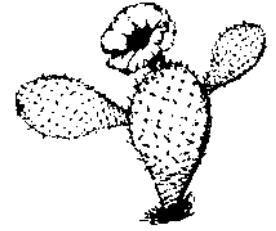


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Polly Hargreaves, editor  
pollypearl@hotmail.com



**Tree Opuntia**  
Wrigley Memorial Botanic  
Garden at Avalon,  
Santa Catalina Island

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 21 **February 2018** Number 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

**“Dudleyas and Tylecodons:  
Mediterranean Climate Plants”**

**Gary Duke**

**February 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00**  
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17<sup>th</sup> St.

**Looking Forward**

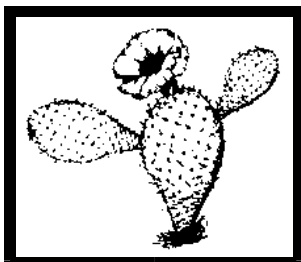
Garden Fest @ BC

Saturday, April 21st  
**2018**

**We need you!**

**Meet the Speaker!**

**Dinner at  
Sizzler  
5:00 PM  
900 Real Road**



# The Cactus Patch

## Volume 21 Number 2

### February 2018

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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## **February 13<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

### **“Dudleyas and Tylecodons: Mediterranean Climate Plants”**

**Gary Duke**

Gary describes their culture, a few historical facts and describes the differences between Dudleyas and Echevarias as well as between Tylecodons and Cotyledons. He shows a dozen or more each of Dudleyas and Tylecodons that he is able to grow in southern California.



Gary Duke has been collecting cacti and succulents since he was 10 years old. He is a retired Air Force officer with a doctoral degree in physics. During his military career, he moved his original and ever expanding collection of less than about 30 plants from Illinois, where he grew up, to Omaha, NE, Dayton, OH (where he started their first C&S Society, which is now defunct), San Pedro, CA, Montgomery, AL and Albuquerque, NM where he had been show chairman. He has also been President of the South Coast Cactus and Succulent Society and the Long Beach Club in the southern California area. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

Following his military career, he worked as a program manager for Boeing for 16 years. He's an avid collector of cacti and also collects Tylecodons and Dudleyas. He has over 1000 different species in his private collection and enjoys propagating them. He frequently gives slide presentations throughout southern California.



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# January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## “Rockin' with Cacti and Succulents”



### Marcia Tatroe

She presented an energetic overview of how people with very different growing conditions use cacti and other succulents in their gardens. We sometimes forget that many plants are more cold hardy than we expect.

## Garden Fest @ BC Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

The Garden fest is a good way to connect with people who don't even know we exist. We provide info about our club and give cuttings to children. We usually get a few who will check out our meetings later

We need volunteers to sit at our booth for a few hours and we need donations of lots of cuttings to give away We have tables and chairs, but we need to borrow a shade canopy (~10'x10')

# BRAG TABLE

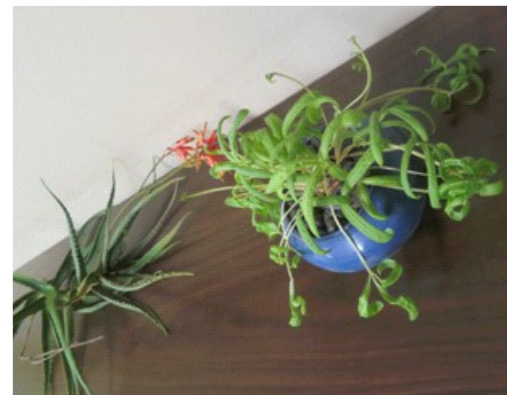


Pat Tennant brought a *Hatoria salicornoides* (bottle cactus) which had small yellow flowers. I have never been able to get mine to bloom. I think I'll try giving it a little more sun.

She also brought an *Albuca spiralis* with straight leaves. I had the same problem, but when I gave mine more sun the leaves formed the spiral curves.

Polly brought a branch of *Aloe kedogensis* which was in bloom. We were given a piece of this East African aloe by Herman Schwarts and Ron Lafon when we visited the Euphorbia Reference Collection in Bolinas back when it still existed. It forms a large hedge.

I brought a plant of *Oxalis namaquana* from South Africa. The leaves are crinkly and have two to seven leaflets rather than the usual three found in this genus. Is it a succulent? I would say yes based on the **underground** stem or corm. (The leaf stalks, while juicy – and tasty due to the high oxalic acid content- are scarcely succulent.)



Incidentally, I learned the trifoliate leaf as a characteristic of the Oxalis family, but in Malawi I found there is a genus in the family, Biophytum, which has pinnate (feather-like) leaflets which are sensitive to touch. It is not succulent.

# The Succulent Garden at Cal State

## *Frances' Plants*

A few Saturdays ago Jill, Maynard and I went out to Bill Prior's house to try and rescue some of his late wife Frances' plants. It was surprising to see that her collection was much larger and varied than we had imagined. Some of her plants will be raffle plants and others will be planted at the garden. Here's a sample:

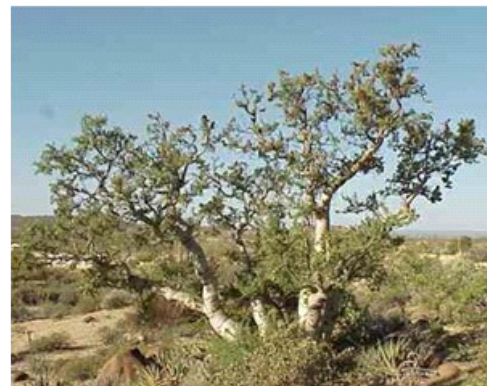


Stephen Cooley

~6~

# Plant of the Month

## *Pachycormus discolor*



Getting back to more mainstream succulents suitable for a xeriscape in this area, I have selected *P. discolor* for its beauty and interest. This shrubby tree grows up to 30 ft. (10 m.) and about as wide. It is the "Elephant Tree" or "torote blanco" mainly found in Baja California with some on the Mexican mainland. They are well known for developing a large fat caudex. It generally is found among

boulders on rocky slopes in gritty well drained soil. It is a member of the Anacardiaceae family (cashew or sumac).

