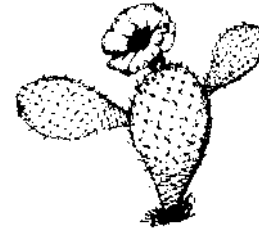




Myrtillocactus geometrizans
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 9 **January 2006** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

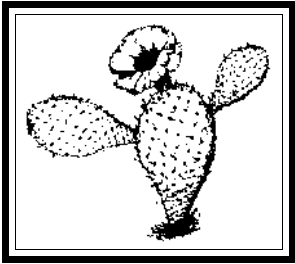
This Month's Program
**The Canaries
& the Origin of the Sahara**
by **Bruce Hargreaves**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Jan 10

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

**Have You
Paid Your
Dues?**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 1

January 2006

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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December 13, 2005



Our annual December Potluck and Auction was another wonderful gathering of our members and their families. There was an abundance of good food for all to enjoy and the auction had plenty of

succulent plants and many other succulent-related items. We were happy to see many members that we haven't seen in a while.



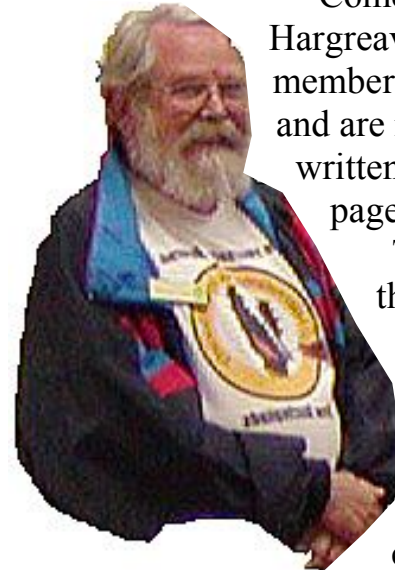


JANUARY'S PROGRAM

The Canaries & the Origin of the Sahara

Presented by
Bruce Hargreaves

Come join us for another of Bruce Hargreaves's lectures. For those members who are fairly new to the club and are not familiar with Bruce, he has written us a bit of an introduction on page 7.



The Canary Islands are home to the famous Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*) and also to Aeonium, a popular succulent. There is always plenty to see and hear at one of Bruce's presentations, so come and enjoy!

Plant of the Month

Canary Island Plants

These would include: *Euphorbia canariensis*, *Aeonium*, *Ceropegia dichotoma*, *Monanthes*, *Grenovia*, *Euphorbia atropurpurea*, *Dracaena draco*, and others.

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Garden Journal, Late December 2005

Hello fellow succulent gardeners! Happy New Year!

We didn't do too much this month in the garden except to acquire some railroad ties. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Andy Honig, Steve Hampson and the Kelleys, we now have quite a few free railroad ties which can be used to make pathway edgings and raised beds. The club owes these members a big Thank You for their hard work and the use of their vehicles. Thank You!

We will have our next work day on Sunday January 8 at 9 o'clock. I think we will be planning out the walkways and how to use the railroad ties. If you are interested in helping or want more information, let me know.

Please bring (if you can) a shovel, gloves, weeding implements, plants, or anything else you think you might want to play with in the garden. If you have any idea of how to cut a Railroad tie, please let me know!

I will also send out an email reminder. I hope to see you out there on Sunday!

Linda



Who Is Bruce & Why Is He Sending Me Letters? A Letter From Bruce

I was pleasantly surprised at the Christmas potluck to see a sea of unknown faces. I never imagined the Bakersfield Club could be so successful. My lack of optimism stems from experience. As Herb Thorne expressed it in a recent election appeal in the Fresno Club:

"In the early 1960's I was a founding member of the long defunct Kern Cactus Klub, which was dissolved when two of our stars Bruce and Polly Hargreaves left us for the Peace Corps in Malawi...".

I'm always happy to be needed, but it is also great when things carry on.

But, to go back to the beginning, after BHS and BC, I finished a BA in field biology at UCSB and married Polly in 1964. In 1965 we joined the Peace Corps and served 3 1/2 years in Malawi. We returned to Bakersfield in May of 1969 and our older son John was born in June.

Then it was off to Chapel Hill, No. Carolina where I received an MSPH in parasitology from UNC in 1970. Next was New York City where I got a PhD in parasitology from NYU (Thesis on Malaria) in 1974.

I taught at the University of Malawi (1976-1981) and National Univ. of Lesotho (1983-1989). James was born in Malawi and started school in Lesotho. I served as head of Natural History at the Botswana National Museum from 1989 to 1996.

In 1996 we returned to Bakersfield and a new Cactus Club was started. I taught at San Joaquin Valley College and Taft College. Then in 2001 I returned to the museum in Botswana and will probably be there for another 1 1/2 years.

Why do I write letters? Ego? To keep in contact? [Please feel free to comment on what I write.] To help explain where some of these weird succulents come from? To inspire future workers? Just because! It's a bit of all of the above.

