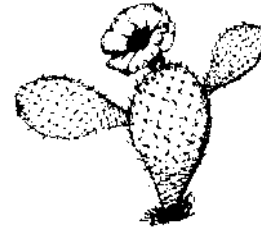




Anacampseros retusa blooms for a few hours in the afternoon – each bloom last just one day!
Photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 12 **September 2009** Number 9

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Baja California Norte

presented by

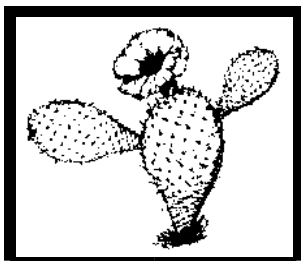
Nick Wilkinson

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 8
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at 6:30 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

**It's Time To
Start Getting
Ready For The
Show & Sale!**

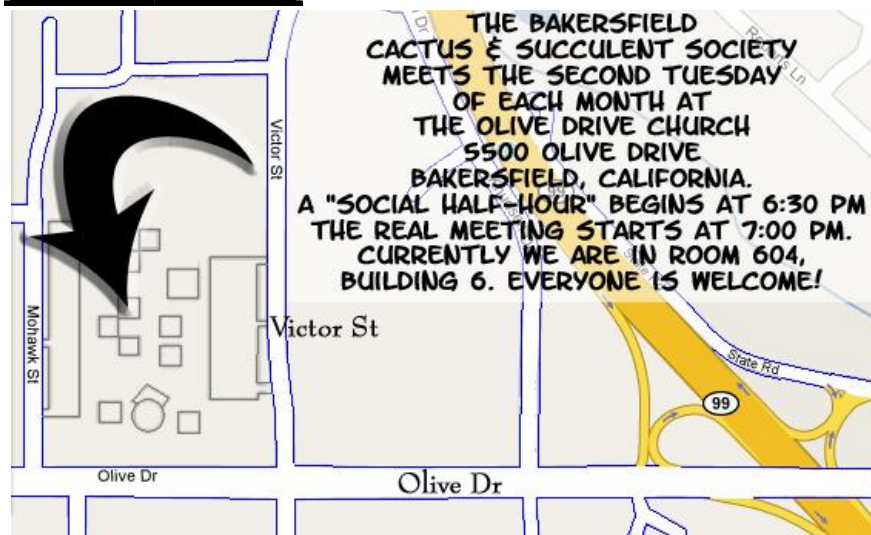


The Cactus Patch

Volume 12 Number 9

September 2009

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society of Bakersfield, California



Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and only \$15 a year for a family.

Visit Us On the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM

Baja California Norte

presented by

Nick Wilkinson

This month's program is brought to us by Nick Wilkinson of GROW nursery in Cambria. Nick is the Vice President of the CCCSS in SLO and will be talking about a recent trip through Baja California Norte, from Tijuana to Guerrero Negro. During the trip Nick had the opportunity to see some very old Indian sites, pictographs, rock art and many of the plants that we cherish such as *Pachycornis discolor*, *Bursera microphylla*, *Agave shawii*, and many *Dudleya* species. There is something for everyone in this talk.

Nick will also be bringing some plants for sale so don't miss this one!



Nick talks with Jack, Sidney and Maynard at our Show & Sale

Plant of the Month

Mammillaria tayloriorum



Once again I had to resort to the random draw to choose the plant of the month but I like the way it came out. *M. tayloriorum* is a relatively large member of the genus at up to 10" (25 cm.) high and about the same in diameter. The tubercles are conical and the axils are woolly when young becoming sparse in when older. Areoles bear about a dozen radial spines brown at the tip and up to five centrals all about 1/3" (8mm.) long. Bright pink flowers with

white edges to the petals are produced in the summer. They are about 3/4" (16mm.) long and are diurnal. They like full sun and a good draining normal cactus mix. They typically do not form clumps until relatively old. Water sparingly.

This species is native to the San Pedro Nolasco Is., off the coast of Sonora, Mexico in the Gulf of California. Being an island species may account for its relatively large size. It is common for small species to get large on islands and likewise large species often shrink on islands. I once heard a biologist who studied island species say that everything tended to reach the size of a breadbox in such places. Galapagos tortoises are an obvious exception, but then we had the pygmy mammoths on the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. An explanation for this tendency should be forthcoming.



