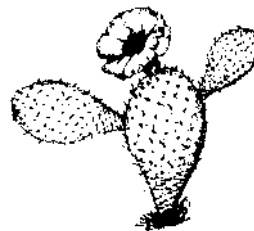




Echinocereus rubrispinus  
Photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 9    **July 2006**    Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

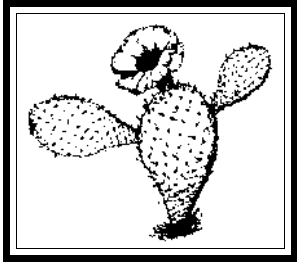
## Share The Experience

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, July 11**

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

**It's time to  
start thinking  
about the  
Show & Sale**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 7

July 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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Photo by Nathaniel Cooley

Once again we met at the succulent garden that the club created in the ESA at Cal State Bakersfield. There was plenty of good food and good company. The weather was nice and members enjoyed strolling among the cacti, birds, and tortoises. Those who were not familiar with the garden got a look at just how nice it has become and got an idea of how nice it will be when it is finished.



Photo by Nathaniel Cooley

## JULY'S PROGRAM

### Share The Experience



Funny, fuzzy, little ball-shaped spiny thing.  
(Mammillaria dewei)

This month's meeting will be presented by the members themselves. You are encouraged to bring photos, plants, scrapbooks, and anything else that you can share with your fellow succulent enthusiasts. Tell us all about how you grow them/kill them/love them/ misunderstand them. Do you like Christmas cactus, sedum, aloes,

euphorbias, barrel cactus, funny, fuzzy little ball-shaped spiny things in small pots? Let us know!

Don't forget the plant exchange!

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:

### *Carnegie gigantea* by Stephen Cooley



*Carnegie gigantea*, the Giant Saguaro, is perhaps the most recognizable cactus in the world. Though it is restricted to Southern Arizona (and a small patch of California) and Northern Mexico, the large, armed figure has become an icon of cacti (and deserts) in general.

The saguaro can attain heights of 50 feet and it's bat-pollinated white flowers generally bloom at night. It is a very slow starter, taking as long as 10 years to grow the first inch from seed. It then grows at a moderate rate and wild specimens can flower in 40 years. Flowering occurs when the plant reaches 8 feet tall. Thankfully, additional water and fertilizer speed it up greatly.

It is a winter and late-summer grower which fits our climate well if we water it in August and September. It is quite hardy, though seedlings need a little protection from frost. Many large plants can be seen in the San Joaquin valley if you know where to look (and don't confuse them with the tall *Trichocereus*). Some large specimens can be found at C.A.L.M..

The Saguaro in the garden at Cal State was one of the first cacti to be planted. It has grown considerably the last several years and is approaching 8 feet tall – which means we should keep an eye out for the first flowers!





## TIME ON OUR HANDS

### A Letter From Bruce

It has been a slow, lazy month. TV has been taken over by the World Cup in Football. (The USA is not doing too well. I think it's because they're playing soccer while everyone else is playing football.) There were a couple of odd showers at the beginning of June, but it is otherwise dry as expected. Nights hover just above freezing (one got just down there) and days are tolerable.

Back on the 17 & 18 of May we celebrated International Museums Day, but it wasn't terribly exciting. The theme was on Youth and the Botswana Society had a panel discussion on the so-called "Passion Killings" here. These involve jilted lovers. Mainly it's a result of the male dominance in society that treats women as property. Hopefully this is a dying attitude.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> The Bird Club had its annual general meeting with a talk on Cuckoos and other parasitic birds. An interesting question was raised about the genetics of matching host egg colors. I surmised that since egg coat and color is strictly female, it doesn't matter which male they mate with. It was a cold night, but they had hot soup and a good hot meal.

On June 4<sup>th</sup> we had a turkey dinner at the Cooks'. Dr Turton was allowed, even though she's British. All the rest of the mob was American - including a Peace Corps Volunteer. (No, we aren't confused. They were just bidding farewell before a long leave.)

On the 6<sup>th</sup> the Film Club began a Hispanic series. On the 13<sup>th</sup> they showed Macario, a Mexican film which centers on a starving family and an obsession with turkeys which are offerings to the dead. Our friend Christina (Mexican wife of the Spanish Ambassador) had the difficult job of explaining the custom of the day of the dead. Quite a task.

