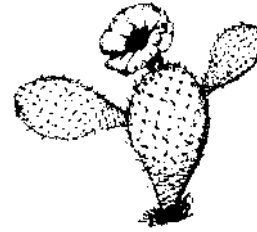


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Notocactus roseiflorus  
Photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 9    **June 2006**    Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Potluck at the Cal State Succulent Garden

### Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 13

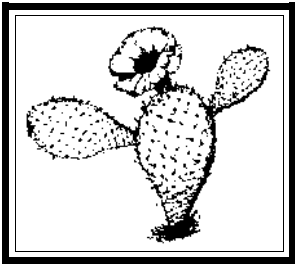
Cal State Bakersfield  
Environmental Studies

Area (F.A.C.T.)

at 5:30 PM

see map inside

**Please note  
this month's  
meeting place  
and time!**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 6  
June 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 – Maynard Moe**

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# May 9, 2006



President Vonne started the meeting and we learned from Maynard that the BCSS Yard Sale made about \$600 – which is about what we normally make. We also learned that we won't be able to sell anymore items at our Show & Sale without a business license. The details about this are a bit convoluted so I just say that we need to look into what it takes to become a non-profit instead of a not-for-profit.

Bonnie mentioned her upcoming trip to the Ranch Santa Anna Botanical Gardens and invited the members to join in for an informal field trip. She also mentioned that the Plant exchange could benefit from some communication between those participating. Email would be an easy way to find out what's going on.

Gwen gave us a report on the first annual Garden Festival at Bakersfield College. It looks like this could be a great place to show off our club in the future.

Anne told us that she and her sister made it over to





Woody's Annual Potter's Sale and the nearby Poppy Preserve. She encouraged those that had not been out to Woody's to visit sometime. She also updated us on the progress of the 'Heritage' Agave that is about to bloom in front of Alice's house [I saw it the other day and it looks like it should be blooming by the next meeting – ed.]

We then watched the CSSA Slide Show "A Little Potted, or Small Plants for Small Pots." A very informative show which touched on all aspects of raising succulents in pots indoors. It was quickly evident that the author left no light area in his house unoccupied – a problem many of us can relate to.



## Plant of the Month

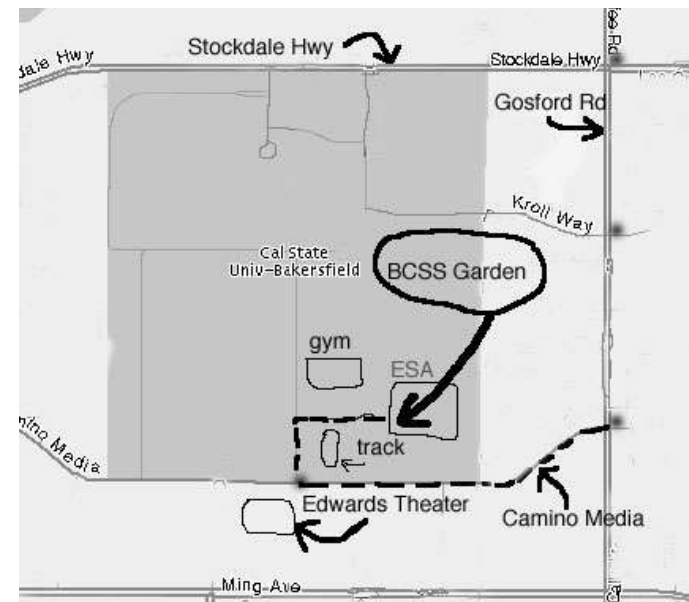
We will not have a plant of the month for this meeting, but we will be doing the **Plant Exchange**. Share your enthusiasm by bringing any plant/cutting/seed that you think someone else would like to grow.

## JUNE'S PROGRAM



### POTLUCK AT THE GARDEN

This month's program will be an informal get together and potluck in the succulent garden at Cal State Bakersfield. There are no special rules about the potluck, bring whatever dish you want, it has always been great in the past! You'll need to bring your own tableservice and a blanket if you want to sit on the grass (We should have enough chairs and tables). The club will provide



drinks. Because we are eating, **the potluck will set up at 5:30.** there will be no raffle, but bring a plant for the plant exchange!