JACK G. REYNOLDS

August 11, 2009

Our August meeting was held at the Cactus Valley Restaurant where a good time was had by all!

Brag Table

The Brag Table is a place for you to show off any of your plants. It doesn't have to be a blue-ribbon, show-quality plant, just one you're proud of or find unusual or has some story connected to it. Bring in something to share!



SHOW & SALE TIME!

Our 10th Show & Sale is coming October 10-11. This is the last meeting before the event! We need your help in making this another spectacular show. There will be much to talk about at this month's meeting, so plan to attend!

We need clean, good-looking plants for the show as well as anything else succulent related (there is an "Allied Interests" category for pictures, quilts, salt shakers, etc). We also need people to come and talk to the visitors, you don't need to be an expert, just relate your enthusiasm.

A copy of this year's Show Rules & Classifications has been included in this newsletter. Feel free to contact Ed, Maynard, or Stephen if you have questions (see page 2).

Kern County Fair - *The Best in the West*

I went to the fairgrounds and signed up the club for an outdoor scene. So the die is cast! Actually at the end of the fair last year we found out that the theme was going to be the same again this year – The Best in the West. I immediately had an idea for this years scene.

I thought it would be nice to feature well-known areas of California. The next thing was to figure ones that could be portrayed with cacti and succulents. One of the most difficult things is to find a way to make them look good together.

The point system that we will be judged on is:
Composition 25%, Scale 15%, Theme 15%, Plant Material 25%, Details 5%, Lighting 5%, Plot Plan 10%. There are several other rules that also must be followed. They have to do with the way the scene is set up – mainly some height rules.

I chose Yosemite – Bridal Veil Falls (Long flowing plant-plants), Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest (Ones that look all gnarly. Need several more.), Death Valley- Race Track (A few roundish, rock-looking plants), Giant Redwoods (Tall, tall ones you may be going to cut down. Can be up to 8' tall!), and the San Diego Zoo (tropical looking). If you have any plants that you think might fit the needs of this years theme, let me know. We already have almost enough to do the displays. But I'm always looking to upgrade! This year it's going to be somewhat more structured then previous years.

I'm going to hit Bruce up to paint the backdrop. He does such a good job. Kind of incorporated in with the backdrop, I would like to put up a "stuffed" fisherman going after a gigantic fish. I have a few other ideas that we can use if we need them.

Items that we still need are lights, a few plants, and a lot of help putting it together. For those of you that haven't participated in this, it's actually a fun project. Our club is known for its "off-the-wall" themes.

We can begin working on our space on Wednesday, Sept. 16th. It has to be finished by 7 pm, Tuesday the 22nd. I thought we might get some of the preliminary work done early and put in the plants on the 20th-21st.

The pressure is on as our club has always done well in the judging.

Sidney Kelley

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY

10th Annual

Show & Sale

Saturday, October 10 10 am to 6 pm
Sunday, October 11 11 am to 3 pm

**Center Court, East Hills Mall
Bakersfield**

CLASSIFICATIONS

DIVISION I: **CACTI**

1. Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Astrophytum
2. Ferocactus, Echinocactus
3. Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
4. Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Pereskopsis
5. Mammillaria, Epithelantha
6. Columnar cacti
7. Copiapoa, Gymnocalycium, Matucana
8. Lobivia, Echinopsis, Mila, Acanthocalycium
9. Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Weingartia
10. Notocactus, Parodia
11. Melocactus, Discocactus, Buiningia, Uebelmannia
12. Epiphytic cacti
13. All other genera

DIVISION II: **OTHER SUCCULENTS**

14. Mesembs: Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria, other
15. Asclepiads: Huernia, Caralluma, Pseudolithos, Trichocaulon, Ceropegia, Hoya, other
16. Crassula, Sedum
17. Curcubits: Momordica, Kedrostis, Cephalopentandra, Zygosityos, etc
18. Dorstenia
19. Echeveria, Graptopetalum, Dudleya, Pachyphytum
20. Adromischus, Cotyledon, Tylecodon
21. Aeonium, Sempervivum, Monanthes, Kalanchoe
22. Asters: Senecio, Kleinia, Othonna, etc.
23. Aloe
24. Haworthia
25. Gasteria
26. Euphorbia
27. Other Euphorbs: Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.

