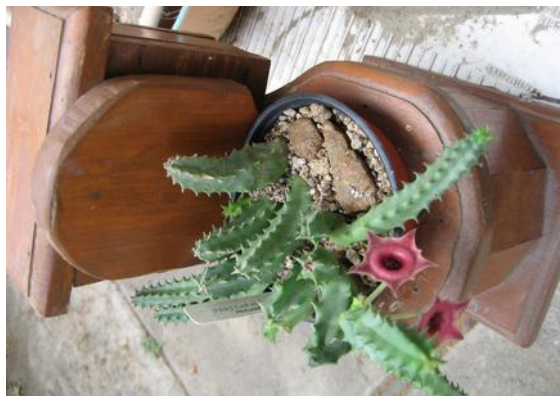
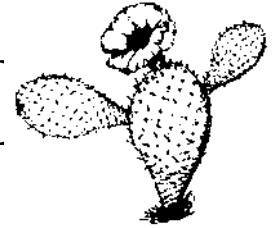


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Polly Hargreaves, editor
pollypearl@hotmail.com



Huernia schneideriana
"Maroon Spit"
Stinky plant
In a wooden potty

THE CACTUS PATCH



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 18 **August 2015** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

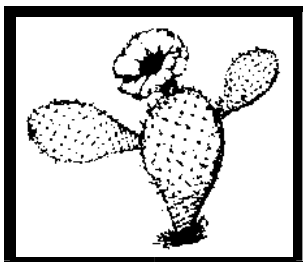
Family Dinner in the Summer
@ The Old Hacienda
6:00 PM

KERN COUNTY
FAIR

Set-up on
Sept 21-22
Bring your best
to show off!

No Speaker

Just Fun,
Fellowship
and FOOD!
5303 Olive Drive



The Cactus Patch

Volume 18 Number 8

August 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.

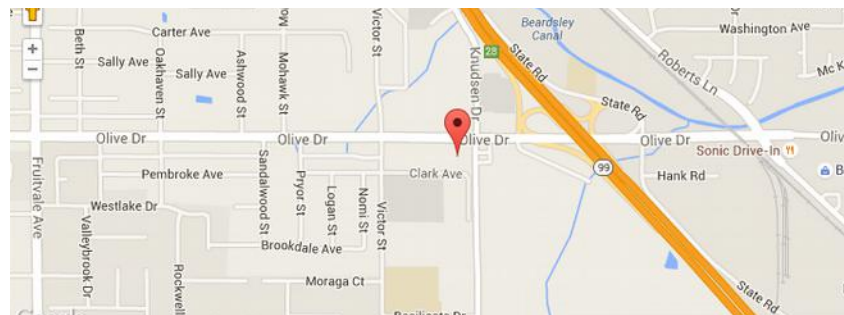
CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Frank Drake
 pancho0831@yahoo.com
Membership: Maynard Moe
 Immoe44@gmail.com
Newsletter: Polly Hargreaves
 pollypearl@hotmail.com
Website: Stephen Cooley
 thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Visit Us On the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

AUGUST 11th DINNER



The Old Hacienda Restaurant
5303 Olive Drive
661-399-6015

The restaurant has agreed that we may order off the regular menu and get separate checks.

