

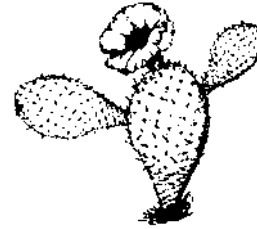
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Stephen Cooley, editor  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com



Jill Brennan's  
*Gonolobus (Matelea) cyclophyllus*  
photo by Stephen Cooley

INTERNET EDITION

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 16 **December 2013** Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Annual Potluck & Silent Auction

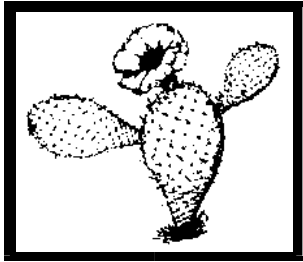
### Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 10

Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:00 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

**Be sure to  
note the  
earlier  
meeting time!**



# The Cactus Patch

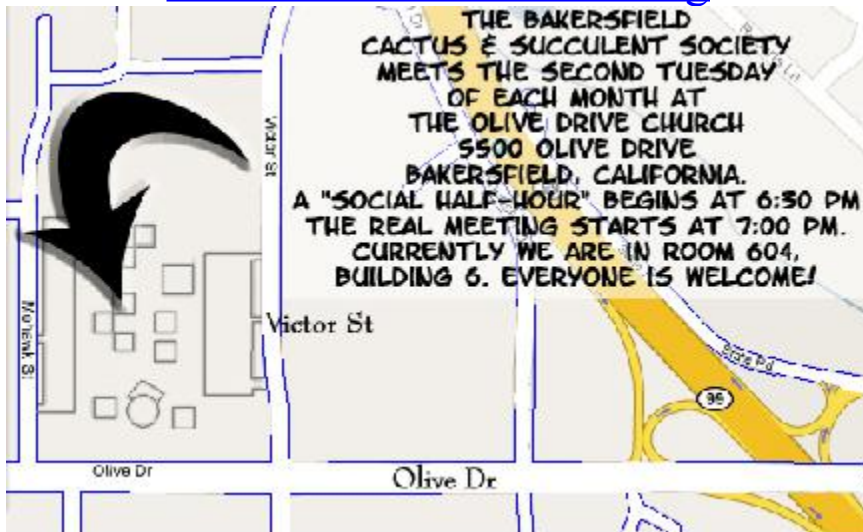
Volume 16 Number 12  
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The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield  
Cactus & Succulent Society of Bakersfield, California  
Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus &

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**

**President: Lynn McDonald**

wljmcd@aol.com

**Membership: Maynard Moe**

Immoe44@gmail.com

**Newsletter/Website: Stephen Cooley**

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

## *From the President:*

Our annual Christmas potluck is upcoming and it is always a fun evening, with good food. Remember, the auction is a fundraising event for the club, so let's let go of some cold hard cash, and keep the bidding lively.

I have enjoyed being BCSS President for the last two years, as well as the other officers' positions over the 15 years Bill & I have been members. I am excited that some new faces will be becoming officers this year. We will be having some visitors this meeting (I hope) and encourage them to join our group.

Looking back, some of the activities I have most enjoyed have been our field trips to the desert and camping in the Mojave. Field trips to the Carrizo Plain, Maturango Museum & Petroglyphs, Lotusland, Kern County Fair exhibits, rock gathering, Garden Fest & shopping at many nurseries around the south state were also memorable. We all should be proud of our Garden at FACT, which has grown so much. The Garden Plaque looks so great & permanent.

I would like to thank all of you and especially the Board members, without whose support & direction it would be difficult to keep our club healthy. We will be here in town a bit longer (vague time-frame) and will certainly be back to visit, since we have a grandchild here. The home construction is well underway and we ought to be receiving guests by next summer.

Thank you again.

Lynn



## DECEMBER'S PROGRAM

# ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK & SILENT AUCTION 6:00PM

The rules for the potluck are simple: there are no rules. Bring any kind of dish you want to share, and don't forget something sweet to eat. You may want to bring your own forks, knives and good plates, the Club will furnish plastic forks and knives and paper plates as well as sodas and cups. The whole family is invited!

Richard and Karen Rawlings are heading up the Party/Potluck decorations for December 10th. Jill, Sidney & Lynn have volunteered to help. Helpers need to be there by 5:30 to get set-up.

