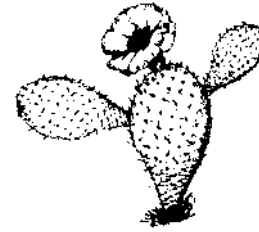




A young *Echinocactus palmeri*
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 9 **March 2006** Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

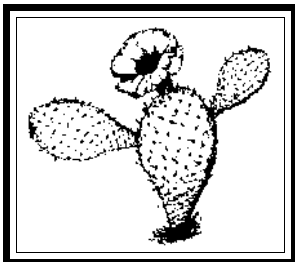
The Hybrid Epiphytic Cacti CSSA Slide Show

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Mar 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 3
March 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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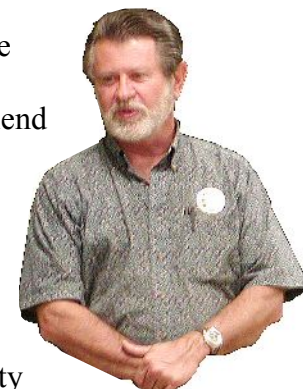


Vonne began the meeting by welcoming some guests and thanking Les & Donna for all the wonderful food they brought (many of us were sorry we ate dinner before the meeting). The



club was happy to have former president Rob Skillin at the meeting tonight. We then discussed a date for our annual Yard Sale and April 28-29th was given the nod. Lynn asked us to set a date for a rock collecting trip into the desert with March 18th being the best candidate. Also, she mentioned that a trip out to Cactus Data Plants for one of Woody's spring sales would be nice – anyone who hasn't been out to see the nursery needs to treat themselves and make the trip.

The speaker tonight was our old friend and member Woody Minnich. He continued what is now becoming a series of presentations on South America with "Argentina: Bolivia to Patagonia." As usual, his photographs were outstanding (he says he took over 8000 digital photos this trip!). We were treated to a wide variety



of succulents, geologic features, ruins, villages, and even a few animals as Woody and his companions trekked south along the Argentine side of the Andes. Among the succulents we saw were the world's smallest cactus, *Blossfeldia lilliputana*, and some gigantic *Trichocereus*. If you weren't at the meeting, here's some of what you missed: *Oreocereus celsianus*, *Tephrocactus*, *Parodia*, *Lobivia*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Cleistocactus*, *Tillandsia*, *Opuntia*, *Liolaemus darwini* (A lizard), *Maihueniopsis*, *Pyrrhocactus*, Llamas, Vicuna, *Rhipsalis*, Goats, *Echinopsis*, *Acanthocalycium*, *Abrometiella*, *Austrocylindropuntia* (that one would earn you 28 points in Scrabble!), *Dyckia*, *Soehrensia*, *Denmoza*, *Pterocactus*, the amazing-looking *Tephrocactus geometricus*, *Stetsonia*, *Jatropha*, *Puya*, *Oxalis*, more gymnos,



Austrocactus, *Maihuenia*, *Araucaria*, *Notocactus*, *Gunnera*, a Southern Lapwing (bird), Penguins, more lizards and *Yavia cryptocarpa* – a newly described cactus.

The meeting ended with a look at

some of the unique ways that Les and Donna have potted some succulents. Then was the raffle with many members going home with a wonderful plant.



HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

BCSS EXECUTIVE MEETING

The BCSS board met at Starbucks at Barnes and Nobles on February 26.

Vonne, Maynard, Steve and Anne discussed plans for the group over coffee, cookie and apple dumpling. It was brought out that Linda had had a surgery and Vonne was to send a card. Dates for future events mentioned were:

Rock trip March 18

Woody's potters sale April 18

Yard Sale April 28 (set up), 29 & 30

Woody's plant sale May 13

BCSS Show and Sale October 14 & 15 (Maynard to set up with East Hills Mall)

Planning program for meetings was discussed - ordering slide shows, speakers for the future. Plant of the month for March should be aloes as they are in bloom now.

Some went home, some went to buy books (I bought two - meeting at Barnes and Noble can be dangerous to the budget.)

