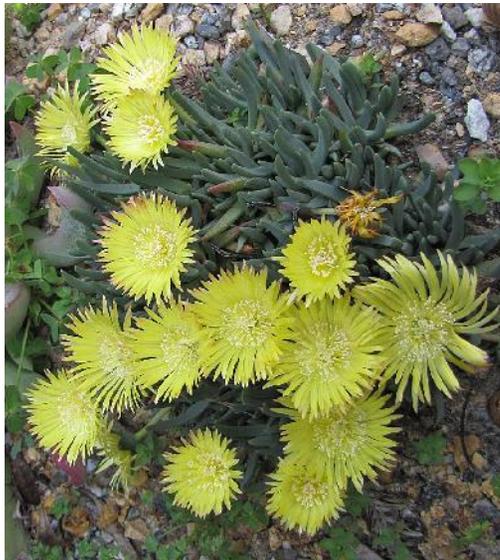


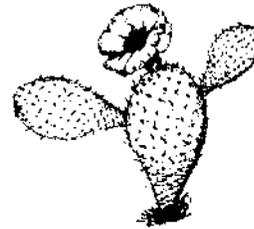
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Cheiridopsis pearsonii
a winter growing mesemb
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

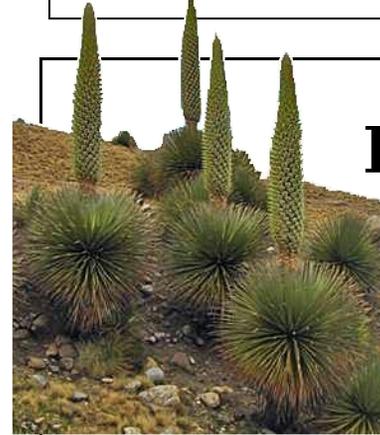
The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 15 **February 2012** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



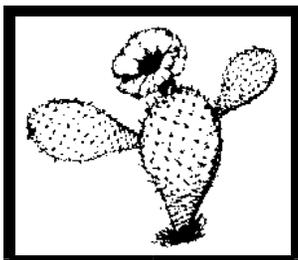
This Month's Program
**Peru, Land of
the Inca,
Land of Cacti**
by Mark Muradian

Monthly Meeting

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

(Building 6, Room 604)

**If You Haven't
Paid Your
Membership
Dues Please Do
So Soon!**

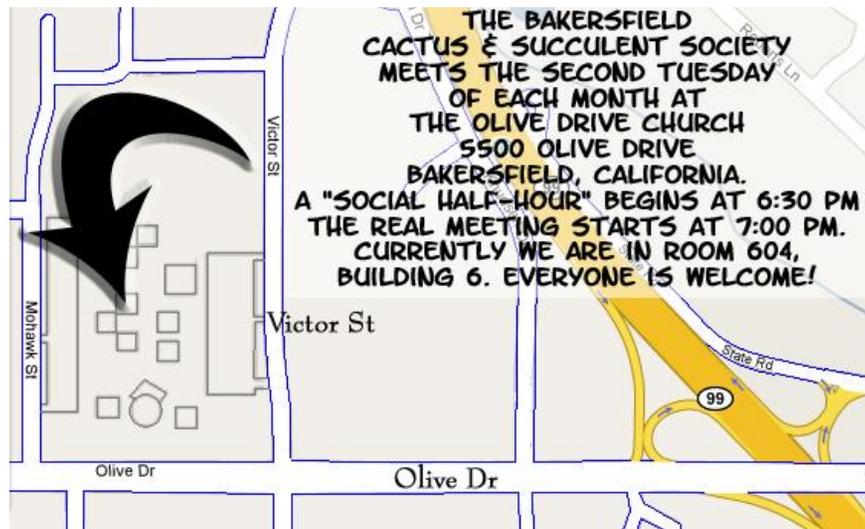


The Cactus Patch

Volume 15 Number 2

February 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

wljmcd@aol.com

Membership: Maynard Moe

lithops44@bak.rr.com

Newsletter/Website: Stephen Cooley

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Peru, Land of the Inca, Land of Cacti

