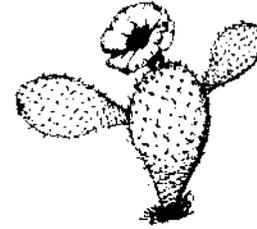




Trichocereus blooming at the ESA
Photo by Maynard Moe

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 9 **September 2006** Number 9

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

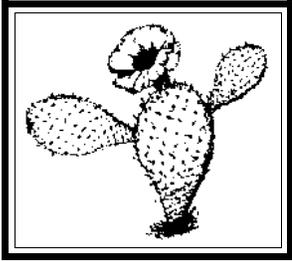
This Month's Program
**Cold Hardy Succulents
in the Landscape**

Presented by **Barbara Coelho**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 12
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**
(West of 99 freeway
on corner of Olive drive &
Victor street)

**Get Your
Plants Ready
for the
SHOW!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 9 Number 9

September 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

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Linda Cooley

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Librarian – James Parker
Field Trips – Lynn McDonald
Historian – open
Show & Sale – Maynard Moe

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BCSS MEETING: August 8, 2006

August's meeting was held at the Cactus Valley Restaurant, owned by member Mary Carrisalez. The food and ambience was great, and everyone had a wonderful time. About 15 members showed up to chat and enjoy the evening. As usual, a good time was had by all.

[Thanks to Linda for writing this!]

SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM

Cold Hardy Succulents in the Landscape

Presented by
Barbara Coelho

Barbara Coelho, a retired Probation Officer, and her husband, Roger, also retired, have been gardening for years and currently farm 40 acres in Patterson. Barbara has always enjoyed growing a variety of plants from Orchids to Bonsai to Fuchsias to Cactus and Succulents, and began growing Cactus and Succulents seriously about 1979 when she and her husband moved to Patterson where it was too hot and windy to grow more delicate plants. She has an Associate Science Degree in Plant Science and is a Certified Pesticide Applicator. She judges and exhibits at Cactus and Succulent Shows, and judges at the Stanislaus County Fair.

Barbara is a past member of both the Fuchsia and Bonsai Society. She is currently a member of the Cactus & Succulent Society in both Stockton and Sacramento, and garden clubs in Patterson and Modesto, and Vice President of the Newman Garden Club.



FIELD TRIPS

We discussed field trips at the meeting at Cactus Valley, which was a very nice gathering, by the way.

One trip is to the Rose Quartz place, wherever that is [North of Kernville and South of Johnsondale]. Jack & Sidney were recently there and Jack had a nice piece. This is planned for September 30th, a Saturday.

We also want to return to the San Luis Obispo Botanic Garden in the fall. This weekend is an aloe discussion. And there is a plant sale, the same weekend as our Show & Sale. Too bad. We can also postpone this until January or whenever. There is not a meeting before the Sept date. I am leaning toward November myself.

Also, Jack has another good idea. An overnight trip to Cerro Gordo Mine/Ghost Town. Several were interested. We'd have to have a monetary commitment from people if we decide to go, as it must be reserved about a year in advance. We are thinking of July 2007. There is a bunkhouse that sleeps 12, plus a cabin that sleeps 6. So, it would depend on the numbers, of course. Maybe we could find a cactus or two out there! Jack is going to call the guy & check into it more, to see what dates might be available we think we could have a lot of fun

Lynn McDonald

Field Trip to Greenhorn Mountain for Rose Quartz

September 30th, Saturday

Meeting Area: Bakersfield Speedway. 5101 North Chester Av Extension

Time: We meet at 8:15 AM will be **LEAVING** at 8:30 AM.

This trip will be a full day. You can leave early if you wish and can find your way out! There will be driving on dirt roads.

Bring: Water, lunch, folding chairs (or something to sit on). This is a rustic area – no bathrooms, water, etc. Sturdy shoes. – no sandals, etc. Rock picks - if you have one. Gloves (quartz is very sharp and will cut like a knife!) Something to carry your rocks in as you **trudge** up the hill to get to our vehicles - back pack, buckets, etc.

After we reach the parking area, it is relatively easy walking down to the

actual collecting area. It is **very difficult** trudging back up to the parking area! It's at 7000 ft, so the breathing is more difficult, too.

There will be an opportunity to collect white quartz, too. The drive is beautiful!

The map on the right shows the meeting place.



Sydney & Jack

The North!

