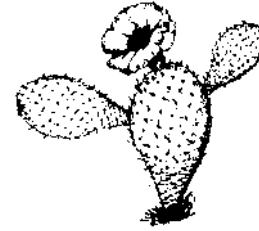




Trichocereus
Photo by Jerry Garrison

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 10 **August 2007** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

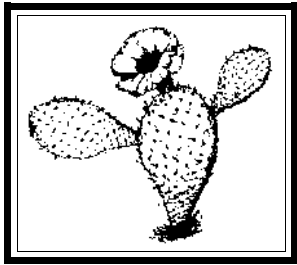
This Month's Program
**Dinner at the
Cactus Valley**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, August 14

Cactus Valley
Restaurant
4215 Rosedale Highway
at 6:30 PM

**Change of
Place for the
Next
Meeting!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 10 Number 8

August 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

2007 Officers

President – Ed Colley

Vice-President – Jerry Garrison

Treasurer - Maynard Moe

Secretary – Anne Lee

Editors - Stephen Cooley

Linda Cooley

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CSSA Representative – Maynard Moe

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Hospitality - Bill McDonald

Librarian – Rose Mary Maguire

Field Trips – Lynn McDonald

Historian – Stephen Cooley

Show & Sale – Maynard Moe

Garden Czar – Linda Cooley

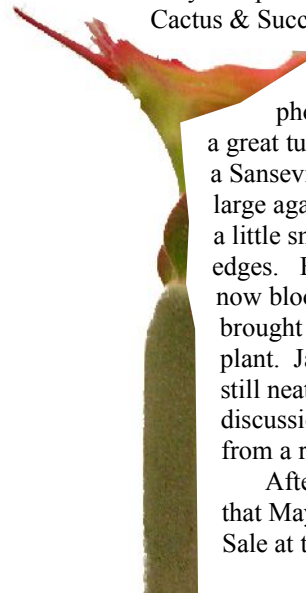
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President Ed Colley started the meeting and reminded us that it is time to start getting ready for the Show and sale coming up in October 13-14. We were also reminded that the next metering will be held at the Cactus Valley Restaurant at 4215 Rosedale Highway. Announcement from members included Donna Pitcher mentioned that we should make an attempt to be a part of next years Spring Garden Festival at Bakersfield College (we went two years ago). It would be another good way to get our club more noticeable, as well as make a little money. Stephen Cooley mentioned that the Intercity Show, the largest Cactus & Succulent Show) is coming up on August 18-19. There are lots of plants to see and buy!

The program this month was for members to bring in photos, plants, etc. to share with the rest of the club. We had a great turnout! Pat brought in a mystery plant that turned out to be a Sansevieria (cylindrica?). Alice informed us that she has another large agave blooming in her front yard. This one is different, being a little smaller (but still quite large) with leaves that have smooth edges. Frank brought in pictures of a metallic-blue flowered Puya now blooming at the San Luis Obispo Botanical garden. He also brought in a *Pedilanthus macrocarpus* in flower – what an unusual plant. Jack brought in *Ceratozamia*, a cycad, (not a succulent, but still neat) that had just sent out it's first cone. We were treated to a discussion on the natural history of cycads. He also shared photos from a recent trip to Mexico.

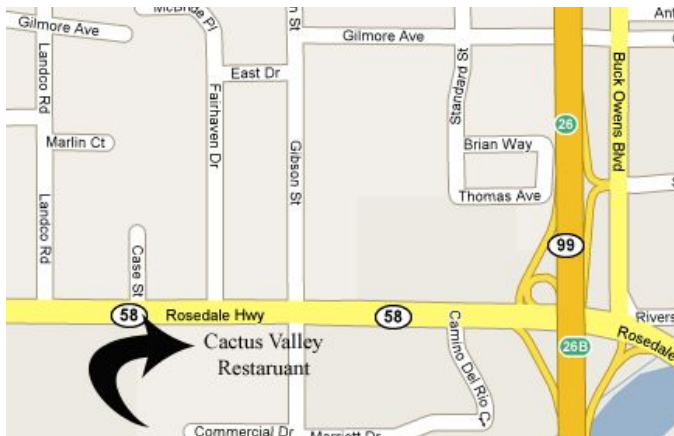
After much discussion there was a raffle featuring some plants that Maynard and Stephen picked up at the recent BCSS Show & Sale at the Huntington.





AUGUST'S PROGRAM

**ANNUAL EATING MEETING
at the Cactus Valley Restaurant
4215 Rosedale Highway
6:30 pm**



Final Museum Month A Letter From Bruce

I am officially unemployed/retired. The museum contract ended at the end of May. There were plenty of final activities. On the 9th I went to the University for a workshop on the morama bean (*Tylosema esculenta*), an edible bean which grows annually from the biggest tuber in the Kgalagadi (= Kalahari). That day was also the start of a European Union film festival. One of the most interesting was “Jaglavak, Prince of Insects”, a French film which showed the relationships between West Africans and termites.