Respectfully,

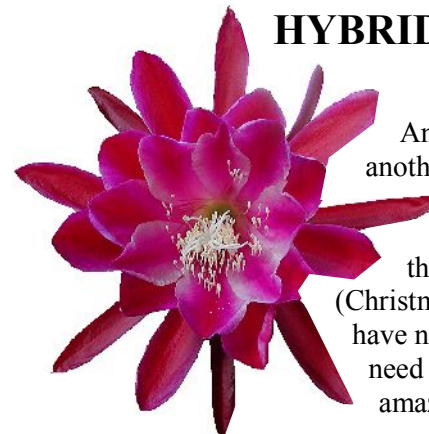
Anne Lee

Disorganized Secretary

MARCH'S PROGRAM

HYBRID EPIPHYTIC CACTI

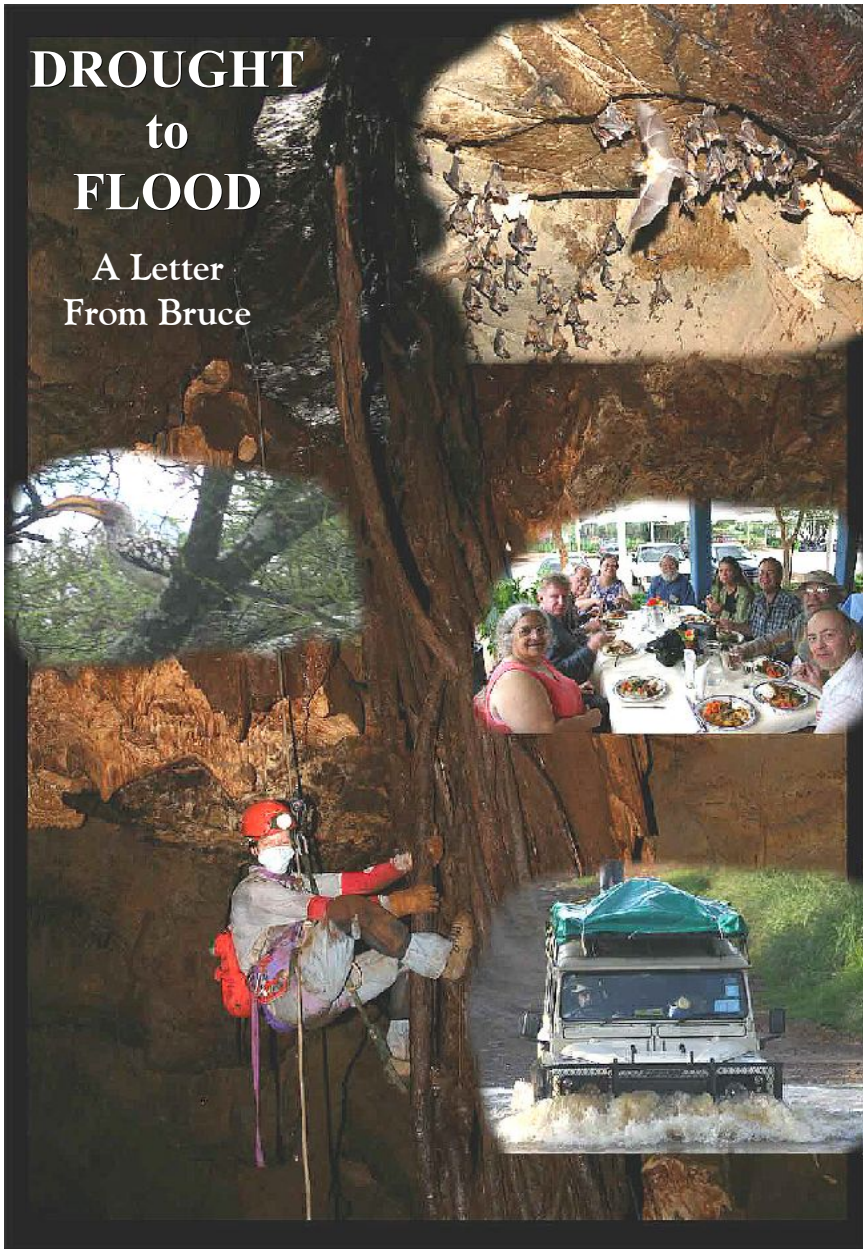
CSSA SLIDE PROGRAM



An epiphyte is a plant that grows on another plant, like orchids on tree branches. There are many epiphytic, or 'jungle' cacti. Among these are *Epiphyllum*, *Zygophyllum* (Christmas Cactus), and *Rhipsalis*. If you have never seen these beauties then you need to come to the meeting -- these amazing cacti will astound you!

