

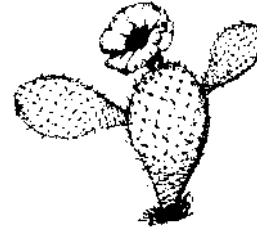
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Ferocactus latispinus bud
at the Cal State Garden
photo by Lynn McDonald

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. *treleasei*

Volume 15 **January 2012** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



This Month's Program

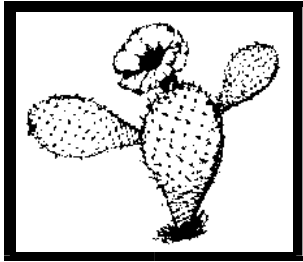
Emperors of the Ice

by
Brigitte McDonald

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 10
Room 204,
University Square,
UC Merced Center,
2000 K St. at **7:00 PM**
(see map page 4)

**Please note
the change in
PLACE & TIME for
our JANUARY
Meeting!**

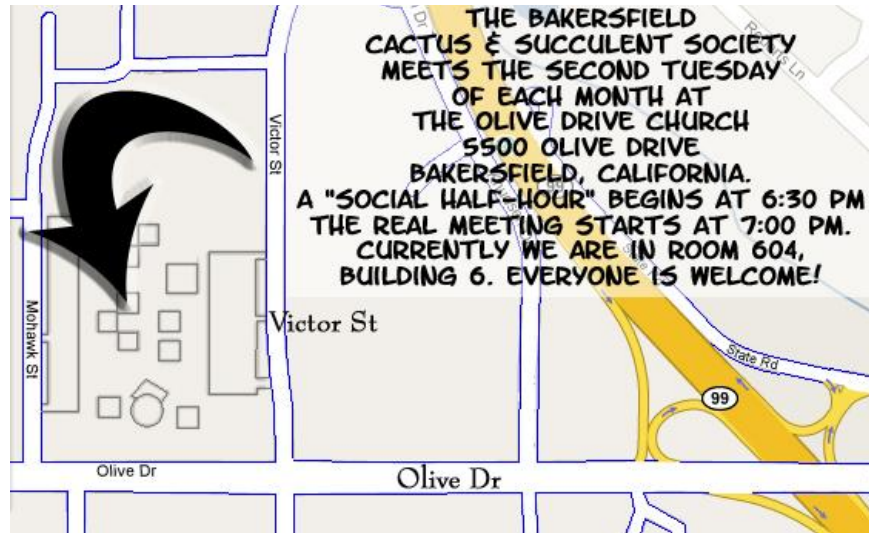


The Cactus Patch

Volume 15 Number 1

January 2012

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Lynn McDonald

wjljmc@aol.com

Membership: Maynard Moe

lithops44@bak.rr.com

Newsletter/Website: Stephen Cooley

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

A Message from The New President

Greetings BCSS members.

Ed has asked me to write a few words about plans for the club in 2012. The first thing I would like to say is to thank Ed Colley for his many contributions to our club. He has arranged car pooling & places to meet for breakfast for many a field trip. He has provided tables for so many events, and worked tirelessly on the Garden Fest, yard sales & club Shows & Sales. For five years he has been our president and has done so with diligence and his own amazing sense of humor. We all salute you Ed.

I promise there will be no new taxes, not even a membership dues increase. (except for the very wealthy?). Consider a "kinder gentler" club by focusing on succulents this year and not so many prickly cacti. I will endeavor not to make excessive pointed comments. Keep a balanced budget of "about \$2000" in our club treasury. Stimulate the economy -- buy plants and related products from locally owned businesses. Be tough on crime -- members will not be or support cactus poachers, will not smuggle endangered species or plant illegal aliens. Create new jobs -- Give a presentation for a club meeting. Lead a field trip. Host a garden tour. Bring food for meetings. Write a short article for the newsletter. Work at garden fest booth. Save items for the annual yard sale. Take some cool photos for the 2013 calendar. Create an item for the silent auction. Consider being an officer in the future. The Environment -- Plant more natives and drought-resistant species. Plant species that will attract birds & insects, for your garden's health. Gradually decrease the amount of water consuming grass in our own yards. Health Care -- As a nurse, this is one of my special interests. Gardening has well known health benefits. It provides moderate exercise, is good for the heart and relieves stress, thus lowering the blood pressure. After a day's work at your own or the club's garden, sit and relax with iced tea or a cold beer and enjoy the peaceful environment. Gardening is the "new yoga."

Meditate in the garden, chanting

Om aloe mammillaria om

Om hoya matucana om... ..

I pledge to try to keep the needs of the Tequila Party in perspective. They may be a bit fractious & divisive, but at least they are drinking a politically correct beverage.

Here's to an interesting, enjoyable and active club in 2012.

