

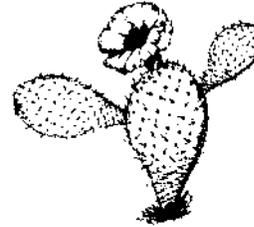
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Calliandra californica
at the Cal State Garden
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 16 **March 2013** Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

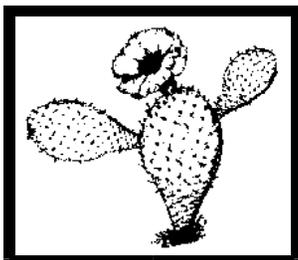
**To Be Announced
at the meeting**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 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

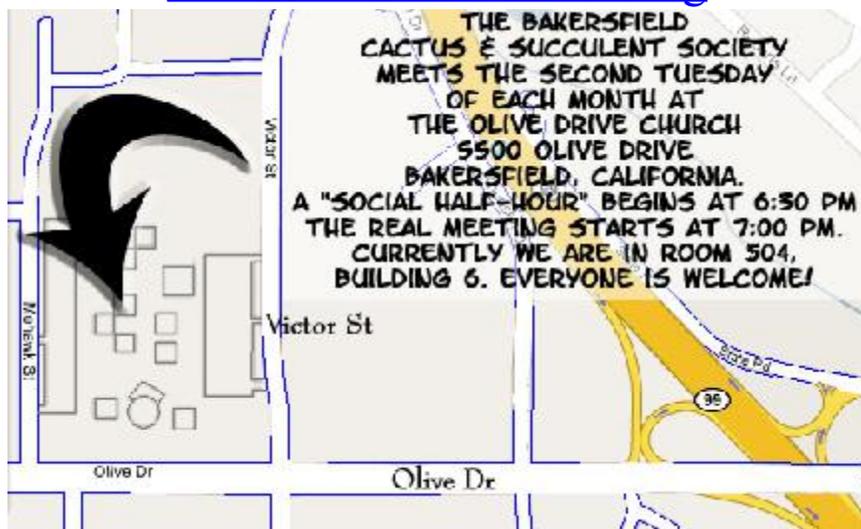
Volume 16 Number 3
March 2013

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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MARCH'S PROGRAM

Our March meeting will be held at the Olive Drive
Church, 5500 olive Drive at 6:30 in room 504

It's Time for The Great Kern County Fair - or Is It?

Mary just called from the fairgrounds. They are NOT going to have the outdoor garden scenes this year. They're going to try a beer garden. (I'm sure it's to try to bring in money.)

She wants to know if we still want to sponsor the \$50 Best of Show prize.

She also offered us a good display area in the building to show succulents. This would be only for publicity, no money evolved. It would be the octagon area that had the gourd figures last year.

She needs to know soon, as the fair books are being put together. They are not mailing out the books this year. They can be picked up at the fair office, I think she said after the 4th of July.

I thought it was very considerate of Mary to call to let us know the change. She didn't have to do that.

Let us know your thoughts on these.

----- Sidney Kelley

Plant of the Month



Opuntia chlorotica

Opuntia chlorotica gets its name for the bright yellow spines that arm its 4-8 in. (10-20 cm.) pads. In nature it is a medium height shrubby cactus achieving an average height of 3-6 ft. (1-2 m.). It can be an erect arborescent plant. Areoles are evenly spaced over the surface and armed with many bright yellow

glochids and one to five central spines that are from 1-2 in. (25-50 mm.) long and reflexed or appressed.

The type locality is the Mojave River in California but it ranges across the southwest in southern California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico as well as northern Mexico. It is normally found on rocky flats as well as hillsides into the low desert. It produces numerous bright yellow flowers in May to June. Flowers are 1.5-2.5 in. (3.8-6.3 cm.) in diameter as well as length. It will grow in normal cactus mix and prefers temperatures above 45 F. It should grow well in Bakersfield. All fruits of *Opuntias* are favored by wildlife as a succulent meal. It can be grown either from seed or cuttings.



Jack G. Reynolds

Field Trips

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.



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society 41st Annual Show and Sale

- Beautiful displays
- Expert advice
- 1000s of plants for sale

April 13-14, 2013
9 am to 4 pm
South Coast Botanic Garden
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.
Palos Verdes Peninsula

Entry free with paid admission to garden: adult \$8; senior/student \$6; child 5-12 \$3; under 5 free.
www.southcoastcss.org

CLUB OFFICIALS

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



February 12, 2013



We had a few new people at the February meeting as well as one we hadn't seen in a long time (Brian Adams). Maynard showed us two of the new labels for the garden, all of which have now been recently installed at Cal State. We were reminded that the GARDEN FEST at Bakersfield College will be held April 20th and we will be going to nurseries in Ojai April 13th to buy plants.



Also, our annual YARD SALE will be held May 4th at Harper Pools – start saving your stuff!

It was decided that each month we should have dinner for the speaker at Hodel's. We would meet at



Hodel's at 5:15 (the speakers dinner will be paid for by the club, everyone else must pay for their own).