### A Little Garden History

The Succulent Garden at the Environmental Studies Area at Cal State Bakersfield was started by our club at least 5 years ago. Over the years, dedicated members dug out grass, moved tons of dirt and planted many different kinds of succulents. Why did we do this?



Probably the main reason is that we all love these kinds of plants! Another reason is to share our expertise and experiences with other club members and the community. Some of us don't have room at home to plant as many succulents as we would like; others just like to be involved in community projects. Whatever the reason, it has been a very successful venture!

Early on in the project, we had to decide on a guiding principle to help us in designing the garden. Education about succulents is one of the stated goals of our club, so we all felt that the garden should be educational. So we decided that we would arrange the garden plants based on large scale geographical divisions: the "Old World" and the "New World". Plants from the Eastern Hemisphere (Eurasia and Africa) would be grouped together, and North and South American plants would occupy the rest of the garden.

If you go out to the garden you will see that the New World is well occupied! We were much more successful at obtaining these plants than the Old World specimens. This is mainly due to climate: many of the Old World species cannot live outside in our "cold" winters. We are constantly on the lookout for new species to add to the Old World, so if you have any ideas, please share them!



As we started the actual construction of the garden we had to decide on walkways, raised areas and the actual boundaries of the garden. Dave Germano (the director of the ESA) very kindly gave us free rein to use the area. Cal State also provided many piles of dirt and even a tractor one time to help move dirt. We obtained some free railroad ties from the railroad people and they really make the garden look great! We look forward to putting in walkways in the fall, when the weather cools. Many members have contributed hours and hours of time weeding, digging, moving dirt, planting, and fetching rocks. Without their hard work, this garden would not have been possible. I hope to see more people get involved with the garden in the future. There are jobs for everyone! (For example, the garden will need to be watered this summer, probably every 2-3 weeks, if anyone would like to sign up to do this....it can be done early in the morning before it gets hot!)

I hope you will come to our "picnic meeting" in June and enjoy the garden!

*Linda Cooley*





## More Martha A Letter From Bruce

The 18<sup>th</sup> of April was another spoiled birthday. I arrived at work only to find the place had been burgled again. This time a computer was taken. It would have to be the one with all the herbarium data! Fortunately there is back-up material, but it is a nuisance.

The next day Polly and her sister Martha drove over to Pretoria and had a hotel lunch with Martha's friend. After lunch they ran into a demonstration which blocked traffic, but they still managed to get to Sterkfontein and tour the cave next day. Martha agreed there are too many stairs and they skipped the Wonder Cave; they drove back to Gaborone.



Martha and Polly at the Big Five.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> we went to dinner at Chatters, a restaurant with a parrot theme. We have had good food there before, but this time it was a disaster. Martha's pork chops were almost raw and my salmon was dry and hard as a rock. Polly's pasta had so much raw chopped chili that it was inedible, even after she picked out a lot for me. And to think we almost went there with John and the seven other cavers.

Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> we went to Gabane and toured the pottery, glass engravers and sculptors. Then it was on to Thamaga for more pottery and a visit with the Cooks (and delicious cookies). The next day we went to Manyana, but the custodian was missing and we couldn't see the rock paintings. We got lost but eventually found Livingstone's fig, which fortunately is quite visible without going in the gate. Then it was down the road to Livingstone's mission where Al, the caretaker, was present and gave us a good tour. Then we had a good gourmet lunch at the Big Five Lodge. Unfortunately a strong wind eventually blew us indoors although we had chosen to sit outside. Finally we ended the day at the Gaborone Game Reserve where we saw a good assortment of the usual animals as well as a good number of large Golden Web spiders.

