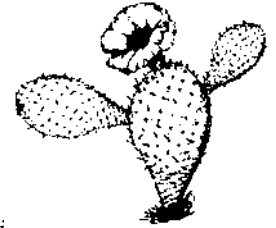


THE CACTUS PATCH



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 17 **July 2014** Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

**Dinner at
Cactus Bar and Grill**
(aka Cactus Valley)
4215 Rosedale Hwy
Bakersfield, CA 93308
6:00 PM

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, July 8

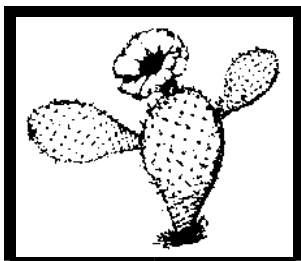
Dinner at
6:00 PM

**Back to regular
meeting time
and place in
August!**

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



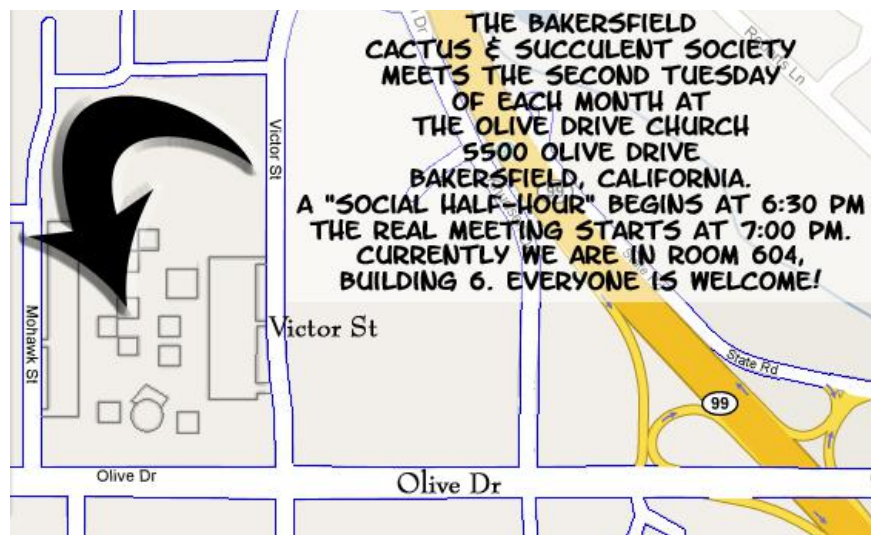
Ammocharis coranica
South African bulb
photo by BJH



The Cactus Patch

Volume 17 Number 7
July 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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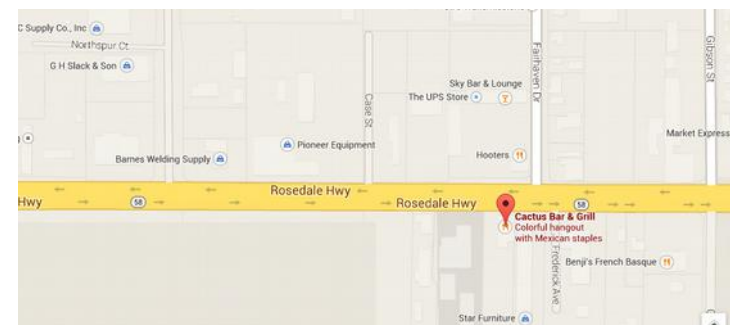
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JULY'S Dinner

Cactus Bar & Grill
aka Cactus Valley

4215 Rosedale Hwy Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 633-1948
Mexican Restaurant, Bar



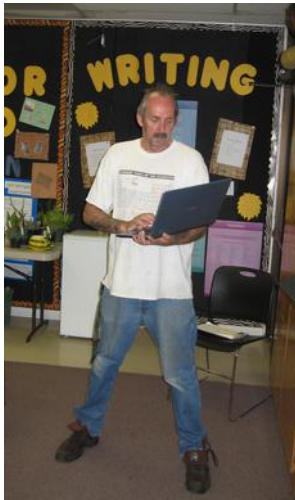
If traveling west on Rosedale, drive past the restaurant and make a U turn on Landco Dr. Backtrack .2 mile, restaurant is on the South side of Rosedale Hwy.

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June 10, 2014

Richard Rawlings presented a very interesting look at plantings around Bakersfield in spite of technical problems between the laptop and the projector
He still managed to show things like this huge Mexican Yucca on Olive Drive.



August 12, 2014

Kathy Robinson from
Robby's Nursery and Calico Gardens
will be our guest speaker.

Brag Table

Jill Brennan brought a mound of soft leaved Haworthias which were looking remarkably good considering the table they were on had tipped over. The sturdy pot survived as well.



Miriam Rawlings brought a planter with three hard tipped Haworthias (now in the genus *Haworthiopsis*).

I brought a plant of *Aloe aculeata* which I bought at Vons. It had no name but it has white bumps under the leaf thorns. This is the northern form from Botswana and Zimbabwe.

Polly brought a blooming plant of *Dyckia rariflora* which comes from Brazil and is in the Pineapple family.

Anne Lee brought a blooming Echevaria which has colorful leaves to go with the pot which she made.

Corinne Marie brought an Agave "moonglow" which has a red edge on the leaf.

Donna Jennings brought a large-leaved Kalanchoe which sends out runners to form new plants.

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Pachycereus marginatus

Mexican Fence Post Cactus, *Pachycereus marginatus*, is a striking cactus. It is tall and slender with small spines aligned in neat, straight rows that run up its length. It can grow up to 12 feet tall, or perhaps a bit more, and makes clumps in an 'organpipe' fashion. It is native to central Mexico.

