

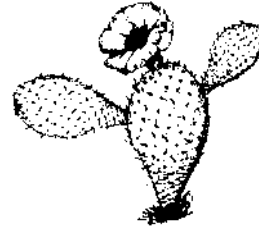
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

INTERNET EDITION



This baseball plant (*Euphorbia obesa*)  
is a double header  
photo by Stephen Cooley

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 13 **September 2010** Number 9

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## **Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert**

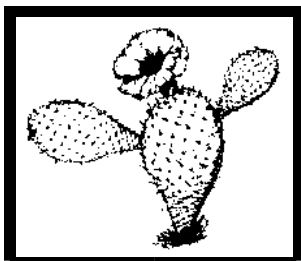
**by Rob Skillin**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Sept. 14**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:30 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

**Let's get  
going on the  
Fair and  
Show & Sale**

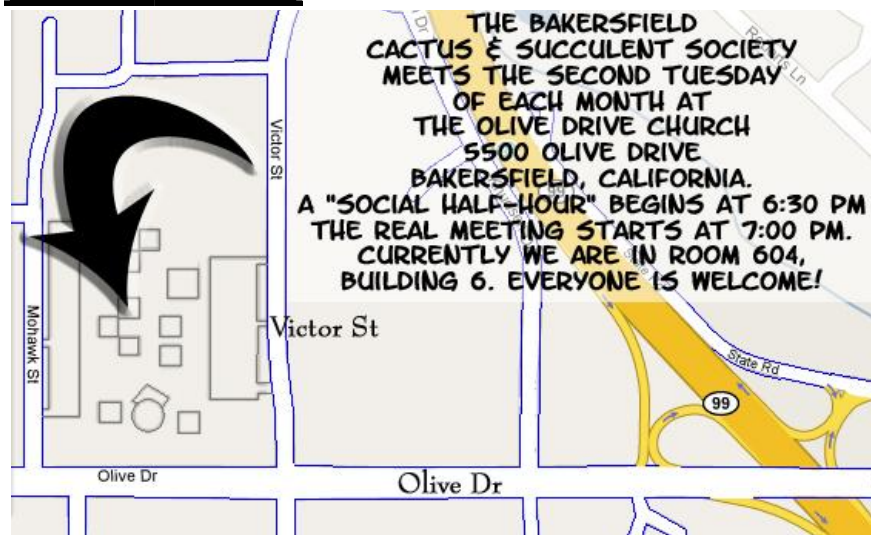


# The Cactus Patch

Volume 13 Number 9

September 2010

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](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM**

# **Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert**

presented by **Rob Skillin**

This slide program features a broad cross section of the cacti of the Chihuahuan Desert of central Mexico, particularly the more exotic genera such as Ariocarpus, Geohintonia, Aztekium, Pelecypora, and Encephalocarpus, etc. The slides are all habitat shots taken on a series of explorations spanning 13 years. The program also depicts several of the picturesque colonial-era cities from the same area. This makes it an enjoyable show for both cactiphiles and travel buffs.

Growing cacti and succulents has been my passion for approximately 30 years. My first, and continuing interest is plants of the Chihuahuan desert, especially Ariocarpus, as well as others such as Aztekium, Strombocactus, Obregonia, etc. I also have a diverse collection of Mesembs, Haworthias, and other succulents, particularly caudiciforms. I am an avid grower of plants from seed, and now have a number of specimens in my collection dating back to 1982.

I currently live in San Luis Obispo County, where I founded the Central Coast Cactus and Succulent Society, was its first President, and am currently the Show and Sale Chairman. I'm also a past President of the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society, was Show and Sales Chairman of the Santa Barbara Cactus and Succulent Society, and am a former member of, and got my start with, the San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society. I am a certified CSSA judge, and have judged numerous shows, including the CSSA Show, Intercity Show, NORCAL Show, and the San Diego Show.

Along with my interest in cacti and succulents, I also enjoy photography and travel. As a result, I have made extensive explorations of the western US and Mexico, and portions of South America, Africa and the Middle East, from which I have put together a number of slide presentations. Several of my photographs have been published on the cover of the Journal of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, as well as Haseltonia.

# Plant of the Month



*Opuntia polyacantha*

photo by Nathaniel Cooley

When the Louis and Clark Corps of Discovery crossed through the Dakotas and into Montana they encountered this cactus in great abundance and learned of its prickly nature. The men complained bitterly about the spines penetrating their elk skin moccasins, requiring them to extract the spines frequently and replace their foot gear several times a week. It was particularly bad when they were trying to get around the Great Falls in Montana which took over a month to haul all of the boats and equipment around the falls. This cactus was the bane of their existence at that time.

