



# CACTUS CHRONICLE



## MISSION STATEMENT

The Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society (LACSS) cultivates the study & enjoyment of cacti & succulent plants through educational programs & activities that promote the hobby within a community of fellow enthusiasts & among the greater public.

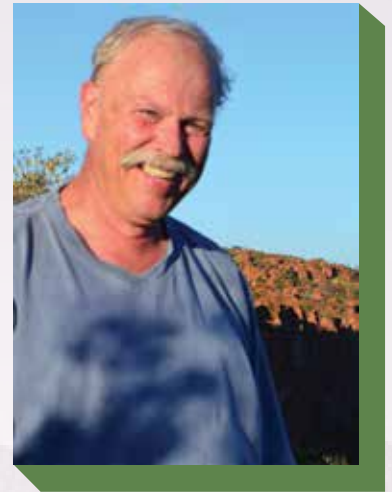
Monthly Meeting Program : November

# Exploring EUPHORBIAS

Our speaker for our November Meeting is Tom Glavich. He is a member of several Los Angeles area plant societies, and is one of the co-chairs of the Inter-City Cactus and Succulent Society. He is on the board of Directors of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America as well as a frequent speaker at many plant societies. He has been growing plants for more years than he is willing to admit, and is the author of many Beginner's Guide articles in the CSSA Journal.

His talk explores Euphorbias from around the world. We will be looking at their similarities, what makes them Euphorbias, and their differences. The talk also includes some basics on Euphorbia cultivation, show preparation and propagation. Plants from South Africa, Madagascar, Northern Africa and Mexico are included in the talk.

Tom will be bringing a few plants for the raffle and a flat or two of obscure winter growers for sale.



**Ron Behar**  
V.P. Programs



**REFRESHMENTS FOR  
NOVEMBER!**

**LAST NAMES STARTING  
WITH: I-M**

**2018 OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

Kim Chavez

**1ST VP, PROGRAMS**

Ron Behar

**2ND VP, PLANT OF THE MONTH**

Manny Rivera

**3RD VP, SPECIAL EVENTS**

Diane Miller

**SECRETARY**Matt Gatskill  
LACSS.contact@gmail.com**TREASURER**

Gretchen Davis

**FALL SALE CHAIR**

Kal Kaminer

**DIRECTOR 1 (2017-2018) ODD YRS.**

Ilona Buratti

**DIRECTOR 2 (2018-2019) EVEN YRS.**

Artie Chavez

**PAST PRESIDENT**

Joyce Schumann

**HISTORIAN**

Nils Schirmacher

**CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITOR**Kimberly Tong  
newsletter@lacactus.com**WEBMISTRESS**

Nancy Neymark

**INTER-CITY SHOW CHAIR**

John Martinez

**CSSA LIAISON**

M.A Bjarkman

**DRAWING & PLANT PROCUREMENT**

Richard Roosman

**PUBLICITY**

Roxie Esterle

**CACTUS GARDEN CHAIR**

Chris Rogers

**CACTUS CHRONICLE DISTRIBUTION**

Richard Roosman &amp; John Matthews

**HOLIDAY PARTY CHAIRPERSONS**

Debi Heaps

**MEETING REFRESHMENTS**

Sylvia Strehlo

**MONTHLY DRAWING**

Leah Imamura &amp; Juana Williams

**KIDS OUTREACH**

Nicolene Bova

**MEMBER AT LARGE**

Collin O'Callaghan

# A Word From Our President



It is hard to believe it is November. This year has flown by! My plants are loving the weather right now. It is amazing seeing all my ariocarpus, conophytums, and astrophytums covered in flowers.

Tim Harvey did an amazing program last month on winter growers. We had a couple technical issues so the program got a late start but it was worth the wait. I hope he will consider doing it again for everyone that missed it and I would love to see it again.

I am also excited to see Tom Glavich's program this month. He always does a great job.

