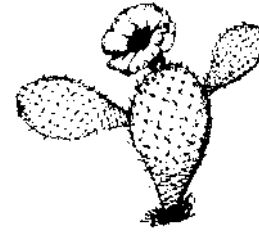


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Notocactus magnificus at the San Diego Show
Photo by Lynn McDonald

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 9 **August 2006** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

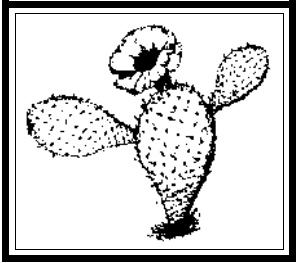
Dinner at Cactus Valley

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 8

Cactus Valley
Restaurant
4215 Rosedale Hwy
at 6:00 PM

**Please note
the change in
meeting place
& time!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 8

August 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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BCSS MEETING: July 11, 2006

Our July meeting was held in the "Grand" room complete with palm trees, tiki houses and other tropical decorations. After a bit of socializing, we discussed the up coming Show and Sale (number seven!). Maynard has arranged the space and insurance with East Hills Mall and will organize a meeting of interested members in early September. We will need to find a new source for sale plants because Woody will not be selling plants this time. Sidney volunteered to do the publicity again this year. Then some members shared photographs and stories of their recent travels. Les and Donna showed slides of the various gardens they visited on their trip through Italy. Maynard showed some slides of his (with Stephen, Rob and Woody) trip to Chile. The meeting concluded with discussions about the plants members brought for exchange. Many members left with new plants for their gardens and/or collections.

[Thanks to Maynard for writing this!]

AUGUST'S PROGRAM

Once again, we will have our August meeting at the Cactus Valley restaurant. In the past this has been one of our most popular meetings. Mary sets a great table and we all have a great time. Come and join us!

Cactus Valley Restaurant
4215 Rosedale highway
6:00 PM

The San Diego Cactus & Succulent Society Show & Sale

Photos by Lynn McDonald



150 GUESTS PLUS ONE A Letter From Bruce

21st June was a very busy day. First, I gave a talk on “Myths of California & GPS” which was based on a trip to Baja with the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society.

The myths began with the Island of California from an obscure Spanish novel. The name was applied to Baja and then to Alta California, although most people today know only the latter which is the US portion. The GPS myth refers to the fact that we wandered in the desert due to having only a single point. As our son John, formerly in the Coast Guard, commented, this works well only on water where it is possible to follow a straight line! I ended with a local myth of the awesome Boojum. The story says that if you break a branch from one there will be a terrible wind. It must be true because when I knocked a seedling over while carrying it back from Huntington Gardens and broke a small branch, we did, indeed, have a windstorm in the Valley.

While I was talking, Polly picked up my sister, Anne Lee, at the airport. Despite Anne’s jetlag we all went to hear a concert of young musicians set up by Alexander McCall Smith, author of the “Lady Detective” series on Botswana. He was there in person and spoke as well as signed books. He wore striking orange and green plaid trousers. It was a great evening and the money raised will be used to help young musicians.

Next evening we left Anne to rest and went to hear a panel discussion on city planning in Gaborone sponsored by the Botswana Society. Its nice to see the society in action again after being moribund for years.

We also ran into Jon Binns who migrated with us from Malawi to Botswana back in 1969. He has been here ever since.



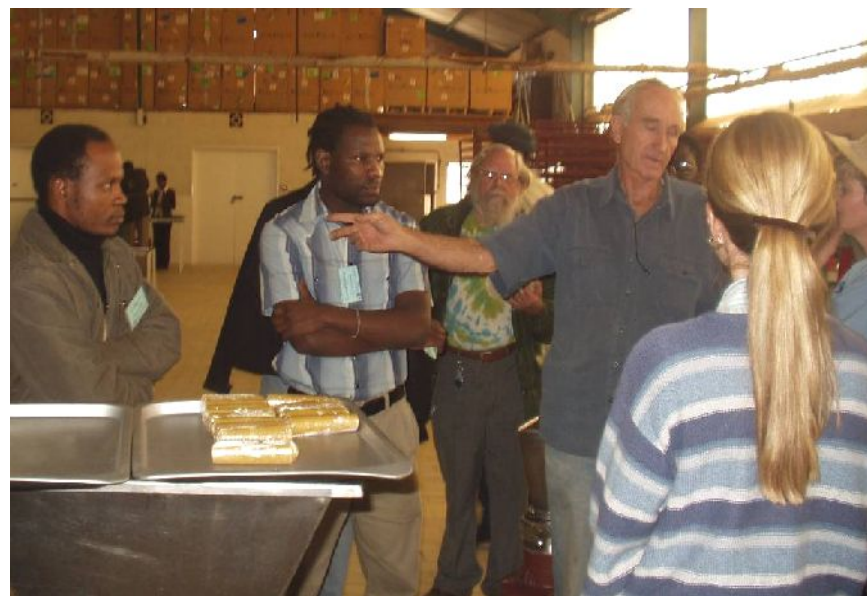
Polly, Bruce & Anne- Christmas at Mokolodi

On Friday the 23rd we went out to Mokolodi Nature Centre for a star gazing session. It introduced Anne to the different stars in the southern hemisphere. We also had demonstrations of dancing and drumming as well as an al fresco meal. The only problem was the cold. On the 24th we looked at the 7th annual women's exposition at the fair ground, bought books at a sale and then we went back to Mokolodi for Christmas dinner. Things do get mixed up here. There was game meat and wild Kgalagadi truffles – good but not exactly traditional. Not having enough of the place, we drove out to Mokolodi again on Sunday for a look at the animals. We didn't see the hoped for rhinos, but we did see giraffe and lots of birds.

