

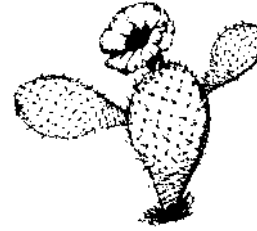
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Conophytum calculus
in the Knersvlakte of South Africa
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 16 **February 2013** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Xeriscaping

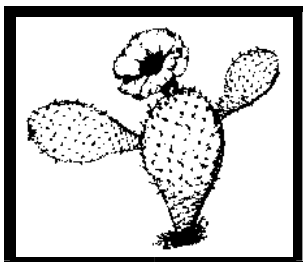
by **Steve Kranyak**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 12
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at 6:30 PM

(Building 5, Room 504)

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

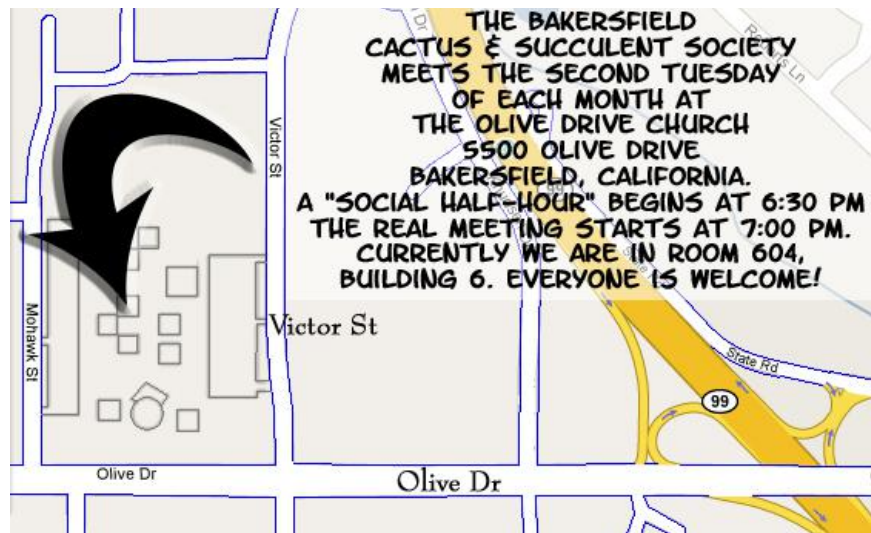


The Cactus Patch

Volume 16 Number 2

February 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

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thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

FEBRUARY'S PROGRAM

Xeriscaping by Steve Kranyak

[No additional information was received in time to print -ed.]

Members rescue plants for our Garden.



Lynn in Cayucos

Plant of the Month



Aloe plicatilis

I have chosen Aloe plicatilis this month because we have not done an

Aloe before in this column (I think) and this is the most attractive one I know. Most Aloes grow in the form of a rosette. This one has a fan-shaped leaf arrangement with the leaves marching away from a center in two rows that make a fan. Indeed one might not think it was an Aloe at all until the flowers are observed. The matter is settled then because they are much like all other Aloes with two inch (5 cm.) long pink tubular flowers on a spike rising above the plant a foot or more.

The plant is one of five so called tree aloes that grow in South Africa. Aloe plicatilis has a small range being found in the mountains of the West Cape. I saw them along Hwy. 1 between Worcester and Cape Town. They were in a steep canyon growing in stoney soil. The plant community they grow in is called "Fynbos" and corresponds to our chaparral with wet winters and hot dry summers and sclerotic vegetation.

It grows to a height of 10-16 ft. (3-5 m.) in a many branched



shrub or small tree. Each branch will have it fan of grey-green leaves up to a foot (30 cm.) long and 1-1.5 in. (25-40 mm) wide. They are very slow growing and as such often crowded out when planted in a xeriscape with faster growing species. They grow easily from cuttings. I obtained a cutting from a friend in Santa Barbara and it lives happily in my greenhouse.

They are reported to prefer a slightly acid soil that drains well.

Jack G. Reynolds

BCSS BOARD MEETING

Our board meeting was held at Barnes & Noble Wednesday, January 23. How can it already be February?? Maynard, Jack, Carol, Nancy & Sidney were there. It seems we had a lot to discuss. However I have lost my notes & have very little recollection of the topics. We did discuss acquiring the tables for the Yard sale and Nancy is working on on getting good parking for that event. Carol did some more cataloging/organizing of our Library. More field trip ideas were mentioned, and will be relayed to the Field Trip Committee. If the rain continues from time to time, we may have some wonderful wild flowers & a trip to the desert perhaps to observe them.

The next work day at Panorama Vista Preserve will be this Saturday February 9. Please email Andy Honig andym5@bak.rr.com for information. Come out for a little exercise & fun. Sometimes we weed, sometimes we plant. Andy might show us the Bakersfield cacti on the preserve, if you have not seen them.

CLUB OFFICIALS

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



Field Trips



Creations by Dink Williams Trip

Anyone interested in going to Visalia to see/purchase Creations By Dink? He's going to be doing another show at the Porterville Art Museum. The price for each will be more at

the museum, as the museum will get some and there will be taxes. He has a much larger selection to choose from at his home. Especially if we get there before he has the next showing at the museum. It's about 75 miles one way. It takes about 1/12 hours.