28. Portulacaceae: Ceraria, Anacampseros, Talinum, etc.
29. Sansevieria
30. Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
31. Bursera, Pachycormus, Fouquieria, Commiphora
32. Cyphostemma, Cissus
33. Agave, Yucca, Calibanus, Beaucarnea, Dracaena, Nolina
34. Bromeliads: Dyckia, Tillandsia, Abromitiella
35. Geophytes: Oxalis, Bulbine, other bulbs
36. All other genera

DIVISION III: **CAUDICIFORMS**

37. Euphorbs (Jatropha, Euphorbia)
38. Asclepiads (Raphionacme, Brachystelma)
39. Monocots (Beaucarnea, Dioscorea, Calibanus)
40. Aizoaceae (Trichodiadema, Mestoklema)
41. Apocynaceae (Adenium, Pachypodium)
42. Moraceae (Ficus, Dorstenia)
43. All other genera (even Jack K's)

DIVISION IV: **CRESTS, MONSTROSE, VARIEGATES**

44. Crests, Monstrose, Variegates

DIVISION V: **ARRANGEMENTS**

45. Cactus, Other Succulent and Dish Gardens

DIVISION VI: **ALLIED INTERESTS**

46. Photography
47. Crafts
48. Other



Las Vegas Birthday

A Letter From Bruce

Lately everything is relative – lots of them. My sister Lora arrived with her husband Dave, son Joshua and daughter Angela from Kwajalein, Marshall Islands on 11th July. Then my sister Karen arrived with her granddaughter

Aubrey from Sacramento. My brother Robert came in from Rosedale and we had a family portrait with my Mother and all five of her kids. Our son James with Emily and our grandson Michael came to Bakersfield on the 24th on the way back from a long tour of the US west.

On the 25th We drove up to Sacramento with James et al.. They continued on north on the 26th and Polly & I drove over to San Francisco for the Norcal Show and sale. Unfortunately we chose the northern route along Suisun Bay just when there was a race meet which crammed the narrow road with bumper to bumper cars. We finally got to Golden Gate Park only to find a lot of NO LEFT TURN signs. We tried right turns, but found barricades up for a marathon. We finally got to the show & sale, but there was no parking. Fortunately I found Nick who showed us the sales area parking. I bought a few plants (including *Euphorbia cactus*). Then we toured the show with Nick's Bombax and its prize ribbon in the center. The arts and crafts section was full and included a quilt of cactus prints!

On the 27th Polly & I drove north to Greenville where James et al. live. I 80 was under construction so we had more delays. On the 27th we went shopping at Susanville on the east side of the Sierras and there were delays due to trenching on the road. On the 28th we hit thrift shops in Greenville and on the 29th we went to the farmers' market at Quincy. Afterward we ate at Pangea with its strange fusion food.

James was off on Friday the 31st so we all went up to Lassen Volcanic National Park. I was the only one who had been there – when I was a kid and learning geology from my father (I never had a formal course). They make it easy now with models at the entrance- I had to climb the different volcanoes. Michael was impressed by the sulfur springs and when we had hard-boiled eggs for lunch he said, "Eggs smell like bubbles!" We stopped at the trail up Mt. Lassen, but it was closed and Michael played in the snow at the base. Some of the snow was red with algae. Finally we drove on down to Kings Creek and Michael played in the icy water while I photographed the "spring" wildflowers

SHOW RULES

- 1 The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society Show is open to anyone with an interest in succulent plants.
- 2 All entries will be placed in the appropriate class with a completed entry card by the exhibitor.
- 3 Grafted plants will be accepted in any class, and must be so indicated on the entry card.
- 4 The show chair(s) may combine categories, rearrange the plants, or move plants to different categories to improve the show.
- 5 **All plants must be free of pests and disease**, and be in presentable condition. The show chair(s) may remove any unsuitable for the show.
- 6 Show hours must be followed; plants may not be removed until the close of the show.
- 7 Collections consist of at least 4 individually potted plants.
- 8 The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society will not assume responsibility for loss or damage to property.

