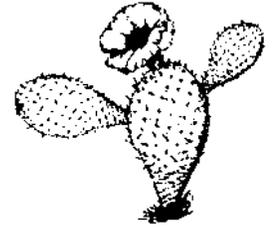




Weeping Agave
BJH

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 20 **August 2017** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
"Summer Family Dinner"
Cactus Valley Restaurant
@4215 Rosedale Hwy.
August 8th
@ 6:00

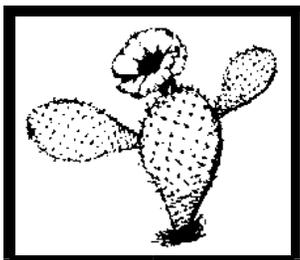
This is your
Newsletter!

**Send articles and
pictures for
inclusion**

SHOW & SALE

Oct 14 & 15

St. Paul's Church
2216 17th St.



The Cactus Patch

Volume 20 Number 8
August 2017

The Cactus Patch is the official publication of the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society of Bakersfield, California



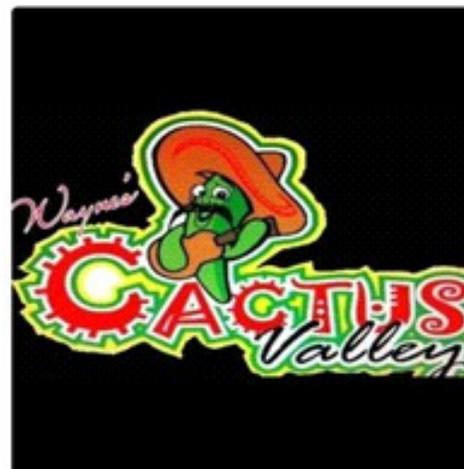
Membership in the Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society costs \$20 per year for an individual and \$25 a year for a family.

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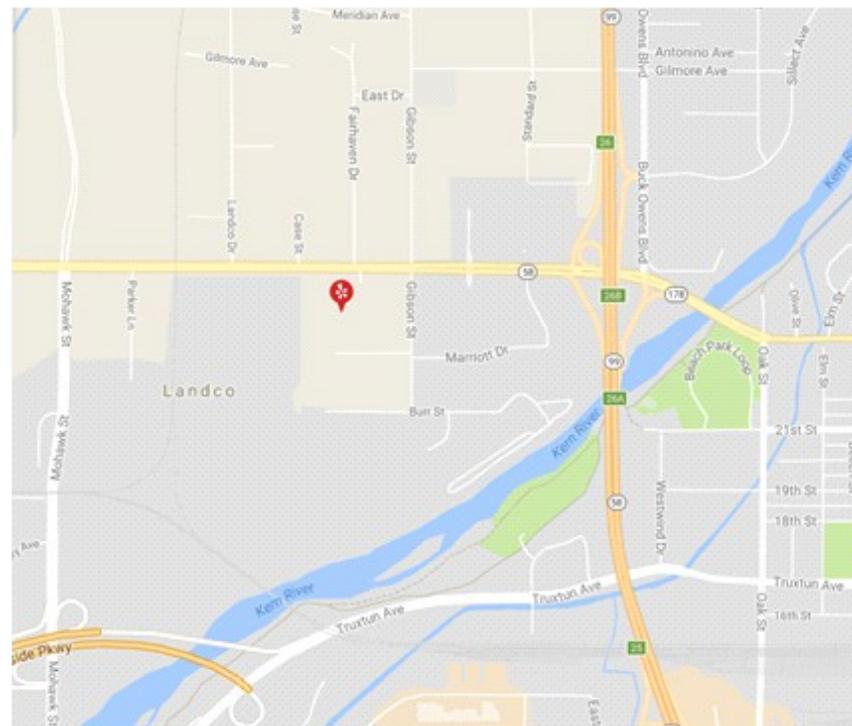
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www.BakersfieldCactus.org

August 8th MEETING



Hurray!
Cactus Valley has changed ownership and reverted to its former menu including cactus soup and grilled cactus. I told them to have some on hand.

Hope you can come (6PM) for this social only meeting: a good chance to match names and faces.