Bruce J. Hargreaves



Bruce on Pryor St. with *Agave americana* descended from his grandfather's plant in Stockton, CA.

***Aloe plicatilis*: The Fan Aloe** by Chuck Staples Mid-Iowa C&SS

I love this plant with the smooth trunk bark and the flat leaves. *Aloe plicatilis* can grow from a tall shrub to a small tree in its natural habitat on rocky slopes in western Cape Province of South Africa. It can be grown in a pot for a good number of years and is a nice addition to one's collection of succulent plants. With a few years of age the plant branches dichotomously (forked in two equal branches).

A LITTLE HISTORY ABOUT THIS PLANT SPECIES

It has been suggested that this plant was first discovered in 1658 by Pieter Potter along the Roode Zands mountains in the Cape region of South Africa. It wasn't until about 1695 that a Latin name was given to this plant by Heinrich Bernhard Oldenland (1663-1697) who was the master gardener and superintendent at the Dutch East India Company garden in the Cape Town region of South Africa -- and what a name it was --

Aloe africana arborescens montana non spinosa folio longissimo, plicatili, flore rubro. This name was first included in print in volume 2 of the book 'Hortus Amstelaedamensis' that was the primary work of Johannes Commelijn (1629-1692) and printed in 1701 by his nephew, Casparus Commelijn (1668-1731).

The long Latin descriptive name is now called a pre-Linnaeus name since it was used before Carolus Linnaeus (1707-1778) set up his simplified binomial (genus & specific epithet) system of naming plants in 1753.

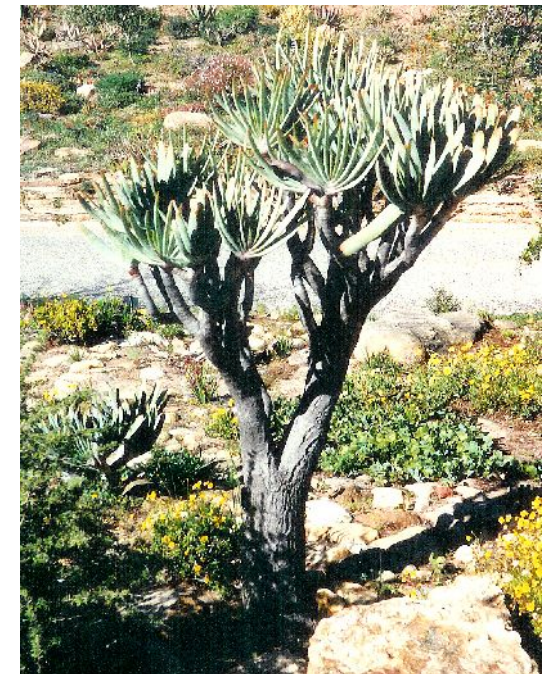
Known early on as the 'Fan Aloe', C. Linnaeus gave this plant species the varietal name *Aloe disticha var. plicatilis* in 1753. It was upgraded to its current species name, *Aloe plicatilis*, in 1768 by Philip Miller (1691-1771).

Some notes on growing Fan Aloe in Bakersfield:

Fan Aloe is large but slow and does very well in a big pot. It can be grown in the ground if you are careful as to the watering and exposure. It is a winter grower and likes to be watered in late Fall through Spring. Summer is a resting period, so do not soak it when the weather is hot. During the summer, some of the leaves may turn black at the tips, especially if the plant receives afternoon sun.

I have two cuttings from my plant -- one I will be donating to the Cal State garden when there is a suitable site for it, and the other I will bring to the January meeting for some lucky member to win in the raffle.

Stephen Cooley



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Garden Work Day

We will have our next work day on Sunday January 8 at 9 AM. We will be planning out the walkways and how to use the railroad ties.



Michael Asa Hargreaves

born on 21 Dec 2005.

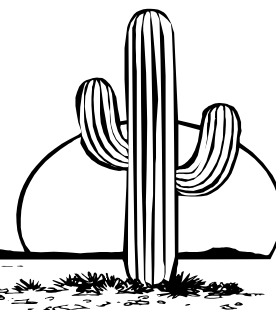
He weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces (3.5kg), but was kept in the hospital for a week with a minor infection and now weighs over 8 pounds! (4.4kg)

James and Emily are only slightly more pleased then Bruce and Polly!
(But they've had less sleep, too!)

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
Llithops44@bak.rr.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Jan 8 Cal State Garden Work Day 9 AM

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

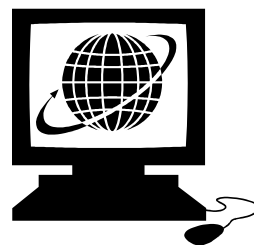
To have your article printed in

The Cactus Patch get in touch with:

Stephen Cooley, editor

Linda Cooley, editor

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Be Sure To Check Us Out

On The Web At:

www.BakersfieldCactus.org