The 10<sup>th</sup> of June was celebrated as World Environment Day here and once again the museum got first place for its display. Also once again, the 1000 km "Desert" Race tore across the Kgalagadi at the same time. Polly and I were out looking at plants at the time. We found an interesting population where *Aloe marlothii* and *Aloe littoralis* meet and hybridize. This is 20 Km

(12 miles) North of Molepolole. The *A. littoralis* was in full bloom and the hybrids just starting. *A. marlothii* doesn't even have buds yet, so one wonders how the hybrids are formed.

The race crossed the road a ways north of the Aloes, so hopefully they are not affected by it. There was a policeman at the crossing who warned us about speeding. Further north near Shoshong we stopped to look at the Euphorbias. This time I used the gate and did not get tied up in the fence. I have decided the "new" Euphorbia is neither a new species nor a hybrid, but rather a neotenic *Euphorbia cooperi*. (This means a reproducing plant has



The navigator Francois Dodan with the winning car. The driver Hannes Grobler is off seeing the police.

retained juvenile characteristics. I decided this after finding a seedling and a couple of juveniles and noting their features.

On the way back we met the race once again as it followed a river bed under the main road. Shortly after this we witnessed the winner of the race being ticketed for speeding! (This was shortly after the end of the race. Incidentally, we were stopped for speeding as well.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we went to a video by the drummer Myizer which showed his recent visit to Egypt with his group "Koitrans". Now they are off to Germany at the request of the German

president who was impressed by their performance during his visit to our museum.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> a film crew followed me around the garden. I'm anxious to see the result, but they say editing will take a lot longer than the filming. The next day Polly and friends went down to Kanye to spread P1000 in largesse from the Charity Thrift Shop. This goes to Hospice and Orphanage efforts.

I read an interesting book on pioneering in Nebraska recently (No Time on My Hands, Grace Snyder 1986, University of Nebraska Press). Why should I care?

Well, the story is that my great-grandfather moved from Ohio to Nebraska, but didn't stay there long as he reported, "They were starving". This is borne out in the book where there is a song that goes:

We have reached the land of drouth and heat,  
Where nothing grows for us to eat.  
For winds that blow with scorching heat,  
Nebraska Land is hard to beat.

There is also a mention of cactus (?*Opuntia humifusa*), "Bunch grass and prickly pear cactus covered the unfenced yard, and north of the house a stunted cottonwood sapling seemed barely alive in the sand. 'I've put out a good many cuttings since I moved here, but it's the only one that's lived, and it's the only tree for a good ways in any direction from here,' Bert said of the sad little tree."

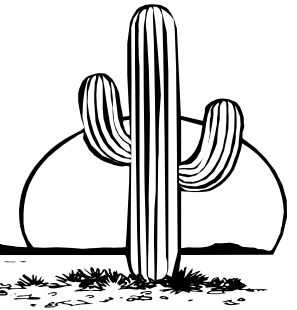
We have lots of *Opuntia humifusa* (= *O. compressa*) as an invasive weed in the Botanic Garden here. I have no idea who brought it across the Atlantic or why.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*



A hybrid aloe  
20 km north of Molenolole.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

July 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

PROGRAM: Members 'Show & Tell'

Aug 13 BCSS Meeting 6pm? Cactus Valley Restaraunt

PROGRAM: Annual Midsummer Eattng Meeting

Sept. 12 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

Oct 10 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

Oct 14-15 BCSS SHOW & SALE. East Hills Mall

## OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

July 22-23 NOR-CAL Show & Sale. San Francisco County Fair Bldg,  
9<sup>th</sup> & Lincoln Way.

Aug 19-21 21<sup>st</sup> Annual intercity Show & Sale, LA County Arboretum,  
301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia.

Sept 16-17 Monterey Bay Area C&SS Show & Sale. Jardins De San  
Juan, 115 Third St., San Juan Batista.

Oct 14-15 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Winter Show & Sale. LA County  
Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia

May 25-30 CSSA 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention. Seattle Airport Doubletree.

contact the editors for more information

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Linda Cooley

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