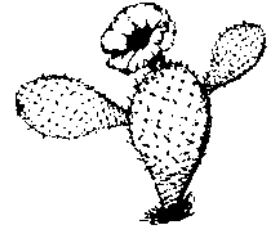




Yucca gloriosa
var recurvifolia
BJH

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. *treleasei*

Volume 20 **October 2017** Number 10

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
"The Islands of Baja, Part 2"
Eunice Thompson

October 10th

@ 7:00

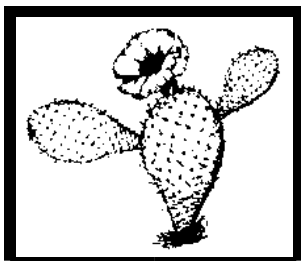
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th St.

Meet the Speaker!

Dinner at Sizzler
5:00 PM
900 Real Road

SHOW & SALE

Oct 14 & 15
St. Paul's Church
2216 17th St.



The Cactus Patch

Volume 20 Number 10
October 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

~2~

October 10th MEETING

The Islands of Baja, part 2

Eunice Thompson

I look forward to sharing the thrill of exploring the islands of Baja California in the Sea of Cortez . We will observe the diversity of the cacti and succulent endemics and compare them to their cousins found close by on the mainland.

I became passionate about Cactus & Succulents about 10 years

ago, and sought out like minded hobbyists and experts to gain knowledge of these plants. I participated in many club activities and eventually serving as a president of the Long Beach Cactus Club. I was able to combine my passion for travel and photography with cacti and succulents in their native habitats. My first opportunity presented itself join an expedition to Baja California in 2008 to visit the native plants of that region. Since then my travels have taken me back to Baja and mainland Mexico as well as the many desert habitats across the globe. This has also given me an opportunity to observe the hobby first hand in UK and mainland Europe.

Currently I am working on filming a travel documentary feature cactus and succulents and their impact. I



organize small tours to mainly to Baja California but also other plant habitats around the world. I am co-author of "Tea at Gordon's" – a self published tribute to Gordon Rowley

~3~

September 12th, 2017



"Cactus Seeking in Bolivia"

Gary Dukes told us lots about the flora, fauna and how to travel around Bolivia. We always look forward to his talks.



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 vendors 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~

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Aloe longistyla X Aloe ferox

This hybrid aloe has done quite well in our garden. It has taken the heat, cold, sun, drought and everything else our climate can throw at it and it still looks good. It is a winter grower but looks good most of the year. One of the parents, *A. longistyla*, is a small spiny rosette with a very large inflorescence for its

size. The other parent, *A. ferox*, is a tall tree-like plant with very large spiny leaves and a large inflorescence. As you might expect this hybrid shares some traits from each parent. It is a bit larger than *longistyla* but the leaves are flatter and larger and it doesn't appear to be taking on a tree like form.



The flower stalk is not as loosely arranged as *longistyla* but is more like *ferox* and is very showy (blooming in late winter). We have *Aloe ferox* in the garden and used to have *Aloe longistyla* but it is not as easy to grow and was lost years ago – we need another so we can compare the three.

Stephen Cooley

~5~



Eclipsing the Eclipse

A Letter From Bruce

We drove up to Ceres on August 17th as my mother's cousin Patricia Cousins (who is a year younger than I am) had invited us to stay overnight in my Great-grandfather's house on our way north to see the eclipse. She had warned us to wear "farm clothes" and when we got there we went out and picked corn for our supper. It was delicious. Next morning Pat's sister Janet joined us for breakfast. Pat served us oatmeal as she said, "We always had this at Uncle Asa's (my grandfather)." I didn't have the heart to tell her that I had learned to hate it. We did tell her it was served because my grandfather couldn't eat wheat.

Next day we headed further north and I photographed flowers and a chipmunk at Donner Summit. We reached our son James' house in Susanville in time for a Chinese take-away supper. James was away at a conference.



On Saturday the 19th we had breakfast at the airport where they had lots of small planes on display. One of them was painted with Botswana colors. We never did find out why. That afternoon we went swimming at Susanville's new pool. Polly stayed home with an upset stomach ache. James came home late that night.

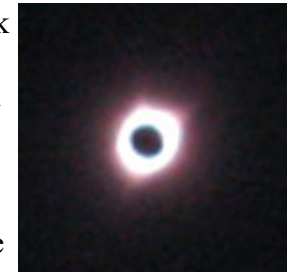
Next morning we all went to breakfast at El Cuatrero, a Mexican restaurant. Polly was still not feeling well and Matthew was starting kindergarten on the 21st, so only James, his older son Michael and I started off at 3 a.m. to drive north yet again. In the dark we saw 2 owls, a jackrabbit, 5 mice and a fox. It was still dark when we gassed up in Alturas, but it turned light as we crossed into Oregon at Goose Lake and proceeded to get gas at Hines. I had never been to Oregon, and was amazed to learn that they still pump the gas for you!



