



LOS ANGELES  
CACTUS  
AND  
SUCCULENT  
SOCIETY

# CACTUS CHRONICLE

September 2008

9/4/1945  
Japanese surrender  
on Wake Island.

President: Jeff Karsner  
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Next Meeting: September 4th



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The Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society is a non-profit organization. Since 1935 our purpose has been the education, conservation, & study of cacti & succulents. The "Cactus Chronicle" is the official bulletin of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society, an affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc. Any material in the "Cactus Chronicle" may be copied or reproduced by other clubs on our mailing list, or any non-profit organization, provided proper credit is given to the author and the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society.

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## August Program—Socotra

Presented by: Gary James



Gary has been growing succulents and cacti for about 20 years now. His real passion is the succulent Euphorbias, particularly those from Madagascar.

Shown is Euphorbia ambovombensis. One of the most attractive Madagascan plants. Dwarf succulents with a round or oval tuber topped with several erect branches and spirally arranged leaves. A beautiful miniature.

During Gary's professional life, he was a teacher of biology and later an administrator at Orange Coast Community College in Costa Mesa. Gary retired in 1993 to pursue his interests of observing and photographing succulents in their native habitats. Most recently he participated in the CSSA trip to Brazil and earlier organized their trip to Madagascar. Gary traveled in Socotra in 1999 for four weeks. His group managed to obtain collecting permits and were able to bring a few things home with them including Boswellia nana which he has made available. The talk Gary will present to us will be a comprehensive tour of the island and many of the unusual plants that grow there; both succulent and non succulent. He will illustrate the program with slides he took during his visit.



Next Month: Mark Muridian will give us a video program on Bolivia

## September Plants of the Month

Cacti	Succulents	Succulents (Caudiciform)
Pediocactus, Uebelmannia, Turbinicarpus	Huernia, Caralluma, Hoodia	Bombax, Calibanus

POM write-ups in this month's newsletter are for October to give you a head start in preparing your entries into next month's POM show.

**PLANTS FOR THE YEAR 2008**  
**LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY**

Month	Cacti	Succulents	Succulents (Caudiciform)
January	Mammillaria under 6" pots	Cotyledon, Tylecodon	Cycads
<b>February</b>	Gymnocalycium	Aloe & Aloe Hybrids	Sarcocaulon, <b>Pelargonium, Begonia</b>
March	Thelocactus, Corypantha, Rebutia	Gasteria & Gasteria hybrids	Bursera, Pachycormus
April	Ferocactus, Echinocactus	Sansevieria & Sanseveria hybrids	Ficus
May	Mexican oddities— Strombocactus, Pelecypora, Aztekium, Lophophora	Fouquieria, Idria	Adenia, Adenium
June	Echinopsis, Lobivia, Medioblobivia	Haworthia & Haworthia Hybrids	Pachypodium, Pachycormus
July	Ariocarpus, Astrophytum, Obregonia	Jatropha, Monadenium, Pedilanthus, Synadenium	Uncarina, Pterodiscus
August	Pereskia, Pereskioipsis	Lithops, Conophytum, Faucaria	Euphorbia caudiciform
<b>September</b>	<b>Pediocactus, Uebelmannia, Turbinicarpus</b>	<b>Huernia, Caralluma, Hoodia</b>	<b>Bombax, Calibanus</b>
October	Crests, Montrose	Crests, Montrose	None
November	Variegate	Variegate	None
December	<b>Annual Holiday Party</b>		

**Entry Classes:** A new member may show as novice. Any novice who has achieved 20 first place awards or 40 total awards must move to the Advanced Class at the beginning of the following year. Owner of commercial nurseries must show in the open class; however, all members are free to show in open class.

**Prizes:** In the Novice and Advanced entry classes, the top three scorers in cacti and the top three scorers in other succulents will be awarded prizes at the LACSS Holiday party in December. Starting in 2008, the "Open" category will not be eligible for the annual awards due to limited number of entries.