DROUGHT to FLOOD

A Letter
From Bruce



When I arrived in Gaborone on 16 Jan. I was amazed to look down on a green landscape. It had been dry and brown when we left at the beginning of Dec.

Things were much the same as I had left them. Only a

couple of events marked the month. Capital Players held a "Last Soiree" for Jacquie Golding who died last year and the museum had an exhibit on Emile Holub, a Bohemian explorer who visited Botswana in the late 1800s. The annual *Holubia saccata* which grows here was named after him. I was given a booklet by the Czech Ambassador called "The Victoria Falls-a few pages from the diary of Emil Holub, M.D.". It was originally published in 1879 by T&G Sheffield, Grahamstown, and reprinted in the Books of Zimbabwe series, Bulawayo, 2004. The reprint has an engraving of the boiling pot at the bottom of the falls. It shows aloes (*Aloe excelsa?*) and euphorbia trees (*Euphorbia confinalis?*). The reprint also includes a description of Holub's travels.

Polly returned on the 31st of Jan. and we had lunch with Nigel Rollo, the previous owner of our dog Spike on the 1st of Feb. (He was visiting from Canada.)

On 5th Feb. our older son John arrived and on the 6th we were blessed with 7 more Calif. Cavers (associated with the Mother Lode Grotto). We helped them get supplies on the 8th and on the 9th we drove them out to the Lobatse Estates south of here. The area was in flood and the dirt road terrible but they managed to make a camp that evening and tried to sleep despite horrendous lightning.

They managed to find one of the two known caves there, but could not explore it well due to bad air. They also found additional small caves, one of which they have named "Mohu" due to the wasps at the entrance. We managed to return and help them back out on Sunday the 12th.

Monday the 13th was spent resting and preparing for the next trip. Doug & Bill figured out how to use the high lift jack to change a tire and noted a small leak in the water pump (we got it fixed). On Tuesday Polly and I joined them for this trek. They rented another 4-wheel drive vehicle as our car would never make it. We started with a side trip to see the Limpopo River. I thought it was dull, but they insisted on doing this. We got back to the main road north in the afternoon, but a tire burst on our Land Rover (just shredded!) Fortunately John kept us upright. While changing the tire (Doug did most of the work), we had a solid wall of water dump on us. The rain stopped the minute the tire was changed!

We limped back to Mahalapye and found a new chalet complex and stayed there. Polly & I entertained with "Baby it's cold outside".

Next morning we bought a new tire and drove up to Francistown for lunch.

Then it was over to Nata (to the west) where we camped at the Nata Sanctuary. Rick quickly earned a place in our hearts as he had brought a wisk broom to keep down the sand in our tents. The place was flooded and the rented vehicle got stuck in mud. Fortunately the winch on the Land Rover was able to pull it out. That night we had hordes of mosquitoes.

Despite this Tom Inderkum entertained us with a plastic didgeridoo and all the cavers sang songs such as "You picked a fine time to leave us, loose wheel", "Knee deep" and "One ton of Guano".

Next morning we drove west to Gweta to see the giant Aardvark (a cement ad for "Planet Baobab"). Planet Baobab says it is the Kalahari Scuba Club. We could believe it as the road in was under water. We continued west to Maun and checked into the Island Safari Lodge. The road there was only slightly less waterlogged. We stayed two nights and the cavers visited the local game reserve (where some managed to spot a giraffe) and took Mokoro (dugouts) up into the Okavango. They mostly spotted birds. This probably pleased Peri Frantz who had her bird book and binoculars. Karole was interested in plants.

On Saturday the 18th we set off to Gcwihaba, the cave open for tourists. The dirt road in was covered with spectacular numbers of butterflies, mostly yellow. Unfortunately, the road became wetter and wetter and at dusk we stopped just north of the Aha Hills. We camped on the spot and were inundated with thousands of moths. Next morning we found one of the Land Rover wheels was soft and so, due to this, and the water, we turned back. We managed to get to Sehithwa on the paved road but no tire repair was found. The Police allowed us to camp in their yard. We were inundated with hoards of spiky bugs.

Next morning the Land Rover was left jacked up and two wheels taken back to Maun. (The spare was also soft.) We found a huge flock of egrets in town. We still managed to get to Ghanzi

early enough to do souvenir shopping and enjoy the Kalahari Arms chalets. We passed huge numbers of yellow-billed kites on the way.

