



CACTUS CHRONICLE

Mission Statement:

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

CSSA Affiliate

**Next Meeting
November 5, 2015**

**Thursday
16633 Magnolia Blvd.
Encino, CA 91356**

**Doors Open
at 6:15 pm**

**Meeting begins
at 7:00pm**

**Refreshments
I-M**

New Members

**Tonie Bruno
Matt Dunaj
Allan Sarkin
Ralph Sarkin**

Phyllis Frieze, Editor
Frieze.phyllis@
Yahoo.com

Email:
Lacactus.com

Program: *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*: a New Cholla Species from Southern California presented by Michelle Cloud-Hughes

Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis is a newly-described cactus found in San Bernardino, Riverside, and northern Imperial Counties, California. Michelle's presentation will describe how this historically-misidentified cholla was determined to be a distinct new species and the characteristics that distinguish it from similar cholla species. This presentation will provide detailed information on where to see *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis* and the many other intriguing cacti found with it.



Michelle Cloud-Hughes is a botanist and restoration ecologist specializing in desert flora and ecosystems. She worked for the Soil Ecology and Restoration Group at San Diego State University from 1997 to 2013 and spent most of those years doing restoration work in the central Mojave Desert at Fort Irwin National Training Center. In 2010 she started her company, Desert Solitaire Botany and Ecological Restoration, and since then has been involved in many rare plant surveys and other botanical projects throughout the southwestern U.S. Her main love is *Cylindropuntia*, but she is also fascinated by other cactus, particularly *Echinocereus*, *Grusonia*, *Pediocactus*, and occasionally even *Opuntia*.



2015 Officers

President

Joyce Schumann

1st VP, Programs

Marquita Elias

2nd VP, Plant of the Month

Manny Rivera

3rd VP, Special Events

John Martinez

Secretary

Cheryl White

LACSS.contact@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathryn Boorer

Director 1 Odd Years

Membership

Danielle Duboff

Director 2, Even Years

David Le

Past President

Roxie Esterle

LACSS Show Chair

Artie Chavez

Show Committee

Joyce Schumann

Kim Thorpe

Rosemary Polito

Webmaster

Kim Thorpe

Librarian

Susan Phillips

Historian

Nils Schirmacher

Cactus Chronicle Editor

Phyllis Frieze

Inter-City Show Liaison

CSSA Representative

John Matthews

Education Chair

Kyle Williams

Drawing & Plant Procurement

Richard Roosman

Mentor Program Chair

John Suci

Member at Large

Kathleen Misko

CGCI Liasion

Natalie Welsh

Cactus Garden Chair

Chris Rogers

Cactus Chronicle Distribution

Richard Roosman

John Matthews

Holiday Party Chairperson

Barbara Hall

Holiday Party Awards

Procurement

Gerald Reichert

Cactus Garden

Chris Rogers

Meeting Refreshments

Lisa Gailey

Linda Holub

Publicity

Kim Thorpe

Monthly Drawing

Leah Imamura

Juana Williams

President's Message

November 2015

We are now entering the beginnings of fall and winter. As noted in our one-of-a-kind 80th Anniversary calendar, winter growers are becoming active. A listing of winter and summer growers is also noted in August, 2016 of the same calendar. Which plants grow in what season is a frequently asked question with not always an easy answer. You still need to watch your plants to see what they are doing. When in doubt, ask one of our experienced members.

Next year, we will start a new column (title TBD) designed to answer FAQ. Members are encouraged to send questions to the Chronicle editor (that would be Phyllis Frieze) and she will pass it along to a senior member for a response. So, start preparing your questions.

We will be completing our 80th Anniversary activities at the November meeting. Refer to the notice found elsewhere in this Chronicle. Most of us don't have the opportunity to celebrate the 80th anniversary of anything and for that reason; this one was special to me.

I feel a great sense of pride to be associated with something as pioneering as LACSS. For example, our original Library books were donated to the Huntington many years before I joined the Club. Since that time, our Library replenished itself with more volumes and more titles, some of historical value but most of current interests. I encourage our members to avail yourselves of this great storehouse of information.

The Strategic Planning Committee met in October to review last year's goals and accomplishments and to plan for the future. They will make their recommendations to the Board of Directors at the November Board meeting.

LACSS experienced great membership growth in 2015. With that growth comes challenges. One of the topics the committee will recommend will be a search for a larger meeting venue. As much as we love the Garden Center, we are almost at standing room only for our monthly meetings. We will keep you posted.

The Annual Holiday Dinner committee continues to fine tune the preparations. Early sign-ups are requested as we need an approximate head count for the caterer. Also, since there will not be a meeting in December, now is a convenient time to sign up.

