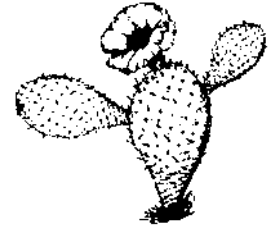


# THE CACTUS PATCH



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 17 **April 2014** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

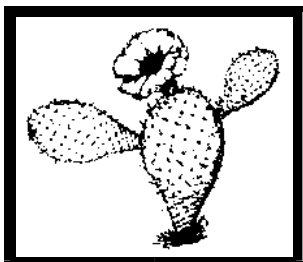
**Potluck ~ Picnic  
at FACT at CSUB  
by everybody**

## Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April, 8th

at 6:00 PM  
@ the Facility for  
Animal Care and  
Treatment

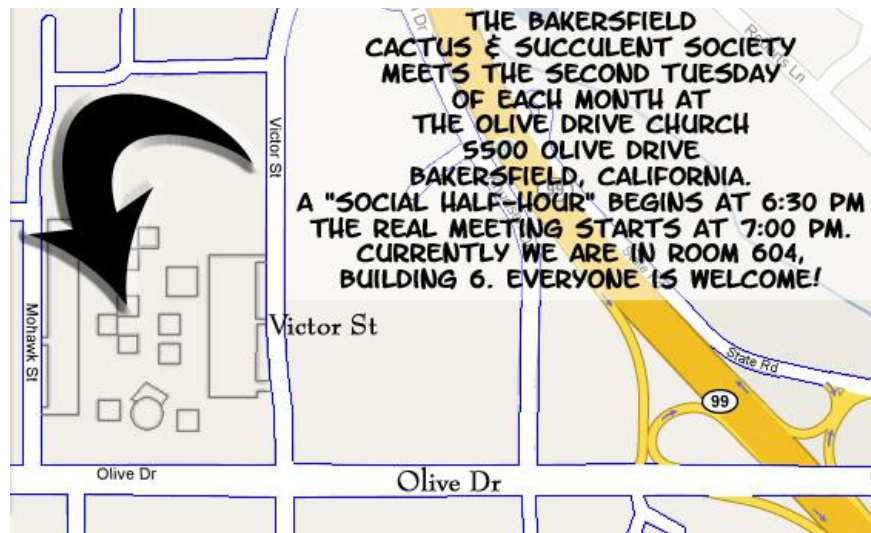
**NOTE:  
change of  
location and  
time**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 17 Number 4  
April 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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# March 11, 2014



*Woody Minnich setting up for the meeting*

## The Succulent Garden at Cal State

*See you at the potluck/picnic!*

*6 PM on April 8th*



# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



## A bit of history:

Thirteen years ago, in the Spring of 2001, the first plans for a succulent garden began to take shape. Member Steve Kiesling was moving to Sonora and had some very nice specimen cacti to donate to the club. Biology professor and member Maynard Moe arranged for a succulent garden to be installed at

Cal State Bakersfield's Environmental Studies Area. Work parties were organized, grass was dug and rototilled, plants were planted and a small but good looking garden emerged by the end of the year. In the coming years dirt was brought in, concrete blocks were laid, an old pump was removed, and lots of great plants were planted. Today, we have a garden worthy of notice by anyone who passes by. It has become an asset to Cal State and something the club should take pride in.



*Stephen Cooley*



# APRIL'S MEETING

**April is our spring potluck/picnic. Tables and chairs and paper service will be provided.**

**Come to admire the cactus garden!**

**DIRECTIONS:** FACT is located in the Environmental Studies Area on the south east side of the CSUB campus. To get to FACT enter the CSU Bakersfield campus from the south entrance off of Camino Media Blvd. Just after the information booth the large parking lot on the right is the access road to the facility. Turn right in the first driveway. Go through the parking lot past the recycling drop off area, at the softball field backdrop find a short dirt road and follow it over the campus bike path (yield to traffic on the bike path) to the Environmental Studies Area/FACT parking area. The parking area is lined with railroad ties, please park straight in toward the fence or railroad ties.

## A New home for Lynn And Bill

In March, I drove to southern Oregon to check on the progress of our home. It seems to be moving along pretty well. We will have plenty of deer roaming around, so we will have to plant as many "deer resistant" plants as we can, and provide a lot of fencing. Fox and bear have also been seen yearly in our neighborhood. I do hope eventually to be able to create a succulent wall, or slope, using natives.



*Lynn McDonald*



**A Humble Apology**  
A Letter From Bruce

Oh Lord, it's hard to be humble  
When you're perfect in every way;  
I can't wait to look in the mirror  
I get better lookin' each day  
--Mac Davis

I understand there has been some objection to my review of February's speaker and that this might reflect badly on the BCSS. My letters are my opinions and are not necessarily those of the BCSS. I tried to be humble and included a criticism of myself (from the Fresno Newsletter), but apparently this was not enough. Please feel free to criticize my criticisms. My comments are meant to be constructive and I hope will be taken in that way.

On 17<sup>th</sup> February we finally saw 12 Years a Slave since it finally reached the dollar theater. Thus we actually formed our own opinions before it won its Oscars. (Not that we disagree with the prizes!) It was well done, but the whole point of a freeman suffering was a bit hypocritical. The suffering of those who were never free was greater.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> we heard Maynard Moe speak to the California Native Plant Society on the succulents of Yemen, Madagascar and southern Africa. It was a great talk and drew a large crowd. The newspaper coverage was fantastic.