The *Pachycereus marginatus* in the Cal State garden easily takes temperatures down to just below freezing but has had damage to the ribs and tops in the coldest winters (though this year's short burst of cold weather down to 18F didn't seem to faze it at all). It might be considered a fast grower, at least for a cactus, but it still may take a decade to form a

nice sized clump. The flowers are not particularly showy. Our garden cactus has not flowered. As it's common name suggests, cuttings of this are sometimes planted in lines to make a living fence.

Stephen Cooley

~6~



Eras Ending

A Letter From Bruce

Be a rainbow to someone's cloud

--Maya Angelou

The Goldenaires sang five concerts in May. We started with excerpts from the Beach Boys so the choir dressed informally with women in leis (artificial) and the men with kukui nuts. [Despite the common misconception, the kukui nut (also called the candle nut) is not originally from Hawaii! It is a Malaysian tree in the Euphorbia family and is rich in edible oil. I first saw it in Malawi.]



On the 29th of May we watched Angela graduate at Centennial High. After the ceremony we smothered her in orchid leis (real) in honor of her island origin. (She is from the Marshall Islands.) Angela is the last of her generation to graduate from high school. On the 31st there was a party for Angela and two of her friends. As part of the entertainment they pitted the three young seniors (graduates) against three elderly seniors. We had to answer questions on subjects a high school graduate should know. They twisted my arm to be on the elder team and, of course, we won.

~7~

We were sorry to learn of the death of Maya Angelou, although she had lived a long and fruitful life. We never met her, but I did get a master's in Public Health from the University of North Carolina. I can't imagine what she endured, but I was warned by my graduate advisor to take it easy because "This is the liberal South." I replied, "Yes, that's what worries me."

Of course we voted on the 3rd. My brother cited his experiences in Mississippi in the 60's in a letter in the Californian to stress why we needed to vote, but the turnout was poor. I must admit I left a lot of places blank rather than vote for single candidate slots.

On the 5th we drove up to Fresno and heard Duke Benadom speak on Aloes of Southern Africa. He had good pictures with lots of labels. I liked the way the labels appeared after the picture so we had a chance to see them without first. His book Superb Succulents was on sale. Next day we went to the set up for the Fresno show and sale. We did not stay for the event the next day as Polly had sprained her knee and was not hobbling well.



On the 10th, of course, we heard the talk on succulents in Bakersfield. I sympathized with Richard when he could not get his pictures projected by the

computer. I had the same thing happen in Botswana when I spoke to the bird club in Francistown. There was a funeral, however, so the attendance was low enough to huddle around the PC.

The further outbreaks of multiple killings are horrific. I especially did not like events at Isla Vista where I lived more than 50 years ago when I was a student at UCSB. Students are under pressure and even when I was there they were a bit wild, but nothing like what is happening today.

I will comment on two articles in last month's newsletter. First there is *Echinopsis spachiana*. I have grown this in Bakersfield for over fifty years and was surprised to meet it in Botswana. It made headlines in the newspapers there when it was harvested as "Hoodia" for an American company which wanted a weight reducer. I pointed out that users would be surprised if they got a hallucinogen instead!

The other article was on *Cordyline australis*. I saw this in Cornwall and thought it was a type of Dracena. I was embarrassed when our host, a fellow biologist, corrected me. I have probably been confusing the two trees for a long time. One tree I would not confuse it with is the African "cabbage tree" which, although both have the same common name, is totally unrelated. Incidentally, the African trees look much more like a cabbage.

Errata: I wrote January and February in last month's newsletter instead of April and May. No excuse! (The extra two lines were not my error, however.)

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

Plant of the Month

Escobaria minima

This month's plant is a random pick from one of my books but it is a good choice. Last month we had a giant. This month we have a dwarf. *Escobaria minima* grows to a height of only about an inch (2.5 cm) and 3/4 in. (2 cm.) in diameter. The stem is covered with small tubercles in rows bearing the areoles. There are 13-15 radial spines about 1/10 in. (3mm.) long and 3-4 central spines about 1/4 in. (5mm.) long. Spines are white to beige or pink in color.



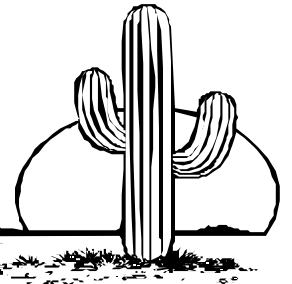
Plants are generally solitary but may form clusters. In nature the stems are generally partially buried in the soil. Flowers are produced in spring and summer. They are about 3/4 in. (1.5 cm.) long and 1/2 in. (12 mm.) in diameter. They are a bright pink color. Fruits are green and may contain about 30 seeds.

This little cactus is rare and has been over-collected. There are only three small populations found in Brewster Co. TX. One population on private land was allowed to be collected to extinction by the owner. The species has been listed as endangered by CITES since the 1970's. It has a couple of common names, "Nellies pincushion" and "birdfoot cactus". It grows readily from seed and prefers some shade and regular cactus mix. It should be kept dry in winter. It will tolerate cold down into the low twenties (-5 C).

Jack Reynolds

~10~

UPCOMING EVENTS



July 8: Dinner with the Society.

Since the speaker will come in August our Summer restaurant meeting will be in July.

July 25-27: Orange County C&SS Show and Sale

Fri/Sat: 9AM-5PM; Sun: Noon -4PM

1000S. State College Blvd Anaheim CA (949-212-3417)

Aug 9-10: 29th InterCity Show and Sale

L.A. County Arboretum 9AM -5PM

301 Baldwin Ave. Arcadia CA

Aug 30: Huntington Symposium

Huntington Botanical Gardens; All Day

Info: 626-405-2169

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~11~