presented by
Mark Muradian

This program, titled "Peru, land of the Inca, Land of cacti" was taken in September of 2010. Starting in Chiclayo, and ending in Cuzco, we travelled by bus to many habitats, sometimes on roads no bus should ever attempt to drive! This program is a video presentation, with all the sounds



and motion to help the viewer feel as if they are there. With the optional fly over of the Nazca lines and the mandatory visit to Machu Picchu, this was an exciting trip to be on.

I have been in the cactus hobby close to 30 years and have been making pottery for some 17 years, and am a third-generation family farmer in the central valley, farming some acreage since 1915. I will be bringing pottery to sell at the meeting.

Mark has spoken to our club before including presentations on Socotra, Northern Argentina, and the Bolivian Highlands

Plant of the Month

Opuntia whipplei



I was watching a program on PBS about the life of wolverines and it got me thinking about the cold north country and the things that live there. When I sat down to write this column I began to wonder what is the northern most species of cactus. I

thought it must be in the genus *Opuntia*, so I started my search there. None of my references discussed the geographic distribution of cacti except as part of the description of a given species so the best I could do was to go through Innes and Glass and read the ranges they gave. *O. whipplei* is the species that they list with the most northern distribution, being found in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah. I know that there are other species further north because I have seen them in Montana but I could not find the name, so this is the best I can do with the limited time and resources available.



O. Whipplei is a bushy cactus up to 3 ft. (1 m.) high. Joints are 2 – 12 in. (5-30 cm.) long and ¾ in. (20 mm.) thick. The areoles are whitish with few glochids. There are 6-10 pink to brown central spines 1-2 in. (25-50 mm.) long. Flowers are pale yellow and about 1 in. (25 mm.) in diameter. They are produced in summer. The plant prefers full sun and a sandy soil mix. It should do well in California in pot culture. I will grow from seed or cuttings. Does anyone out there have one?

Jack G. Reynolds

January 10, 2012



Our January meeting was a joint meeting with the [Kern Audubon Society](#). After a brief business meeting we heard from Brigitte McDonald and her experiences with Penguins. She showed us some stunning pictures of both the fantastic countryside and the cute penguins. There was also an interesting video from a camera strapped to a diving bird. We learned a lot about the penguin's life habits



and its incredible ability to dive deeply and hold its breath for prolonged periods.



Though there wasn't a succulent in sight, it was a marvelous presentation. We thank the Audubon Club for letting us meet with them.



Field Trips



ROCK TRIP

We have planned a rock hunting trip for Saturday, March 3rd. This is the same area we have been to previously. It's a comparatively flat area with no hills. It's about 8 miles north of the

Randsburg/California City Cutoff where it crosses Highway 14. That puts it about 13 miles north of Mojave. It takes about 1 1/2 hours to get there from Bakersfield. We usually get back around 3 PM.

We will meet at Towerline Exit off of Highway 58, east of Bakersfield. We will leave at 9 AM - sharp. You will need to bring water/something to drink and a lunch/snacks. Dress for the weather, sunscreen, hats, walking shoes (that means no flip-flops or sandals!), etc. You will need buckets or something to carry your rocks. A wheel cart works very well here. I bungee cord my bucket to my wheel cart. A wagon works also. You may also find useful a spray bottle of water and a rock hammer.

We will also stop at the Mojave Cactus Gardens at the cactus nursery at intersection of Highway 14 and the Randsburg Cutoff/California City Blvd. I will try calling him to make sure he's going to be open or selling plants. We have stopped there when he had just treated his plants with insecticide and he couldn't sell any right then. It's difficult to get him on the phone.

[Contact me](#) if you need more information.