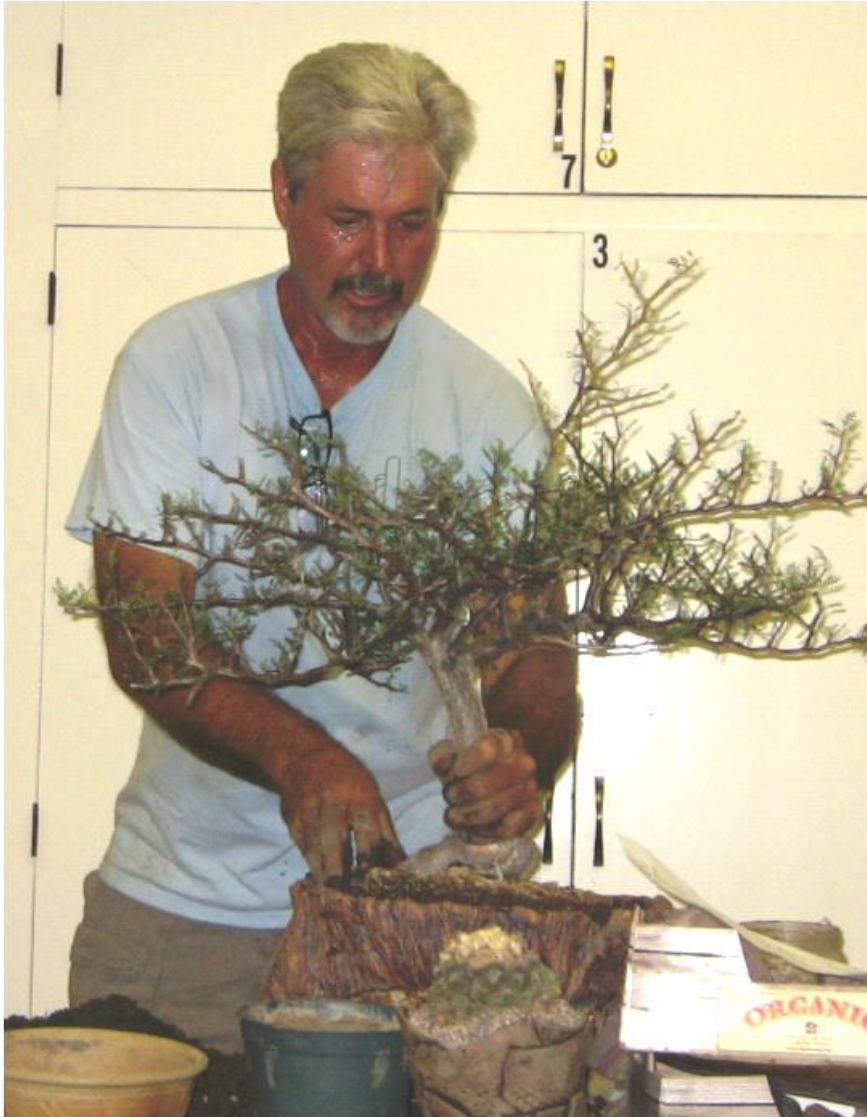
Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Facebook:

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

Meeting on July 14th



Peter Walkowiak's demonstration was as much fun as “mud pies” and way more scientific. His mix will keep most succulents happy most of the time

Soil and Fertilizer for Succulents

By Peter Walkowiak, B.S.
Horticulture, PW Plants

There are three ingredients for my soil mix. You can substitute other materials and those are listed below.

Soil:

60% Perlite #3, *substitute pumice*; this should be completely wetted and mix, do not remove fine particles unless excessive.

20 % Compost, *substitute good potting soil*; I get my compost from the green recycling at the local dump and let age for one month minimum.

20 % DG (decomposed granite); use 1/8 screen to remove gravel from fine particles. Gravel is for top dressing and fine particles for the soil mix.

Instructions:

Mix DG and compost together. Add this to the WET perlite and mix till blended and perlite is not visible (no white is showing). Soil is ready to use.

Always use moist soil and never water newly transplanted succulents.

Fertilizer:

0-50-30 Grow More water soluble fertilizer

15.5-0-0 Calcium Nitrate, water soluble form

White vinegar, 2 tablespoons per gallon, PH of 6.0 to 6.5

Increase nitrogen in the early spring and late summer, decrease during heat waves, mid summer and winter

There are three materials to avoid, sand, peat moss and kor.

Sand compacts and does not dry out or allow good air penetration. Both peat moss and kor (coconut husk) are not composted and when they do it turns to muck.

Plant of the Month

Cylindropuntia (*Opuntia*) *munzii*



Lyman Benson lists twenty species within the genus *Opuntia* in CA, plus many hybrids. A more recent revision of the genus has erected a new genus, *Cylindropuntia* which incorporates some *Opuntias*. I would guess they are the ones with cylindrical branches or segments, given the name.

I chose *C. munzii* because I needed a new cactus to learn about and also because it is named after the co-author of *A California Flora* (Philip A. Munz and David D. Keck, 1963), the text I used in plant taxonomy and which I still use from time to time.

Cylindropuntia munzii, lives in extreme southeastern CA, in Riverside and Imperial counties. It grows from 500-to 1000 ft. (180-450 m.) in elevation in the gullies that cut through the Chuckwalla and Chocolate Mountains. It is also abundant in Baja California being found along the Colorado River drainage where it

crosses to empty into the Gulf of California. It prefers the gravelly desert soil which is well drained. It can grow to a height of 12 ft. (4 m.) as a “cactus tree”. Branches are generally upward curving but may have drooping branch also. Stems are up to 2 in. (5 cm.) in diameter and 4 in. (10 cm.) long. They have raised tubercles with areoles 0.5 in. (12 mm.) by 0.25 in. (6 mm.). There are 9-12 yellow spines 0.5-0.75 in. (12-18 mm.) long.



Terminal segments are easily broken off. This is a way of reproducing vegetatively. Flowers are 1.5-2 in. (3-5 cm.) in diameter and greenish yellow with a dash of lavender. Fruits are greenish, dry and sometimes sterile. This sterility problem has led some to believe that *C. munzii* is really a hybrid and not a true species. I will not attempt to resolve that matter in this little article.

