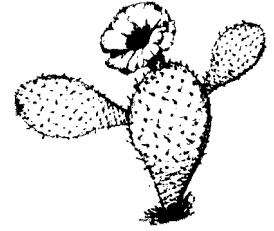




*Agave americana*  
Secondary blooms  
After main plant bloomed  
BJH

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 19 **November 2016** Number 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program  
Jeff Moore  
featuring his new book  
**“Under the Spell of Succulents”**

**St. Paul's Church – 17<sup>th</sup> and “B” Streets  
November 8<sup>th</sup> ~ 7 PM**

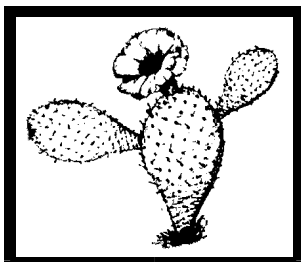
**Meeting  
November 8<sup>th</sup> 7 pm  
Nomination of  
Officers**

**St. Paul's Church –  
17<sup>th</sup> and “B” Streets**

**Meet the Speaker**

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

**Sizzler  
900 Real Road**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 19 Number 11  
November 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.

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

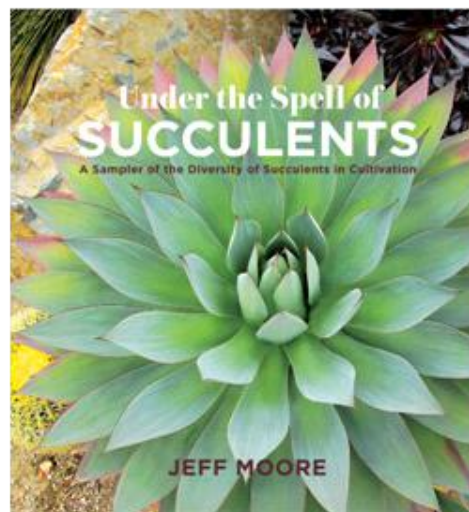
~2~

## November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Jeff Moore

### “Under the Spell of Succulents”

My talk is titled 'Under the Spell of Succulents', which is also the title of my first book. It is a PowerPoint presentation that loosely follows the flow of the book, which is about how we engage with succulents - growers, collectors, landscaping, container/bonsai, specialty niches, etc... It also takes you through the main genera/plant groups. I also discuss briefly how the book came about. The images and some of the tales of the nursery business will keep it entertaining.



I will bring both of my books - although I am down to about 5 volumes of the first book (a new shipment is due within the month), but I will have my new book on aloes and agaves available. I will also bring plants, and can accept credit cards.

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

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

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# Meeting on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>

## "The High Drakensberg"

Tom Glavich

He led us on a beautiful tour of the spring wild flowers of Lesotho and South Africa, all above 5,000 feet. Most of the plants are



winter hardy, surviving the snow in August, including Aloe polyphylla, Euphorbia clavarioides and many pineapple lilies (Eucomis sp.). For me, it was "old home week" since we lived there for seven years.



# BRAG TABLE

Sabrina Mesa brought a *Sempervivum arachnoidium* with its spider-web like hairs. It was planted in a pot in the shape of a girls head.

I brought a plant of *Euphorbia davyi* which was grown from a cutting and has long spindly arms instead of the usual compact head.

Lupe Jimenez brought a *Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mammillata* which was monstrose.

Sidney Kelley brought a *Stapelia scitula* which had numerous small brown flowers. Opinions varied as to how bad it smelled. (It is called a carrion flower.) All agreed it was a beauty.

Polly brought *Aloe (Tulista) aristata*, a small species which endures the cold of the mountains of Lesotho. Plants which look identical are found at lower altitudes in South Africa. These do not survive freezing!

John Hargreaves sent a plant of *Cotyledon orbiculata* which has long narrow leaves. This variety is referred to a "pencils", whereas the round leaved ones are called "pigs' ears". Both grow in the mountains of Lesotho, sometimes together.





# Plant of the Month



## *Operculicarya decaryi*

*Operculicarya decaryi* is a caudiciform succulent and a favorite for styling as a bonsai by succulent lovers. It grows in southwestern

Madagascar in stony well drained soils. There are at least eight members of the genus, seven of which grow only in Madagascar. The eighth species *O. gummifera* grows in Madagascar and also the Comoros Islands. It may have been carried there by birds.

It is a member of the Anacardiaceae family which also contains sumacs and cashews. It has a common name of “Elephant Tree” and shares this name with another member of the same family, *Pachicormus* which grows in Baja California in the Western Hemisphere.