I hope everyone will be at the meeting in November. We have our elections plus a couple of exciting announcements. Make sure you sign up for the Holiday Awards Banquet. Debi has some really exciting plans for a really great party that you won't want to miss; Saturday, December 8.

Remember, there is no meeting in December, we have our holiday party instead. The LACSS Board had a really great meeting and a lot was discussed about field trips, grant program, how successful our Fall Sale was and our June Festival. I would love to encourage all members to get involved and help plan club events.

As our club grows we find ourselves outgrowing our current location. The Board has been looking at alternative locations. We like keeping our meeting on the same day of the month so a few places did not work out. Please keep reading your newsletters and come to the meetings so you can be kept up to date.

Dues are due. Let's try to get everyone's dues settled by December to take some of the pressure off Ilona. You can bring in your check or cash to the meeting or if you can't make it, mail them in. You can send to:

LACSS  
P.O. Box 280581  
Northridge, CA 91328

I would like to personally Thank our wonderful Board, Committee Chairs, and all the volunteers. You make this an incredible club.

With sincere gratitude,

Kim Chavez

# PLANT OF THE MONTH

## OCTOBER RESULTS

### CACTUS - ESPOSTOA & OROCEREUS

#### ROOKIE

FIRST	OROCEREUS TROLII	COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN & KIMBERLY TONG
SECOND	ESPOSTOA LANATA	RON COOPER
SECOND	ESPOSTOA LANATA	DEBI HEAPS
THIRD	OROCEREUS CELSIANUS	FELIPE DELGADO
THIRD	ESPOSTOA MELANOSTELE	FELIPE DELGADO

#### NOVICE

FIRST	ESPOSTOA LANATA	AL MINDEL
SECOND	ESPOSTOA MELANOSTELE	AL MINDEL
THIRD	ESPOSTOA LANATA	RON BEHAR

#### ADVANCED

#### OPEN

FIRST	OROCEREUS CELSIANUS	KAREN OSTLER
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### SUCCULENT - JATROPHA, MONADENIUM & PEDILANTHUS

#### ROOKIE

FIRST	PEDILANTHUS TITHYMALODIDES VARIEGATED	ILONA BURATTI
SECOND	MONADENIUM RITCHIEI	COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN & KIMBERLY TONG
SECOND	MONADENIUM RITCHIEI	DEBI HEAPS
THIRD	JATROPHA MAHAFALENSIS	RON COOPER
H.M.	MONADEDIUM STAPELIODES VARIEGATED	DEBI HEAPS

#### NOVICE

FIRST	PEDILANTHUS MACROCARPUS	AL MINDEL
SECOND	MONADEDIUM STAPELIODES VARIEGATED	GRETCHEN DAVIS
THIRD	MONADENIUM SCHUBEI/PURPLE TANZANIA	RON BEHAR
THIRD	PEDILANTHUS MACROCARPUS	AL MINDEL

#### ADVANCED

FIRST	MONADENIUM ECHINULATUM	KATHRYN BOORER
SECOND	MONADENIUM SCHUBEI	KATHRYN BOORER
THIRD	MONADENIUM RITCHIEI	KATHRYN BOORER

#### OPEN

FIRST	JATROPHA SP.	MANNY RIVERA
SECOND	MONADENIUM SPECTABILE	MANNY RIVERA
THIRD	MONADENIUM ELEGANS	MANNY RIVERA

PLANT OF THE MONTH ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO 3 SUCCULENT PLANTS AND 3 CACTUS PLANTS FOR EACH MEMBER. THIS APPLIES EVEN WHEN THERE ARE MORE THAN ONE GENUS OF SUCCULENT OR CACTUS. THE THEORY IS THERE WILL BE SPACE FOR EVERYONE.



# NOVEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

## CRESTED AND MONSTROSE

BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Crested and Monstrose plants are deformed versions of otherwise normal plants caused by abnormal growth. Specifically, they exhibit deformed growth caused by the growing points (called meristems) of the plants forming new tissue in an improper manner. The exact nature of the deformed growth separates Crested plants from Monstrose ones. While most often seen, and coveted in cacti and other succulents, Crested and Monstrose growth can occur in any kind of plant.

Normal plant growth takes place at a single point at the tip of each branch or stem called the apical meristem. The apical meristem produces new cells that go on to form the rest of the plant, but the meristem itself remains a single cell. This growth from a single point is why stems are generally round and regular in shape. The apical meristem also suppresses the growth of dormant meristems along the stem, especially those closest to the tip.



*Cereus peruvianus crest*



*Austrocylindropuntia subulata crest*

Crested plants (also known as fasciation) are distinctive in that they grow in a linear or wavy shape. This growth can be so unusual that it can be hard to tell that a crest and normal form of a species are really the same thing! This growth form results from a mutation in the apical meristem where instead of remaining a single cell it starts forming many new apical meristems all in a horizontal row. This means that instead of one apical meristem controlling growth, you have dozens if not hundreds all trying to produce new growth at the same time. This growth could be considered regular irregularity in that line of meristems is abnormal, but they grow in an organized fashion giving us the beautiful and strange crests we grow.

Monstrose growth also results from meristems going haywire. In this case the apical meristem can no longer control and suppress the dormant lateral meristems, so they all start growing. That creates a malformed, often overly branched, plant that looks strange to some and fascinating to others.

Several factors are known to cause plants to crest or go monstrose. Sometimes a random mutation causes this. Usually this mutation is not passed on to any seeds it produces. It can also occur from a hormonal imbalance in the plant. External factors include certain fungal or bacterial infestations, or even environmental damage.



*Euphorbia lactea crest*



*Mammillaria geminispina crest*

Article continues next page.

# NOVEMBER PLANT OF THE MONTH

CONTINUED



*Dasyliirion crest*

Crested and Monstrose plants are grown exactly as normal plants of the same species. Some have weak roots, and only grow well as grafts. However, others are robust growers, and do perfectly well on their own. Careful observation of the health of the plant, and comparison to healthy normal growth plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. You can also research your plant online or by asking other growers to find out the special needs of your particular Crest or Monstrose. These plants tend to be more sensitive to poor growing conditions, getting sunburn quicker, and getting unsightly brown spots more easily than normal plants of the same species. They tend to be more attractive to spider mites and mealy bugs than normal plants, and a careful eye must be kept on them to keep good growth.

## PROPAGATION OF CREST PLANTS

In most cases, Crests and Monstrose plants flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering crest. Crests and Monstrosity are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a genetic mutant plant (i.e. not from pathogens or environmental factors) is much more likely to be a genetic mutant than that from a normal plant. The genetic mutation is more likely to be the same as the parent, but any other mutation is also possible.

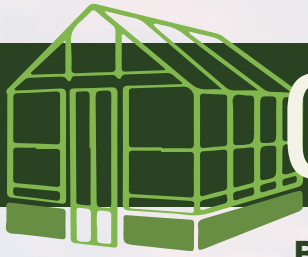
The most common method of propagation of Crested plants is vegetative. Cuttings of Crests are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms. Cuttings of varieties that are on their own roots will generally root easily, as long as the cuts are taken during the growing season. After a few days drying, the cut sections are simply stuck into slightly moist potting soil. After a few weeks, there will be sufficient roots to resume normal watering.



*Lithops monstrose*



*Crested Daisy flower*



# GREENHOUSE NOTES

BY KAREN OSTLER

**Rain.** Isn't it amazing how our plants respond so rapidly to it? The winter growers especially; Aloes, many of the Agaves, most of the mesembs. With the cooler weather Ariocarpus are flowering, Fouquierias are leafing out, Aeoniums are perking up, as are the Sedums and Sempervivums.

