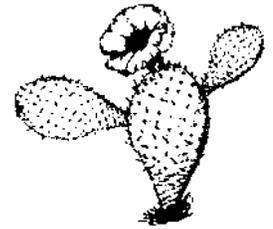




Ariocarpus agavoides

Small but beautiful

The Cactus Patch



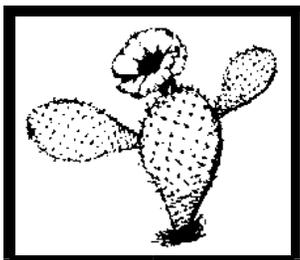
Volume 21 **November 2018** Number 11

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
“Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder”
"Our Wonderful and Weird Hobby"
Gunnar Eisel
November 13th @ 7:00
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17th St.

**Election of
Officers**
in November
Make this club
YOUR club!

**Meet the
Speaker!**
Dinner at
Sizzler
5:00 PM
900 Real Road



The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 11
November 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!

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November 13th Meeting

“Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder”
"Our Wonderful and Weird Hobby"

Gunnar Eisel



It is easy to see what attracts people to roses or African violets. However, if one asks C&S enthusiasts what they like about cacti and succulents, one is bound to get very differing answers. At first glance, people are surprised at the variety of striking shapes, textures, unworldly features one sees at our C&S shows. However, our appreciation grows deeper as we become more sensitized to the subtleties of our plants. With some plants, it's love at first sight. With others, we may wonder what all the fuss is about.

Our appreciation of our plants often changes as we become more familiar with them. We may even discover that plants which first

attract us often align themselves with aspects our personalities.

Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder will explore what to look for as we broaden our appreciation of C&S. To paraphrase author Neale Donald Walsch, "growth begins at the end of your comfort zone".

Gunnar Eisel's interest in cacti and succulents can be traced back to his childhood infatuation with photographing night-blooming cereus flowers and a few unfortunate encounters with opuntia glochids. His interest in cacti became intensified through many annual trips to the Anza-Borrego desert.

Born and raised near Heidelberg, Germany, Eisel has taught music at CSULA, CSUF, Whittier College and Fullerton College. He recently retired as music professor at Citrus College in Glendora where his students were frequently subjected to his rantings regarding cacti and succulents.

An avid C&S collector, he serves as General Manager of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) and as past President of the San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society.

Facebook:

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

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October 9th, 2018

Three Weeks in Madagascar (and a Few Succulents)

maynard moe

Wow!
Madagascar is such a diverse place. Everyone who travels there has different stories. Maynard's are some of the best, creating a whole picture of what he saw, not just a botanical list.



BRAG TABLE

Sidney Kelly brought a *Stapelia gigantea* in full bloom. Fortunately it was not in full stink.

Stephen Cooley brought a pot of Lithops and demonstrated how to clean up a pot for the show.

Jack Reynolds brought an *Adenium swazicum* which was in bloom. It had a wider leaf than mine. I suspect many of the Adeniums in cultivation are actually hybrids.



Polly brought a *Euphorbia genoudiana* which was in bloom. It is related to the “crown of thorns” and comes from Madagascar.

I brought an *Alluaudia procera* as an example of the family Didereaceae which only occurs naturally on Madagascar but is related to the Cactus family of the Americas!





**Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society
19th ANNUAL SHOW & SALE**

**Thanks to all who volunteered.
This is our main source of income to pay
for speakers, newsletters, etc.**

A few very preliminary numbers:

Club share this year:	\$5700
last year:	\$3800

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Aloe dichotoma

The "Kokerboom" of Western Southern Africa is an iconic desert plant of the region. One of the tree aloes, it grows, usually with a single trunk, to as high as 21 feet. It is one of the most desirable tree aloes for landscapes, but is not easily grown.

Cold, wet soil is a problem as is freezing temperatures. Four times this aloe has been tried at the garden at Cal State. The first and second grew well for a few years. They grew much faster than I expected and one reached almost three feet tall. It got zapped by frost and never recovered. The other rotted one winter and was not able to be rooted. The third one lasted a short time, then rotted. I was able to root it, and when it was growing well it was planted back into the garden. This time it is on a mound with hopes that water will drain away from the roots better. Cal State is in an area where cold air flows by in the winter. Winter temperatures reach to the plant's limit almost every year. Still, I am hopeful that one will get big enough to withstand it.



Stephen Cooley



Wow!

Too many relatives and plants

A Letter From Bruce

On Sept. 18th we set up at the Fair. Cacti were asked for, so I took nothing but. It helped balance the exhibit. Once again I was shocked at some of the show entrees. An agave was entered (and won!) as a “large cactus collection!” The Beaucarnea which got the club prize was entered correctly, but a smaller Beaucarnea was entered under “palms and cycads”!



Polly’s birthday was the 29th and there were parrots as well as flamingos on the lawn. We had breakfast at Denny’s as usual. On the 4th of Oct. we heard Tom Glavich (with Vice-Pres Rosina Rojas) at Fresno on Euphorbias.

It is a very broad subject and he concentrated mainly on South Africa and Madagascar. The brag table was staggering under the many euphorbias (and a few other plants) which members brought.

Back in Bakersfield on Friday we finally saw “Loving Vincent” at the Fox. It was amazing how many people came even after the initial failure. We had a bonus look at how animators actually produced scenes based on Van Gogh’s paintings. I have always loved animation. My childhood dream



was to be another Walt Disney, but my ultimate achievement was a cartoon short made with a friend whose father had a stop action movie camera when I was in the eighth grade.

Just after midnight of the 6th James, Emily and the grand-kids arrived from Reno. The evening of the 7th James and Emily went to James’ high school reunion and Polly, John and I took the grand-kids to Taco Bell. Next day we had a late birthday celebration for Polly at Hooters.

J, E and kids then went to Taft and Cambria on the 8th. Polly and I heard Maynard’s talk on Madagascar on the 9th. I especially liked his animation of continental splitting. James et al. returned on the 11th.



On the 12th we were at the set up for the show and many volunteers including Polly worked hard at counting money on the morning of the 13th. The hit of the show was Peter Walkowiak’s very tall Adenium covered in blooms. That evening we went to the wedding of our grandniece Cassandra. All the relatives

came from North and South and it was a real mob scene. Anne’s son Daniel officiated. I just wished my brother Robert had lived to see his granddaughter get married. Next day, the 14th, our side of the families had breakfast at Hodel’s – another mob scene.

I was glad we then had a break with no more relatives or plant shows for a brief while.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

Election of Officers

in November

**There are lots of places you can help
Make this club YOUR club**

**We will discuss opportunities for service
at tonight's meeting.**

Visit Us On the Web!

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CALENDAR



**November 13th BCSS Meeting
“Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder”
Gunnar Eisel**

**December 11th BCSS Meeting
Winter family Potluck**

January 8th BCSS Meeting

February 12th BCSS Meeting

Visit Us On the Web!

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BCSS at the Kern County Fair



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