If you're interested in going, give Sidney a call or email. There will be a signup sheet at the meeting. We'll try to set a date that fits most that want to go. Either February 23, Saturday. Or March 2, Saturday.

There is another interesting place, Shelly's, in Porterville, that has quite a large selection of "yard art". We could stop there on the way home from Visalia.

Sidney
sbkelly@bak.rr.com

Ojai Nursery Trip

We will be going to Desert Images, in Ojai, on April 13 to buy plants to sell at the Bakersfield Garden Fest on April 20th. More information will be in the March and April newsletter. If you need more information, call/email Sidney.



January 8, 2013



January's meeting started with a lot to talk about. We will try to get the new plaque for the garden at Cal State up for the May

garden picnic meeting. Maynard will also be getting a few 'professional' label stakes for some of the prominent plants. The **April Garden Fest** is coming up, so you will need to start cuttings soon if you want the club to sell them. Our **Yard Sale** is also coming up May 4th at Harper Pools, so, start saving your stuff! There was



some discussion about doing some yard tours this spring as well as maybe sponsoring a light display at CALM during Christmas.

Stephen Edwards gave us a talk on



Tillandsia. Steve used to be an avid collector, but now his interest has waned. We learned that they are very hard to grow in our hot, dry climate, but it can be done. He also discussed how to stage them (using glue of all things). He brought some specimens to view and some info on nurseries.





Another Year Ended, and one More Started

A Letter From Bruce

Christmas was less exciting than Thanksgiving with fewer people. We had Christmas Eve at Anne's and Christmas

Day at Lora's. New Year's was at Anne's with Alice quitting at ten when I played Auld Lang Syne on my clarinet and blew my Vuvuzela. The rest of us stayed up for the bitter end of 2012. Later we watched the Rose Parade on TV. (No one actually went



Hypertufa demo

down there this year.) The January Fresno meeting was a bit boring – how to make hypertufa pots. This was done as a demonstration with the demonstrators wearing masks and gloves to avoid the effects of the cement in the mix. We were

then given bags of the mix and sent home to try it. I think Bakersfield was better with its weekend hands on learning.

That Friday Polly's sister Ginny and husband Bob came up from Joshua Tree with their son Thomas and his Korean wife Sunny. Sunny is learning English, and Thomas is learning Korean. What a way to start off a marriage! Polly's two sisters who live in



The Hale Clan

Fresno were there as well. Only one sister (who lives in Boston) was missing – and they talked to her on the phone. Polly is the matriarch of the Hale clan.



Bruce and Dink

Saturday we drove down to Visalia and saw Dink Williams and his fabulous critters from old machine parts. Then it was on to Porterville for a look at his work on display at the Art Gallery there. We ended up buying a warthog. We also bought a

couple of books at the nearby Used Book Store – something Bakersfield badly needs.

Of course, we were back in Bakersfield for the BCSS meeting and learned a bit on Tillandsia – mainly that Bakersfield is not the place to grow them! They grow as “air plants” without soil. Often they are attached to other plants as epiphytes.

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>

Brag Table



Sidney Kelly brought an Othonna, a succulent in the daisy family. It has a tuberous root and tiny purple flower heads. (If I had looked closely at the flowers I would not have misdiagnosed it as a Crassula!) Sidney also brought a goofy bird made by Dink. Polly brought our warthog which she kept referring to as a hedgehog! Dink had named it “Pig Pen”.

I brought *Tillandsia caputmedusa* since the

talk was on that genus. Unfortunately the bright blue flowers with red bracts and yellow stamens were long gone. Such color contrasts are common in the Pineapple family. I had mounted it on a “root” structure from a tropical parasite related to mistletoe.



From the Cactus & Succulent Society of America:

The 35th Biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be held in Austin TX, from June 15 - 20, 2013. All members of the Society are invited to join in the gathering which will feature world renowned authors and experts in the field of Cacti & Succulents. The web site for the Convention is located at <http://cssa2013.com>.

The following is a synopsis from editor Tim Harvey of the CSSA Journal [which will be in our library soon! -ed.] Remember, one of the main benefits of membership in the CSSA is the receipt of all members of this very professional journal 6 times per year.

Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an Echeveria and a Sedum) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently-published Haseltonia 18. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent Euphorbia species, described here and accompanied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus Eriospermum from near the

Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the finer points of this plant. Euphorbia schoenlandii and a Kelly Griffin hybrid Aloe ‘Red Ridge’ feature in Duke Benadom’s Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the cycad genus Dioon as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts’ article on the genus Micropuntia is sure to be the first encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.

Buck Hemenway

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

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

topic: Xeriscaping

speaker: Steve Kranyak

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

Apr. 9 BCSS Meeting at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

Apr. 20 Garden Fest. Bakersfield College. 9 am-4 pm. Free Admission

May 4 BCSS Annual Yard Sale Harper Pools 2400 K St.

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

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.

June 15-20. CSSA 35th Biennial convention, Austin Texas.