On the 10th I gave a talk at the museum titled “Karoo in Botswana”. This centered on plants such as *Hoodia gordonii* which are basically found in the Karoo of South Africa and Namibia, but are found in the neighboring area of southwestern Botswana. Ironically, this area which is the driest and least typical of the Kgalagadi which covers most of Botswana is home to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park.



Next Day we were thrilled by a Cameroonian singer, Jaques-Greg Belebo. He was billed as a baritone, but he covered a wide enough range to be called a tenor/bass. He began a bit stiffly with classical songs but loosened up when he got to American Spirituals. Later we heard the president had been turned away from this because he showed up unannounced! I'm glad I didn't have to handle that one.



The Millennium Seed Bank annual general meeting was held on the 15th and I showed some highlights from the year's collecting. Then on the 16th Polly and I drove up to Ghanzi and stayed at the Kalahari Arms. On the 17th we proceeded on to Shakawe to join other museum staff for a celebration of International Museum Day on the 18th. Because the theme this year was World Heritage, it was decided to celebrate at Tsodilo, Botswana's only World Heritage site.

Because of improvements in the road, we were able drive there in our little blue Hyundai Atos. (The larger white car has been sold.) There were lots of speeches, dancing by both Hambukushu and Qkung (the two villages there) as

well as a whole pile of care packages from Samaritan's Purse. I presented a book hot off the press (a.k.a. Polly's computer) on "Important Plants of Tsodilo". The cover features a colored photo of *Erlangia remifolia*, a weedy purple-flowered daisy which is known only from the cliffs of Tsodilo. A few other plants are shown in color plates, but most are illustrated by line drawings. There are only a few succulents (e.g. *Aloe littoralis*, *Kalanchoe lanceolata*, *K. rotundifolia*, *Pouzolzia mixta* and *Adansonia digitata*). The most controversial page is the back cover which features a rock painting at Tsodilo which is usually said to be a scorpion, but which I suggest is the medicinal sengaparile or grapple thorn (*Hargpagophytum procumbens*).

Although we stayed at the Shakawe Fishing Camp, we celebrated that evening at Drotsky's Cabins with an upscale dinner. The Okavango River, which passes both places, was past the flood which annually comes down from Angola. It was still higher than normal. On the 19th we drove to Maun and stayed at the Island Safari Lodge. Here, at the other end of the Delta, the water was lower than ever. It takes a long time for flood waters to filter through.

We returned to Gaborone on the 20th and I relaunched the Tsodilo Book on the 23rd. This was the 300th Birthday of Linnaeus (Carl von Linné) so we also had speeches explaining his contributions to the naming of plants and animals. (We still use his system of a unique genus and species name for each.) On the 25th we had a farewell party for our former entomologist Bogosi (who had left the museum two months earlier!). I hope they don't expect me to stick around that long.

The 26th was the annual general meeting of the bird club and we were treated to a beautiful talk of birds of the Linyanti area (similar to the Okavango, but lesser known) as well as an excellent feast. Finally, on the 29th the film club showed "Das Boot", a film showing life on a German submarine in WWII. It is 3 hours long, but endurable. Now we are heading into June and a month of fighting red tape. Hopefully we will be able to leave at the end.



Bruce J. Hargreaves

OREGON

Our knitter's trip to Oregon was minus Linda this year, but we remaining three enjoyed the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's offerings in July. The weather which greeted us was welcome -- some rain, how great that was. Otherwise we had lots of clear skies -- always appreciated when one is in an outdoor theater. We saw, *On the Razzle*, *The Tempest*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and *Tracy's Tiger*, a mixture of traditional and modern plays.



Corn Lily

I had to stay on longer than the others, and so had an enjoyable weekend. First, two friends, a dog & I took a hike in the Siskiyou above Talent, OR, just north/west? of Ashland. It was a lovely day to hike part way up Wagner Butte, through some tall forest and open meadows. One open area, the Sheep's Creek Slide, was formed during heavy rains in the 1980s, a large land slide. It was so green and lush. Plenty of water for Annie to drink in creeks along the hillside.



Pine Drops

We saw many flowers in bloom, wild roses & columbine, among many others. The photos are of Corn lily (*Veratrum californicum*) and Pine drops (*Pterospora andromedea*) with fruit.

The next day I drove down into California again, via Yreka onto

Highway 3, through the Scott Valley, and down to Trinity Lake. In the lower Scott Valley, I was pleased to see a large bird between the road & pasture fence. It was a bald eagle, carrying some breakfast. My friends who live at Trinity Center have a boat, so we spent some nice time swimming in the peaceful lake, and observed many birds at their feeders. One favorite are the rufous hummingbirds.