On Monday and Tuesday Polly and Martha did a bit of shopping so that Martha could treat Polly's Book Club to a gourmet feast on Wednesday. (Martha does catering in Fresno.) Unfortunately only a few of them showed up. There was enough food left so that Polly's friend Maggie could come back the next evening with her husband Bruce.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we went to see "Last Holiday", a much better film than I expected. It was especially appropriate as it centered around a luxury hotel in the Czech Republic along with gourmet cooking. Unfortunately Martha had to leave on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We have had a restful time since then.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May the German Embassy began another series at the film club. They began with "Nowhere in Africa", a story of a Jewish family who escaped the holocaust by fleeing to Kenya. We had missed it when it was shown here previously. It turned out to be well worth waiting for.

We had some unusual rain and even a hailstorm the first week of May. It is now dry as it usually is in May, but the cold of winter came early and is sticking (although it hasn't quite got down to freezing yet).

Martha brought the book "Under the Tuscan Sun" (Francis Mayes, 1997, Broadway Books, NY) to read on the plane and left it with us. Although we liked the film, the book seemed daunting to me, as it is a combined travelogue and cookbook. No wonder Martha liked it.

It did have one saving grace - it explained the name Cardoon! The recipe says, "After stripping a large bunch of cardoons and bathing them in acidulated water, cut in two-inch pieces and boil until just done. Drain and arrange in a well-buttered baking dish. Season with salt and pepper and lightly cover with a béchamel sauce...dots of butter, and a sprinkling of parmogiano. Bake @ 350 deg. for 20 minutes." So what is this thing and why do I care?

Perhaps I should begin with the BCSS. A long while back we had a couple of trips to Baja and I learned the big cacti there (*Pachycereus pringlei*) are known locally as cardon. Then in April 2004 Polly & I visited the Canaries and learned that *Euphorbia canariensis* is also known as cardon. Then Maynard Moe through me for a loop when he wrote in "The Cactus Patch" (May 2004) that, "Cactus' is an ancient Greek term for a spiny plant. When first used it



Alfred, Martha and Polly at the foundation of the Livingstone house at Kolobeng. The treatment stone was said to be used to seat patients.

referred to cardoon, the artichoke." Now I grew up with artichokes (my Grandfather grew them in Stockton and I have bought them in Castroville, the "Artichoke capitol of the world") and I don't see the resemblance.

So back to Tuscany. The book Martha brought says, "As long as your arm, prickly, and pale green, Cardoons are trouble but worth it." Now this sounds more like it. Further down I read, "They have a taste and texture similar to the heart of an artichoke - not surprising since they come from the same family." (This would be the composites or Asteraceae.)

Well, I looked them up in a dictionary (The Plant Book - a Portable Dictionary of the Higher Plants, D.J. Mabberley, 1987, Cambridge U. Press.)

and found the cardoon is *Cynara cardunculus*. The common (or Globe or French) artichoke is *Cynara scolymus*, so they are much closer than just the family; they are the same genus. The Jerusalem artichoke, *Helianthus tuberosus*, is the same family, but a different genus. The related sunflower (not called an artichoke) is *Helianthus annuus*. This is not to be confused with the Mexican sunflower, which is in a different genus as *Tithonia diversifolia*. In Botswana, we have *Tithonia rotundifolia*, but it is not referred to as a sunflower. (It is an introduced weed.)



A Golden Web spider

Finally, to return to artichokes, there is a Chinese or Japanese artichoke which is not in the same family. It is *Stachys affinis* which is in the mint family! We have *Stachys spathulata* in Botswana, but it is not called an artichoke. Common names can get confusing, which is why scientific names were invented. (Not that they don't have problems!)

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

## THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE May Workday



*Opuntia* in bloom at the ESA  
Photo by Linda Cooley

Four of us met to weed and do other work in the garden, trying to tidy up for next month's meeting. Sasha and Andy Honig, Steve Hampson, and I worked for a couple of hours, weeding and moving rocks and trimming off dead flower stalks.

Steve also shoveled a fair amount of dirt, trying to smooth everything out. There were still several aloes blooming, as well as opuntias and barrel cacti in bloom.

We will meet out there again to work in early June, getting the garden ready for the June meeting. Hope to see you there!

