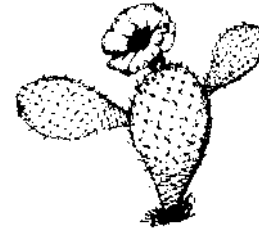




Echinopsis
in bloom this month at Cal State
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 10 **May 2007** Number 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

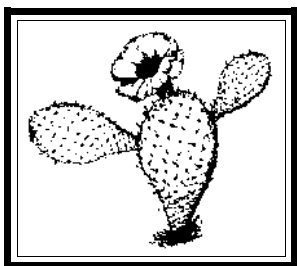
Cooking With Cactus

Presented by **Mary Carrisalez**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 8
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at **6:30 PM**
(West of 99 freeway
on corner of Olive drive &
Victor street)

**Plant-of-the-
Month:
Edible
Succulents**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 10 Number 5

May 2007

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

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We had a decent turnout for the April meeting with some recently missed members joining us once again. There was much to talk about before the presentation: Lynn told us about a Madagascar exhibit at the Los Angeles Arboretum (and received an ovation for her pronunciation of Fouquieriaceae). Sydney filled us in on the Yard Sale and we were told that some nice cactus was available for the taking at Vonne's old house.

Jack Kelley then began his presentation on meteorites. We learned so much about these rocks from the sky including the various different types as well as what to look for when searching for one and how to tell if it really is a meteorite. Jack and Sydney



both brought examples for us to look at and touch. If you would like another chance to view these 'space rocks' there is a Mineral Show coming up the weekend of May 5th at the fairgrounds.



Next, we had a small Birthday celebration for Alice Hargreaves, who turned 90. Of course, there was cake and balloons and a few presents.



Happy Birthday Alice!

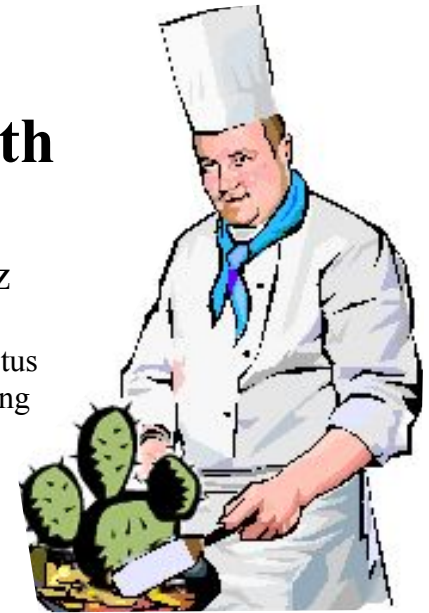


MAY'S PROGRAM

Cooking With Cactus

by Mary Carrisalez

We all know Mary from The Cactus Valley Restaurant, now she's going to share her food talents with our club. Come in and learn how to cook up some succulent dishes.



Plant of the Month

Edible Succulents

Come and share any edible succulents you may have. These would include prickly-pears and Nopales and even that ubiquitous weed, Purslane. Here is a poem by Bruce's son John Hargreaves previously printed in the May 1999 issue of *The Cactus Patch*:

There's no pal like a nopale
 A great pal o'mine
 For fencing or eatin' it is more than fine
 A pokey green boundry on which you can dine
 There's no pal like nopale
 A great pal o'mine



The Tripping Continues

A Letter From Bruce

On the 24th of Feb. when we reached Maun after leaving Qangwa, Polly & I checked into the Island Safari Lodge, watched TV and had a good restaurant meal. Next day we drove into town, but as it was Sunday almost nothing was open. We had lunch at a new "Chinese" place, but it was mostly just spaghetti. (We added some smoked oysters from our camping supplies for flavor.) We then drove out to see Okavango Ceramics, but found the place had burnt to the ground! The owners are quite optimistic and plan to reopen soon. We had tea and watched monkeys and glossy starlings eating the bird plum *Berchamia discolor*.

After another restful night at the "Island", we did some shopping in Maun. Polly got some hand-printed cloth and I found a book on "The arrow Poison of the Ikung Bushman Hunters". (Oskar Nadler, 2006, Osnera-africana, Heidelberg). It is a terrible translation from the German and starts with a diatribe against the removal of people from the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Never mind that the Qkung (= Ikung) are in Xaixai, Dobe, Qangwa etc., where we had just been, and nowhere near the CKGR. Much of what he says is untrue.

