

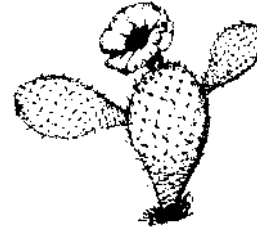
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Fruit of *Melocactus guitaritii*  
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 15 **August 2012** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

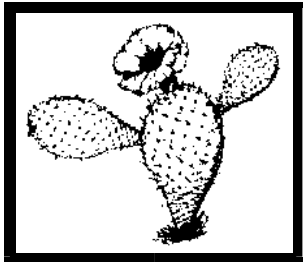
## Dinner at the Taj Mahal

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, August 14**  
Taj Mahal restaurant,  
5416 California Avenue  
at 6:00 PM

(see page 3)

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

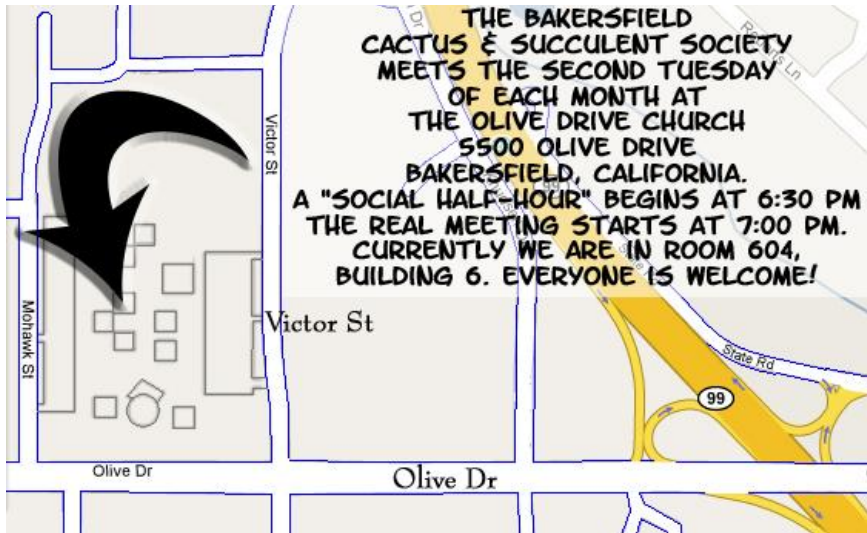


# The Cactus Patch

Volume 15 Number 8

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

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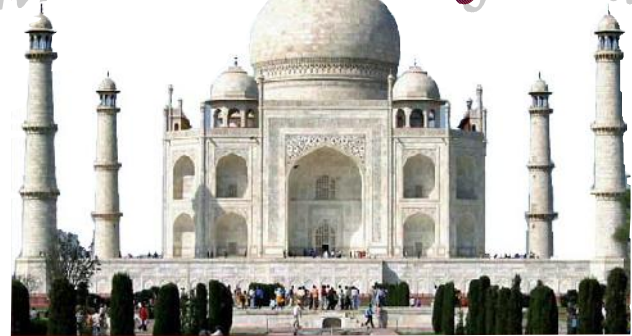
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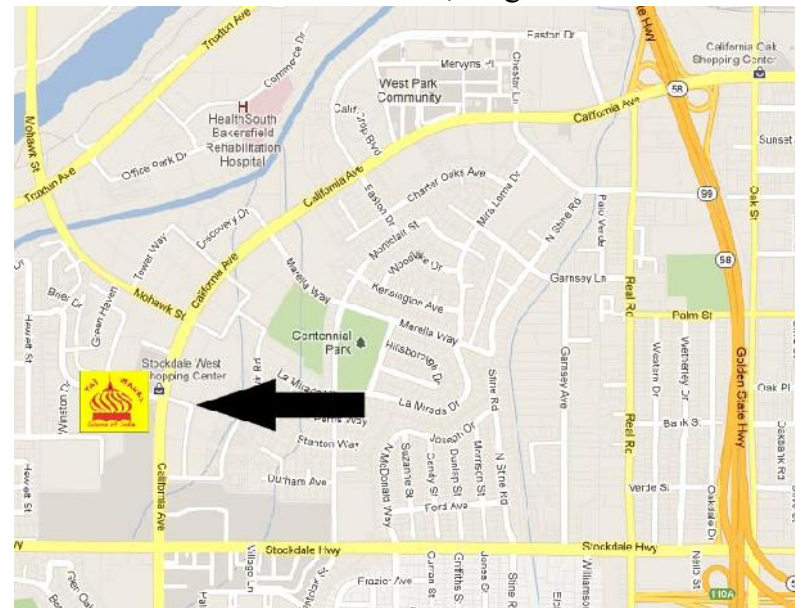
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

## AUGUST'S PROGRAM

# Dinner at the Taj Mahal



The good news is you won't have to go all the way to India for our next meeting. We will be having our annual Summer Dinner meeting at the Taj Mahal Restaurant, 5416 California Avenue at 6:00 PM, August 14.