July 11, 2017

“Hechtia”

Andy Siekkinen



Andy presented a good overview of the Bromeliad family and then concentrated on the Hechtias, which are mostly ground dwellers in Mexico. He mentioned that by using DNA a more complete and accurate picture of some families results.

He brought many different genera and well as some new hybrids to sell.

SHOW & SALE

October 14th and 15th

Our Show and Sale is our club's major fund raiser for the year.

- We use this money to pay expenses for out of town speakers, room rent, the newsletter and any other expenses that pop-up.
- We need volunteers to help set-up and help our vendor organize on Friday afternoon.
- We also need helpers and cashiers during the open hours both days and more to dismantle it all on Sunday afternoon.
- Without this effort we can do little in activities the rest of the year.

~4~

BRAG TABLE



Jack Reynolds brought a couple of Tillandsias for identification. The larger (with flowers) was ID'd as *T. paucifolia* x *concolor*. The smaller one was *T. burgeri* or *T. aeranthos*.

Polly brought a plant labeled *Hechtia montana*,

but we were told it is *H. texensis*. Both species grow in Mexico, but *H. texensis* reaches Texas at the Big Bend area.

I brought a python vine, *Fockea multiflorus*, which grows in Southern and East Africa. Unlike most *Fockeas* which have large tubers, it has a thick twining vine. It is in the milkweed family.

Richard Amaya brought a tray of cuttings. His Paper Thorn (*Tephrocactus*) will need more sun than the other cuttings which



are in the *Crassula* family.

Luis de la Torre brought a group of *Pachycereus* seedling which will be available when they are bigger and separable.

~5~



Cruzin' Again

A Letter From Bruce

On the 29th of June we picked up John after work and headed up to Santa Cruz. With dinner at Denny's (free for John as it was his birthday) at Lost Hills and dessert at Denny's at King City, we reached Sunset State Beach at 10:55. We didn't have a map of the campground and couldn't phone as there was no service. We finally went back to the entrance and found there was service. Even then we had trouble following given directions and were about to go into town for a motel when our daughter-in-law, Emily, found us as she drove around. We settled in at 11:55! Fortunately James and Emily had a pop-up camper with a bed waiting for us. Poor John had to set up his tent before sleeping.



Next morning we all moved to the group camp and were joined by other relatives. We were shown the tie-dyed shirts (prepared at camp the day before) that had Alice and the Caterpillar with the words "Who are you?" Appropriate for a gathering of relatives to honor my mother Alice's 100th year. That evening we went to the Boardwalk in Santa Cruz and had supper. I was interested to learn from John that the trestle at the East end of the boardwalk had been used in a zombie movie. I now realize this was the source of nightmares I had as a kid which involved walking across a trestle that I could fall through! Back at camp we huddled around a fire as it was cold!

~6~



Saturday 1st July was spent in camp. At 2:00 we had birthday cakes with Disney Alice figures from the Buttery in Santa Cruz. That evening John led us to some blooming *Dudleya caespitosa* plants on the cliff above the beach. The beach itself had beach radishes and sand verbena in bloom, but most of the wildflowers were going to seed. We watched the sunset over the ocean, but there was no green flash as the Hills of Santa Cruz lay directly across the bay from us. Back at camp we had dinner at the campfire followed by singing (with nephew Leo on Guitar) and

S'mores.

On Sunday there was a church service at the campfire with singing led by nephew Leo and a short sermon by nephew Daniel. Lunch was take-away from the Golden Palace in Santa Cruz. This was followed by a painting session in which we were led in "creating" a specially prepared scene of Alice, the white rabbit and the grin of the Cheshire Cat. I especially liked nephew-in-law Nick's painting which

had the mad hatter and March hare instead! That afternoon we went with John to Watsonville to get quarters for showers. (The camp charged 25c per minute.) We then had ice cream next door at Yum Baluu Paeteria.

Next morning, at my instigation, we went with John to the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz. It is interesting as it focuses on Mediterranean climate plants. Proteas and their relatives from South Africa and Australia were the dominant plants. There were also sculptures inserted here and there. The one I liked best was a giant metal sculpture of Eucalyptus leaves and fruits.