Although he concentrates on the beetles which live on Commiphora shrubs, he also includes poisonous snakes, spiders, and scorpions as well as a variety of plants. Most of the plants are taken from literature rather than his own field work and some do not occur anywhere near the Qkung. His illustrations are often wrong. For example he has an aloe labeled sansevieria and *Solanum panduriforme* labeled *S. kwebense*! The book ends with extraneous pictures of various European explorers, only two of whom are accompanied by explanatory text. Altogether a strange book.

From Maun we drove south along the dry Boteti River where there were hundreds of Abdim's storks. That night we stayed at a hotel in Letlhekane (with its nearby diamond mine) and started to Serowe on the 27th. Just north of there we lost our gears with a horrible noise! While waiting to be towed into town, a gentleman stopped to help, diagnosed a sheared-off front drive shaft, took off said shaft and left us in rear-wheel drive to limp onward. Having only two-wheel drive, we cancelled planned off-roading and returned straight to Gaborone.

Back home we had both drive shafts replaced (for a mere P2,000 or about \$350) and our Land Rover is up for sale!

On 6th March the film club started a Russian series with vodka and the showing of "An Unfinished Piece for the Mechanical Piano." It is based on a story by Chekov and reminded me too much of "The Three Sisters" which we did when I was at BC— too much talking and introspection. (I much prefer the spoof "Cherry Sisters" which we did at Capital Players here in Gaborone.)

On the 9th we camped at Jwana Game Park with the bird



The broken end of the drive shaft from the Land Rover.



Bruce & other birders comparing wingspans at the educational center in Jwana Game Park.

club. (The park surrounds the diamond mine at Jwaneng.) That evening Geraldine Hester (wife of Herald, president of the bird club) gave a star talk with her piercing green laser. Fortunately, it was a clear night. (The next night was cloudy.)

Sat. the 10th we got up early and were treated to the sight of numerous small birds mobbing a pearl-spotted owl. We then went to a village near Jwaneng



Aloe ferox from the South African tapestry.

and watched a local leather worker. We bought some sandals. In the afternoon we drove around the park spotting animals and ended at the educational center where they have numerous wildlife games painted on cement slabs left from old buildings. That evening we drove into town and observed swirling clouds of European swallows which eventually settled in the trees at dusk.

Next morning we walked down to a water hole and observed wildlife from a tall hide. After lunch we visited the Cheetah Conservation Unit and viewed a very large "cub" behind a fence.

On the 13th the museum opened a tapestry exhibit. The main feature is a long embroidered cloth which shows the history of the Eastern Cape Province in South Africa. It circled the main gallery twice and has fine details which include plants and their uses. There were also woven hangings from Botswana.

Bruce J. Hargreaves



The Succulent Garden At Cal State

Our next workday is Sunday May 6 at about 9 AM

Wind Wolves Preserve

Work party dates: May 12, June 9.

Our Library

Librarian Rose Mary Maguire would like to encourage everyone to check out the library. She is anxious to have you discover the great books that the club has. For more info, contact her

Hospitality

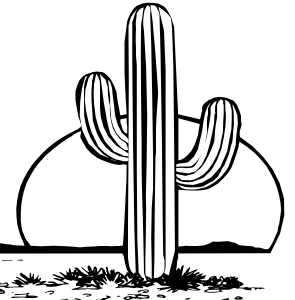
If you have enjoyed the nibbles that we have at each meeting, why not consider helping out and bringing in some. There is usually a sign-up sheet at each meeting (Though we'll eat it if you bring it and don't sign up).

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

- May 5 Garden Work day – Cal State
- May 8 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church
program: Cooking With Cactus
speaker: Mary Carrisalez
- Jun 2 Garden Work day – Cal State
- Jun 12 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm at Cal State Garden?

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- May 5-6 Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale 4117 Overland Ave. Culver City, CA
- May 20 Huntington Botanical Garden Plant Sale 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA
- May 20 LA County Arboretum Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale Arcadia, CA
- Jun 2-3 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale Balboa Park, Room 101
- Jun 9-10 Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 29th Show and Sale Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA
- Jun 29-Jul 1 CSSA Annual Show and Sale. Huntington Botanical Garden 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- Jul 14-15 LA Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale Sepulveda Garden Center 1633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA
- Aug 18-19 21st Annual Intercity S&S. LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA

contact the editors for more information

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thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Linda Cooley