Jack G. Reynolds



The Kern County Fair

Sept 23rd ~ Oct 5th

The Kern County Fair has offered us the space again to put up a nice display representing our club. We will be setting up September 21 and 22nd. Pickup of our plants will be October 5th, from 8 am to 7 pm. They must be picked up on this date.

We would like members to bring plants to put in the display. Don't bring any that are small (easy to walk away with). We have not had any problems with this so far. This is good advertisement for our club. Fair goers seem to really enjoy looking at the different plants. You can call me if you have questions. 831-8488

Sidney Kelley

October 2015 Show and Sale

BRAG TABLE

Bruce brought a plant of *Cylindropuntia ramosissima* which is a kind of pencil cactus. (Not to be confused with *Euphorbia tirucalli* which some are now calling pencil "cactus".) I compared it with a plastic cactus pen which Anne brought back from Arizona. Polly brought the plant of the month *Adenium arabicum*. It was young and small. A comment was made that the leaves were not the same as other plants of this name. Adeniums have variable leaves and flowers and there is some confusion as to where to draw species lines.

Jack Kelly brought an *Albuca (Ornithogalum) spiralis* which is blooming in the summer. Sidney Kelley brought a large *Dorstenia foetida* which was growing and blooming happily in a shallow pot.



Paul Bowles brought a *Euphorbia decidua* which is a rare African plant which I have only seen twice in this country. I have, however, seen it in Africa and have written two papers on it (Cactus and Succulent Journal [U.S.] Vol. 55, 1983 pp. 129-132 and Euphorbia Journal Vol. 2, 1984 pp. 91-94).



Succulent Plants in Art

Many artists are inspired by the beauty, symmetry, or weirdness of the plants we love, grow and collect. They have been honored in paint, sculptured in many different materials, and their total environment recorded in every media possible. Bring pieces that you have made or collected

Faux Plants

We are including the Faux (fake) plant classification again this year in the Show & Sale. We hope more members enter this category this year as only four members participated in this the last time it was held in 2013. Every one of the faux plants were very ingenious. Some members were more prolific than others. It's very addictive. The public really studied all of them. They



commented that they enjoyed all of them. Put on your thinking caps and come up with one or more! As you can see, part of the fun is naming the plant. If you need some ideas, contact me.

Sidney Kelley



CSSA National Convention 2015

A Letter From Bruce

On Monday the 15th of June, Polly and I drove down to her sister Ginny's place in Joshua Tree. We had lunch at the Roadside Diner at Kramer's Junction on the way. Desert landscaping is nothing new in Joshua Tree. Out front there were nothing but cacti and other desert plants with decorative rocks. I took a branch of a pencil cactus from the garden (with permission-see brag table).

Next morning we drove down (literally) to Claremont and arrived at Pitzer College in time for the third day of the CSSA convention. Although they have done their best to keep prices low, we could not afford more than one day. I chose this day because Dr. Heidi Hartman and Andry Petignat were listed as speakers. Unfortunately Heidi, a friend of ours and an expert on mesembs, was unable to attend. Andry, however, gave a terrific talk on baobabs – similar to mine, but much better. We had not met Andry previously, but we did meet his father Hermon at the Arboretum d'Antsokay in Toliara, Madagascar in 1996. We were glad to learn that Andry is carrying on the Arboretum.

Incidentally, there were recordings made of the various talks and these should be available for use by local clubs. I highly recommend that we get one of Andry's talks.



Other talks that day included “*Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*: a new cholla from Riverside and Imperial Counties” by Michelle Cloud-Hughes (terrific); “A Namibian showcase” by Dr. Tim Harvey (so-so); “A Mexico Adventure” by Greg Star (OK); “Spectacular Mesembs” by Steven Hammer (sorry Steve, too many cultivars); “Lithops: the wild and the Tame” by Doug Hawson (more to my liking with lots of field work); and “Succulent plant discoveries in East Africa-past, present and future” by Prof. Len Newton [on left] (another I would recommend for our own club).



On our way to lunch (just OK) we got to see many of the large succulents from around the world which have been

planted at Pitzer. Really impressive! There were also plants for sale (with Woody in charge) and, of course, books on succulents (with Chuck Iverson in charge). I was surprised to find a copy of “Wild Flowers of South Eastern Botswana” by Gwithie Kirby, a good friend of ours. It has good color pictures and includes some succulents.



