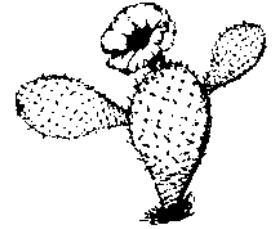




*Euphorbia
millotii*

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 20 **January 2017** Number 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

"Winter Growers"

Keith Taylor

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,
January 10th**

at

6:30 PM

2017 Dues are payable now!

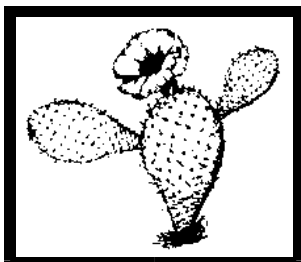
Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM

Sizzler

900 Real Rd.

2016 Dues are payable now!



The Cactus Patch

Volume 20 Number 1

January 2017

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

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January 10th MEETING

“Winter Growers”

Keith Taylor

Keith Taylor will discuss succulents that are summer dormant or winter growers, talking about care, exposures and extremes. Most think winter are an off season when it comes to C&S and by expanding your knowledge of these plants will encourage you to grow something of interest year round. Keith will also bring in specimens from his collection to share, as well as have pottery available for purchase.

He began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991 which began after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttiae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. "I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk". The *Cyphostemma* he saw is also the 1st succulent he purchased and still in his collection of more than 800 plants. Keith prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants. He grows them hard, meaning limited water, little to no feeding and hot sun to give them the look of collected plants.

In 2008, Keith began creating pots to show off his plants. He believes the pot should compliment, not distract. The main focus should be the succulent. If the pot is too ornate, colorful, or shiny, it draws your eye toward the pot rather than the succulent. Also proportion plays a roll. The container needs to be the right width and depth to look balanced.

Keith has always had the "eye" for what looked good. Whether it's in his profession as a Pedorthist (design and manufacture of footwear for medical purposes), photographer, cook or potter. Has also served as President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Sacramento for 7yrs

Website <http://potterybykitoi.weebly.com/>
Mail 2401 Waterman Blvd Ste 4a Fairfield, CA 94534
Phone 1-707-290-0627

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December 13, 2016



BCSS ~ Holiday Dinner

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Ferocactus emoryi
ssp. rectispinus

This cactus with the long name also has the longest spines of any of the barrel types. It is sometimes called “long-spined barrel cactus” but there doesn't seem to be any accepted common name. It grows on the Baja California peninsula right about in the middle, on the gulf side. Mature specimens can reach just over 4 feet and the flowers are large and light yellow. The most distinctive aspect of this barrel cactus is the central spine which can reach as long as 10 inches and gives this plant a rather menacing look.



We have three of the Long-Spined



Barrel Cacti in the garden. One was donated by Rob Skillin in 2002 and the others were grown from seed by Stephen Cooley in 1996 and later transplanted to the garden. All have done very well, surviving without trouble both the intense sun and heat as well as frost down to the low 20'sF.

Stephen Cooley

Plant of the Month



Agave americana

Last month I proposed a series of plant of the month columns on using succulents as landscape plants in our yards. My first choice was not a very good candidate because it is difficult to grow. This month I intend to do better. *Agave americana* is relatively bullet proof. It is native to north eastern Mexico and thrives in a Mediterranean climate. They are known by the common name of “century plant or maguey”

The plants grow as a rosette 3-6 ft. (1-2 m.) high and about the same across. They pup readily so will generally form a large clump when grown in the ground. The gray green leaves are lanceolate and 1.5-3 ft. (0.5-1 m.) long and 6-12 in. (15-

30 cm.) wide at their widest. The margins bare teeth at intervals. Teeth are 0.25-0.5 in. (5-10 mm.) long. There is a stout spine at the end of each leaf which can deliver a deep wound. [Some people are also sensitive to the sap which can cause blistering. P.H., ed.]

Yellow flowers are produced in clusters that form on branches of a very tall flower stalk which may reach a height of 30 ft. (10 m.). The flowers are very popular with nectar feeding birds such as hummingbirds and orioles. Plants live 10-30 years and die after flowering; however the pups they produce will continue to live in their turn.

There are a large number of varieties and hybrids in this species which is very popular as a landscape plant as well as a source of fiber and fermentable sugars. If the leaves are pounded fibers can be separated and made into rope or thread. Dyed threads are used to embroider leather in saddles and clothing. If one cuts the flower stalk before the flowers form a sweet liquid (aquamiel) collects in the bowl of the plant. When fermented it produces

“pulque”. If the heart of the plant is roasted in an oven the sugars that are produced can also be fermented and distilled to make mezcal and tequila.

If one wanted a large showy succulent as a center piece for a garden one of the yellow and green variegated varieties of *A. americana* might work. They prefer well drained limestone soils but will grow in a wide range of soil type. In Bakersfield they would require only occasional supplemental watering after becoming established, which would take about a year under normal conditions.

Jack G. Reynolds



Dan Nystrom.

**March 5, 1928 -
December 12, 2016**

Dan was a member of our club from 2005 - 2010. He was a kind, congenial person. He gave me some Autumn Crocus. When they bloom, I always think of him. They are blooming now.

From Dan's obituary: A memorial service will be held for Daniel Nystrom, 88, who passed away

December 12, 2016 in Bakersfield, CA. The service is at 11:00 on Saturday, January 7th at Parkside Church, 2515 Church Ave. in Bakersfield. He loved to travel, backpack, and make his flower beds into vibrant displays of color. He leaves behind a legacy of kindness, generosity, and Godly living.

Sidney Kelley



Who was that “Indian”?

A Letter From Bruce

Just before Thanksgiving I read a whodunit by Cynthia Riggs called Indian Pipes.

