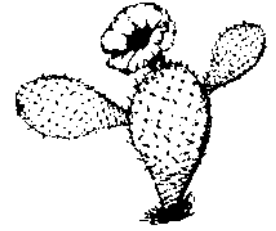




Golden Barrels

Fresno CA

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 21 **August 2018** Number 8

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
Family Dinner in the Summer
@ The Old Hacienda
August 14th
6:00 PM
5303 Olive Drive

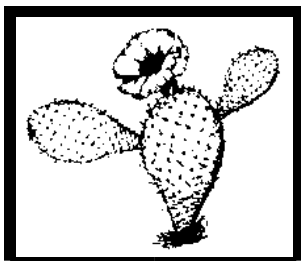
SHOW & SALE

Oct 13 & 14

St. Paul's Church
2216 17th St.

No Speaker

Just Fun,
Fellowship
and FOOD!
5303 Olive Drive



The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 8
August 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
jbreannan@bak.rr.com

Membership: Maynard Moe
Immoe44@gmail.com

Newsletter: Polly Hargreaves
pollypearl@hotmail.com

Website: Stephen Cooley
thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

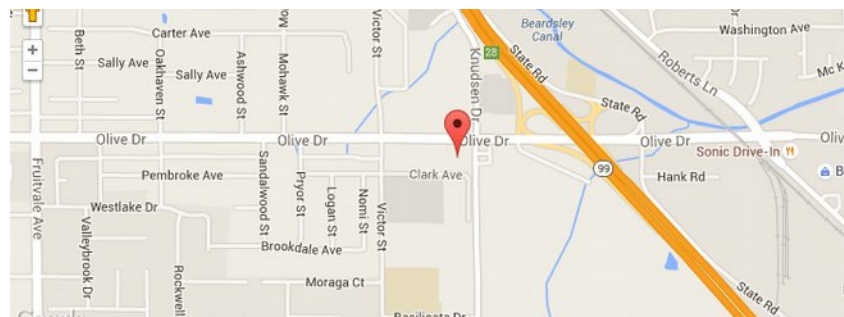
Visit Us On the Web!
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~2~

AUGUST 14th DINNER

The Old Hacienda Resturant
5303 Olive Drive
One block west of "99"
6 PM
661-399-6015

The resturant has agreed that we may order off the regular menu and get separate checks.



Visit us on the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

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Meeting on July 10th

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

Ernesto presented a program of slides and video of all the wonderful things (including plants: mostly from Namibia). His enthusiasm is quite contagious.



BRAG TABLE



Richard Amaya brought a pot planted with “all types” e.g gasteria, pelargonium, crassula etc. The pot was cubicle with lots of openings on the sides, allowing the plants to protrude.

Paul Bowles brought a hybrid of the West African *Euphorbia benefica* and the South African *E. groenwaldi*. His pot was a beautiful black with glowing red

“crack lines”.

Polly brought a dragon tree (*Dracena draco*) in a dragon pot. It was young, so she had a batik and photos of mature ones from the Canaries. This was the plant of the month. It was said that it's a pity it doesn't do well in Bakersfield. If you want to see mature plants, there are some at Lotus land in Montecito and at the San Diego Botanic Garden. I just saw a Huell Howser tour of Anaheim which showed some in the Boysen Cactus Garden in Pearson Park. In 2015 the city allocated \$60,000 for renovation, so they should still be there.

Stephen Cooley brought a large *Glottiphyllum regium* which is from South Africa.

Sidney Kelley brought a *Gasteria armstrongii* which was starting to bloom,.

I brought a San Pedro cactus (*Trichocereus pachanoi*) in a tray with jaguar handles. The jaguar has been the symbol for this hallucinogenic plant. All *Trichocereus* species have the drug mescaline which is found in Peyote. Even the common prickly pear has some, but no one seems to get high on low amounts.

Jack Reynolds brought a *Pachypodium horombense* which had three heads. Although this is not unknown in young plants, it is not common.



The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Opuntia robusta

This is the largest of the “beaver-tail” cactus. It is a common cactus in the wilds of northern central Mexico. It is a giant. Growing with the familiar sprawling habit of the pad opuntias this one can get 20 feet

across and 8 feet high. The individual pads can be 18 inches in diameter and 2 inches thick. Needless to say it is not for the small garden or pot.

Opuntia robusta is hardy down to 10F or lower and is sun, heat, and drought tolerant. It doesn't like being in the shade. Large yellow flowers appear in spring followed by peach-sized fruit that matures to a sweet purple-red. This fruit can be eaten but it is full of rock hard seeds and the skin has those nasty glochids. Makes a good jam if you are brave enough to tackle that many fruit.



Our plant in the garden was grown from seed in 1989 and eventually brought out to the garden as pad cuttings. It has outgrown every place it has been put and requires regular pruning.



Stephen Cooley

124,995 Plants of the Month

In 1526, Fernando Oviedo began describing and cataloging the plant species of The Americas. He described tobacco, chili peppers, corn and of course the huge trees of the tropics. He was among the first of the thousands of explorer naturalists who would follow in the next five hundred years. Alexander von Humboldt is quoted, “What trees!...all utterly new to us. Bonpland keeps telling me he'll go out of his mind if the wonders don't cease soon.”

