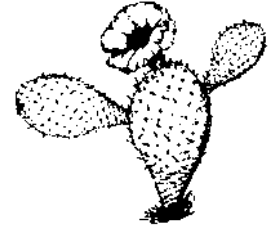


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society
% Polly Hargreaves, editor
pollypearl@hotmail.com



Euphorbia (Monadenium)
schubei purple form
Bill Gale's plant at the Fresno CSS
Brag table

The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 21 **December 2018** Number 12

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program

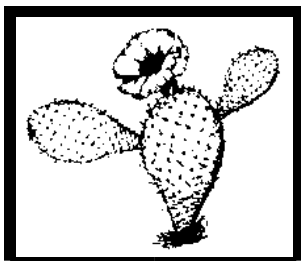
“Winter Family Potluck”

Everybody!

December 11^h @ 6:00

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





The Cactus Patch

Volume 21 Number 12
December 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

jbrennan@bak.rr.com

Membership: Maynard Moe

mmoe44@gmail.com

Newsletter: Polly Hargreaves

pollypearl@hotmail.com

Website: Stephen Cooley

thecactuspatch@bak.rr.com

Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

~2~

December 11th Meeting

The plan for the potluck is different this year:

1. The club will provide some tri-tip and chicken.
2. You provide your favorite potluck recipe:
appetizer, salad, main dish, vegetable or dessert.
3. You may want to bring your own forks, knives and good plates.
4. The Club will furnish plastic forks and knives and paper plates and cups.
5. Bring drinks for yourself and to share.

We will also have our **Silent Auction**, where members bid on special plants provided by the club. For this reason the auction is for members only.

If you have a special item that has something to do with Cacti & Succulents and would like to donate it to be auctioned off, please bring it and add it to the auction tables.

Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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

~3~

November 13th, 2018

“Beauty in the Eye of the Beholder”

"Our Wonderful and Weird Hobby"

Gunnar Eisel

We are always pleased to have Gunnar speak to our club.

Gunnar is so enthusiastic about his hobby it seems to have taken over his life. He travels to Cactus and Succulent clubs encouraging members to join the national society (CSSA) and to participate in its activities: regional as well as biennial national convention, symposiums, and workshops as well as receiving the journal. So much to do; so little time...



~4~

BRAG TABLE

Paul Bowls brought a beautiful little agave that had crested. He listed it as *Agave filigree*. This is actually a cultivar of *Agave titanota* which is also known as Filigree Sierra Mixteca Agave, Felipe Otoro, Agave ‘Kissho kan’ and the lucky crown century plant. He displayed it in a beautiful green pot with a rough surface. I believe he made this himself.



Polly brought a plant of *Pachypodium lameri* which had two branches at the base from a young age. (Unfortunately one of the branches died.) This species usually only branches at the top after blooming.

I brought *Pachypodium lameri* ‘fierhense’ which is a dwarf cultivar which has lots of branches from the base. It is from ‘east of Toliara’ (Tulear) in Madagascar. We had visited the Botanic Garden of M. Petingard there and even went a little further east,

but we never saw such a plant. It would be interesting to search for other plants in the area to see what the correct designation for this plant should be. It has been listed as a subspecies and a variety, but no one has properly published these names.



~5~

Critter of the Month

Ambistoma tigrinum

I spent the last part of November in Oregon, visiting my sister and her family. Hence this detour from the world of succulents. One of the things I like about writing this column is that I get to write about whatever I want, at least on occasion and Polly is very tolerant. Thank you Polly.



My nephew Gil Burke, has always loved salamanders. I remember when he was just a lad of about ten living in Marin Co. just north of San Francisco, he would frequently beg me to take him salamander hunting. I was willing to do this because I also found them beautiful and interesting and I could pick up a few specimens for the museum (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at UC).

I had not been up to see the family for a couple of years and recent family events made it seem like something good to do. My sister lives with Gil and his wife Liz on five acres about 20 miles outside of Portland. The weather was wet, not much heavy rain just the typical drizzle that Oregon is known for. Gill took me on the fifty cent tour of his forested five acres complete with its own stream. He said we should keep an eye out for salamanders and sure enough we found a beautiful tiger salamander, *Ambistoma tigrinum*.

~6~

Tiger salamanders are among the “mole salamanders” which refers to the fact that they spend almost their entire lives under ground in rotting logs, or the burrows of small mammals. They emerge rarely and then only to find their way to a stream or pond to breed. Finding one on the surface was a very lucky thing. The only other one I have seen alive was in an excavation in Utah. They are the widest ranging salamander in North America. There are numerous sub-species and populations from Canada through Mexico and from coast to coast.

