

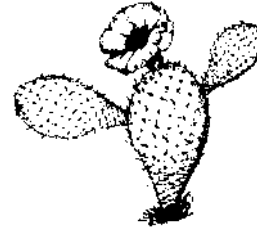
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Agave victoriae-reginae finally blooms
at the Cal State Garden
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 15 July 2012 Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

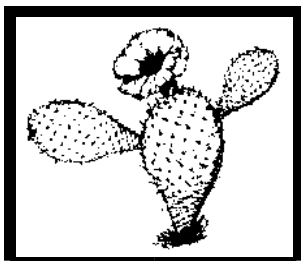
What Kind of Cactus Is It? presented by Gary Dukes

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 10
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**

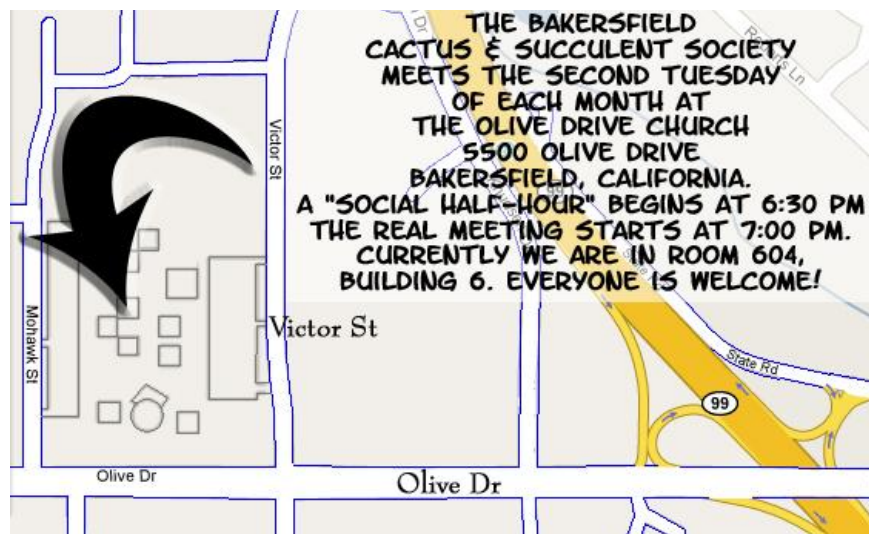


The Cactus Patch

Volume 15 Number 7

July 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

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JULY'S PROGRAM

What Kind of Cactus Is It?

by Gary Dukes

Gary grew up on a farm in Illinois and began growing cacti when he was 10 years old (he won't say how old he is now.). He served 20 years in the Air Force and has grown cacti in Nevada, Ohio, Alabama, California, and New Mexico. He retired from Boeing after 16 years and now consults with the Air Force. Although cacti are his favorites, his favorite succulents are Dudleyas and Agaves. Woody Minnich (another well known speaker) describes Gary's collection of 500-600 plants as "eclectic."

If you would like to have dinner with Gary before the meeting, we will meet at Hodel's at around 5:15 PM.



Plant of the Month

Rhipsalis cassutha



It all started with a discussion with a friend on how to get Manzanita seeds to germinate which I will not go in here except to say that some pass seeds that have a long because of a tough seed coat

to people dormancy through birds (usually turkeys). That all led later to thoughts of the role of birds in the spreading of seeds across the globe. Our plant of the month, *Rhipsalis cassutha*, has a very wide distribution possibly brought about by this mechanism. It is a cactus native to southern Brazil, and of course all cacti are plants of the New World, but it is apparently naturalized in Africa and Sri Lanka as what is probably an introduction by migrating birds, which themselves may have been blown off course by storms. I'm actually not sure that humans can be ruled out as an agent of movement also or if it is known when they first appear in the Old World. *Rhipsalis cassutha* is an epiphytic cactus that doesn't look like a cactus. It lacks spines and grows in a pendant manner on trees. The stems are 0.1-0.5 in. (3-6 mm.) thick and 1-12 in. (2.5-30 cm.) long. The flowers are yellowish white about 0.5 in. (6 mm.) long and the same wide. The fruit is a small translucent berry that birds love to eat. It is so like the fruit of the mistletoe that this cactus is sometimes known as the "mistletoe cactus". The name might fool some into thinking that it is also a parasite which it is not. Innes and Glass recommend normal cactus mix and planting in a hanging basket or pot. It needs partial shade and temperatures above 50 F.