But, be careful; not every one of your plants is happy with the advent of shorter and cooler days. Be cautious about plant position, with the sun at a different angle, plants that are in a full exposure area can burn as parts that are not normally exposed to sunlight are suddenly in full sun. The same is true of the cooler temperatures. Make certain that plants that are getting ready or already entering winter dormancy are not exposed to the rain, and cold. It can be something as simple as moving them under the eaves of your house, a little more such as a simple open sided covering, a cold frame, or a small hobby greenhouse.

In the San Fernando Valley there is little need to protect from extreme cold, although we once experienced 19 degrees for about an hour once, but such low temperatures are relatively rare. The main use of a greenhouse in the Valley is to maintain a pristine plant body by protecting the plant from overhead water in the form of rain.

Now is the time to start playing with some of those winter growers; transplant and stage your plants. Check out the roots and make certain that any roots circling around are cut back; I know, it feels somehow cruel to be cutting the roots off, but your plants will thank you with healthy growth. Clean up your plants and their growing areas; removing any leaves and other garden debris that can encourage both plant disease and four footed nasties like mice and rats; which have an unbelievable love of our succulent plants during the winter months. I once had an Opossum take up residence in a huge hanging staghorn fern, not only hollowing out the center of the plant, but smelling the place up as well. She also made forays into my garden beds making a mess as she hunted down bugs and tender plants parts.

Treat any root mealy bugs you find, I use a water dip laced with a healthy portion of Dawn dish washing detergent, vinegar and rubbing alcohol. Swish the roots around in the bath until all of the soil is removed; cut off any dead or dying roots and discard both the detritus and the potting soil, as you don't want to spread the mealy bug eggs. Make sure there are no visible mealies left and set the plant aside for three days; the plant won't mind; then recheck for any new mealies. I chase them down and eradicate them with a q-tip dipped in rubbing alcohol. Wait another three days and if you don't see any mealies repot a now pest free plant.

You should check all the surrounding plants for root mealies as well; the pests are farmed by our ever present Argentine ants and can be carried plant to plant.

If you don't mind using poison; you can use a systemic such as "Bayer Tree and Shrub." Follow the directions carefully, wear gloves; and be careful. We want you to be as healthy as your plants.

Happy growing!

Karen Ostler

# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

BY ILONA BURATTI



Dues are due.. This is the last meeting before our Holiday Awards Party. Please complete this form (see next page) and mail or bring it in to the next meeting. It will only take you a few moments to write your information. It takes a longer time to cross check among our various records to "clean & crisp up" your information. Unless you live at "same", help us out by completing the form.

## LACSS

### 2019 ELECTION LIST OF NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee of the Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society announces the following nominees for the two-year term beginning in January 2019:

1st Vice-President, Programs  
 2nd Vice-President, Plant of the Month  
 Secretary  
 Director 1, Membership

Ron Behar  
 Manny Rivera  
 Ron Cooper  
 Ilona Buratti

Voting will take place at the November 2018 meeting.

Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the November meeting provided that the member being nominated is present and has given consent to the nomination.

Thank you to all who have considered serving our club as a member of the board and to all who have volunteered their time and energy to support the efforts of our club!

Sincerely  
 Diane Miller, Nominating Committee Chair  
 Roxie Esterle, Nominating Committee Member  
 Rosemary Ecker, Nominating Committee Member

**WELCOME!**



**OCTOBER'S NEW MEMBERS:**

GISELA DIEZ  
 ASHLEY FRANKE  
 PHIL UPCHURCIT  
 SOFIA & MONICA LIMEN  
 LORIS AYVAZIAN  
 ANITA HAMLIN

**BE SURE TO BRING  
 A FLAT BOX FOR YOUR  
 GOODIES, PICK UP YOUR  
 NAME BADGE (IF ORDERED),  
 YOUR ROSTER,  
 MEMBERSHIP CARD &  
 WELCOME PLANT.**

