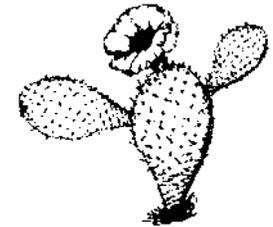


The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Volume 22 May **2019** Number 05

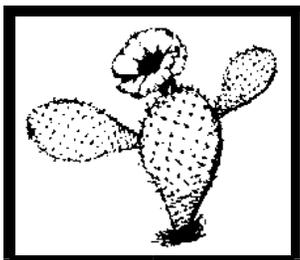
This Month's Program
"FAMILY PICNIC/POTLUCK"
CSUB Succulent Garden
MAY 14th

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, May 14th
at 6:00 PM
@ the Club Cactus
and Succulent
Garden on the
CSUB Campus

NOTE
change of
location and
time



Euphorbia millii
Crown of Thorns
Winter foliage



The Cactus Patch

Volume 22 Number 05
May 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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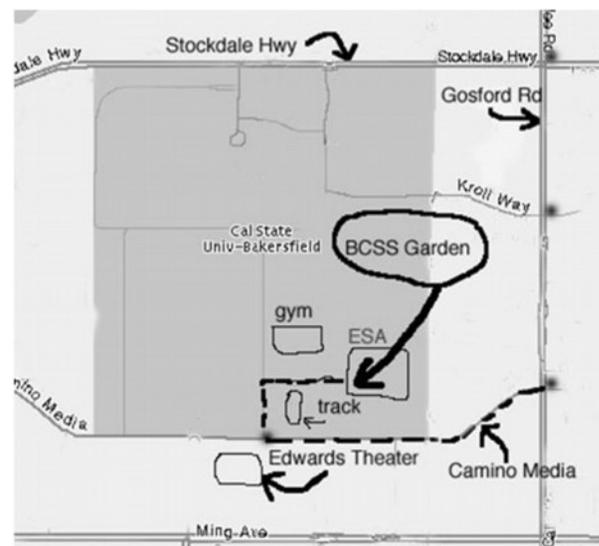
Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

May 14th Meeting

See you at the potluck/picnic at 6 PM at
The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Tables and chairs and paper service will be provided.
Come to admire the cactus garden!



DIRECTIONS: The BCSS Garden is located in the Environmental Studies Area on the south east side of the CSUB campus. To get there enter the CSU Bakersfield campus from the south entrance off of Camino Media Blvd. Just after the information booth the large parking lot on the right is the access road to the facility. Turn right in the first driveway. Go through the parking lot past the recycling drop off area, at the softball field backdrop find a short dirt road and follow it over the campus bike path (yield to traffic on the bike path) to the parking area which is lined with railroad ties, please park straight in toward the fence or railroad ties.

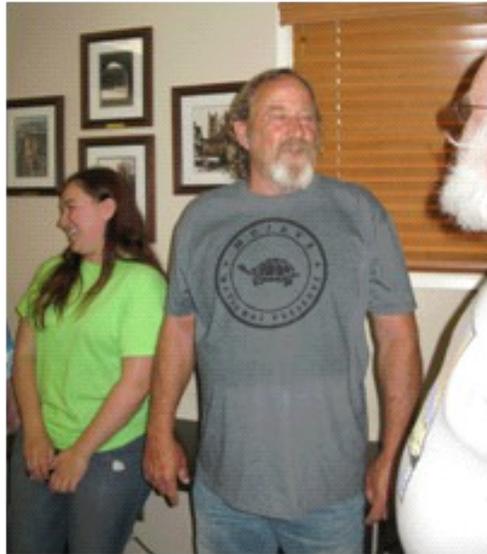
April 9th, 2019

“Mojave National Preserve”

Rob McGregor

Rob took us on a tour of the huge cactus garden in our own backyard. It was great to see how much is so close to us.