Early membership renewal is also encouraged. There will be a special drawing at the Dinner for early renewal (by December 1). More details will be announced at the meeting.

See you soon -Joyce

80TH ANNIVERSARY WRAP-UP

Thursday, November 5, 2015

Throughout this year, we have been celebrating our 80th Anniversary with various activities. Several meetings were held to determine how to best commemorate this significant milestone.

Calendars and cups were available to help mark the occasion. Various dignitaries honored our anniversary with proclamations and certificates. A special 80th Anniversary banner was displayed at our Festival.

Now we will wrap up our celebration with some very special moments

Nils Schirmmacher, our Historian, will give a brief history of LACSS.

Senator Pavley's representative, Rosalba Gonzales, will offer a few remarks on the background/significance of our "Environmental Sustainability Award."

The planters on the south side of the building have been replanted by Artie Chavez with plaques noting our donation to the Garden Center.

There will be cake.

Make sure you attend the final celebration for our 80th Anniversary.

A graphic featuring the words "Happy Anniversary" in a colorful, 3D-style font. The letters are in various colors (red, blue, green, yellow, orange) and are arranged in two lines: "Happy" on top and "Anniversary" below it. The text is set against a white circular background with a subtle shadow effect.

**Plant of the Month
2015**

November

Crests and Montrose

December

Holiday Party

**Plant of the Month
2016**

January

Blossfeldia, Frailea ,
Yavia
Bulbs

February

Gymnocalycium
Clusters
Aeonium

March

Echinocereus
Conophytum

April

Parodia, Notocactus
Haworthia

May

Small cactus staged as
a miniature
Small succulent staged
as a miniature

June

Favorite

July

Rebutia, Sulcorebutia
Weingartia

August

Astrophytum
Adenium

September

Turbinicarpus
Gymnocactus
Cyphostema
Cissus

October

Mammillaria with hooks
Asclepiad

November

Variegated

Plant of the Month -- October

Cactus-- Miniatures

Rookie

First	Jennifer Bensi	Mammillaria duwei
Second	Jennifer Bensi	Cereus forbesii monstrose
Third	Kathleen Misko	Mammillaria
Third	Kathleen Misko	Opuntia

Novice

First	Kathryn Boorer	Astrophytum ornatum x myriostigma
Second	Roxie Esterle	Copiapoa tenuissima
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Mammillaria saboae

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Puna clavorioides
Second	Kim Thorpe	Aztekium hintonii
Third	Kim Thorpe	Sulcorebutia monstrose

Open

First	John Matthews	Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus
Second	Karen Ostler	Turbinocarpus pseudopectinatus
Third	Karen Ostler	Turbinocarpus dickinsoniae

Succulents -- Miniatures

Rookie

First	M.A Bjarkman	Crassula "Buddha's Temple"
Second	Kim Jacobi	Pseudolithos cubiformis
Second	M.A Bjarkman	Echeveria crest
Third	Jennifer Bensi	Euphorbia mamillaris variegata
Third	Kim Jacobi	Monadenium ritchiei

Novice

First	Roxie Esterle	Gasteria armstrongii
Second	Kathryn Boorer	Huernia insigniflora
Third	Kathryn Boorer	Agave filifera "Compacta"

Advanced

First	Kim Thorpe	Gibbaeum heathii
Second	Kim Thorpe	Conophytum hians
Second	Kim Thorpe	Avonia alstonii
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Pseudolithos migiurtinus
Third	Sylvia Strehlo	Adromischus herrei "Super Bumpy"

Open

First	Artie Chavez	Bursera simplicifolia
Second	Artie Chavez	Conophytum
Third	Artie Chavez	Avonia alstonii

Plants of the Month: *Crested and Monstrose*

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.



Crested *Euphorbia lactea*



Crested *Mammillaria geminisпина*

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.

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.



Crested *Euphorbia obesa*

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 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.



Monstrose
Austrocylindropuntia subulata

Culture of Crests and Monstrose Plants



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.

Agave geminiflora with crested inflorescence

Propagation of crested 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.



Monstrose Lithops



Mules Ear Fasciated

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.

-Kyle Williams
Special thanks to Tom Glavich

Photo Credits: J.G. Howes, Perduejn, Frank Vincentz, Joe Mabel, Dave Pape, Xenomorph, Maureen Gilmer

Candidates for LACSS Board

This year 4 Board Positions are open and the candidates to fill these position are outlined below:

President
Treasurer
Vice President, Special Events
Director

Joyce Schumann
Gretchen Davis
Diane Miller
Ron Behar

A vote will be held at the November Meeting.

