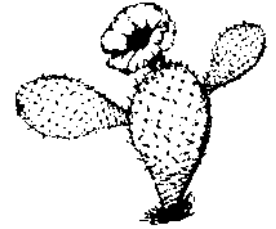




*Mammillaria tetrancistra*  
with Fruit

BJH

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

Volume 21 **April 2018** Number 4

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

## Propagation of Cacti & Succulents

**Rob McGregor**

April 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00

St. Paul's Church, 2216 17<sup>th</sup> St.

### Looking Forward

Garden Fest @ BC

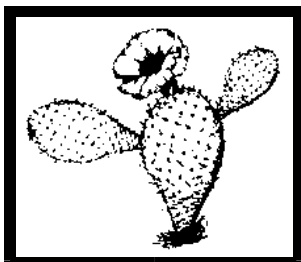
Saturday, April 21st  
**2018**

**We need you!**

### Meet the Speaker!

**Dinner at  
Sizzler**

**5:00 PM  
900 Real Road**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 4  
April 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.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Vice - President: Jill Brennan**  
jbbrennan@bak.rr.com  
**Membership: Maynard Moe**  
Immoe44@gmail.com  
**Newsletter: Polly Hargreaves**  
pollypearl@hotmail.com  
**Website: Stephen Cooley**  
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Visit Us On the Web!  
[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

~2~

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

### **“Propagation of Cacti & Succulents #2”** Rob McGregor



My talk will be on the various types of shade cloths, screens, plastic and fiberglass, used to build economical structures that will help improve the growing conditions for your plants. I will discuss structures I have built from form boards and shower glass doors, a shade house from my daughter's old trampoline, to a cold frame heater made from shower glass.

I started collecting plants about 20 years ago. At first it was collecting from the local nursery in San Felipe in Baja Norte California so I could plant them around a friend's property in Puertecitos, Baja California. Then 15 years ago I bought my home in Riverside and proceeded to remove the grass in my ½ acre backyard and install rocks and cacti. The front yard soon followed, receiving an aloe and rock remodel. After those first couple of years I began to meet people that would change my whole outlook on cacti and succulent plants. It was at this time I ran into a person whom I would later call my mentor. He took the time to instill in me the drive to learn correct terminology and spelling of plants. He also taught me to take a more scientific approach of gathering information. It was this approach that I call “playing with my plants” which gave me the willingness to do what I have done to plants, in the name of further education.

~3~

# March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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

Woody's talk was very informative about the status of our National parks and other reserved lands. We need to keep our eyes on the future,

Woody, Maynard Moe and Stephen Cooley are seen studying "The Xerophile" in which Woody is featured as primary photographer.



## 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 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')

# BRAG TABLE

Luis de la Torre brought a tiny *Aztekium hintonii* which had been grafted. The reason for grafting is to speed up the growth on it. It fit in with Woody's talk which included a cliff full of them in the wild.

Sidney Kelley brought a *Crassula* "Morgan's Beauty" which was in full bloom and is indeed a beauty.

Richard Amaya brought a beautiful miniature bathtub planter with a *Gasteria*, *Crassula* and *Tradescantia*.



Polly Hargreaves brought a *Velheimia Bracteata*, which was in full bloom.. This South African lily has a succulent bulb.  
I brought my certificate from FLICS which shows my "originality"





# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



## *Nolina parryi*

Giant Nolina is a California native that looks a lot like a thin leaved yucca. It is related to *Calibanus* and *Beaucarnea*. It also happens to be a Kern County native, growing east of Lake Isabella on rocky slopes. *Nolina parryi* occurs in similar areas scattered in the California desert.

Giant Nolina is relatively large with a spread of about

4 feet (for each head) and it can eventually rise upon a trunk to over 6 feet. In the Spring the height is increased by a flower stalk that can be 5 feet or more.

We do not have this plant in the garden but seeds have been obtained and perhaps someday it will be a spectacular focal point in the garden. It can take 30 years to develop a trunk.



