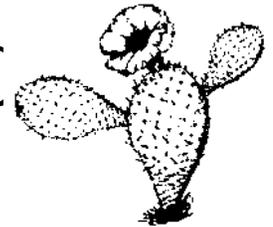




Lithops sp.
October
Show & Sale

The Cactus Patch Πc



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 18 **December 2015** Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
"Putluck Dinner"
and Silent Auction
@ St Paul's Episcopal Church
6:30 PM

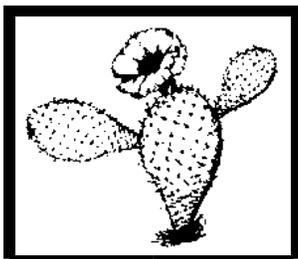
Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,
December 8th**
at
6:30 PM
Dinner @ 6:00

**Meet the New
Board**

Dinner @ 6:00 PM

2016 Dues are
payable now!



The Cactus Patch

Volume 18 Number 12
December 2015

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield



**THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
MEETS THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH
MONTH AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2216 17th ST BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIA
A "SOCIAL HALF HOUR" BEGINS AT 6:30PM
THE REAL MEETING STARTS AT 7:00PM
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

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

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Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

December 8th MEETING

Annual Holiday Potluck & Silent Auction 6:00pm

The rules for the potluck are simple:
there are no rules.

Bring any kind of dish you want to share, and don't forget something sweet to eat. You may want to bring your own forks, knives and good plates, the Club will furnish plastic forks and knives and paper plates as well as sodas and cups. The whole family is invited!

We will also have our **Silent Auction**, where members bid on special plants provided by the club. For this reason the auction is for members only. If you have a special item that has something to do with Cacti & Succulents and would like to donate it to be auctioned off, please bring it and add it to the auction tables.

Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Facebook:

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

LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR

We have a new president, **Paul Bowles**
and a new secretary, **Pat Tennant**.

Most of the club board will continue to serve in 2016.
Membership/ Treasurer: **Maynard Moe**
Newsletter: **Polly Hargreaves**
Website: **Stephen Cooley**

There are also many “untitled” ways to make this,
YOUR club, more active and more what you want it to be.

Volunteer to organize the things you like to do!

Especial thanks to **Frank Drake** who stepped up
(with a lot of support from his wife, **Paulette**)
as President for 2015.

Anne Lee has been Secretary for several years,
and is welcome to take a well deserved break.
We will find other ways to keep her in sight!

In case you were wondering, **Sidney Kelley**
is not an official officer, but when things need doing
or there is a possibility for fun,
count on her to make it happen!



Once More to the North A Letter From Bruce

On the 14th of October we set off for the North. We had intended to leave earlier, but delayed the trip when we were told the grandsons were busy puking. We reached Fresno to spend the night with Polly’s sister Nancy only to find Polly had left all her pills in Bakersfield. Next morning we returned to Bakersfield and then spent another night in Fresno. On the 16th we set off for Susanville via Sacramento and Reno. We arrived to find everyone recovered and we all had dinner at the Diamond Mountain Casino run by the Susanville Rancheria that James works for. We spent Saturday getting reacquainted. Alice Mae was almost five months and pushing up so her head and shoulders were lifted. She’ll be crawling soon.



After a relaxing Saturday we all went to Wemple’s Pumpkin Patch near Honey Lake on the road back towards Reno. We started with lunch and Michael tried out the hay bale maize (it was free, unlike the cornfield maize which we did not try). Next the boys posed on old tractors which were lined up. Then all of us went for a ride through the pumpkin field. I commented on some roadside weeds, “That’s a burdock, that’s a curly dock and that’s a ‘what’s up doc’”. James immediately said, “What!”, to which I answered, “Actually it’s a milkweed.” Michael was a little slower on the uptake and said, “What’s up Doc?” To which I replied from my own youth, “A rare plant from Mars.” We then bought a few pumpkins and headed back to Susanville.



What a lot of stuff we've got!



Christmas in Mandela Square, Johannesburg



Edible Treasures!



Treasure Hunters!

Once More to the North, continued.

We spent three more days hanging around Susanville and on the 22nd headed past Reno to Virginia City. We checked into the Silverland Hotel and had a large room with two double beds for the adults and a hide-a-bed for the boys. (Alice Mae slept with her mother.) After settling in we went for a swim in the indoor heated pool. Virginia City was colder than Susanville so the pool felt great. For dinner we went up to the main road for pizza at the Red Dog Saloon.



Next morning we had breakfast back up on the main drag and then went over to the train Depot for a special kids' day. They have an old train which runs out to Gold Hill and back, but for this occasion they had a replica of the cartoon Thomas the Tank Engine attached. It had eyes which rolled and a mouth which opened and closed. While waiting Matthew road in small circles on a rather small version of Thomas.

Michael was more interested in the giant soap bubbles which were being made. Finally we loaded onto the train and went for a ride through the scenic country of the Comstock Lode which once produced gold and silver.

After the ride the kids posed with Sir Topham Hat, a character from the Thomas cartoons. Then there were bean bag throws, miniature golf etc. To me the best was the ride on a hand car. Finally we had a hobo lunch in the dining car. Leaving Virginia City, we then drove down to Carson City, the capitol of Nevada for snack at Jack in the Box.



We then drove over to Zephyr Cove on Lake Tahoe so Polly could see the Lake. It was quite low due to the drought, but the steamboats were still running. Finally, we stopped at Circus-



Circus in Reno and had dinner at a Mexican Restaurant which included Kokopelli's Sushi! The food was good, but in general the noise and flashing lights made Circus Circus unbearable. We watched a bit of a dog act (no pony) but were not impressed. It was late when we arrived back in Susanville.



Next day we went to Matthew's preschool for Minion Madness. I thought the kids would be worn out from Virginia City, but they tore right into more games. Most people were in costume and we dined on hotdogs. Sunday was a restful day and on the 26th

we drove to Sacramento by way of Chico. The north end of Lake Almanor was nothing but mudflats due to the drought. We stayed overnight with Marvin, husband of my late sister Karen. Next morning we had breakfast with him at Denny's (where he is well known) and then headed down the road to Bakersfield.

On the 5th of November we were back in Fresno and went to the newly opened African Adventure at the Chaffee Zoo. Sitting eating lunch on the veranda of the restaurant we watched rhinos



grazing beneath us with elephants, eland and zebra in the distance. It was almost like the real thing. They have planted a lot of plumbago, red top grass, aloes, etc. which are appropriate, but they did have some cacti, hesperaloes and other non-African plants. There was one stapeliad and a mesemb at an enclosure for a lizard and tortoise.

That evening we heard Duke Benadom speak on a trip to Mexico which included the late Charlie Glass. It was well done and quite nostalgic. We were also present for the Members Sale in Bakersfield on the 10th. It was quite surprising to see such a variety offered. We did not have a real brag table, but I presented the Nov. issue of Bradleya, the yearbook of the British Cactus and Succulent Society which includes an article on the tree form of Aloe arborescens which occurs only on Mount Mlanje in Malawi. I am one of the authors as I reported on this species based on our early experience in Malawi, our first home in Africa beginning in 1965.

Bruce Hargreaves

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



December 8th BCSS Meeting
Family Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction
Installation of Officers

Jan 12th BCSS Meeting

June 9, 10 and 11, 2016
2016 Mid States Conference (MSC) Denver, Colorado
“Denver, What better place to be in the month of June!”

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