

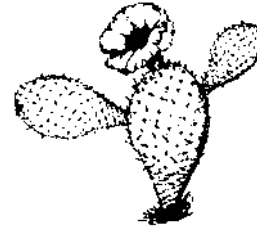
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Stephen Cooley, editor
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Tephrocactus geometricus
at the 2013 Intercity Show
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 16 **September 2013** Number 9

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

**Next Meeting
September 10th**

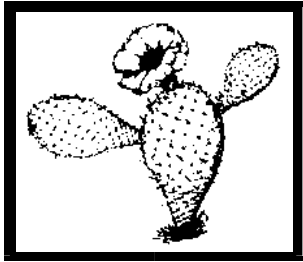
Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 10

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 9

September 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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BCSS BOARD MEETING

Carol, Sidney, Jack & I met for a board meeting last week. we discussed the upcoming programs. October is an important meeting. We would REALLY like each member to bring one plant to the Show & Sale. On October 8th the club will provide soil & top dressings for all of us to repot a favorite plant which might need a little help. The S&S is the following weekend

Sidney will discuss the Kern County Fair display at this meeting. There will be a meeting later in the month for those interested in forming the Christmas Parade committee.

Sidney also has a suggestion for Publicity. It is perhaps too big of a job for one person? We have the Show & Sale, Yard Sale, and Garden Fest to publicize. I am not sure if the club has a running notice in the paper re: monthly meetings or not.

Our Field Trip Committee perhaps needs some new energy. Now that the summer is nearly over, it is a great time to plan for autumn/winter/spring trips. If we got together & planned a trip or two per month, ahead of time, members might be better able to plan for them. All suggestions are welcome. Carol has moved, so we will not be having any apple picking trips this autumn, sad to say.

We also have the upcoming elections to consider. We will need a new President & Librarian for sure. Please consider these interesting positions for 2014.

The next board meeting will be on September 18, 4:45 @ Barnes & Noble

Thank you
Lynn McDonald

Plant of the Month

Euphorbia *ammak*



I watched a little of a movie called “Salmon Fishing in the Yemen” a few weeks ago. I remember thinking to

myself that that seemed a most unlikely possibility. I did not watch the entire movie because the story did not interest me very much. It did start me thinking about the curious juxtaposition of salmon or trout and hot climates. I remembered that our own Owens Valley is a desert but with the Sierras nearby trout are found in its streams and if they ran to the sea salmon would also be expected to be found. The streams of southern California had steelhead and salmon runs a hundred years ago. Thinking along these lines one can begin to blend succulents and cold water species of fish. I went looking for a likely succulent and found it in my own collection, *Euphorbia ammak*.

E. ammak, is native to Saudi Arabia and Yemen but mostly it lives in Yemen. There is a good article in vol. 5 of the *Euphorbia Journal* by Ulrich Deil & Klaus Muller-Hohenstein on the *Euphorbias* of “Arabia Felix” (Happy Arabia) as the Romans called it. It is the most humid part of the Arabian peninsula and as such has agriculture and a stable population. It also has mountains which are up to 10,000 ft. (3000 m.) high with snow in winter. They plot a transect through the mountains and the elevations for ten species of *Euphorbia*. *E. ammak* is found from 4500-6000 ft. (1500-2000m.), growing in rocky soils among acacia trees. The

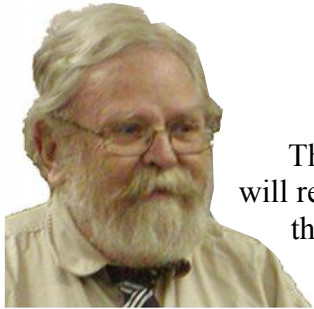
cover picture for vol. 5 of the *Euphorbia Journal* pictures this association as well as the mists that sometimes occur there.



The “trees” grow up to 30 ft. (10 m.) tall with a candelabra pattern. Stems are 4-6 in (10-15 cm.) wide with 4-5 ribs. The ribs have undulating edges and are armed with pairs of dark brown spines up to 0.5 in. (1cm.) long. During the wet summers leaves will sprout from the growing tips. Flowers are yellow-green and about 0.5 in. (1 cm.) across. They have 5 glands and a three parted pistil and ovary. They are easily propagated from cuttings and grow rapidly. Mine easily makes 6 in. per year if fed and watered during the growing season.

The most popular variety seen in cultivation is variegated yellow-green. A note on the Cactus Art web site says that many of the variegated plants sold as *E. ammak* are really *E. candelabrum* v. *variegata*. What is a poor collector to do? I guess I will have to wait for some bloom as mine has never bloomed in the seven years I have had it.

Jack G. Reynolds



Books, etc.

