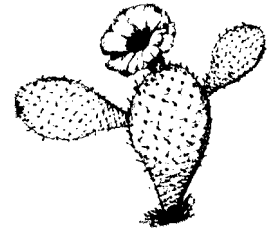


The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
% Polly Hargreaves, editor  
pollypearl@hotmail.com



*Gasteria sp.*  
in matching pot by Keith Taylor

# The Cactus Patch



*Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

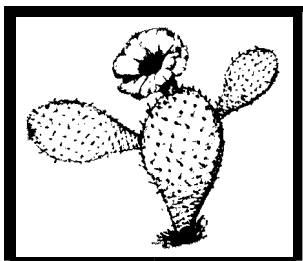
Volume 22 **February 2019** Number 02

This Month's Program  
**Mark Muradian**  
**"Building an Outdoor C & S Garden"**

February 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00  
St. Paul's Church, 2216 17<sup>th</sup> St.

**2019  
Membership  
NOW  
DUE!**

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



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 22 Number 02  
Feb 2019

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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~2~

## February 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting

**Mark Muradian**

### "Building an Outdoor C & S Garden"



My program will be about how I built my cactus garden using heavy equipment, dozer and forklift. I used large quarried granite rocks, up to a couple tons apiece,

to form a perimeter which was filled with soil to form raised beds, the largest one about 70 feet by 50 feet. There are also parts of the program dealing how I moved huge 25 foot tall tree yuccas from residential yards to my place; also some info about care during and after transplanting, and winter protection. As the beds were built from 25 to 30 years ago, I show photos depicting progress over the years, and some shots that are quite recent. As this program is older, with slides, I had some difficulty finding slide film to do the recent shots to add at the end.

I am a 3rd generation farmer who has been interested in cacti and succulents for almost 40 years, and joined our local Fresno club perhaps 35 years ago, and at one point was program chair for 3 years. About 25 years ago, I started making pottery, influenced by the work of Erika Van Auker, and have been making pots ever since.

I will be bringing pottery to the meeting to sell.



~3~

# January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Keith Taylor,  
"Staging Succulents, part 2"



Keith has a good eye for matching plants with his unique pottery. His enthusiasm for both his plants and his pottery make for a good program.

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## BRAG TABLE

Stephen Cooley brought a plant of *Cheiridopsis denticulata*, a South African mesemb. He had grown it from collected seed.



Remi brought an Echeveria which had been found in a rubbish heap. It is growing quite well.



Bruce brought an off shoot from the *Agave desmettiana* which was pictured in the last newsletter. Although young plants are said to offset freely, my old plant (agaves bloom and then die) only had one! I also showed an off shoot from *Agave lophantha* which has a long runner underground and pops up all over the garden. I gave away some of these both in Fresno and in Bakersfield as I now have too many. Both of these Agaves are "border jumpers" as they just cross over from Mexico in the

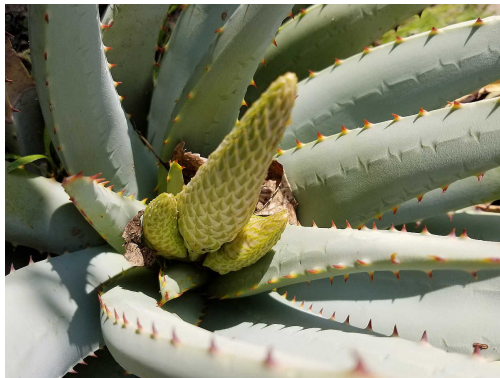


Brownsville, Texas area.

~5~



# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



*Aloe claviflora*  
Kraal Aloe

This aloe is a medium sized clumping plant that forms large patches in the wild. These patches grow steadily out from the middle, where the older

plants die, leaving a ring. This is where it gets the name Kraal Aloe. A kraal is the circular corral built with thorny branches where cattle are kept. The flowers are showy but unusual for an aloe as the flower stalks grow nearly horizontal rather than sticking straight up. The rosette also tends to lean to one side. Though the clumps can get large each plant only gets a few feet wide and about a foot tall.