On the 21st we drove all the way back to Gaborone. We passed the largest group of Marabou storks I have ever seen and John managed to hit a Namaqua dove with the Land Rover. On the 22nd the cavers presented a talk at the museum. Most of them left on the 23rd, but John and Rolf Aalbu (entomologist) stayed a little longer.



At the dinner table(left to right):

Peri Frantz, Rolf Aalbu, Doug Bradford, Polly, Bruce, Karole Ward, Tom Inderkum, Bill Frantz, Rick Gates (photo by John).

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 a members only plant raffle. 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

ALOES - Small and Beautiful

by Ram Gandhi, Indian Society of C&S



A 4 foot tall *Aloe marlothii* in Stephen Cooley's garden

Aloes are the largest group of leaf succulents of the Lilly family. With over 400 species this genus is one of the biggest groups of all succulents. This number is further supplemented with a large number of hybrids, both within the genus and with other genera. This group of succulents is primarily from the African continent, spilling over to Arabia. They range in size from large trees over 15m tall to miniatures just 2.5 cm across.

They are grown and enjoyed for the beauty of their leaves and flowers. Leaves can be plain,

spotted, striped or a combination of the above. Leaf colour varies from very light grey green to dark green, tanning in the full sun to almost red at times. Leaves can be smooth, rough and spined. Flowers range in colour from white to yellow to orange and red. They are usually borne on long stalks well above the plant. This stalk can be single or branched.

With such a wide variety it can be difficult to select what to grow and what not to grow. In fact one can have a collection of Aloes alone. Considering the kind of garden space available to most of us these days, it is more satisfactory to grow a number of the smaller growing Aloes and their hybrids rather than the larger ones. Some species of the more easily available smaller Aloes are:

Aloe humilis - this is a very commonly available plant. It has blue green leaves with small spine-like projections on both sides of the leaf. It comes from South Africa. Individual heads are about 15 cm across and tall. It clumps easily and can form very attractive clumps. It flowers with thick spikes of orange-red in January- February. It can tolerate full sun in our conditions. It is of easy cultivation.

Aloe aristata - a very attractive stemless Aloe from South Africa. Its appearance is quite unique, with its dark green leaves marked with

white spots and tubercles with soft spines on both surface of the leaf. The leaf end is marked with a distinct terminal awn. Individual heads reach a maximum of 15 cm. In habitat it is often found in groups and has spikes of reddish flowers. I have not seen it in flower in cultivation. In fact most often one finds its hybrids for sale rather than the true species. It is of easy culture.

Aloe juveana - a long stemmed Aloe from Africa. For a long time it was thought to be a garden hybrid till a few years ago when it was discovered in habitat. It has light green spotted leaves with a few teeth on the margins growing on elongated procumbent stems. It is shy to flower but its unique habit makes an attractive pot full.

Aloe rauhii -- a beautiful Aloe from Madagascar with grey green leaves marked with rows of parallel dashes. It has small teeth on the margins of the leaves. It reddens in the winters to look beautiful. Leaves spread out to form rosettes up to 20 cm. across. Small flowers are borne on thin stems and are of orange colour. It clumps easily and does not have too many cultural requirements. It does however prefer some relief from the summer sun to prevent burning. It is one of the parents of a great many very attractive small growing hybrids.

Aloe jucunda - a Madagascan miniature, with individual heads not much larger than 5-6 cm. across. It has smooth, glossy, dark green leaves marked with whitish streaks with a few teeth on the margins. These turgid leaves recurve and look very nice. It slowly clumps to fill out small pans to form very attractive small domes. To reach this state, however it requires patience and a careful hand with watering. It is not too difficult to grow individual heads but one should to aim to grow a small pan full.

Aloe descoignsii - dubbed as the smallest Aloe species in the world. It too comes from Madagascar. Individual heads are under 5 cm. tending to form small clumps with age. The dull grey green concave triangular leaves are marked with whitish specks. Small orange flowers are borne on slender stalks. It is truly a gem of a plant. It requires a somewhat shadier location and careful watering.

Aloe haworthoides - this gem of an Aloe comes from Madagascar. Individual heads are usually not more than 6 cm. across. Individual leaves are dark green and covered with hair like bristles, which make it quite unique in its appearance. It likes slightly shady conditions and is not very fond of our summers. It will flower once established.