Lynn Jacobs McDonald

(thanks to coworkers at PPSC for great ideas)

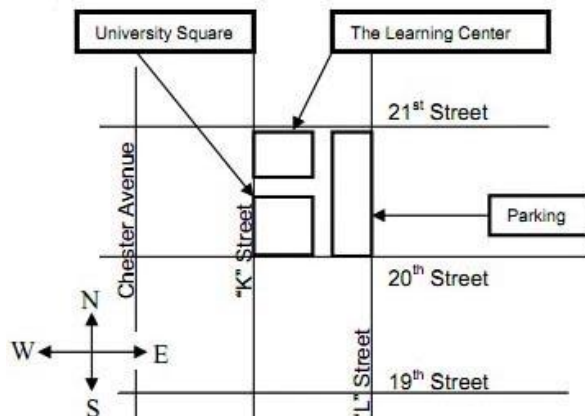
JANUARY'S PROGRAM



Emperors of the Ice

presented by
Brigitte McDonald

Emperor penguins are the premier avian diver, regularly diving to depths of 1500 feet while holding their breaths for over 10 minutes. I will be talking about the ecology of emperor penguins and our recent field season at the Cape Washington Emperor penguin colony where we conducted studies on the foraging ecology and diving physiology of emperor penguins. We deployed physiological data loggers that will improve our understanding about how they are able to perform such extreme dives. In collaboration with National Geographic, we also attached small cameras to a few penguins so we can learn more about what they eat and what they see when they are diving. I will also present some of our preliminary results from the last two field seasons.

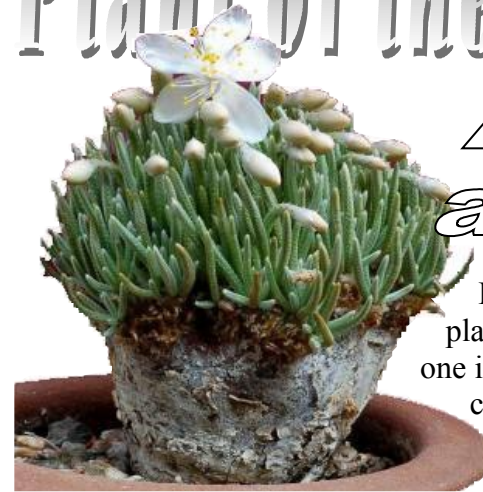


Room 204, University Square, UC Merced Center, 2000 K St.
January 10, 7:00 PM

There is a parking lot maybe to be entered off of L or 20th

Plant of the Month

Avonia alstonii



I fell in love with this little plant the instant I saw it. The one inch caudex topped with a cluster of short strings of scale leaves reminds me of Bart Simpson's head or perhaps "Wilson", Tom Hanks companion on his island in Cast Away. One expects to find a smile somewhere on the caudex. The name it now bears was probably given by Gordon Rowley in 1994, however in his *Caudiciform and Pachycaul Succulents* (1987) he refers to it as *Anacampseros alstonii*. It is a member of the Portulacaceae and is found in Namibia and South Africa. It grows in very gritty soil in full sun and in nature the caudex is completely buried in the soil with only the leaves exposed. The leaves are deciduous in dry season and the plant may be almost completely invisible to the untrained eye.



The caudex may reach a size of 7-8 cm. (3 in.) in ten to fifteen years. Flowers are white to pink and 12mm. (0.5 in.) across. They are self fertile. I was not able to find a temperature range but would guess that they are not very cold tolerant. They definitely should not be watered during cold weather, indeed these may be among the most drought tolerant plants we succulent lover will collect ("when in doubt don't"). They have only been propagated by seed.

Jack G. Reynolds

December 13, 2011



Our annual Holiday Potluck-Silent Auction was very well



attended. We had to set up another table to accommodate all. The wonderful decorations, provided by Anne, Polly & Bruce were spectacular, fun & set a great atmosphere. As usual, the buffet



contributions were delicious -- Hors d'oeuvres, soup, chicken, salads, rice, lasagne, corn, vegetables, and many desserts. Yummmmm.

We had a short meeting -- Sidney handed out the

People's Choice awards for our Show & Sale, and also plants for those with the most perfect attendance. There was a discussion about the possibility of a change in venue & change of topic for our January meeting. E-mails & phone calls to members will be made if that is happening, as well as an



announcement in the January Newsletter.

Our 2012 calendars & T-shirts were available for purchase.

We had a lot of wonderful plants and other items donated by members for the auction. Many items were hovered over, as the last minutes & seconds ticked away. Most folks seemed pleased with -- and some even surprised by their winning bids/acquisitions

All in all, it was a convivial evening, with many members participating.