We are beginning to get a grip on the dimensions of the catalog. In the journal Science, 22 Dec. 2017, there is an article by Carmen Ulloa, of the Missouri Botanic Garden and twenty three other authors that is the first integrated assessment of the vascular plant species of the Americas. This is a huge and daunting task involving hundreds of field workers as well as herbarium specialists, molecular geneticists and computer experts. The brief article gives a summary of some of the findings.

As of the publication of the article there were 124,993 known described species of vascular plants in the Americas. This represents about a third of the earth's known vascular plants (383,671) The assessment divides the Americas into twelve regions. They are: North America 15,447, Mexico 22,969, Central America 16,335, West Indies 10,992, Columbia 23,104, Venezuela 15,116, Ecuador 17,548, Guianas 8,271, Peru 19,147, Brazil 33,161, Bolivia 14,431, Southern Cone (Argentina and Chili) 13,125. These regions differ hugely in land area but it is clear that the tropics are the winners of the plant diversity game. The total is a moving target as well because for the last few decades over 700 new species have been added annually. It is believed that a complete catalog will contain over 150,000 species.

Three families of plants dominate; Orchidaceae (orchids)12,983, Asteraceae (daisies) 12,043, Fabaceae (legumes) 7,473. There are succulent members of all of those families. The Cactaceae are mentioned as a family endemic to the Americas but you knew that didn't you. The Missouri Botanic Garden has a web site naturally and the list is searchable.

Jack G. Reynolds



Fireworks and Futball

A Letter From Bruce

The 17th of June was more than father's day (although we did celebrate that as well). It was also a celebration of graduation from UCSB (including our niece Angela) and birthdays (Dave's was the next day and John's Friday the 29th). We had dinner and a large cake at Lora and Dave's. We had breakfast at Denny's with John on the 29th.

For our 54th anniversary (the 19th) we had lunch at the Knotty Pine which is next door to the building where Polly worked when we got married. It was the Exploration Division of Shell Oil back then.

On the 30th we joined the march from ICE to the Liberty Bell to protest the separation of children from parents by Immigration. I wore a shirt that said Mexico and a hat that said Botswana. This fit the theme of one poster which proclaimed "Love has no boundaries".



On the 4th of July we all loaded into Dave's van and drove up to Edwards Air Force Base. We expected to be vetted at the gate, but Dave showed his ID as a retired Navy Pilot and they waved us all in. We had a light dinner at Burger King and then went to the park for the big show. Polly and I thought we were overdressed with suspenders and skirt (Polly) and vest, tie and socks (me) in red, white and blue, but there was a lot more of the same. There was more food there and lots of



loud music. Eventually we got to see one of the best fireworks I've ever seen. (When I say this I might be prejudiced. John helped set up the show. It seems they use a lot of computer work nowadays. He had previously helped with a show at Baker.)



Next day we heard three club members at the FCSS talk: Tom Meyer spoke on repotting and soil mixes, Karl Church spoke on Adeniums with trays of seedlings as well as mature plants, and Bill Gale spoke on growing succulents from seed to mature plants in a short time. I was afraid this would be a rather long program, but they managed to fit it all in the allotted time.

We also heard Ernesto Sandoval speak on South Africa at the BCSS meeting on the 10th. We have heard him a number of times in Fresno, but this particular talk was quite nostalgic for me. It was good to see Karl Church from Fresno as well as other guests. I like a small club, but ours could grow a little.

We have been watching the world cup in Futball (a spelling to distinguish the game from American football- we should abandon our lone use of the term soccer and join the world!) It was sad to see African and other non-European teams eliminated. At least tiny Croatia was there at the end to put up a valiant fight against mighty France. We watched France win at a hearty breakfast at Lora's.

The June issue of Veld and Flora (a publication of the South African Botanical Society) has some interesting articles. One that I enjoyed was “Only one African Baobab species – not two!” by Glynis Cron of the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. I was never happy with the second species proposed in 2012 and am happy to have it lumped back in. Another article of some concern is “Water: at what cost to our unique flora?” by Jasper Slingsby, Ed February and Tony Rebelo. To quote their abstract,

“During the current drought (2015-18), water consumption in Cape Town and adjacent municipalities has outstripped water replenishment of the bulk water supply dams. We have, so far, narrowly avoided ‘Day Zero’ in 2018 – when supplies will run so low that the taps run dry – but it remains a concern for 2019. In a rush to partially make up this shortfall, the authorities are targeting (mainly) ground water, including the Atlantis and Cape Flats sand aquifers and the Table Mountain Group (TMG) fractured rock aquifer. Whereas the first two are low-lying and may be recharged with treated wastewater, this will not be the case for the TMG aquifer.”

Bruce Hargreaves

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

SHOW & SALE

Oct 13 & 14

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



August 14th BCSS Meeting
Dinner out at “The Old Hacienda”
5303 Olive Dr

August 11th – 12th Inter-City Show & Sale
LA County Arboretum, Arcadia CA

September 1st
Huntington Succulent Symposium
all day at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino CA

September 11th BCSS Meeting
Karen Zimmerman
“Aloes on My Mind, Exploring Aloe”

Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
October 12th Afternoon Set Up
October 13th 10am – 5pm
October 14th 11am – 3pm

St. Paul's Church – 17th and “B” Street

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