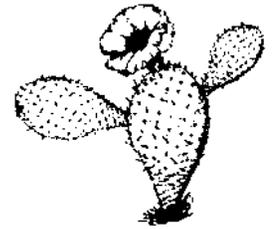




***Tephrocactus geometricus***  
Mark Muradian's garden, Laton

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 21 **July 2018** Number 7

This Month's Program  
"South Africa"

Ernesto Sandeval

7:00 PM

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

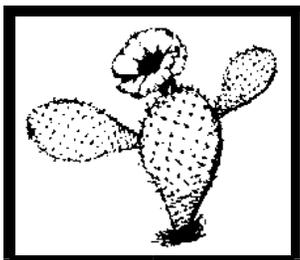
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17<sup>th</sup> St.

Monthly Meeting  
**Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
at 7:00 PM

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

**Meet the Speaker!**

Dinner at  
Sizzler  
5:00 PM  
900 Real Road



# The Cactus Patch

## Volume 21 Number 7

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

### **South African Succulents in Summer: A Grower's Perspective Ernesto Sandoval**



Join Ernesto for a grower's perspective on seeing succulents in Southern Africa both in gardens and the wild from his travels there. From his "Summer Sabbatical" in South Africa and Namibia he'll share what he learned about the features of these plants from the diversity of habitats and cultivated environments he experienced. Some highlights will include exploring the Conservatory at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, a little of the Richtersveld including species of Aloes that are home to this formidable part of northwestern South Africa, a visit to Namibia including the

Kokerboom forest (*Aloe dichotoma*) near Keetmanshoop and several populations of the unique *Welwitschia mirabilis*, as well as other succulents from the Cape region and other deserts from that amazingly diverse part of the world!

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do. He's been learning and teaching himself by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.

~3~

# June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## “How About Haworthia” by J.D. Wikert



Could have been titled “ALL” about Haworthia. He is a very enthusiastic speaker about such a large group of species, sub-species and cultivars.



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# BRAG TABLE

Richard Amaya brought two pots with Haworthias, One with a soft



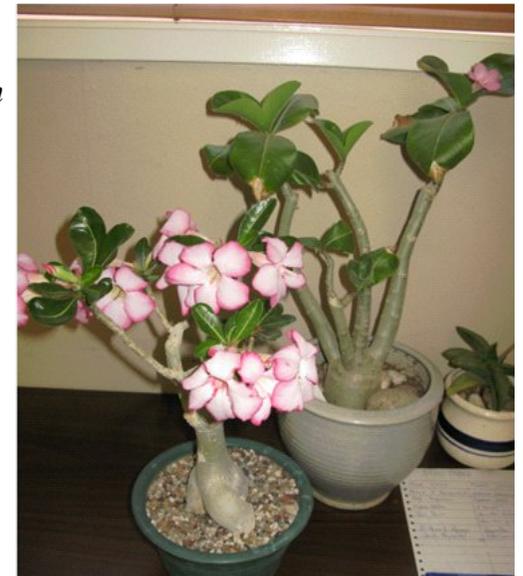
Haworthia (genus or subgenus Haworthia) and the other a hard Haworthia (genus or subgenus Haworthiopsis ).He emphasized the decorative pots, but these plants also went with the evenings talk.

Paul Bowles brought a *Haworthia koelmaniarum* and a *Haworthis pulchella*. These also went with the evening talk.

Polly brought a *Gasteria vlokii* which was in bloom. It comes from the mountains south of Prince Albert. It is unusual to find a Gasteria in mountainous areas. We drove through the mountains to Prince Albert, but did not see any gasteria, although there were lots of other succulents.

Bruce brought an *Adenium boehmianum* which had one flower. This species has large fuzzy leaves

Jack Reynolds brought an *Adenium obesum* which had a number of flowers..



# Plant of the Month

## *Dracaena draco*

As I was looking through the latest issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal I happened to see an addendum to the seed bank list and there were seeds of *Dracaena draco* listed. I had been intending to write about *Dracaena cinnabari*, the dragon's blood tree of Socotra but here were seeds of a close relative: something that someone could obtain and grow in a xeriscape in Bakersfield. Then I remembered that we had one in our front yard in Simi Valley and changed my plan.



*Dracaena draco* the dragon's blood tree of the Canary Islands is native to those islands and also Cape Verde, Madeira, and Western Morocco. It has been introduced as an ornamental into many parts of the world with a Mediterranean climate.

Dragon's blood trees are in the Asparagaceae family. The mature "tree" has the shape of a martini glass. This is the result of a characteristic branching pattern. The tree starts out as a single trunk. After the first flowering at about age ten several new branches will grow from the base of the old flower stalks. Each of these branches will eventually flower at their terminals and new branches will in turn be formed there etc.

