

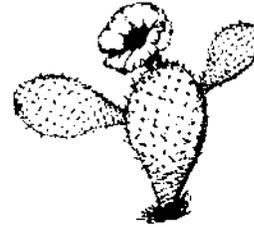
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



*Yucca whipplei*  
In the Kern River Canyon  
photo by Lynn McDonald

INTERNET EDITION

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 16 **October 2013** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Get Prepared for the Show & Sale

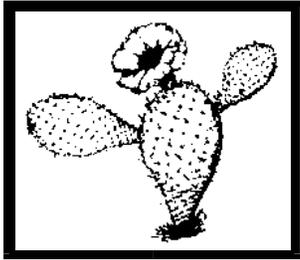
### Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:30 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

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



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 16 Number 10

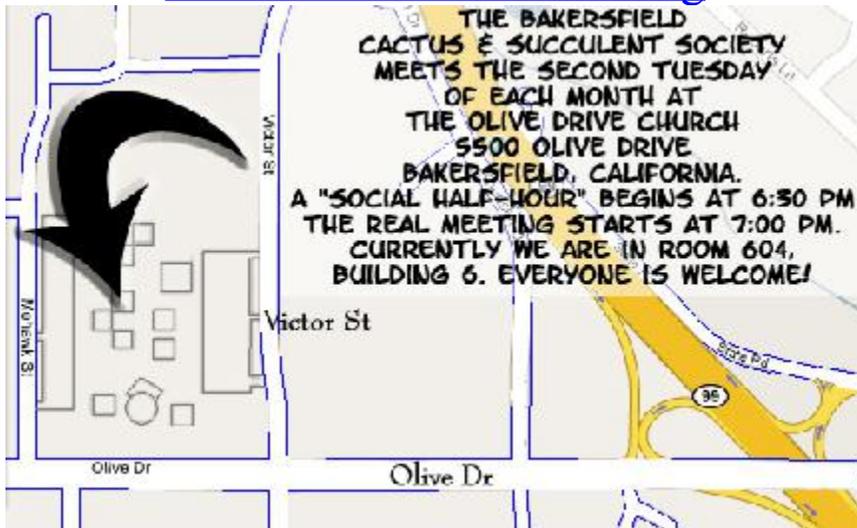
October 2013

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](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)



## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

We all are most likely enjoying the change in weather. It surely made going to the Kern County Fair a lot nicer! Thank you to Sidney and all the others who brought plants and helped to set up our display (not sure whom all that was) It looked really nice with the all-white background. I believe the Rawlings family won a prize or two in the judged area. Jack Reynolds is always there to enter plants in the Bonsai division, and give Bonsai care and growing tips to Fair goers.

I liked watching the display & video interview with Alice Rankin Beard, honoring her life as a long-time Kern County resident (from Walker Basin), horsewoman, rancher, mother & teacher. She was one of my PE teachers at BHS. Bill & I just attended our 50 year reunion from BHS, so a lot of latent memories are popping up in my mind.

I will (not) sadly be in Hawaii October 8, so vice president Nancy will coordinate this meeting. Please to bring in a plant to clean up & stage, so you each will have a plant to bring to our Show & Sale October 12-13.

Saturday September 28, I took an outing up to Weldon for the annual Turkey Vulture Festival. We had been to a Dodgers game the previous evening, so I did not wake up in time to drive up early enough to see the birds kettling up and away on their migration to the desert & beyond. But, I enjoyed seeing friends and listening to some fine music. The weather was perfect too.

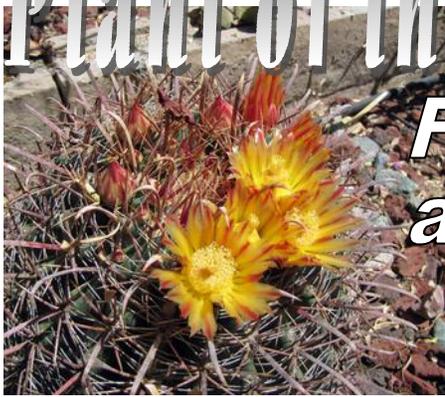
See you all on Sunday at the Show & Sale.

