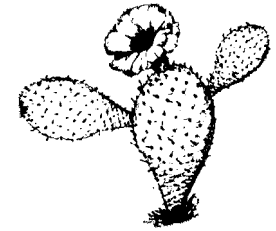




Opuntia lindheimeri
BJH

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 20 **June 2017** Number 6

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

"A Journey through Chile"

Steven Frieze

@ St Paul's Episcopal Church

June 13th

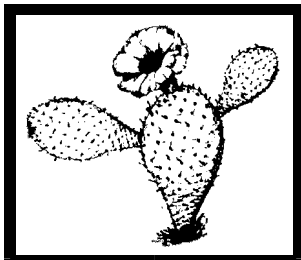
@ 6:30

This is your
Newsletter!

Send articles and
pictures for
inclusion

Meet the Speaker

Dinner @ 5:00 PM
Sizzler
900 Real Rd.



The Cactus Patch

Volume 20 Number 6

June 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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~2~

June 13th MEETING

"A Journey through Chile" Steven Frieze

The journey my wife took to Chile has left an indelible impression on the both of us. We had the extraordinary opportunity to spend almost a month in the marvelous country traveling from Santiago to Taltal, a mining village in the heart of the Atacama Desert. Along the way we located and photographed many of the spectacular cacti (Copiapoa, Eriosyce, Eulychia) that are endemic to one of the most unusual ecologies on earth. We were especially gratified to find to visit fields of cacti that left us breathless and hopefully will have a similar impact on you. We took an assortment of side trips that included a visit to an island that is inhabited by Penguins and Sea Lions all of which I will share with you in this presentation. I look forward to sharing our odyssey with you that included a stay in a mansion that is owned by one of the wealthiest men in Chile.

Steven Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. For the past eleven years he has been one of the owners of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent nursery. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Oaxaca Mexico, Costa Rico, and Brazil.

Prior to his retirement, he was an Administrator for the California State University system serving in a variety of capacities in the area of institutional research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member. He also functions as the Director of the Positive Psychology Lab at the same institution where students get the opportunity to design and execute psychological research studies.

~3~

May 9, 2017

“2014 CSSA Trip to the Canary Islands”

Nels Christianson



Nels' talk was both entertaining as well as informative; covering six of the Canary Islands. It provided a great overview of this area which is the oceanic extension of the Sahara of Africa. These outlying areas, like Soqotra, help complete a picture of what North Africa might have been.



~4~

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Calliandra eriophylla

Pink Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*) is a small 3 foot high by 3 foot wide shrub that comes from the deserts of northern Mexico, New Mexico, Arizona and the lower desert of California. It is evergreen except on the coldest of our winters and blooms profusely in the spring. As you

might expect of a desert plant it will survive with little water though it always looks its best after a rainy winter.

This is one of two species of *Calliandra* that we have in the garden. The other, *Calliandra californica* has red flowers and is less cold tolerant.

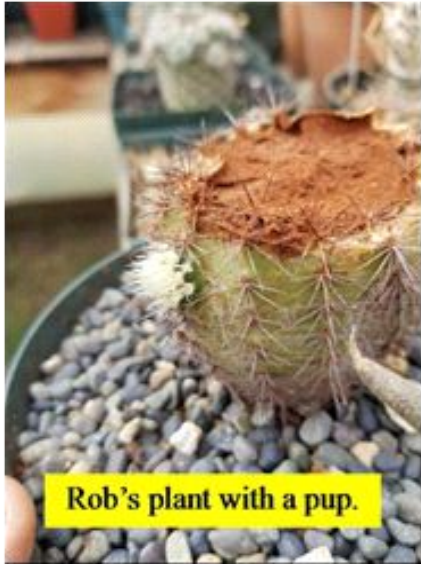
It has done well in our garden for the dozen or so years we've had it – consistently blooming every year. It's ease of care has earned it a spot in many drought tolerant landscapes and is sometimes to be found at nurseries.



Stephen Cooley

~5~

Some results from Rob McGregor's April Presentation



Rob McGregor sent me this picture of one of the plants he showed us how to cut and treat with cinnamon. It already has a bud on its side. His program was April 11th. I received this picture on May 14th.

I have a piece just like Rob's, from the same cactus.

I used cinnamon, just like Rob said to do. I planted mine on its side. It has rooted, but no buds yet.



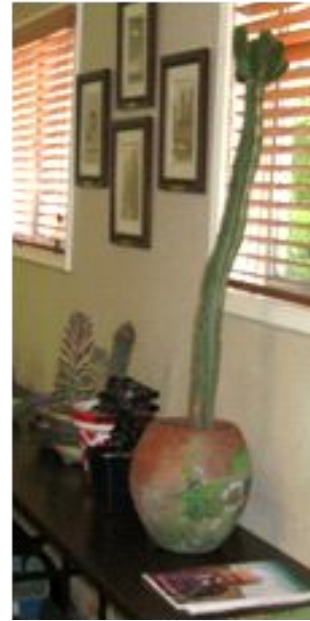
About two weeks after the meeting, I cut the top off of one of my cactus and treated it with cinnamon. I planted it right away. It has rooted. No buds yet.

I have the *Echinocactus grusonii* that Rob used to show us how to use the hot nail to make it grow from the side areoles, not from the top. I can't see any new growth yet.

If you have one of the cut succulents from Rob's presentation, please let us know how it's doing at the June meeting. Or if you've done some work using cinnamon, let us know how that's worked out for you.

Sidney Kelley

BRAG TABLE



Jack Reynolds brought the Madagascar species *Euphorbia francoisii*. It was blooming and was a form with beautiful purple coloring on the leaves. (I have a T-shirt which matches it.)

