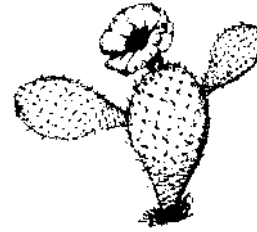


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)



*Opuntia aciculata* at the  
Cal State succulent garden  
Photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*

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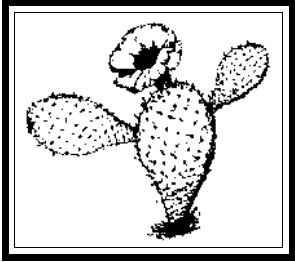
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program  
**Another Stimulating  
Presentation by a Noted  
Speaker**  
(see inside for even fewer details)

## Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Nov. 13**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at **6:30 PM**  
(West of 99 freeway  
on corner of Olive drive &  
Victor street)

**It's Time  
To Elect  
New  
Officers!**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 10 Number 11

November 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**

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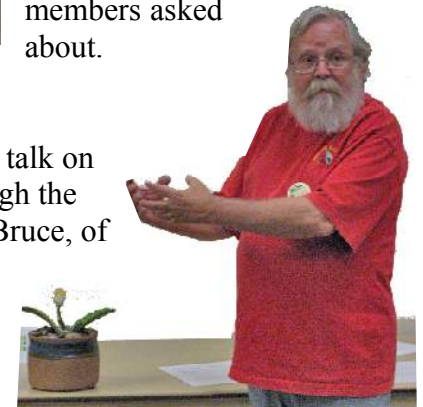
The October meeting was all about the upcoming Show & Sale. We discussed when to bring in the plants and what kind of plants we wanted. We talked of the need for members to come out and help talk to the public about our hobby.



Then Stephen Cooley gave us a presentation on preparing your plants for the show and sale. Discussed were: using top dressing, cleaning pots, trimming and cleaning leaves, and removing bugs. We talked about repotting and potting up and just about anything else that the members asked about.

Also, Bruce gave us a short talk on Haemanthus (Blood Lily) and though the latin name means 'Blood Flower' Bruce, of course, brought in the white flowered species albiflos.

The meeting ended with a great raffle.



## NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

Another great program is in store for the month of November. Excited conversation and heated debate is sure to follow this rousing oratory presented by a noted expert in the field. This is a presentation not to be missed (and if I knew what it was, I would write more about it)!

### Plant of the Month

Jack G. Reynolds

### *Euphorbia viguieri*

I fell in love with this plant when I saw a rather large one at the annual cactus and succulent show at the Huntington. It was about 18 inches (45 cm.) tall and had the most beautiful pale grey spots at regular intervals along the single dark green trunk. The trunk was armed with many wicked looking spines, some up to 2 cm. long along the ribs. At the top was a whorl of dark green leaves each about 4.5 inches (11 cm.) long. Crowning this impressive top was a cluster of small bright red flowers typical of *Euphorbias*. I had to have it and after some negotiation over price it was mine. It sat



on my bench under shade cloth at our home in Simi Valley for the rest of the summer and as fall came on it revealed yet another aspect of its beauty. The leaves turn color in the fall as the weather cools going first pale green then yellow and orange and finally red, thus showing this remarkable plants connection to that other winter brightener the poinsettia which also is in the family *Euphorbiaceae*.

*E. viguieri* is native to Madagascar and like most tropical plants from that area it is not frost tolerant. It will survive down to the mid thirties but really wants to be at 55 degrees or better. Mine froze its top inch or so in the second winter I had it but did not die and readily sprouted side shoots which are also very attractive. It now lives permanently in the greenhouse where it has an honored spot close to the heater. In nature it grows at least two meters high I would guess from one picture I found on the internet. Given warm temperatures and good care these are easy plants to grow and start from cuttings readily. They should not be watered during the winter (Nov. to Apr. or May)

In their little book, Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur, Glass and Foster note that most *Euphorbias* produce a latex sap which is toxic. They caution people who work with these plants to be very careful not to get the sap in their eyes, mouth or open cuts. I can attest to this having gotten it in my eyes on one occasion. They also mention an antidote to the sap also which is the sap of *Aeonium lindleyi*, and they recommend that anyone keeping *Euphorbias*, keep *Aeonium* as well. I must confess that I have not taken this advice, but will keep in mind.







## Serendipitous Succulents in Pilgrim's Plymouth

### A Letter From Bruce

It's hard to believe we've been back here two months. Time has fled. James & Emily came to Bakersfield with Michael on Labor Day. Our grandson is already walking and babbling. We met our grand nephew Elijah with his parents Leo and Becky on the 29th of Sept. He is a little younger than Michael, but almost as promising. In between these visits we went to the Kern County Fair (disappointing - the children had the best garden exhibits) and hear Ngugi wa Thiongo read from his latest book at CSUB. (For those not familiar with him, he is a leading fiction writer from Kenya who is in exile in Irvine as Kenya takes his allegories seriously.)



