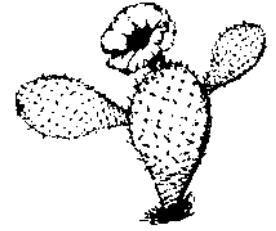


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Polly Hargreaves, editor
pollypearl@hotmail.com



Ceropogia radicans
subsp. *smithii*
A South African Milkweed
Photo by BJH

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 18 **October 2015** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

"MSB and Serendipity"

the Millennium Seed Bank Project

Bruce Hargreaves

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

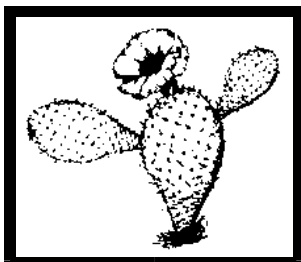
**Tuesday,
October 13th**

at
6:30 PM

**Election of
Officers**

In November

Consider working in
the background



The Cactus Patch

Volume 18 Number 10
October 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

October 13th MEETING

Botanical Treasure Hunt in Botswana

Bruce Hargreaves was Principal Curator of Natural History at the National Museum of Botswana for thirteen years. In addition to supervising staff with several collections (Botany, Zoology, Geology and Taxidermy), he also worked with several different local and international agencies doing research on and in Botswana.

The Botswana Millennium Seed Bank Program started in 2003, after an Access and Benefit Sharing Agreement was signed between the Botswana Ministry of Agriculture and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The program involves four partner organizations, the National Plant Genetic Resources Center, the National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens, the National Tree Seed Center and Veld Products Research and Development (VPRD), a non-governmental organization with strong community links. The main focus of the five year program is conservation of Botswana's rare and endangered plant species, but the program also has a strong livelihoods component, through VPRD, with the aim of identifying and collecting seeds from wild plant species with potential economic value.

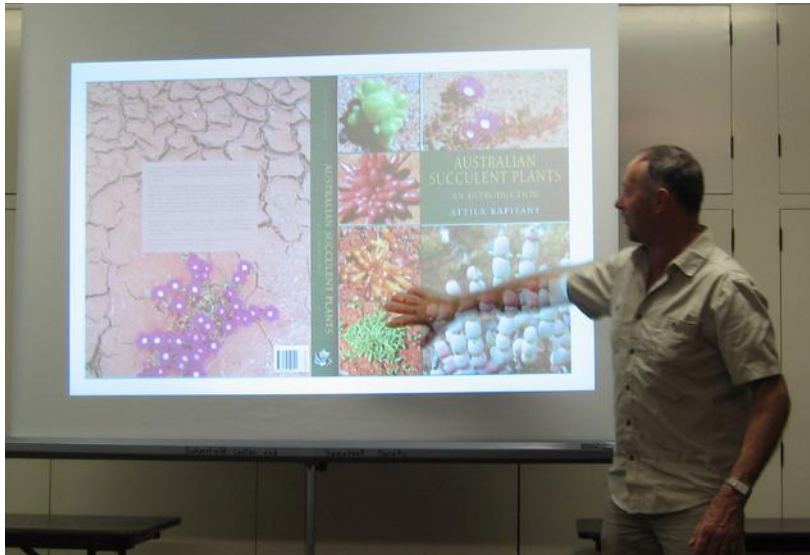
The Botswana program was one of the first to use MSBP Targeted Species Collection guides. We have also undertaken botanical inventories and vegetation surveys on a consultancy basis. The botanical inventories and vegetation surveys raised funds for the national project, and at the same time served as a training opportunity.

We were also one of the first MSBP program to link *ex situ* conservation with a livelihoods and development approach, by trying to increase the appreciation of the potential of wild plants to provide a diversified source of income for local communities, hence encouraging conservation through use. *Stomatostemma monteiroae* plants propagated at VPRD were part of a recent exhibition at the National Museum, as part of Botswana's 40 years-independence celebration. The fruit of this plant, known locally as "Mosata" or "Mashedza", is used as a meat substitute and is currently being sold nationally.