In nature *O. decaryi* will grow to a height of 30 ft. (9 m.) and a diameter of about 6 ft. (2 m.). The small trees are prized by bonsai artists because of the small shiny green pinnate leaves, knobby bark and attractive crooked roots that can be exposed for effect. It likes full sun in morning and filtered sun in the afternoon. In cold weather it will become deciduous and should get little or no water when dormant. In warm weather it can be watered every seven to ten days in a well drained soil with little or no organic components.



They are cold tolerant to about 30 F although there is one account of a tree surviving several consecutive nights of 25.

This species has separate male and female plants. The rust brown female flower is small, about 0.25 in. (5 mm.) in diameter with 5 petals. Ripe fruits are purple and about a quarter in. in diameter. They can be grown from cuttings or seed. Growers say they get the best roots from seedlings

Jack G. Reynolds

## Show and Sale



This was one of our best years, ever. Having the ability to accept cards for payment sent many customers back to the sales area!

# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



## *Encephalocarpus strobiliformis*

Pine Cone Cactus is the common name for *Encephalocarpus strobiliformis* and it is easy to see why when you get a look at it. But, it is not the only cactus with that name. This one comes from

the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi which is about 700 miles southeast of El Paso Texas and home to a lot of cacti. The more commonly known Pine Cone Cactus, *Tephrocactus strobiliformis* (which we also have in the garden), comes from Argentina.

This is an unusual looking cactus with a 'scaly' appearance said to resemble limestone chips. It is solitary, growing very slowly to about six inches high and 2 inches wide. In the wild it can shrink down in times of drought until it is nearly covered by small rocks.

Ours never shrinks in the garden and flowers every year in mid Spring. It can take the full sun and doesn't mind our winter rain (but, we really don't get much of that anyway). It has survived with no injury temperatures as low as 20F. This is an excellent plant for growing in a pot – a large potted specimen is to be treasured because it takes so long to grow to a good size.



Stephen Cooley

## Shows



### A Letter From Bruce

We took plants and minerals to the fair on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September and

returned on the 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sr. Day) to check out the results and the rest of the fair. The succulent exhibit was improved by the grouping. I got no award



for my exhibit on "Minerals of the Malothi Mountains of Lesotho". The so-called Egyptian animal exhibit had a lot of animals that aren't even from Africa. We

stayed for the Queen Nation production that evening, but it was mostly painfully loud and there were lights flashing at the audience! A few numbers had softer sound and lights and were endurable.

We watched the presidential debate on the 26<sup>th</sup>, but I'll talk about that after the election. The 29<sup>th</sup> was Polly's birthday and she had a free breakfast at Denny's. In the afternoon we saw the remake of Ben Hur. Why are they making so many make-overs? They are usually disappointing. (An exception was the new Tarzan which brought East African savanna animals thundering through the rain forest to the West Coast! Fantastic -- unless one takes it seriously!)



Next day we saw the ballet of Peter Pan at the Fox. I was curious to see how they “flew” the actors as I played Michael when I was a freshman at BHS and was one of the few who got to fly. The ballet did an excellent job –I only noticed the wires twice. The quirky crocodile was delightful.

We were at the show and sale on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October and were pleased with the circular tables. It is an excellent way to show the plants. Perhaps next time there can be raised ones in the



middle? I was astonished at the continuous line choosing from the sellers from the minute we opened. The ability to accept credit cards helped speed things up.

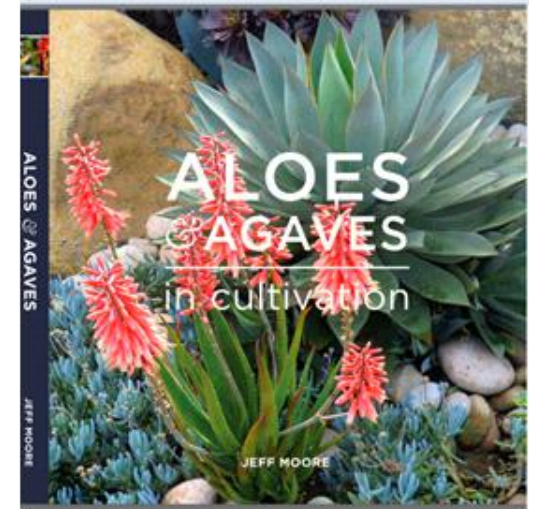


**Bruce Hargreaves**

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

# CALENDAR

**November 8<sup>th</sup>  
BCSS Meeting**  
Jeff Moore  
featuring his new book  
“**Under the Spell of  
Succulents**”



**December 13<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting**  
**Family Potluck Dinner & Silent Auction**  
Installation of Officers

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