The rest of the week Anne joined Polly in the usual shopping and meetings, including Book Club on Wednesday evening. On Sunday the 2nd of July we joined the Bird Club for a trip to Gabane (just West of town) and saw lots of birds as well as fruits of “mosata” (an edible milkweed) hanging from trees by the hundreds. (Mosta is actually a vine, but the fruit appeared to belong to the trees.)

So much for the one (Anne)- what's this 150? On Monday 3 July the South African Indigenous Plant Use Forum met outside of South Africa for the first time! Since I was the fool who invited them I was kept busy for months with organization. We started just after lunch with a welcome by the Dean of Science at the University. The second day we also met at the University and had a panel discussion on Legislation protecting Biodiversity and Intellectual Knowledge.

Wednesday began with a business meeting and



Frank Taylor, founder of Veld Products explaining fruit processing (with elbow blocking Bruce)

then we all went out to Gabane to tour Veld Products Research and Development, a non governmental organisation which is trying to combine wise plant use with community development. We visited projects raising guinea fowl, bees, indigenous fruit trees, possible crops (including seedling Hoodias) and fruit rolls and candies. After lunch we visited National Monuments including the ruins of the Livingstone Mission, rock art and a giant fig. We ended the afternoon at a grove of *Aloe marlothii* trees which includes hybrids with two other species.

Returning to Gaborone, we went to the Museum for a Plant Products Fair, an al fresco dinner which included mopane caterpillars, and some very good traditional dancing. (I'll swear one of the dancers was actually in a trance when they "cured" him.) The closing session next day was almost an anticlimax, but I was presented with a signed copy of Ben-Erik van Wyk's latest book, Food Plants of the World. (2005, Briza, Pretoria). It is a most ambitious undertaking and is unbelievably well done with lots of excellent photos. I was interested to read that "Globe artichoke is a cultigen that was probably developed from the wild artichoke or cardoon (*C. cardunculus*)" and "Blanched leaf stalks of cardoon are a popular vegetable in France, Spain and Italy." For those more succulently inclined, there is a page on *Cereus peruvianus* another on *Hylocereus undatus* and, of course, a page on *Opuntia ficus-indica*.

The next day we began a long trek north with Anne, but I'll save that for next month.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

Hoyas: **Easy-Care Plants Provide Flowery Rewards**

by Janet Kister

Henry Shaw C&S, St Louis, MO

Hoyas are climbing succulents that originally came from the tropical forests of India, China, Indonesia and Australia. In the Western Hemisphere, these climbers are usually of the *Hylocereus*, *Selenicereus* or *Epiphyllum* variety. The *Hoya* group is in the family of Asclepiadaceae, which is considered made up of mostly stem succulents, although to me, the leaves are the more "succulent" part of *Hoyas*.

Common *Hoya* names -- wax plant, wax vine, wax flower and porcelain flower -- originate from the plants' leathery, waxy leaves or jewel like flowers. Wax plants are usually vines with fleshy 2- to 4-inch leaves and long-lasting clusters of one-half- to 1-inch star-shaped flowers that are sweetly fragrant and shiny.

Bob Smoley's Gardenworld catalog lists over 40 varieties of *Hoya*. They allow one to select for ornamental leaf patterns, superb flowers or both.

Hoya leaves can be variegated gold and green, green with pink edges or splotches, edged with white, fuzzy, oval, pointed, veined, ivylike, large or small. The well-known Hindu rope plant, *Hoya compacta*, has versions with glossy, dark green, twisted leaves or curled leaves of cream, green and pink.

The flowers of *Hoya carnosa* are pinkish-white with red centers, but there are many other flower colors and shapes available. *H. australis* has red-centered, bluish-white flowers, while *H. bella* features white flowers with rosy violet centers. *H. purpurea-fusca* has purple-centered, brownish-red flowers with white hairs. *H. multiflora* boasts white and yellow flowers shaped like shooting stars.

Many *Hoya* vines do very well when allowed to climb on a trellis or tiered plant stand, while other varieties are better suited for hanging baskets. The common wax plant, *Hoya carnosa*, has been described as a "lovely climbing plant" or "rampant grower," depending on whether you have allowed enough space for it.

Wax plants are easy to grow in average soil mixtures. They

like warmth, water and some sun, and do well outdoors in summer in sunny protected places like porches. Full afternoon sun can burn the fleshy leaves, but early-day sun encourages flowering in the summer or fall months. A few varieties prefer more shaded conditions.

These plants require plenty of warm weather and some water in winter months. Water freely during their flowering period, but allow the soil to become almost dry between waterings when the plants are resting.

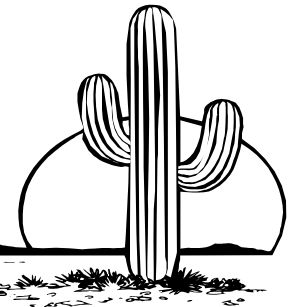
Day temperatures of 70 degrees F or higher and night temperatures of 60 to 65 degrees are ideal in summer. *Hoyas* prefer a minimum winter temperature of 45 degrees F, but tolerate cooler temperatures if kept dry. Some leaf loss can occur under these cooler conditions.

One important point to remember regarding *Hoyas*: Never remove the peduncles (stalks from which flowers emerge) after flowering, as more flowers will continue to be produced from these stubs.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Aug 13 BCSS Meeting 6pm. Cactus Valley Restaraunt
PROGRAM: Annual Midsummer Eating 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

- Aug 19-21 21st 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 32nd Annual Convention. Seattle Airport Doubletree.

contact the editors for more information
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