Anne Lee brought a *Kalanchoe (Bryophyllum) daigremontana*, another succulent from Madagascar. The form she brought had pink plantlets on the leaves. These are called “mother of thousands (or millions)” because these plantlets can drop off and grow. They should come with a warning, however, as eating them can be fatal. They should be kept from pets and toddlers.

I brought a plant of *Euphorbia canariensis*. It had its growing tip frozen and is now forming branches at the top.

This is not a recommended method of propagation.

Polly brought some crocheted plants which my mother had sent to her in Botswana. She made an exhibit of desert books with them. Polly also brought an “Alice” cake for refreshments. It had a red and white checkerboard pattern to match the chess board in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.

Frank Drake brought a *Mammillaria poseigeri* which had beautiful red fruits. It is an unusual *Mammillaria* as it has tubular flowers.

Aeonium arboreum was brought over to the brag table from the raffle plants. It is the most widespread of all *Aeoniums*. It is found on the Mediterranean coast of Morocco, Portugal, Spain and the islands of Sicily, Sardinia, the Ionians, Crete and Cyprus. It is one of the few which are not natural to the Canaries. (The others are found in Madeira[2spp], Cape Verde [2 spp] and one species in Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Arabia.) The variety shown was *A. arborium* var. *atropurpureum* which has dark purple leaves.

Plant of the Month

Yucca whipplei

I am going to include *Yucca whipplei* as a succulent because it is in the Agavaceae family and is drought tolerant. That is good enough for me.

This native California member of the chaparral and coastal sage community is seen in landscapes as an accent planted away from paths where people might encounter its sharp spiny leaves.



Plants grow in a low mounded rosette 4-5 ft. (1.2-1.5 m.) in diameter. Leaves are long and narrow, dark grey-green in color 14-30 in. (20-90 cm.) long

Flowers are creamy white with purple overtones and produced on a stalk 6-12 ft. (2-4 m.) high. This flower structure gives them the common name of Our Lord's Candle. True to their Agavaceae family, mature plants die after flowering. They form offsets however so only the "mother" plant dies and the young carry on. Interestingly though most other Yuccas do not die after flowering hence many live a long time and form branching tree structures such as the Joshua Tree. Native peoples used plant fibers from the leaves to make cloth and twine. Flowers, fruits and seeds were also eaten.

Bakersfield is on the edge of the ecological range of this species so they should grow in our landscapes with only a little water supplementation. They prefer a gravelly well drained soil but have been known to grow in clay. Plants can be obtained from nurseries or grown from seed.

Recent taxonomic re-evaluations including DNA studies have created a new genus "Hesperoyucca" to include *whipplei*. The ripple effect of this has not yet reached the entire botanical community so many people still include them in the Yuccas.

Jack G. Reynolds

Festivities and Islands

A Letter From Bruce



On the 22nd we were at the Garden Fest at BC. Although the usual booths (including the BCSS) were there, the Fest has become much more than just garden-oriented activities. It was a bit overwhelming.

The next day we had our family dinner at the re-opened Cactus Valley. The new owner is Wayne Lee, which was the name of Anne's late husband! We asked for Nopales (prickly pear pad) soup, but were told they had none. Then we ordered Nopales omelets and were told there would be a delay while they went to get the Nopales! The food was otherwise as before.

On the 24th we found someone had smashed the driver's window on the car! Nothing was taken -they even left the Neil Diamond CD on the driver's seat, proving they have poor taste.

On the 30th we went to the Jewish Food Festival at Temple Beth El. The main sandwiches were good, but overpriced. We found we should have ordered falafel bowls which were a much better deal. It was a hot day and there was very little shade.

On the 4th of May we went to Fresno to hear Rob Skillin speak on Yemen and Soqotra (aka Socotra). Terry was there selling plants. Even though we had heard two other talks on Soqotra, it was great. The island is still tops on my bucket list. I took *Plectranthus socotranus* for the brag table. It was hot and Polly's sister Nancy had a non-functioning cooler, so we did not stay the night.



The 6th of May we had a celebration of Anne's birthday at her house. Next day we continued celebrating at the Melodrama production of "The Mermaid of Lake Ming". It was delightfully silly.



On the 9th we heard Nels Christianson speak on the Canaries. I thought we did well to include the two main islands on our visit, but Nels showed us six out of the seven! If you thought there were too many Aeoniums, just note that of the 39 species, 33 are only found on the Canaries! He did go overboard on the genus Greenovia (which looks like an Aeonium with cup or ball-shaped leaves) since there are only four species. (All of them are found on the Canaries.)

On the 12th we went to the SPCA book sale and I got a picture book on Bromeliads by Bill Seaton. It goes overboard on Tillandsias and has not enough on other genera, but is a good introduction. One fault is the capitalization of species names.

On the 14 we had a celebration of Mothers' Day at Lora's. This was a special occasion as my mother would have been 100 on the 29th of April if she had lived. We will have a family reunion to celebrate in July.

I don't play "Pokemon" but my agave garden in front of the house was invaded by a Geodude anyway!

Bruce Hargreaves

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



June 13th

"A Journey through Chile"
Steven Frieze
 BCSS Meeting

JUN 30--JUL 2

CSSA ANNUAL SHOW AND SALE
 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

July 11th

"Bromeliads"
Andy Siekkinen
 BCSS Meeting

JULY 26--31

CSSA CONVENTION, TEMPE, AZ.

August 8th

BCSS Meeting

September 2nd

SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
 HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

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