A menu can be viewed at: <http://indianrestauranttajmahal.com/>

# Plant of the Month



## Crassula columnaris

The plant of the month this month is a small member of the Crassulaceae, *Crassula columnaris*.

The Crassulaceae is a family with over 300 species found in southern Africa the

Mediterranean and a group of Atlantic islands, the Azores, Madeira and the Canaries collectively referred to as Macronesia.

*Crassula columnaris* is a small species found in Namibia and Namaqualand (So. Africa), where it grows on gentle slopes and depressions often among quartz pebbles. Plants are 1.5-4 in. (3-10 cm.) tall and 0.5-2 in. (1-4 cm.) thick with tightly clasping scale leaves. There often are basal branches in larger plants. Flowers are in clusters

at the ends of branches. They are about 0.25 in. (5 mm.) in diameter with five petals. They are pale cream or yellow with pink tips. They may be propagated from cuttings or seed. They are probably cold tolerant down to freezing but not much more than that. I hope someone can bring one to the meeting because they are very attractive little plants.



Jack G. Reynolds

# Brag Table



Sidney Kelly brought two *Gymnocalycium*s to show color variation in the plants.

I brought a grafted specimen of the same thing which was blooming.

Sabrina Mesa brought a headed pot with a warty *Echeveria* hybrid which looked brain-like.

Jack Reynolds brought a *Rhipsalis* to show us the plant of the month with its white berries.

Bruce

## BCSS Board Meeting July 31

Anne, Maynard, Carol and Lynn met at Barnes & Noble July 31 for a board meeting. The usual topics were discussed -- our upcoming meetings, the garden plaque, possible field trips, the Show & Sale. Our next meeting will be 5:30 PM, Barnes & Noble, August 28. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Lynn McDonald

# April 10, 2012



The meeting began with president Lynn telling us about the progress on the Garden Plaque, some garden help for veterans, getting a bus with the Fresno Club to go see the Intercity Show (some of our members have taken advantage of this), changing our Garden meeting from June to May and changing our August dinner meeting to a new place (see page 3). New member Tamara Michel volunteered to do a Facebook page for the club!



Sidney mentioned that the Fair is coming up and we need to get going on getting it organized. She cannot head up the committee this year so we need somebody to take over!

Gary Dukes then gave us a presentation detailing how to identify cacti. He didn't have time to go through every cactus on the

planet, so he chose the more common ones that you are likely to run across in your travels to nurseries and shows. Gary got into detail but not so far as to make it too hard. He had plenty of pictures showing the features he talked about (spine patterns, flowers, buds, etc.) He gave us a quick test at the end which fortunately was not graded.



## 48 Years Married

A Letter From Bruce

I've got the plum-plucking blues, boo  
hoo hoo hoo;  
I've got the plum-plucking blues, boo  
hoo hoo hoo;  
I'm tired of picking plums,  
I'm glad when evening comes,  
I've got the plum-plucking blues.  
-“Professor” (for tune & more  
verses consult himself)

The 18<sup>th</sup> was our 48<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We had dinner with family at Chuy's and phoned Lora's husband Dave who was out of the country since it was also his birthday. (It is also “Juneteenth”, a holiday which celebrates the emancipation of slaves. We had not known this.)

Ditching the rest, Polly and I went to the Fox Theater for a program sponsored by the UFW. They were celebrating 50 years. This means I just missed getting organized. To earn what little money I needed for BC in 1961, I picked plums out at DiGiorgio for \$1.08 per hour. Almost anyone could do it, although one of my



Yard Sale on Pryor

friends was fired because he was color blind. It was hot work, but at least the trees provided shade and we were given salt and water. I became known as the “Professor” because I did peculiar things like collect birds’ nests and eggs and bracket fungi and photograph bee colonies. I quit when they switched us to crawling through grape vines to clear a tunnel so the grapes could hang down. The vines had been sprayed with sulfur and even the strongest men were crying at day’s end.