A Letter From Bruce

This has been a relatively slow month, so I will review a few books and journals. Going all the way back to the May-June issue of To the Point (CSSA Newsletter) I was saddened to see four leading cactophiles with the title “In memory of...” I met two of them back in 1987 when I used my study leave from the National University of Lesotho to do a lecture tour in the US. When I gave a talk in Watsonville, we stayed with Frank and Naomi Bloss. More recently, they spoke at the Fresno club in Feb. 2009 (see attached photo). I’m glad we had one last chance to meet with Frank then. At the end of my lecture tour I spoke at the CSSA convention in Tempe, Arizona and met Sam Williams (see attached photo) I met him again at the convention in Tucson in 2009.

On a happier note, we went to a book sale at the Beale Library on the 11th of July and managed to get a lot of reference books such as the 1st edition of The Jepson Manual – Higher Plants of California (only \$1!). On the 16th we went to Russo’s Books for the 50th wedding anniversary of the owners. We bought a book on discount.

At the July meeting I mentioned that the Lily family had been



Bruce, Dr. S.J. Williams(Windhoek, Namibia), Brian Kemble(Walnut Creek, CA) & Sam Williams (Sacramento, CA)



Fresno Club

split into a dozen families. The recent issue of Alsterworthia (a journal on Aloes, Gasterias and Haworthias) has an article by Gordon Rowley on the rearranging of Aloes and Haworthias. The genus *Aloe* has been

split into four genera with some species lumped in with Haworthias. They are as follows:

- Aloidendron (trees)
- Aloiampelos (scramblers and climbers)
- Kumara=Aloe plicatilis
- Aloe (most Aloes)

The genus Haworthia has been split into three:

- Haworthia (leaves soft, not spine-tipped)
- Haworthiopsis (leaves firm, spine-tipped; flowers bilabiate) [four Aloes are included]
- Tulista (leaves spiraled or twisted in 5s, spine -tipped; flowers tubular) [8 Aloes included]

On the 1st of August we went to Fresno and sat through a presentation by four members. (Actually it wasn’t bad- Ruth Saludes kept the others in line time wise. Larry Homan spoke on how to stage and grow succulents in ceramic pots. Susan Cook spoke on a “poor man’s greenhouse”-a car port! Fred Gaumer spoke on how to repot and move plants. Finally Ruth Saludes spoke of displays of groups



Explosion

(succulent wreaths etc.).

On the 3rd Polly and I got up early and watched the explosion of the PG&E power plant from a safe distance on Rosedale. The news media keep referring to it as an implosion, but, obviously, it wasn't. That Sunday our family had lunch at Arby's which overlooks the site. Afterwards Polly & I drove over to Lowe's to see where people were injured. It was much closer than we were. We then went and tried out the new Parkway.



On the 8th John came back from Eastern Europe. Among other things he went to an international caving conference in Brno, Czech Republic and some caves in the Ukraine which have gypsum crystals. The pictures are fantastic – but they are only a few among nearly 3000.

On the 13th, of course, we had dinner at La Costa Mariscos. The food was excellent, but the room was a bit warm and noisy. Next day Polly and I went to Yokuts Park for the demonstration on rationalizing immigration. There were Sikhs in turbans, Koreans with drums, Jews, marchers with mariposas (butterflies) and a pseudo Aztec with pheasant feathers. I think it's interesting that the news media keep giving the small number of anti immigration demonstrators equal space.



Bruce J. Hargreaves

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

Brag Table

The Brag Table is a place to bring a plant or other item of interest to club and show it off. It doesn't have to be a prize worthy show plant, just something that you're proud of or has a story about it. Come Share something with the club!

THE BCSS HAS A FORUM!

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

AND 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

August 13, 2013



PANORAMA VISTA PRESERVE

On Saturday, September 14, from 8:00 AM-10:00 AM, Kern Audubon will be having a workday at the Preserve. This begins another year for you to give two hours of time to help the plants. Even though we took the summer off, the weeds did not! Nor did the ground squirrels! Jobs to do this time: weeding, pruning, planting, and general maintenance. What to bring?-gloves, water, sunhat, shovel/hoe. Meet at the gate at the east end of Roberts Lane. Andy Honig will be in charge this time. You can contact him at andym5@bak.rr.com

Do You Have A Flair With Word Processing?

If so, then perhaps you will consider becoming the Newsletter Editor for the Cactus Patch. In January 1998 Gordon Sanford published our first newsletter, establishing a template for the informative and enjoyable newsletter that we now have. Just two years later I took over as editor and have been putting together the Cactus Patch for the last 14 years. This year will be my last. If you consider trying your hand at the newsletter know that my experience has been that there are many who contribute content each month, substantially reducing the workload. I am sure that someone in the club is capable of doing this, so don't be shy.

Stephen Cooley

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

Sept 10 BCSS Meeting

Sept 18-29 Kern County Fair

Oct 12-13 BCSS Show & Sale. Golden State Mall, 3201 F St, Bakersfield

OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Nov 2-3 San Gabriel C&SS show and Sale. 9am – 4pm LA Arboretum