# LACSS 2019 DUES

**MAIL DUES TO:  
LACSS MEMBERSHIP  
P.O. BOX 280518  
NORTHRIDGE CA. 91328**

**NAME:**  **BIRTHDATE M/D:**

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP  FAMILY MEMBERSHIP

**FAMILY MEMBER:**  **BIRTHDATE M/D:**   
(WHO ATTENDS)

**ADDRESS:**

**CITY:**  **ZIP:**

**HOUSE PHONE:**  **CELL PHONE:**

**YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS:**

Your family and guests are always welcome.  
I am only interested in attending members from your family,  
Dues: \$20 for individual \$25 for family (they can go to the tours and workshops)  
Your cooperation will let me finish the yearbook by February, confirm and crisp up our existing records.  
Here are some additional questions:

<b>I WANT ADDRESSES IN THE ROSTER</b>	<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EITHER WAY</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>I WANT MY PHOTO IN THE ROSTER</b>	<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EITHER WAY</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>ROSTER AVAILABLE DIGITALLY</b>	<b>YES</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>EITHER WAY</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

<b>PAYMENT TYPE</b>	<b>CHECK#</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>CASH \$</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>C/C</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>RECEIPT#</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>DATE</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>BY</b> <input type="text"/>	



# MEMBERSHIP PAGE

## MEMBER VENDOR: JOHN MARTINEZ



As a California native I grew up in the San Fernando Valley. At a young age I began working in the family bakery business and worked my way up from floor sweeper to cake decorator.

In the summer of 1967 after graduating high school I joined the Naval Air Reserves. My basic training was at the Millington Naval Station outside of Memphis, Tennessee. After basic training I was assigned to a helicopter squadron as a sonar operator and crewman at the Naval Air Station in Los Alamitos, CA.

Upon returning home from the Navy I realized that I did not want to spend the rest of my life in the family business. This decision motivated me to attend California State University Northridge, where I received a Bachelors Degree in Art.

In 1977 I joined the Los Angeles City Fire Department. I had an extremely rewarding career of 35 years from firefighter to battalion chief serving the citizens of Los Angeles. I retired from the LAFD in 2012. Retirement is great!

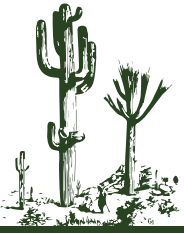
My interest in succulents began in my early teens when the mother of a childhood friend gave me a wagon full of succulent cuttings from her xeric garden. With these cuttings and some boulders collected from the local mountains I created my first xeric garden. My involvement in the hobby since then has fluctuated from casual interest to full emersion.

Prior to retiring from the fire department, I spent three years as a volunteer at the Huntington Botanical Garden and was fortunate enough to work with the staff and other volunteers in the desert collection and nursery. This was quite an education in plant identification, care, and propagation.

Nine years ago I realized (through the encouragement of my wife) that my enthusiasm for the hobby was taking over our backyard. So, after a short discussion with some friends (Tim Harvey, John Matthews, and Rick Vitelle), we agreed to rent some vacant agricultural land in Somis and created a co-operative succulent growing compound. This turned out to be a great opportunity to share experience and information and have plenty of space to experiment. With this extra space I found that I had room to grow plants from seed. I receive a lot of pleasure from watching these seedlings grow to maturity (at least those that survive).

Another ongoing project is trying to understand the Dudleya that grow in our local area. For the past few years Nils Schirmacher and I have been combing the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains trying to identify and photograph the many Dudleya species and sub species that grow there. This has been quite an enlightening project and has given me a whole new appreciation for the difficulty in accurately identifying plants in the field and in the plant diversity that surrounds us.

I live in Moorpark, CA. with my lovely wife of forty-seven years, Linda. I am a long time member of the LACSS, and am one of the co-founders of the Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society. Aside from my succulent addiction I enjoy gardening, golf, photography, fly fishing, and especially grandchildren.



