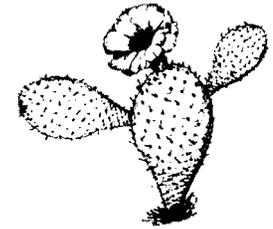


The Cactus Patch



Opuntia basilaris var. treleasei

Volume 22 July **2019** Number 07

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BAKERSFIELD CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

This Month's Program
Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents
Inside and Out along with other Desert Dwellers!
Ernesto Sandoval
July 9th
7:00 PM

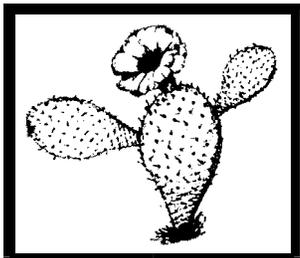
Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, July 9th
at 7:00 PM
**@ St. Paul's
Church**
2216 17th St.

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

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



Agave titanota (L) and *Agave oteroi* (R)



The Cactus Patch

Volume 22 Number 06
July 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

~2~

July 9th Meeting

Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto will be sharing his understanding of the way succulents and other desert plants are adapted to surviving



drought in desert and other dry environments. He'll cover Biology (how they work overall) Anatomy (How they're organized on the inside), Morphology (how they're organized on the outside, and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together) to make the plants adapted to their often challenging lives.

As usual, Ernesto will bring an assortment of plants, mostly hardy succulents to offer for sale!

[Biographical notes on page 10]

~3~



July 11th, 2019

The Cacti of Arizona”
Peter Breslin



Peter took us on a whirlwind tour of the state of Arizona.
When should we plan our next outing?



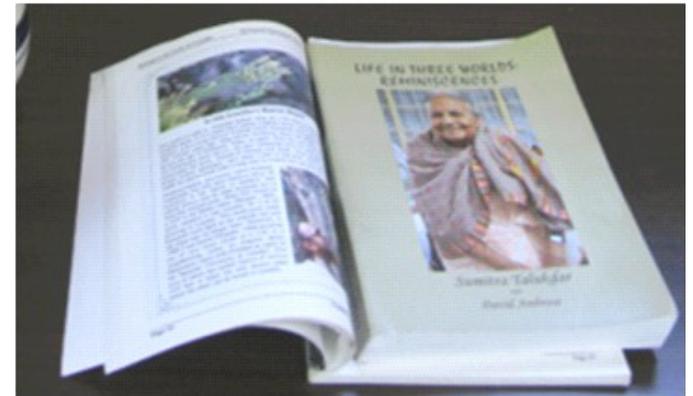
~4~

BRAG TABLE



Polly brought a plant of *Gasteria nitida* from South Africa which was blooming. {The flowers vanished off the top of the page.}

Jack Reynolds brought a plant of *Tephrocactus articulatus* which was just beginning a new pad.



Bruce brought “Reminiscences” by Samitra Talukdar on the grounds that it mentions his succulent work in Lesotho as well as containing a whole chapter on Lesotho’s spiral Aloes.

~5~

You Can't Grow That Here!

Madagascar Palm *Pachypodium lamerei*

Pachypodiums are notorious for rotting in wet cool soil and they can't take freezing weather. They are generally considered to be hard to grow unless you can provide the optimum conditions. And though *Pachypodium lamerei* is the easiest of the lot to grow, it is said that "you can't grow that here."

I am talking about growing it as a landscape plant in the ground – not in a pot. But, this little story is really about finding the right microclimate. In my case it is a little indented 'nook' on the south side of the house. The eaves follow a straight line which provides a covering for the garden. This overhang, along with walls on two sides and a covered patio on a third side prevents this area from freezing in the winter. It also keeps the rain out (no cold, wet soil!). It



faces south so there is ample sun to warm it a little in the winter.

This seedling Pachypodium has been growing here for over 15 years. It flowers every year and has grown to over 12 feet tall. It does stick out from under its protection and the tops can die back, but, it quickly recovers.

Stephen Cooley

~6~

Plant of the Month

Echeveria agavoides



I have written about several large specimen plants that one could use in a dry landscape setting in the central valley. This time I am writing about a smaller species suitable for growing around rocks or in pots but would likely survive and add color to a garden. *Echeveria agavoides* is a

member of the Crassulaceae. The genus contains over a hundred species spread from Texas to Argentina.

Plants are stemless rosettes 3-5 in. (8-12 cm.) tall and 3-6 in. (7-15 cm) in diameter. Leaves are pointed at the tip and edged with red-brown which darkens in full sun. Plants tend to be solitary when young but will form clumps when older. They are very drought tolerant. Many varieties have been produced for the plant trade with many colors and different degrees of heat and cold tolerance. A variety called "Lipstick" is cold tolerant to 20 F. They should not be watered during cold weather.

Flowers are produced in summer and may be pink, orange to red. They form on long cymes up to 20 in. (50 cm.) long.