Our goal had been John Day, but as we got closer we noted that the eclipse was started and people lined the highway to watch. We even saw a herd of cows line up and start walking home! We stopped at a small store at Canyon City, just two miles south of John Day. It was very convenient as there was a small

park with a picnic table and public facilities.

We watched the eclipse with good dark glasses as well as a pin-hole camera, a binocular projection to get a double image on the ground and shadows formed by tree leaves. We saw the dark bands cross the ground at the start of totality and learned a new trick. The store had a steam vent and we watched the shadow from it also form crescents. Afterwards we had a lunch of Army Rations in the park and I bargained for T shirts at a stand in front of the store.



We thought the crowds would thin out while we ate, but the cars kept coming, so we headed north to John Day. From there we tried going West, but it got worse, so we finally joined the long line heading South. A short ways South I collected a large green rock. When I exclaimed over the color, James said "I wouldn't know". (He is color blind.) We crept slowly on and had supper at the Indian Village Restaurant in Lakeview. (A town back at Goose Lake.) We finally reached Susanville at 9:38, a long day!!

Meanwhile, Emily took Polly to the Hospital on the way to Matthew's Kindergarten. Little Matthew kindly reminded his grandmother to remember her vomit bag! Polly was diagnosed with gallstones and kept in the hospital for a couple of days. She has had problems off and on for a long time, but in Bakersfield it was diagnosed as constipation! Fortunately, missing the eclipse was not a total tragedy as we had seen two others.

Next day James took off for another conference and I visited Polly in the Hospital. Polly was released on Wednesday and we all rested up at the Hargreaves house. John took the train and bus to Reno and met James coming from his conference. They both arrived in Susanville that evening. Saturday afternoon we had lunch at the White House Thai Food Restaurant (without Polly). Alice drew very abstract art on her placemat and Matthew drew what I took to be a bar. He huffily informed me it was a lemonade stand. There were lots of quail in the defunct miniature golf outside. That evening we watched the movie "A United Kingdom" on James' large screen. This is the story of Ruth and Seretse Khama in Botswana. It will be showing at Flics in Bakersfield in February. On the 27th we made the long drive back to Bakersfield with John.



On 7th Sept. we heard Roz Ampone, a master gardener, in Fresno. The sale plants were mostly "cute" plantings in animal pots and her talk was similar. She is more interested in the display than the plants. Next day we went to Beltone in Hanford to get ear molds as the Beltone in Bakersfield has closed. Then it was back to Bakersfield to pick up John and



then back to Fresno for supper at La Arepa (a Venezuelan fast food place) with Polly's sisters. Their father would have been 100 that Saturday had he survived. Finally we arrived at HoJo's in Modesto for the night. Next morning we went over to Pat and Mike Cousins house in Ceres for their 50th wedding anniversary.



John was their photographer. It was a real mob scene with more relatives than I could ever remember.

That evening it was back to HoJo's and on Sunday we drove back to Bakersfield, stopping in Clovis to see the Fresno Cactus and Succulent Society's Show and Sale. It was in a larger area and had a judged show for the first time. The result was magic! Quite a



contrast to last year.

On the 12th, of course, we heard Gary Duke on the Cacti of Bolivia. I'm glad

we persuaded him to do part two which had more people and fewer plants. It was a bit repetitious on some plants even then.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

2017 Cactus & Succulent Show & Sale

Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society
The North San Diego County Cactus and Succulent Society!

October 28th & 29th Sat. 9 - 5 Sun. 10 - 3

At San Diego Botanic Garden
230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024
For Directions: www.sdsbgarden.org/directions.htm



- See spectacular succulent specimens from around the world!
- Show plant judging is Saturday from 11am - 12:30pm, with winners identified after 1pm. The public may follow the judges.
- All show plants will be available for viewing Saturday and Sunday.
- There will be experts available to answer your questions.
- Specimen plants for the novice or collector, and handmade ceramic pots, decorative rocks, top dressing, driftwood planters, soil, etc. will be for sale.

ONE STOP SHOPPING! Potting available with purchased items!

Cost: Free with garden admission or garden membership

For more info contact: Birta Miller @ eventsoc@palomarcactus.org or 858-736-7218

We're on Facebook! Website - www.PalomarCactus.org

BRAG TABLE

Jack Kelley brought a *Gonolobus cyclophyllus* which was in bloom. It is a milkweed with a tuberous base.

Sidney Kelley brought a *Rebutia fabrishii* var. *fluriflora*, a hanging cactus.

Jack Reynolds brought a blooming plant of *Adenium swazicum*.

Jessica Andrews brought a photo of the Bakersfield cactus at Windwolves in March. [with major “bling” more later!]

I brought a *Petopentia* (*Tacazzea*) *natalensis*, an African milkweed with a tuberous base.

Polly brought an *Astrophytum myriostigma* var. *potosinum* which had been in full bloom the day before!



CALENDAR



October 10th
Eunice Thompson
“The Islands of Baja, Part2”

October 14th and 15th
BCSS Show and Sale

November 14th
Tom Glavich
“Mutants”

December 12th
Family Potluck Dinner
Silent Auction

Garden Fest @ BC
Saturday, April 21st 2018

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