Leaves are pinnate and small, dark green in color. The bark is pale beige to almost white and is shed in thin sheets on older trees. The green cambium layer can be seen in places where the outer bark is newly shed. *Pachycormus* resembles

*Bursera* in both leaves, bark and growth habit. The two may be told apart most easily by smell. *Bursera* has a heady aromatic odor to the sap whereas *Pachycormus* is almost odorless.



Flowers are cream to pink and small in clusters. It generally flowers from May to September. There are thought to be three subspecies some are found on islands (Magdalena, Margarita and Cedros) near the

Baja peninsula. One has a red flower.

*Pachycormus* is a winter grower and will go dormant when water is in short supply. It does not seem to require a summer dormant period however and some will be in leaf almost year round where conditions are favorable. It is cold tolerant to 30 F so should get some winter protection in places that get hard frost. It prefers full sun and good drainage. Only seed grown plants will develop the caudex that these trees are so well known for. They are slow growing so if you want one for your yard get the biggest one you can afford and find a nice sunny spot protected from the cold. I have to keep mine in the greenhouse.

Jack G. Reynolds

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# A Cruise to Nowhere

## A Letter From Bruce

Christmas involved a lot of eating. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we celebrated Daniel's wife Mini's birthday with a roast lamb. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> we had the traditional tamales and pozole at Lora's. On Christmas day we went to our niece Tina's and her brother Leo and kids entertained us with keyboard, guitar and voice. I was surprised at the volume produced by his daughter, Kayla, as Leo himself is a quiet singer.



We did not celebrate New Year's in Bakersfield this time. Instead, our sister Lora treated the family to a cruise with money from a group settlement. Since it was free, we went along even though we had said we would never go on a second cruise. We set off from Long Beach on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Right away we found that the food was not quite the quality of the previous cruise (on the same line – Carnival). At 11 that evening there was a balloon drop. There were more celebrations after that, but we quit for the night.



The next morning we left the ship at Avalon on Catalina and went to the museum. It was not open that day, but we did observe a large plant of Synadenium out front. I wonder if anyone realizes how dangerous the latex of this is. We then took a bus up to the botanic garden which was quite delightful. I was surprised how many large Euphorbias from Africa they had.



Returning to the ship, we watched an evening show called "Divas". They weren't anywhere near the real thing and there was too much strobe lighting. The quality of shows was also down. The comedian who followed was also weak.

The following morning we left the ship at Ensenada, Mexico. Right at the dock there were cute souvenir ceramic cacti with little manger scenes inside. There were also



large Euphorbias with fruit. Most of our group went to see the nearby Blowhole. They reported lots of blooming Agaves on the hill slopes, but the delicious tamales were not on sale. I loved their pineapple ones.) We had seen it before, so we just took a bus into town and walked around. When we got tired we had a sidewalk seafood lunch and then went across the street to a shop with local artifacts. I asked about Paipai ones and was shown a corner with terrible baskets but beautiful pottery. I bought a figure of Hueueteotl,

the god of origin, time, fire and old age. I think "father time" was appropriate for our New Year's trip! (He is also known as "tortoise lord".)



Why Paipai? Back when I was at UCSB there was a young woman who was studying ethnomusicology and played Paipai recordings at parties. I have never heard anything more monotonous. I always wondered who made such "music". It turns out that St. Katerina Mission 20 miles east of Ensenada is Paipai! Incidentally, when I was studying trance curing in Malawi I recorded almost identical music! I now understand that the effect is supposed to be hypnotic.

Back at the ship we watched a woman comedian who was a bit funnier. Next day was a boring trip in circles (I kid you not!) so that we could have a leisurely sail to Long Beach. In the morning they showed how to fold animals out of towels followed by a towel theater. (Incidentally, there were folded towel animals on the beds as before, but no chocolates on the pillows this time.) After lunch we watched a Seuss-a-Palooza show which told the story "Horton Hears a Who". I always loved the line "a person's a person, no matter how small". That evening there was a "Rock Show" which was a bit better than the "Diva" one.



In the morning we disembarked and Polly was off in the first car. The car I was in was a bit delayed, but that would have been ok if we hadn't blown a tire at the junction of I-5 and 14. We finally got someone to come and change the tire and then limped into Newhall to get a new one. We then had supper at Claim Jumper and finally reached Bakersfield at 6:58. There was no hope of reaching Fresno for the CSS meeting at 7! At any rate we will hear the same talk here in Bakersfield.

Incidentally, the New Year's cruise was one which had been suggested at AAA when we were planning our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cruise. Fortunately, John arranged for a flight to Florida and a Caribbean cruise for the same price. Although Catalina and Ensenada are not really "nowhere", they were nowhere new. At any rate, I think we are now done cruisin'.

The BCSS meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> was very enjoyable. My only criticism of Marcia Tatroe is that she included too much information. Who can absorb that much in one sitting?

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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



**February 13<sup>th</sup>**

Gary Duke

**"Dudleyas and Tylecodons:  
Mediterranean Climate Plants"**

**March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Woody Minnich

**"The New, Rare and Seldom seen  
Cacti and Succulents of Mexico"**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>**

BCSS Meeting

Garden Fest @ BC  
Saturday, April 21st 2018

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