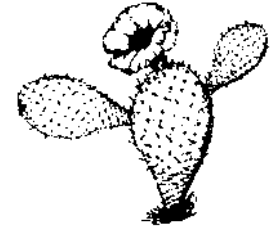




Aloe elegans
Ethiopia
yellow form

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 19 **December 2016** Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
"Potluck Dinner"
and Silent Auction
@ St Paul's Episcopal Church
6:00 PM

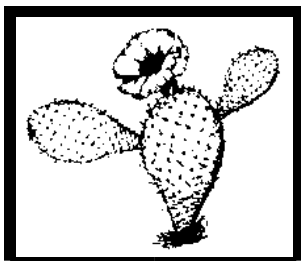
Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,
December 13th**

**Dinner
@ 6:00 PM**

**Meet the same old
Board**

2017 Dues are
payable now!



The Cactus Patch
Volume 19 Number 12
December 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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Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

December 13th 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 and cups. Bring drinks for yourself and to share. 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.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW YEAR

The club board will continue to serve in 2017.
President, **Paul Bowles** Secretary, **Pat Tennant**
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!
In case you were wondering, **Sidney Kelley** and **Luis de la Torre**
are not official officers, but when things need doing
or there is a possibility for fun,
count on them to make it happen!

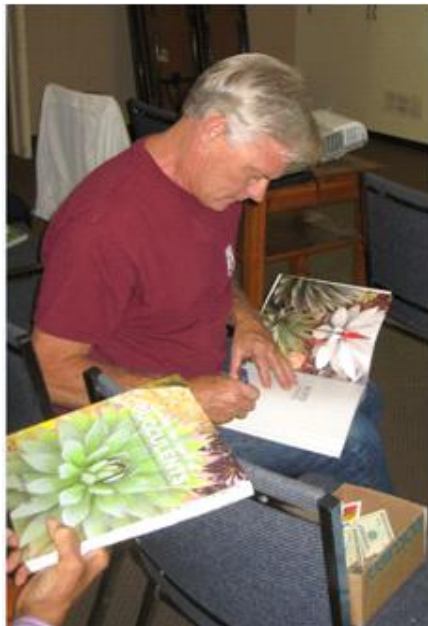
Meeting on November 8th



BRAG TABLE

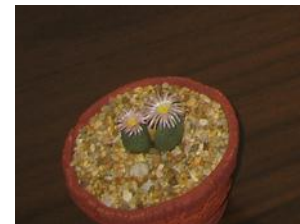
Sidney Kelly brought a beautiful *Euphorbia bupleurifolia* which was blooming.

Richard Amaya brought a *Euphorbia trigona* which had a green stem and red leaves.



Jeff Moore presented his enthusiastic talk about gardening with succulents. It loosely followed his book “Under the Spell of Succulents”.

I was pleased to see his second book “Aloes and Agaves in Cultivation” that I had not seen when he spoke in Fresno earlier this year.



Paul Bowles brought a tiny *Conophytum* with delicate flowers.

Visit us on the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



A Bigger Garden

Work on the new Botanical Garden at Cal State is progressing very slowly, which was expected. Another landscape architect is looking at the property and has started to make some rough sketches. I think this is a good thing because in my opinion, the

previous garden layout needed some fixing.

The succulent garden will still be a focal point at the front of the botanical garden and the preliminary thinking is that our garden would be expanded to the North and East to align with the major pathways. As I see it, the expansion would only be about 8 to 10 feet.



I'm thinking this may require the construction of some 'keyhole' shaped pathways to allow visitors to get deeper into the garden.

All this is still a long way off. Currently, there are plans to remove the propane tank on the east side of the garden and we should be able to expand into that area sooner.

Stephen Cooley

~6~

Plant of the Month

Echinocactus polycephalus



The September-October issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal was devoted to landscaping with cactus and succulents as a way of maintaining a beautiful yard and gardens but with plants that can withstand our drought conditions that seem to be becoming the norm here in southern California. It got me to thinking about the native cacti and other succulents that we might use if we were to convert our water loving yards to more xerophytic ones. So I think I will spend several issues on this.

Echinocactus polycephalus is one of the most drought tolerant of all the cacti. It lives in the Mojave and Sonoran deserts of California, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. In California it is found in Kern, Inyo and San Bernardino Counties. It favors gravely to clay soils from 100-2500 ft (30-800 m.) in elevation.

Stems may be solitary or form clumps up to 4 ft. (1.3 m.) across and 2 ft. (60 cm.) high. Plants are gray-green spheroidal 6-12 in. (15-60 cm.) long and 3-4 in. (8-10 cm.) in diameter. They are heavily covered with spines. There are 13-21 ribs. Central spines are 4 in number and 2-3 in (5-8 cm.) long. Radial spines are 6-8 in number and 1.25-1.75 in. (6-8 cm.) long.

Flowers are yellow and about 2 in. (5 cm.) in diameter. They are produced in the spring. This little cactus has a reputation of being hard to grow particularly in pot culture as it is susceptible to root rot. However grafted specimens are available from some growers. Perhaps it would grow more easily in a raised bed of pumice. Many of the journal articles recommended raised beds for all kinds of succulents. More on this later.

