

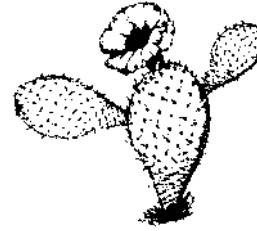
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

INTERNET EDITION



Blooms of *Yucca glauca*
photo by Stephen Cooley

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 16 **June 2013** Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program



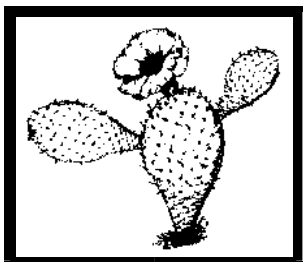
**Woody
Minnich Will be
Our Speaker**

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 11
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at 6:30 PM

(Building 5, Room 504)

**It Is Time To
Start Thinking
About The
Show & Sale!**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 16 Number 6

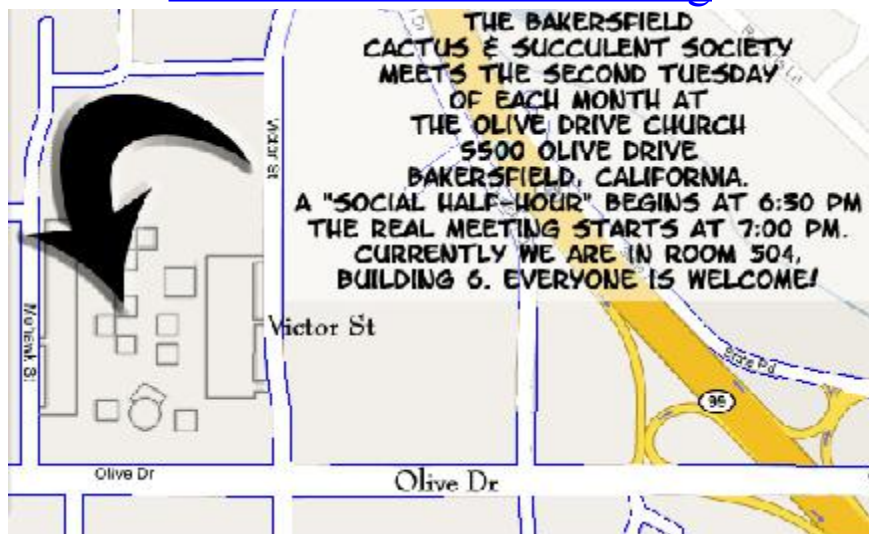
June 2013

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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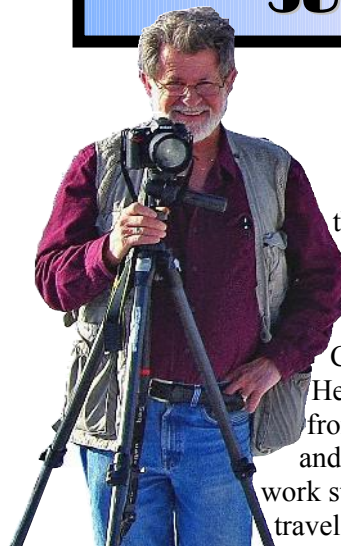
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JUNE'S PROGRAM



A Brief Biography of Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

Woody, as he is commonly called, has been in the cactus hobby for some 42 years and has become well known for his participation in many of the cactus and succulent clubs. He is an honorary life member of seven clubs as well as a life member of CSSA (Cactus & Succulent Society of America.) He has served in almost all positions of leadership from president, to newsletter editor, to show chairman and so on. He is also known for his extensive field work studying primarily the cactus family. He has traveled throughout the United States, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Africa, Yemen and Socotra. From these trips he has developed an extensive knowledge of the cactus family as well as many of the other succulent genera.

Woody is also known for his many presentations. His photography is considered to be special and his commentary very entertaining and educational. He is a recognized international speaker and has spoken for plant conventions - organizations all over the USA, as well as in England, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and Mexico. Woody has also authored a number of articles for various newsletters, the CSSA journal and his photographs are well published. Woody is the creator-originator of the first color version of the CSSA journal "Cacti and Succulents for the Amateur" that also featured show plants, shows and the growers of the pictured plants.

He is also known for his cactus and succulent nursery, Cactus Data Plants. CDP was started in 1975 and is still in operation today. CDP specializes in show specimens and rare cacti and other succulents with particular emphasis in *Ariocarpus*, *Astrophytum*, *Mammillaria*, *Gymnocalycium*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Melocactus*, *Copiapoa*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Euphorbia*, *Cyphostemma*, *Adenium* and *Adenia*.

Woody and his wife Kathy now live in the beautiful mountains south of Santa Fe New Mexico in a region called Cedar Grove. He has a small 1,200 sq. ft. greenhouse where he grows his unique plants. He is always on the move and travels frequently to do presentations and shows throughout the western United States. He is a retired high school teacher of 32 years and he taught Graphic Arts, Architecture, Art and Health.

