

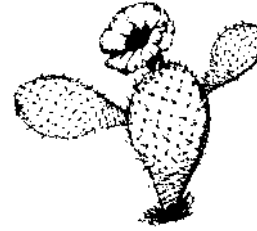
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Ferocactus cylindraceus
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 16 **July 2013** Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY



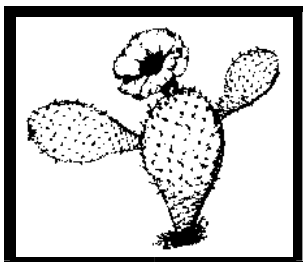
This Month's Program
**The Great
American South
West**
presented by
Woody Minnich

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 9
Olive Drive Church,
5500 Olive drive
at 6:30 PM

(Building 5, Room 504)

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



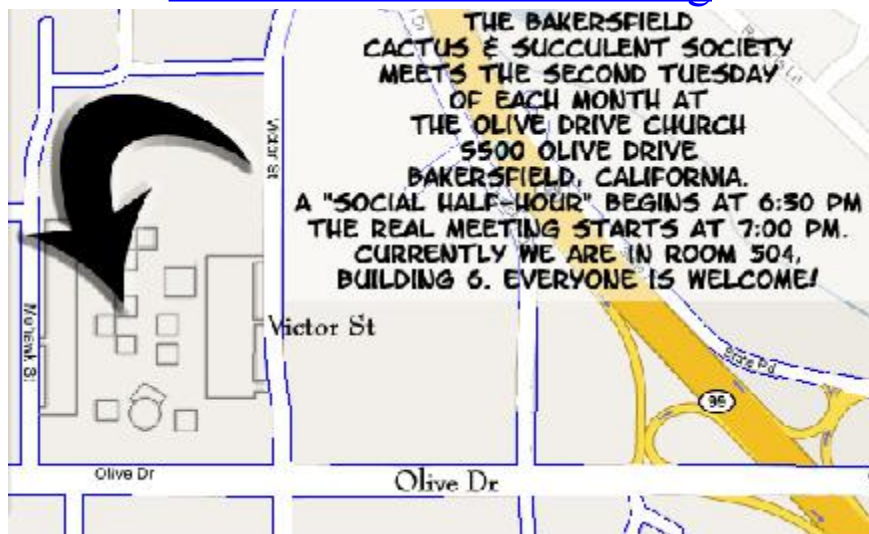
The Cactus Patch

Volume 16 Number 7
July 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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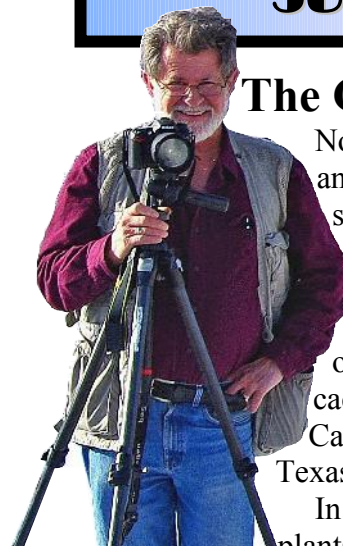
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JULY'S PROGRAM



The Great American Southwest

No where in the world is there a more dynamic and picturesque region than that of the American southwest. This romantic and historical part of the USA is marked with drama from its indigenous peoples and landscapes, to its grandest plants and creatures. For the purpose of this title we are including the seven most cactus and succulent rich states; Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas and Utah.

In these seven states there is a wealth of endemic plants and animals. Along with these plants and animals, one will often encounter some amazing and beautiful scenery. Due to the fact that many of our cacti and succulents are found in these unique environments, their special characteristics are frequently developed for adaptation and survival in these harsh places. The geology in this general region is very often tortured and dramatic, and thus the plants, animals and scenery are frequently nothing short of breath taking!