The concert began with Los Lobos, a group from LA. They sang in Spanish so we didn’t understand much, but it was great music. I especially liked it when they broke out an accordion. It reminded me of the Afrikaans singers of South Africa (which I also couldn’t really understand.) (Even at DiGiorgio they separated Spanish speakers from the English speakers, although we all joined in when the cry “Oh Yeayah” went down the line. It broke the monotony.)

After the intermission a lone figure strode onto the stage and calmly began tuning a guitar. It wasn’t until he started singing that we realized that this was Kris Kristofferson, the star of the evening. Despite his age (he’s 6 years older than I am) he stayed on his feet playing and singing for an hour and a half! We knew about half the songs. He also tried playing harmonica, but seemed to have trouble with the mechanics of the rig that was supposed to hold it up for his mouth.

We’ve also seen a few movies recently. One good one was the Disney “Chimpanzee” which had fantastic footage of chimps using stone and wood to crack nuts. My only objection is that, as usual, they played around with the facts to make a good story. They had a chimp start with wood and work up to stone. According to Susan Millius in the June 16<sup>th</sup> Science News, the

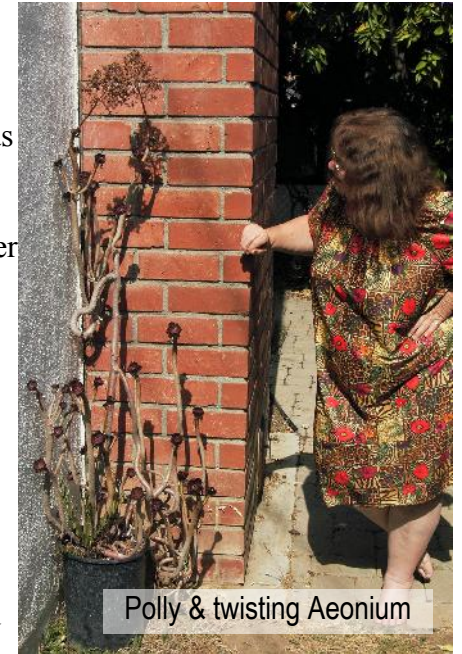


chimps begin with stones when the nuts are hard and switch to wood as they ripen.

Another good movie was “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”, the story of a rundown hotel in India which tries to cater to the elderly from England. Lora and Anne, who have been to India, were impressed by the realistic portrayal of local culture. Polly and I were impressed by how well the film portrayed the English reactions.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> my brother Robert had a yard sale at our house since he lives out beyond Rosedale, not the best location for one. As usual, people were looking through things before we were set up. Polly and I joined Anne at Goose Loonies for lunch (surprisingly good) as well as visiting an antique store going out of business. We returned in time to close down the yard sale. Arrangements had not been made to clean up and it took us a week to get it hauled away.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July we had a BBQ and fireworks at my nephew Leo’s in La Mirada. I’m not sure about regulations there,



but we were surrounded by displays that would be illegal in Bakersfield! I noticed a very twisted Aeonium in the backyard and ended up carrying it back to Bakersfield. Next day we drove up

to Fresno for the annual potluck there. There was the usual silent auction and cross pollination orgy with Adeniums.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> we joined a vast crowd at the memorial service for Wendy Wayne at the Fox. We had only met her when she hosted a 50<sup>th</sup> Peace Corps celebration. In addition I have learned we also shared a degree in Public Health. An unexpected life to find in Bakersfield.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Gary Duke speak on cactus definitions in Bakersfield. Quite technical, I thought. I have a talk on cacti which is much simpler since it is not my specialty.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

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

## 2013 CALENDAR

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

*Nancy*

## The September Cactus Patch

As I will be out of the country later this month and into next, there will be no newsletter in September. Look for a meeting reminder postcard about a week before the September Meeting

*Stephen Cooley*

## CLUB OFFICIALS

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



## WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

Thanks to new member Tamara Michel, the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society now has a Facebook Page. This will make it easier to share what we are

doing and what we have done. Check out the page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/BakersfieldCactus>. If you are not signed up for Facebook, DO IT NOW.

Also check our webpage at [www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- August 14 BCSS Meeting** Dinner Meeting 6PM Taj Mahal (see page 3)
- 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

- August 11-12, 9 am to 5 pm. 27th Annual INTER-CITY Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale. LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia
- Sept 1, 9:00 am. Succulent Symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA.
- November 3-4, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm: 19th Annual San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Winter Show and Sale in Ayres Hall at the LA Arboretum, 301 N. Baldwin, Arcadia.