This is one of those Southern African plants that can be found in both winter and summer rainfall areas. So when do you water it? In all the places it is found it is very arid with rocky soil. This means to me that I can water it at any time just not very often and make sure there is good drainage. We have had this aloe in our garden for over ten years and it has not suffered from cold (into the 20'sF) or heat (110'sF). The winter rains have not bothered it nor has occasional summer watering. *Aloe claviflora* is in full sun and blooms every spring.



Stephen Cooley

~6~

# Plant of the Month

*Adromischus cristatus*



We turn this month to another section of the Crassulaceae, Adromischus. I chose this one because I have one although I didn't know it until I started reading in Dortort. I got mine from my daughter who shares an interest in succulents and brings me cuttings from her collection from time to time. Anyhow she brought me a cutting but did not know what it was. I didn't know either but my plant loving instincts compelled me to grow it. So there it has been in a tiny Pauline Muth pot unlabeled for the past couple of years. It wasn't until I saw it in Dortort,

aha Adromischus a highly variable genus scattered across South Africa and Namibia with about thirty species. *A. cristatus* grows mostly along the "Garden Route" between Cape Town and Port Elizabeth.

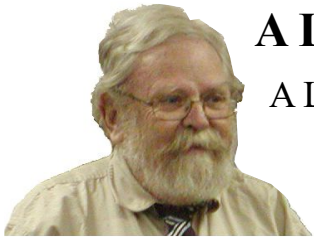
*Adromischus cristatus* is the most common member of the genus found in cultivation. They are slow growing and small. Mature plants are about 6 in. (15 cm.) high. Stems will produce numerous reddish adventitious roots which will dry and serve as a trap for fog or dew. Leaves are thick rather like a slice of pie, grey-green about 1.5 in. (35 mm.) with a wavy outer edge which may turn red in strong sunlight. This gives rise to the common names of "crinkle leaf plant", "key lime pie" and "toad's toes".



Members of the genus are favored for producing leaves with numerous patterns of spots of various colors but *A. cristatus* is relatively plain. Flowers are white, small tubular along a tall stem. Plants are winter dormant and should be watered sparingly even in summer. They need good drainage in a gritty mix. They are cold tolerant to about 30 F but would probably drown in our winter. They do very nicely on a window sill or in a greenhouse. They propagate easily by cuttings or shed leaves.

Jack G. Reynolds

~7~



## A Long Holiday Period

### A Letter From Bruce

There were Christmas celebrations right from the beginning of December, but the actual celebration began for us on the 21<sup>st</sup> when six of us went in a van to Ceres for an open house by my mother's cousin Patricia Cousins. The house was full of relatives and friends, some of whom I actually knew. It was a long trip to accomplish in one day, but well worth it.

Back in Bakersfield, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> we had lunch at the Speakeasy to honor the birthday of Daniel's wife Minnie. Then on the 24<sup>th</sup> we had Christmas Eve pozole and tamales at Lora's. On Christmas day we were back at Lora's for a huge feast. Next day we went to see Mary Poppins Returns. In spite of the new cast and songs, it was too much of a repeat of the original.



After a break of a few days, we gathered at Anne's for New Year's Eve. We went outside to spread our noise across the neighborhood and got to witness a

signal flair sent up by someone to the east of us!



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January we heard Gary Duke speak on Bolivia at the Fresno club. It was an excellent talk, but I would have liked a little more on people and scenery and a few less repetitions on the cacti. The Fresno club has moved to the Redeemer Lutheran Church in the northwest of Fresno and we had a delightful dinner at the nearby High Sierra Grill.

On the 8<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Keith Taylor's talk at the BCSS. His pots are outstanding. I am jealous of his production of the kind of variety I should have been making all these years. (But who has the time?) His plantings are also the striking blend of plant and pot I would love to achieve.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> we went to the memorial service of Gloria Marshall, a family friend who had been a missionary in the Congo. It was interesting to hear from her children who had grown up there. On the 13<sup>th</sup> we watched the movie Gandhi once again. It was worth reseeing as I picked up points that I missed the first time. One such point was the first protests (in South Africa) were during the rule of Smuts, a more liberal leader. I wonder what the result would have been under some of the less tolerant South African leaders.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Lora's birthday with breakfast at Denny. Polly bought a stack of



Chocolate pancakes for Lora on the 13<sup>th</sup> when we ate at IHOP because we thought we would not be back on the 20<sup>th</sup>. since we were going to Fresno on the 19<sup>th</sup> for the wedding of Polly's niece Margaret.. We did go to the wedding. It was as usual except for the ring bearer who gave the pillow with the rings to his mother and ran away. And then there was the BLUE cake. It went with the blue dresses etc. but it gave everyone blue tongues.



