

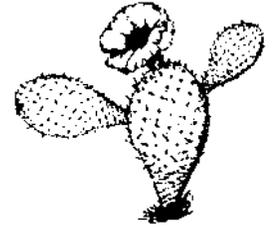
The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
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Fouquieria

Woody Minnich

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 21 **March 2018** Number 3

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

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

Woody Minnich

March 13th @ 7:00

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

Looking Forward

Garden Fest @ BC

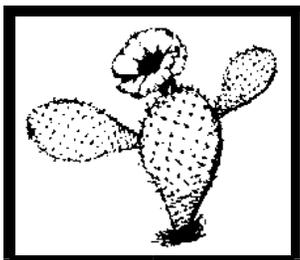
Saturday, April 21st
2018

We need you!

Meet the Speaker!

**Dinner at
Sizzler**

**5:00 PM
900 Real Road**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 3

March 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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March 13th MEETING

"The New, and Rare Succulents of Mexico"

Woody Minnich

Mexico is considered to be one of the richest regions in the world for cacti. From the United States, to its southern border of Guatemala, there are an amazing number of genera and species to be found. These range from the tiny Turbinicarpus to the giant Pachycereus. There are many diverse geologic environments. These vary from the coastal and inland low lands to its many high mountain niches. For almost 50 years, I have been lucky enough to have traveled most all of Mexico. My favorite regions for exploring include the popular Baja California, to the mysterious Sierra Madre Occidental, and the succulent rich Sierra Madre Oriental. It is from these that the majority of the highly desired taxa are to be found.



One might think that Mexico, being so close to the United States, would have been totally explored. Nothing could be further from truth! We are now finding new species at an astonishing rate. This is mainly because of the construction of many new roads into what was previously unexplored territory. Coahuila, Durango and Zacatecas embody many of these regions where few explorers have had the opportunity to botanize.

The ever-popular genera of: Agave, Dasylirion, Fouquieria, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Aztekium, Echeveria, Gymnocactus, Mammillaria, Pelecephora and Turbinicarpus, are just a few of the genera where new species have become common. Due to all of the interest in these new plants, there have been numerous negative side effects. This combined with the commercial powers of the internet/google, has created new distribution avenues for marketing the rare and or endangered species. Plants I have seen for many, many years are now facing new threats from commercial collecting. CITES and the enforcement of local and international laws, has had very little impact on curtailing the destruction of specific populations. This is especially true when plants are new or highly desired because of their scarcity in the collector's circuit.



Come join me, as I will show you many of the new cacti and other succulents of Mexico. Also, I hope to share with you what is happening to these wonderful plants, partly as a result of our new electronic world and the power of money! ~3~

February 13th, 2018

Gary Duke “Dudleyas and Tylecodons: Mediterranean Climate Plants”

Gary's talk shows how different genera can be influenced by their environment. Plants here and half a world away (Southern Africa) react to the same seasonal patterns and even look similar (when not blooming.)



Garden Fest @ BC Saturday, April 21st

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 people 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')

~4~

Wendell S. (Woody) Minnich

2018

Woody, grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950's. He has been involved as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.

Woody is most often associated with giving presentations on his field work from the places he has traveled, such as: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, South Africa, the United States and Yemen. He has also operated the nursery Cactus Data Plants since 1975. Woody's plants were often considered standards for staging and horticultural achievement. His favorite genera include: Adenium, Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Copiapoa, Cyphostemma, Fouquieria, Gymnocalycium, Lithops, Mammillaria, Melocactus, Pachypodium, Turbinicarpus and Pachycauls in general.

He has published numerous articles in various journals and his photography is featured in many books including; “The Copiapoa” by Schulz, “The Mammillaria Handbook” by Pilbeam, “The Cactus Lexicon” By Hunt and Charles, as well as many others. As of this last November 2017, he is featured as the primary photographer in the new book “The Xerophile.” This book specializes in what the authors call, The Obsessed Field workers from around the world.

Woody and his wife, Kathy, live in Cedar Grove, New Mexico. He is a retired secondary school teacher of 32 years and taught Graphics, Art and Architecture. In his hobby, Woody is recognized for his high energy and creative spirit. He has become an important part of the hobby and is an honorary life member of ten C&S societies. With 45 years in the hobby and 64 years in the



field, he has many experiences to share and numerous photos to show.



~5~

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Expansion

Plans for a Botanical Garden at Cal State include some room for expansion of our succulent garden. I recently spent some time moving old railroad ties from a nearby area into our garden. I did this mostly to establish some boundaries around the expansion (I want

to claim what I can before someone changes the plans again). The amount of room we will gain means a new pathway will have to be created to make viewing the garden easier. This is a major project but as the Botanical Garden is not moving along swiftly there is no hurry in getting it done.

A few of the aloes are blooming now and, due to a very dry winter, weeds are not too bad – mostly in areas I have watered.



Stephen Cooley



BRAG TABLE



Richard Amaya brought a plant of *Senecio rowleyanus* “variegata”, a form of the ‘string of pearls’ which had white striping on the leaves.

Sidney Kelley brought a small boojum (*Fouquieria columnaris*). It is slow growing (Mine has stayed small for years). This is felt to be a good thing as it is cute – now.



Polly brought a branch of *Euphorbia grandialata* which was blooming. This forms a large bush with wing-like joints. It can grow here when protected, but is frost sensitive.

Jack Reynolds brought *Dudleya hassei* as it was in bud. (He had hoped it would bloom.) This was related to Gary Duke’s talk. He also brought *Tylocoden buchholzianus* and *T. schafferianus*.



Jack also brought a small *Pachycormus discolor* as it was the plant of the month.

