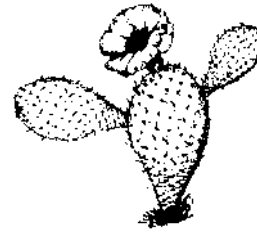




*Anacampseros rufescens*  
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

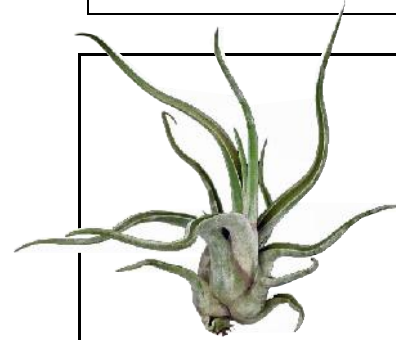
# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 16 **January 2013** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



This Month's Program

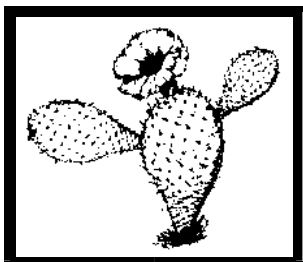
**Tillandsia**  
by  
**Stephen Edwards**

## Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan. 8**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:30 PM

**(Building 5, Room 504)**

**Have You  
Paid Your  
Dues for  
2013?**

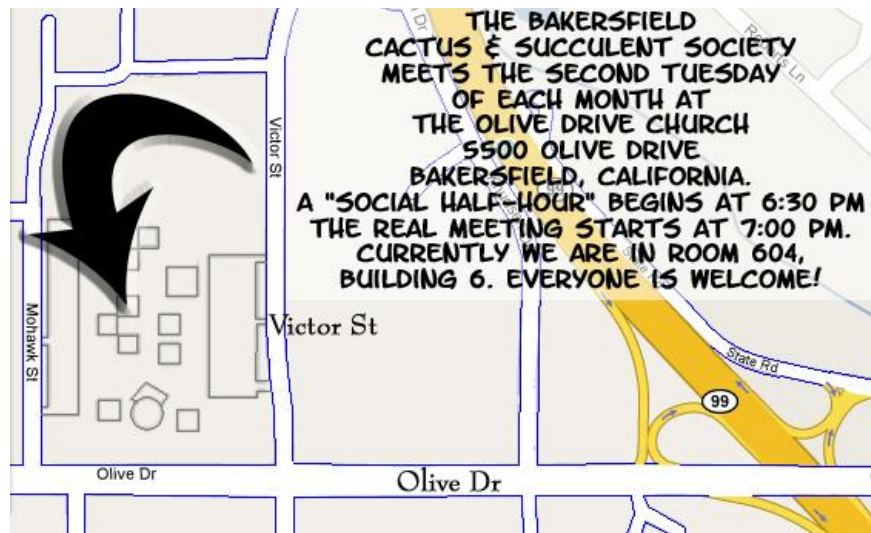


# The Cactus Patch

Volume 16 Number 1

January 2013

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**

**President: Lynn McDonald**

wljmcd@aol.com

**Membership: Maynard Moe**

lithops44@bak.rr.com

**Newsletter/Website: Stephen Cooley**

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

## **JANUARY'S PROGRAM**

### **Tillandsia**

**by Stephen Edwards**

Tillandsia is a group of mostly small bromeliads (related to pineapple) with a wide range of shapes and textures. Though only a few Tillandsia are truly succulent their form and growth habit goes well with other succulents. They are an extremely diverse group of plants, most of them quite lovely.

## **Brag Table**



The brag table is a place to show off a plant that you think has some special character or story. Bring in something to share with the club!

## **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!**

<https://www.facebook.com/BakersfieldCactus>

# Plant of the Month



## *Echinocereus engelmannii*

We are returning to cacti of the southwestern deserts this month. In browsing through W. H. Earle's "Cacti of the Southwest" I selected *E. engelmannii* as representative of a widespread species of

interest. Earle lists six varieties (subspecies?) which range from southeastern California, southern Nevada, Arizona and southern Utah. They live from 500 to 5000 ft. (175-1750 m.).

Typically they are found in sandy to gravelly soils among grasses in the upper desert or creosote bushes in the lower desert.



Stems are 6-30 in. (15-75 cm.) long and 2-3 in. (5-7.5 cm.) in diameter with 6-12 ribs. This is a well armed cactus. Areoles will have 1-5 central spines 1.5-2.5 in. (7-10 cm.) long. Radial spines are 0.5 in. (12mm.) long and from 12-20 in number. Spines vary in color from dark grey to yellow, pink and white. Often spines are so numerous as to hide the stem from view. This is a clumping species with clumps having 6-20 stems. They often appear as a low mound to the eye.