A Letter From Bruce



On 7th July, the day after IPUF ended we headed north. (Of course we waited until 4:30 when I got off work. I have to put in an appearance once in a while.) We only went as far as Mahalapye where we ate at the Whistle Stop with its Route 66 décor and stayed at the Gaetsho Lodge. Next morning it was on to Francistown where we had lunch at the Spur with its pseudo Amerindian décor. (I pointed out the Statue of Liberty at the casino across the road.) Then it was a bit west to Nata where we checked into the lodge and then drove back to Nata Sanctuary and drove out to Soa Pan. The pan was full of water as far as the eye could see and had pelicans and flamingos.

Monday the 9th we drove north and saw oryx in the sorghum stubble at Mpandamatenga and a number of elephants in the forest reserves (yes, there is forest in the north of Botswana). We checked into Kubu (hippo) Lodge and tried out the revised nature trail. It was better, but we still got lost. A greenbul joined us at the breakfast table next morning (& the next) and then we took a game drive in Chobe National Park. and saw the usual assortment of animals. The best was a troop of banded mongooses digging away at the dirt. It looked to me like they

were eating doodle bugs. We then visited the hollow baobab at the Police Station which was once used as a prison (and is now a National Monument) and had lunch at Mowana (baobab) Lodge. In the evening we went by boat into Chobe and watched a huge bunch of elephants cross the river into Namibia.



Polly, Bruce and Anne at Soa Pan

On the 11th we took the ferry across to Zambia. Polly & I had not been

across since 1969 when our Landrover filled the little ferry and Anne had never been there. Gratefully the ferry is much enlarged and now handles huge trucks. On the Zambian side there were lots of forms and fees. Anne was amazed to see prices in thousands of Kwachas, but she got used to ignoring the three zeros. We then drove to Mosi oa Tunya (aka Victoria Falls) and got thoroughly soaked walking out on the Knife's Edge (the water is way up!). There were a few late blooming yellow glads, some Lobelia, *Tetradenia (Iboza) riperia* (a succulent mint bush), and aloes in full bloom. We also noted a vine of *Fockea multiflora*, a succulent milkweed. We then had lunch at the Sun International (which is the old Intercontinental where we had eaten before). After lunch we went back to the falls and visited the site museum with stone tools in place as left by Desmond Clark (ex Berkeley). We braved the mobbing sellers and bought a few souvenirs. That evening we stayed at the Maramba River Lodge which is within the Mosi oa Tunya National Park. We heard hippos but didn't see them.

On the 12th we drove into Livingstone and had breakfast behind the Hammerkop's Nest gift shop. We then took a helicopter over the falls. We'd never done this before. It is a fantastic way to see them and the zig-zag of gorges below. Upstream there were hippos and elephants on the islands. We then went back to Livingstone and checked into the Zig Zag, a bed and breakfast. We visited the museum, the railway museum and more gift shops.

Anne wanted to take a jet boat on the Zambezi on the 13th, but we couldn't get a morning booking so we lazed around the Zig Zag and took an afternoon ride. Unfortunately the ride out to the gorge took 45 minutes (but Anne got to see villages with cassava patches etc.) and then there was a cable car ride down into the gorge. Some people were not too thrilled at that, but I was fascinated and took lots of pictures of the *Euphorbia griseola* shrubs and *E. fortissima* trees on the cliffs. There were also more aloes in bloom. I would have preferred a gentle ride up the river, but most of the group wanted thrills, so we did a lot of spins and rapid-running. I did get them to stop so I could photograph a slope full of skinny baobabs. By the time we got back to Livingstone we were running late and then we missed the turn to Kazungula, so it was 5:30 by the time we reached the ferry. We rushed through the forms and managed to cross on the last boat (which has to be off the water by six). We just managed to get stamped through on the Botswana side, passing the barrier at precisely six, the closing time. Fortunately we were expected at Kubu Lodge.

On the 14th we drove back down to Nata and then west to Gweta where we checked into Planet Baobab. This was new for us. It claims to



Anne with greenbul at breakfast, Chobe River in background

be the "Baobab Capital of the World" and certainly has more huge trees per area than I've seen before. Each one is unique and we took pictures til the sunset and more at sunrise.

After breakfast we drove on to Maun and checked into the Island Safari Lodge where we were greeted as old friends. We then went to the Nature Sanctuary and walked with the giraffes. Polly had done this last year, but it was new to Anne and me.

Sunday the 16th was spent in mekoro (dugouts) on the Okavango. We passed lots of pink flowers (and a few white ones) of *Sopobia mannii* (Snapdragon family) and had lunch on an island where we were shown lots of plants and told their uses. Our guide Mathamaka Kosta Motswagole belongs to the Bayei, a group I knew little about, and I got lots of new uses.