We will also have our Silent Auction, where members bid on special plants. If you have a special item that has something to do with Cacti & Succulents and would like to donate it to be auctioned off, please bring it and add it to the auction tables.



# November 12, 2013



Maynard reports that this year's Show & Sale was pretty good – our second best money-wise.

Sidney says that the Christmas parade float has been put on hold for a year. It seems there were fees and insurance costs that she felt she couldn't commit to.

December 7<sup>th</sup> was decided as the date for a trip to Ojai to pick up Silent Auction plants.

Anne gave us a very interesting presentation on “Seeing Cacti and Other Flora and Fauna in Arizona.” It was a travelogue of sorts, taking us all over the state.

Lynn gave us another glimpse of Peru, this time way up at Lake Titicaca (12,500 feet in elevation). This included Inca ruins as well as an unintended nighttime hike.



# Brag Table



Jill Brennan brought a *Gonolobus (Matelea) cyclophyllus* from Oaxaca. This member of the milkweed subfamily was in bloom.

I brought a mesemb (*Mestoklema tuberosum*) which I knew from one locality in Botswana. It forms small bushes with tuberous roots which are sometimes exposed by erosion in the wild. I bought it at the Palomar CSS show & Sale.

Polly brought a *Kalanchoe prolifera* which we had

seen in Malawi when we were in the Peace Corps. We thought it looked like a succulent walnut. This was purchased at the members' plant sale in Fresno.

Richard Rawlins brought a Bakersfield cactus which was producing new pads.

Lynn McDonald brought a *Euphorbia fimbriata* and an *Echeveria nodulosa*. The latter was in full bloom and had variegated leaves.

Jack Reynolds brought Dragons' nests (*Euphorbia bougheyi*) to give away. I took one for the brag table. This is a tree up to 7 m tall (21 feet) and is frost sensitive, so it probably will be hard to grow here. The top branches are flat, but it may form up to 5 ribs on the lower stem. It comes from Mozambique.

*Bruce*



## BIG CACTUS!

While I was tootling around Bakersfield I happened on this gigantic cactus in someone's front yard. I took a picture of it. My guess at the name would be *Echinopsis terscheckii*. I decided to ask the owner about it. It's in Ruby Husman's yard. She said it was there when she moved in about 20 years ago. Ruby was not too impressed with the cactus or it's white flowers. She was much more impressed with a succulent plant in her neighbor's backyard that has beautiful red flowers that are open only in the morning.

This one impressed me!

Sidney Kelley

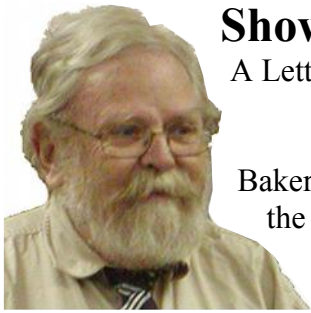


### CLUB OFFICIALS

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

## Shows and Sales

### A Letter From Bruce



On 11<sup>th</sup> October we took plants to the Bakersfield CSS show and sale. We went back the next morning with Alice for the final setup. On Sunday we returned yet again to take plants home. It was a good year. The faux plants were interesting (see picture),

but it would be nice to have a variety of items such as artwork, quilts, photos, knitted plants etc. as in past years.

Incidentally, Polly's Stapelia was in full bloom on Monday, but perhaps it is just as well it didn't open for the show- the strong smell attracted lots of flies which laid lots of eggs!



Nick, Steve & Maynard @ Show

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> we had solar panels installed on our house – at no cost! We get low cost electricity in exchange for letting the solar company use our roof. Anne and Lora also had them installed.



Polly, Ginny, Cathy, Martha & Nancy

On the 25<sup>th</sup> we set off east on 58 and had lunch at the Roadhouse restaurant in Kramer Junction. We had planned to go south on 395, but the signs said “construction delays” so we continued on to Barstow and took I-15 south. (All of this was

to avoid LA traffic.) The drive went smoothly except for congestion at Corona where we made a rest stop. Eventually we reached San Diego and had supper with Polly's sisters Ginny and Cathy and spouses. Polly's other two sisters, Martha, Nancy and Margaret (N's daughter), drove down later from Fresno, got caught in traffic on the I-405 and eventually arrived after 10 p.m.

