

The Bakersfield Cactus & Succulent Society  
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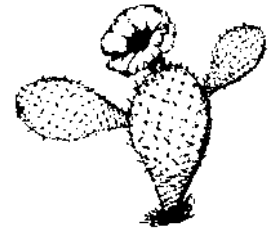


***Euphorbia myrsinites***

Myrtle spurge

Photo by Lynn McDonald

# The Cactus Patch



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 22 April **2019** Number 04

This Month's Program

**Rob McGregor**

**"Mojave National Preserve"**

March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00

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

**Garden-Fest**

**@ B. C.**

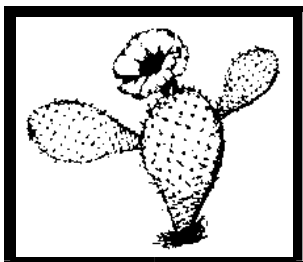
**April 27<sup>th</sup>**

Come and enjoy  
time with other  
garden enthusiasts

**Meet the  
Speaker!**

Dinner at  
Sizzler  
5:00 PM

**900 Real Road**



# The Cactus Patch

Volume 22 Number 04  
April 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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Visit Us On the Web!

[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

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## **April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

**Rob McGregor**

**"Mojave National Preserve"**



On the southeastern border of California lies 1.6 million acres that make up the Mojave National Preserve. Of the 4 deserts that exist in North America, 3 are present within this Preserve, the Mojave, the Great Basin, and the Sonoran deserts. Over the course of multiple excursions throughout various seasons I have explored the Mojave Preserve to view succulent plants in habitat. Treks to the Mojave National Preserve are one-day trips that are inexpensive, contain accessible hot spots with a variety of succulent plants and geological

phenomena. The intent of my talk is to demonstrate examples of exploring natural habitats in our own backyard that anyone with a day or two could experience, whether it's the Mojave National Preserve or our other desert wonders.

I started collecting plants about 20 years ago. At first it was collecting from the local nursery in San Felipe in Baja Norte California so I could plant them around a friend's property in Puertecitos Baja California. Then 15 years ago I bought my home in Riverside and proceeded to remove the grass in my ½ acre backyard and install rocks and cacti. The front yard soon followed, receiving an aloe and rock remodel. After those first couple of years I began to meet people that would change my whole outlook on cacti and succulent plants. It was at this time I ran into a person whom I would later call my mentor. He took the time to instill in me the drive to learn correct terminology and spelling of plants.

He also taught me to take a more scientific approach of gathering information. It was this approach that I call "playing with my plants" which gave me the willingness to do what I have done to plants, in the name of further education.

~3~

# March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## Woody Minnich "20 Years in the ATACAMA, The Land of the Copiapoa"

Woody is good at leading expeditions and taking the rest of us with him.

His programs are always informative and, sometimes, funny, too.

We look forward to his next adventure.



~4~

# BRAG TABLE

Jack Reynolds brought a small *Hatoria salicornoides* which had buds on it. (They open during the day.)

He also brought a plant of *Tylocodon bacholarana* with flowers as this was the plant of the month.



Sidney Kelley brought a cutting off of Jack's *Tylocodon* which had leaves rather than flowers at this time.

Richard Amaya brought *Pachypodium succulentum*; also a Jack Reynolds cutting.



Polly brought a plant of *Tylocodon paniculata* which we first knew as a *Cotyledon*. (We never will get this learned if experts keep changing things!)

Bruce brought a young plant of *Furcraea macdougallii* to go with the picture of him with mature ones in the March newsletter.



~5~



## For Beauty I'd Not Take a Prize

### A Letter From Bruce

*For Beauty I'd not take a prize.*

*There are others more beautiful far:*

*My face I don't mind it for I am behind it.*

*The folks out in front get the jar.*

*Anonymous? \**

I apologize for anyone who was startled by my appearance at the last meeting. I had a basal cell carcinoma removed from my nose by a dermatologist and then had reconstructive surgery by a plastic surgeon. I shall recover, but I will never be as handsome as I wished to be. What causes such problems? A major cause would be 27 years of African sun. (California sun will also do. My mother had the same problem.)

We have had a few more positive experiences. John helped us clear a path in the garage and we have a new water heater. He also had a huge box delivered to our house. We helped him unpack it and he is now riding around on an all electric motorcycle.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March we went to our son John's and watched the film "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind." It is a moving tale of a school boy in Malawi who uses the school library to make a wind mill to pump water during a drought. Having taught school while in the Peace Corps in Malawi, I found it especially nostalgic.

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of March we did get to Fresno and heard Ernesto Sandoval from Davis speak on the inside and outside of succulents. He explained the purpose of some of the common structures such as spines (which in some cases protect against too much sun. Maybe I need some?)



