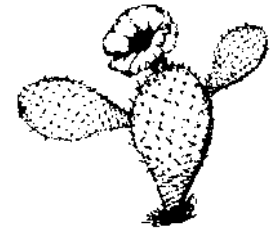




*Lophophora sp.*  
Grown from seed

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 20 **April 2017** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## **"Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"**

Rob Roy MacGregor

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

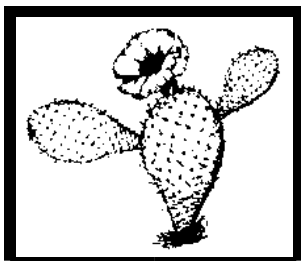
6:30 PM

Monthly Meeting

**Tuesday,  
April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
at  
**6:30 PM**

**Meet the Speaker**

Dinner @ 5:00 PM  
Sizzler  
900 Real Rd.



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 20 Number 4  
April 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](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

~2~

**April 11<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

## **"Propagation of Cacti and Succulents"**

**Rob Roy MacGregor**

I spent my younger years fishing and riding motorcycles in Baja California and our local desert. It was then I was first introduced to desert plants. We bought our house in Riverside in 2004, where I proceeded to plant cacti on our ½ acre yard in attempts to recreate the desert scenes I was so familiar with in my youth. I began volunteering at a local cactus garden and soon after I joined a cactus club. I eventually started working at Prickly Palace, a cactus garden and nursery. I was surrounded by people who were very supportive and insisted that I learn the proper scientific names and terms. This drove me to read and learn more. This new knowledge shared with me through friends and speakers at the cactus club encouraged me to experiment with all aspects of growing and propagating.



My talk is a hands-on experience. I will be giving demonstrations on forced propagations by using bisection, decapitation, and hot nailing. I will discuss and show examples of all the above from start to finish. We will also discuss the advantages and disadvantages of these procedures.

~3~

# March 14, 2017

## Woody Minnich and his “Secrets”

Mainly, let the plant's habitat tell you what it needs: % of sunlight, water and drainage, temperature range. The more you learn about your plants, the more success you will have.



Facebook:

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

## The Succulent Garden at Cal State

### *Euphorbia mauritanica*



*Euphorbia mauritanica*, sometimes called Golden Spurge or Pencil Milk Bush, is a succulent from Southern Africa that is widely distributed. It can be common enough to be the major plant in some areas.

This is good from a gardening standpoint as it inhabits a diverse range of areas which means it tolerates a lot of different conditions. Ours in the garden has gone through cold winters as well as wet winters, full sun and, of course, hot summers. Nothing has phased it. It has grown fast into a bushy clump about 2 feet high and wide. In the Spring it's stems are tipped by golden 'flowers' (these are not really flowers in the classical sense, if you're interested ask Bruce or Maynard about it). As with many *Euphorbia* it produces a milky sap that may be irritating as well as poisonous so care needs to be taken when trimming.



Stephen Cooley

# Plant of the Month

## How to Plant a Succulent Garden

The Jan. -- Feb. issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal had a very interesting article by Leo Chance on how to plant a succulent garden. He was writing for the cold climate of Colorado but much of what he had to say would apply to almost any area where succulents can be grown in the ground. I have attempted to summarize the main points of his article in hopes that anyone who wanted to create a succulent landscape in their own yard would have this information.

**SOIL AND HARDSCAPE:** The soil should be at least a sandy loam. Increase the gritty quality by adding coarse sand, pumice, scoria etc. Particle size should be not less than 1/8 in. right on up to pea gravel. Consider raised beds with boulders as the sides. Boulders should be sunk into the ground for at least one half their diameters. They look more natural that way and they also channel any water that falls on them down into the ground where the plants can find it. Plant between and next to rocks and boulders also. A sloping garden will drain excess water away. Desert soils are coarse and have little or no organic material in them. Resist the temptation of add organic components.

**COVER:** Mulch with gravel not bark. Bark competes with soil and roots for moisture which may result in wet bark on top of dry soil. Gravel will still cool the soil but will let water through into the soil underneath.

**WATER:** Chance is not a big fan of drip systems. He prefers regular sprinklers because they broadcast a wide area. He believes that a drip will create a constant wet spot that can lead to root rot and plants with wide ranging roots will have areas of deficiency. Do not be afraid to water your plants during heat stress periods particularly for the first year of two.

**PLANTING:** Do not wait until spring to plant. Fall is the best time or late winter. If you wait until the normal season for planting annuals the plants will not have enough time to develop their roots before hot weather. Agaves seem to be able to handle almost anything however. When planting remove most of the old potting soil from the roots and give them a good soak and then spread them out to fill as much of the hole as possible. I would add that you should dig a fifty dollar hole for a five dollar plant for best results.

Potted plants that have been living in a greenhouse or under shade cloth may need some temporary shade for a few weeks until they adjust to the new light conditions.