They get the name “tiger salamander” because many of the populations are patterned in black and cream yellow stripes and blotches. The one we found however was dark gray with olive drab vermiculations across its back. There are numerous color variations in such a widespread species.

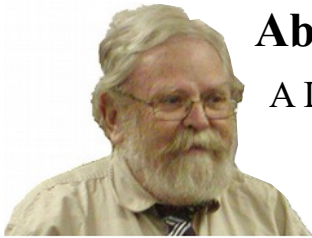
Even though the species is widespread individual salamanders travel very little remaining within a radius of probably less than a hundred feet for their entire lives leaving their home territory only to seek out a stream or pond to breed. It is estimated that any given individual has only of fifty percent chance to reproduce in their lifetime. Eggs are attached to sunken branches and vegetation. The tadpoles may transform to land dwelling salamanders in one or two years depending on growing conditions. Some populations may remain in the larval state for years even reproducing as larvae (neoteny). A closely related larval species is the Axolotl found in caves in Mexico.

Jack G. Reynolds

One does not have to go to Oregon to see salamanders. Many many years ago I turned over a rock at Pyramid Hill north of Bakersfield and found one!

BJH

~7~



Abrasive Times

A Letter From Bruce

On the 26th of October our nephew Daniel took me to the Community Learning Center by Memorial Hospital. It seems there is an overgrown planting of succulents along the canal bank which was put there by our club years ago! It needs a lot of work. The Learning Center is suggesting just removing everything, but I said it would be an excellent garden with just a bit of care. Does anybody have suggestions?



On the 1st of Nov. we heard a talk on succulent pumpkins by FCSS member Nicki Bradford. I'm not sure why (it's said to be artistic) people are now gluing succulents and various pieces of "nature" onto the tops of pumpkins as decoration. Chaucin sa gout.

Your editor has instructed me to avoid politics so I will just say the 6th Nov. Election was the most acrimonious bit of mudslinging seen in a long time.

We were stirred into action and actually helped on one campaign, but I'll leave out the bit as to which one since this is not a political newsletter. I hope we can have more decorous disagreements in the future.

I will mention, however, that politics is influencing matters which should concern our club. Both the November National Geographic and the September/October Sierra Club magazine have

cover stories on the reduction of protected lands in our American west. In particular the attempt is being made (and fought in court) to reduce Grand Staircase--Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments by 85% and 46% respectively. The reason is the mining of coal and uranium ore. I was surprised to learn that Newspaper Rock (which I have visited) is part of the contentious area in Bears Ears. We need to fight for the preservation of our heritage.

The Oct.-Nov. issue of National Wildlife and the Fall issue of Defenders of Wildlife have cover stories on species that will be affected by the proposed border fence. (Did you know there are Agaves that will be decimated by this fence?) Finally the Fall issue of National Parks has a cover story on Marine Monuments. There are five such monuments scattered across the Pacific and attempts are being made there for a reduction of size and protection. This is not so relevant for our club as I saw few natural succulents in traveling across the Pacific, but the unbelievable beauty of the atolls is worth preserving no matter what your interests are.



On 12th Nov. Polly insisted on visiting the veterans memorial to see the crocheted poppies on display. By coincidence I had on a red jacket, white shirt and blue pants, so I fit in with the general crowd.

On 13th Nov., of course, we heard Gunnar Eisel present a very inclusive show on the Succulent Hobby. I almost

cried when he showed a video of our friend the late Gerry Barad.

I have learned that Myron Kimmach, Director of the Huntington Botanic Gardens for 25 years and Editor of the Cactus and Succulent Journal from 1993 to 2003 has died.

Bruce Hargreaves

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

Our Annual Silent Auction



Every year since the beginning of this club we have had a potluck in December. In 2001 we added a silent auction to our Holiday Meeting. The picture above is from 2002.

The Silent Auction is not meant to be a money maker, it is intended to be a friendly competition where members can acquire some really fine plants for just a little money. The club buys, or members donate, the plants which are given a very low starting bid before the auction begins. Come to our December Potluck and take part in this club tradition. Keep in mind, you must be a member to participate in the auction. Below are some of the plants for this year's auction.



Stephen Cooley



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

January 8th BCSS Meeting

February 12th BCSS Meeting

Myron Kinnack receives the 2010 *Cactus d'Or* award from the International Organization for Succulent Plant Study (IOS)

On Saturday 23rd of April 2011, Myron Kinnack, director emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, received the *Cactus d'Or* at the ninth annual IOS Inter-Congress in Monaco. He is the 16th recipient of the award, which had its inception in 1978, "to honor someone who, by their research in the country of origin, has contributed to the extension of knowledge of succulent plants", and joins a prestigious group of marvelous plant people.