Each state will be addressed with the cacti and succulents that are primarily found in that state. A fair number of the taxa inhabit more than one state, but many species are often found in a geographically small area located only within a single state. These genera include some of the rarest and most difficult to cultivate cacti and succulents to be found in the trade today. Their environments range from extreme cold regions with blazing sun, to high elevations with meters of snow, and from very arid low deserts with furnace like temperatures to Mediterranean-like coastal niches.

We will not show all the recorded species of each genus but will focus on the most unique and classic representatives of the Cactaceae and the many other succulent genera. These genera will include; Agave, Ancistrocactus, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Carnegie, Coryphantha, Dasyliirion, Dudleya, Echinocereus,

Echinomastus, Echeveria, Epithelantha, Escobaria, Ferocactus, Graptopetalum, Lophocereus, Lophophora, Mammillaria, Neobesseya, Neolloydia, Nolina, Opuntia, Pediocactus, Sclerocactus, Stenocereus, Thelocactus, and Yucca. We will also take a look at some of the old plant names and their places, and stories in history.

Adding to the mystique of the Great American Southwest is a wealth of information, from the places where these plants were found to the people who found them. Names like Coloradoa, Navajoa, Toumeyia, and Utahia are just a few of the romantic and descriptive epithets used for some of these prized genera. There are many famous explorers and botanists who spent their entire lives to find these unique plants. These people include such prominent names as; Britton, Rose, Engelmann, Benson, Earle, Gentry and Weniger, just to mention a few.

This presentation, The Great American Southwest, is an epic story and view of this magic land. Many people from all over the world have been attracted to this special region, and for me, I will be sharing over 40 years of my field work in this most incredible part of our country.

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich 2012

[If you want to know more about Woody, see last month's Cactus Patch]

2014 BCSS CALENDAR

Deadline for photo submissions to be considered for the 2014 Calendar are due by July 9th. Email your photos to nancy@nancyharper.com with BCSS photos in the subject line. If email doesn't work for you, bring a disc with your photos to the July meeting.

DINNER AT HODEL'S

To welcome Woody Minnich to Bakersfield, we will gather at Hodel's Restaurant at about 5:15 on Tuesday, 9th July before the meeting. Please let me know if you are coming by Monday, 8th July, so I can make reservations and have enough table space for everyone. Thanks.

Polly Hargreaves
pollypearl@hotmail.com

Plant of the Month

Lapidaria margaretae



Using the random draw again this month, I opened my copy of Popular Exotic Cacti in Colour by Brian and Edgar Lamb and it fell

open to this species. After a brief look at the picture I realized that I was not looking at a cactus but rather a Mesembryanthemum. So much for the book title. Chance had once again directed me to an interesting plant of the month.

This is one of the dwarf stemless "Mesembs" that grow in Namaqualand (Western So. Africa). The range map shows them occurring along the Orange River that separates So. Africa from Namibia. Plants form clusters of heads close to the ground. Each head is made up of 6-8 pairs of succulent leaves. Leaves are 1/2 to 3/4 in. (15-20 mm.) long with a flat upper surface and a curved lower one having a triangular cross section. They are usually a pale pinkish gray in color. According to Lamb, they want very sandy soil and little water. They should be left dry all winter and can survive 40 F if dry. Flowers bloom in the spring and are bright canary yellow, about 2.5 in. (3 cm.) across. They look very cactuslike. This plant is easy to cultivate, growing either from seed or cuttings. It likes filtered sun but in nature generally is found in full sun in stoney soil.



Jack G. Reynolds



The Gathering of the Nuts and other Memories

A Letter From Bruce

“I’m a little Acorn brown,
lying on the cold, cold ground
Everybody steps on me,
that is why I’m cracked you see;
I’m a Nut x (lateral click), Nut x, Nut xx.”

On the 18th of May we saw an art exhibit called “The Yellow Brick Road”. It was, of course, paintings of Oz scenes. Unlike the previous Alice exhibit which was a one woman show, however, it featured a number of artists. I took the tin man made of tin cans which I bought at last year’s BCSS yard sale and posed by a painting of the Tin Woodman of Oz. Of course I had to help myself to one of the candy Tin Man hearts. (Long ago, I played the role of the Tin Man at BHS.)