Flowers form at the ends of branches on racemes. They are cream white and give off a perfume. Fruits are brown-red berries. Leaves are a dark green and leathery about 18 in. (50 cm.) long forming a shaggy rosette sort of like an unkempt yucca.

The sap from this tree as well as several other plants has been given the name "dragon's blood" because it contains dark red resins and flavinoids. These have been used to make varnish, dye, incense and medicines. It is said that Stradivarius violins were varnished with dragon's blood although it is unclear if it came from *Dracaena draco*.

Plants are available from nurseries. They will grow indoors as well as in the landscape. As I said earlier seeds can be obtained from the seed bank. They need a coarse well drained soil and should let to go nearly dry between waterings. Never let the roots stand in water. The one we had in Simi Valley grew at the edge of the lawn which was watered twice a week in summer an less in winter.

Jack G. Reynolds





## A Marriage of Generations

### A Letter From Bruce

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of May we went to Mark Muradian's Farm in Laton for the FCSS potluck picnic. The weather was wonderful and the plants were in bloom, but we almost went meatless. Something went astray and the roast beef didn't get there. Fortunately some ham was on hand and was sliced up instead.



On the 26<sup>th</sup> there was a huge gathering of clans in Bakersfield as our niece Angela was married to Tim Montano. She is the youngest of her generation in our family, so it really represents the end of an era. There is a generational overlap and representatives from two younger generations already exist. At the other extreme, my mother's generation was represented by Patricia Cousins who is a year younger than I am but is none-the-less my mother's cousin.



The setting was beautiful as it was in an enclosed garden next to Mill Creek Park. The whole thing was quite a cultural mix. It was said to be a Hawaiian theme and there were seashells and frangipanis with leis etc., but Angela is actually Micronesian (from Ebeye in the Kwajalein atoll of the Marshall Islands). I guess most people wouldn't know the difference between that and

Polynesian. Polly contributed a home-made piñata just to confuse things, but it was embarrassing when the Zimbabwean walking stick I contributed to break it was broken!

John was the wedding photographer and did his usual superb job. I hope this allays Angela's fear when she said, "But I want a professional photographer". My sister Lora assured her that

her cousin John (the oldest of her generation) was quite professional. The couple went off to a honeymoon in Costa Rica.

Those of us still around met for breakfast at Hodel's the next morning. We enjoyed having James, Emily and the grand-kids for the brief visit after the wedding and we celebrated Alice's third birthday even though we were a bit late.



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of June, of course, we voted. As usual in primaries, there was a disturbingly low turnout. I hope people are more responsive in November. Elections have changed considerably with all the mail-ins and the party crossover system.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> we heard Duke Benadom speak on southern Uganda at the FCSS. It was a great travelogue with videos interspersed (although we didn't need to



spend quite so much time watching the water flow down the Nile where it starts at Jinja. I think we spent less time when we actually went there in 1967!) Also, considering the few succulents and the large numbers of birds, I almost felt I'd wandered into an Audubon Society meeting. I was, however, pleased to see that at least some of the people and wildlife of Uganda have survived the wars there.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> Polly's sister Ginny stopped by on her way to Fresno for her birthday the next day. We had strawberry pie at Milt's.

Finally, on the 12<sup>th</sup> we heard J.D. Wikert speak on Haworthias. I hope I wasn't too intrusive with my comments on the taxonomy, but I did want to make the point that even experts are disagreeing on grouping the Haworthias.

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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

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# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



## *Echinocereus engelmannii*

Engelmann's Hedgehog or Calico Cactus is a fairly common native of California's deserts. It also occurs throughout the Southwestern United States and Northwestern Mexico.

It has spectacular 4 inch Fuchsia colored blooms in Spring and the spines are often multicolored. It slowly forms a clump that can reach 3 feet wide and 2 feet high. Calico Cactus is tolerant of intense sun and heat and can take cold down to the low 20's F.

Perhaps its only drawback is an impenetrable armor of spines which makes it hard to work around (think pulling weeds).

The Calico Cactus in the Succulent Garden has been there for over a decade and has shown no adverse effects from whatever Bakersfield's weather could throw at it. This is certainly an eye-catching addition to a dry garden as long as it is in a place where it is not bumped into.



Stephen Cooley

# CALENDAR



**July 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Ernesto Sandoval  
"South Africa"

**August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>**  
33RD ANNUAL INTERCITY SHOW AND SALE  
AT THE L.A.COUNTY ARBORETUM  
9am - 5 pm daily  
301 NO. BALDWIN AVE., ARCADIA, CA

**August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
Dinner at 6 PM  
Old Hacienda on Olive Drive

**September 1<sup>st</sup>**  
HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS  
SUCCULENT SYMPOSIUM  
INFO: 626-405-3504

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Karen Zimmerman  
"Aloes on My Mind, Exploring Aloe"

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