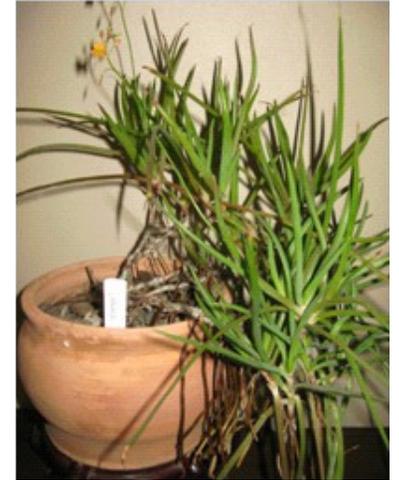
We need to pay more attention to the things California has to offer.



~4~

BRAG TABLE

Polly brought a plant of *Bulbine fruticosa* ‘Orange’ which is trying to escape its pot by producing roots on a branch hanging over the edge.



Bruce brought a plant of *Pelargonium carnosum* which had long branches hanging down, but no roots on them. (I suspect, however, they could be rooted if broken off.)

~5~



Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society

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

Tell your friends!
www.fresnocss.com
Email: fresnocss@yahoo.com



Flowers!

A Letter From Bruce

**Oh, Oh, Oh,
Totos floreo!**

~Karl Orf, *Carmina Burana*

On the 21 of March we headed over the Grapevine to LA. The Grapevine was not yet in flower. As usual the traffic in LA was horrific, but it thinned out as we headed east to Upland. There Polly met with a seller of a knitting machine which she had arranged on line. Heading further east we turned in at a Museum sign in Redlands just for a break and found we were at the San Bernardino County Museum where I had once given a talk. I had spoken at night and only glimpsed the garden in the gloom. This time we could see the succulent collection in bright light. It is quite impressive.



We did not see wildflowers until we got to the wind turbines and solar panels west of Palm Springs. The brittle bush and other daisies made a sharp contrast to the power sources. We then proceed north to Joshua Tree ,viewed the blooming sand verbena and stayed with Polly's



photo by B Whaley

sister Ginny who was recovering from a second knee replacement (on the same knee- the first became infected). She is doing well this time. Next day we went out to Joshua Tree National Park where the Joshua trees were starting to bloom. Unfortunately there was nothing else in bloom near that entrance (except a few Mojave yuccas.)

. As we proceeded around to the 29 Palms entrance, however, there

were lots of wild flowers- more daisies, Phacelias, bladder pods, lupines etc. The Park was in good condition (restrooms clean, lots of trees still standing) despite the problems during the government shutdown. It was, once again, very crowded.

On Saturday Polly's brother in law took us on a tour of the town of Joshua Tree. One new feature is huge metal sculptures on roadsides. We went to the place where they are being made and were amazed at the number in stock waiting for placement. I think artists must be a little crazy. Next day we drove up to Barstow and back home. Near Boron there were, again, fields of daisies and other wild flowers. The final look at wild flowers was just past the turn off to Caliente. Unfortunately we were early; we have seen pictures more recently that show this is a real bumper year.



On the 30th we went out to Cal State for a march celebrating the 150th birthday of Gandhi. It was largely an Indian affair as might be expected, but a few of us represented other movements influenced by his powerful beliefs. I wore my South African hat in

honor of his beginning as a lawyer there.

In Fresno on the 4th of April we heard Rob Skillin speak on the eastern side of South Africa. Terry was there as well. The talk was a long series of species with their scientific names. I found it interesting since I knew most of them, but I wonder if he didn't lose a few people. One interesting thing I learned is that *Scilla natalensis* is now called *Merwillia plumbea*. I could understand the new genus, but was puzzled by the new species name. I have found out that in reorganizing Scillas, three species, *Scilla kraissii*, *S. natalensis*, and *S. plumbea* have been lumped together! I'll never keep up with all the name changes.



