

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



Echinocereus engelmannii
Hedgehog cactus
South of Pahrangat Wildlife
Preserve NV

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 19 **October 2016** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

Tom Glavich

“The High Drakensberg”

[Qoathamba]

**St. Paul's Church – 17th and “B” Streets
October 11th ~ 7 PM**

Show and Sale

October 8th 10am – 5pm

October 9th 11am – 3pm

NEW Location

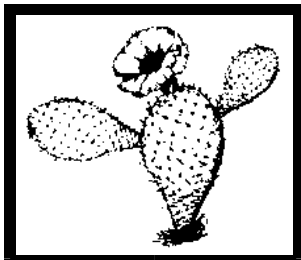
**St. Paul's Church –
17th and “B” Streets**

Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Sizzler

900 Real Road



The Cactus Patch

Volume 19 Number 10

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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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

President: Paul Bowles
corvis797@yahoo.com
Membership: Maynard Moe
lmoe44@gmail.com
Newsletter: Polly Hargreaves
pollypearl@hotmail.com
Website: Stephen Cooley
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

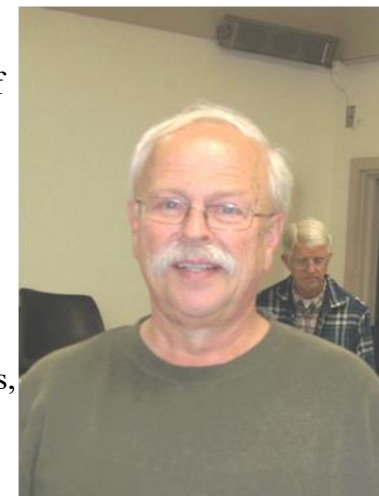
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www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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October 11th Meeting

Tom Glavich
"The High Drakensberg"

The presentation is an exploration of some of the summer flowering geophytes and succulents of the High Drakensbergs. These mountains include most of Lesotho (where the highest range is called the Qoatlhamba or "barrier of spears") and some of South Africa. This presentation looks at some of the unique flora of this part of the world. Plants to be shown include Euphorbias, Crassulaceae, Ledebourias and other semi-succulent members of the Hyacinthaceae as well many other amazing plants.



Tom Glavich is a long time grower of succulent plants. He is a member of the board of directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America and one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Show held each year at the LA Arboretum. He writes the Beginner's Guide series of articles for the CSSA Journal.

He will bring plants for sale.

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

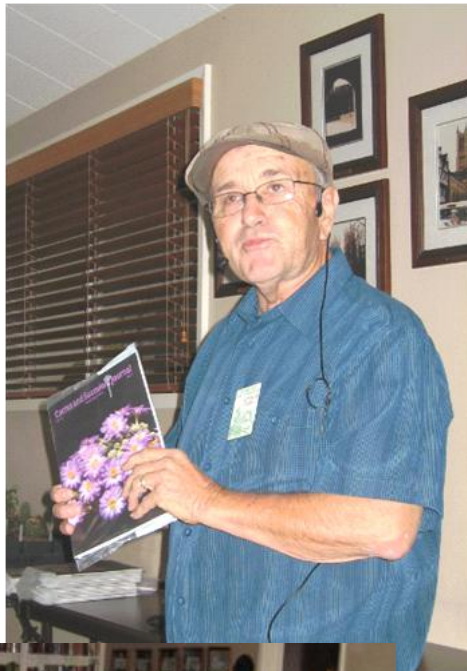
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Meeting on Sept. 13th

"From Windowsill to the Poor House: Building and Maintaining a Cactus and Succulent Garden."

Gunner Eisel presented a good warning as to the addiction of succulent collecting.

Unfortunately many of us are already hooked. His talk was a bit long, but I'm sure he could have included many more examples if he had wanted to.



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BRAG TABLE

Maynard Moe brought branches of *Euphorbia caput-medusa* which had grown out from a large dead middle. He handed them out and we will see if they can be rooted and if they form a head or simply grow as long skinny branches.