Facebook:

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

September 8th, 2015



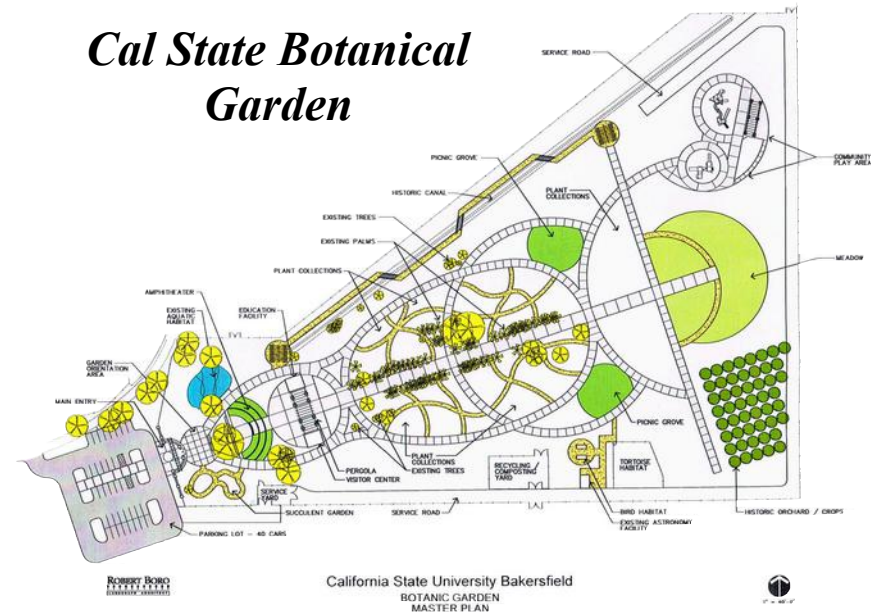
Atilla Kapitani has done it again.: told us about some of the really strange things for “his” part of the world. Imagine, plants that actually “like” to have ants around! Combine that with wild and wonderful orchids and you have a program to make your brain sizzle.



Music at the McDonalds' new home

The Succulent Garden at Cal State

Cal State Botanical Garden



There have been a couple of big changes this year at Cal State Bakersfield's Environmental Studies Area (this is where we have our succulent garden). Firstly, the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment (FACT) closed down, FACT was well known and a big draw for elementary school field trips. Secondly, there has been a proposal to build a Botanical Garden in the ESA which will use about 20 acres. Another 20 acres will be reserved for research projects.

I was invited to attend a preliminary planning meeting on Thursday October 1. The meeting focused on getting some priorities in order as to funding, management, design and also to think about a guiding mission statement.

Our succulent garden should not be adversely affected by the new botanical garden, in fact it should be enhanced. The location of our garden puts it right at the entrance and will be the first plants that visitors will see. I have no doubt that the succulent garden will be the most awe inspiring plant feature of the new area.

Stephen Cooley

Plant of the Month



Pachypodium saundersii

Choosing the plant of the month this time was pretty easy because my *P. saundersii* has decided to bloom for the first time since I acquired several

years ago. Perhaps I finally got the water right.

The “Kudu Lily” as it is sometimes called is another member of the Apocynaceae or Dogbane family along with Oleander and Adenium. *P. saundersii* is found in Southern Africa, the Lebombo Mountains, KwaZulu Natal, Mpumalanga and Swaziland, where it grows as a shrubby bush up to 5 ft. (1.5 m.) high. It is often found growing from crevices where it will form a well developed caudex up to 1 ft. (30 cm.) in diameter with many branches 0.5 in. (12 mm.) in diameter, armed with numerous spines up to an inch (25 mm.) long. The thin bark is pale beige, almost white to reflect the intense sun.

It is cold tolerant to about 30 F so should grown outdoors in Bakersfield if watered sparingly in the cold weather. In warm weather it will like regular watering. I recall when one of my small Pachypodiums seemed to collapse during a hot spell. I thought it had root rot and took it up thinking I would have to cut off the bottom of the plant in an effort to save it. To my surprise the roots were all fine. The plant had just wilted for lack of water. When replanted and watered it recovered in a couple of days.



The combination of wet soil and cold can be deadly to this plant however. In cold weather they will drop their leaves, also in the heat if too dry.

Pachypodium is noteworthy for its tendency to form an impressive caudex. The best way to encourage this is to under-pot them. In a large pot they tend grow long thin branches. This also occurs if they do not get enough sun.