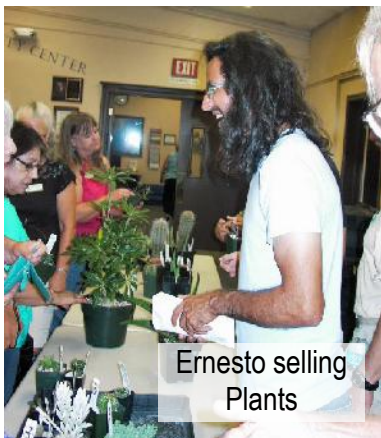


Bruce and Tin woodmen

At the same time John went to a caving conference at Millerton Lake. There is a cave with a river that empties into the lake! Who knew? I wish I had been there for one of the presentations. The speaker showed pictures of a cave in Australia

which winds among giant stacks of Stromatolites (fossil blue green bacteria) and the roots of giant Boabs (Australian Baobabs). I couldn’t make up a better fantasy cave if I tried!

On the 6th of June we heard Ernesto Sandoval of UC Davis speak on South African Bulbs (and other geophytes – he ended with a tuberous rooted Oxalis). He



Ernesto selling Plants

showed too many pictures of cultivated specimens and not enough habitat. He also used a lot of scientific names which I’m sure were not familiar to a succulent group. It was, however, a fantastic talk from my standpoint.



BCSS Meeting

On the 11th we heard Jack Reynolds talk on the Chinese version of bonsai at the Beijing Botanic Garden. He did an excellent job of explaining the art form for those of us who are not that familiar with it. The repetition in the pictures, however, could have been eliminated by a little more selection.

On the 15th James et al. arrived at 1 a.m. Emily and her mother and brother went to the graduation of another brother at UCSB. James and the grandkids and the dog Frank (of Emily’s mother) stayed with us. I warned of a huge broken branch hanging like a sword of Damocles from the pecan tree in back. John went out and pulled it down and we spent the morning cutting it up.

After lunch Anne and Lora took me to the KC Nut Festival to join the decorated hat contest. They had knitted acorn caps and I put home-grown pecans in the hat band of my Mad Hatter’s hat to become the nutty hatter. Only four other contestants showed up and the judge never did appear. While waiting, Anne started singing “I’m a Little Acorn” and Lora and I joined in. After half an hour of waiting we all got T-shirts and were declared winners.



Hats at Nut Festival

The Festival has been declared a great success although only the Almond and Pistachio growers put on a real showing. The walnuts were not conspicuous. I’ve heard that next year they will have a different nut instead –perhaps pecans? It’s a real shame about the walnuts. When I was growing up in Stockton we had an annual gathering of the nuts at my grandfather’s house. He had walnut trees and all the relatives came to help in the harvest.

Afterwards we had Chinese dinner – the only fast food available. In Bakersfield my mother has two pecan trees and the harvesting is left to me.

Next day we gathered at Lora's house for a Father's Day feast - all 18 of us. John not only prepared the meat on his smoker, he presented me with a small greenhouse for our backyard (to go with the larger one already there). That evening Polly's sister Ginny and husband Bob stopped by on the way from Fresno to Joshua Tree.



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>

THE BCSS HAS A NEW FORUM!

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

WE HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE!

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

AND A WEBPAGE!

BakersfieldCactus.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

June 11, 2013



Our next Show & Sale at the Golden State Mall is coming up in October and we need to get ready for it. It was brought up at the meeting that perhaps we should consider having more vendors to sell pots/plants. Lots of questions followed but nothing was decided.

Also brought up was the club calendar. Nancy says that if we want to do a 2014 calendar then you need to get your pictures to her by the end of the next meeting.