SHOW HOURS

Plant Set Up:	Saturday, Oct. 11	7:00 am to 10:00 am
Show:	Saturday, Oct. 11	10:00 am to 6:00 pm
	Sunday, Oct. 12	11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Take Down:	Sunday, Oct. 12	3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society meets
6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at:
Olive Drive Church
5500 Olive Drive (enter on Victor)

For information, see
bakersfieldcactus.org

including tall stalks of Corn Lilies. There were smaller blooms of pussy paws, a relative of portulacas.

On 1st Aug. we drove back to Sacramento and looked at lots of cave pictures from the international conference which John went to in Texas. We also saw deer in the creek behind his house and went to a couple of movies. We returned on the 3rd.

On the 6th of Aug., we went to the Fresno CSS meeting and learned about succulent Bonsai from Rudy Lime. On the 11th, of course, we had dinner at Cactus Valley.

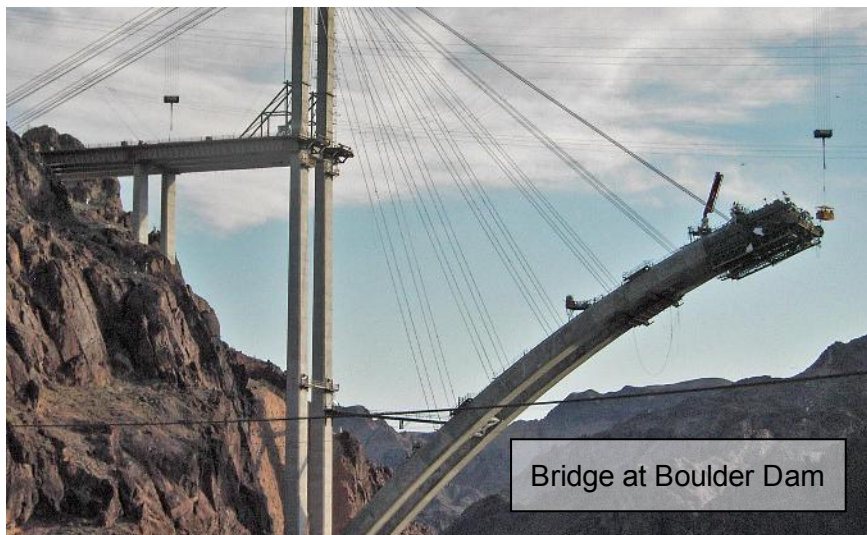
On the 15th we went to the Tri-city show and sale at the LA Arboretum. Paul had some excellent plants entered in the exhibit. The books were depressing as most of them were from Chuck Everson's collection. I wish I could have bought them all. I bought a few as well as some plants (including *Amorphophalus konjac*, a recent addition to the list of weight reducers).

After lunch we went to Chinatown in LA for an exhibit on Oildale art, but were not impressed.

Returning to Bakersfield we had miles of bumper to bumper traffic on I 5 due to a fire just south of Pyramid Lake.

But back to April:

