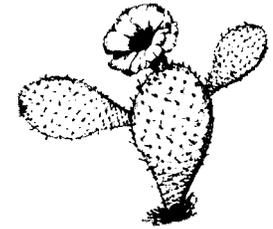




*Opuntia microdasys*  
var. *rufida*  
BJH

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris* var. *treleasei*

Volume 19 **May 2016** Number 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

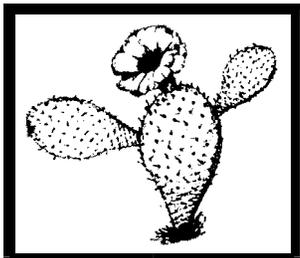
This Month's Program  
**"FAMILY PICNIC/POTLUCK"**  
**at home of Paul & Jess**  
**by everybody**  
**6:00 PM**

Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,**  
**May 10<sup>th</sup>**  
at  
**6:00 PM**

**NOTE**

**change of**  
**location and**  
**time**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 19 Number 5  
May 2016

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**

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Visit Us On the Web!

[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

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## May 10<sup>th</sup> MEETING

**See you at the potluck/picnic  
at 6 PM**

**Bring food and drinks to share**

RSVP to Paul or Polly  
(see p.2) for contact info

Since our usual place at CSUB is unavailable, we will need to  
bring chairs, plates, cups and cutlery

Visit us on the Web!

[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

Facebook:

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



Fun at the last meeting

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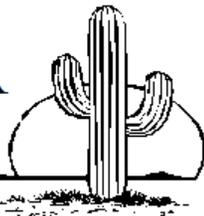
## Meeting of April 12<sup>th</sup>

Kelly Griffith spoke on Madagascar. He managed to cover most of the ecosystems and all of the baobabs as well as lots of the fauna.



We will look forward to another visit from him to see what other wonders he has visited.

## CALENDAR



### June 14<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting

Rob McGregor  
“Seed Growing and Propagation”

### July 12<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting

Peter Walkowiak  
“Staging Plants for Shows”

### July 1—3, Annual Show & Sale

Huntington Gardens San Marino CA

### August 13—14 Inter-City Show & Sale

LA County Arboretum, Arcadia CA

## BRAG TABLE

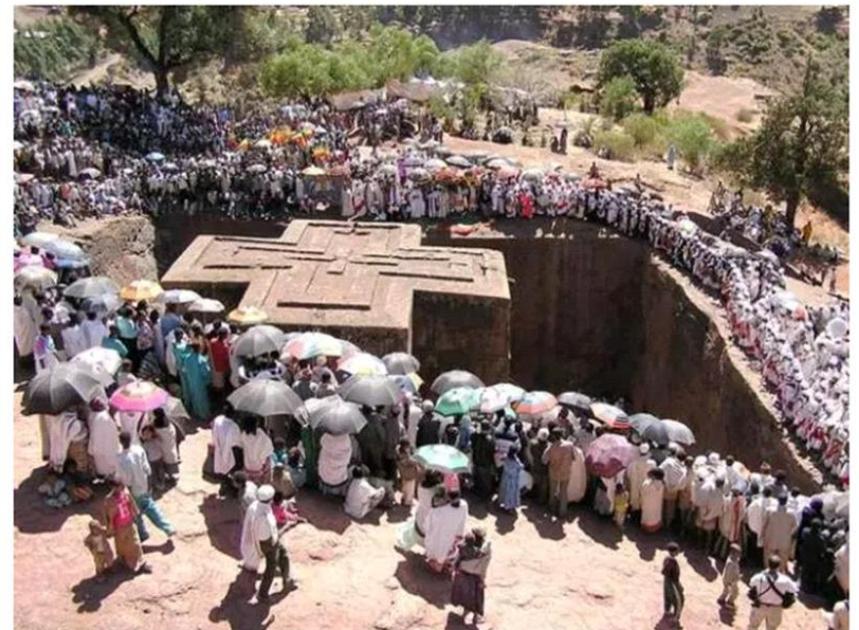
Sydney Kelley brought one of Kelly’s hybrid Aloes called “Christmas Sleigh”. It had beautiful dark reddish leaves with red warts.

Paul Bowles brought a *Euphorbia mahabobokensis* which had a raised tuber.

Jill brought *Dudleya blochamiae* which is a tiny rare island species.

Polly brought a blooming *Albuca spiralis* which was planted in a snail pot. She explained that the leaves are spiraled if kept in the sun, but grow straight in the shade.

I brought *Aloe elegans*, an Ethiopian species with red leaf margins. I bought it because it was labeled “on the road to Lalibela”, a place we had visited in January, 1968. (It has fantastic churches carved out of volcanic mountains, which I had learned of in a course on oriental art at UCSB.) We had originally booked European visits, but changed after freezing in London.