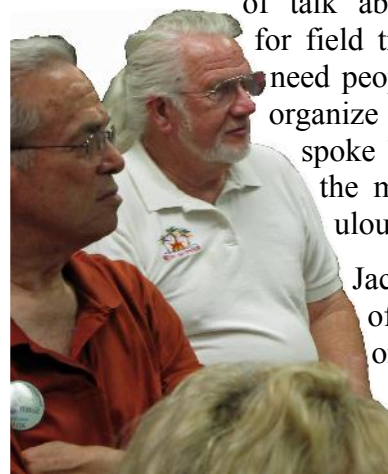
Sidney & Tam talked a bit about the BCSS exhibit for the Kern County Fair. There was also lots

of talk about places for field trips – we

need people to help organize these or they won't get going. Sidney also spoke briefly about the Yard Tour that a few of the members went on. Apparently it was fabulous!

Jack Reynolds then took us on a field trip to, of all places, China. He gave us a great talk on bonsai as he showed pictures from the Beijing Bonsai Garden. We saw some outstanding, and unusual bonsai (some quite large). Thanks to Jack for filling in

with this great show at the last minute!



Brag Table

Leasha Sutlif brought a weird cactus – a grafted monstrose form of *Copiapoa tenuissima*. The new branches start out black and then turn green. She bought it from Woody.

Sidney Kelly brought a cactus of a different color(s). They are new on the market (I had just seen them at Home Depot). They have glow-in-the-dark shades and are a variation on the “Thumb cactus”, *Mammillaria vetula* subsp. *gracilis* var. *fragilis*. There is a fine print warning that the spines will grow out with normal colors. From this Sidney (and I) felt they were merely spray painted. The May-June issue of the *Cactus & Succulent Journal* (U.S.) has an article on these “Kosmik Kakti” (referred to as *Mammillaria*



‘Buenavista’) by D. Russell Wagner. The colorant is said to be absorbed through the roots in a fashion similar to that which we used to produce bicolored carnations when I was a kid: split the flower stalk base and stick each half in differently colored water. At any rate, I think the artificially colored

cacti are atrocious. Strangely, the Italian producer of these says they will appear on the US market in 2-3 years time! How did they get here already?

Sidney also brought a blooming plant of *Echinocereus*



viridiflorus v. *viridiflorus*, a plant named for its green flowers.

Jack Kelly brought a *Pachypodium lealii* subsp. *Saundersii* v. *compactum* from Zimbabwe to show its’ small size.

He also brought a blooming plant of *Adenium arabicum* because of its’ beautiful flowers,.

Frank Melvin bought a mesemb which we decided was *Delosperma echinatum*. It had yellow flowers. He also brought a *Euphorbia ‘gloria’* which was blooming. This is a relative of the American Poinsettia which I have seen at Home Depot.

Judy Domingos brought a “Jade” Bonsai in keeping with the talk. She mentioned SMOLA (Succulents as a Medium of Living Art), a term coined by Rudy Lime. For more on this see *Pachyformes II- Bonsai Succulents* by Philippe de Vosjoli and Rudy Lime.

I brought an ad for *Nopalea* a supposed “miracle drink from the fruit of *Opuntia ficus indica*. (The picture looked more like a beavertail cactus.) I used to have a patch of prickly pears at my father’s farm near Lamont. We juiced the fruits using a steam extractor so the glochids stayed with the pulp, but didn’t know we were drinking a miraculous fluid. At any rate it’s a lot cheaper to grow your own.

Polly brought a picture of the plant of the month, *Euphorbia cooperi*, with our son James back in 1989. It was published in Vol. 8 of the *Euphorbia Journal*(p.46).

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

July 9 BCSS Meeting: The Great American Southwest presented by Woody Minnich

Aug. 13 BCSS Meeting at a Restaurant to be decided

Sept 10 BCSS Meeting

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

August 17-18 Intercity Show & Sale. L.A. Arboretum 9am – 5pm
Nov 2-3 San Gabriel C&SS show and Sale. 9am – 4pm LA Arboretum