Flowers appear in April or May and are open in the daytime. They are in shades of pink, magenta, red to purple and are

numerous. Flowers are generally 2-2.5 in. (5-7.5 cm.) in length and diameter. Fruits are red to purple when ripe and taste like strawberries which gives this cactus one of its names "strawberry cactus". They were very popular with native humans and are also relished by birds and rodents.

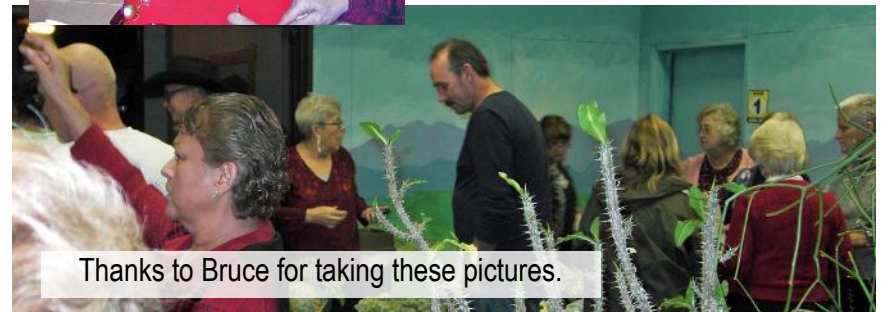
Jack G. Reynolds

[The pictures are from the *Echinocereus engelmannii* that has been growing in the garden at Cal state for many years]

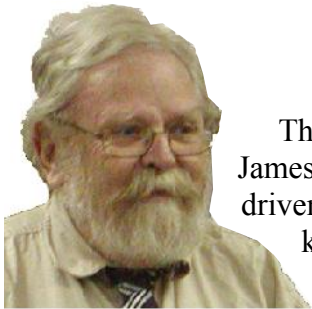
## December 11, 2012



Another Great Potluck & Silent Auction!



Thanks to Bruce for taking these pictures.



## Turkey and Terror

A Letter From Bruce

Thanksgiving was crowded. On Wednesday James and family arrived before dawn, having driven all night! (He says it's easier with the kids asleep.) When they woke up in the afternoon we went to Cold Stone for ice cream. On the day we watched the Macy's Parade and then had turkey at Lora's with John arriving just in time from Sacramento. We were all as stuffed as the turkey.



Polly with Matthew - Thanksgiving

Some people got up early on Saturday and shopped. The sensible half waited til noon and had lunch at Johnny Rocket. We then bought books at Russo's (supporting local businesses a day early). After that we watched Wrecker Ralph, a movie which goes against my values (it has violence and portrays electronic signals as "living" –the same objection I had to Matrix and something we did not learn in Physiological Psychology at UCSB), but ,suspending beliefs, it was an artistic and delightful production. After the film there was just time to drive up to the Market Place for the Christmas Tree lighting.

Next morning Polly and I went to World Market and got Pi shopping bags and free tickets to the movie Pi. There was no line at all! We then joined others for a Hobbit breakfast at Denny's. In all it was a very enjoyable Thanksgiving.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of November my brother Robert scared us all by having a heart attack. The doctors put in a couple of stents and he's back to normal. We just had a few days of going out to Rosedale to take care of the dogs and chickens.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December Polly and I went up to Fresno for the FCSS potluck dinner. Fred put up a huge metallic saguaro strung with lights. As usual we stuffed ourselves and then bit lightly at the silent auction. I got a book on Pelargoniums by Derek Clifford.



Thanksgiving-Michael reading to Alice

On the 7<sup>th</sup> we were back in Bakersfield and went to see Barry Manilow. He's not my choice, but he is a good singer, I knew most of the songs and the nosebleed seats were cheap. On the 12<sup>th</sup> we saw "The Life of Pi" and were pleased to see it followed the book, a task which we thought was impossible. That evening we went back to the Maya for "Searching for Sugarman," the story of the search for an American singer who is still relatively unknown

in the US, but was extremely popular in South Africa because of his protest songs (some of which were banned during the Apartheid era).

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, of course, we stuffed ourselves at the BCSS. It's a good thing I got plants for attendance. I took two pelargoniums as donations, but got outbid on everything I tried for. To add to this, on the way out I was asked how to care for the Canary Island Euphorbia I was outbid on and just outside the Fouquieria I bid on fell off its cart at my feet. It was still a good meeting.