# WINTER GARDENING WITH STEVE FRIEZE

One of the things that fill Cactus and Succulent lovers with excitement is a trip to a long time collector's garden. Saturday, September 29 at Steve Freize's house was no exception. Steve is getting ready to landscape his front yard again. There were plants for sale at unbelievable prices and he also generously gave away many cuttings to drooling fans.



After the buying frenzy calmed down, we relaxed in the backyard with some delicious food. Steve told us about important aspects of caring for winter growers in pots and in the ground. He also answered so many questions! Our aloes, tylecodons, aeoniums, gasteria, haworthias and many more are on their way to a fantastic growing season!



Debi Heaps



# LACSS

## 2018 HOLIDAY AWARDS DINNER

### PARTY PARTY PARTY!

HERE COMES THE HOLIDAY AWARDS PARTY  
 FILLED WITH CHEER FROM EVERY SPINE  
 GET YOUR CACTUS JUICES FLOWING  
 WITH SUCCULENT DELIGHTS ON WHICH WE'LL DINE!

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2018**  
**4:30-9:00PM**

**AT THE THERAPEUTIC LEARNING  
 CENTER FOR THE BLIND (TLC)**  
**7915 LINDLEY AVE. RESEDA CA 91335**  
 LIMITED PARKING IN BACK, LOTS OF STREET PARKING

### POTLUCK

PLEASE SIGN UP AT MEETING ON NOVEMBER 1 - OR CONTACT DEBI HEAPS DIRECTLY BY DECEMBER 1. THERE IS NO OVEN, ONLY MICROWAVE FOR REHEATING. THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE WATER, SODA, COFFEE, TEA AND MAIN DISH. **BYOB.** LIMITED PLUG-IN AVAILABILITY FOR CROCK POTS ETC. AT TABLES. LET DEBI KNOW IF YOU NEED TO PLUG SOMETHING IN.

GUIDE FOR POTLUCK SERVING SIZE NEEDED PER RSVP

ITEM	POTLUCK SIZE IF RSVP FOR 1	POTLUCK SIZE IF RSVP FOR 2
APPETIZERS	20-30 individual appetizers or servings	40-60 individual appetizers or servings
WARM SIDES	9x13 pan or at least 5 cups	Large pan or 10 cups
SALADS/COLD SIDES	Large bowl or 10 cups	Extra large bowl or 10 cups
DESSERT	Standard size item or 2 dozen cookies	Large size item or 3-4 dozen cookies

### PARTY DAY!

#### 4:30PM - 5:00PM

Arrive with potluck dishes  
 If you are bringing appetizers, please come at 4:30PM. Any vendor/member donating plants, please arrive by 5:00PM if possible.

#### 5:00PM - 6:00PM

Happy hour!

#### 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Dinner

#### 4:30PM - 7:30PM

Silent Auction & Raffle

#### 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Optional Gift Exchange  
 (cactus related gift up to \$15)

### PLANT OF THE MONTH

Awards  
 Announcements of raffle and silent auction winners  
 Live Auction

### QUESTIONS?

(or sign up if you didn't get a chance at the meeting)

Debi Heaps  
 heapsgasgirl@gmail.com  
 (818) 207 0254  
 (Number is roster is incorrect)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Don't  
forget!*

## REFRESHMENTS REMINDER

It's November - Last names starting with I - M

If your last name begins with the letters listed above, this means it's your turn to bring the goodies during our meeting on Thursday, November 1st. Please have snacks arrive by 6:30PM for Social Hour.

Your help in setting up & breaking down is greatly appreciated.

Some ideas: finger foods, fruit, veggies, chips & dip, cookies, brownies, burritos, pizza ... you name it, we will heat & serve it. We have a microwave available.

It's nice to have real food at the start of the meeting, as well as treats during the break. Drinks are also welcome.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JANUARY

### JANUARY 12 & 13 2019

SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY SHOW

9AM-4PM BOTH DAYS

LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN, ARCADIA, CA