**Entry Requirements:** All entrants must be LACSS members. We would like plant entries to be on the judging table no later than 7:15pm. No more than two cacti and two other succulents per entrant per month. Advanced and open class entries must have been in member's possession at least six months. Minimum possession for novice class has been waived. All entries must be succulent plants. If there is a tie between plants the following three guidelines will determine the winner of the tie breakers: Plants in flower, the rarity of the plant, and the public appeal.

Judging Scale		Points Awarded	
Condition	70%	First	15
Size and Maturity	15%	Second	10
Staging	10%	Third	5
Nomenclature	5%	Others	2

**Cactus & Succulent Dish Gardens—Part One of Several**

Dish gardens can make a snazzy display for plants such as cactus and succulents. What's the difference you say? Well, succulent is a generic term that refers to any plant that has thick, fleshy leaves, stems or roots adapted for storing water during dry periods. Cactus refers to a specific family of succulents, native to the Americas, characterized by thick, water storing stems and often by long, sharp spines. In short, all cacti are succulents but not all succulents can be called a cactus!

Succulents have leaves, stems or roots that store water from the rainy season for use in the dry season. Plants in the family Cactaceae, from the Greek 'kaktos', for thistle, are stem succulents.

Cacti usually have spines, which are actually modified leaves. While leaves are very good at photosynthesis, and cooling plants off, they lose water and generally can't take much heat. Cacti photosynthesize through their stems and tolerate heat very well. Both types of plants need very little care, prefer low humidity, and come in many shapes, sizes and colors that can add interest to a table top, a window sill in a brightly lit room, or a sunny porch. To be continued...

Credit to Michael Pettay Horticulturist, University of Florida/IFAS Extension Educator



# Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society

Cactus and Succulent of the Month October 2008 - *Crests* and *Monstrose*



Pachyphytum crest entered in the 2001 Intercity show by Olie Robbins

The three most common types of mutation are crests, monstrose growth and variegation. All of these are mutations of the cellular structure of the leaf or stem growth tip (apical meristem) of the plant. In normal plants the growth tip is a point, and the biochemistry of the plant forces one tip to be dominant or at least locally dominant. In crests the genetic mutation removes this dominance, and instead of a single growth tip the area of active cell growth degenerates into a line. For monstrose growth, the local dominance is lost, and every growth tip tries to grow as if it were the dominant point.

Cresting and monstrose growth is not unique to succulent plants. Crests are found in many genera of non-succulent plants, including conifers and many common garden plants.

## Culture of crests and monstrose plants

Crests 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 non-crested plants of the same species will quickly show whether grafting is necessary. Mutant 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. This is one of the many reasons they are often grown as grafts.

## Propagation of crests and monstrose plants

Crests flower and produce seed, just as other plants do, but less often. Good strong growth is probably the best way to produce a flowering plant. Mutations are not generally transmitted by seed; however, seed from a mutant plant 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 mother plant, but monstrose and variegated plants are also possible.

The most common method of propagation of these plants is vegetative. Cuttings of are often grafted to speed growth and to preserve special growth forms.

Photo by T. Nomer from the 2001 Intercity Show

Tom Glavich October 2002

Another senior moment happened last month! I wrote an article for the Chronicle and then forgot to send it to Liz. So, rather than to waste my good prose, I will submit it now.

Hi to all,

I'm back from a two week vacation in beautiful, under-water Iowa. It took many years for me to appreciate the variety of birds that are found only in the Midwest. I guess I'm not that observant! Therefore, I was, also, quite surprised at the number of Iowa yards that had flowering yuccas. How long has **that** been happening...?

Anyway, back to books.

So you know what the plant of the month is. The question is – do you have any of those plants? How to find out.....? A good place to start would be our library. All of the Plant of the Month selections are described in our books. Generally, I try to bring books that pertain to the NEXT month's plants so that you will have ample time to read up on them. The new Book List is now available as a handout to help you choose a book that will assist you in your quest for information.

