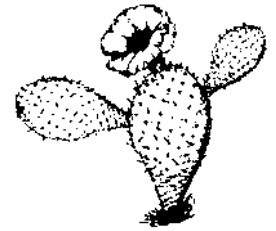




Euphorbia xanti
BJH

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 21 **May 2018** Number 5

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
"FAMILY PICNIC/POTLUCK"
at FACT at CSUB

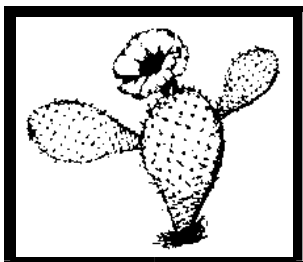
by everybody
6:00 PM

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 8th
at 6:00 PM

@ the Club Cactus
and Succulent
Garden on the CSUB
Campus

NOTE

**change of
location and
time**



The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 5
May 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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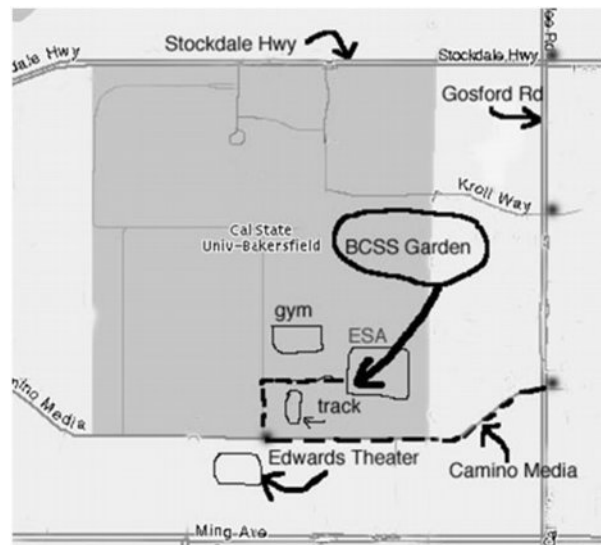
Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

MAY 8th MEETING

See you at the potluck/picnic at 6 PM at
The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Tables and chairs and paper service will be provided.
Come to admire the cactus garden!



DIRECTIONS: The BCSS Garden is located in the Environmental Studies Area on the south east side of the CSUB campus. To get there enter the CSU Bakersfield campus from the south entrance off of Camino Media Blvd. Just after the information booth the large parking lot on the right is the access road to the facility. Turn right in the first driveway. Go through the parking lot past the recycling drop off area, at the softball field backdrop find a short dirt road and follow it over the campus bike path (yield to traffic on the bike path) to the parking area which is lined with railroad ties, please park straight in toward the fence or railroad ties.

April 10th, 2018



BRAG TABLE



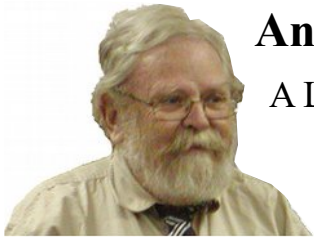
Rob McGregor presented a lively program about building structures in your garden that both fit your budget and space allowed



Sidney Kelley brought a tiny *Sedum furfuracem* which had a tiny flower.

Polly brought her *Veltheimia bracteata* again. This time it had seed pods.

I brought an *Ariocarpus agavoides*, a cactus which looks like an agave. Woody showed us this tiny cactus in the wild in March. Although mine is small, it is a good-sized one for the species. I also brought a branch which had broken off of my Euphorbia cactus; which, despite the name, is not at all related to a cactus!



Another busy month

A Letter From Bruce

What's in a name?

That which we call a rose

By any other word

Would smell as sweet.

~Shakespeare

The April issue of Asklepios (the milkweed journal) has an article on the late Sheila Collenette. I did not know her, but I knew her work as the leading expert on plants of the Arabian Peninsula. She was president of the International Asclepiad Society and I have written many articles for their journal.

The recent journal also has an editorial which mentions an article in the South African Journal of Botany which lumps all those stinky stapeliads as well as Brachystelma in the genus Ceropegia! I am a lumpster and would certainly lump Brachystelma in with Ceropegia, but I'm not quite ready to join in the stapeliads. As the editor Keith Bensusan says "Time will tell whether such a radical repositioning of so many genera will gain traction with plant taxonomists." He also adds, "Names are but a convenience and they certainly make no difference to the plants themselves."