Lynn

## **OCTOBER'S PROGRAM**

October's meeting will be a 'working' meeting to help us get ready for the Show & Sale. Bring in a plant that you want to clean up, repot, identify or in any other way make presentable for the show. There will be some tops dressing there but if you can bring some of your own to share that would be great. Club members can give you some advice on how to make your plant look great. I am unsure what the club can provide so bring in some squirt bottles, paper towels or anything else you think you will need.

# Plant of the Month



## *Ferocactus acanthodes*

Recent columns have had us all over the planet but now it is time to return to plants that live closer to home. Accordingly I have selected *Ferocactus acanthodes* as plant of the month.

This is a large “barrel cactus” also called “Biznaga” and “Compass Cactus”. The latter name comes from its habit of leaning toward the strongest light which is usually the south or southwest. There are many species in the genus, Innes and Glass list thirty and Norman Roberts in his Baja California Plant Field Guide lists fourteen. Plants are usually solitary and may grow to a height of 10 ft. (3 m.) and a width of 2.5 ft. (70 cm.) with 20-30 ribs. Areoles are about 0.75 in. (20 mm.) apart and armed with 9-13 2-5 in. (5-12 cm.) radial spines and 1-4 flat central spines about 4 in. (10 cm.) long and hooked on the end. Spines are in a wide range of colors, white, yellow, orange, to brown.



Flowers are yellow to orange about 2 in. (5 cm.) long and diurnal. They are produced in May and June. Fruits are about 2 in. (5 cm.) in diameter and yellow-green in color. Seeds are reddish brown to black in color. *F. acanthodes* ranges from Sierra Juarez in Baja California to Sonora and southern California and Arizona below 1000 ft. (300 m.). It likes a well drained gritty soil with some organic components. Innes and Glass suggest full sun and minimum temp. of 50F.

Jack G. Reynolds

# Brag Table

Richard Rawlings brought a “Pink Butterfly” which is a cultivar of *Kalanchoe degremontiana* which has unique pink plantlets on the leaf edges. He says the plantlets do not grow readily as do other mother of millions.

Darlene Wyatt brought a Christmas cactus which hopefully will have red flowers.



Sydney Kelly brought a *Pereskia aculeata* which has bronze leaves. It is young, but will eventually grow to tree size and bear rose-like flowers. It is the least succulent of all cacti.

Polly brought a *Puya* sp. with blue flowers. It was a young one (we have a huge one at home) but already has nasty thorns on the leaves that are reputed to catch sheep.

I brought a picture of the plant of the month, *Euphorbia ammak*, which I took on the Canaries. The plant is actually from

Yemen on the opposite side of Africa. I was fortunate to find it in fruit as this distinguishes it from similar trees. The fruits are pale yellow and three-lobed.



## CLUB OFFICIALS

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

## **OUR 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**

Our Annual Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale is coming up on October 12 and 13 at the Golden State Mall. This is by far the biggest event we do each year and member support is crucial to its success. Our previous Shows have all been very successful – we've had plenty of plants in the show and plenty of plants to sell. We've always had a good number of people coming to see our show (even when it was at the East Hills Mall). The responses from the people that came have always been complimentary. Now is the time to start getting ready for the show!

This year, as every year, it is important that we get the word out about our show. Download a flyer from [BakersfieldCactus.org](http://BakersfieldCactus.org) and pass it around. Please distribute these! Maynard has ordered some magnetic signs that you can put on your car as you drive around. He will have these at our next meeting.

The most important element of our show is the plants themselves. Our show has always been different from most others in that its emphasis has been on education and not competition. We need a large variety of plants to show the public the great diversity that exists among the succulents. Many people are unaware of just how many weird and wonderful plants there are. In considering which plants you might want to bring to the show, remember that your most 'ordinary' plant may be extraordinary to those viewing the show. No plant is too small to bring, it just needs to look nice. Start cleaning up your pots (a little vegetable oil or WD-40 can make both clay and plastic pots look like new) and potting up your good plants into better pots if they need it. Clean out some of the dirt and leaves that have blown into the spines. Get rid of any mealybugs/aphids/scale that may be on your plants. Come to our next meeting and take home some of the top dressing we have. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a plant look good.