Polly in the Plymouth Mayflower museum looking down on the Mayflower Steps

But back to the journey home. We left Botswana on 14 July with a short hop to Johannesburg. Then it was an overnight flight to London. Polly and I had seats in different rows-more about that

later. At London we found our two biggest cases had missed the plane. This was actually a good thing as we were able to travel onward with only our two smaller cases. From London we were headed to Cornwall, but our hostess there was in Wales for the weekend. Polly noted that the bus would pass thru Plymouth, so we decided to go there for the night. Heavy rains had left the countryside green and dotted with wildflowers. The bus stopped for lunch at a disappointingly modern service area. We arrived in good time and checked into a Bed and Breakfast near the Bus Station which I had noted in passing.

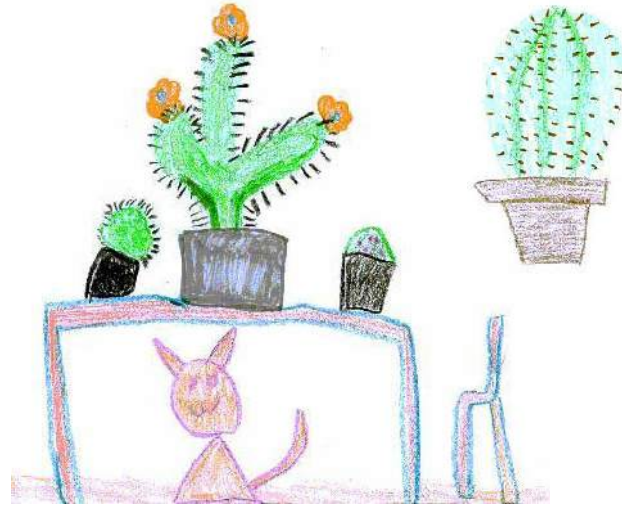
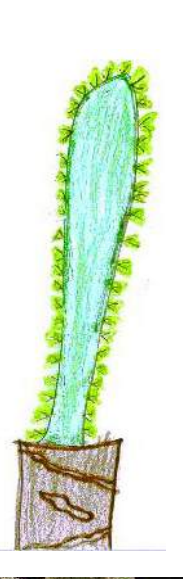
We then headed into town and came to a puzzling sign which showed the Town Centre one direction and the Other Town Centre another direction! We chose the "Other" and found the Barbicon Harbour which is what we wanted as this is the place from which the Mayflower sailed carrying Pilgrims to America. Several of my ancestors were among those pilgrims, so it was of personal interest to see the English Plymouth. (We had seen the American Plymouth years before when living in New York.) It is interesting to note that the English one is so named because it is the mouth of the Plym River. (There is no such river in America!)

The Harbour had the usual seagulls, but it also had beautiful swans! Atop the harbour wall there were small plants of *Sedum acre* or biting stonecrop. Incidentally, it is unwise to try eating this plant. It is said to have a biting taste and to be poisonous.(How did anyone find out?) It was nice to see that succulents grow in Plymouth, but this is a very common plant of rock walls throughout England which we had seen on previous visits.

We proceeded to the Mayflower Steps, a monument which represents the spot from which the boat left. (No one is sure of the precise spot.) There on the rock wall we found a small succulent. Fortunately, it was in full bloom, so I could recognize it as a member of the carrot family. I knew there were succulents in the family as we had seen some in the Canary Islands, but I didn't know of the English ones. I have since identified it as the rock samphire, *Crithium maritimum*. According to the Reader's Digest Wild Britain- Wild Flowers (no date, Reader's Digest Assoc., London L7.99) it is found on sea cliffs and rocks of Wales, Ireland

(continued on page 10)





**2007  
Show  
&  
Sale**





## Bruce's Letter (continued from page 7)

and south and west England. The book is well illustrated in color and contains facts such as, "In Shakespeare's time rock samphire was a popular vegetable, its leaves pickled in vinegar."

From the monument we crossed a small drawbridge to an Aquarium which is said to be the biggest in England. Not impressive! Back across, we continued down the shore to note a lot of plants on the rock walls: fennel and wild carrot (both in the carrot family - the latter of the variety known as sea carrot which is succulent, unlike the

ordinary ones which we call Queen Anne's lace in the U.S.), butterfly bush, ivy-leaved toadflax, wild teasel, red valerian, petty spurge and caper spurge. In soil below the cliff we saw some crabapples with fruit.