Jack Kelly brought a plant of *Mirabilis jalapa* (Four O'Clock) which was blooming from a large raised tuber.

Sidney brought a *Rebutia heliosa* from a new seller ("Cactusamongus") in Bakersfield.

Bruce brought an *Agave lechuguilla* which has a cave named for it in Carlsbad National Park in New Mexico. Unfortunately this is a deep cave with a series of vertical drops at the entrance. It has beautiful gypsum formations, but it is not open to the public. It also has no bats to pollinate the agaves! (Nearby Carlsbad Cavern, fortunately, does.)

Richard Amaya brought a long pot filled with Haworthias which have "green textured leaves".

Polly was out with a strep throat, but sent the plant of the month, *Euphorbia milii*. She once bought one thinking it was an Ocotillo! [in 1962]

Jack Reynold brought three varieties of the plant of the month – all in bloom.

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Plant of the Month

Opuntia basilaris

This little member of the genus *Opuntia* is a local species being found across the southwest U. S. from southern

California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and the Sonora Desert of Mexico. It lives in sandy or gravelly soil from near sea level to 4000 ft. (1250 m.). I was introduced to this little cactus while taking a walk on the outskirts of Las Vegas. There lying in a pile of recently bulldozed trash was a little cactus waif. I cannot pass up a free plant and at the time had about a dozen cacti of various species in pots in my back yard so I picked it up with my bare hands. This mistake quickly introduced me to the fierce little glochids sprouting from the spineless areoles. Soon my fingers were burning and itching in a most unpleasant way. It took an hour



or two with a magnifier and a pair of small forceps (tweezers) to extract these little instruments of torture. Anyhow, I had my new cactus which I already knew by its common name, "Beaver Tail Cactus". It lived happily in a pot for several years and even grew enough to be divided once. Both plants died eventually for reasons I have never



been able to figure out. I have since learned that these cacti are difficult to grow in pot culture.

The stems are short about 8" (20 cm.) tall and 2-6" (5-15 cm.) wide. They are shaped roughly like a beaver's tail, thus the common name. The flattened pads usually lack spines, the numerous areoles being armed only with those wicked little glochids. The flowers are produced from Feb. to June depending on locality and are hot pink or cerise. A few white flowers are known. Fruits are more or less oval 16mm. in diameter and edible. Plants are geographically variable in growth habit leading to the naming of up to a dozen varieties which some consider subspecies or even species. The most common growth habit is the clump which may be up to 3 ft. (1 m.) in diameter. Others form low bushes up to 20" (50 cm.) high or creeping forms that may form long chains of pads stretching for up to 8 ft. (2.4 m) prostrate on the ground. They grow in my neighborhood at Lake Isabella and all are the clumping form. They like lots of sun and can stand temperatures down to 0 F (-17 C). I would be interested in knowing if the difficulties in growing these in pot culture have been explained.

Jack G. Reynolds

Congratulations!

The winner of our club's 'Best in Show' award, at the Kern County Fair, is Rosie Murillo.

Her plant is a

Hatiora salicornioides.

Common name:
Dancing Bones.



OUR 17th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

October 8 and 9

Schedule of Work and Play

Show set-up:

October 7th, Friday, Table setup from 3pm to about 6pm.

October 7th, Friday, Setup of plants & pottery from 6pm to 8pm.

October 8th, Saturday, Setup of plants & pottery from 8am to 10am.

Show and Sale hours:

Saturday, October 8th, 10am to 5pm

Sunday, October 9th, 11am to 3:00pm.

Take down:

Sunday, October 9th, 4pm

This is the biggest event we do each year. Our previous Shows have all been very successful – we've had plenty of Show plants and plenty of plants to sell.

It is important that we emphasize our change of location. We have St. Paul's great room this year. Flyers can be downloaded from www.BakersfieldCactus.org and www.facebook.com/BakersfieldCactus. Please distribute these.

The most important element of our show is the plants themselves. Our show is different from most others with its emphasis on education and not competition. Many people are unaware of just how many weird and wonderful plants there are.