On the 9th, of course, we heard Rob McGregor speak on the Mojave National Reserve. I enjoyed the talk and I'm sure it had a good appeal to a general audience, but a few names added to the pictures would have helped. On the 11th we went out to Cal State, this time to hear Angela Davis. We only got a glimpse of her before we were herded off to a side room to watch her talk on a screen. They should have known that the crowd would be too large for the Dore. And then on the 12th we saw the last Flix film of the season. It is a sad-funny story called Chinese Take-Away. The story revolves around a young Chinese man who arrives in Argentina knowing no Spanish and having only an address where his uncle used to live!

Garden flowers are starting to bloom along with the wild ones. Aloe 'Eric the Red' bloomed in March and was finished by the middle of April. It had one strange double flower. *Agave desmettiana* had put up a

flower stalk before the Aloe but the flowers didn't open until a bit after it. Another plant which bloomed in April is *Hesperaloe parviflora* which I had raised from seed. This is the first year it has bloomed and the flowers are a beautiful red.



Bruce Hargreaves

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

Plant of the Month

Sedum multiceps



Continuing in Dortort we are still within the Crassulaceae but this month we will examine the genus *Sedum*. Probably everyone has one or more of these little "stonecrop" plants in a pot stuck off in a corner of their yard or greenhouse. In my research I discovered that the name "stonecrop" comes from the fact that these little plants will grow in the worst of environments where only stones will grow. They thrive on neglect.

Sedum multiceps is native to the mountains of Algeria. Dortort calls it a "small well-behaved plant, suitable for container culture". In nature they form a cluster of branches into a sub-shrub up to 6 in. (15 cm.) high. Each branch has a tuft of blue-green succulent leaves at its tip. The leaves are 4-10 mm. long and 1-2 mm. thick. The tufts of leaves make it resemble a miniature Joshua Tree.

Flowers normally have five to seven 6mm. pointed petals pale yellow in color. They bloom in the spring. There may be from one to five on a short stem.



Even though *S. multiceps* is a mountain species it grows well in many environments and is found in cultivation and pot culture all around the Mediterranean coast and across Europe as an ornamental or rock garden favorite. It is cold hardy to 20 F and is considered to be a winter grower with a summer dormant period but probably should not be allowed to go totally dry for long periods. They root easily as cuttings and many people root them by merely laying the cutting on the surface of the soil and standing back.

I am very fond of this little plant because of its charm and miniature beauty which appeals to my bonsai vision.

Jack G. Reynolds

The Succulent Garden at Cal State



Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*)

Brittlebush is a very common shrub daisy of the southwestern deserts. If you have driven to Las Vegas, Needles or Phoenix you have seen this plant. It prefers rocky areas but is also common by the sides of roads and freeways. *Encelia* blooms from early Spring to early

Summer and again in Fall if there is rain. In drought it will drop its leaves and go dormant. Damaged stems exude a resin that was burned for incense by the early missionaries.

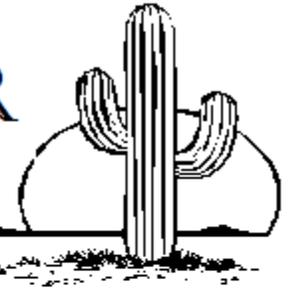
As a garden plant Brittlebush blooms for a long period, needs little if any irrigation and can withstand temperatures from the mid 20'sF to well over 100F. It can get large and floppy with too much

water and often needs a heavy pruning to keep it more compact. There are about a dozen species of Brittlebush in California including *Encelia actonii* which grows in the foothills around Bakersfield.



Stephen Cooley

CALENDAR



**May 14th BCSS Meeting
Family Picnic
Succulent Garden at CSUB
6 P M**

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

June 11th BCSS Meeting

**June 29th and 30th
CSSA Show & Sale
Huntington Gardens, San Marino**

**July 17-20
CSSA Convention
San Luis Obispo CA**

Visit Us On the Web!
www.BakersfieldCactus.org

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