On my recent trip through South Dakota and Montana and onward to the west I have seen it in many places. According to the Dept. of the Interior species account it is found all across the west from western Canada to Mexico and westward from the Dakotas to Texas in the US. It grows in many plant communities including Ponderosa pine, juniper-pinyon, sagebrush, wheatgrass-needlegrass, mesquite savanna, paloverde-cactus shrub.

*Jack G. Reynolds*

[pictured above is *O. polyacantha* var. *erinacea*, Grizzly Bear cactus, a native of California and a hairier version than Lewis & Clark encountered -editor]

## August 10, 2010



We had another great get together at the Cactus Valley Restaurant, and though no meeting was planned we did end up talking about the Show & Sale, the Fair, Field Trips and the State Rock!

## GARDEN TOUR FIELD TRIP

### Garden Tour

Saturday, September 11 @ 10:00 am



Former club members, Hoolyse & Roger have generously offered to host a garden tour. They have a wonderful array of cacti & succulents. Since they travel frequently, this is the best date for them. There may be some cuttings available to club members.

They live just east of Union Avenue and south of Garces high.

Lynn

[WJLJMCD@aol.com](mailto:WJLJMCD@aol.com)

# Field Trips



## 25th Annual Intercity Show & Sale August 14<sup>th</sup>

The group was quite small for this trip. Ed had Polly, Bruce, and Anne riding along with him. Jack and I took our pickup. Our first stop was at the IHOP near Magic Mountain for breakfast. On to the show! The day was beautiful. When you get to the Show & Sale site, the plants for sale are the first area you come to. They are under canopies outside. The others found some plants that had to go home with them! Jack was looking for specific plants that are more difficult to find so we didn't find any this time. Well, I did have to buy just one.

The show plants are inside the building. There are so many wonderful plants to see it's almost too much! I think this show had the best plants I've seen yet at a Show & Sale. If you have never been to one of these shows, I highly recommend going to at least one. It will give you a whole new perspective about show plants. You may even find that one or more of your own plants would have looked great there!!

We saw the Skillin family - all five of them! Also, Woody Munich (Woody has given us presentations at our meetings), Nick Wilkinson (Grow Nursery, Cambria), Richard & Nancy Bogart (Desert Images, Ojai). We stopped in Castaic at the Foster Freeze to get a little something to fortify us for the rest of the trip home.

Another great trip!

Sidney Kelley

## KERN COUNTY FAIR

September 22 – October 3

Be prepared to get everything organized for the FAIR at our next meeting. We need people to help with set-up and take-down.



## OUR 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Our Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale is coming up on October 9 and 10 at the East Hills Mall. This is by far the biggest event we do each year and member support is crucial to its success. Our previous Shows have all been very successful – we've had plenty of plants in the show and plenty of plants to sell. We've always had a good number of people coming to see our show, even at the East Hills Mall. The responses from the people that came have always been complimentary. Now is the time to start getting ready for the show!

The most important element to our show is the plants themselves. Our show has always been different from most others in that its emphasis has been on education and not competition. We need a large variety of plants to show the public the great diversity that exists among the succulents. Many people are unaware of just how many weird and wonderful plants there are. In considering

which plants you might want to bring to the show, remember that your most 'ordinary' plant may be extraordinary to those viewing the show. No plant is too small to bring, it just needs to look nice. Start potting up your good plants into better pots if they need it. Clean out some of the dirt and leaves that have blown into the spines. Get rid of any mealybugs/aphids/scale that may be on your plants. Come to our next meeting and take home some of the top dressing we have. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a plant look good.

Another thing to keep in mind is that we need to have members available to talk to the public about the plants and about our club. This requires a lot of hours, but there are plenty of members to share the workload and you don't have to be an expert, just an enthusiast. Everyone has something to contribute, let's make this our best show ever!



THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OLD CLASSIFICATIONS FROM PREVIOUS SHOWS, THESE MAY CHANGE BUT WILL GIVE YOU A GOOD IDEA ABOUT WHAT KIND OF THINGS WE HAVE IN THE SHOW:

#### DIVISION I: CACTI

1. Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Astrophytum
2. Ferocactus, Echinocactus
3. Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
4. Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Pereskia
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, Zygosicyos, 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

#### 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.

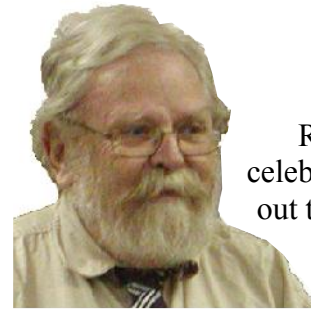
## Brag Table

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 your proud of or find unusual or has some story connected to it. Bring in something to share!