I brought the ceramic figure of Huehuetectl, the Aztec god of old age which I bought in Ensenada. I don’t know of any cactus connection (perhaps the old man cactus *Cephalocereus senilis*?) although Peyote is connected with the deer and San Pedro is shown with the jaguar.

These latter two are hallucinogenic.





Tripping

A Letter From Bruce

On the 20th of January we joined the Women's March here in Bakersfield. It was an amazing turnout, partly I suspect because there was not an organized one in Bakersfield last year. I was quite pleased to see how many different causes related to Women's Rights were represented. I may not agree with all the causes, but I certainly agree with their right to espouse them!



On the 28th of January we decided to take a trip with John in honor of the degree he just earned from Cal State Bakersfield. Our first stop was Lakeview Gusher near Taft. Polly had never been there. Although the lake of oil is long gone, there is a monument with pictures. We then drove over to the coast and stopped at Guadeloupe for lunch at King Falafel, an interesting mix of cultures.

We then drove up through the monarch butterflies (which were swarming) at Pismo Beach. It's a good thing we had already seen them as it would have been difficult to park! Our next stop was Dinosaur Caves Park. We had never been there, but had found it on the internet and were curious. It started as a one-man project to build a large dinosaur outside a sea cave. The neighbors complained and he never finished it. His museum of curiosities did not work out and the area was abandoned. The city of Pismo Beach took over and made a park which has dinosaurs, dolphins dinosaur eggs etc. which kids can play on. The cave collapsed long ago and there is really nothing to see.



We continued north into Shell Beach and had drinks and snacks at the Spyglass Inn. We then climbed down to the rocky shore at The Cliffs and looked at tide pools with crabs, starfish, sea anemones etc. The tide was out so the viewing was good. Our trip back was uneventful.

On the 31st we watched the large bloody red blue moon. It was red because it was eclipsed and it was a "blue moon" because it was the second full moon of the month. It was large because it was closer to the Earth than usual.

~8~

On 1st February we did not go to the Fresno CSS. We did go to the SW branch library book sale even though Polly argued the first day was probably members only. Darn it, she was right! I went ahead and joined for \$5 since we were already there. Polly waited in the library. I was disappointed, especially since they had advertised African American books as a special section. I had only found a small selection and was about to give up when I checked the African American section one last time. At that point I noticed "To Africa with Spatula" an intriguing title. Then when I looked at it I found it was subtitled "A Peace Corps Mom in Malawi 1965 to 1967". Since we were there from 1965 to 1968 it had to be someone we knew! Sure enough, the author was Jane Baker Lotter, the wife of the director we served under there. Polly agreed it was worth the extra \$5. Unfortunately we found that Jane had died two years ago. Since the Lotters were in Davis we could easily have visited them when we saw John in Sacramento!

On the 9th of Feb we watched "A United Kingdom", the story of the marriage of Ruth Williams and Seretse Khama. The relatives on both sides objected, not just because it was a mixed marriage, but also because it involved delicate politics since Seretse was heir to the throne of the Bangwato, a leading tribe in Botswana. Under influence from racist South Africa, Seretse was banished from his own country by the British.



Eventually Seretse was elected to be the first President of a newly independent Botswana and Ruth served as the first First Lady!

Polly and I had been privileged to meet the Khamas in Botswana and our video of the first forty years of independence was shown before the film. This was based on the Power Point slide show which we had shown to the BCSS, but John had converted it to video and added sound. It was great to see it on the large screen at the Fox.

We were also present for Gary Duke's talk on Dudleyas and Tylocodons. He explained the connection since one is American and the other African – they both are in the Crassulaceae and are from winter rainfall areas. It was a well illustrated talk.

My *Aloe elegans* from Ethiopia bloomed again this year, but the flowers were orange rather than yellow. I suspect this is because they had more sunlight as I had trimmed the overhead tree. I have found in the past that other Aloes are paler when shaded.



Bruce Hargreaves

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

Plant of the Month

Euphorbia alluaudii

I have been wanting to repot my *Euphorbia alluaudii* for a while now. It has been in the same pot without a change of soil for about ten years and has so badly overgrown the pot that it threatens to tip over. Now that we are about to enter warmer weather I decided to do it and it seemed to be a good time to make it the plant of the month. I wanted to refresh my knowledge of the plant anyhow.

Manny Singer lists it along with 167 other *Euphorbia* species in his checklist of the *Euphorbias* of Madagascar. Werner Rauh groups the Madagascar *Euphorbias* into two groups; spiny and lacking spines. *E. alluaudii* is in the spineless group.

In nature it grows as a shrub but will form a tree up to 12 ft. (4 m.) high with a more or less bare trunk with a bushy top. Branches are jointed and look like a series of "sausages" of varying thickness 0.25-0.5 in. (8-12 mm.) in diameter and different lengths depending on the growing conditions. Very small scale leaves form on growing tips but are quickly shed leaving a small leaf scar which persists. The branching pattern is reminiscent of coral and described as coralliform. Common names are "sausage *Euphorbia*, stick *Euphorbia*, cat tail *Euphorbia*"

Flowers (cyathia) are formed at the tips of new growth. They are yellow and small. Fruits are green with purple markings when ripe.

This species is cold tolerant to about 40 F. It likes full sun to partial shade. In the ground it is a moderately fast grower. A very gritty well drained inorganic soil is preferred. Water in moderate amounts during the growing season but withhold water during the dormant winter season. They can be grown easily from cuttings. They take readily to pot culture and will live in doors in a well lit area.



Jack G. Reynolds

~10~

CALENDAR



March 13th

Woody Minnich

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

April 10th

Rob McGregor

"Propagation of Cacti & Succulents #2"

Garden Fest @ BC

Saturday, April 21st 2018

May 8th

BCSS Family Picnic

Visit Us On the Web!

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~11~