On the 27<sup>th</sup> I heard Rick Waitzman speak at BC on the banning of the Grapes of Wrath. It was informative and it appears the so-called obscenity was not the real reason for the banning. We learned that the political climate of the time was set by a left-leaning Governor who appointed a socialist as head of the State Commission on Migrant Labor. Thus the book was yet another source of fear for the farmers.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of March we went to Fresno and heard Peter Beiersdorfer speak on rare cacti in Puerto Rico. He had lots of good pictures and enough names to help us keep track of the plants. I was amazed at how many variations there were in the cephalia (heads) of many of them.



On the 11<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Woody speak on the giant succulents of Madagascar. It is interesting to see his talk and compare it with those of Maynard and Rob Skillin. I have only mentioned Madagascar briefly in my talk on Baobabs, but if Polly or I were to give a talk on Madagascar it would be even more different.

*Bruce*

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

# Brag Table

Sydney Kelly brought a plant of *Sempervivum arachnoideum* in a sheep pot, a good combination since the plant has a “spider web” of hairs (Arachnids are spiders)

Jill Brennan brought a “pickle plant” which Maynard identified as *Echinocereus moricali*. It had buds which will be orange flowers eventually.

I brought a cutting of *Pilocereus flocossus* as an example of a cactus with hairs around the flowers. The March National Geographic has an article which explains that such hairs help to absorb sounds so that the pollinating bats hear only an echo from the hairless flower.



I brought Alice’s *Aeonium arboreum* which had beautiful yellow flowers. (Unfortunately the flower stalk was broken, but I brought it in a vase.

Polly brought *Orinthogalum (Albuca) multiflorum* called a “soldier in a box” for the upright tepals inside the outer spreading tepals.



# Field Trips

## April 12 Desert Images,

- Ojai to get plants for the Garden Fest

## April 12/13: South Coast CSS Show & Sale

- Palos Verdes Peninsula (information at the meeting)

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

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

## MAY'S PROGRAM

### Attila Kapitany

Attila is immediate past president of the Cactus & Succulent Society of Australia with 10 years in this position, and is also currently editor of its journal.

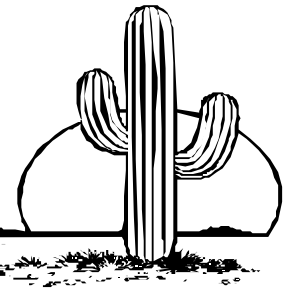
He has thirty years of experience growing and marketing cacti and succulents. Attila is also a prominent member of the Horticultural Media in Australia, writing regularly in magazines, journals and newspapers and promoting succulent plants.



He was co-founder and developer of the well-known Collectors Corner and Paradisia nurseries, where his interests focused on the breeding, cultivating and marketing of rare and unusual plants. He has travelled extensively to plant habitats around the world and had amassed possibly one of the largest collections of (mostly seed-raised) plants in Australia. Also, Attila has co-written seven books with Rudolf Schulz about succulents, with an eighth book a solo effort on Australian native species. His newest publications are a series of seven booklets on xerophytic Australia plants.

Since 2007 Attila has dedicated much of his time and resources to promoting our lesser known Australian succulent plants, touring the Australian speaking circuit regularly and featuring on television and radio.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Apr 8: BCSS Potluck Picnic** 6 PM at FACT @ CSUB  
That is the “Facility for Animal Care and Treatment” located on the South side of the campus. (entrance is near the Edwards Cinema.) Bring food and enjoy fellowship and our Club Cactus Garden

**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.

**May 13: BCSS Meeting at Olive Drive Church**  
Dinner with Attila Kapitany at 5PM @ Hodel's  
He will be speaking about the Succulents of Australia.

**May 17(Saturday):“Play with Clay” workshop**  
at Anne Lee's home. Details next month

## Our trip to Arroyo Grande.

A small group of us went to Rob and Terry Skillin's open greenhouse/sale on March 22. There were Tim and Jill Brennan, Anne Lee, and Jack and I. It took us about 2.5 hours to get there. They are situated in a remote area of Arroyo Grande. Very picturesque. Compliments go out to the Skillin's for a very enjoyable time.

When we arrived many people were already there. Some from the Fresno club, too. Most of the unusual plants were already sold. Jill and Anne did find some they liked. I found a large *Mammillaria bombycina*. Rob said that he's had it since around 1989. I love it.



The tour through Rob's green house was fantastic. I'll just post a few picture, as there were so many!

This tall one is a bulb, *Ornithogalum piketon fibromarginatum*. The flower section is about 1.5 feet tall.

~12~



Rob has two of these spectacular giants, *Pyrenacantha malvifolia*, from Somalia

This is a *Mammillaria crucigera*, that is an extremely slow growing species. It's dichotomizing (dividing into two) in a really interesting pattern. Rob said it's not considered a crest. This is in about a 10" pot.



~13~

## Yard tour/Lunch at Steve & Lola Fuller's home in Shafter on March 29<sup>th</sup>



Aztekium ritteri. It is of extremely slow growth - probably the slowest of the entire cactus family. It usually takes several years for growth to be even noticeable. It's pot is about 6" x 10". It's probably just coming out of it's winter rest period.



Then there is this melocactus with one growing out of the top-side. It's almost as large as the "mother" plant.

After loading up our loot, we went on to three nurseries in the Arroyo Grande area. First was Cherry Lane Nursery. Then on to Windmill Farms, where we ate our lunches. The last one was Old Town Nursery in Nipomo. We all managed to find something at each nursery. Tim, Jill, and Anne headed on home. We stayed over and went home Sunday.

~Sidney

~14~



~15~