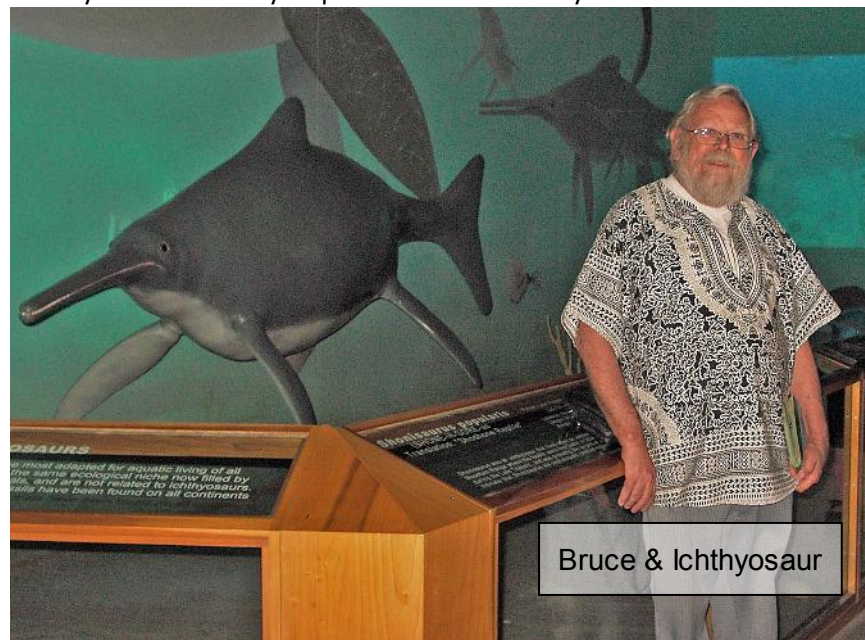
After the CSSA convention we drove past Phoenix and on up highway 60 to Wickenburg. There we had lunch by the Hassayampa River where there is a preserve which protects the rare Gilbert's skink. We saw humming birds and quail. We then drove along the Joshua Tree



Bridge at Boulder Dam

Forest Parkway to Wikieup. I was surprised to see low desert Saguaros and Ocotillos among the high desert Joshua Trees and Junipers. Beaver Tails and hedgehog cacti were in bloom. At Hoover Dam we ran into a crawling traffic jam for a long stretch. A bridge to the south of the dam is under construction, but it should have been built twenty years ago. We made it into Los Vegas a bit late.

Next morning (17th April) we went to the Las Vegas Natural History Museum at my request to see the Ichthyosaur which is the state



Bruce & Ichthyosaur

fossil of Nevada. In the afternoon Anne took us to see a Beatles recreation, "Fab Four Live". This was a birthday treat (my birthday is the 18th). As we exited I flashed a peace sign at "John" and received one in return. That night we ate at the historic Bay Diner and watched the gaudy four block digital ceiling display on Fremont Street. Polly arranged a birthday picture with a show girl and then we got lost in the slots on the way back to the car. Polly & Anne were amazed when I said, "Here's the way out -- right by the bent over bromeliad!"

Next day (18th April) we drove out to Blue Diamond Nursery and shopped for glass, rocks and plants. Then we went up the road to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (not to be confused with the State Park in Kern County) and saw the red cliffs as well as lots of dead yuccas - presumably from fire). We then drove down to the California border and had lunch at the Primm Valley Resort. After lunch we

stopped at Baker to visit "Alien Fresh Jerky". Is this legal? Somehow Baker is connected to Area 51, etc. Finally we stopped at the Early Man Site near Calico and saw where stone tools of such antiquity were found that experts said they couldn't be that old when Leaky dated them to 200,000 years ago.



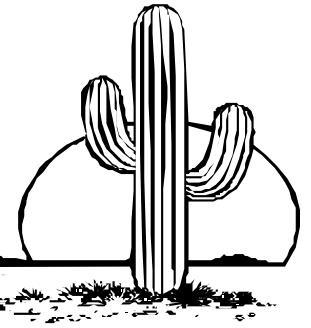
This ends the saga of the Tucson trip.

Bruce J. Hargreaves

All of Bruce's letters can be viewed online at

<http://www.bakersfieldcactus.org/thecactuspatch/bruce/bruce.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Sept 8 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

speaker: Nick Wilkinson

program: Baja California Norte

Oct 10-11 BCSS Show & Sale

Oct 13 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

Nov 10 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

Dec 8 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Sept 5 Huntington Botanical Gardens Succulent Symposium. All day at the Huntington, renowned speakers on Desert Plant topics. Fee: \$75.00 with an additional charge of \$25.00 for the dinner

www.huntington.org

Nov. 7-8 San Gabriel Valley C&SS Show & Sale. La County Arboretum.

www.arboretum.org

Dec. 5-6 Orange County Winter Show & Sale. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, Ca

To have your article or picture (or whatever else you might have) printed in *The Cactus Patch* contact:

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