On the 24th of March we joined the school kids protesting campus killings in their "March for Our Lives". It began with speeches in Yokuts Park and then we processed to Truxtun where we stood as cars whizzed by, some of them honking. I'm not sure we accomplished much, but something has to be done about these intolerable killings!



~6~



On the 29th we went to the old First Baptist Church on Truxtun for an opening of yet another restaurant. For me it is always a bit nostalgic to go there as it was the church my family

went to when I was in high school. It is strange to see a bar in what used to be a teetotal church. The food and drinks were good. I especially liked the blue cheese with a bit of a bite to it.

The 30th was a sad occasion as it was the last showing of FLICS! The film itself (Our Little Sister) was good and had an upbeat ending, but it was Phil Neufeld's farewell before he leaves for Santa Fe. The Fox Theater will continue with Flix, a similar film series, but I don't believe it will be the same. At any rate, Phil now has a star on the sidewalk outside.



On Easter Sunday Harvey appeared on our clover patch in the lawn along with some eggs. We went to Lora's for a family dinner.

~7~

On the 5th we went to Fresno and heard Robert Scott, a member of the FCSS, give a talk on propagating and growing and showing succulents. It was good and I'm glad to hear someone else who does not agree with "one size fits all" solutions. The only complaint was he tried to cover too much. Fortunately there was no raffle that night, so we did have a little extra time to be filled.



On the 7th we were once again at Yokuts Park, this time to remember Martin Luther King and his Dream. Unfortunately the rain discouraged people and there was a low turnout.



The 10th, of course, was the BCSS meeting with a talk by Rob McGregor. Again we heard about propagating succulents, this time without all the burning and slashing of his previous talk. We learned how to build greenhouses out of discarded material, which certainly makes our hobby more affordable.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

~8~

Plant of the Month

Aloe ferox



Aloe ferox, also known as "bitter aloe", is a member of the family Asphodelaceae. It is native to South Africa where it is wide spread. Mature plants form a single stemmed shrub from 6-10 ft. (2-3 m.) in height and about 3 ft. (1 m.) across. Leaves are fleshy upward arching, forming a rosette with brown-red spines on the surfaces and margins.

With its bright red-orange flowers appearing in winter it is a very showy addition to a landscape as a specimen or a border plant.. Flowers are born on upright cylindrical racemes about 2-4 ft. (60-120 cm.) long. Nectar feeding birds love them.

Bitter aloe leaves are harvested, dried, powdered and used to make a laxative. It is also used in cosmetic "masks".

It requires a well drained gritty soil. Once established it requires little or no water supplementation. It is a slow to moderate grower and may take several years to reach full size.

It is also a good container plant. Plants are grown from seed or cuttings. Seeds are readily available from suppliers. It may require protection from hard frosts

Jack G. Reynolds

~9~



FRESNO CACTUS & SUCCULENT ANNUAL SHOW & SALE

Saturday, June 2nd – 9 am to 6 pm

Sunday, June 3rd – 9 am to 4 pm

Thousands of amazing plants and handmade pottery for sale.
Rare and unusual plants on display.

CASH, CHECK & ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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EXPERTS WILL BE
ON HAND TO
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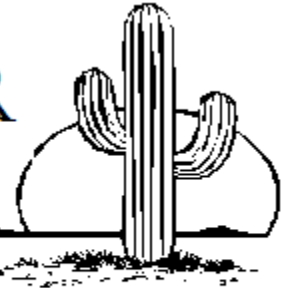
www.fresnocss.com

FRESNOCSS@YAHOO.COM

This is an excellent show and sale by one of our valley clubs. Many of their members are growing some very nice show plants. It is definitely worth the trip!

~10~

CALENDAR



May 8th
BCSS Family Picnic

June 2nd & 3rd
Fresno Show and Sale
808 Fourth St, Clovis CA

June 12th
JD Wickert
“Haworthia”

June 29th ~ July 1st
CSSA Annual Show & Sale
Huntington Botanical Garden
1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino CA

Sept 1st
Huntington Symposium

Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

~11~