On the 17th we headed south and stopped at D'kar to buy San (Bushman) crafts. We were pleased to find they have organized a small museum in the craft shop. We spent the night at the Kalahari Arms in Ghanzi, bought more crafts and returned to Gaborone on the 18th. Anne has now seen a bit of Botswana.

On the 19th I went back to work and the others rested. I learned there had been another break-in. This time the fax machine was stolen. On the 20th Polly and Anne went down to Good Hope and ran a quilting workshop. Anne had to learn to use the old-fashioned hand-crank machines. They returned next day and on Sunday we drove around the Gaborone Game Reserve for one last look at wildlife.

Polly and Anne spent the last week at Thrift Shop, Quilting, Book Club and shopping. A wildfire raged through the lower half of the garden on Thursday. Fortunately most of the plantings are in the upper half. We had an unusual rain on 1 Aug. which may help recovery. (We have had rain every month this year. Usually it is dry from mid April to mid Oct.) Anne sat in on choir rehearsal on Mon. 24th July and then left on Friday. Our choir was part of "Eine Kleine Mozart" on Sat. to celebrate his 250th anniversary. Now I hope we'll relax for a while.



Mosi oa Tunya, Zambia in foreground

I bought a few books from the museum and monument in Zambia, but as they concern archaeology, rock art and monuments I'll not bore everyone with the details. What I would recommend, for anyone interested in Mosi oa Tunya (Smoke that Thunders), is the book Mosi-oa-Tunya: A Handbook to the Victoria Falls Region, D.W. Phillipson, ed. (2nd ed. 1990, Longman, Zimbabwe). It is very thorough and by far the best, even though there are newer books. Chapter 4 on stone age man is by the above-mentioned Desmond Clark. Chapter 10 on the flora is by D.B. Fanshawe, a Zambian botanist who was the first to collect the plant I later named *Monadenium mafingense*. The book is well illustrated, although if I were in charge, the *Euphorbia fortissima* on p. 125 would be in

color. Two of Thomas Baines' paintings from 1863 are reproduced in color and one of them ("The Falls at sunrise with the Spray Cloud rising 1200 feet") shows aloes in bloom. These are probably *Aloe cryptopoda*, but some of them have stems more like young *Aloe excelsa*. *Aloe chabaudii* is mentioned in the text but not illustrated. Another succulent is *Sansevieria pearsonii* (listed as *S. desertii*). Baobabs are, of course, mentioned. The book mentions that some 900 species of plants have been recorded from the area, but a complete list was not possible. (This is found in "Vegetation of the Victoria Falls", D.B. Fanshawe in Forest Research Pamphlets XLV.) Among the succulents not listed are: *Sarcostemma viminalis*, *Peperomia rotundifolia*, *Fockea multiflora*, a *Plectranthus* sp., *Adenia gummifera* and *Tetradenia riparia*.

One thing noticeable by comparing the maps in the book to what is seen today is the horrendous growth of buildings on the Zimbabwe side. Most jarring is the huge multi-storied Elephant Hills Hotel built on a hill inside Victoria Falls National Park. Zambia has done a much better job of keeping development at the falls low and discrete.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

Our Seventh Show (and Sale)

We had a committee meeting Thursday and discussed what we needed to do for our seventh (!!!) "Show and Sale." Because Woody has sold his business, Lee can't make it again this year and we no longer have a resale license, we decided that this year would be a Show but not a Sale. This way we can focus on the show plants and displays. Some notes

For the BCSS meeting on the 12th:

1. We will have the cardboard poster displays at the meeting so you can see which ones need to be fixed or revised. You can also see whether there is a topic for a new poster that you would like to make.
2. We will have a sign-up list for being at the Show. Although we won't be selling plants, we do need members to help talk with the visitors.
3. If anyone is interested in coordinating the children's art contest, please let me know.
4. Entry cards will be there for you to take and fill out for your show plants.

For the Show:

1. Please bring plants. It does not matter whether they are "staged" with special pots, top dressing and rocks. We want diversity. The only thing to watch for is mealy bugs or scale insects. We can't accept any "buggy" plants. See elsewhere in the Newsletter for plant categories.
2. We will have entry cards at the next meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, don't worry, we will have cards at the set up on Saturday morning.
3. BRING PLANTS. Bring them Saturday morning between 7 and 9 am so we can set up the show. It is really difficult to add plants after the show is set up. Remember how crowded the plants were last year?
4. BRING "allied interests" such as photographs, ceramic succulents, etc. – any arts and crafts display dealing with cacti and other succulents.
5. Pick up your plants between 3 and 4 pm on Sunday afternoon.
6. The Show is officially open from 10am – 6pm on Saturday and 11am – 4pm on Sunday. Even if you have not signed up, please "hang around" and talk to visitors. No special expertise is required. It is lots of fun to share our enthusiasm with the public.
7. Be sure to wear your BCSS t-shirt if you have one.