# Plant of the Month

## *Euphorbia gariepina*

The genus *Euphorbia* contains some of the ugliest plants that I can imagine and also some of the most exotic and beautiful. I'm not sure why I am so attracted to them because they are a large and complex group many of which all look alike at least superficially. I have had this plant for several years growing in a 6 in. terra cotta pot. In the last couple of years some weedy *Oxalis* have moved in so I decided to repot into a more attractive pot and get rid of the weeds.



*Euphorbia gariepina* is a very scruffy, dry, grey-green shrubby plant common to the west coast of southern Africa. It is found from southern Angola through Namibia and into South Africa, usually in low level stoney ground. It forms mounds up to 1 m. (39 in.) across and 65 cm. (2 ft.) high. It produces

a tangle of criss-crossing branches tapering to spineless tips. Branches have blunt tubercles at intervals and small short lived leaves. Flowers (cyathia) are greenish yellow and borne on the tips of the branches. There are separate male and female plants. The cyathium of female plants is about 25 mm. (1 in.) across. Flowers are produced in the spring.

My bonsai artistic sense dictates that the pot is also important in the display of a plant, sort of like the frame for a painting. I found a pot that had the proper size, shape and color for the plant and carried out the transfer. Once in the new pot with new growing mix the plant was transformed. One would like the union of plant and pot to reveal some artistic vision of a season or ecological setting, a sense of the larger world. In the new pot the plant became for me the essence of the Namib. What had been an ugly nondescript thing now took on a desert glow. I am happy with it.

Jack G. Reynolds

## Garden Fest at B.C.



The Garden Fest was a success; enabling us to reach out to the community and make ourselves known. Several people signed up to receive our newsletter. Lots bought plants and small cuttings.



## Kidnapped!

### A Letter From Bruce

Since we had gone north for Christmas, we agreed to go south to my nephew Leo's for Easter. Little did we know what we were in for! We drove south to Valencia on the 26<sup>th</sup> and had a delicious lunch at Claim Jumpers. Then we reached Leo's house in La Mirada with ease (if one can call LA traffic "ease"). We were then taken to Medieval Times over our objection.

(The tickets had already been paid for.) It was as disappointing as I expected. The food was not copacetic – tomatoes, potatoes, maize (corn) etc. were not available in Europe until after Columbus. Polly and I had had a more authentic medieval



feast years ago at Bakersfield College. The jousting was ludicrous overacting. (Again, Polly and I had seen more authentic jousting at the Cloisters in New York.)

Next day we all trooped to church in Fullerton and returned to Leo's for a feast. We had expected to return to Bakersfield that evening, but were informed two of the young men had tickets to a ball game so we would be

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staying the night! We finally reached Bakersfield the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>.



On the 7<sup>th</sup> of April we heard Keith Taylor in Fresno. He showed off his collection of huge tubers. (He had a *Fockea edulis* the size and shape of a basketball.) It was like an enlargement on the already full brag table. One interesting item on the actual brag table was a Moroccan rug brought in by Cheryl Berman. It was very finely woven from agave fiber.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Kelly Griffith speak on Madagascar. It was fascinating to hear yet another report on the fascinating succulents of this island. (We look forward to the talk on Mexico which had been scheduled and which he promises to bring to us later.)



On the 16<sup>th</sup> the club had another exhibit at the annual garden fest. I trust this continues to publicize our activities.

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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

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## Container Gardens for Fair Competition

The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society is sponsoring a youth competition at the Kern County Fair in September. This will be a succulent container garden and will be limited to 10-15 participants. Members will assist in the planting of the containers; parents are encouraged to help.

BCSS will supply the soil and plants. We will show them how to mix the soil and assist in the planting of the containers. Contestants are encouraged to bring decorative items they may want in their display. They may bring plants if they have some they prefer to use.

We are encouraging unusual containers which should be limited to one foot wide and six inches deep or smaller.



The planting meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am. Call Sidney for further details.

## The Succulent Garden at Cal State

### Desert Willow

#### *Chilopsis linearis*

Desert Willow is not a succulent, but a small tree (or large shrub). It is native from southern California to Texas and down into northern Mexico.



It is an excellent garden subject with beautiful penstemon-like flowers that show up around April and continue into late summer. *Chilopsis* can take quite a bit of watering or very little. It is hardy to zero degrees. The shade it provides is airy and light, allowing other plants to grow under it. It grows relatively fast even though it doesn't get large (15-20 feet high). The nursery trade likes it enough to have come up with several varieties that differ in the flower color. There has even been a cross made between *Chilopsis* and *Catalpa* which has larger leaves and larger flowers.

So, what's not to like? Well, *Chilopsis* is really just a large shrub that can be made to look like a tree. It will always try to revert to being a bush again if you stop trimming it. It drops its leaves in the winter and doesn't put them on again until almost April (but starts flowering right away). The thin leaves are hard to rake up, especially if you have other plants growing under the tree. Likewise, the petal drop all spring and summer can get tiresome to pick up.

Stephen Cooley