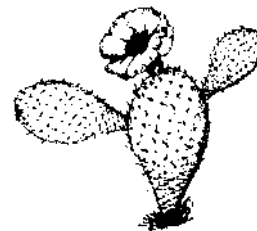




Conophytum elishae
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 9 **February 2006** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

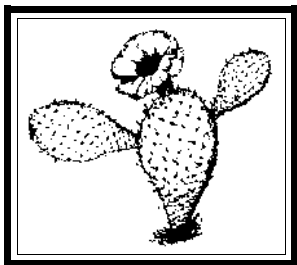
Bolivia to Patagonia by Woody Minnich

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Feb 14

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

**Our meeting place is
no longer in the
Alzheimer's Building.
We are now in the
large meeting room
just to the north**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 2
February 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

2006 Officers

President – Vonne Zdenek
Vice-President – Steve Crippen
Treasurer - Maynard Moe
Secretary – Anne Lee
Editors - Stephen Cooley
Linda Cooley

2006 Directors

CSSA Representative - open
Past President – Matt Ekegren

2006 Chairpersons

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

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President Vonne started out the meeting by announcing that, for this year, Steve Crippen has agreed to be the Vice-President and Anne Lee will be the Secretary. Both are long-time members that will serve the club well. Vonne also asked that people sign up to bring refreshments.

Lynn McDonald mentioned that she would like to set a date for the Rock Collecting Field Trip – March???

Bruce Hargreaves then began his presentation of “The Canaries and the Origin of the Sahara.” As usual, Bruce not only brought pictures, but many other interesting items as well - books, plants, brochures, newspapers, etc. He began in the Canary Islands by explaining that the islands were named after dogs

(Genus *Canus*) and that the songbirds were named after the islands. We were given a tour of a botanic garden built on a volcanic cliff. Among the plants were *Euphorbia lambii*, *Euphorbia purpurea* and 30 types of *Aeonium*.

Bruce then moved on to discuss some rock art found in the Sahara. The oldest of which shows giraffe, hippopotamus, and crocodile and implies that the Sahara was not always a dry,





sandy desert. As one looks at younger art cattle are depicted – cattle were brought in by humans. The newest art shows horses, another man introduced animal. Now lets go back to the Canaries and talk about Dragon trees (*Dracaena draco* is the most common one seen in Southern California). There are 2 species of Dragon tree on the Island and 1 species in Morocco. Dragon Trees also occur along the Red Sea and on the island of Socotra just south of the Arabian Peninsula. But none exist in the middle Sahara. However, pollen studies show that they have been there in the past. Along with the Dragon Trees, *Euphorbia balsamifera* exists on both sides of Northern Africa but not in the middle, and there is one species of East African *Aeonium*. The question then is: As time progressed the Sahara became dryer and, at the same time, man introduced grazing animals, but, were these plants separated by a natural change in climate or did man hasten the process by introducing grazing animals?

We finished off the evening with many members winning some great plants at the raffle table.



FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Bolivia to Patagonia

Presented by
Woody Minnich

Woody Minnich, Cactus Data Plants owner and member of our club, will speak to us once again. His presentation this time will continue his study of South American cacti. We have seen and heard about his trips to Chile and Argentina and now he augments this with Bolivia and more of Argentina. If you have never come to hear one of Woody's talks then you don't know what you're missing. Not only are his photographs superb, but he really knows his plants and doesn't forget to show us some of the non-cactus stuff. Not only that, he brings along some of the best plants you will ever have an opportunity to buy!

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

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

Plant of the Month



Sansevieria

By L. M. Moe

Sansevieria is a genus of about 100 species, variously known as bowstring hemp, snake plant, and leopard lily, from dry tropical Africa, South Asia and Madagascar. They are related to the Aloes.

Traditionally they have been placed in the Agavaceae but

modern DNA analysis has supported splitting Agavaceae into smaller families. Now many botanists place *Sansevieria* in Dracaeniaceae with *Calibanus* (one species from Mexico), *Dasylyrion* (a dozen species from North America), *Dracaena* (about 60 species in the Old World), and *Nolina* (about 30 species from Southwest North America).

The Swedish naturalist C.P. Thunberg named it *Sansevieria*, after Raimondo di Sangro, prince of Sansevierio, who was a military officer and inventor.

Generally, *Sansevieria* are desert-plants with semi-succulent leaves that can tolerate drought but cannot stand long periods of cold. Most species have thick underground rhizomes with long, stiff and juicy leaves. Some species are cultured for their hemp-like fibers. White or greenish, somewhat fragrant flowers appear in bunches on long stalks. A major attraction of *Sansevieria* lies in the subtle design on the leaves, consisting of vague horizontal bands and stripes.

Care for *Sansevieria* is very simple in that they need light (even sun) and heat. They should be sparingly watered and the soil should dry out between two waterings. It is best to grow them root-bound. If they are placed in large pots, they will become huge and unmanageable.

Mother-in-law's-tongue (*S. trifasciata* variety *laurentii*) is a popular houseplant because of its yellow-striped leaves. It has tiny pale-green, scented flowers. The species commonly called snake plant (*S. thyrsiflora*) has leaves with light-green bands and yellow edges, and the greenish-white, fragrant flowers are borne in a tall cluster.

A good web site is the International Sansevieria Society at <http://www.sansevieria-international.org/>



Grampa Bruce! A Letter From Bruce

Dec. & Jan. involved a lot of shopping, eating in and out, board games and films as the Hargreaves clan gathered for the biggest Christmas ever. We also went to "Cookies at the Museum", "Mama Mia" (a truly professional production with a mention of the Kalahari!) and the feast of lights at CALM. (We were supplied with dumplings by Bruce's sister Lora from Micronesia so when we rode the new train we were the "Apple Dumpling Gang".)