Stephen Cooley

# Joshua Tree and MOVIES!



A Letter From Bruce

*I am the desert  
Feel the breeze  
That dances through the Joshua trees.*  
~Mojave by Diane Siebert  
with paintings by Wendell Minor

On Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of February Polly, John and I drove to Joshua Tree to visit Polly's sister Ginny who is recuperating from knee replacement. Our first stop was the Boron Museum where they have a delightful mini team of life-like mules hauling wagons. Next we stopped at Amigo's in Barstow and had a filling lunch. We finally reached the town of Joshua Tree and had



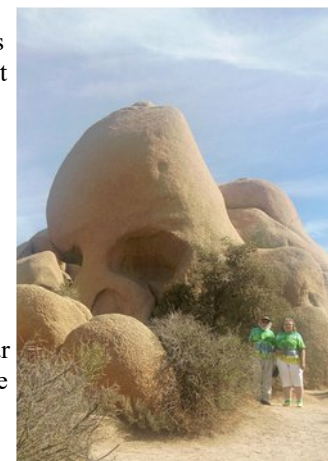
an evening of chatting.



Since Ginny had an appointment next day, we left and went on to Joshua Tree National Park. Since it was a holiday weekend, the place was packed! We still managed to see some wildlife. Right away we found a coyote who was trying to feed on road kill. We also managed to watch rock climbing at Quail Springs and Hidden Valley. It was quite a contrast to the 60s when Polly and I had first visited Joshua Tree

National Monument (as it was then) and camped in Hidden Valley. The place was quite lonely back then.

We went on to Skull Rock and then managed to find a spot at a picnic table. Just outside the Park we found there is now an observatory and a nature trail with labeled plants (including a number of cacti). At this time of year there were no flowers on the cacti, although there was one small red fruit on a Mammillaria.



From there we went on to the visitors center and small oasis next to 29 Palms We had a snack at Jack in the Box and then returned to Joshua Tree. That evening we all had Dinner at Pho 85 in Yucca Valley.

On Sunday we went to the Evangelical Free Church in Yucca Valley to hear Ginny sing and play piano. The church is on a steep slope with parking at three levels. There is rock walling with beaver tails inserted at intervals. Also next door is an unrelated hillside of religious statuary. On the way home we stopped at the SlashX which is a hangout for off-roaders. It turns out it was lucky we weren't on that road the week before as there had been a huge crowd for an off-road meet! Next we had lunch at Denny's in Barstow. Two other former Denny's buildings are visible from the present one!



On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we saw the film "Maudie" at the Fox. This stars Sally Hawkins as a disabled woman who succeeds by selling paintings. It's a moving story, but it was even more meaningful to us as she lived in a small village near Digby in Nova Scotia. By coincidence our friends Andrena Teed and Nigel Rollo, whom we knew in Botswana, live in another village near Digby and we had stayed with them in 2007 on our way back to Bakersfield.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> we started a marathon of film watching since the Regal offered all 9 Oscar best film nominees for \$35. We started with "Three Billboards," the story of a private protest which is not very cohesive. After that we watched "Darkest Hour" which portrays the struggle of Winston Churchill in WWII. The best thing about it was his makeup; and he did get an Oscar!

On the 25<sup>th</sup> we watched "Phantom Thread" which portrays a struggle with an egotistical dressmaker and then "Get Out" which is a black oriented horror/Sci-Fi film. On Monday we saw "The Shape of Water" which also starred Sally Hawkins and is a fantastic Sci-Fi love story. This was followed by "Call Me by Your Name" which is the story of a young man struggling with his homosexuality. It takes place on a visit to Italy.

"Lady Bird," which we saw on Tuesday is a young woman struggling with sexuality which takes place in the U.S. This was followed by "The Post," a movie of the stand by the Washington Post against government's attempt to hide the true story of events in Vietnam. The fact that the editor of the Post was a woman and the Post a little-known paper at the time makes for exciting drama. Finally, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March we watched "Dunkirk," a better than average war film.

Of the nine Oscar nominees for Best film, I felt that only "The Shape of Water" and "The Post" were worthy of the nomination. I chose "The Post" and was wrong, but at least I liked the winner! On the 4<sup>th</sup>, of course, they announced the Oscar winners and on the 9<sup>th</sup> I received a Certificate for having

chosen the least correct number of winners from FLICS, our foreign film club. That night we watched "Abacus," a documentary of the struggle between a small bank and the government. I had chosen it as the best documentary, but it didn't win.