Refreshments

Coffee

Veggies

Snacks

Refreshments are an important part of our social “hour” at our meetings. LACSS provides coffee and paper goods. But, where do all the goodies come from? Do they just appear? Is it planned?

Here’s how it works: Look at the side bar column of the Chronicle’s front page. You will notice a listing similar to “**Refreshments U thru Z.**” The membership is divided up alphabetically trying to keep each group with about the same number of members. If your last name starts with one of those letters, it’s your turn to bring some munchies. There is no expectation that you bring enough to feed everyone in attendance. The rule of thumb is something that would feed 8-10 people. Sometimes, we are not able to attend the meeting when it is our turn. What to do? What to do? Hmmmm Let’s see.....How about bringing something the month before or the month after???? That would work. Actually, you may bring a munchie anytime you feel like it. It is always appreciated.

One caveat – if you bring a personal serving dish or utensil, make sure you retrieve it before we clean up at the end of the meeting. Putting your name on it helps to identify owners, if left behind.



When in doubt, please feel free to contact our Refreshment Committee, Lisa Gailey or Linda Holub. Our thanks to Linda and Lisa for always setting a beautiful table! And, a big **Thank You** to all of our members who are so generous with the great repast.

MEMBERSHIP ALERT

By Danielle Duboff

2016 is fast approaching and what better way to end a fantastic year but to renew your LACSS Membership. Every year LACSS gets better and better and now we are bigger than ever!

Membership is now at 310! I think we all agree 2016 will be even more exciting and fun filled!

I will start taking 2016 Membership dues at the November 5th Monthly Meeting. Each renewal will be entered into the "2016 Membership Renewal Raffle" and will be held at the Holiday Party on December.12th at the Kiwanis Club of Northridge.

We have some exciting prizes! 2016 Membership still remains the same: Single Membership is \$20.00 and Family Membership \$25.00.

Contact me, Danielle Duboff, if you have any questions at danielle.duboff@yahoo.com.



Danielle Duboff
Natalie Welsh

November, 2015

Value of Meeting Opening Remarks

By Joyce Schumann, President

Let's see if we can put some sense and reason to the first part of our monthly meeting.

The most important part (in my humble opinion) is to recognize that people have chosen to share some of their valuable time to attend the meeting. Prior to the call to order, Board members make the effort to circulate among the attendees to visit, offer advice, and keep the social hour welcoming.

After the call to order, members are welcomed. Then comes the best part – welcoming **new** members and visitors. We have been so fortunate to have new members and visitors every month this year. That must be a record somewhere, somehow and validates our focus to be inclusive and welcoming.

Moving along in the process and keeping an eye on the clock, the President makes a few announcements (new coffee pot), a few reminders (buy this or that), and a few other pertinent tidbits of information (grant application has been approved). This session is actually the business portion of the meeting.

Next on the agenda are the committee announcements. Most Board members are charged with a specific responsibility, i.e. VP-Special Events or Holiday Dinner. Updates on Club activities (plus announcements in the Chronicle) keep everyone informed on the date, time, place, etc. of each event. Questions and/or comments from the audience are always encouraged.

None of us are stand-up comedians or great orators, but we do our best to keep everyone awake, informed and entertained.

DON'T MISS THE FUN!!

**LOS ANGELES CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
HOLIDAY PARTY**

Saturday, December 12, 2015, 5:00 PM
The Kiwanis Club of Northridge
Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind
7901 Lindley Blvd., Reseda

**Potluck Dinner - Raffle - Plant Auction
Gift Exchange Activity
Plant-of-the Month Total Points Awards!**

Each attendee is requested to bring one side dish, salad, or dessert. Please have all food and gifts at the center between 4:30-5:00PM. Contact Barbara Hall @ 368-6914 or email: lbcjhall@aol.com. There will be a \$5.00 deposit/per person when you sign up; deposit returned at the party. Please signup if you are attending by December 1.

The club will provide the catered portion of the dinner: Succulent roast turkey, mashed potatoes & gravy, ham, traditional stuffing and servers to set up & clean up.

- Recognition & prizes for Plant-of-the-Month award winners
- Plant/Gift Exchange (optional)
- Fabulous auction will allow members to contribute items with a 70/30 split (30% to the club). Donated items are appreciated.
- Two raffle opportunities this year! One raffle for early Membership Renewal (by Dec.1) & one raffle for a chance to win a beautifully staged cactus or succulent by Artie Chavez (2 winners)

All members are invited and may bring one guest. More details to follow.