Jack G. Reynolds

~7~



A Very Busy Month

A Letter From Bruce

The September-October issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal (U.S.) is a spectacular special on landscaping with succulents. Among the many colorful articles is one on the landscaping for the CSSA convention at Pitzer College. This was called a Joescap in honor of the organizer Joe Clemens. Too bad the headline on the article misspells it as “Joesycapel!” Another interesting article by Nick Wilkinson tells about making a sculptural garden. Too bad this one is credited to Gary James & Christopher Drover on the heading! I will tell about my own experience with landscaping next month.

The 2016 issue of Bradleya (yearbook of the British Cactus and Succulent Society) is out and is a spectacular 240 pages. Among the many articles is one on Cleistocactus which has closed flowers and another on cephalia, those funny flowering “heads” on some cacti. It also includes an article on *Euphorbia mlanjeana* of which I am one of four authors. I am disappointed to learn that this euphorbia is not endemic to Malawi’s Mulanje Massive, but is also found in Mozambique. I am grateful for my inclusion as this means I have had at least one article published every year since 1974. I guess I’d better get to work on something for next year.

On the 22nd we went to the wedding of Alissa and Sundanse at the Kern County Museum. We have known them for sometime as they were among several young people that “hung out” at my sister Lora’s. (She was a social worker and “picked up” kids who were aged out of the system.) At the reception I was pleased when Lora was asked to dance with the groom as another mother.

We decorated our entryway for Halloween this year for the first time. It started with a branch from one of our cypress trees which fell over into the back yard. I cut it off and found that it had developed a bulbous growth from which monstrose twisted branches arose. I stuck this in a large pot and hung spiders, bats and ghosts from it to make a Halloween tree! I added various spooky plants (blood lily, ghost spurge, dragon tree etc.) with labels.



Further additions were large African and Mexican statues, a pumpkin and other more usual decorations. We handed out skittles, but only a dozen kids came by.

I hardly ever watch sports, but the World Series this year was so unusual (with two “losers” facing each other) that we ended up watching it. This was especially important to Polly as she was born in Chicago. So, of course, we rooted for the Cubs. They came through on 2 Nov. with a spectacular win in the 10th inning!



On Nov.3rd we met a large family group (including our grand-



kids) at the Fresno Zoo. We had lunch overlooking the African Savanna and I took a picture of

James and Alice with a tankful of Malawi cichlids. (James was born in Malawi.) The kids got to feed



the giraffes and watch the elephants eat. The only disappointment was not seeing the rhinos which were not out for some reason. That evening we were joined by Polly’s sisters and niece for dinner at the old spaghetti factory.

Next day we headed over to the coast at Cambria where we stayed in a rented house sponsored by my former student Isaac Lusunzi. (He felt he owed us something for our friendship in Africa.) The house was in the marine terrace area of town and we were able to walk to the beach from it. Unfortunately this required a long stairway down with a drop off at the end. The beach there is very rocky. More accessible was the bluff trail of the West Fiscalini Ranch Reserve. It circles otter cove, but we could not distinguish any among the kelp.

On the 5th we went into the middle of Cambria and had lunch at Lynn’s. Polly and I then looked at a succulent sale at someone’s house (not very exciting) and then shopped at Grow Nursery. I didn’t buy any plants, but I did get a beautiful green calcite crystal from Chihuahua, Mexico.

Back at the house we BBQ'd steaks from a half cow which James had bought back in Susanville. That evening some of the group went on a night tour of Hearst's Castle while Polly and I stayed at the house with the boys. (We had toured the castle on our honeymoon back in 1964.)



Next day we went up to Leffingwell Landing at the north end of Moonstone beach. There were lots of small semiprecious stones: agate, jade, jasper and, of course, moonstone. There was plenty of sand for the kids, but the tide was coming in rather aggressively.

We then went up to see the elephant seals. This time Lora saw the zebra which had eluded her on previous visits. On Monday we returned to Bakersfield.



On Tuesday we voted. We had dinner with the speaker Jeff Moore, but told him we would not stay for his talk as we had heard him in Fresno. We did stay for the start of the meeting, and I got a look at the new book on Aloes and Agaves as well as the interesting

tillandsias dressed up as a nautilus and an octopus. But then we headed out for what was expected to be a victory party! It ended as a dirge.

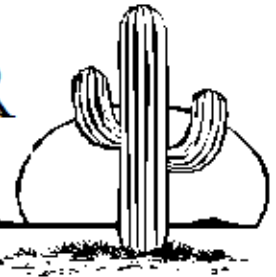
I have never seen a crazier election in this country. I hope we can heal after the hatred that was spewed out! I'm afraid some of us did not take things seriously: at the first debate we gathered at party headquarters and filled out information cards. We then took those cards (which were green) out to the taco truck on Truxtun for free tacos. We also had skittle cookies and packets of skittles. No one was ready for the serious election that unfolded.



Bruce Hargreaves

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

CALENDAR



January 10th

BCSS Meeting

Keith Kitoi Taylor, potter extraordinaire
"Winter Growers"

January 14th

THE HUNTINGTON
DESERT FORUM

FREE admission with club name badge
Between 9 and 9:45 am ONLY

JUN 30--JUL 2

CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

JULY 26--31

CSSA CONVENTION, TEMPE, AZ.

SEPT. 2

SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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