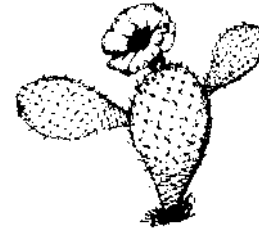




*Ariocarpus fissuratus*  
Photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 10    **October 2007**    Number 10

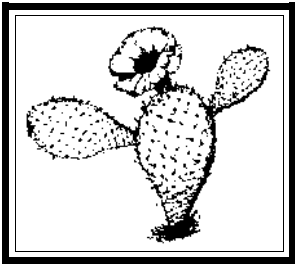
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program  
**Getting Ready for the  
Show & Sale**  
presented by  
**Stephen Cooley**

## Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Oct. 9**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at **6:30 PM**  
(West of 99 freeway  
on corner of Olive drive &  
Victor street)

**Let's Get  
Ready  
for the  
Show & Sale!**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 10    Number 10  
October 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**

## 2007 Directors

**CSSA Representative – Maynard Moe**  
**Past President – Vonne Zdenek**

## 2007 Chairpersons

**Hospitality - Bill McDonald**  
**Librarian – Rose Mary Maguire**  
**Field Trips – Lynn McDonald**  
**Historian – Stephen Cooley**  
**Show & Sale – Maynard Moe**  
**Garden Czar – open**

Material in The Cactus Patch may be reprinted by non-profit organizations (unless such permission is expressly denied in a note accompanying the material) provided that the proper credit is given to the BCSS & the author and that one copy of the publication containing the reprinted material is sent to the editor. Reproduction in whole or part by any other organization without the permission of the BCSS editor is prohibited. Contact [thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)



Ed started out the meeting reminding us all about our upcoming 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale at the East Hills Mall October 13-14. Show Chairman Maynard told us that there



is a need for workers at the show, both

Saturday and Sunday. We

need people mainly to man the cash box and talk

with visitors about the plants and the club.

You don't need to be an expert to do either, your enthusiasm is enough. Everyone was encouraged to bring plants.







Vice-President Jerry Garrison was our speaker and his topic, Unusual Containers, was a big hit.

Many members brought their own peculiar potted creations.



Jerry showed us how to dress up an

unusual container including using texture paint and crackle paint to give an otherwise unattractive container a new look.

Some of the pots brought in included pots and pans, a highly artistic pot the Bruce made in high school, real boots, a fake boot, hand, and head, more pots and a funny looking saxophone-like stainless steel pipe.



The meeting ended with a spirited raffle of some great raffle plants.



## OCTOBER'S PROGRAM

### Getting Ready for the Sow & Sale

presented by  
Stephen Cooley

This month I will be talking about what you need to do to get your plants prepared for the Show & Sale. Most of what I will discuss will be something that you can do in the few days that will be left until the show. If you have some plants that need a little touching up, bring them in. It is important that we have a good number of plants to show the public. Remember, many people think succulents are those cheap little potted novelties that you put on the windowsill and throw away once they've died – let's show them that these are long-lived, beautiful plants.

I will show you how to clean up your plants, clean up your pots, and dress them up easily. Maynard is going to bring in some top dressing so that you can take some home to your pots. Let's make this our best show!

## Plant of the Month

Jack G. Reynolds

### *Pereskia*



A couple of months ago Ed asked me to do the plant of the month column for the newsletter. Like a fool, I agreed to do it, so here goes. I

took on the task as sort of an educational experience for me since I don't collect cacti. It will give me an opportunity to learn more about things I am acquainted with but have no deep knowledge of. I plan to do a cactus one month and some kind of succulent the next and alternate that way. I am open to suggestions if anyone has one.

This month I have chosen *Pereskia grandifolia*. As a biologist, I love to see evolutionary missing links and that is what *Pereskia* represents sort of. It is a cactus with leaves and weak spines. One can imagine some woody ancestor millions of years ago developing spines as a protection from grazing animals in an increasingly dry environment and then ultimately losing its leaves altogether because they were things that just leaked precious water. *Pereskia* represents one stage in that journey. I got mine at the cactus and succulent show at the Huntington several years ago. The tag says *Pereskia grandifolia* but I think it may be wrong because according to Innes and Glass the leaves should be 6-8 inches long. Mine are only 1-2 and rather fleshy. If it blooms I may be able to make a correct identification. There are about twenty species of



*Pereskia* from Argentina to Mexico. *P. grandifolia* was discovered in Brazil where it grows as a tree or shrub 2-5 meters tall. All of the *Pereskias* are trees or shrubs, some growing to thirty feet in height. The flowers are pink. It is widely used in hedges all over the tropical Americas. Mine is about a meter tall and has no branches yet. It has never bloomed. According to Britton and Rose it blooms reluctantly in greenhouse culture.

## BATTLING BUREAUCRACY

### A Letter From Bruce



We finally reached Bakersfield on Saturday 25 August, but a lot happened before then and I shall continue to write about it. This month I'll report on leaving Botswana. We knew it would be an uphill battle, but I had hoped it would be easier this time as there had been a government edict stating that all benefits would be dealt with within one month of the end of contract. HA!

I started with a letter to the Permanent Secretary in April. On the

24th of May I received a response (dated 21st May) that acknowledged that my contract ended on the 31st of the month. I then applied for the gratuity owed me on the 25th. (This is part of the contract to guarantee that I will stick it out.) On the 28th I applied to passages for tickets home.