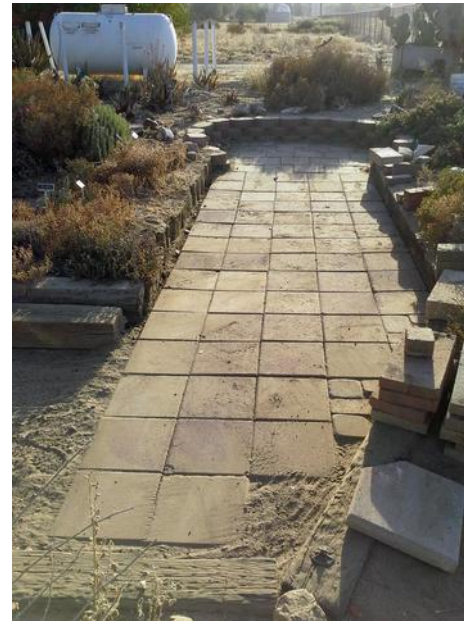
Remember that your most 'ordinary' plant may be extraordinary to others. No plant is too small to bring; it just needs to look nice. It doesn't take a lot of time to make a plant look good.

We need members to talk to the public about the plants and about our club. There are plenty of members to share the workload. You don't have to be an expert, just an enthusiast. Everyone has something to contribute. Let's make this our best show ever!

Sidney Kelley

The Succulent Garden at Cal State

Paving the Way



The old greenhouse at the Environmental Studies Area at Cal State had two sides bordered with concrete pavers. These became available for us to use when the greenhouse was demolished. At first I took about 100 to place under the Desert Willow to make a stable shady place for potted *Echinopsis* and other small cacti.

The remaining pavers haven't been used by anyone else so I have been moving them to the garden and paving the Southeast portion of the pathway. Though there are nearly 200 pavers to use, this will cover less than half the pathways.

Eventually, we will need 300 or more pavers to finish.

I hope to plan some workdays this Fall, mostly to trim overgrown plants, and of course workdays in the Winter/Spring to pull weeds.



Stephen Cooley

Caves, Part III



A Letter From Bruce

On Friday the 22 of July we set off on highway 50 once again. As usual, just past the Shoshone with their gas station for revenue (no casinos for them in Nevada) the road left Egan Range, crossed Goshute Valley, crossed the Schell Creek Range, and dropped down into Spring Valley. In Spring Valley there were wind generators (but not as many as Tehachapi, etc. in California). Apparently they had to adjust the timing on these so as not to interfere with the bats from a nearby cave. There are also problems with a proposal to pump underground water from Spring Valley to southern Nevada. At any rate the road went back up over Sacramento Pass and we reached the small town of Baker. Here the road went back up into Great Basin National Park where we had reservations for a tour of Lehman Caves.



We entered the cave through an artificial tunnel as the original entrance was vertical. They also put doors on the tunnel to regulate temperature and humidity. We got to see lots of formations, especially the “shields” for which it is rightly known. There is also a bit of graffiti which has been let stand as it is historic. What we saw was great, but we didn’t get to see all of it. John, for instance, had been there on a cleanup of an area where the ceiling collapsed. That area is no longer open.

After the cave John and I took a nature trail above it. Just near the natural opening (which is now fenced off) John found a plant of grizzly cactus. We found several more nearby. This was the first “wild” succulent of the trip.

We then picnicked in a piñon grove and stopped back by the cave to look at an orchard of tiny but tasty apricots. We don’t know who planted them, or why. The road back to Baker was lined with artwork on the fences. We stopped to look at some metal birds and found another stand of grizzly cactus.



Back at the Schell Creek Range we saw a couple of elk (without antlers). We then took a side road into the Egan Range where there are huge charcoal ovens used to smelt the ore from the mine at Ruth. These are no longer used as coke replaced charcoal. We arrived back in Ely in time for the closing dinner which included an award ceremony for over achieving cavers.