(Unfortunately we did not find the related hawthorn which is the English mayflower, not to be confused with the American mayflower which is related to Azaleas.) There were a couple of magpies in this shrubbery.

Looking back toward land we observed the towering walls of the Royal Citadel. Interestingly, this fort faces inland as the threat was felt to be the heretical Methodists rather than foreigners! (No wonder the equally heretical pilgrims left from here.) Further along we came to the Hoe (High Place) with its misplaced "Smeaton's Tower". This is a lighthouse which had been the third on the Eddystone Rocks far out to the south but moved inland due to cracking. I had long known a song about the Eddystone Light, but had no idea where it was. Darwin reported the Eddystone



Rock samphire growing at the Mayflower Steps

Rocks as his last view of England as he sailed from Plymouth on the monumental voyage of the Beagle.

Next at the Hoe we saw a beautiful garden with a huge eagle in gold done by the Boy Scouts for 2007, their "hundredth" anniversary. (They were prize-winners in the English garden contest.) Oddly, in South Africa which considers itself the starting point, the "hundredth" anniversary was celebrated seven years ago. Ironically, nearby on the Hoe is a monument to the soldiers of the Boer War, including those at Mafikeng where Baden-Powell organized the youth as "scouts".

We returned to the street with our B&B, passing up a couple of Indian Restaurants (there was also a Mexican restaurant in town) to eat at a more English place. (We ordered nachos which were terrible.) That evening we watched British TV with its delightfully different sense of humor.

Next morning we went up past a church which was bombed out in WW II to a very modern shopping center on Drake's Circus. (No clowns -- it simply means circle, & yes this is the same Drake for which Drake's Bay in California is named; he, too, sailed from Plymouth.) We passed up a well-known US coffee chain and had coffee at Marks and Spencer's.

Now that we were awake, we went back to our B&B and had breakfast at the Old Friary pub below. (They weren't open earlier.) We then went back to Drake's Circus and had drinks at Burger King, bought souvenirs and observed giant hanging fish in the multistoried atrium. Nearby, we cashed travelers checks at the post office and observed American yuccas in bloom. We ended our tour of Plymouth with a visit to the Plymouth Mayflower museum which has a lot more than just pilgrims-it goes back to stone tools found in the area and comes round to modern Plymouth. One of the most amusing exhibits was an old American cartoon of the Pilgrims. We had late lunch at the Old Friary and a snack at the White Rabbit at the bus station. At 4:30 we took the bus to nearby Cornwall, but I'll write about that next month.

### Lyrics to Eddystone Light:

Me father was the keeper of the Eddystone Light  
Slept with a mermaid one fine night

From this union there came three;  
A porpoise and a porgy and the other was me!  
Yo ho ho, the wind blows free,  
Oh for the life on the rolling sea!

One night, when I was a-trimming the glim  
Singing a verse from the evening hymn  
A voice on the starboard shouted "Ahoy!"  
There was me mother, a-sitting on a buoy.  
Yo ho ho . . . .

"What became of my children three ?"  
Me mother then she asked of me.  
"One was exhibited as a talking fish  
The other was served on a chafing dish."  
Yo ho ho . . . .

The phosphorous flashed in her seaweed hair.  
I looked again, me mother wasn't there  
Her voice came echoing out of the night  
"To the devil with the keeper of the Eddystone Light!"  
Yo ho ho . . . .

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

Hear this shanty sung by Ian Marshall by clicking [here](#).

OR visit this website:

[http://www.archive.org/details/Eddystone\\_Light\\_Ian\\_Marshall](http://www.archive.org/details/Eddystone_Light_Ian_Marshall)

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)



### Show and Sale Finances

We did much better than we thought. We had about twice as many people sign up for the free newsletter this year than last year. We also sold more plants. Last year we made about \$380 and this year we made about \$630. (Our best year was 2003, when we made about \$1230.) Thanks to all for making this year's S & S such a success!

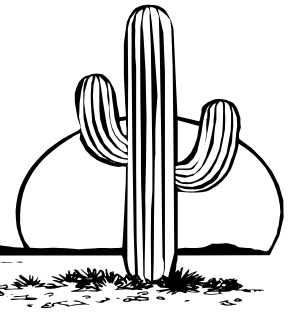


--Maynard



*Trichocereus* blooming at the Cal State succulent garden October 2007

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Nov 13 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church  
Dec 11 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church  
program: Holiday Potluck, Silent Raffle, Fun  
Jan 8 BCSS Meeting 6:30pm Olive Drive Church

## **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.

contact the editors for more information

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[thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)

**Linda Cooley**