We managed to hit a pot hole (of which there are many on the 99) but the bubbled tire came under warranty, so we managed to get it replaced.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, of course, we heard Woody Minnich speak on the Atacama. I realize the minute variations in Copiapoas are important, but they made for a very long talk. But when did Woody ever give a short talk?

We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with brunch at Hodel's. My nephew Leo was in town with his family, so it was quite a turnout. That afternoon we went to a concert by four young pianists at the 1<sup>st</sup> Congregational Church. It was quite a remarkable feat.

**Bruce Hargreaves**

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

## Garden Fest @ BC Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>



The Garden fest is a good way to connect with people who don't even know we exist. We provide info about our club and give cuttings to children. We usually get a few people who will check out our meetings later.

We need volunteers to sit at our booth for a few hours

and we need donations of lots of cuttings to give away We have tables and chairs, but we need to borrow a shade canopy (~10'x10')

~7~

\*I failed to find a source for this song which I have known since I was a kid. The tune, however, is well known as that of the hymn "Bless be the Tie That Binds" (words John Fawcett 1782 and tune Johann G. Nageli [1768-1836]).

# The Succulent Garden at Cal State



## The Bigger They Are...

Recall if you will February speaker Mark Muradian's talk on building a large succulent garden. Remember the lengths he went to in trying to support large cacti that were leaning. He said that if you are going to have large cacti then some are going to die and some are going to fall over – that many just can't handle the moist, cool winters we often have.

Such is the case with the *Pachycereus pringlei* we have in the garden. It has been growing quite fast in the 5 years since it was planted, doubling in height. This year it seemed to put a lot of bulk on in the upper half. After a particularly wet and windy storm in early March the plant snapped. It did not uproot at all, just snapped, woody ribs and all.



Stephen Cooley

~8~

# Plant of the Month



## Kalanchoe beharensis

Continuing in Dortort we come next to the Kalanchoes, the next group in the Crassulaceae. The genus contains about 150 species scattered across Africa, Arabia, Madagascar and India. *K. beharensis* is from the Behar region of

Madagascar. These are dry adapted plants but not found in true deserts. They prefer to live where they are somewhat protected in a dry scrub forest environment

In natural conditions they may grow into a shrub or small tree up to 10 ft. (3 m.) tall. As such one could consider them in a xeriscape if they could be protected from frost. When I lived in Simi Valley, one of my neighbors had a number of these plants growing along his fence under some oak trees. They were about 4 ft. tall with interesting curved trunks covered with sculpted leaf scars that made them even more attractive. Trunks may be up to 2 in. (5 cm.) thick. Each plant was topped with a few leaves that were 10-12 in. (30 cm.) long and half as wide. Leaves are wedge shaped with irregular borders. The leaves are covered with dense hairs which give them a fuzzy appearance and gives them the common name of "felt plant". Flowers are cream colored and occur in tight clusters. They are small and not showy. Stems and foliage are the big story here.



In Bakersfield these could be container plants that could be moved into protection when frost threatens. They are very drought tolerant and should be in a well drained soil mix with little organic content. Allow them to dry out completely between waterings. They are slow growing and best propagated by cuttings including leaf cuttings.

Jack G. Reynolds

~9~

## Nearby opportunities:

### You are invited to Open Greenhouse Day

A day of fun, food, friends and PLANTS!  
At the Skillin Ranch in Arroyo Grande, San Luis Obispo Co.  
Saturday, April 20, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

- Greenhouse tours
- Terry's famous taco bar
- Refreshments
- Sales Plants- everything from starters to show stoppers
- Free raffle at Noon – two plants - free ticket to each attendee – no purchase necessary, but must be present

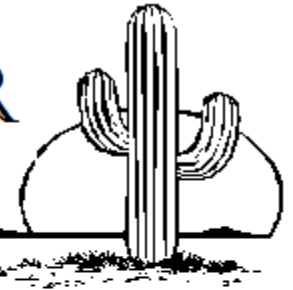


Aloe ramosissima  
2 gallon pot

Pachypodium fihrense  
2 gallon pot

Call Rob or Terry at 805-709-3033 for information

# CALENDAR



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

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

**April 30<sup>th</sup> Saturday**  
**Open Greenhouse Day**  
Skillin Ranch, Arroyo Grande

**May 14<sup>th</sup> BCSS Meeting**  
**Family Picnic**  
Succulent Garden at CSUB  
6 P M

**June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> FRESNO**  
**Show & Sale**  
Fresno Fair Grounds  
1121 South Chance Ave., 93702

Visit Us On the Web!  
[www.BakersfieldCactus.org](http://www.BakersfieldCactus.org)

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

**Fresno Cactus &  
Succulent Society**

**Annual Plant Show & Sale**  
June 1-2, 2019  
**Fresno Fairgrounds**  
1121 S. Chance Ave. Fresno, CA 93702  
Unique plants & pottery!

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