As a far-out topic, I am very excited to present our newest book. "*Australian Succulent Plants*" by Attila Kapitany covers native and introduced plants. The outstanding photos are accompanied with plant and habitat descriptions plus great distribution maps. You've got to see this to believe it!!! Don't forget to stop by the Library table **and check it out!**

I had a chance to go to the InterCity Show this year and picked up 3 more new books that I think all of you will enjoy. *Ferocactus* by John Pilbeam and Derek Bowdery; *Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada* by Stephen Ingram; and *Melocacti of Cuba* by Rigerszki, Delanoy, Ujreti, and Vilardebo. Be sure to stop by the Library table and **check it out.**

For those who already have books checked out, please remember to return them.

See all of you soon.

Joyce Schumann, Librarian-LACSS

**For Sale -**

CSSA journal complete 1929-1973. Mostly complete 1974-current. Make offer.

John Matthews. 661-297-5364. [jgmplants@aol.com](mailto:jgmplants@aol.com)

A publication of Cactus and Succulent Society of America, *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, has been the leading publication of its kind since 1929. It features popular and scientific articles about cacti and other succulent plants, including caudiciform and pachycaul succulents and xerophytes. Each full color, bimonthly volume features horticultural instruction, new plants, research and conservation reports, travelogues, biographical and historical material and book-reviews. Numerous photographs of plants in habitat or in cultivation and fine botanical paintings, often commissioned for the cover, enrich the text. Lively travelogues give a sense of discovery, while (friendly) instructions on cultivation, propagation and pest control encourage a safe immersion in the world of succulents.

CSJ is essential reading for all hobbyists and students of cacti and succulents, botanists, alpha-taxonomists, ecologists, conservationists, professional growers, and florists on the edge.

## Plant of the Month—August W I N N E R S

### NOVICE

CACTI: 1st Frank White *Pereskia aculeata*; 2nd Ronit Weiss *Pereskia grandiflora*

SUCCULENTS: 1st John Martinez *Argyroderma patens*

CAUDICIFORM: 1st Terry Brant *Euphorbia capsaintemariensis*; 2nd Cheryl White *Euphorbia bupleurifolia*

### ADVANCED

CACTI: 1st Barbara Hall *Pereskia godsefiana*

SUCCULENTS: 1st John Matthews *Lithops lesliei*; 2nd John Matthews *Conophytum obcordellum*;

3rd Barbara Nolan *Lithops karaswmontana*.

CAUDICIFORM: 1st Barbara Hall *Euphorbia stellata*; 2nd Barbara Nolan *Euphorbia species*;

3rd Mick Gottschalh *Euphorbia ornithopsis*.

### OPEN

DISPLAY ONLY: John Matthews *Lithops* collection.

### 2008 Club Officials and Officers

President- Jeff Karsner	818 / 623-0685	<a href="mailto:jeffkarsner@aol.com">jeffkarsner@aol.com</a>
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### LACSS MEMBERSHIP FORM 2008

If your contact info has changed during 2007, please include the updated info with your renewal. Thanks!!

Yes I would like to be a member of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society!

Membership choice: **Single** membership  \$15/yr  \$7.50 1/2 yr. **Family** membership  \$20/yr  \$10 1/2 yr

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Names of the additional members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Day \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check out to "LACSS" and *send this form along with check or money order to:*

LACSS, P.O. Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328

**Half Year Memberships Available after June 2008. Check here for Engraved Name Badge  \$8.00 extra**

**General Meeting** starts at 7:30 PM on the **first Thursday** of the month at the Sepulveda Garden Center located at 16633 Magnolia Blvd. in Encino between Hayvenhurst and Balboa.  
Set-up and social hour starts at 6:30 PM.

Bring a smile! Make new friends! **GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

Visit Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society ONLINE at [www.lacss.com](http://www.lacss.com)

**First Class Mail**

**Next Meeting: September 4**  
Sepulveda Garden Ctr. 16633 Magnolia Bl. Encino

**PO Box 280581, Northridge, CA 91328**  
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Newsletter of the Los Angeles Cactus & Succulent Society

**CACTUS CHRONICLE**  
July/August 2008

