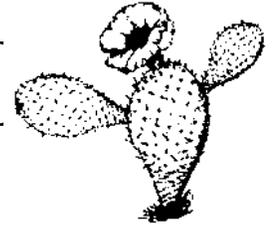


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Polly Hargreaves, editor
pollypearl@hotmail.com



Pachypodium namaquanam
Half mens
Buck Hemenway

THE CACTUS PATCH



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 18 **April 2015** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Why We Love South Africa

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church
6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,
April 14th**

at

6:30 PM

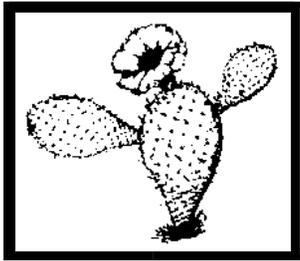
Dinner @ 5:00

Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Sizzler

900 Real Road



The Cactus Patch

Volume 18 Number 4
April 2015

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



Succulent Society costs \$20 per year for an individual and \$25 a year for a family.

Visit Us On the Web!

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April 14th, 2015

Buck Hemenway and his wife Yvonne are enthusiastic growers of succulent plants. Their one time hobby turned into the Prickly Palace nursery, which supplied cacti and succulents to the retail nursery trade for 15 years. He is past President of the San Gabriel Valley C&SS and Gates Cactus & Succulent Society, and currently serves on the board of Cactus & Succulent Society of America. Both are “Northern” people. Yvonne is Canadian and Buck was born and raised in Portland.

They have traveled to Southern Africa on several occasions, visiting southwest Namibia

as well as the Karoos in South Africa. They have a continuing love affair with South Africa and have purchased property there with the intent to move to the Little Karoo later this year.

The talk is titled “Why We Love South Africa”. It is a grand tour of some of our most favorite places and, of course, the plants that grow there.



Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/BakersfieldCactus>

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March 10th, 2015



Woody Minnich made his annual visit and continues to come up with wonderful tours.

His enthusiasm for everything in the places he visits (not just the plants) makes for an informative evening with lots of discussion.

Bruce and I saw the "same" program in Fresno but I felt I must have missed something, because there was so much to absorb,



Brag table offerings: Bring plants with questions or just to "brag" about.



BRAG TABLE

Polly brought a blooming plant of *Euphorbia aeruginosa* which comes from the Limpopo River area from Botswana and Zimbabwe to South Africa. It is a small spine-paired species.

I brought a small plant of *Euphorbia mauritanica*. It gets much bigger, but I brought it to show the host of the strange root parasite *Hydnora africana* which Woody showed in his talk. I also showed a picture of *Hydnora johannis* which grows on *Acacia* roots.

Richard Amaya brought a small plant which is sold commercially as *Synadenium grantii*. He admired the mottled leaves, but was surprised to learn that it can grow to tree size and has a dangerous milky sap.

Jack Kelly brought a grafted *Pachypodium brevicaule*. We were told that it is easy to grow as a grafted plant, but next to impossible on its own root. Should I graft mine?

Sidney Kelly brought a plant of *Euphorbia ecklonii* which has a large tuber. It was small, but she thought it might not live for another meeting.

Stephen Cooley brought a *Glottophyllum neilii*, a mesemb with fat leaves.

Donna Pitcher brought a tall *Oreocereus* and asked what should be done as it was leaning and turning black at the base. It could be propped up with a stick or rocks to help the leaning. The blackened base is normal, just don't bury it deeper as that might lead to rot. To repot it, wrap it in newspaper to avoid the spines.



Plant of the Month

Opuntia echinocarpa



I was rooting through my library trying to think of what to do for this month's column and there was my copy of Lyman Benson, *The Native Cacti of California* which I thought I had lost or something. But no it was misplaced between *Fishing Montana* and *Searching for Your Ancestors*. (I really must reorganize my books.) That inspired me to get back to some native California cacti. So here we are with another gem to examine.



Opuntia echinocarpa has several common names, Golden Cholla or Silver Cholla are two. It is a tree-like cactus growing to a height of 6 ft. (2 m.) with intricate branching. The branches often form right angles. Cylindrical segments are short, 2-3 in. (5-8 cm.) long with tightly packed tubercles 0.25-0.5 in. (4-10

mm.) in diameter. Tubercles are armed with up to 20 spines 1.5 in. (4 cm.) long. This spiny-ness makes them a very ferocious plant.

Flowers are 1.5-2.5 in. (3.5-6 cm.) in diameter, greenish yellow and bloom in April to May. Fruits are 0.5-1 in. (12-25 mm.) in diameter and armed with spines on the top (which gives the plant part of its name "echinocarpa").

Opuntia echinocarpa is found from 1000 - 4000 ft. in the Mojave Desert across the southwestern US including AZ, NV, UT, as well as Sonora and Baja California in Mexico. It is one of the most common chollas in these places. They live in eastern Kern Co. not too far from my home in Lake Isabella. They want a gravelly soil and can stand temperatures down to 15 F.

~Jack G. Reynolds

The Succulent Garden at Cal State *Agave havardiana*



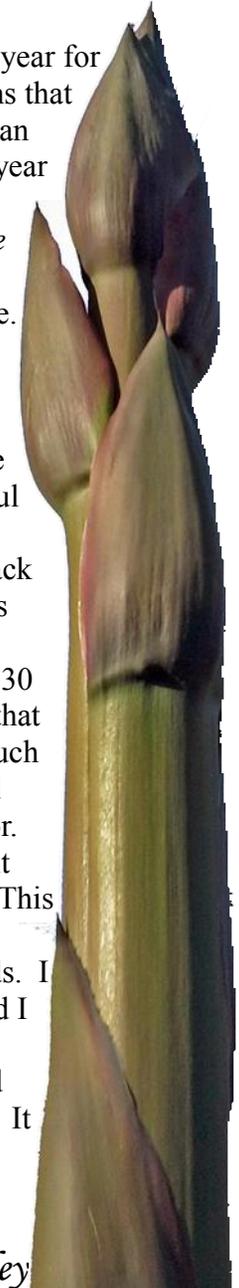
Every year for a while now it seems that our garden has had an agave bloom. This year *Agave havardiana* takes its turn. *Agave havardiana* is a medium sized agave. Ours has reached maturity and is about 4 feet across and 3 feet high. The leaves are a beautiful powdery blue-grey with contrasting black spines. These spines

leave neat little impressions on the leaves as they unfold. Though I have read that this plant can take 30 or more years to flower, this one is just about half that age and is sending up its first bloom spike. It is much larger, at least in girth, than the others we have had bloom. The flowers should be a yellow-green color.

Another nice thing about this agave is that it doesn't send out a lot of pups like many others do. This means that you don't have to spend much time digging out the wandering pups to keep it in bounds. I have harvested and rooted a pup from our plant and I will be bringing it in for raffle in the near future.

Agave havardiana is native to the Big Bend area of western Texas as well as Northern Mexico. It grows in the mountains and can take quite a lot of cold (-20F!). It would make a great addition to a smallish succulent garden as a focal point.

~Stephen Cooley



Hypertufa Workshops

Draped

On February 21st, we had a large group of members come to make draped hypertufa pots. Paulette, Frank, Jill, Maynard, Larry, Pat, Marilyn, Donna, Cher, Linda, and Louis came.



Frank and I made some frames to hold the pots upside down while the cement-covered fabric dried. The mixture is pretty much like the regular

hypertufa mix, only this one is made with more water. It has to be quite thin. This is why it's a messier job.

Paulette and I decided to try painting



some of the draped pots. Here is the one I've done so far with spray paint that I already had.

Photos by Maynard.

The finished product!

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& that didn't Happen

NO ONE showed up for the one scheduled on March 28th! So Donna Pitcher and I did one on March 29th. We did the normal

hypertufa and I tried one of the 'hands' made in gloves.

The 'hands' were not as difficult as I had thought they would be. I'm going to make a couple more of these. (If anyone wants to make some of these, let me know.)

Besides the 'hands,' we did the normal baskets.



This basket made this design

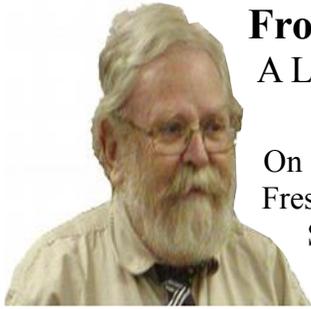


With the leftover hypertufa, we made some freeform pots in plastic ziplock bags.



~Sidney Kelley

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From Paradise to Hell and Back

A Letter From Bruce

On 5th March we heard Russell Wagner at the Fresno C&SS. He showed us the Knersvlakte of South Africa, an area at the south end of Namaqualand

which has large fields of quartzite pebbles. There are many species of small mesembs and other succulents there.

On 10th March we heard Woody again on the Karoo. It was a talk worth hearing twice.

On the 14th we weeded out at the Cal State garden. The aloes were stupendous.

And back to the cruise:

On 18th Nov. we arrived at Grand Cayman. We had to take a tender as the cruise ship could not get near the dock. Just as we found our tour bus it took off without us. It was stopped and we got on and it took off again. Halfway through town a radio message made the bus return and offload two other passengers who were on the wrong bus! Our driver, Dawson Ebanks, was quite nonplussed by all this. He looked like Morgan Freeman and had a delightful accent similar to Jamaicans.

Our first stop after that was at the Tortuga Rum Company. It began to rain so we all ducked into the souvenir shop where we sampled the rum. For a small island, they make a great drink. When the rain stopped we went outside and viewed the small menagerie. There was a blue iguana and a Cayman parrot, both of which are found only there. The plants were more international: a crown of thorns, a tropical “almond” (*Terminalia catappa*) which has an edible nut and a large Crinum.

Driving further north we passed breadfruit, Calotropis (both giant and regular), frangepani, Iguanas in trees and a strangler fig. Eventually we arrived in Hell, an area with heavily eroded lime-



stone. We got our passports stamped and mailed some postcards to prove we had been there. I was surprised to find two species of cacti growing there. *Opuntia dillenii* grew at the edge of the limestone and *Weberocereus tunilla* sent long stems out across it.



We then continued north to a turtle farm where they had a great display of items woven from silver thatch palm leaves (including a pig and a fish). In the ponds we saw more sea turtles than we'd ever seen before. This is the animal that caused Columbus to name the island Tortuga. Later this was changed to Cayman after the

crocodiles which are now extinct there! The turtle farm had one crocodile which had been imported from Cuba which lies just to the north. I also managed to photograph a green iguana which was roaming free.

Across the road from the turtles was a porpoise pool where you could swim with porpoises. We didn't do so, but watched people being pushed and pulled by



them. Returning south we stopped at Governor's beach which is right next to the official mansion of the governor appointed from England. (The Caymans have their own Parliament.) The present governor is a woman. At the beach we saw a tree with sea grapes which Dawson told us could be fermented for a delightful drink.

As we reached the dock it dumped rain, but we could still see the “pirate” schooner parked next to our cruise ship. (Pirates in Paradise {the name of our ship}?) That evening the ship left for another day at sea.

~Bruce Hargreaves

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

Garden Fest - Bakersfield College

April 18th, 2015

BC's Renegade Park, off Mt. Vernon.

Set up: 7 am to 9 am. Opens to public at 9am.

Those bringing tables, etc., can bring them from noon to 6 pm., on Friday. Or **EARLY** Saturday morning.

We are requesting:

- Sun Shades (2) Gary Green is bringing one.
- Tables - 4x6' (8). Plus one card table.
- Chairs: about 4-5.
- Clippings, starts, etc. We charge \$.50 each. These are a big seller.
- Anything you would like to donate for sale that is garden/succulent related.

Help, help, help!

If you can only come for an hour it's a break for the members who stay all day (you can do that, too!). Take down at 4 pm is another time we need extra help. Everyone is tired and the extra help is greatly appreciated.

Be there as early as you can on Saturday, when you come to help set up, bring plants, etc. Saturday set up starts at 5 am. Some of us will be there about 7 am. We also price the plants at this time. It's easy, but time consuming. The college wants us to be setup by 8:45 am.

This sounds like a lot of work. And it is. But it is also a fun time to meet the public and see other booths. Another job that someone might do is come, take some pictures, and write a newsletter article for the Cactus Patch. We can get the pictures for you if you are willing to write the article.

There will be more information at the April meeting.

Questions or info: sbkelly@bak.rr.com

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~Sidney Kelley



The red star is where the booths are set up. (BIG star if you are looking at B/W print)

The yellow star (small middle) is for dropping off items from noon to 6 pm., on Friday. There is no access to this area later.

The green stars (top and bottom stars) are parking lots, if you can't find parking on Mt. Vernon. Friday the Mt. Vernon parking is usually full with student parking, that's why they have a special area to drop off items.

Another Day At The Garden

Sunday, April 26 ~ 8 AM to 11 AM

There is still a bit of work to do, though not as much as before. This time we can focus on getting it tidy for the upcoming May meeting out here. Some tumbleweeds have started to sprout but they are easily removed. I have moved the time up an hour to try to avoid some of the heat. Come and enjoy a late spring day in your Succulent Garden – you don't have to work if you don't feel like it. Bring gloves, knee pads, hand weeders, Hula Hoe, maybe a bucket and a sun hat. Rain Cancels. For directions and more info see:

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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YARD TOURS

(NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT THE WEBMASTER FOR ADDRESSES, GATE CODES, ETC.)

April 25th, Saturday, 9 am - Noon

Greg LaMadrid

We took a tour of Greg's yard in 2010. He has a wonderful front and back yard . It will be interesting to see how his yard has changed.



May 2, Saturday, 11 am - 2 pm.

This is for two yards since Donna Jennings and Marilyn Wilbert are neighbors.

You will need the gate code (You have to push the # key before the numbers)

May 16th, Saturday, 9 am – 11am.

Lea Lehman

When I took this picture there were California poppies growing in the paths.

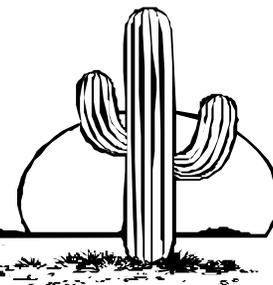
Five years ago we went to Lea's twice.

Lea put in this yard all by herself; another interesting yard to see



if there are changes. Lea is the one south of Ming and west of South H Street. The easiest way is to take Hughes Lane south of Ming to Dayton Ave. Turn east on Dayton. Lea's on the south side (right).

UPCOMING EVENTS



April 10th & 11th

South Coast Club Show and Sale

See March Letter for details: sbkelly@bak.rr.com

April 11th

Shopping trip to Ojai for Garden Fest

April 14th: BCSS meeting

Buck and Yvonne Hemenway: "Why We love South Africa"

April 18th: Garden Fest

@ Bakersfield College

April 25th: yard tour

April 26th: Another Day At The Garden

8 AM to 11 AM

April 28th Board Meeting

May 2nd: yard tour

May 12th: Family Picnic/Potluck

At the Cactus Garden on the CSUB Campus

May 16th: yard tour

June 9th: BCSS meeting

June 14th -19th: Cactus and Succulent Society of America,

Biennial Convention

Pitzer College, Claremont, CA