## Vacations

### A Letter From Bruce



Recently the book *To Kill a Mockingbird* celebrated its 50th anniversary. (The film came out two years later.) While still moving, one can argue it is about a past no longer relevant.

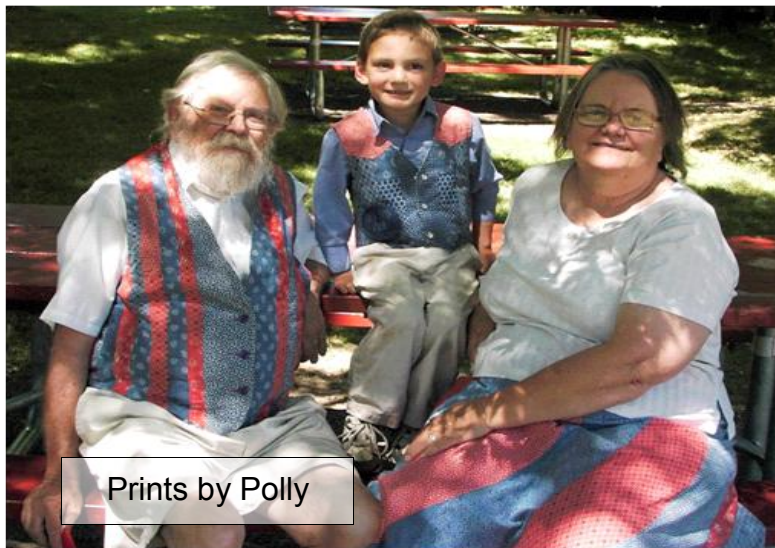
More recent events are portrayed in the book *Freedom Summer*, Bruce Watson, 2010, Viking Press, N.Y. It discusses the summer of 1964. It is very biased, however, and makes it look as if the whole show in Mississippi was run by SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee). It barely mentions CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference). My brother Robert ran a Freedom school in Mississippi that summer under CORE. (Polly and I worked for CORE in Bakersfield.) At least the book had some positive aspects, unlike the film *Mississippi Burning* which was very negative. For a different story see *Letters from Mississippi*, Elizabeth Sutherland ed., 1965, McGraw-Hill, N.Y. Robert contributed to it.

But on to the present; Lora and her daughter Angela left for Kwajalein on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Anne took over their pets and plants. Polly and I added more plants to her care when we left on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for Sacramento. Michael and parents came down from their mountain home, John returned from kayaking and scuba diving off of Anacapa, and Karen and Marvin (with their granddaughter Aubrey) returned from Lassen Volcanic National Park. We met briefly at Aubrey's parents' home (my niece Debby and her husband Nick).

Next morning Polly went to get a pattern from JoAnne's. Just across the road was the Capital Nursery so I stopped in and bought a plant of *Echeveria subrigida*, a large-leaved species. I then realized we were next to the Sunrise Mall, so we phoned relatives and got together for lunch at Red Robin followed by the movie *How to Tame Your Dragon*.

That evening we had a BBQ and swim back at Aubrey's.

Next morning Michael took his parents back up the mountain and we met with John to see pictures of his delayed trip to Anacapa. He has some excellent shots of the bright orange Garibaldi, California's state fish. He also managed some great jellyfish pictures. We then met relatives for lunch at the Home Town Buffet and then went with John to the Aerospace Museum. They had a terrific display from Star Trek. Up close the weapons and tools look crude, but this doesn't show on the screen. John insisted on suffering a ride which simulated a galactic attack. Yikes! We finished the day with a concert in the park at Carmichael. Todd Morgan and the Emblems entertained us with music from the 50's and 60's. The audience was mostly old and young, very few in between.



Prints by Polly

Next morning Polly and I set off up the Feather River Canyon. We stopped at Yankee Hill and collected lots of Serpentine, which, at least for now, is the state rock. We reached Greenville where Michael lives just before noon and were bawled out for being ten minutes early! That evening we joined a community supper at the Methodist Church.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> we had breakfast at Sierra Sunrise. We then tried to reach the Round Valley Reservoir, but James' van died at the edge of town. We phoned triple A and Polly, Emily and Michael (on his bike) went home and got the car. We finally got to the reservoir and hiked a bit (with Michael on his bike). There were

lots of saprophytes (plants which grow on dead leaves etc.) under the pines. They are known as Pine Drops. Some were almost as tall as Michael. Back in town we saw a house with a blooming



Michael with Snowdrops

prickly pear. The sign said Hargraves (no relative, as far as we know).