On 6th June I was asked for a marriage certificate and managed to produce a photo copy. Next day I was told this was unacceptable as it was not certified. (This was to legalize giving Polly a ticket! I pointed out they brought her to Botswana and were legally required to return her, but logic got me nowhere. They suggested the US embassy should have my papers so I could get it certified there! I pointed out that Botswana Government, not the US, had my documents--but not a marriage certificate since it had never been requested.) Next we got a letter from the Deputy Head of the Museum and took the uncertified copy of the Certificate to the police. When asked for the original Polly explained that it is in a box in her mother-in-law's house in California --maybe. The policewoman laughed and stamped the copy.

Next hurdle -- on the 19th I wrote another letter to the Permanent Secretary requesting a deviation from the normal route home as well as cash so we could go part way by train. On the 25th I received a response stating we could deviate, but we could not have cash. We were informed we could not mix air and train travel and we could not fly to Canada since Air Botswana (the government airline) does not connect with Air Canada. After much to-ing and fro-ing between passages and Air Botswana (and changing reservations three times), we finally reached a compromise whereby we flew to Boston, left the middle of the ticket blank (so we could take trains etc.) and picked up the plane again in Seattle to fly to LA and Bakersfield. This was questioned by passages





where I was asked if I had paid the difference between the direct flight and the deviation. I pointed out that the deviation was cheaper as we would be paying for the train. They finally accepted this.

Finally Catch 22 -- to get the gratuity we had to clear the house. Since government only pays for the last three days in a hotel, this left us with the problem of where to stay while clearing out the house. We finally booked a Chalet at Rob Patterson's Nursery (best succulents in Botswana) for the nights of 8th through 10th July, got the packers to pick up book boxes on the 4th and pack the rest on the 5th and 6th and we moved out on the 8th. The furniture was checked off on the 8th and on the 9th we managed to get both Housing and the Landlord to inspect the house.



The power, water and telephone had been turned off on the 8th and we cleared them (but didn't get deposits) on the 12th. That day we got the gratuity check in the morning and deposited it in the bank. Leave money owed did not arrive until 3:30 - too late for the bank. On the 13<sup>th</sup> we got traveler's checks, paid the packers and deposited the leave check. Theoretically we could have left that afternoon, but to be sure we had changed our booking and actually flew out on the 14th. We spent our last three nights in Botswana at the Oasis Motel. This is flanked by the Cactus

Lodge on the West and the Desert Inn on the East!

While doing all this, we managed a last trip with the Botswana Bird Club on the 1st of July, had a turkey lunch with the Cooks (who are also leaving to return to the States) on the 2nd, and Lunch with the quilters on the 3rd. The Museum held a farewell party on the 4th (with me on a chief's chair and Polly on an antelope skin on the floor) and a reception for visiting Native Americans on the 5th. On the 6th we went for traditional Friday drinks at Capital Players and then to Kung Fu Kitchen for dinner. We had breakfast with the Pattersons on the 9th.

In the midst of all this we did



manage to buy out a book sale and I found a beautiful volume on "Fynbos Fairies" (Antjie Krog, text; Fiona Moodie, illustrations and Gus Ferguson, translation, 2007 Umuzi Randomhouse, Houghton, South Africa). It has several succulents with their fairies in beautiful color. The Geranium Fairy accompanies *Pelargonium cuculatum* and is described by the poem:

Now come and rub a malva\* leaf  
Between your thumb and finger

Other fairies are: the Dew Vygie Fairy with *Drosanthemum hispidum*, and the Chinchincheree Fairy with *Ornithogalum thyrsoides* and the *Acraea horta* butterfly.

\*The Afrikaans for *Pelargonium* is malva which is even more confusing than the English geranium since malva is the scientific name for mallow, which is a totally different family!

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*



## Succulents of the San Diego Zoo

Should you find yourself in San Diego with a little time on your hands, why not go to the zoo? I know it's kind of a kids-thing, but there is more to look at than just the animals. While the rest of the crowd is rushing to see the pandas, the gorillas, and the

komodo dragons you can busy yourself in the shade of an aloe, looking at the echeverias around your feet.

The San Diego zoo would be a first class botanical garden if the plants were identified and mapped out a bit better. You can pick up sheets that show you where to find 27 kinds of bromeliads, 17 kinds of





*Acacia*, 24 kinds of *Erythrina* (coral tree), 30 kinds of palms, and 38 kinds of cycads. There is a tropical fruit garden with bananas, papayas and dragon fruit (a cactus – *Hylocereus undulatus*!). The succulents are not on one of the information sheets, but there are plenty in the park.

The reptile area is where you'll see many of the cacti, but other succulents are scattered throughout the landscape. As you wander look for aloes, yucca, agave, echeveria, euphorbia, dudleya, alluadia, and pachypodium all planted in the landscape. [see more pictures online at [www.BakersfeildCactus.org](http://www.BakersfeildCactus.org)]

*Stephen Cooley*



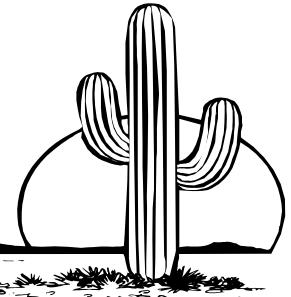








# UPCOMING EVENTS



## **BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS**

- Oct 9 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church  
program: Getting Ready for the Show & Sale  
speaker: Stephen Cooley
- 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**

- 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. For info call  
714-870-4887

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)

contact the editors for more information  
Stephen Cooley                      Linda Cooley  
[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)