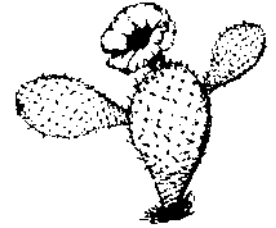


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Polly Hargreaves, editor  
pollypearl@hotmail.com



*Othonna euphorbioides*  
Namibian composite  
photo by BJH

# THE CACTUS PATCH



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 17 **June 2014** Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## **Big Cactus in Bakersfield**

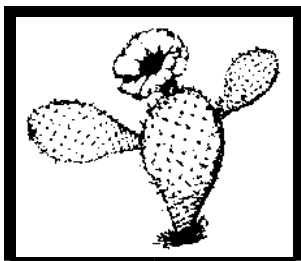
**by Richard Rawlings**

### Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday, June 10**  
Olive Drive Church,  
5500 Olive drive  
at 6:30 PM

(Building 6, Room 604)

**Help decide  
where we will  
dine in July!**

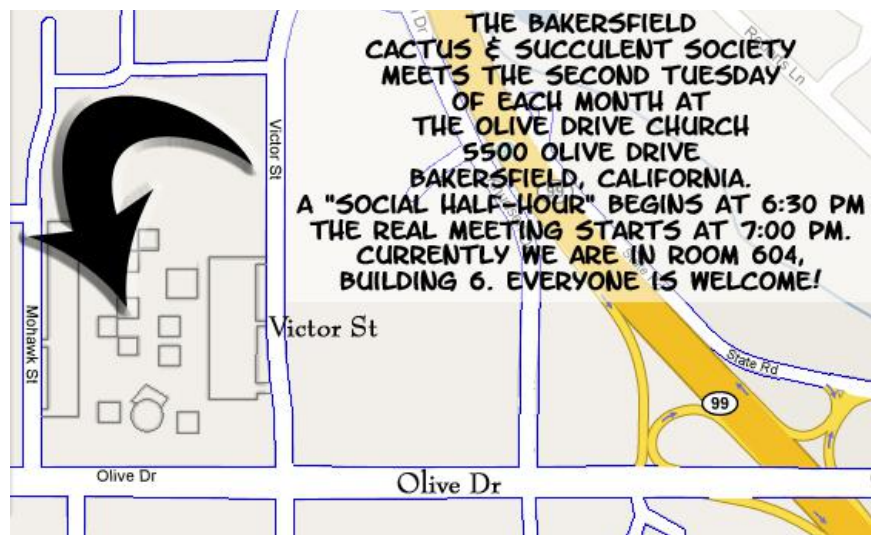


# The Cactus Patch

## Volume 17 Number 6

### June 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.

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

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## JUNE'S PROGRAM



Our President, Richard Rawlings will present an imaginative and informative talk;  
**Big Cactus in Bakersfield.**

We will also discuss where to meet for dinner on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

# May 13, 2014



At about 5:30, ten of us gathered at Hodel's Restaurant to welcome Atilla Kapitany to Bakersfield and the BCSS.

He introduced us to a whole new world of succulents to be found at our feet (if our feet were in the Outback). His enthusiasm for the unexpected is very catching.

The Fresno CSS showed up in force, as well as a very good turnout of our own members.

He also brought his new publications (conveniently divided botanically)

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# Brag Table



Richard Amaya brought a monstrose cactus that resembled a brain. He had planted it in the head of a clown he rescued from the trash. He also brought a magazine rack which he had also similarly rescued and filled with succulents.

Richard Rawlings Brought a 'ming thing' *Cereus validus* f. *monstrosa* which was good sized considering the slow growth of most monstrose plants.

Polly brought a large window plant (*Fenestraria rhopalophylla*) in a strange planter full of glass balls. She pronounced it "marbelous".

I brought *Ceropegia stapeliformis*, a plant which I had exhibited three years earlier and which was chosen as the "deadest" plant at the show. This time it was in bloom to demonstrate that it is, indeed, alive.

## Brag Table Prizes:

Once a year the people who participated in the Brag Table are rewarded with more plants. Bring your prettiest, oddest, most unusual (or any other reason you can think of) to share with the club and be REWARDED. Here is the selection given this year:





## The Succulent Garden at Cal State



### *Echinopsis spachiana*

One of the more commonly grown large cacti in Bakersfield is the Torch Cactus, *Echinopsis spachiana* (often known by its old name *Trichocereus spachianus*). And there are very good reasons for it being popular. It is easy to grow, handling all the heat as well as the cold. Our plants in the garden have survived the low 20's, including 18F this last winter. It is easily grown from cuttings, the flowers are huge and showy, and it doesn't rot so quickly when over watered.