Plant of the Month



Euphorbia cooperi

As you may remember, I sometimes resort to a sort of dartboard method in

choosing the plant of the month and this month is an example of that. I was searching for a subject and randomly pulled a copy of the Euphorbia Journal and there on the cover of vol. 6 was the plant of the month. I had seen these while visiting Kruger Park in South Africa and admired them greatly.

Euphorbia cooperi is one of the “candelabraform tree” Euphorbias found in Africa. The largest species and probably the best known is *E. ingens*. Any of you who have been to Lotus Land will probably remember them. *E. cooperi* is smaller but can achieve 25 ft. (8 m.) in height with a trunk up to 10 ft. (3 m.) before the first branches. The branches can reach up to 10 ft. (3 m.) in length curving upwards. Branches are ribbed with 4-6 ribs, each with a continuous grey spine shield on its edge. Branches are segmented with each segment being wider at the base and tapering toward the end resembling an inverted heart. The species was first collected by Thomas Cooper in 1862. He sent a specimen to Kew Botanical Garden and it was described and named by his son-in-law N. E. Brown.

Large masses of yellowish green flowers are formed in Sept.-Oct. Clusters of three cyathia form on sessile cymes growing from each flower eye. Flowers are about 5 mm. across. The nectar glands produce copious nectar and many insects are attracted to it including honey bees. The “noor honey” that is produced is inedible by humans however because the toxic latex substance is carried over. A tiny taste will burn and irritate the mucous

membranes of the mouth and throat. The natives are known to use the latex from many species of Euphorbia to tip their hunting and war arrows. A small amount in the eye has been known to cause blindness. One should exercise great caution while working with these plants. Wear gloves and wash well afterwards. Euphorbia cooperi is found in one variety or other from South Africa (Natal province) through Swaziland, Transvaal, Mozambique, Zimbabwe,



Zambia, Malawi and Tanzania to the north. According to Bruce Hargreaves and Larry Leach there are at least three varieties found in this north to south swath across eastern Africa. *E. c. var. ussanguenensis* is found in the north, *E. c. var. calidicola* in the middle and *E. c.*

var. cooperi in the south. It prefers stony soils on valley slopes between 1000 - 4000 ft. (300 - 1400 m.)

Jack G. Reynolds

Brag Table

The Brag Table is a place to bring some-thing from your collection to share with the club. It doesn't have to be a prize-winning show plant, just something you like or have an interesting story about.

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

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

AND A WEBPAGE!

BakersfieldCactus.org

May 14, 2013



We had another great potluck at the Cal State Bakersfield Succulent Garden

Birthdays and Other Datelines

A Letter From Bruce



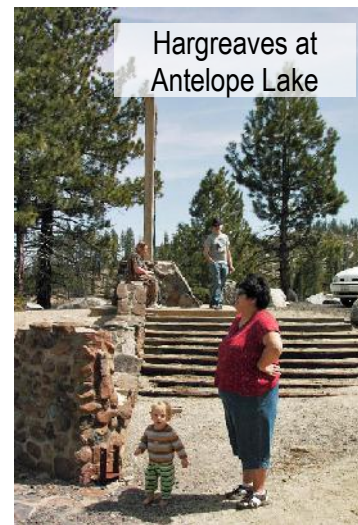
On 14th April the family ate at Seoul Korean Restaurant on Coffee Road for some different Soul Food. The food was good, though some thought a bit spicy, but the restaurant is rather small and we filled a bit of it.

We had phoned and were told, “no reservations”, but after we crowded in, we were told to make a reservation next time! The restaurant was my request as it was close to my birthday. On the 18th (my actual birthday) we had a quieter and smaller dinner at home.

On the 19th we drove all the way to Quincy. The Valley was dry, but there were lots of wild flowers in the hills above Sacramento: gold fields, poppies, lupines (annual & bush), purple vetch and broom. We reached Quincy at 6 and had dinner at the Plumas Café. Then we hurried on down the road and saw “Music Man, Jr.” with



Band Boys-Michael middle of second row



Hargreaves at Antelope Lake

our grandson Michael as one of the town kids in the band.

With an overnight in Greenville, we returned to Quincy and stayed outside with Matthew while they did another performance. They had a play area set up under an awning. Matthew was quite adept at drumming. We also got to watch various fire crews from around Plumas county play with fire hoses. We had an early supper at the Knook (not recommended).

Next day we drove up to Antelope Lake and watched a variety of birds: white pelicans, grebes,

cormorants, gulls, a stellar jay, and a turkey buzzard. There were only a few flowers: willows, manzanita and a mat of prickly-leaved blue ceanothus.

On the 22 we stayed at home with the grand kids and were floored by their computer skills. Even one-year old Matthew can manage a phone with images he can touch and sweep. Next day we had coffee in Quincy while Emily went to the dentist. There was a window in the wall with Pacman. John tried to get Matthew to use the control, but the darn kid went straight to the screen and tried to move things!