The title refers to the plant *Monotropa uniflora*, also called ghost plant because it has white waxy stems without chlorophyll. It is in the heather family. (This book is one of a series which have plant titles.)

The name also refers to real “Indians” (Native Americans). Although the book is fiction, it refers to a real group, the Wampanoag, who live in eastern Massachusetts. This served to remind me that the first Thanksgiving was shared between the Pilgrims (my ancestors) and the Wampanoag. It is good to be reminded that this group is real and still living today.

On the day, the family met at my niece Tina’s new home for a humongous feast. We had a roast turkey, turkey hors d’oeuvres (with olives, pineapple and cheese on toothpicks) and even a turkey desert (marshmallow rice crispies shaped into a body with drumsticks). All this despite the fact that no turkey was mentioned from the first Thanksgiving! (William Bradford does list fowl).

That Saturday we had another feast at Lora’s for those who had to work on Thanksgiving. Lora set up her Christmas tree! On Sunday we returned to Lora’s for leftovers and outdoor lights were hung! It wasn’t even December.

At least the Fresno Succulent Society’s Christmas Potluck was on the 1st of December. They had the usual silent auction and I paid \$25 for an *Agave cerulata*. This is way beyond my usual limit, but it came in a beautiful pot which I figure is worth the extra cost.

We rushed back on the 2nd and not only sang with our Goldenaires choir, but were in time for a neighborhood progressive dinner. It was interesting to meet some of our neighbors.



On the 13th we were at the BCSS potluck, but I failed to win the bid on *Euphorbia alfredii*. This is a small relative of *Euphorbia millotii* which I was given by the FCSS for helping with their Show and Sale. It is blooming and I’ll bring it to the next meeting.

On the 21st we joined a sing-along Messiah at the First Presbyterian Church with Robert Provencio directing. (We had sung under his direction some years ago in the community choir at CSUB). His daughters sang the women’s solos and there was a very competent orchestra.

On the 22nd we had a potluck at our exercise group The Silver Sneakers. With all this food, how am I supposed to control my weight?

The November/December issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal has an obituary on Darrel Plowes, a naturalist of southern Africa. We knew him from Botswana. His succulent studies overlapped with mine. He will be missed.

Also, I just received an e-mail from the husband of Heidi Hartmann, a German expert on the mesembs. She also died this year. She stayed with us in Lesotho and Botswana and we stayed with her in Hamburg. She also will be missed.

On a happier note, I was pleased to see a review of Maynard’s “Kern County Flora” in the Californian. I can’t say more than the newspaper since I have not yet seen a copy, but it looks like a useful book to have.



Bruce Hargreaves

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

THE HUNTINGTON
LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL
GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108
(626) 405-2100

DESERT FORUM

Saturday, 14 January 2017

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This annual event is a chance for all succulent lovers to spend both time (in the Succulent Conservatory) and Money (at the plant sales in the teaching green house.) These areas are not generally open to the public. Admission is free with your club identification.

- 9:00 – 9:45 **Registration** – in front of new visitor entry area, Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00 **Desert Garden** Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory Alocs will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 **Plant Sales.** Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping* Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 **Free Time.** Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30

Lunch: Café in the new visitor center features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items. The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

Visit us on the Web!

www.BakersfieldCactus.org

Facebook:

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



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

February 14th

BCSS Meeting

Panayoti Kelaidis

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

Succulent Gardening

The art of Nature

Dormancy Table

By James Feucht, PhD, 2005 Colorado State University Cooperative Extension ~ Dormancy in Northern Hemisphere plants is caused by chemical changes within plant cells. It is stimulated by cooling temperatures and shorter days in late summer and fall. This "binds" water so it cannot freeze and injure plant cells. To break dormancy, plants must first go through a period of cold (about 40 degrees F or colder) for an average of 63 days. This cold period triggers changes which, when warm weather appears, allows plants to "deharden" and resume growth.

Winter Dormant Summer growers	Summer Dormant Winter growers
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This group is generally regarded as the "summer growers". They have adapted to our northern hemisphere cycle & are dormant from November through February. Many of these will also enter a pseudo rest period for a few weeks during the hottest part of the summer before putting on a final burst of growth in September and October.

Usually referred to as the "winter growers", these genera are dormant during the warmer months of May through August. Their primary growth actually occurs during autumn and spring while slowing considerably during true winter. Many will exhibit marginal growth during the summer months as well especially in the Lily and Crassulaceae families.

Adenia, Adenium, Agave, Alluadia, Aloinopsis rubrolineata, brachystelma, Bursera, Calibanus, Ceropegia, Cissus, Cyphotstemma, Didieria, Dorstenia, Echeveria, Encephalartos, Euphorbia, Ficus, Fockea, Huernia, Ibervillea, Ipomoea, Jatropha, Lithops, Monadenium, Moringa, Operculicarya, Pachypodium, Pedilanthus, Plumeria, Pseudolithos, Pterodiscus, Raphionacme, Siningia, Stapelianthus, Synadenium, Tillandsia, Titanopsis, Trichocaulon, Trichodiadema, Xerosicyos

Adromischus, Aeonium, Aloe, Anacampseros, Astroloba, Avonia, Bowiea, Bulbine, Ceraria, Conophytum, Cotyledon, Crassula, Dioscorea, Dudleya, Fouquieria, Gasteria, Gibbaeum, Graptopetalum, Graptoveria, Haemanthus, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, Neohenricia, Othonna, Pachycormus, Pachyphytum, Pachyveria, Pelargonium, Peperomia, Portulacaria, Sansevieria, Sarcocaulon, Sedeveria, Sedum, Senecio, Stomatium, Sulcorebutia rauschii, Talinum, Tylecodon



Keith Taylor with some of his projects
~13~