Linda Cooley



## Future Field Trip? The San Diego C&SS Show & Sale

June 3-4 weekend took us to La Jolla. Bill had a class to take and so we decided to visit the soon to be wed younger McDonalds. I tagged along to the zoo with two anthropologists and of course spent our time in the primate section. There we were treated to viewing an active gorilla troop, with two baby boys, just born in March. The flamingoes were building their mud nests and there was much carrying on among them!

Then we went to lunch at the Prado cafe and while walking I noticed a woman with a box of succulents. She was coming from the San Diego C&SS annual spring sale. It was a beautiful show and there were many plants and pots for sale. Woody and I nearly crashed into one another. Kristin and her friend Lorena enjoyed it too. Lorena bought a small plant or two that she could take back to San Antonio with her on the plane, after running in the Rock and Roll marathon. It was a very warm weekend on California's south coast. The SDC&SS show is well worth a visit, even a serendipitous one.

Lynn

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](mailto:Lithops44@bak.rr.com)

## Plants In The Garden: *Echinopsis candicans* by Stephen Cooley

*Echinopsis candicans*, still often referred to by its old name *Trichocereus candicans*, is a moderately sized columnar cactus that forms large clumps. It is heavily and viciously spined. The plant can reach up to 3 feet tall with clumps over 3 feet. The flowers are very large, white, scented and night-blooming. It is native to northern Argentina.

The *Echinopsis candicans* that we have in the Succulent



Garden at Cal State Bakersfield was originally collected by myself as a cutting from a clump in the Wriggley Memorial Garden on Santa Catalina Island (way back in the 1980's, and yes, I had permission). I rooted a cutting from my garden and brought it out to Cal State in 2002. It is perfectly hardy in Bakersfield having survived our coldest, wettest, and snowiest winters. It doesn't seem to mind the full summer sun, though sometimes it can become a bit yellowed. The well-armed clumps make it hard to work around -- weeding is especially hard to do. The flowers, however, are worth the trouble. Blooming about an hour after sunset and staying open until the next midmorning, the flowers are huge, measuring a full 7 inches across! They also have the typical perfume of many white, night-blooming cacti. I've noticed that flowering seems to take place in late spring to early summer (can you really distinguish between those two in Bakersfield?)





**THANKS!**

Thank you all very much for the vibrant Heimalis begonia "Catrin" in the lovely Mexican pot and the accompanying get well wishes. Vonne & Mickey brought it by today and said I was meant to have been recuperating for longer! Luckily I was ready to go to work in Guatemala as scheduled, just 12 days post-op.

Many thanks to the club for your care & support, and to my fabulous nurse, Bill.

*Lynn McDonald*

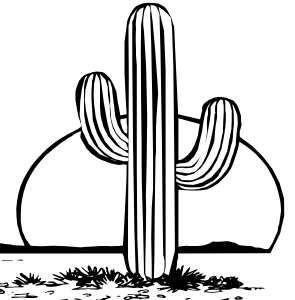
**Change of Email Address**

Les Oxford has changed his email:

**Welcome New Members!**

Carmen Gallegos-Allen  
Laura Capollino

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



**BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS**

- June 11 BCSS Garden Work Day – Cal State ESA (FACT) 8am
- June 13 BCSS Meeting 5:30pm Cal State ESA (FACT)  
PROGRAM: Annual Potluck Picnic in the Garden
- July 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church  
PROGRAM: Members 'Show & Tell'
- Aug 13 BCSS Meeting 6pm? Cactus Valley Restaraunt  
PROGRAM: Annual Midsummer Eathing Meeting
- Oct 14-15 BCSS SHOW & SALE. East Hills Mall

**OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS**

- 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 17-18 San Francisco C&SS Show & Sale, S.F. County Fair Bldg., Golden Gate Park, 9<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln way. Hours 9-5
- Jun 30-Jul 2 CSSA Annual Show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Garden. 1151 Oxford Rd, San Marino.
- Aug 19-21 21<sup>st</sup> Annual intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia.

contact the editors for more information

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