L. M. Moe

Preparing Your Plants For A Show: A Basic Guide

by Stephen Cooley

At the very least, you should:

1. **Clean It Up:** Remove debris from spines, leaves, stems and from the top of the soil and on the pot. Wash dirt from the plant and outside of the pot.
2. **Check For Pests:** Look on new growth for aphids and on both sides of the leaves for scale. Check the stems (especially where the branches are) for mealybug and scale. If your plant has just a few pests you may be able to get rid of them with a squirt of water (aphids) or remove with tweezers. If you can't get rid of the pests, don't bring your plant to the show.

With a little more effort you can:

3. **Trim:** Remove dead branches, leaves, and flowers if the plant will look better with them off (Yes, some plants have more of a 'real' look with the old stuff left on).
4. **Add Top Dressing:** Find some nice looking small rocks, gravel or sand to add on the top of the soil. This really gives the plant a 'finished' look. If top dressing is present check to see that it hasn't become discolored.
5. **Shine Up Your Pot:** A little WD-40 sprayed on your clay or plastic pot (shield your plant from the spray) can make it look much newer -- it reduces the appearance of scratches and salt residue.

With a lot more effort you can:

6. **Repot Your Plant:** Find a pot that best suits the look of the plant and repot (finding the pot is the hard part).

With extreme effort you can:

7. **Be A Fanatic:** Build a climate-controlled greenhouse, acquire the rare species, grow them for 10-20 years, inspect your plants hourly (install a webcam so you can watch them while at work), travel to Mexico, South Africa or anywhere else you need to go to study the species in the wild, check the pH of the soil, the dissolved solids of the water, the quality of the air, and while your at it, take your temperature too.

SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION I: CACTI, Individual Potted Specimens

7. Ariocarpus, Obregonia
8. Astrophytum
9. Ferocactus, Echinocactus
10. Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
11. Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Pereskioopsis
12. Mammillaria, Epithelantha

13. Columnar cacti, not hairy
14. Columnar cacti, hairy
15. Copiapoa, Gymnocalycium, Matucana
16. Lobivia, Echinopsis, Mila, Acanthocalycium
17. Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
18. Notocactus, Parodia
19. Frailea, Blossfeldia
20. Melocactus, Discocactus, Buiningia, Uebelmannia
21. Epiphytic cacti
22. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates
23. All other genera

DIVISION II: SUCCULENTS, Individual Potted Specimens

24. Mesembs: Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria, other
25. Stapeliads: Huernia, Caralluma, Pseudolithos, Trichocaulon, other
26. Other Asclepiads: Fockea, Ceropegia, Hoya, Brachystelma, Raphionacme, Gonolobus, other
27. Crassula, Sedum
28. Curcubits: Momordica, Kedrostis, Cephalopentandra, Zygosicyos, etc
29. Dorstenia
30. Ficus, Bombax, Adenia
31. Echeveria, Graptopetalum, Dudleya, Pachyphytum
32. Adromischus, Cotyledon, Tylecodon
33. Aeonium, Sempervivum, Monanthes, Kalanchoe
34. Composites: Senecio, Kleinia, Othonna, etc.
35. Aloe
36. Haworthia
37. Gasteria
38. Euphorbia
39. Other Euphorbs: Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.
40. Pachypodium, Adenium
41. Portulacaceae: Ceraria, Anacampseros, Talinum, etc.
42. Sansevieria
43. Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
44. Bursera, Pachycormus, Fouquieria, Commiphora
45. Cyphostemma, Cissus
46. Agave, Yucca, Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Dracaena, Nolina
47. Bromeliads: Dyckia, Tillandsia, Bromeliopsis
48. Geophytes: Oxalis, Bulbine, other bulbs
49. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates
50. All other genera

DIVISION III: ARRANGEMENTS

51. Cactus Collections
46. Succulent Collections
47. Dish Gardens

DIVISION IV: ALLIED INTERESTS

48. Photography
49. Crafts
50. Other

THE SUCCULENT GARDEN AT CAL STATE

Garden Report: Sept. 2, 2006

We haven't done a lot out in the garden this summer, as usual. It is just too hot! But, even though the plants are adapted to hot and dry weather, they do better with some water, so we have been watering and weeding. We usually water at least once a month, more often if we get some volunteers. (Thanks to Stephen Cooley for watering in July). This summer was unusually hot (especially July!) but the plants in general have handled it very well. Most of the plants look stressed, but are doing okay. Some of the plants look dead (some of them ARE dead!). There are some plants that look perfectly normal! If you have your own garden you probably should water the plants more often than once a month (they will look better...) but it is reassuring to know that they can survive if, for some reason, you can't water them.