On Saturday the 23rd, we headed south on 318, another lonely road. This one follows the White River and stays fairly level. After a long drive we came to the “Narrows” where the river and road pass between picturesque cliffs. At that point the vegetation began to change. There were chollas and short yuccas. Just before joining highway 93 we reached the town of Hiko and across the junction (we were still headed south but were now on 93) we stopped to check out “E.T. Fresh Jerky” complete with billboard size paintings of little green men. I asked the proprietress if it was legal and she said she didn’t know of any law against it. It was hot, so we bought drinks and ice cream. Polly had an actual ice cream cone which was appropriate as it was the anniversary of the first ones served at the St. Louis World’s Fair in 1904



As we proceeded south the short yuccas got taller and were recognizable as Mojave yucca. These were now joined by Joshua trees. We were definitely leaving Great Basin Sage and entering the

Mojave. We stopped for a picnic lunch at Pahrangat National Wildlife Reserve which was also appropriate as the first such preserve was established on this day in the early 1900s. There was a lake and we saw a heron, mudhens and ducks. We also saw a beaver tail. Further south we saw inflated buckwheat, a different variety of grizzly, hedgehog cactus and barrels.

We finally reached Henderson and went to the hotel John had booked there. Unfortunately he had booked the wrong Saturday and the alternative room was much more expensive. We had drinks at Taco Bell while we searched the internet for another room. We finally settled on driving down to Needles! We had dinner at the Jokers Wild Casino in Henderson and then drove south. It was dark by the time we checked into the Americas Best Value Inn in Needles.

Our last day, the 24th, we drove through typical Mojave succulents past the Mojave National Preserve (which was blanketed in smoke from the Sand Fire in Santa Clarita) and stopped for breakfast at Ludlow.



From the monument at the Ludlow Café we learned that the Bristol Mountains to the north of there had been used for atomic testing. I thought all that was back in Nevada.

We had lunch at Kramer Junction. I almost lost my camera and all the trip pictures by leaving it on the front of the car as we left. Fortunately when we went back we found it and the case (separated) at the side of the highway at the junction. It still works! We reached home at 3:32, totally exhausted.

And now to more recent events:

We did not go to the members plant sale in Fresno, but did drive up on the 10th of



September for the memorial service for Herb Thorne. It was held in the backyard of his daughter Katie which is beautifully surrounded by trees.

On the 11th we went to a production of the “Scottish Play”. (It is considered bad luck to actually say the name, although the fellow introducing it did so!) It was very well done, even though the actors all sounded like Americans who “dinna ken Scottish”. It was

produced by the Motley Players and the Women’s Club.

On the 13th, of course, I heard Gunnar Eisel talk on hobbyists. It was good to hear someone agree with me that there is not one soil mix that fits all succulents.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

Kern County Fair

Kids Container Garden Project

We were very happy with the results of our Kids Container Garden Project. We held a potting workshop earlier in the spring. We showed them how to mix the soil. Then they picked out a planter. We showed them how to plant the ones they picked out. Three of the four participants were able to keep their containers looking good through the hot summer. Then they were entered in our section at the fair. This was a learning experience for all of us. It turned out very nicely. The kids involved were Jadelyn Ross, Lily Drake, and Taylor Drake.

If you know some children who would like to participate next year please have them contact us.

Sidney Kelley, Jill Brennan,
Paulette Drake and Anne Lee.



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Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale

October 8th 10am – 5pm

October 9th 11am – 3pm

NEW Location

St. Paul's Church – 17th and “B” Streets

October 11th BCSS Meeting

Tom Glavich

Southern Africa: The High Drakensberg”

Gene Schroeder's Cactus and Succulent Sale

October 15th: 8:30am~4 pm

250 Via Pomesa, Nipomo CA

Contact: luvbigdogs@earthlink.com

or ck@christykeeling.com

November 8th BCSS Meeting

Jeff Moore featuring his new book

“Under the Spell of Succulents”

December 13th BCSS Meeting

Family Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction

Installation of Officers

Visit us on the Web!

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