We went to breakfast with friends in Fresno on the 20th, and still made it back to Bakersfield for lunch because lunch was postponed to 1:30. We were almost late anyway, because when we arrived at home there was water pouring out of the garage. The heater was broken! I turned off the house water and we went to lunch at the Boulevard. We skipped the after lunch games and went back home where John turned off the heater. I turned the house water back on, but now we have no hot water. We also have some wet boxes to sort in the garage.

The book on Agaves which I mentioned last month is quite good, but it fails to relate Agaves to any other groups except for a brief mention that of the four species described by Linneaus one was removed to *Furcraea* and another to *Manfreda*. There is no mention of the differences between the three genera. (Incidentally, not everyone accepts the separations.)

The genus *Manfreda* has very short stems and fleshy unarmed leaves. I have *Manfreda maculosa* in my garden, but I have never seen the flowers. It is said to have solitary flowers in loose spikes on long stalks. It is sometimes referred to as the Texas tuberose and, indeed, some authorities lump it in with the tuberose genus *Pollanthes*. Both *Manfreda* and *Pollanthes* are sometimes lumped in with *Agave*. In *Pollanthes* the flower tube is curved whereas in *Agave* and *Manfreda* it is straight. I shall comment on *Furcraea* next month.

Changing to a different plant group, the November & December 2018 issue of *Fruit gardener*, a journal of the California Rare Fruit Growers has a cover story on the "Peruvian Apple Cactus". This name is new to me, but I have long grown it and called it *Cereus peruvianus*. (I have been told a few more recent names for this plant, but I suspect a lot of people still call it this.) The cover picture shows a fruit on the monstrose form! The article also mentions the Dragon Fruit (*Hylocereus* species) which I tried here, but it did not survive. (The fruits are available at Vons, but are quite expensive.) There is also a brief Addendum on the "Golden Candelabrum" a *Euphorbia* species which is said to resemble the *Cereus*. To me they are quite different.

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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



**February 12<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting**  
**Mark Muradian, "Building an Outdoor C & S Garden"**

**March 12<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting**  
**Woody Minnich presentation debut,**  
**"20 Years in the ATACAMA, The Land of the Copiapoa"**

**April 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> South Coast Show and Sale**

**April 9<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting**  
**Rob McGregor**  
**"Mojave National Preserve"**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> BC Garden Fest**

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*You are invited!*

South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society

## 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale

April 6-7, 2019 9 AM - 4 PM

South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.  
Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274


- Thousands of cacti and succulents for sale
- Hard-to-find plants
- Kids potting table
- Beautiful displays by expert growers
- Expert advice for beginners and advanced
- Visit garden at same time

Garden admission required for entrance: adult \$9;  
senior/student w/ID \$6; age 5-12 \$4; under 5 free.  
Garden members free.

Information: Southcoastcss.org or 310/346-6206



For: *Collectors*  
*Gardeners*  
*Families*  
*Friends*  
*Kids & grandkids*  
*Landscapers*  
*And anyone who*  
*loves the*  
*beautiful and the*  
*unusual*



South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society  
47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale  
April 2019 9 AM - 4 PM

*Aeonium sunburst*

South Coast Botanic Garden  
26300 Crenshaw Blvd. • Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274

The promotional graphic for the 47th Annual Show & Sale features a black background. At the top, the event title '47<sup>th</sup> Annual Show & Sale' is written in a large, white, serif font. Above the title, the society's name 'South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, the dates 'April 2019' and the time '9 AM - 4 PM' are displayed in a white, sans-serif font. The central focus is a photograph of an 'Aeonium sunburst' succulent, which has thick, rounded, green leaves with yellow variegation, arranged in a dense, circular, sunburst pattern. Below the photograph, the name 'Aeonium sunburst' is written in a white, italicized, serif font. At the bottom of the graphic, the location 'South Coast Botanic Garden' and the address '26300 Crenshaw Blvd. • Palos Verdes Peninsula 90274' are written in a white, sans-serif font.