Even though we don't normally expect to see beautiful blooms in mid-summer, there is a huge barrel cactus with orange and yellow flowers blooming now. It is quite spectacular. I am sorry--I didn't write the name down. You can't miss it, though. It is growing very close to the large *Opuntia robusta*, which has wonderful red fruits on it. There is another opuntia with red fruits as well. Another touch of red is contributed by the red Fairy Duster shrub (*Calliandra*). So there is still a lot of color out there in the garden!

We will start back working on a more regular basis when the weather cools off, which I hope will happen soon! I have heard that the ugly well/pump apparatus will soon be removed and that they will also be removing some of the Carolina Cherry trees from the western edge of the garden and will plant more native type trees there. So we have a challenge of coming up with something to put in the area where the pump now resides. We should also have as a goal putting in hard surfaced walkways. And of course putting in new plants!

I hope to see some of you out in the garden!

linda cooley

Also....

On my way to campus today (August 28) I saw our tall columnar cactus (*Trichocereus*) in bloom. There are several fresh and spent buds on the plant, so there should be more flowers soon. Overall, the garden really looks good. Dave Germano, Director of the ESA, tells me that the ugly water pump and cage will soon be removed and the entrance will be moved to the south side by the gas tank. Also, the shrubby trees along the west fence will be replaced by chilopsis and acacia and a new iron fence will be put in. When all of this happens, the garden will really stand out.

Maynard Moe

SALE of CACTUS DATA PLANTS

An open letter to the Cactus and Succulent Community from
Woody Minnich

As of July 13th 2006 Cactus Data Plants has sold their stock of sale plants and show specimens, staging rocks and top dressings. All of these materials are going to California Cactus Center (Maleenees Desert Gallery) and they will be made available to the general public when California Cactus Center is prepared to start the selling of these items. For more information please call California Cactus Center at 626-795-2788. I am sure that special requests will be considered as this collection has world status and is of special value because of its history and connection with the cactus world for over 35 years.

I have received numerous calls regarding the reasons for the sale of our basic nursery and show plants. Because of our many friends and customers, I would like to share with everyone the reasons for this sale.

There are no problems or negative circumstances involving this departure from my nursery stock and show plants. Kathy and I are at a time in our lives where we feel we are ready to turn the page and start a new chapter. We have purchased wonderful property between Santa Fe and Albuquerque NM and we intend to build a new home in this region.

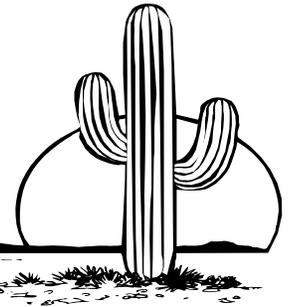
As I am sure most of you know, moving my nursery to this location would be an impossible task. This does not mean I will be out of the hobby or eventually not back in business but that the next year or two will be focused on the move and relocation. It is my intention to eventually have a smaller nursery in a year or two and sell at a few of the shows from the Midwest to California. This downsizing will also hopefully allow me to work on my books and continue to travel and study plants in their native habitats. I am keeping a handful of smaller specimens and a few flats of seed stock plants, which will help with the transition and allow me to keep my hands on these most amazing plants.

Our agreement with California Cactus Center will allow me to honor my sales commitment with the Nor Cal and the Inter-city shows for this July and August. At these two shows we will be selling our traditional material that we normally bring. During this moving and transition time I will be selling NO plant material from the nursery and all inquiries should be addressed to California Cactus Center. When this transaction is completed, January 1, 2007, please feel free to contact me regarding any questions or wants you might have as I will still be out and about.

..... The rebuilding will begin!

Kathy and I both wish to thank all of you for your support and friendship.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

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

PROGRAM: Cold Hardy Succulents in the Landscape

SPEAKER: Barbara Coelho

Oct 10 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

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

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

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.

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

contact the editors for more information

Stephen Cooley

Linda Cooley

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com