Another thing to keep in mind is that we need to have members available to talk to the public about the plants and about our club. This requires a lot of hours, but there are plenty of members to share the workload and you don't have to be an expert, just an enthusiast. Everyone has something to contribute, let's make this our best show ever!

## **BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

14th Annual

### *Show & Sale*

***Saturday, October 12    10 am to 5 pm***  
***Sunday, October 13    11 am to 3 pm***

**Golden State Mall  
Bakersfield**

## CLASSIFICATIONS

### DIVISION I: **CACTI**

- Ariocarpus, Obregonia, Astrophytum
- Ferocactus, Echinocactus
- Echinocereus, Wilcoxia
- Opuntia, Tephrocactus, Pterocactus, Pereskiaopsis
- Mammillaria
- Copiapoa, Gymnocalycium, Matucana
- Lobivia, Echinopsis, Mila, Acanthocalycium
- Rebutia, Sulcorebutia, Notocactus, Parodia
- Melocactus, Discocactus, Uebelmannia
- All other genera

### DIVISION II: **OTHER SUCCULENTS**

- Mesembs: Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria, other
- Asclepiads: Caralluma, Ceropegia, Hoya, Huernia, Pseudolithos, Trichocaulon, other
- Crassulas: Adromischus, Aeonium, Sedum, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dudleya, Echeveria, Graptopetalum Kalanchoe, Sedum, etc.
- Curcubits: Kedrostis, Cephalopentandra, Zygosityos, etc.
- Asters: Senecio, Kleinia, Othonna, etc.
- Aloes: Aloe, Gasteria, Haworthia
- Euphorbia
- Other Euphorbs: Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, etc.
- Portulacaceae: Ceraria, Anacampseros, Talinum, etc.
- Pelargonium, Sarcocaulon
- Agave, Sansevieria, Yucca
- Bromeliads: Dyckia, Tillandsia, Abromitiella
- Geophytes: Oxalis, Bulbine, other bulbs
- All other genera

### DIVISION III: **CAUDICIFORMS**

- Euphorbs: Jatropha, Euphorbia
- Asclepiads: Raphionacme, Brachystelma
- Monocots: Beaucarnia, Dioscorea, Calibanus
- Aizoaceae: Trichodiadema, Mestoklema
- Apocynaceae: Adenium, Pachypodium
- Moraceae: Ficus, Dorstenia
- Vitaceae: Cyphostemma, Cissus
- All other genera

### DIVISION IV: **CRESTS, MONSTROSE, VARIEGATES**

- Crests, Monstrose, Variegates

### DIVISION V: **ARRANGEMENTS**

- Cactus, Other Succulent and Dish Gardens

### DIVISION VI: **ALLIED INTERESTS**

- Faux Succulents
- Photography
- Crafts
- Other

## SHOW RULES

- 1 The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society Show is open to anyone with an interest in succulent plants.
- 2 All entries will be placed in the appropriate class with a completed entry card by the exhibitor.
- 3 The show chair(s) may combine categories, rearrange the plants, or move plants to different categories to improve the show.
- 4 **All plants must be free of pests and disease**, and be in presentable condition. The show chair(s) may remove any unsuitable for the show.
- 5 Show hours must be followed; plants may not be removed until the close of the show.
- 6 Collections consist of at least 4 individually potted plants.
- 7 The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society will not assume responsibility for loss or damage to property.