We met a number of old friends including a good contingent from Fresno and Ernst van Jaarsveld from South Africa. Dinner that evening was “on your own” and afterward there was an auction we couldn't afford, so we had dinner at Mr. D's diner in Laverne where we watched the US women's football (aka soccer) team defeat Nigeria 1 to 0. We were home in Bakersfield by 9:15.

We watched several other football matches both out and at home, but the last was the best! On the 5th of July we had lunch at the Firehouse which has a very large screen. The place was packed with people in red, white and blue. Usually the games are slow starting and end with few goals. In this one the US started off with three goals but allowed Japan to score one. After the halftime break both teams scored again and the final score was 5 to 2. It was one of the most exciting games I've ever seen. At least the American women have learned to play proper football (although they still call it soccer).

On the 14th we learned about mixing soil for succulents. It was a good demonstration, but, like a similar one in Fresno, it would have been better outdoors. Also, I am a bit leery of generalizations. There are succulents which don't require desert conditions and need a different soil.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

Chuck Everson and Woody Minnich running sales at the convention



~12~

The Succulent Garden at Cal State

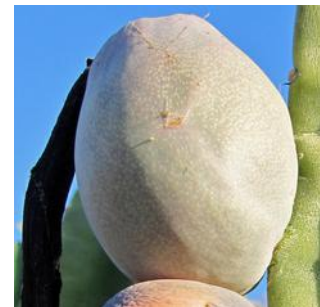
Cereus peruvianus



Cereus peruvianus is pretty much the same as *Cereus repandus*, at least when you find it in the landscape. No one seems to be able to say which is which, or if there is even a difference at all. Let's call it Peruvian Apple Cactus which is a name they share.

This is perhaps the most common landscape columnar cacti in our area. It is free blooming, easy to grow and though it gets big (I know of one in Rosedale that is as high as the house!) it is easily managed.

Peruvian Apple Cactus is a native of South America, probably from Venezuela (nobody seems to be sure about this either). It has large, white flowers that open in the evening and close the next late morning. These are followed by smooth, spineless fruits that are edible and sweet but not altogether flavorful. In Israel it has been selected for more tasty fruit and is shipped off to market in Europe.



It is very easy to grow though it may not look good in the shade and our coldest of winters will damage it. It can even take a bit of extra water. If you want a large cactus in your garden, this is one of the best.

Stephen Cooley

~13~

QUEEN OF THE NIGHT

A Tohono O'odham woman fell in love with a Yaqui warrior, a Hiakim, and went to live far away. Each evening, her spirit would speak to her mother. One day, Old White-Haired Woman heard nothing, so she told her husband, "Our daughter is ill. I must go to her." "But the Hiakim live far from here," he said, "and you are a bent old woman. How will you get there?"

"I'itoi, the Spirit of Goodness, will help me." Elder Brother heard the woman's plea and sent Coyote, Ban, to guide her steps to water, and the Ali Chu Chum O'odham, the Little People -- the animals and birds, U'u Whig, brought her seeds and beans.

She finally reached the land of the Hiakim and learned that her daughter was sick and dying. "Please take my son home to our people," the daughter begged. "His father's people will turn him into a warrior."

From when the Tohono O'odham emerged from the center of the earth, they have been peace-loving. So when the Hiakim were busy feasting, Old White-Haired Woman loaded the baby into her burden basket and set off. The Yaqui sent a band of warriors after her.

She was almost back to the land of the Desert People when they spotted her. I'itoi called a flock of shashani, black birds, who flew into the eyes of the Yaqui and blinded them and then he took Old White-Haired Woman into a wash and hid her. She was very tired and lame.

"Stay here," Elder Brother said. "I will carry the baby back to your people, but while resting, you will be changed. For your bravery, your feet will be roots. Your tired old body will be branches. Each year, for one night only, you will become the most beautiful plant on earth, a flower the Mil-gahn, or Whites, call the Night-Blooming Cereus, the Queen of the Night, and Indians call Hookwah'o or Witch's Tongue. In early summer when a beautiful scent fills the air, the Tohono O'odham, know it is Kok'oi 'uw, Ghost Scent, and they remember. Then they listen while Brought Back Child tells the story of his grandmother, Old White-Haired Woman.

Adapted from Queen of the Night by J. A. Jance
William Morrow
An Imprint of Harper Collins Publishers.



August 11th BCSS meeting

Dinner in the summer

See map on page 3

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

Sept. 29th BCSS Board Meeting

October 10th & 11th, 2015

Show and Sale

October 13th BCSS Meeting

Oct. 27th BCSS Board Meeting

November 10th BCSS Meeting

Election of Officers

Nov. 24th BCSS Board Meeting

December 8th BCSS Meeting

Family Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction

Installation of New Officers for 2016