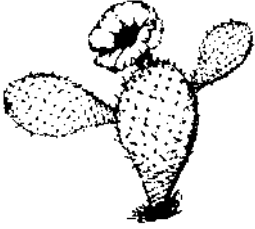


*THE*  
  
*CACTUS*  
*PATCH*

Volume 17 February 2014 Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

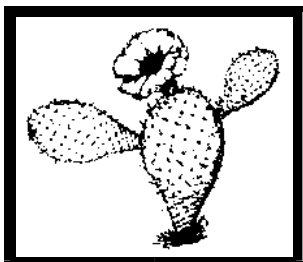
This Month's Program  
**Plants and Newsprint**  
by  
**Richard Shiell**

**Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, Feb., 11**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:30 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

**Officers Needed!**  
**Both PREZ &**  
**VICE-PREZ will be**  
**vacant soon!**

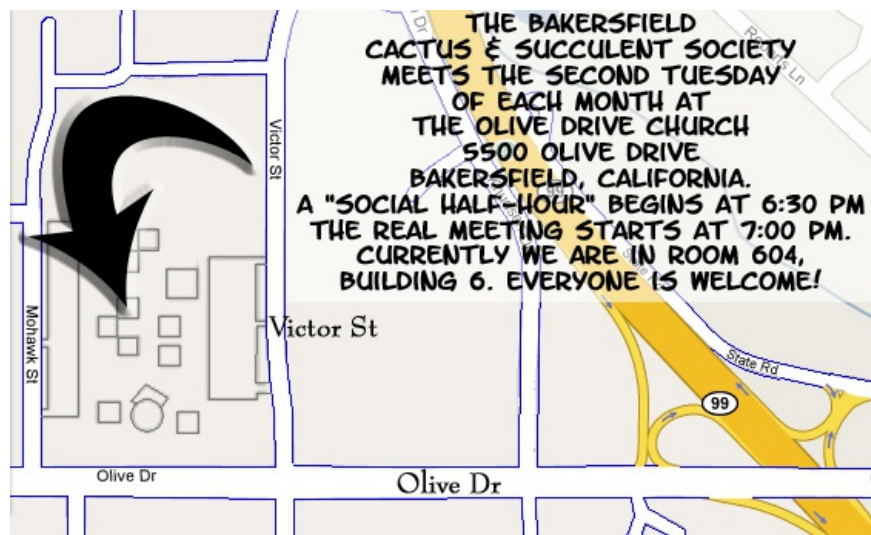


# The Cactus Patch

Volume 17 Number 2

February 2014

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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## *February's Program*

### *Plants and Newsprint*

Richard Shiell is a southern California native who holds a bachelor's in Biology and a master's in Landscape Architecture. He works as a photographer and landscape architect, and writes the garden column for the Bakersfield Californian newspaper. Bromeliads were his first horticultural love, and he joined the Bromeliad Society when he was 13 years old.

### *January's Meeting*

*Michelle Phipps, from CRICKLEWOOD GARDEN presenting "Cooking 'Succs'": Medicinal and Culinary uses for Succulents. She is also a landscape/Garden design student at BC.*



## OFFICERS NEEDED

Lynn McDonald will be moving soon, so the club will need both a President and A Vice -President.

Since the programs are set for through August, the V-P will have lots of lead time for the rest of the year.

# Brag Table

***Jill Brennan brought two pieces of Cork bark. (Anyone remember when corks were made from Oak bark and not plastic?) She explained how it is useful for displaying Tillandsias and demonstrated with a small plant.***

Bruce brought a plant of *Euphorbia lacteal* which was crested and colorful. It was grafted on a normal green stem. I bought it at Home [not Office] Depot for \$5. More recently, I saw the same thing in Vons for \$14.99. It was labeled “Desert Coral Cactus. There was an article on India in the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. Californian which had a picture showing two hedges of this species. There are a dozen species of spine-paired euphorbias in India.

Polly brought another spine-paired species from India, *Euphorbia nereifolia*, which is also used as a hedge plant. Although we have not been to India, we did see a hedge of this on Guam in 1984. The plant she brought was a crested form bought for \$7 at the Fresno CSS Show & Sale in 2011.



Ed Coley and Stephen Cooley at the Brag table

Stephan Cooley brought a mesemb, *Gibbaeum heathii* which he had brought before when it was in bad shape. This time it was looking great.





## Beginnings and Endings

A Letter From  
Bruce

Christmas brought back lots of memories.

Fifty years ago Polly opened a large package only to find a series of packages inside. The final small package was empty! I then presented her with a small box containing a diamond ring. This was our official engagement. The diamond was from my mother's engagement ring. I had had it reset at Gensler Lee where a friend of mine worked. By a great coincidence, Yolanda, the Leader of our Silver Sneakers exercise group, had started out working at Gensler Lee. She now owns and operates Plaza Jewelry out of the same location.

This Christmas began dramatically when the tree at Anne's house tipped over during the opening of presents. It was righted without damage and we went on to have a fantastic dinner dominated by the roast beast which Daniel had brought from Arizona. Another down note was sounded when I returned home (next door) to find that the small greenhouse which John had given me was over on its side. Only a few pots were broken and the plants survived, but it took a while to put everything back up. I now have it tied to the back fence!

New Year's was undramatic and we watched the Rose Parade TV. It was interesting to note how many of the floats were centered on community service. This gives added value to the sheer beauty of the pageantry. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January we heard Steve Frieze at the Fresno CSS. He spoke on Chile and had excellent pictures, but failed to select only the best. We must have looked at every Copiapoa in existence.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> we went to the BCSS, of course, and heard the talk on Edible and Medicinal Succulents. I'm afraid I was a bit intrusive!