Sidney Kelley

OTHER FIELD TRIPS IN THE WORKS:

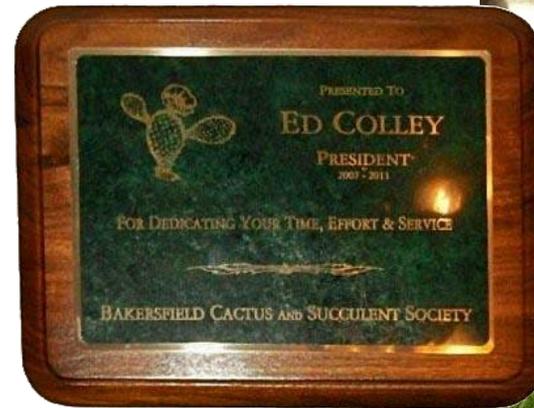
Maynard, & Stephen may be going to Tucson the last week of March and this could be an informal field trip. We could meet up at Tucson and tour the many cactus nurseries and Saguaro National Park. We will discuss it at the next meeting.

There is a tentative plan for a succulent garden tour here in town May 5th, a Saturday. This is a garden of an acquaintance of mine.

There will be another garden tour off of Woody-Granite Road @ Amberhill Farm. The gardener does not yet know when to anticipate blooms this year, so we will wait for her to decide. It will be on a Sunday. -- Lynn

OTHER POSSIBILITIES:

- Coast nursery trip -- Pismo, Morro Bay, Cayucos, Cambria
- Sand Ridge -- Bakersfield cacti
- Overnight trip to Vista nurseries



Past, and Long-Serving,
President Ed Colley



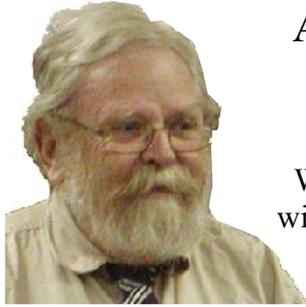
GARDEN FEST

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

Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org



A Fast Finish and Faster Beginning

A Letter From Bruce

We had a Christmas marathon beginning with a trip to Sacramento with Alice to meet with Karen who is convalescing. Then we had Christmas Eve supper at Anne's.

Polly served breakfast on Christmas Day and then we went next door to open presents at Anne's. We ended with Dinner at Lora's and now the doctor complains I've gained weight!

On the 26th we went to see Tin Tin in 3D. I liked the Belgian cartoon better (2D and flat characters like the books.) I especially like Captain Haddock – I knew a paleontologist from the Paris Museum of Natural History who looked just like him!

We watched the New Year in at Anne's and then Anne and Lora (with family) went to Pasadena to watch the Rose Parade. Polly & I stayed in Bakersfield and watched proceedings on the TV. The most surprising part was the temperature – 82 in both places!



On the 5th we watched Mark Muradian's tour of Peru in Fresno. It is great, although I would like more long shots and fewer close-ups. He flies us over the Nazca Lines and we took the train up to Machu Picchu. Be sure and be there when he shows it in Bakersfield. (Polly and I will be

elsewhere then.)

The Fresno Club has begun a free magazine table -- a great way to get rid of unwanted ones and gain new ones. This time I picked up the Dec. Veld & Flora, the journal of the South African Botanical Society. Some of it may require a little translation. Veld, for instance, is Dutch for Field but it is used more in the sense of Field and Stream rather than cultivated fields.

I was fascinated by an article on the Karoo Garden. Did you

know: 1) It is one of 5 internationally recognized succulent gardens, 2) 47% of all succulents occur in southern Africa, and 3) 20% of all plants found in South Africa are succulent? The Karoo Garden is now officially "The Karoo Desert National Botanical Garden", a name instigated by Ian Oliver. Ian was curator in the 1990s when I was head of the Botswana Garden. I had known him earlier when I was head of the Lesotho Garden and he was head of the Bloemfontein Garden. By sheer serendipity we happened to meet him at the Karoo Garden when he was hosting all the Garden Heads of South Africa. I joined in a most delightful tour which introduced me to five more garden heads. (There are now nine National Botanical Gardens in South Africa and, of course, most of the heads have moved on.)