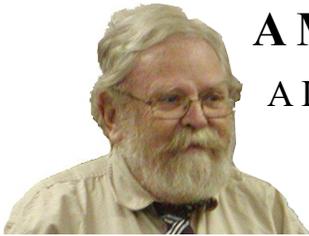


Hummingbirds like them.

They have shallow roots and prefer a gritty well draining soil. They may be propagated by leaf cuttings or clump separation. In general they are very easy to keep.

Jack G. Reynolds

~7~



A Mystery Solved!

A Letter From Bruce

I had an Agave which I could not identify. I eventually found it in a Grigsby Cactus Gardens 1994 wish book as Agave sp. (FO-76). Eventually I found this was grown from seed collected by Felipe Otero and was originally distributed as *A. titanota*. It is related to this species, but has green rather than gray leaves and has a hard margin on the top back of the leaf. Later FO-076 was called Agave sp. "Sierra Mixta" or Agave "Filigree" (Filigree Sierra Mixta Agave). Finally, all this "naming" has been straightened out in the Summer 2019 issue of the Cactus and



Succulent Journal. Greg D. Starr and Tristan J. Davis have published it as a new species *Agave oteroi*, named after the original collector. I look forward to seeing it bloom. The article in the CSJ shows a tall narrow flower stalk rather like *Agave lechuguilla* which has just bloomed in my garden. The flowers on this latter species are purple with brown anthers. It

was pollinated by bees and now has numerous seed pods. My *Agave desmettiana* has finished blooming and the base is dying. It has formed bulblets on the bottom flowers and seed pods on the upper ones. This together with earlier offsets at the base means this species hedges all its bets to insure offspring

~8~



On the 6th of June we saw a "New Wrinkles" production in Fresno. This is amateur theater by elders like us. This year the theme was "California Dreamin'." It was sad to see a donation "In memory of Don LaMont". He was a member of the Fresno CSS and had introduced us to New Wrinkles. His widow, Pat, was dancing in the show, but admits that at our age it is more difficult. It was a long show and we barely made it to the dinner with the FCSS. The speaker at the meeting was Keith Taylor who did his usual hacking up and repotting of specimens, this time in the name of "Succulent Bonsai".



James, Emily and the grandkids arrived on the 8th and on the 9th we had breakfast next door at Anne's followed by lunch down the street at Lora's. We had a large crowd to celebrate the 70th birthday of Lora's husband Dave (on the 19th) and the 50th birthday of John (on the 29th) as well as our 55th wedding anniversary (on the 19th). Of course it was a hot day and the AC went out. We ended up with a wading pool in the backyard. Luckily Anne has an adult pool and the party went there later. This was also useful on the 11th when our AC went out. The ACs have been repaired and J& E et al. went over to the coast on the 12th for the 2nd wedding of one of James' high school buddies.

Of course we heard Peter Breslin on the 11th and I bought a copy of his book. Great photos!

Bruce Hargreaves

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

Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents Ernesto Sandoval's Biography

Ernesto Sandoval has been wondering and seeking questions to why plants grow and look the way that they do for a long time. Now he explains and interprets the world of plants to a variety of ages and experiences from K-12 to professionals as well as Master Gardeners. He regularly lectures to a variety of western Garden Clubs throughout the year and particularly to Succulent Clubs throughout California. Desert plants are his particular passion within his general passion for plants. He describes himself as a "Jose of All Plants, Master of None." Ernesto thoroughly enjoys helping others, and gardeners in particular, to understand why and how plants do what they do.

When he was about 13 he asked his dad why one tree was pruned a particular way and another tree another way. His dad answered bluntly "because that's the way you do it." Since then he's been learning and teaching himself the answers to those and many other questions by getting a degree at UC Davis in Botany and working from student weeder/waterer to Director over the last 25 years at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.

He's long left the "mow blow and go" monoculture landscape gardening world and has immersed himself in the world of polyculture and biodiversity by growing several thousand types of plants at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, many of them succulents. Several of his favorite garden projects involved converting lawns and or water loving landscapes to drought tolerant and diversity filled gardens! He likes to promote plant liberation by encouraging gardeners of all sorts to grow more plants in the ground when possible. He loves the technical language of Botany but prefers to relate information in more understandable methods of communication! By helping people to understand the workings of plants he hopes to help us better understand how to and why our plants do what they do and how we can maximize their growth with less effort.



July 9th BCSS Meeting Forms and Functions of Cacti and Succulents

Inside and Out along with other Desert Dwellers!
Ernesto Sandoval
He will bring plants for sale

July 17-20 CSSA Convention San Luis Obispo CA

August 13th BCSS Meeting
Dinner out: Where would you like to go?
We will discuss it at the July meeting

September 10th BCSS Meeting **What you need to know about Successful Succulent Culture** **J D Wikert**

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