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we drove up to Chester and had lunch at the Beacon. We then drove up a back road into a part of Lassen Park which was new to me (but Karen and Marvin had just been there). We looked at Drakesbad, a resort with a pool fed by hot springs, horses for rent and a beautiful meadow full of corn lilies. A marmot was sitting on a rock, but James scared him off shouting for Michael before I could get a picture. I settled for a good shot of a golden mantled ground squirrel eating lunch. I then

quietly got Michael, but the ground squirrel was gone. A marmot then appeared and confused Michael. I was explaining to James how the ground squirrel differs from a chipmunk when both appeared followed by a regular squirrel!

Next we hiked a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. (From Drakesbad it is almost equidistant to Canada and Mexico.) We only went as far as a hot springs lake which had bubbling mud and sulfurous fumes. Michael remembered that the water is hot because the mountain is a volcano. He also noted the egg-like smell once again. A party on horseback passed us and we saw a couple of spotted fawns. The wild flowers were in full bloom, including Tiger lilies and a Mariposa lily. We returned to Chester and had dinner at the Happy Garden, a Chinese Restaurant. Next day we drove to Portola and visited the train museum there. They do a lot of restoration for other train museums. A mature deer ducked under a train car while we were there. Then we went to a park where they were serving free burgers and watermelon.

They had games and Michael won a grass skirt. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Polly and I went back to Sacramento, this time via Deer Creek to Chico. That evening John invited us to go to the State Fair, but we declined.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> John showed us his fair pictures, a much more relaxing way to see it. He had some good shots of dinosaurs and whirling rides. We then had lunch at the Firebird, a Russian Buffet Restaurant. We then drove back to Bakersfield.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> we drove up to Fresno and helped Polly's sister Martha set up a yard sale. She actually cleaned out enough to let us stay with her for a change. That evening we went to the Cactus and Succulent meeting and heard Nick on Cedros Island in Baja. He showed more bonsai'd elephant trees as well as endemic Dudleyas. He showed one lone cardon. For some reason the others died. When we returned, we found a postcard from Palau. Lora and Angela had gone there for the Micronesian Games. Angela got a silver in swimming! They also got to swim among the jellyfish for which Palau is famous. They are now back in Bakersfield.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, of course, we joined the Bakersfield Club for the annual dinner at Cactus Valley. Maynard had a letter in the paper regarding the silly move to change the state rock (some have asbestos). I brought a piece for him, but he wasn't there. Later, Sidney had a letter in the paper (which she said she wrote first!). I guess I'll give her a rock too (though there are already some at her place).

On the 14<sup>th</sup> six of us went to the tri-city show and sale at the LA Arboretum. This was their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and they had T-shirts from previous years hanging around in the show. They had



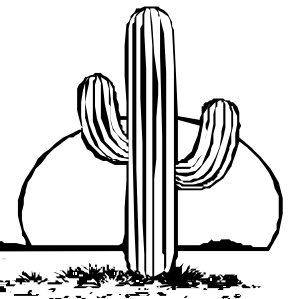
Bruce @ Tri-City Show

some plants with Outstanding ribbons. Nick got one for his bombax. Among the sale plants I noted a Pachira tree for \$12. Since Vons has *Pachira aquatica* for \$8, I waited to buy one until we returned. This tree is from central America (although the store label says SE Asia!) and is in the same family as baobabs and bombax.

Did you see the empty water tanks on the front page of the Californian? Robert says that's his water supply! Fortunately they have enough water for the house, but he's afraid he might lose some trees.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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

Sept. 14 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.  
speaker: Rob Skillin

**Sept. 22 – Oct 3 Kern County Fair**

**Oct. 9-10 BCSS Show & Sale** at East Hills Mall.

### **OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS**

Nov 6-7 San Gabriel Valley Cactus & Succulent Society Winter Show & Sale. L.A. County Arboretum.

**Dec 3-5** Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton CA. [occss.org](http://occss.org).

**2011**

**Apr 25 - May 1** CSSA 34th Biennial Convention. San Diego, CA. Mission Valley Marriott Hotel.

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

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