Jack G. Reynolds

BCSS Board Meeting June 19

Carol, Nancy, Maynard & I met June 19 for the board meeting. Carol has done a great job of listing/organizing the club's library. Be sure to check it out & check out some books. We discussed moving forward with the plaque for our garden, now that we have the money from the yard sale. Not sure why we have not done this before, but after a member suggestion, we will have our pot-luck in May next year -- possible cooler weather & more plants in bloom. Maynard wondered if we might be able to rent a bus with the Fresno club to attend one of the shows in LA @ Arboretum or Huntington. Anne will follow up with a contact in FCCS. Upcoming meetings are pretty well planned and Nancy is working on creative topics for the remaining programs.

Next board meeting will be July 14.

Lynn McDonald

Brag Table



The brag table is a place to talk about your plants. Bring in a plant and share it with the club. It doesn't have to be a show quality plant, just one you think is special in some way. Let us hear from You – Bring In A Plant!

April 10, 2012



We met for a wonderful dinner at the Succulent Garden at Cal State, although it was hot, the food and the company were great!



CLUB OFFICIALS

President Lynn McDonald
Vice President Nancy Harper
Secretary Anne Lee
Treasurer Maynard Moe
Editor Stephen Cooley
Librarian Carol Gates Hospitality Bill McDonald



Chasing the Dragon

A Letter From Bruce



Witnessing an eclipse today may not be the mystical experience it once was, but it's no less impressive.

--Richard Panek

Natural History 6/01

We have done a lot of staring at the sky lately. We began on the 5th of May when there was an extra-bright moon. All we had to do was look out the front door at moonrise. Impressive.

Then on the 18th we began a trip north. We started with a short side trip at Fairmead to a new museum just west of 99. The first thing we saw was a huge landfill. We wondered why they built a museum just across the street from it, but all became clear when we learned it was to display the fossils which were discovered when they started the landfill. The most impressive is a large skeleton of a Columbian Mammoth. Imagine if these were still roaming the Central Valley!

We spent the night at Marvin's in the Sacramento area. Next

morning we went to the show and sale of the Carmichael CSS (also in the Sacramento area). I expected a slightly bigger show, but the specimens were good. They also had a large sales area with lots of blooming cacti. I bought one of the used books they were selling for half price: *The Native Cacti of California* by Lyman Benson (1969, Stanford U. Press)-an oldie but goody.



Then we drove on up to the Feather River Canyon. The cliffs were covered with pale orange monkey flowers. We also saw Dudleyas and Sedums in bloom. The Lewisias were

just in bud. We arrived at James' house in Greenville just in time to go to a Drink and Fine Food Tasting Festival. This included live music and local art. Not bad for a small mountain town.

Next morning I told Michael a dragon was going to eat the sun. I expected him to protest as he is a literalist, but he had no comeback! Matthew was friendly—until I tried to hold him. Each time I tried he screamed. After socializing with the grandkids (and their parents) we all headed up to Lassen National Park on the 20th to see the annular eclipse of the sun. Everyone else had the same idea, so we were told to go elsewhere.

After meeting up with John (who was coming back from spelunking [caving] in Oregon, we settled on watching at Child's Meadow, a resort south of Lassen.

It was not too crowded, but the meadow was full of mosquitoes. Fortunately a friendly fellow shared his repellent. Everyone had a different way to view the eclipse: telescopes which projected onto screens, binoculars, pinhole cameras, welder's glass etc. We had proper viewing glasses purchased at the park as well as a colander. This latter was impressive because it projected numerous images. It wasn't as dark or cold as a full eclipse (Polly & I saw one with baby John in North Carolina in 1969 and another with James and Emily in Botswana in 2002), but it was impressive. Michael even surprised me by saying, "The dragon did eat the sun."

Next day we all went to the Cotton Candy Diner in Chester with its 50s theme. Then Polly & I followed John's bright yellow beetle down to Sacramento, stopping for Jalapeno poppers and stuffed mushrooms at Granzella's in Williams. On the 22 we returned to Bakersfield.

On the 4th of June I woke up at 3 a.m. (for no known reason) and saw the moonlight streaming down the hall. I went to see if it looked as bright as the month before and found an eclipse just starting. We had not planned on watching it since it was only a partial eclipse and we've seen many full eclipses of the moon, but since I was up, I woke Polly and we watched it together.



Annular Eclipse

Our next (and last) celestial observation was on the 5th of June when Venus crossed the sun. This time we only went as far as Russo's Books here in Bakersfield. Again there was a crowd with telescopes etc. Some even had



Three Generations

an enlargement which allowed us to see sun spots as well.