Torch cactus forms a tight clump of tall branches which can get up to 6 feet high in older plants. It is native to Western Argentina. We have several nice clumps of this in our garden, if you would like a cutting for your garden let me know and I'll get some.



On another note, the *Agave vilmoriniana* that was flowering at our April Garden Meeting has starting producing plantlets. If anyone is interested in growing this, I'll bring some to a meeting when they're big enough.

Stephen Cooley

## Play with Clay

On May 17 some of the group had a fun time making pots from ceramic clay. We all made pots by a slab method, decorating them with textures made from various found objects. A few were brave enough to try their hand at throwing pots on the wheel.

Everyone had a chance to view Anne's gardens and then go on over to Bruce's yard to



view his many plants (not just euphorbs). We were disappointed that more people didn't come as it was a fun workshop and yard tour combination.

Anne Lee





## Blue Shoes and Happiness

A Letter From Bruce

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January I went with Anne to the Garden Fest at BC. Despite the earlier rain and cold, there was a good turnout.

On Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Alice's 97<sup>th</sup> birthday at Red Lobster.



On the 29<sup>th</sup> (her actual birthday) we had breakfast at Denny's and she dressed in her new blue dress, blue purse and blue shoes. Polly and I gave her an autographed copy of Blue Shoes and Happiness, part of the Lady Detective series by Alexander McCall Smith. She

also received pieces of a tea set honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alice in Wonderland (actually in 2012). Later she was honored at other ceremonies.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February we again heard Woody speak on Madagascar. Again, the pictures were excellent, but the talk was a bit long. It did make me wish we could return and see the changes. Apparently the roads are a lot worse than when we were there in 1996.

On Mother's Day the family had dinner at Lora's. John passed out a beautiful card with our grandson Matthew climbing a rock. (John had made a trip up to Susanville where James now runs IT for the Susanville Rancheria.)



On the 13<sup>th</sup> we heard Atilla speak on Australian Succulents. I had heard him before at the 2009 CSSA convention in Tuscon, but he is well worth hearing more than once. I got him to

autograph my copy of the Succulents of Australia, which he said is now out of print. Instead, he has produced a series of booklets on the separate sections (which he sold at the meeting.)

On the 17<sup>th</sup> half a dozen people (plus kids) showed up at Anne's to make pots. They also toured my collection and Anne's garden. The temperature had dropped a bit so it was a good morning.

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

~9~



# Plant of the Month

## *Cordyline australis*

*Cordyline australis*, cabbage tree, on farmland, Kaihoka Lakes, Tasman, New Zealand. Standing in farm paddocks, surrounded by fields of pasture, cabbage trees are one of the most familiar sights of the New Zealand countryside. Such isolated trees are the first or second-generation survivors of former forest cover. Originally cabbage trees grew in swamp forest, along river terraces, and on damp hillsides. They have been widely planted throughout New Zealand and overseas, and many



varieties have been cultivated. Cabbage trees grow to 20 metres in height and develop a massive trunk up to 1 metre in diameter. This branches after each flowering and over time develops a wide crown of long tufted leaves. Each spring it produces a large spray of sweet-smelling flowers.



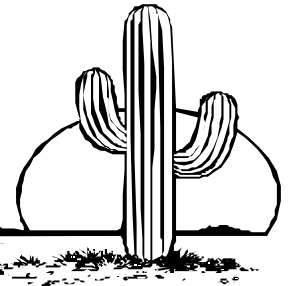
Selected from Wikipedia by  
Jack Renolds

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~10~

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### **June 8: Dinner with the Society.**

Since the speaker will come in August our Summer restaurant meeting will be in July. At the June meeting we will decide where to go.

### **June 6 & 7: Fresno CSS Show and Sale**

This is a good one with many members selling plants; at Sierra Vista Mall; Clovis.

### **Dear CSSA Affiliate,**

As you may know, Helen & Kevin Barber of Rainbow Gardens Book Shop have donated their entire inventory of new books, out of print books, and journals to the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. Their generosity allows us to offer these books and journals at very reduced prices. Please take a look at the TCSS Book Bonanza web page to see the complete list of inventory and the great prices. Full instructions for ordering are also to be found there:

[http://www.tucsoncactus.org/html/book\\_bonanza.html](http://www.tucsoncactus.org/html/book_bonanza.html)

Effective May 1, we lowered the prices even more: the entire inventory is now **75% OFF!**

We look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your support of the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society.

Best,

Val Little, TCSS Board Member

~11~