Aloe albida - not an easily available plant but one to look out for. It belongs to a distinct group of Aloes from South Africa called Grass Aloes. These long narrow leaved Aloes are marginally succulent. This particular species is one of the easier ones to cultivate. It has dark green leaves with small teeth at the margins. It has white flowers.



FIELD TRIPS

Rock Collecting Trip Saturday, March 18

We will meet at 0730 at the Taco Bell parking lot, HWY. 58, Weedpatch exit.

We will go to the Mojave Blue area, about 10 miles north of Mojave on Hwy. 14. We can get all the rocks we need there -- and in any size. Then we could stop by Lucy's in Rosamond on the way home, if she's going to be home on March 18th.

Everyone needs to bring gloves, water, something to eat, shoes to walk in dirt. Jack & Sidney will bring a hand-truck. At least one other person should bring one, too.

We will be renting a trailer in order to carry more/heavier rocks. If you have a hand truck, or have any questions, please contact:

Sidney & Jack Kelley
Linda Cooley

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Hi everyone. Sorry for the lapse in the work at the garden. I had surgery done in early February and have been kind of "out of it"....

I hear that there are lots of weeds at the garden (not too surprising!) so why don't we plan on working out there on Sunday, March 12 from 9 to 11? If Jim is available, we could also do a section of the soil cement walkway.

If we get the area cleaned up, it will be all ready for the new rocks we are going to be getting on March 18th!

Please let me know if you can make it.

Thanks,

Linda Cooley

Cactus Data Plants 2006 6th Annual Potters' Sale

Sat. April 15th 9:00 to 5:00

Presenting four fine potters and a special new first time potter, Kathy Minnich, all featuring unique cactus & succulent containers for your first of the year acquisitions.

Don Hunt

From the San Diego area, specializing in wheel thrown exotic shapes with very beautiful and colorful glazes. Don is a master at glazing.

Mark Muradian

From the Fresno area, specializing in hand built iron wash pots with marvelous engraved patterns of rustic character.

Joe Wujcik

From the Fallbrook area, specializing in wheel thrown textured and glazed pots to match the uniqueness of the succulent plants. Joe with his 34 years of experience, has become the standard.

Kathy Hendig

From San Jose, Kathy is well known for her very fine wheel thrown pots. She features very large, elegant, low profile show quality pots often seen at the Nor-Cal show.

Each of the potters will be presenting some of their first new offerings for the Spring of 2006. This is your opportunity to get first pick from each of these great potters. Buy in quantity and ask the potters for discounts?

Cactus Data Plants also invites you to see our wide selection of new and unusual plants, many at discounted prices for the Potters Sale. *We are fully stocked, actually over stocked! Also, do not miss Our annual Spring, draw your discount Sale (10% to 50% off and one for free), Sat. May 13, 2006. 9 to 5 See you at CDP!*

Cactus Data Plants 9607 E. Ave. S-12 Littlerock, CA 93543
For more info .. Ask for Woody

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Yard Sale April 28 & 29th.

Please start saving anything that is re-useable!!!
Plant related items are great but certainly not necessary.

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SHOW AND SALE FOR 2006 SAT. & SUN. APRIL 8th & 9th, 9am to 4pm

*SOUTH COAST BOTANICAL GARDENS — 26300 CRENSHAW BLVD.
PALOS VERDES PENINSULA*



SEE
outstanding displays by selected growers!

ASK
experts how they grow their plants!

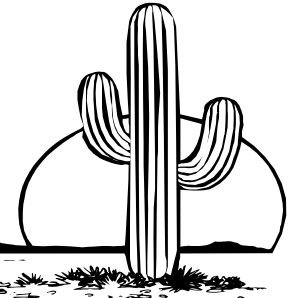
BUY
plants from top growers!

VOTE
for the best display!

For more information contact:
Carol Causey 310-675-5443
Jim Hanna 562-920-9046
Harry Fletcher 310-538-4078

Visa and Mastercard Accepted

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Mar 14 BCSS Meeting 6:30 pm Olive Dr. Church, 5500 Olive Dr.
PROGRAM: The Hybrid Epiphytic Cacti
SPEAKER: CSSA Slide Show

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 Sacramento C&SS 46th annual Show and Sale, May 6-7, at Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., Sacramento
May 6-7 Sunset C&SS Show & Sale. Veterans Memorial Center, Garden Room. 4117 Overland Ave, Culver City.
May 20-21 Fresno C&SS Show & Sale. Manchester Center
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