Propagation by cuttings and seed are both common. My experience with cuttings of *P. saundersii* is to achieve about 20% success, which is not very good but probably my fault. Seed is easily sprouted in pumice or perlite if kept humid; there I have had about a 90% success.

Jack G. Reynolds



Setting up the club display for the K.C. Fair.
Boy, don't we have a lot of great plants!

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By the time you get this newsletter the Kern County Fair will be over. The club had a great display of cactus and succulents. Once again Sidney Kelley did a great job of coordinating all of the pieces to put together a great presentation at the fair. Sidney and Paulette Drake also did a presentation to fair goers on Senior Day on planting cactus and succulents.



Sidney also received the Special Award from the fair for her *Sedem dendroideum*. This award is for best plant in the club's display.

All of the fair activities bring attention to our club and hopefully encourages new members.

Several cactus and succulents were also entered in the open competition. Paulette Drake won Best of cactus and succulent division. She also won numerous ribbons in the various subdivisions. Donna Jennings also received a Chairman's award for her "crown of thorns". All in all, a good representation of the club's activities.

With no time to catch our breath, the annual Bakersfield Cactus Sale and Show will take place the weekend of October 10th and 11th at the East Hills Mall.

~8~



Friday the 9th is set up day. We will need all the help we can get Friday around 3pm to set up and decorate tables.

Saturday the 10th we will need volunteers as cashiers and other chores.

The show hours are Saturday: 10am to 5pm and Sunday: 11am to 3pm. We will also need plenty of help Sunday after 3pm to dismantle the show.

Show up when you can and do what you can. Any and all help will be appreciated. See you at the show and sale and at the next meeting October 13th.

Frank Drake

Club prize at the K. C. Fair



Congratulations to Steve Clark. His plant, a large *Aeonium balsamiferum*, was deemed the best grown plant in the cactus and succulent categories.

~9~



Wasting Time

A Letter From Bruce

We didn't go anywhere or do much this last month, so I'll describe how I "waste" time. We didn't go to Fresno (they had a members' sale) and we continued with our exercise group three or four days a week. (Why not, it costs us nothing and is probably good for us.)

We did hear Attila Kapitany's talk on orchids and ant plants of Australia. It was fantastic, but he did try to fit in too much and left no time for questions and comments. I have just a couple of comments. First was the question on the plant on the cover of his book which looks a bit like a balloon dog. It is *Halosarcia bulbosa*, a member of the Chenopodiaceae family. It is a salt marsh plant (like the pickleweed we have here) and as such is difficult to grow in cultivation. This is a pity because it is so strange looking.

Second is his statement that the orchid *Dockrillia striolata* has an upside down flower. Actually it is the other way around. It has a right side up flower whereas most orchids have a flower which is upside down because the flower stalk twists while growing!

On Sept. 2nd, I had a growth removed from my cheek and so missed the opening rehearsal of the Goldenaires choir. I was there for the second rehearsal on the 9th. We have a bit of Christmas music by John Rutter. Does this mean we are getting in a Rutter?

On Sept. 10th we heard on Valley Public Radio about a new fossil human ancestor found in South Africa. Polly then found more info on the internet. Next day a short article appeared in the Californian. I mentioned it to John who said, "As a caver I knew this was coming. I saw the ad for skinny people with caving and anthropology experience."

On the 16th they showed a two hour National Geographic special on TV. Finally on the 18th we received a copy of the Oct. Nat. Geographic magazine which had a cover article (and advertised the TV special which had already gone by!)

~10~

I could write a book about this, but for now I will just make three comments. One, they are a bit premature with the announcement as they have not dated the fossils. Second, they have named it *Homo naledi* (a Sotho/Tswana name meaning "star" from the name of the cave which is Rising Star), but I think more specimens of *Homo habilis* are needed to say it is a separate species. (The outstanding feature of the new discovery is the number of fossils found.) Finally, they claim this was a deliberate burial, but give very little evidence for this extraordinary claim.

Next came Flics, the films shown every other week at the Fox. The season started on 11th September with "Far from the Madding Crowd", an excellent convoluted love affair. On the 4th of December they will be showing "Timbuktu", a movie I have been wanting to see ever since it was nominated for an Oscar in the Foreign Film category. John actually got a copy and we have watched it at home. It portrays the takeover of a village by Islamic extremists and is not a pleasant film to watch. I do recommend it for anyone trying to make sense of events in North Africa and the Middle East.

