



Aloe cultivar
'Eric the Red'

The Cactus Patch



Volume 19 **April 2016** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

"Oaxaca"

Fall 2015

Kelly Griffin

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

Tuesday,
April 12th

at

6:30 PM

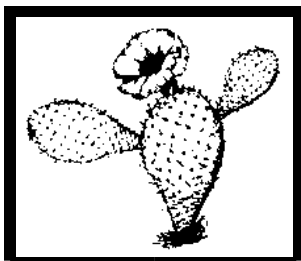
Dinner @ 5:00

Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Sizzler

900 Real Road



The Cactus Patch

Volume 19 Number 4

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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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April 12th MEETING

"Oaxaca" by Kelly Griffin



Kelly Griffin is known for finding and creating new and different plants that can be utilized in garden settings. Some of Kelly's hybrid aloes are well recognized in the industry and are collected by enthusiasts. Kelly will share a trip to Oaxaca last year. "I made a trip with Woody Minnich and Tom Knapik to see northern Mexico, at the conclusion of that trip, they drove back to Texas and I flew on to Mexico City and then to Oaxaca to continue the trip. This will be the part with the Cycads and Agaves and other interesting plants of that southern region"

He will present some of the strange, beautiful and wonderful plants that he has had the good fortune to see in his travels, sharing his passion to observe plants in the wild in order to understand how they grow, and under what conditions. He will share insights into the plants and habitats that are not well known.

Kelly is a manager of Succulent Plant Development for Altman Plants, the largest producer of succulents in the country. His inclination has been towards Agaves, Aloes and Echeverias, but there are many more plants that have garnered his attention. As part of his life's work, he has introduced many succulents and created many cultivars that have been nudging their way into gardens and patios.

His love of plants dictated his direction to horticulture as a career. Prior to his current position with Altman Plants he was the curator of Xerophytes at Rancho Soledad Nursery. He has travelled extensively worldwide documenting plants and collecting seeds for propagation

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Meeting on March 10th



Woody Minnich present another breath-taking program, this time about Coahuila, an area of Mexico that is not usually seen as a tourist destination

Gardenfest at Bakersfield College

This event which helps publicize our club needs several people to do a little on Friday April 15 (set-up) and Saturday, April 16 (sell plants and take down) There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

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Facebook:

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

BRAG TABLE

Sidney Kelley brought an *Echeveria affinis* to get its name. It was old but short and had a bulbous stem base.

Paulette brought a beautiful *Mammillaria spinosissima* cultivar 'Un Pico'. It has long spines and was in full bloom.



Paul Bowles brought a long plant of *Gasteria rawlensonii* in full bloom.

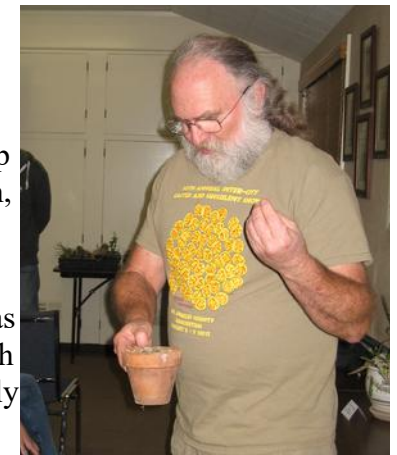
Sidney Kelley brought a *Tylocoden shaeferiana* with its small leaves. It is a new one.

Polly Hargreaves brought a *Euphorbia genoudiana* which is related to the crown of thorns, but had narrow stems, leaves, and

bracts. The bracts are also yellow green.

Stephen Cooley brought two pots of Lithops to show how they break dormancy with new leaves coming up in the old. [Shirt is a good illustration, too.]

Bruce Hargreaves brought an *Aloe variegata* which was blooming. It has been put in a new genus *Tulista* which is rather an odd mix of plants formerly included in *Aloe* or *Haworthia*





FLOWERS – Wild and Tame

A Letter From Bruce

Back in December 2014 when we had a memorial service for my mother, my sister Lora ordered five flowers, one for each child. Mine, of course, was a Christmas cactus. Unfortunately, it arrived with buds that would not be open in time. I bought a bromeliad and both plants were used. The Christmas cactus dropped its buds. Finally this February it bloomed. It turns out there are two different plants in the pot – one with pink flowers and the other red!



On the 18th of February I spoke at the senior lunch at the United Methodist Church on Stockdale. I concentrated on Botswana, but did show some plants from Malawi and Lesotho as well. Just as I reached the last slide, I was told to speed it up. I think I tried to include too much, a bad habit I have criticized in other speakers.