## SHOW HOURS

Plant Set Up: Friday, Oct. 11 late afternoon  
Show: Saturday, Oct. 12 10:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Sunday, Oct. 13 11:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Take Down: Sunday, Oct. 13 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

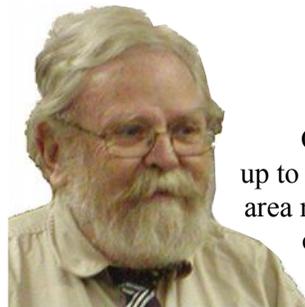
The Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society meets:

6:30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month at:  
Olive Drive Church  
5500 Olive Drive (enter on Victor)

For information, see  
[bakersfieldcactus.org](http://bakersfieldcactus.org)

## Mountains and Desert

A Letter From Bruce



On the 16<sup>th</sup> of August, John, Polly and I drove up to Greenville. Next morning we drove out to an area near Taylorsville to watch Emily and James come in on a 10 km run. It was part of a three part run called running with the bears. The longest stretch was a qualifying run for the

Boston marathon. As an in-between run there was also a half marathon. At the end there was a flyover by military jets.

That evening we drove over to Quincy to watch a production of Annie with Emily and her brother David as various bit parts. It was quite political with lots of mention of Coolidge and a very tall actor as F.D.R.

On Sunday we went to the Plumas -Sierra County Fair in Quincy. Michael and James had wrist bands which allowed for an infinite number of rides, and I think they over did it. The rest of us watched Alaskan pig racing and toured various exhibits. I kept looking for the horticulture exhibit because the local paper had an article about an 87 year old woman who had a mysterious succulent on display. I asked, but no-one seemed to know where it was.

Finally we all went to a little circus for the last show of the day. There behind it was the horticulture display! The mysterious succulent was *Ullucus tuberosus*, a twining plant with somewhat succulent leaves and red edible tubers. They used to be quite common, but I

hadn't seen one lately. There were three entries in the cactus section, one of which was a euphorbia! Back at the circus, Zippy the clown had all the kids join him and then pulled me out of the audience to wear a Santa hat. (I thought I was incognito!) Michael got a prize can of spam

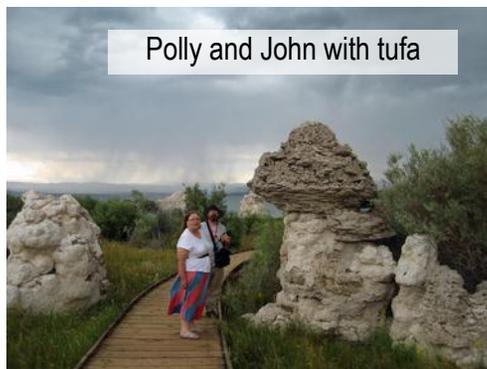


for his dancing.

That evening we had a thunderstorm as we headed back to Greenville. We saw smoke and it was announced on the news that over a dozen fires had been ignited! It's a good thing it didn't happen on Friday as it was in the mountains around Taylorsville and the smoke would have ruined the Marathon.

Next day John, Polly and I set off toward home. Instead of the usual valley run we headed off toward the desert. Our first discovery was at a rest stop just outside Beckwourth. A flock of turkey buzzards was resting on the ground waiting for the sun to heat things up. At the rest stop there was a model representing the hundreds of rock lined pits which had been used by Native Americans to roast the tubers of camas lilies and brodieas for food. The display showed the area with a meadow of wild flowers in spring.

Next stop was in Reno where we had breakfast at the Bonanza Casino. As with most casinos, the quality was good and the price low. We filled up with gas at Carson City before heading back into California. (Nevada taxes are much lower.) We had lunch at the historic Bridgeport Inn. John insisted on visiting the ghost town of Bodie, so we headed east on 270. Just as we got to the end of the paved road we saw billows of smoke and met traffic coming at us. We finally flagged down a car and learned that there was a fire nearby and Bodie was closed.



Polly and John with tufa

From there we went back west and then south to Mono Lake. I had not seen the lake since the 50s when our family drove over Tioga Pass from Yosemite. The tufa towers were not visible then and I was amazed to see how much L.A. has drained the lake. The visit ended with a freezing rain. We ended the day in Bishop where we

stayed at the Vagabond Inn. Be warned, prices are higher there!