We left as soon as Emily was free and drove down the Feather River Canyon. There were quite a number of wildflowers: red penstemmon, bush and annual lupines, monkey flowers, sedums, duddeleys, white and blue ceanothus, poppies, yerba sante, brodiaeas broom, and purple loco weed. We returned to Bakersfield late at night.

On the 28th we celebrated Alice's 96th birthday at Wind Wolves Nature Preserve. The wild flowers were gone, but we saw a meadow lark perched on a rock and we watched a raven being mobbed by red-winged blackbirds. We had a picnic lunch with sandwiches from Subway (2 for the price of 1 before 9 a.m.) and watermelon. On the 29th (Alice's actual birthday we had brunch at Denny's (free on your birthday!)

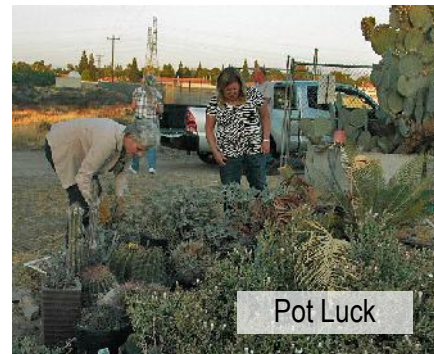
On 2nd May we went to Fresno and hear Petra Crist of Fallbrook talk about Namibia. It was a good talk, but halfway through the computer started throwing up blanks. She finally resorted to going back to her files and showing a disorganized set of pictures. I think all of us who have had similar experiences can sympathize.



On the 5th we went to Red Lobster to celebrate Anne's birthday. Her son Daniel surprised her by showing up all the way from South Dakota. On the 6th (her actual birthday) we had a mob

scene down at Lora's.

On the 14th we went to Berkshire School in Panama and heard Bakithi Kumalo of South Africa on the bass ukulele. We took Lora's son Joshua as he plays ukulele. They had a huge choir of school kids and the hall was full, but they had no discipline problem.



That evening we were at the BCSS potluck. The garden is looking great. You may have noticed that our son John and Anne's son Daniel were there. It was good weather, but moving it to May made for an early sundown. Maybe next year we can get a group picture before eating!

We went to the annual SPCA book sale and bought more books, despite the overload we already have. One interesting booklet was *Wild Edible & Poisonous Plants of Alaska* by Dr. Christine Heller, 1976, University of Alaska, Extension Service Pub. 28. Surprisingly, there are nine succulents listed! (None of them are cacti.) The best known (I have a whole book on it) is "Roseroot", *Sedum roseum*, which has edible stems and leaves. The root may be eaten or used as medicine.

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>

CLUB OFFICIALS

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



THE BCSS HAS A NEW FORUM!

<http://bakersfieldcactus.boards.net/>



It's easy to join (just an email and a pass-word) ... much more user-friendly than facebook! We now have new options and potential for building a wealth of member-based info!

Each member has their own board where they are in control ... share pictures of your plants, ideas that inspire you, even things that

make you laugh! It's your own cactus and succulent playground!

Ask questions, get info! Share your favorite succulent websites! <http://bakersfieldcactus.boards.net/>

ALSO...

BCSS EVENT & SALES NOTIFICATION LIST!

This past week I have had more than one request to be added to an email list which notifies folks who do not want to join the club, but would like to be notified of upcoming Events/Sales (such as the Garden Fest or our Annual Show & Sale)

If you know others who would like their email added to such a list, please forward their information to me and I will gladly keep a list going!

Going forward, if someone seems interested, feel free to get their email address to me or to share mine with them!

This could become a great opportunity for free advertisement!

tamlovescacti@gmail.com

thanks!

Tam Michel

SOME CHANGES AT THE CSSA SHOW AND SALE

As many of us know, the Huntington is undergoing a large construction phase which will, in the future, be very beneficial to those who visit their wonderful gardens and exhibits. As expected, there are a few short term issues being caused by the construction. One issue is that the annual Show and Sale have been moved to temporary locations for the duration of the construction. The Show will be held in the Botanic Center buildings which is where it was held in 2012. The Sale has been moved to the garden areas behind the Botanic Center, between that and the Children's gardens for those who know that location.

Due to the fact that our entire event will be held within the operating grounds of the facility, the Huntington staff has no option other than to charge their standard entry fees for attendees to our Show & Sale. Exceptions are made for members of the CSSA and the affiliated clubs. Please advise members of your club that they should wear their club identification badge or provide other means of identification as a member of your club when attending the CSSA Show & Sale. The CSSA will have volunteers at the entrance to the Gardens to help facilitate members' entry.

The 2013 Show & Sale is June 28, 29 & 30. The Show is open only on Saturday and Sunday, the 29 & 30th.

Buck Hemenway

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

June 11 BCSS Meeting

July 9 BCSS Meeting

Aug. 13 BCSS Meeting at a Restaurant to be decided

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

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

June 28-30 CSSA Annual Show & Sale. Huntington Botanical Gardens

August 17-18 Intercity Show & Sale. L.A. Arboretum