~7~

The succulent garden had OK Agave and Cacti, but the African Euphorbias were sad looking.



We then got gas and take-away in Santa Cruz and headed north to the Roaring Camp at Felton where we joined the others for a picnic lunch and a ride on an old logging train. Our grand daughter Alice (now 2) was ecstatic over this.

When we returned to Roaring Camp, I left everyone to follow a trail into the Henry Cowell

Redwoods State Park next door. I asked about banana slugs, but was told it was the wrong time for them. None-the-less I followed the trail in a loop and found one about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way along. Meanwhile, Anne had bought a model of one at the gift shop at Roaring Camp. That evening we had a cake and told stories of Anne's late husband Wayne and our late sister Karen, both of whom had been born on the third of July.



On the 4th of July those of us still around went to Aptos to march in the "World's Shortest Parade". Most of the group had on the tie-died shirts, but I had red-white and blue suspenders and tie under a matching vest with a white shirt and pants. I wore a mad-hatter hat to go with the group which marched behind a banner from Alice's 95th birthday (updated to 100th). Little Alice danced around us the whole way! Back at the camp the kids used a curved plastic pipe and used water bottles to shoot paper rockets into the air. That evening we went to the airport at Watsonville where food trucks were parked along the runway. We had a picnic and then there was a terrific fireworks show. I don't know the regulations in Santa Cruz County, but there were other fireworks going up all around us. The only damage I saw was a fire across the airport from us which engines rushed across the field to extinguish.

On the 5th we had breakfast at Sanderlings in Aptos (originally scheduled as lunch, but everyone wanted to hit the road). This officially ended a reunion organized by my sister Lora. She is to be congratulated for her work. Those still left from Bakersfield met at Casa de Fruita for lunch. The place has grown into an enormous complex with a train, zoo etc. They even have a selection of succulents for sale (displayed on an old truck). Polly and I continued to Fresno and stayed with her sister Nancy. After Santa Cruz, the heat was horrible.

We relaxed on Thursday and went to the Fresno succulent meeting. We had heard Peter Walkowiak in Bakersfield, but felt we should be sociable. We reached Bakersfield in time for our exercise group on Friday and, of course, were at the BCSS meeting on the 11th. Andy Siekkinen gave a great talk, but there were too many Hechtias for me! The only exciting news now is that John is now in Australia diving in the Great Barrier Reef. This will be followed by an international caving conference. Wow, am I jealous!

Bruce Hargreaves

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



Plant of the Month

Agave deserti

We return this month to succulents that might reasonably be planted in a xeriscape in Bakersfield. I have chosen *Agave deserti* for several reasons. It is a medium sized rosette about 3-4 ft. (1-1.3 m.) high and about the same in diameter. It will grow well in a container if desired. It has cultural and wildlife significance.

Leaves are grey-green in color and about 2 ft. (60 cm.) long with spines along the edges and at the tips. Flower stalks grow to 10-15 ft. (3-5 m.) tall with numerous panicles of yellow tubular flowers. There are two common varieties in cultivation, *A. d.* (var. *deserti*) which forms numerous rosettes forming a clump and *A. d.* (var. *simplex*) which is more solitary rarely forming additional rosettes.

Native people used fibers from the leaves to make cordage and for weaving. Plants were eaten as well. The hearts and young flower stalks were roasted. The sap was fermented for alcohol as well. The flowers furnish nectar and pollen for hummingbirds and insects and the fruit is eaten by humans as well as animals.

Agave deserti is native to the Colorado Desert of California, Arizona and Baja California. It grows in rocky slopes in gravelly well drained soils. It is very drought tolerant once established but may require a little supplemental water for the first year after planting in the ground. It may be grown from seed or offsets which are readily available from specialty nurseries.



Jack G. Reynolds

CALENDAR



August 8th

Dinner at Cactus Valley

September 2nd

SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS

September 12th

Gary Duke

“The Cacti of Bolivia”

October 10th

Eunice Thompson

“A Journey to South Africa”

October 14th and 15th

BCSS Show and Sale

November 14th

Tom Glavich

“Mutants”

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