Chance has written a book; *Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates* which has gotten good reviews and is available widely.

Jack G. Reynolds



Saturday, April 22nd, 2017, 10:00 to 3:00

Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande

Enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments while touring Rob's personal collection of cacti and succulents. I'll also be selling smaller collectable plants, and larger show-ready specimens. This year I'll be releasing some larger and older plants from my private collection, and there will be several caudiciform species I've never sold before.

For information please call Rob or Terry at (805)709-3033

# BRAG TABLE

Gary Green brought a mother of millions (*Kalanchoe* or *Bryophyllum* sp.) which was in full bloom. This is probably the hybrid *X houghtonii*.



Bruce brought a partridge leaf *Aloe* (or *Tulista*) *variegata* which was also blooming. It is found in the Karoo of South Africa.

Polly brought a pony tail plant (*Beaucarnia recurvata*) which was the plant of the

month. It was young but already had two heads.

Sidney Kelley brought a *Sempervivum ciliosum* 'Springtime'. It has woolly hairs on the leaves which went well with the lamb pot it was in.

Sabrina brought a *Crassula* sp. (probably *C. lycopodioides* which gets its name from *Lycopodium* or club moss). It was in a duck pot which was probably originally a cookie jar.

Erin brought a cutting of the bunny ear cactus, *Opuntia microdasys*, a lesser offensive species.

Lucy Lea Perides brought an *Agave filifera* which has the markings of *Agave Victoria-reginae*, but has very fibrous leaves.



## Milestones

### A Letter From Bruce



Polly had knee replacement surgery on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February at Memorial Hospital. I stayed with her in her room afterward. John came at lunchtime and we went out to lunch. Polly slept most of the day. Next morning Anne picked me up for our exercise group. Later we went home. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> I went to our choir rehearsal and then Lora went with me to pick up Polly who was ready to go home.

Polly's recovery has been fast and steady. She has been back to choir rehearsal and our exercise group (although she does the exercises sitting down). Polly started physiotherapy at home, but now is going to a place in EB.

She was not up to the trip to Fresno on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, so Anne and Lora took me to the Fresno CSS meeting. The speaker, Russell Wagner, was scheduled to speak on growing plants, but instead gave us a terrific lecture on the Canaries. This is the first time I've heard someone else talk about them.



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of March I went with Lora and Anne to Sacramento. We left very early and were in time for a birthday party for my mother's cousin Franklin Davis and his wife who are both 90! I was interested to learn that Franklin's middle name is Bruce! I always wondered where my name came from. It was good to see so many elderly relatives as it may mean I have the genes for a long life.

That evening we walked along the Sacramento River to Old Sac and had dinner at Fat City. We weren't up to walking back, so we all three had our first Uber ride. I found the driver much friendlier than a taxi driver. That evening we watched La La Land. We don't know why it was even nominated for Oscars!

Next day, at my suggestion, we went to the Aerospace museum in North Highlands to see an exhibit of machines made from the designs of Leonardo De Vinci. They were fantastic. There were also setups where you could pay \$5 and get instruction on a flight simulator. Lora, who's husband is a flight instructor, flew to New York, Micronesia, and the Marshals. She also flew the Spruce Goose!



For lunch we went to A Taste of Britain, also in North Highlands. I had Bangers and chips with mushy peas washed down with a

Dandelion and Burdock soda. There was a life size statue of Queen Elizabeth by the entrance so we posed for pictures. A hand written note instructed us not to move the queen!

That afternoon we visited the state capital where I managed to locate the moon tree almost immediately. This is a redwood grown from seed which went on the Apollo 14 mission. Inside, Lora was disappointed to find a book which mentions one of our ancestors was no longer on display. Lora also visited the Leland Stanford Mansion where she used to work. It was very late by the time we got back to Bakersfield.

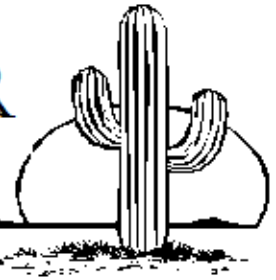


On the 14<sup>th</sup>, of course, we were at the BCSS meeting. Polly was able to manage both dinner and the meeting. Woody gave an interesting and quite different talk revealing the "secrets" of growing succulents. Mainly it is a matter of knowing where they come from and what it's like there.

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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

# CALENDAR



**April 11<sup>th</sup>**  
BCSS Meeting  
Rob Roy MacGregor

**April 22<sup>th</sup>**  
**Garden Fest at Bakersfield College**  
This event which helps publicize our club needs several people to do a little on Friday April 21 (set-up) and Saturday, April 22 (sell plants and take down) There will be sign-up sheets at the next meeting.

**April 22<sup>th</sup>**  
**Open Greenhouse Day at Arroyo Grande**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**  
BCSS Meeting

**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**