As if that weren't enough films, on the 11<sup>th</sup> we watched a free showing of "Miss Representation," which shows how women are put down by various media. Finally, on the 17<sup>th</sup> we watched The "Black Panther" at the Maya using the gift certificate which came with my FLICS award. I was pleased to see shots of Lesotho and actors in Basotho blankets. When they proceeded from real herds of sheep and village huts to the imaginary city I was reminded of the rather surrealistic observatory which had been built by an eccentric priest across the road from the University in Roma, Lesotho. I was surprised to see the South African actor John Nkani as the elder T'chaka. We had seen him in the play "Sizwe Banzi is Dead" in New York in the 70s. The decades have not slowed him down. Afterward we watched a double rainbow -- but we didn't find the pot of gold.

Films weren't the only thing we saw. On the 14<sup>th</sup> we saw an excerpt from the musical "Big River" for free at the Beale Library. I had wanted to see this show as I had played Huck Finn in a musical production in Malawi back in 1980. The cost of tickets to the full show was prohibitive and so I had given up hope. The actors playing Huck and Jim were superb, but the keyboard was much too loud in the small library room. I trust the full show had a more balanced sound.



During this time period we also went to Fresno for a talk by Ernesto Sandoval on the reproduction of succulents on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and, of course, the BCSS meeting with Woody on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Woody had an excellent balance of landscape, close-ups and locale, but he got a little preachy on conservation. We got it the first time... and the second... and the third... etc.

Finally, on the 17<sup>th</sup> we went to a used book sale at the Beale Library and got some real bargains, including the children's book quoted at the beginning of this article. It has terrific paintings. I think some of the best art is done for children!

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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



# Something about Water

For the past few months I have written this column with a view to encourage people to xeriscape their yards. I have been suggesting succulent plants that could be used in such a setting. Recently this effort has taken on a more relevant flavor as I have seen our drought return and the environmental changes that go with it. In Lake Isabella, where I live we average 12 in. of rain a year; Bakersfield is about 6 in.. In ecological terms, Bakersfield is a desert or at best short grass prairie. Lake Isabella is oak and pine woodland grading into Joshua tree scrub.

During the worst of the drought two of my blue oaks died. Many of the digger pines in the area have succumbed to bark beetles as their ability to resist them has been sapped by drought. The same is true of the pinon pines on Walker Pass thirty miles east of me. My rain gage tells me that from Oct. 1, 2017 to Apr. 1, 2018 we have gotten 6.5 in. of rain. Five inches of that came in March. Prior to the March rains we were on a track to be even drier than the 2015 rainy season which was the driest in 500 years according to tree ring data.

I have a nephew who farms 500 acres in the Buttonwillow area. Three years ago he had to put in a new well at the cost of a quarter of a million dollars because of the over drafting of the water table which has been falling ever since irrigation agriculture began in the central valley. I didn't mention to him that now he would be able to continue the overdrafts. The rains of the last wet year have not recharged the water table. It takes decades for that surface water to get down to it. What surface water we don't capture goes out to sea. Most of the water we use is well water not snow melt.

Capetown, South Africa, is due to run out of water sometime around May-June this year. I have seen Capetown. It is a beautiful modern city of about 4 million people. I saw an interview of the author of a recent book on natural resources. Capetown loses about 40% of its water due to leaks in the water system. He says that most cities across the globe lose 30--40% that way. Lawns are the single largest consumer of water in cities. There are cities in the U. S. that can go dry also. San Diego is a possibility.



*Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, Cape Town*

I ponder these things as I write about ways succulent lovers can extend their love of dry land plants into their landscapes.

**Jack G. Reynolds**

~10~

## CALENDAR



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

**Rob McGregor**

**“Propagation of Cacti & Succulents #2”**

**Garden Fest @ BC**

**Saturday, April 21st 2018**

**Open Greenhouse Day**

**Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 2018, 10:00 to 3:00**

**Skillin Ranch, 8910 Camino Cielo, Arroyo Grande**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**BCSS Family Picnic**

**June 12<sup>th</sup>**

**JD Wickert**

**“Haworthia”**

**Visit Us On the Web!**

**[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)**

**Facebook:**

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

~11~