Next morning we got an early start and drove east on 168 and then north on White Mountain Road. We finally reached the bristlecone pines

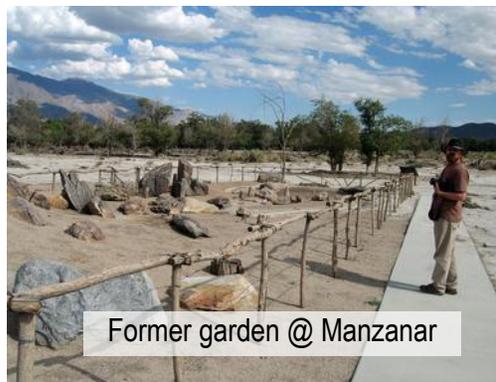


Santa and Zippy

at 10,000 feet in the Schulman Grove. I had intended to take the one mile hike to a lesser grove, but John led me down the Methuselah Walk as that grove has the oldest known tree. Unfortunately it was a 4.5 mile hike with a vertical change of 800 feet. It was quite exhausting at that altitude, but ultimately worth it. Polly wisely waited back at the information center.

We had lunch at the Country Kitchen in Big Pine and then drove on south to Manzanar, the site of a WWII internment camp for Americans of Japanese ancestry. I was astounded at the scale of the place. Despite the ugliness of the internment, there were positive signs. Baseball fields, a school and gardens had been organized by the residents. We visited the rocks remaining from one such garden. Among many restorations underway, this will be returned to its former glory.

As if that wasn't enough, we then made a stop at Fossil Falls, a volcanic fall frozen in time. It is just north of Little Lake on 395. I had been by it many times but didn't know it was there. I suggested going



Former garden @ Manzanar

over Walker Pass, but fortunately this was vetoed as, unknown to us, the Kern Canyon Road was closed for quite a while! Just north of Mojave we were treated to a sunset which included bright pink clouds resembling flying saucers. (Had they escaped from the now officially recognized area 51 in Nevada?) We had a quick stop for food and gas in Tehachapi and arrived late and

exhausted in Bakersfield.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> I began jury duty. It was a boring case involving a fight in the prison at Wasco. The only good part was the long weekend. (We got both Friday and Monday off!) Next time I'll plead physical hardship. I'm too old to sit there all day.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September we drove up to Fresno for the annual members' plant sale. The best offer was three 2-foot trees of *Pachypodium rutenbergianum* for \$10 each. (I bought one.) Of course we were back in Bakersfield for the meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>. I hope we can



John & Bristlecones

get a good calendar out of the pictures we saw. In my defense, the sedum picture with all the grass was a habitat shot. That's the way they were growing in the Feather River Canyon. Those of us who were outside just before the meeting were treated to a magnificent sunset with pink and blue rays. (There was a picture in the Californian the next day for those who missed it.) It reminded me of sunsets we saw in Malawi where they still practiced slash and burn agriculture.

While all this was going on, Anne visited Daniel in Show Low, Arizona where he is working with Apaches. They then flew to Maine and took a four day schooner trip. They ate lots of lobster. Lora and Angela went to Hawaii for a short reunion with Island friends and then Lora flew to South Dakota where Joshua is living in Daniel's old house. It was Joshua's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 1 September.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

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

## Field Trip: O See 'Em Grow Nursery

We will be having a small outing/field trip to the O See 'Em Grow nursery on November 2nd, a Saturday. We can have coffee/snack at her little café. I had hoped to have a meeting there, but I can understand shoe does not want to stay open later, after a full day's work, and it is getting a little cooler now. We can determine the time at the Oct. meeting & I will inform her.

Lynn



September's meeting started with talk about planning the KC Fair display and the need for people to help with judging and such. We also talked a bit about the upcoming Show & Sale.

The rest of the meeting was used to pick out photos for the new Calendar. Thanks to everyone who contributed pictures!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

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

Nov 2 BCSS Field Trip to "O See 'Em Grow" nursery, 1416 Calloway Dr, Bakersfield

### OTHER CACTUS AND SUCCULENT EVENTS

Oct 26,-27 Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale at the San Diego Botanic Gardens (formerly Quail Botanical Gardens) in Encinitas.

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