There were 28 of us for dinner on the day. A camper was parked in Alice's drive, a tent set up outside Anne's dining room and several couches made up as beds. Only four were missing, but unfortunately one was Michael Asa Hargreaves who was still in hospital across town. He was finally released on the 28th in time for new years and a baby dedication. Michael reached his parents home in New Cuyama on the 2nd of January, passing three coyotes just out of Taft on the way.

The Hale clan (Polly's family of which she is matriarch) formed a smaller gathering in Fresno beginning with a talk by Bruce to the Fresno C&SS on the 5th.

After touring succulent gardens on Friday, we met for breakfast at a coffee shop on Saturday where a South African singer serenaded me with "When I'm 64". I was shocked to realize that will be this year! We also met our older boy John's friend Amy. They seem very friendly.

We got back to Bakersfield in time for the talk on the 10th and



Orbea keitheii

then we made one last trip to New Cuyama, spotting Pelicans at Rio Bravo on the way. Then it was back to Botswana for Bruce on the 14th. (Polly stayed two more weeks, unable to leave Michael.)

All of the above was preceded by an equally hectic Nov. in Botswana. Since everyone plans on holidays in

December, everything has to be finished before then. The director actually came with us on a field trip to the eastern tip of Botswana to look at sites where new dams will be built to help us overcome future droughts. I found plants of the six-foot milkweed *Calotropis procera*. This weed has not been previously noted in Botswana. I also found a second plant of *Orbea keithei* (the first being one I found in 1989) and managed to get a smallish *Adenia fruticosa* for the garden. We had a beautiful leopard sighting (perched on a rock) - but no honey badgers.

On Sat. the 26th of Nov. we went to National Tree Planting at Manyana, a craft sale just south of town and sang in the President's Concert. On the 27th of Nov. we saw "Mama Jack", a hilarious South African movie that probably won't make it to the States. On Dec. 1 the botanic garden project was declared complete and the museum opened an art exhibit on AIDS. A terrific addition this year was a wall of photos by orphans. Next day I was given keys for the garden buildings and the museum had a show called "VaginaTalk". Yes, they talked about female parts. The next day (3 Dec.) we left for Bakersfield.



Director Mrs. Soso Ruth Lebekwe-Mweendo and Bruce UNTANGLING *Adenium fruticosa* with the Driver Issac Kennekae

By mistake I received the section of the "Flora of Southern Africa" on Aloes (5(1) fascicle 1 (first part); 2000, NBI, Pretoria by H.F. Glen & D.S. Hardy). I had ordered the "Succulent Flora" by Doreen

Court! At any rate, it is useful as it has a distribution map of *Aloe arborescens* which shows a spot in Botswana! Unfortunately, there are some 93 spots but only five localities listed, so I still don't know where and when it was allegedly collected. I doubt that it is natural here (there are a number of garden plants), but at least I now know the source of the claim that it is.

Bruce J. Hargreaves



Rock Collecting Trip

A date needs to be set for another rock collecting trip to the desert. March would be a good time to go out. The rocks will be used in the Cal State Succulent Garden.

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

With spring just springing up, it's time to get working on the garden! We have done so much in the last year and it is beginning to look good. Still, there are many things left to complete. We need to set some work days while the weather is nice!



Cat & Cheiridopsis

Cheiridopsis pulverulenta & *Felis domestica*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMAIL CHANGE

Please change Maynard Moe's email to:
Lithops44@cox.net

HELP NEEDED!

Hulda Magnus is a 90 year old woman who needs some help repotting her cactus. She has lived for 60 years in her house on Baker St. She would appreciate some help with this. If you are interested, please give her a call

Margaret DeArmond has some good potted cactus that she can no longer keep and would hate to have to throw them out. If you are interested in getting some of these plants (or perhaps taking some out to Cal State to put in the garden) give her a call. She lives on Christmas Tree Lane.

Elizabeth Goldsmith has a similar problem with her dish gardens and two very large cactus in terra cotta pots. Contact her

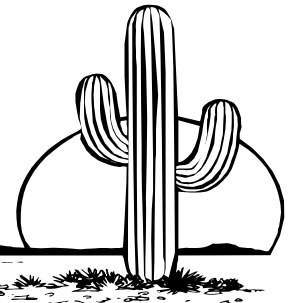
SOME INPUT PLEASE

If you have an idea for a club presentation, or would like to hear more about a particular subject, contact one of the officers and let them know. If you want to go some place for a field trip, or have a topic for a newsletter article, let us know. Your input is needed to help the club be more beneficial to the members.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Feb 14 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.
PROGRAM: Bolivia to Patagonia
SPEAKER: Woody Minnich

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Apr 8-9 South Coast C&SS Show & Sale. South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verde.
Apr 22-23 Green Scene Plant Sale, Fullerton Arboretum
Apr 23 South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale, South Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verde.
May 6-7 Sunset C&SS Show & Sale. Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room. 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.
May 21 Huntington Plant Sale 10am-5pm. Huntington Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino
May 21 Epiphyllum Society Show & Sale. LA Arboretum, Arcadia.
June 10 Gates C&SS 29th Show & Sale 9am-4pm. Sat show starts at 1pm. Jurupa Mts Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr., Glen Avon, CA
June 3-4 San Diego C&SS Show & Sale, Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego.
Jun 30-Jul 2 CSSA Annual Show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Garden. 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.

contact the editors for more information
Stephen Cooley **Linda Cooley**
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com