The journal also has an article on the Mountain Pride Butterfly which is attracted to red flowers including the Red Crassula, *Crassula coccinea*. Another article tells of the Wild Potato, *Plectranthus esculentus*. I knew this tuberous mint in Malawi as the Livingstone Potato. I found it tasted a bit too minty. The name potato is further confused in an article on "Growing plant muthi in Limpopo". (Muthi refers to medicine.) Among the plants mentioned is the African Potato, *Hypoxis obtusa* which is related to lilies and irises. It is said to enhance the immune system and hence is widely sold as a treatment for AIDS. (I argued at one conference that once the HIV has wiped out the immune response, you can't enhance it!)

On the 10th we attended the joint meeting with the Audubon Society. I was jealous of Brigitte McDonald's work. I don't know of any succulent in the Antarctic, but it remains the one continent I have not visited. (And those baby penguins are darn cute.)

On the 14th Polly and I went to the open house at the Huntington. It's always a pleasure to visit there (and purchase a few plants), but

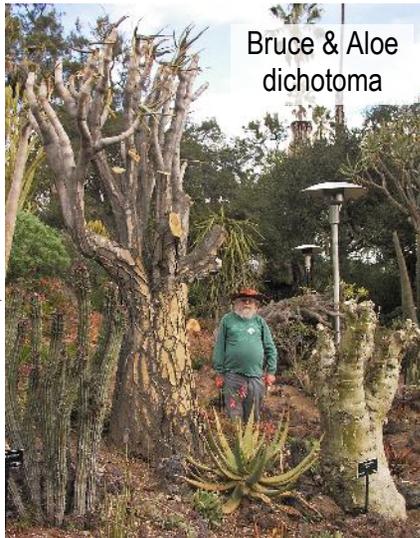


Brigitte @ penguin talk



I was also curious to see how the garden was recovering from the recent windstorm. We did find a number of trees down as well as some of the succulents, but it wasn't as bad as I imagined from the news reports. One interesting downed tree was *Euphorbia ingens* which was resting on a bush of *Euphorbia tirucalli*. Some, such as *Aloe dichotoma*, had merely had some branches trimmed. We stopped by Vroman's

bookstore in Pasadena and found that the author Elizabeth George was speaking nearby. We stayed for the talk (which also included Jefferson Parker, an author we didn't know). Both authors live in Orange County, but Elizabeth writes about Britain and Jefferson writes about where he lives. I side with Elizabeth who says it is difficult to write about the familiar. By the way, anyone driving to LA should allow time for the I-5, Highway 14 junction. It is under construction and delayed us going south. Coming north there was a longer delay due to an accident there. If anybody is going to the Aloe Garden in the Jurupa Hills (Riverside) at the end of the month, avoid LA.



Bruce J. Hargreaves

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

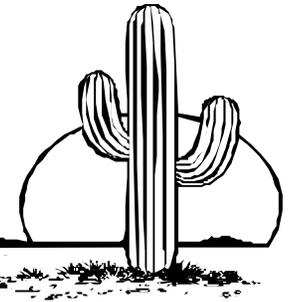
The Succulent Garden at Cal State



A workday will be scheduled for the Cal State Succulent Garden this month. I'm thinking about the weekend after the meeting. With little rain, there aren't many weeds, but there is still work that needs to be done. Come to the meeting for more info.

Stephen Cooley

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Feb 14 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
program: Peru, Land of the Inca, Land of Cacti
speaker: Mark Muradian
- Mar 3 BCSS Field Trip: Rock Hunting.** near California City, also a stop at Mojave Cactus Gardens. Meet at Towerline Exit on Highway 58, east of Bakersfield. We leave at 9 AM – sharp.
- Mar 13 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
program: to be announced
speaker: Wendell 'Woody' Minnich
- Apr 12 Bakersfield College Garden Fest**

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- 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