Lynn McDonald



[Thanks to Bruce and Lynn for the photos]



HECTIC DAYS

ARE HERE AGAIN

A Letter From Bruce

For us Thanksgiving began on the 19th of November when the Mayflower Society met for a potluck on Compact Day at Anne's house. That evening Michael arrived by train with his parents. Next day he took them to Disneyland but left us behind. They stayed with our nephew Leo in nearby Moraga and rejoined us on Monday.

Meanwhile, while they were in Disneyland, the rest of us went to hear Jim Curry sing John Denver at the Community Concert. He really looked and sounded the part.

John arrived by train on Wednesday the 23rd and we went out to eat at the Elephant Bar. On Thanksgiving proper we went to niece Tina's house in EB. In addition to the usual gorging, Michael put together a gingerbread house (with a little help).



Michael & Gingerbread House

Next day we went up to Fresno and had another Thanksgiving feast with Polly's sisters Martha and Nancy. We returned to Bakersfield and saw all the



Martha, friend, Nancy & Polly

trainers off on Sunday morning. Then we went to World Market for free Snowy models and tickets to the new Tin Tin movie.

On the 1st of December we returned to Fresno for the FCSS

Potluck. As usual, they underbid their silent auction and I got a beautiful *Eulophia petersii*, the most succulent of orchids.

On the 3rd Polly & I went out to CALM to help label and

reorganize the cactus garden. We were surprised to meet Marijo Koerting Harvey who had been in the old Kern Cactus Club in the 60s. She had been working with Navajo in Arizona while we were off in Africa!



Marijo & Polly

On the 4th there was another Community Concert, this time featuring Men in Blaque. This fantastic choral group is led by Joe Huszti who was our choir director up at BC in the 60s. They featured a composition by Jim Dunaway who had been in our choir then. (Unfortunately he was not there.)

On the 10th we went to a pizza dinner at Parkside Church in EB and were entertained by a Christmas Dinner Theater. What all those cowboys (and girls) as well as dancing cactuses (er cacti) had to do with Christmas I'll never know, but it was fun. Our niece Angela was an Indian Princess named She Who etc. etc. etc.

On the 13th we were at the BCSS potluck and found those same cactuses (er cacti). Coincidence? I think not. Anne and Polly are to be congratulated on the decorations. The silent auction went for higher prices than in Fresno and the calendars are, once again, a beautiful job. I think we have ended the year well.



Potluck in Fresno

Bruce J. Hargreaves

[Bruce's opinions are his own and are not necessarily that of the BCSS]

Field Trips

Upcoming Field Trips no dates set as yet

- Desert rock gathering trip & possible visit to any nearby nursery
- Coast nursery trip -- Pismo, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria
- Two local cactus gardens NE of town -- spring
- Sand Ridge -- Bakersfield cacti
- Overnight trip to Vista nurseries
- Tucson area – Saguaro National Park, nurseries, camping?

THESE FREE TOURS WOULD MAKE GREAT FIELD TRIPS!

Jan 14 DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour with knowledgeable staff, plant sale, and forum led by Director of the Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge!

Polly recommends this trip to the Huntington. It is one of the best desert gardens in the world. For those who have not seen it, it is a chance to see it for free with guides. (see the next page for more info)

Jan 28 11th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. 9:30 am - 11:00 am. The 6-acre succulent gardens at the Center were planted by local succulent enthusiasts in the late 1960's and early 1970's. Buck Hemenway will lead the tour among the many specimens of blooming aloes and discuss their wide ranging natural habitats and how they survive in our Inland Empire climate.



THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY,
ART COLLECTIONS,
AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108

DESERT FORUM *Saturday, 14 January 2012*

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9:30 – 10:00 A.M. **Registration**

Leave your sack lunch (with your name written on the bag)

9:30 – 12:00 Noon **Desert Garden**

Knowledgeable staff will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory Aloes will be flowering

12:00 – 1:00 P.M. **Welcome Comments & Lunch** – Friends' Hall

Pick up sack lunch (if you dropped it off at registration) Light snacks and beverages will be served

Welcome comments – Jim Folsom

CSSA remarks – Laurel Woodley

Note: Visitors have two other lunch options: Huntington Café, Tea Room (reservations suggested: (626-683-8131))

1:00 – 3:00 P.M. **Plant Sales**

Desert Nursery opens for sales and browsing at 1:00 P.M. Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted

1:00 – 4:30 P.M. **Free Time**

Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries

Don't miss:

“Beautiful Science: Ideas that Changed the World” in Dibner Hall (Library building)

Liu Fang Yuan, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance (Chinese Garden)

“The House that Sam Built” (Maloof) in Boone Gallery

“Ancient Chinese Bronze Mirrors” in the Scott Gallery

“Blue Sky Metropolis” in the Library, West Hall

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



The new year has come and that usually means weeding work days at the Cal State succulent garden. However, due to the lack of rain (so far) the weeds are not a problem. Still, there is plenty of work that can be done and if you can help in anyway the club would appreciate it. A work day will likely be scheduled for the first or second weekend in February, we will let you know.