The hearing with the City Council was very nerve-wracking, but I think it was quite an important "win" for Bill & me. It is not over just yet, but we continue to be hopeful and look forward to being able to build a home.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Show & Sale 2007

This is just a reminder that our eighth annual Show and Sale will be on October 13 – 14 this year. For many members the event is now fairly routine, but some of our newer members may not know much about it. Here is a general outline of what all members can do:

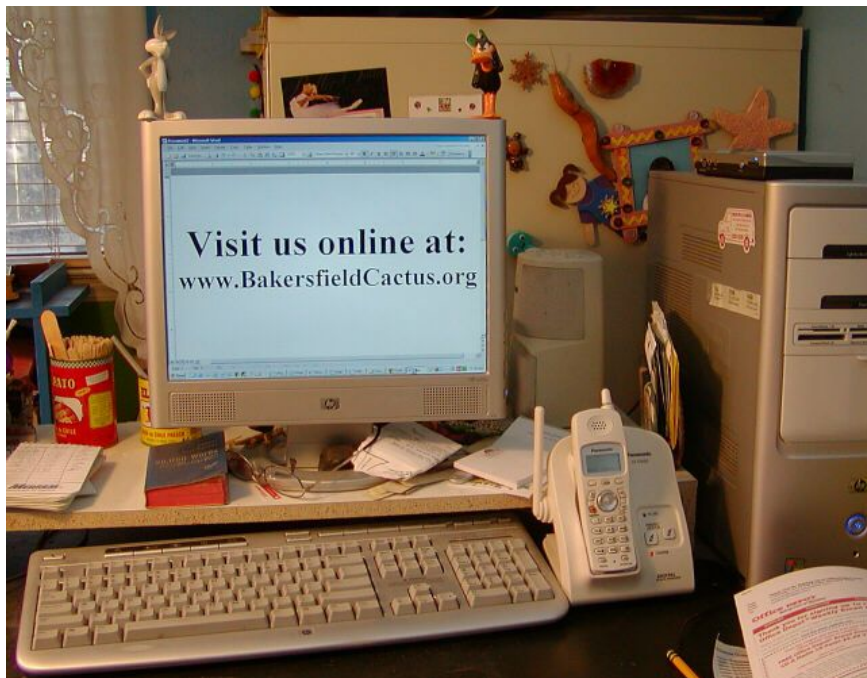
1. Bring some plants. Many plants are “staged” in nice pots with top-dressing, but it is not required. Any clean, nice plant will be fine. We need diversity. The basic categories are cacti, caudiciforms, other succulents, dish gardens, and allied interests (photos, drawings, knitted cactus-hats, etc.). A complete list of categories will be at our September meeting. Set up is on Saturday, Oct. 13, 7:00 to 10:00 am.
2. Help “man” the cashbox and talk to visitors during the event. A sign-up sheet will be at our September meeting.
3. Help with pre-Show and Sale necessities such as publicity, flyer design, display preparation, etc. This will also be discussed in September.

We do need help planning things such as:

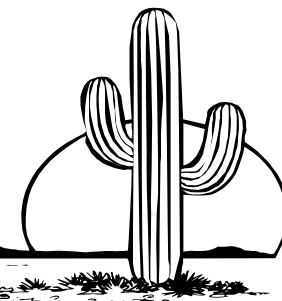
- Do we want to sell soil? ... top-dressing?
- Do we still want to do the kid's art contest?
- Should we fix up some displays? ... make new ones?
- Do we have room to expand the sales area? do we even want to?
- Do we still want to "judge" and place ribbons?
- How much should we advertise?
- Should we have more decorations?

If you are interested in this, please let me know. We can meet at Barns and Noble sometime. There will be a sign-up sheet at the August meeting.

-- Maynard



UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Aug 14 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm At Cactus Valley restaurant
- Sept 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church
program: Planting in Unusual Containers
speaker: Jerry Garrison
- Oct 9 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church
- Oct 13-14 BCSS SHOW & SALE
- Nov 13 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church
- Dec 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church
program: Holiday Potluck, Silent Raffle, Fun

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- Aug 18-19 21st Annual Intercity S&S. LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
- Sept 2 Huntington Botanical garden Succulent Symposium.
- Nov 10-11 San gabriel Valley C&SS Show and Sale. LA County Arboretum 301 N. Baldwin Ave, Arcadia, CA
- Dec 1-2 Orange County C&SS Show and Sale. Fullerton Arboretum 1900 Associated Rd, Fullerton. Show & Sale open from 10am – 4pm.

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
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com
Linda Cooley