2016 Mid States Conference (MSC,) Denver, Colorado

Hosted by the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society

Information for general distribution

Scheduled dates of Conference: **June 9, 10 and 11, 2016** and **June 12, optional** Conference registration fee \$100.00. Early registration before May 2016, \$85.00.

Venue for Conference: **The Double Tree by Hilton 13696 E. Iliff Place, Aurora, CO 80014** Room rates and other adjacent hotels and restaurants to be listed at a later date.

Schedule of Conference events:

Thursday, June 9 from noon till 10:00pm

Registration, noon to 10:00pm

Social gathering: 5:30pm to late (hors-d'oeuvres, drinks, etc.)

Plant presale raffle tickets sold from 5:00 to 6:30pm.

Plant and pottery presale: 6:30 - 7:00pm

Plant and pottery sale open to all: 7:00 - 10:00pm

Friday, June 10 from 8:00am – 5:00pm

Registration: all morning till noon (full conference or 1 day registration)

Plant and pottery sales open all day: 8:00am - 5:00pm

Conference Opening and welcome: 8:30am - 9:00am

Presentations: 9:00am - 11:30 am & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Lunch from 11:30 am - 1:00pm

Dinner possibly provided, or on your own (to be determined)

Saturday June 11 from 9:00 am – 5:00pm and 7:00pm – 10:00pm

Registration: all morning till noon (1 day registration only)

Plant and pottery sales: 8:00am - 4:30pm, registers close at 5:00pm

Presentations from 9:00am - 11:30am & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Dinner Banquet: 6:30pm social, dinner 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Dinner presentation: "It's All About the People" 8:00pm – 8:30pm

Plant, Pottery and Art auction: 8:30pm to 9:30pm

Close Conference at 9:30pm -10:00pm

Sunday, June 12, return home or attend various field trips

Field trips from 8:00am - 4:00pm, 1-2 hour or half day, or full day options.

Some field trips may require a fee.

Presenters, plant and pottery vendors to be announced at a later date. There will be 10 well known expert speakers. Subjects range from *Cold Hardies* to *Show Plant Staging* and *Plant Propagation* to *Rock and Succulent gardens*. Our presenters will also take us to many special habitats around the world where we will see many of the succulent plants we grow. Some of these presenters are among the best in the C&S world!

"Denver, What better place to be in the month of June!"

LET'S HAVE FUN!

For more information please contact, Co-Conference Chairs: Randy Tatroe rtatroe@q.com
303-699-8958 or **Woody Minnich** cactusdata@msn.com 661-406-9816

WHAT DID I MISS? OR “I DIDN'T HEAR THAT!”

The October meeting lived up to our usual standards of something new and unusual
Some of the highlights:

Artie Chavez and Steve Frieze agreed to serve as the LACSS co-representatives to the Intercity Show and Sale Committee. Artie and Steve have been involved with LACSS and the Intercity Show for many years and are highly qualified to represent us. On behalf of LACSS, I thank John Matthews for his many years of keeping us informed and protecting our interests in the biggest cactus and succulent show in North America.

The POM featured many, many miniature plants, all very appropriately staged. It was a challenge for Manny and his experienced interns to narrow down the winners. Even with such small plants and pots, the counter was quite full. Thanks to everyone who participated.

Other announcements included the upcoming purchase of a new coffee pot, our grant application to the Encino Neighborhood Council has been approved (but may not be funded), and the special tour of 4 Santa Barbara home gardens.

Barbara Hall circulated the sign-up sheet for our December Holiday Dinner. She explained the change of venue, catering, pot luck, etc. More details to follow.

Our program featured a Power Point presentation, but that's where the similarity to other programs ended Marquita and I (95% Marquita) put together a unique presentation on “How to Decode Plant Names.” We presented a few common components of names which offer a clue as to why the plant was given that name. The common components included color, origin, people, and physical characteristics.

Did you see the incredible Stapeliad in the Raffle? It caused quite a bit of interest! And the rest of the items were top notch, also. And with the conclusion of the raffle, the meeting was adjourned.



Joyce Schumann, President



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General Meeting
Thursday, November 5, 2015

Program: *Cylindropuntia chuckwallensis*: a New Cholla Species from
Southern California
Presented by Michelle Cloud-Hughes

Cactus & Succulent - Calendar Of Upcoming Events For 2015

November 7 -8 San Gabriel Valley Winter Show & Sale - Ayres Hall
301 No. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia **Info:** Tom Glavich (626) 798-2430 Or
John Matthews (661) 714-1052, Manny Rivera (626) 579-7954