Sidney sits on one of the new benches donated by Mark & Jaye Shulman.



Lynn photographed this *Glottiphyllum* at the Garden in early December...

...and this geophyte (which I think is *Polyxena corymbosa*, a South African native – I'm not sure how it got next to a cactus in the New World section)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OUR JANUARY MEETING
IS AT A DIFFERENT PLACE
AND AT A DIFFERENT TIME.
see page 4 for info.**

GARDEN FEST

Next years Garden Fest is April 21, 2012. They are going to advertise like crazy. Year 2013 will be the 100 anniversary of Bakersfield College. They are already gearing up for it and the Garden Fest that year will be the kick off for all the celebrations for the college for the year.

Donna Pitcher

Don't Forget To *Renew Your Membership!*

It's time again to renew your membership. A Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society membership costs \$10 per year for an individual and only \$15 a year for a family. Don't delay, unpaid members will be dropped from our lists after the March meeting!

If you can't make it to a meeting, or just forget, you can mail a check to Maynard. Email him for more info:

lithops44@bak.rr.com

*Also, please consider going paperless and having
The Cactus Patch delivered via email.
It saves valuable club funds, it saves trees, it reduces fuel
consumption and most important;y, the pictures are in color!*
email thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com and let me know.
check out an issue at:

<http://www.bakersfieldcactus.org/thecactuspatch/latest/previous.html>

Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Kern Cactus in History

Carl Purpus was a German plant Collector who spent a lot of time in California and Northern Mexico in the late 19th century. He made his living by collecting and selling herbarium specimens, pinecones, seeds and cacti. Most of these he sent back to Germany, though he also sent some 16,000 herbarium specimens to Berkeley. Here is an interesting bit from his biography, which can be read at:

<http://plants.jstor.org/person/bm000006774>

“Purpus had led an energetic life of unceasing botanical endeavour. As with many such dedicated workhorses, he developed a number of idiosyncrasies. He was notably ascetic, neither drinking alcohol nor smoking, and would have no relations with women. He was instead devoted to cats, of which he had more than 60 as pets by the time of his demise”

Also, here is a copy of a letter he wrote to a notable California Botanist:

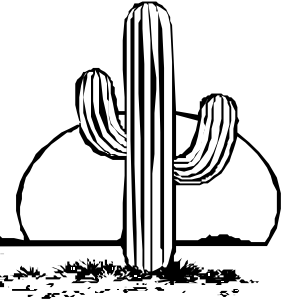
Carl A. Purpus to Katharine Brandegee June 24, 1897

Dear Mrs. Brandegee!

I found Your very esteemed letter in hot springs near Havilah coming back from my tour into the Argus Mountains and I am very sorry, that I did not receive it before my departure, because I had hunted more carefully for plants, seeds etc. You like to have. I found a highly interesting mountain region and the same I have to say about the flora. for a great many plants I came to late especially for Annuals in the lower region but not withstanding I have made a good collection. I expect I will have some rare specimens among them. I collected four different species of cacti and send them to You for Express from Bakersfield by my friend Mr. L. B. Hobson--we are camping on his ranch--18 miles from Havilah on the foot of Piute Peak. Excuse me, if the cacti are not packed careful enough, but we are in the wilderness. I also send You seeds of an Astragalus I have found here, but hardly think it is the one You wish to have. I send You the plant also after a while and You may decide. I did not collect any *Cylindropuntias*, because the[y] are simply horrible to handle, but had sure paid more attention to them had I received Your letter before we departed. That *cereus* I send You is collected on the foot of Madurango Peak near a place called station (inhabited by those miserable Basks) betw. 5-6000 feet. *Echinocactus tetrancistrus* I collected in the northern Argus Mo. at 5-6000 and *Echinocactus horizonthal*. in the same range between 3-4000 feet. We are going to Havilah to collect *Opuntia Treleasei*, if that one I send is not the right one. I am also very glad to get acquainted with You and also with Mr. Brandegee personally.

Very respectfully Yours C. A. Purpus

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Jan 10 BCSS Meeting at 7 PM Room 204 University Square UC Merced Center 2000 K St.

program: Emperors of the Ice

speaker: Brigitte McDonald

Feb 14 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

program: Peru

speakers: Mark Muradian

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

program: to be announced

speakers: Wendell 'Woody' Minnich

Apr 12 Bakersfield College Garden Fest

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

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Feb 11 San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Room 101, Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego 9:00 am to 4:00 pm