone came to the hospital on Tuesday to measure us all to make us each a beautiful jacket, which we all were to wear for the party. It was a lively event. At some point we heard the nurses were not to be invited, but we seemed to be able to change that, but we could not invite the woman housekeeper who helped us. A myriad of rules & traditions. Anyway, the party was amazing with food, video of our trip playing, funny games, many gifts for us (too many) a chance to do some calligraphy, some disco & waltzing too. The morning of departure I had to go along to the hospital for a meeting & to secure the boxes. Then we went to the ward for the last clinic checkup -- to discharge the last couple days of patients & to see the

others still hanging around. Many of the children had written letters to the group & drawn pictures. It was very touching. The pink nurses were really hugging Janet (she is about their height) & crying. I started crying & then they hugged me too. A bonus for me to have been there. More sadness when the group went their separate ways at the airport. Two flew to Chengdu. One flew to her hometown in northern China. Three to Beijing for a few days. The rest to Hong Kong for overnight & I came on here. I always say this is my last trip, but after such an experience, it makes me change my mind.

PS: It was pretty cool the entire time in Bangkok, never hot at all. I went for the first time to the home built after WWII by an American officer/business man -- Jim Thompson. He helped develop the modern Thai silk industry (& his family continues to benefit from sale of upper-end products & clothing) The traditional Thai style (modified) home & garden along the klong (canal) is an oasis in the city. Also attended young Ben's ice hockey lesson (ex-pat & Thai kids both) As we were leaving, the distant future's women figure skaters were preparing for their lessons. I was able to attend one more prayer vigil for Kit's mother. The cremation was to have been the day I left. It was interesting to be at a working wat, instead of ruins of or really fancy ones. There were lots of funerals going on, both Thai & Chinese ceremonies. Also there is a kitchen, and food like a bowl of soup, is cooked there & given to mourners between periods of prayer.

It is good to be home & to find that I did not miss all the autumn color. I see that Christmas is in full swing!

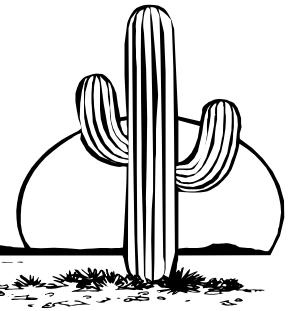
Lynn McDonald

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)

Les Oxford has changed his email

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

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

Feb 11 San Diego Winter Show & Sale, Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

contact the editors for more information

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)

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