On the 15th we watched the season finale of "Zoo". It just gets worse and worse. The next to last episode started in Zambia where for some inexplicable reason people were speaking Swahili, a language of East Africa. They needed medical help so suddenly they were in Harare Hospital in the middle of Zimbabwe. I guess the program counts on American ignorance of Africa!

On the 20th we had a family dinner at the Roadhouse Grill and celebrated our niece Angela's birthday. After that I took plants to the fairgrounds. The exhibit is very full this year. That evening we watched the last episode of "Arthur and George", a very good production of how Arthur Conan Doyle proved George was innocent. This was followed by the series "Sherlock" which is a very good modern version, and not quite as changed from Doyle as "Elementary".

Bruce Hargreaves

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

~11~

BRAG TABLE



Paulette Drake brought a plant of *Orbea variegata* which was in bud. Orbeas are like Stapelias but they have smooth rather than fuzzy stems.

Polly Hargreaves brought a pineapple lily (*Eucomis* sp.) which had purple flowers. It was bought at Vons where all the others were the more usual cream to green.

Bruce brought a planter with *Aloe rauhii* which was blooming. It was named for Werner Rauh who wrote the two volumes "Succulents of Madagascar".

Richard Ayala brought two plants of the mutant crassula referred to as "Gollum" after the creature from "The Lord of the Rings" He planted them in two head shaped pots.

Jack Reynolds brought a *Conophytum bilobum*. It had been blooming, but like many mesembs it had closed for the night.

~12~

Hello to all,

We are excited for your new enlarged Show & Sale upcoming. I wish we could be there. Two trips south for family affairs will keep us here at home for a month or two. We did see a fire start up in Tehachapi, and were happy that it was quickly extinguished. What a frightening set of summers we have all had. Just smoky conditions here this year, and the weather is cooling.

Bill spent three months in South Dakota working for Indian Health. We met up in June for a trip to Minnesota and to NYC with our grandson. In July I flew back for a visit. Such beautiful country around Sisseton in the NE corner of SD. So green and beautiful. The lakes were countless; we saw many birds and three National Wildlife Preserves. There was even a big electrical storm with "golf-ball" sized hail stones.

I have recently joined the Siskiyou Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society -- NARGS! It seems the closest thing to BCSS and they do grow a lot of succulents. A rock garden is in our future. The people are friendly and relaxed.

We are officially moved in, just having had a Open House/Dance Party last weekend. It was also meant to be a bit of a thank you to all those who helped us get into our home. The band was great and the food abundant. The center pieces were potted succulents, always attractive. And I installed my metal bicycle from O See 'Em Bloom Nursery.

Happy Autumn.

~13~

Bill & Lynn McDonald



2016 Mid States Conference (MSC) Denver, Colorado

Hosted by the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

Scheduled dates of Conference:

June 9, 10 and 11, 2016 and June 12, optional

Conference registration fee \$100.00.

Early registration before May 2016, \$85.00.

Venue for Conference: The Double Tree by Hilton 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014 Room rates and other adjacent hotels and restaurants to be listed at a later date.

Presenters, plant and pottery vendors will be announced at a later date. There will be 10 well known expert speakers. Subjects range from Cold Hardies to Show Plant Staging and Plant Propagation to Rock and Succulent gardens. Our presenters will also take us to many special habitats around the world where we will see many of the succulent plants we grow. Some of these presenters are among the best in the C&S world!

“Denver, What better place to be in the month of June!”

LET’S HAVE FUN!

For more information please contact, Co-Conference Chairs: Randy Tatroe
rtatroe@q.com 303-699-8958 or
Woody Minnich cactusdata@msn.com 661-406-9816



October 10th & 11th, 2015

Show and Sale

October 13th BCSS Meeting
The millennium Seed Bank Project

Bruce Hargreaves

Oct.. 27th BCSS Board Meeting

November 10th BCSS Meeting
“Bring & Buy”

Fun and sharing for all members
Election of Officers

Nov. 24th BCSS Board Meeting

December 8th BCSS Meeting
Family Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction

Installation of Officers

June 9, 10 and 11, 2016
2016 Mid States Conference (MSC) Denver, Colorado

See previous page

“Denver, What better place to be in the month of June!”