Did you see the Californian of 15 Dec.? It warned that Poinsettias are poisonous. Next day the Parade supplement said this is a myth and you could even eat the leaves! I would not recommend this. If you are allergic, you could get much more than a bad stomach ache. Also, if you get the latex in your eye it hurts like the dickens and can cause blindness! I was once called out of a lecture 40 miles from home because our housekeeper's daughter got the juice in her eye. My advice? Put milk on it (water makes it worse). The blindness is fortunately temporary.

Speaking of poisons, the Jan./Feb. Archaeology reports finding poison on sticks (presumably for arrow poison) in South Africa which are 24,000 years old. The poison was from castor beans, which, like Poinsettias, are in the Euphorbia family. This is the oldest known human use of a poison.

We were shocked by the school killings in Connecticut, the more so because our grandson Matthew is the same age! I have always had a problem with violence. We were not even allowed to have water pistols when I was a kid. I knew of violence in the States, but the first time I witnessed it myself was in August 1966 in Johannesburg, South Africa. We came out of a bookstore just as a white policeman threw an unarmed black man to the pavement

and kicked him mercilessly. A nearby Black Policeman was doing his best not to watch. At the time we were living in Malawi where the violence, although present under the dictator Banda, was not visible.

Polly still resents our move to Lesotho because it had a culture of violence. I understand it resulted from being surrounded by its bully neighbor South Africa (which not only invaded and killed as it did in all its neighbors, but at one point cut off our supply of medicine and fresh food), but it was still hard to live with constant violence. My only excuse for subjecting Polly to this is that we did help educate people who became leaders in the New South Africa.

Botswana is a delightful contrast with its democratic government and peaceful culture. It's hard to realize that 200 years ago the Tswana and Sotho were part of the same language and culture group.

Countries can and do change. I hope the US can stop the present trend towards more and more violence. I don't know all the answers, but it's certainly time to try to reconcile our differences.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

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

Read all of Bruce's letters on our website at:

<http://www.bakersfieldcactus.org/thecactuspatch/bruce/bruce.html>

## 'mini' Field Trip

### Porterville Art Museum

Andy and Sasha asked if we would like to go with them to the Porterville Art Museum to see some 'yard art' work by Dink Williams. And maybe on to Dink's home to see more. Immediately I wanted to go. Jack couldn't go because he had bronchitis. I asked Gerry if she would like to go with me. Andy & Sasha had a friend, Janada, riding with them. We had a great day.

After visiting the museum, we did drive on to Dink's home, near Visalia. It's always an iffy thing, since he doesn't give out his phone number. We were told that he is mostly home. Dink does

great work, very unusual, using many automobile parts and other items. His prices are very good compared to others we've seen.

I'm not sure just yet when his showing ends at the art museum. It would be worth the trip just to go to his home. I'm trying to get confirmation if he'll be home on January 5th. I chose January 5th because we will be doing a two-dog transport. Our leg of the transport is from Bakersfield to Visalia. (This transport is a long one...from Fort Worth, TX. to Marysville, CA.) After we hand the dogs off, I thought we could go to Dink's again so Jack could see his creations. Okay, so I might buy one or two more!

**Is anyone interested in going with us on January 5th?** Our transport runs from about 10:30 am to 1 pm. I'm sure Jack will want to stop to eat lunch somewhere. So we plan to go see the creations after that. I can either give you directions, or you can drive along with us. Actually, you can go anytime you want. It's always kind of fun to go as a group.

Gerry and Andy took pictures. This is a representation of what his selections look like. There are so many it's difficult to take a



picture showing just how cute and clever they are. There are lots!

Sidney  
Kelley



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

**Jan. 8 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

topic: Tillandsia

speaker: Stephen Edwards

**Feb. 12 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

### OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Jan. 9, 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!

Jan. 26 12th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon. 9:30am - 11:00am. Phone 951-685-5818 for directions. Buck Hemenway will lead the tour of the 6 acre garden. This event is Free.

Feb. 9 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

March 22-23 9 am to 5 pm & Mar 24, 12 pm to 5 pm. Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society Spring Show & Sale, Anaheim United Methodist Church, 1000 S. State College Blvd., Anaheim.

### Have You Paid Your Club Dues For 2013?

Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$10 per year for an individual and only \$15 a year for a family.

#### How to Pay:

➔ At our meetings there is usually a sign up sheet just for new and renewing members. This is Self-Serve and you are on your honor to put the correct amount into the till. Also, be sure to give us your address, email, and or phone number so that we can contact you and send the newsletter!

➔ You may also send a check to our treasurer :  
Maynard Moe [lithops44@bak.rr.com](mailto:lithops44@bak.rr.com)