On the 1st of June we saw the film "Salmon Fishing in the Yemen," an unusual experience. Fortunately I had read the book as the ending is quite different. Next day our Goldenaires choir sang for a funeral for the son



Michael & Sun Images

of one of the members. It was interesting with tattooed bikers and their hogs at the entrance and Masons leading the ceremony. Some people lead different lives. On the 7th we heard Stephen McCabe from UC Santa Cruz speak at the Fresno CSS. He has done a lot of work on Dudleyas and showed a wide variety of habitats as well as plants. I liked his approach which admits that there is a lot of

variation and hybridization which results in indistinct species. On the 12th, of course, we were at the Bakersfield meeting for the usual wide selection of great food.

A number of people who have impinged on my life have been in the news lately. First there was an article in the insert by Hoffman Hospice about Alice's friend Rebecca Gottesman. She grew up in a Jewish neighborhood on the lower eastside of Manhattan. Polly and I had lived there quite some time later when I was studying malaria at New York



Sun Eclipse

University. There were quite a few non-Jewish neighbors by then, but our son John went to Asher Levy School and attended afternoon activities at the YMHA (H for Hebrew).

Next there was an obituary for blind Doc Watson from North Carolina. We had met him in Malawi when we were Peace Corps Volunteers. We happened to be staying in a Government Rest House in Mzuzu (Northern Malawi) when he and his son were

staying there while he performed in town. Unfortunately the son was suffering from Shaka's revenge and didn't perform. The Malawians were most impressed by the harmonica (which isn't even mentioned in the Californian), but I will admit his bluegrass guitar was memorable. Incidentally, my advisor for my master's degree at Chapel Hill, N.C., some

years later was Dr. Robert Watson. (I don't know if they were related.)

Then there was an obit for Phillip Tobias, an expert on early man in South Africa. Although I did have some contact with the paleontology dept. (as well as the herbarium) at Wits (University of the Witwatersrand) where he worked, I never had the privilege of meeting him. We also visited Sterkfontein Caves where the famous Little Foot was discovered, but it was in a section behind a locked gate at that time.

Finally, there was an obit on Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to win a Nobel prize in economics. I did not know her, but I studied Zoology under Garrett Hardin at UCSB. Dr Hardin wrote "The tragedy of the Commons", which Ostrom countered with her book, *Governing the Commons*(1999). I wish I had read it before I led a debate on the subject in Botswana (with our friend the Attorney General on the panel.) I probably would have had better arguments to counter Hardin. At any rate, I had had some practical experience in helping villages manage the National Monuments which were the responsibility of the National Museum I worked for. (I suggested this idea since the museum had neither the staff nor the funding to manage monuments directly.)

Bruce J. Hargreaves

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

Tejon Ranch

on June 30, a few cactophiles joined up with CNPS for a tour to some of the high country of Tejon Ranch. We entered through the Sebastian Gate here in the south valley. It was a lovely cool morning as we all fit into five AWD vehicles. High clearance was definitely required on some of the steepest sections. Our two guides, Mike & Scott, were very knowledgeable. It was mainly a driving trip, but we stopped



many times to check out plants, birds and amazing vistas. Our highest elevation was about 5500 ft. We saw many of the seven (?) oaks on the land, and a few flowers were still in bloom. There seemed to be



moderate excitement about the discovery of a gunsight Clarkia on a rocky outcropping. It was there that the Dudleya was also spotted, among other plants. We had lunch on the deck of a rustic hunting cabin in Area 4. We crossed through the Cotton creek drainage, and out via Tejon creek. We were happy that we got to leave our car parked at the gate, it was relatively clean & did not have to risk bottoming out!

Lynn

2013 CALENDAR

This year we are limiting each contributor to their favorite SIX photos for submission. Send them to nancy@nancyharper.com with BCSS CALENDAR PHOTOS in the subject line.

Nancy

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- July 10 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
- August 14 BCSS Meeting** Summer Eating Meeting
- Sept. 11 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
- Oct. 9 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
- Nov. 13 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
- Dec. 11 BCSS Meeting** Olive Dr. Church.
topic: holiday Silent Auction & Potluck
- Jan. 8 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.
topic: Tillandsia
speaker: Stephen Edwards

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

- July 27, 28 and 29, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm — Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Summer Show & Sale. Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim, CA.
- August 11-12, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. 27th Annual INTER-CITY Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia