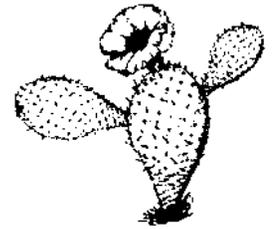


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Polly Hargreaves, editor
pollypearl@hotmail.com



Sarcodes sanguinea
Snow plant: a parasite on
Pine trees near Mt. Lassen

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 18 **July 2015** Number 7

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

"The Basics of Mixtures For a Succulent Soil"

Peter Walkowiak

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,
July 14th**

at

6:30 PM

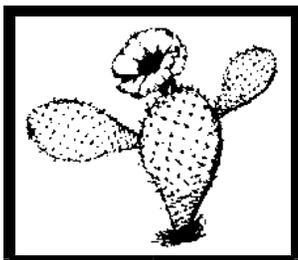
Dinner @ 5:00

Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Sizzler

900 Real Road.



The Cactus Patch

Volume 18 Number 7
July 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.

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Us On the Web!
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July 14th MEETING

The Basics of Mixtures For a Succulent Soil by Peter Walkowaik

He will have plants for sale.

In this workshop all aspects of soil will be discussed. Without a quality soil, the foundation of successful growing, it is difficult to get good, consistent results. A good soil should provide fast drainage, have good water and nutrient retention and be long lasting. I will demonstrate how the soil ingredients are mixed.

Bring in a plant to transplant with pot. I will use your plants for the demonstration. Please no larger than 6 inch size pot. There may be extra soil after the workshop, bring empty 6 inch pot to take some home.

Graduated in 1985 from Cal Poly Pomona with a B.S. Degree in Ornamental Horticulture. Worked as manager, production manager and section manager for three wholesale nurseries for 14 years. Ran a landscaping business for another 14 years, the last five years of which I specialized in succulent landscapes. During the landscaping part of my life I restarted collecting plants for my collection. This led to propagating plants from seed and thus the seed was sown for the nursery that I now own and run for the last two years.

My interest in succulent plants really got going in college, 1981-82. By the time I graduated my collection had grown to 200. This collection has grown to more than 1,000 currently. The collection consists of cacti, euphorbias and caudiciforms.

I am the current president of the Palomar CSS and on the board for the San Diego CSS and the CSSA. I am show chair for Palomar's one and San Diego's two shows and co-chair for the Intercity Show.

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Meeting of June 9th

Charles Spotts has a way of making the lowly opuntia exciting. Bruce and I attended the CSSA Biennial convention at Pitzer College where a brand new species of opuntia was presented. I felt like I had a good background to appreciate the convention after Charles' talk. Well done, Charles!



BRAG TABLE

Richard Ayala brought two plants in the Crassula family, one large and the other about to bloom.



Sidney Kelley brought a blooming *Euphorbia alfredii*, a rare relative of the crown of thorns. This was from the Fresno sale.



Jack Kelley also brought a plant from the Fresno sale- *Brachystelma barberae* which has a tuber that can be raised up to show it off.

Bruce Hargreaves brought a flower stalk and leaf of the *Hesperaloe funifera* which was shown on the address page of the newsletter. It is related to Agaves, but does not die when it blooms.

Polly Hargreaves brought a *Chasmatophyllum (Stomatium) musculinum*, a cold hardy mesemb which we knew from the mountains of Lesotho.



August 11th BCSS meeting

Dinner in the summer
We will need to know who is planning to attend as it affects the price, what we can order, and where we can hold the dinner. Please let us know by August 1st. Sooner if possible.

August 25, BCSS Board Meeting

September 8th BCSS Meeting

Attila Kapitany from Australia on a return visit

Sept 23 - Oct 4, 2015

Kern County Fair

October 10th and 11th

BCSS Annual Show and Sale

at East Hills Mall

(October 9th set up, October 11th Take down)

October 13th BCSS Meeting



Welcome, Alice Mae!

A Letter From Bruce

**Alice! A childish story take
And, with a gentle hand,
Lay it where Childhood's dreams are
twined In Memory's mystic band,
Like pilgrim's withered wreath of flowers
Pluck'd in a far-off land.**

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland
~Lewis Carroll

Immediately after the potluck on the 12th of May we drove up to Fresno for the night. This shortened the long haul to Susanville the next day. We took the I-80 to Reno where it sprinkled. At Johnstonville it poured! That night in Susanville it dropped to 29°F, the only night that month when it froze. Every day for the next week it was cloudy and windy with a bit of rain. Eventually it warmed up, but there was always a bit of cloud and wind.

Why were we there? Our younger son James works for the Susanville Rancheria doing IT. Our daughter-in-law Emily was expecting our first grand-daughter. And, of course, we wanted to see our grandsons Michael and Matthew. The first week James brought home a trampoline and it kept the boys busy part of the time. (Most of the time they played games on the computer.)

On the 16th we went to an estate sale next door and then drove to a storage area where people had set up yard sales in the storage units. As if that wasn't enough, we then went to the fairgrounds for a Pow-wow. It was very interesting as the Susanville Rancheria has four groups (Washoe, Piute, Maidu and Pit River) rather than the usual one as found on most Rancherias and Reservations. The food was delicious – ever had corn-on-the-cob with mayonnaise and parmesan cheese?

On the 18th and other days I photographed wild flowers right in the middle of town. The dry sagebrush slopes had poppies, mules ears, lupines, thistles etc. Just across the road there was a

stream with buttercups, wild roses, teasels, pussy willows and cat-tails. It was all quite a contrast to the dry Central Valley even though it is part of the Great Basin Desert.

On the 19th Polly and I drove Michael south of town where he attended a cooking class. (They made refrigerator jam.) Since the grave of Peter Lassen (miner –explorer for whom the County and nearby Mt. Lassen were named) was nearby we drove over to see it. Not an inspiring monument, but we did see magpies, gulls, grey squirrels and a deer. When we returned to James' house, there was a killdeer out front.

On the 20th Alice Mae arrived at 9:30 a.m. She weighed 9 lb. 4 oz. and was 21" long. She has dark hair and is rather red. At noon we all arrived and took pictures. James stayed with Emily and Alice for two nights while Polly and I took care of the boys at home. Everyone was home on the 22nd and I went to the Rancheria with James to buy some Indian Tacos for a feast. (Alice had milk.)



On the 23 we all dressed up in Super people outfits (yes, even Alice) and had brunch at the Casino which is nearby. (As usual with casinos, the food is good and

reasonable – a come-on to bring in gamblers.) Polly took a picture at the fountain out front since she was the only one without a super outfit. On the 24th we all went out to the Happy Garden, a Chinese restaurant with a well-deserved national reputation. Who would have guessed?

On the 25th (Memorial Day) there was lightning, rain and even a bit of hail. Fortunately this was in the afternoon and most



of the ceremonies were in the morning. On the 26th Alice went to daddy's office while Polly and I watched the boys in the nearby playground. I was amazed how little Matthew went right up the rock wall without flinching!

On the 26th Polly and I took Michael over to Standish where his 4H group toured Martin's Greenhouse. The specialty is hanging baskets of petunias. This keeps the flowers up away from deer etc. I was surprised to find a *Chasmatophyllum* for sale. (See the brag Table.)

The last few days Polly was busy putting together the newsletter- long distance! Amazing what can be done with computers. The print shop where she had copies made is in the older part of town. This is nestled among the pines! It is amazing how distinct the line between pines and sagebrush is. We managed to visit a little museum which stands next to Ft. Roop. This is famous as the site of the Sage Brush War where settlers, who thought they were in Nevada, stood off the revenueurs from Plumas County. The town is named for Roop's daughter Susan.

Finally, on the 3rd of June we left by way of Mt. Lassen (which just celebrated the 100th anniversary of its last eruption) and we saw snow plants and other wild flowers still blooming. We



dropped down to Red Bluff and then spent the night in Stockton. On the 4th we heard Ernesto Sondoval talk on propagation in Fresno. On the 5th we helped set up the Fresno Show and Sale and reached home by 10 p.m.

On the 9th we heard Charles Spotts talk on opuntiods – more than I ever wanted to know! I've generally tried to avoid them – except for the Bakersfield cactus and related varieties of *Opuntia basilaris*. I set up an exhibit on them at the Fresno Show in 1982. My plants may still be seen in the Deutsch Garden in Fresno.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

PRESIDENT 'S CORNER

Well we are at the half way mark of this year and entering the dog days of summer. I know there are a lot of diversions for our members but if you can make it we would sure like to see you at our next meeting.

We had a great presentation at the June 9th meeting. Charles Spotts gave an interesting and informative presentation on Opuntias. One thing I learned was to be careful handling the plants, because they can sure grab you. After being told this, my wife Paulette, promptly bought several plants and had me carry them to the car. Charles brought several plants for sale, his prices were quite reasonable and all in good shape. He also donated plants to the raffle. We appreciated his generosity.

Have you ever wondered how these State and World Wide experts materialize at our little club and make these outstanding presentations. Well, we have a person who works her tail off putting these programs together and gets very little recognition. That person is the club Vice President, Jill Brennan. Jill has been working with and coordinating the scheduling of these presentations. She puts a lot of time and effort so that the members can enjoy the programs we have had and will have over the year. So to Jill I say THANK YOU For the great job you are doing.

Good bye for now. Hope to see you at the July 14th meeting.

Frank Drake

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The Succulent Garden at Cal State

Aloe tomentosa



I was very surprised to find a blooming *Aloe tomentosa* at the Cal State Garden on my last visit. I didn't know we had this aloe. Years ago I had purchased an unnamed aloe for the garden from Cactus Mart. I chose it because even in a 4 inch pot the large, smooth green leaves seemed different from our other aloes. Now it is blooming and the fuzzy, greenish flowers made the identification easy.

Aloe tomentosa is from the mountains of Yemen. Usually aloes from the Saudi Arabian peninsula don't take cold or winter rain well. This one has never had a problem. It is

supposedly winter dormant but has always looked it's best in our garden in the winter. Perhaps this is because I have been treating it as a winter grower. I will now flip that to summer. It is about 2 feet across and 18 inches high, with a flowering stalk about 3 feet high. Apparently it doesn't offset. It is the end of June and all the other aloes in the garden have finished blooming and have dropped their seed. *Aloe tomentosa* has just started to bloom. Perhaps it will self pollinate and I will be able to harvest some seed.



Stephen Cooley

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Plant of the Month

Adenium arabicum

I chose *A. arabicum* as plant of the month because Adeniums are blooming just now but I have already done *A. obesum* as plant of the month and I didn't want to repeat myself.

As the name indicates *A. arabicum* is native to southern Saudi Arabia and Yemen, where it grows near the coast. It is in the family Apocynaceae (dogbanes) which includes Pachypodium and Oleander. As such the sap is poisonous and has been used to tip arrows. Care should be used in handling.

Adenium arabicum tends to occur in two forms which may be separate species. One form has a very squat large caudex up to 3 ft. (1 m.) in diameter the other form is tall up to 12 ft. (4 m.) in height. This is considered by many to be the most drought tolerant of all the Adeniums. Leaves tend to be more rounded than in *A. obesum* and somewhat fuzzy.

Flowers can be pink to reddish pink. They are tubular and generally bloom in spring and sporadically all summer depending on conditions. These plants will grow rapidly and can be watered once or twice a week in summer. They should not be watered during cold weather as they are subject to root rot then. As one would expect they need a growing medium that drains well and want to be in a pot that is not very much bigger than the caudex.

Over sized pots will retain too much moisture and risk the dreaded root rot. They are not frost tolerant so should be moved indoors in winter but will like full to partial sun outdoors in summer.



Jack Reynolds

~11~