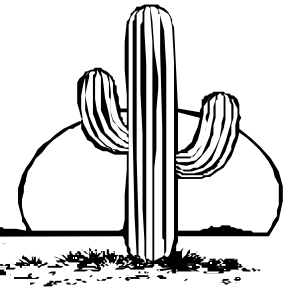
On the 18<sup>th</sup> we visited Russo's Books for the last time – the store is out of business! (They are still available online.) They gave points for visits and purchases. Polly was number 13 on the point list, but they only had 10 prizes. We will miss this store.

The Californian had a whole page of fads that are out and in for the new year. Most of them were meaningless for me, but they did list one interesting item- ferns are out and SUCCULENTS are in!!

Note that there was no newsletter for January. My letter was published on line, but for those who prefer the printed version, I'm asking the new editor (Polly) to include the January letter with printed copies.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Mar 11 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.  
program:

**Apr 12 Desert Images**, Ojai to get plants for the **Garden Fest**

**Apr 8 BCSS Meeting** at 6:30PM Olive Dr. Church.

**Apr 26: Bakersfield College Garden Fest**

*Garden Fest*, is Bakersfield's premiere springtime garden event. Garden Fest at Bakersfield College in its 9th year, is an open house featuring the Environmental Horticulture and Agriculture programs that draws thousands of visitors to the Bakersfield College campus for a day of family fun.

With over 150 vendor booths featuring gardening, pets, farmer's market, cooking, outdoor leisure, arts & crafts, and environmentally friendly home improvement ideas, there is something for everyone.

Here is Bruce's Letter first published in the January , 2014 web edition:

## Madiba

1918-2013

“The Oppressed and the Oppressor alike are robbed of their  
Humanity” --Long Walk to Freedom

Even though we only traveled as far as Fresno, it has been an exhausting month. On the 14<sup>th</sup> of November our Silver Sneakers exercise group had lunch at Don Perico's to undo all our exercise. (This was only the beginning of the annual over-eating.) On the 19<sup>th</sup> we returned from exercise to find someone had driven up our drive, across a garden patch and down Anne's lawn back to the street. In doing so they had taken out our mailbox! Fortunately the poles were bent but not broken, so we were able to put the box back up. (Though it is a little wobbly.)

On the 28<sup>th</sup> we gathered with a lot of relatives at Lora's house and had turkey. (We almost didn't. Lora underestimated cooking time and her turkey wasn't done. Anne came to the rescue with a cooked one she had in the freezer.) It was good to see the grandkids, but they are exhausting.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December our Goldenaires choir performed the first of ten performances for the Christmas season. We ended with a jazzy number “Jesus, Oh what a Wonderful Child”. I was surprised at how well the choir did with a style they don't usually sing.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> we found someone had broken into mother's car and stolen the decorations Lora had put there for a Christmas float in the Parade that evening. What a surprise it must have been when they opened the carefully wrapped presents and found rocks inside! (Lora managed to patch things together for the Parade.)

Polly checked her -mail before we left for Fresno and found that Nelson Mandela (familiarily known by his clan name “Madiba”) had died. This was not unexpected, but it does mark the end of an

era. We never met him, but we learned a lot about him living in southern Africa. He deserved the Nobel Peace Prize, but at the time I thought it was a shame he had to share it with F.W. DeKlerk. I have since come to realize that it takes more than one leader to reconcile differences as deep as those in South Africa.

We did meet Desmond Tutu when he visited the National University of Lesotho while I was teaching there. (He had taught there in the past.) I admire his passive resistance, especially his Truth and Reconciliation Commission, but must admit that Mandela's more aggressive approach was necessary. Frankly, I was surprised at how peaceful the transition to majority rule was. I expected a war even more violent than that of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe. I'll never forget watching TV with mother in Botswana as the new South African flag was raised.

Polly and I drove up to Fresno that evening for the FCSS Christmas potluck. There was plenty of food, but the silent auction was a bit sparse. I bid on two items and got a copy of Adromischus by Pilbeam, Rogerson and Tribble. I was interested because I had discovered *Adromischus trigynus* in Lesotho. Although I published my finding years ago, the distribution in the book stops right at the South African side of the border. I didn't get the five copies of Feld & Flora because they went past my \$5 bid and I thought \$1 each was as much as they're worth. Polly got a dancing Santa which had been used as a table decoration.

Of course, we were at the BCSS potluck on the 10<sup>th</sup> and again had too much food. (Polly roasted a turkey which was done on time!) There were plenty of items to bid on and I ended up with too many. I especially like the monstrose *Trichocereus pachanoi*. Now all I have to do is find a large Jaguar pot to put it in. (The Chavin culture of Peru produced pots which combined this cactus with jaguars, but I don't have any hope that I could get one for it.)

Our exercise group had a potluck on the 12<sup>th</sup> and Polly took the leftover turkey. We then sang our last concert with the Goldenaires on the 18<sup>th</sup> and are preparing for Christmas itself.



Christmas Dinner at Anne's home with Daniel carving the "roast beast"



Steve Frieze at Fresno CSSA

# Field Trips

## Feb., 15 Cambria and Cayucos

- 6:45 AM: Breakfast at COCO's at 955 Oak St.
- 8:00 AM leave from the PARK N RIDE on Stockdale Highway
- Check with Sidney for details if you didn't get a handout.

## April 12 Desert Images,

- Ojai to get plants for the **Garden Fest**

## April 27 Huntington Plant Sale (not just succulents)

- Hunting Botanical Gardens
- 1151 Orchard Rd. San Marino CA
- 10AM to 5 PM 626-405-2160

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