On the 21st we joined members of the BCSS at the Kelleys' for a drive to see wildflowers. Bear Mountain Road was loaded with poppies, lupines, fiddlenecks and popcorn. There were small numbers of other flowers. We stopped at the National cemetery which I had been by but never

visited. In addition, Jack Kelley pointed out Hang Glider Hill where they used to launch gliders. From there we went along Bena Road and stopped at a steep slope topped by a band of river rocks. Here there were bladder pod and chia flowers as well as lupines and poppies. It has been a good year for flowers. The Californian had pictures of Kern Canyon and Death Valley in bloom as well.



On the 28th our family went out to the Pixley Wildlife Reserve to join an Audubon Society visit there to see the sandhill cranes. We did not see as many this time- there were more mudhens (aka coots). It was dark by the time we went to leave and Anne fell in a rabbit hole hidden by grass. She managed to break

her foot and is now in a wheelchair! Fortunately we got a ride back to our van with the wildlife officer who led the trip.



On the 3rd of March Polly and I went to Fresno and heard Jeff Moore talk on succulents he has seen. He also sold copies of a book he has written showing the same thing. It is a rather miscellaneous collection of oddities and the colors are

rather unreal. We will see him in Bakersfield later in the year so you can judge for yourselves. On the way back we went through Porterville hoping to see more wildflowers, but it was mostly just fields of mustard with some radishes.

On the 8th, of course, we heard Woody speak on a trip to northern Mexico. The plants were well presented and interesting, but his story of being met with armed men in black vehicles was quite frightening. I am well traveled and have had many adventures, but I don't think I could have remained so cool under the circumstances.



On the 17th we heard Denis Kearns speak on Irish plants at the California Native Plant Society meeting. It was interesting to see plants that we had seen in Cornwall as well as some quite different ones. We were taught quite a lot about peat bogs, although I was familiar with them, having been born and raised in Stockton which has plenty of peat and uses it to grow asparagus.

(One difference, of course, is there are no “bog people” found in a preserved state in California. Also, Californians try not to burn peat. I grew up seeing signs saying “Danger. Peat Dirt will Burn.”)



On the 18th we went to the Sol Y Luna Restaurant for a celebration of the retirement of Yolanda Avalos, the leader of our Silver Sneakers exercise group. Fortunately she is not retiring from leading us. She is retiring from the Plaza Jewelers where she has worked since 1974. The whole restaurant was filled with family and friends. It was a very moving evening.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

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Plant of the Month



***Neolloydia
Johnsonii***

I went to Death Valley [in February] to see the wild flowers. The rains this year have produced a pretty good display of flowers mostly yellow daisies but some other things as well. I saw no cacti on the trip but it got me thinking about a Death Valley cactus as plant of the month. A search in Lyman Benson's *The Native Cacti of California* led me to *Neolloydia Johnsonii*. [Synonym: *Echinomastus johnsonii*]

It is a small cactus that grows on the valley hillsides from 1700-4000 ft., so one would not find it right down in the bottom below sea level. It is found in gravelly granite soils among the boulders.

Individual plants are solitary seldom branching, 4-6 in. (10-15 cm.) high and 2-4 in. (5-10 cm.) in diameter. There are usually 17-21 ribs with prominent tubercles. Ribs have a strong indentation just above each tubercle. There are 4-8 central spines 1.25-1.50 in. long, pink when new going to red and finally black with age. There are also 9-10 radials 0.5-0.75 in. long usually white in color.

Flowers are 2-3 in. (5-8 cm.) in diameter, pink to magenta in color. Fruit is green and about 0.5 in. in diameter drying to a tan color. Flowers are diurnal and come in April to May.

This little cactus is found outside of Death Valley in Nevada (Clark Co.), Utah, (Washington Co.) and Arizona (Mojave, Yavapai and Yuma Cos.) Other members of the genus are found in New Mexico, Texas and northern Mexico.

Jack Reynolds

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The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Echinocereus mojavensis

Mojave Mound and Claret Cup are two common names for this California and Southwestern Native. Forming low mounds that get up to two feet wide (maybe bigger?) this cactus is dazzling when in bloom and is heat tolerant, freeze tolerant, sun tolerant and drought tolerant.

In our garden it has been hassle free and blooms every year (this year in late March). It would be an excellent plant in anyone's succulent garden or large pot. It is, however, a slow grower and a big and impressive mound may take a decade or two. Perhaps the biggest problem with this cactus is that you almost never find it for sale, and the ones you do find are very small. Still, it is worth the wait.



Stephen Cooley

CALENDAR



March 8th BCSS Meeting

Woody Minnich

"Mexico, the Hidden Treasures of Coahuila."

March 28th Open GreenHouse Day

Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande

April 12th BCSS Meeting

Kelly Griffin

"Oaxaca, Fall 2015"

April 16th

Garden Fest at Bakersfield College

May 10th BCSS Meeting

15th Biennial Mid States Cactus and Succulent Conference

June 9, 10, 11 & 12, 2016

Sponsored by The Colorado CSS

*****2017*****

July 26-31 2017

CSSA Biennial Convention

Tempe AZ