Steve Kranyak gave us a very enthusiastic talk on the use of California natives in the landscape. We saw how he has transformed his yard into a low maintenance, extremely low water garden. Though it takes several years to establish a native garden it is well worth the effort. Among the plants we saw in his garden



were: manzanita, penstemon, sagebrush, sage, California fuchsia, oak, toyon, ceanothus monkeyflower and lupine. Some of the nurseries where you can obtain plants and seeds are Intermountain Nursery (intermountainnursery.com), Las Pilitas Nursery (laspilitas.com), and the Theodore Payne Foundation (theodorepayne.org). The Kern Chapter of the California Native Plant Society also holds a native plant sale in the fall.



Yard Sale May 4th!!

Our annual YARD SALE will be held this year at Harper Pools, 2400 K ST. Save up and find all that stuff you want to get rid of. Remember that plants and cuttings sell very well. Also, please price all your items before bringing them, this will save a lot of time. More information will appear in upcoming newsletters.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

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





Valentines & Presidents

A Letter From Bruce

On 7th Feb we heard Bill Gale at the Fresno C&S meeting. It was mainly an extended Brag Table as he showed us examples of his show plants (with lots of blue ribbons) from the Fresno Fair. He was extremely enthusiastic and his plants

were, indeed, braggable.

On the 9th we took Alice to see an art exhibit in Bakersfield called “Curiouser and Curiouser” by Christina Sweet. The paintings were based on “Alice in Wonderland”, of course. We dined on Tea, English style, which involves food as well as tea.



Bill Gale enthusing



Alice, Christina & Bruce

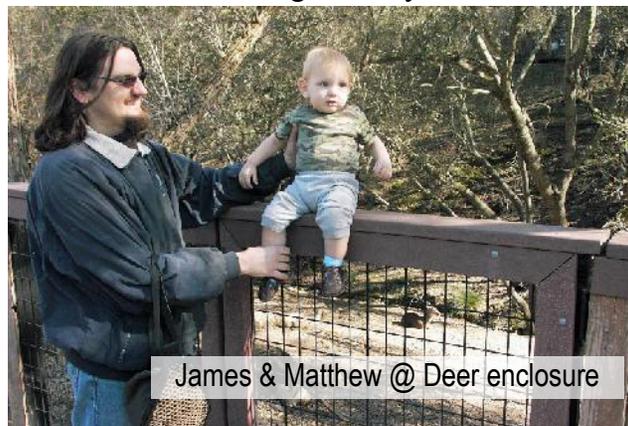
The next Tuesday we were at the BCSS meeting for Steve Kranyak’s talk on xeriscaping. I enjoyed the pictures, although there could have been more flower close-ups. I like the idea of using local plants. In Botswana I managed

to keep the Botanic Garden planted with local species, but there was constant pressure to plant Roses! When I returned after an absence of some years, I found that someone had, indeed, added roses, but they had died!

On the 15th we heard Bill Cosby at the Fox. It was sold out and so had the largest crowd I’ve ever seen there. His theme seemed to be relationships between men and women (starting with Eve) and he had a lot of interaction with the audience. Although he was sitting most of the time, he showed a lot of energy for his age. (He is five years older than I am.)

On the 16th we drove up to Sacramento via 99 which has fiddlenecks, mustard and radish in bloom already. There were also African daisies which someone has introduced to roadsides recently. We then had dinner with John, James, Emily and the grandkids.

Matthew is beyond walking – he runs. Next morning we went to the Folsom Zoo which features Rescued animals. They had impressive Cougars and Tigers and Bears- Oh My. Michael wanted to quit halfway around because he heard the kids’ train whistle. We made him stay with us, but did eventually ride the train. We had lunch at restaurant with a beautiful view of the American River. There were tiny red crassulas at the edge of the parking. We then visited old town Folsom with its gimcrack shops in historic building. Finally we went across to Roseville to eat at



James & Matthew @ Deer enclosure

Claim Jumpers – the usual shrimp stuffed jalapenos.

On the 18th we went junk shopping and then had lunch with all the relatives in Sacramento (and north) and said goodbye to James et al. who headed back

up to Greenville. We stayed till the 19th and then headed home. By mistake we took I-5 even though it was rainy. The wind was horrific, but we did see a beautiful double rainbow.

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



Polly brought *Alluaudia procera* as she had watched the TV program *Castle* in which they found this plant under the fingernails of the victim. They then discussed how it is a rare Madagascar plant which is cultivated and used as wallpaper! Polly Googled it and found two listings for wallpaper- to be used as back ground on computer screens! The only use we saw in Madagascar (not cultivated) was as charcoal!



I brought *Adenia venenata*, a plant in the Passion flower family, to show off the long skinny first leaves and the short stubby later leaves. It is poisonous, as the name implies. It was also the first species of that genus to be named (by Forskaal, who collected it in Yemen).

Karin Rawlings

brought "Octo/gaves", plantlets of *Agaves* which grow in vast numbers on flower stalks and can be planted out.

Jack Reynolds brought the plant of the month, *Aloe plicatilis*. His plant was in bud, but, unfortunately not quite open.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

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

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

Apr. 13 Ojai Field Trip. Buying plants for the Garden Fest

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

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

May. 14 BCSS Meeting at Cal State Garden at 6:00PM

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.



Large *Euphorbia* in Namibia