Next morning we all had breakfast at Bunz Burgers which was attached to the hotel. We then proceeded to the University of San Diego (with a minor hiccup because the University entrance was not labeled the same as the computer printout and we ended up in the wrong parking lot with a mile of stairs down to the stadium – but at least there were bushes with natal plums [*Carissa edulis*]



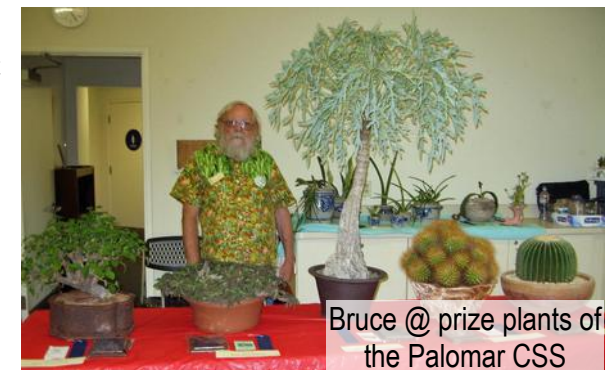
Game @ San Diego

which I had learned to eat in my student days at UCSB, so I had a snack to take with me). We watched a game between the University of San Diego Toreros and Butler University (Indianapolis, IN) Bulldogs because Greg Ambrose, nephew of Cathy's husband, was on the Bulldogs team

(Number 74 in the photo). Note the T-shirt with Kilimanjaro that was in front of us. He actually went there!

After the game we had dinner at Tio Leo's nearby. At first we thought the food was a bit expensive, but then we found the appetizers were

huge, so we stuck with those. Back at the hotel we met by the pool so Polly and her sisters could chat. (Cathy lives near Boston, so all five had not been together for years.) It got too



Bruce @ prize plants of the Palomar CSS

cold so we all moved to Bunz for further chatting. In addition to family, there was a friend, Pam Wolken who works in the library at the LA Arboretum.

Next morning we again gathered at the pool and took lots of pictures. We then went our separate ways. Polly and I headed north on I-5 to Encinitas for the Palomar CSS Show and Sale which was at the San Diego Botanic Garden. (A group from the BCSS had been there years ago when it was the Quail BG so we knew the place. It has added a lot of attractions for kids.) The show was good, with the grand prize going to a tree of *Cussonia paniculata*. We met Woody who was there to sell plants. There were lots of plants at fairly reasonable prices. We returned through LA, and, of course, there were traffic delays.



We joined the BCSS at O-See- em-Bloom on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November. We were interested to learn that Olga See is from Namibia. We skipped the Fresno CSS meeting as we were all sick. It would have been interesting as Mark Muradian spoke on building the garden at his farm at Kingsburg. We have seen the garden, but it would have been interesting to see it in progress. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Anne and Lynn at the BCSS. Even non-botanists can have a lot to say to us.

*Bruce J. Hargreaves*

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

**IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE OUR CLUB'S NEXT NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – you most likely can! It does not take any particular skill, just some basic word processing. Our newsletter has always had great support from the membership whether it be photos, articles or ideas. This makes the editor's job that much easier. Feel free to contact me for some start-up advice.

Stephen Cooley [thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com](mailto:thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com)

## An Email From Sergio Herrera

[sergio.herrera5125@gmail.com](mailto:sergio.herrera5125@gmail.com)

I'm a USMC Veteran. I'm hoping to start a garden at the veteran center. I've been undecided on what to plant. I recently visited a nursery on wible down the street from valley plaza and was amazed when I seen the variety of succulents for the first time. Right there and then I knew that is what I was planting. Weve got 3 10x5 huge sand boxes and 9 bags of good soil please share knowledge with us and if possible donate some succlets I would buy

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAKERSFIELD CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY EVENTS

- Dec. 12 BCSS Meeting** at 6:00PM Olive Dr. Church.  
Annual Holiday potluck & Silent Auction
- Jan. 14 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.  
A visit from Cricklewood Nursery

### OTHER EVENTS

- Jan. 18 DESERT FORUM at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. CSSA members and affiliate clubs are invited to a free day at the Desert Garden including a tour, plant sale, and a forum led by Director of Gardens, Jim Folsom. Wear your name badge! 9:30AM - 4:30PM
- Jan. 25 12th Annual ALOE WALK at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA. This event is Free. 9:30 am - 11:00 am
- Feb. 8 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