

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.

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM:

GYMNOCALYCIUM

in Habitat and Culture

WITH GRAHAM CHARLES

Due to the big difference in time between England and Los Angeles, our December meeting will open at NOON with our speaker starting promptly at 12:05pm. See you then!



The cactus genus *Gymnocalycium* is well liked by enthusiasts, second only to *Mammillaria* in popularity. Graham will talk about the history of the genus, the relationships of the species and where they grow naturally. He will introduce you to the best species to grow and tell you how to cultivate them. Having visited their South American home many times, Graham will show you some of the diverse habitats where *gymnocalyciums* can be seen growing in the wild.

**PLEASE SEND ME PHOTOS OF
JANUARY'S POM,
COLUMNAR CACTUS, SEDUM
AND SEMPERVIVUM
FROM YOUR COLLECTION!**

(EMAIL NEWSLETTER@LACACTUS.COM)

-Kimberly



BIO: GRAHAM CHARLES



Graham Charles first started growing cacti and succulents at the age of 12 and joined the National Cactus and Succulent Society in 1962. Having graduated in Physics at Birmingham University, he started out on a career as a Marketing Manager specialising in publishing commercial catalogues of electronic and scientific equipment.

He qualified as a cactus judge in 1972 and soon after, began to assemble his collection of documented plants. His specific interest has always been South American cacti and he has written many articles about these plants that have been published in various journals. He is enthusiastic about practical conservation, reducing the demand for field collected plants by growing seedlings from documented seed and propagating plants with provenance already in culture.

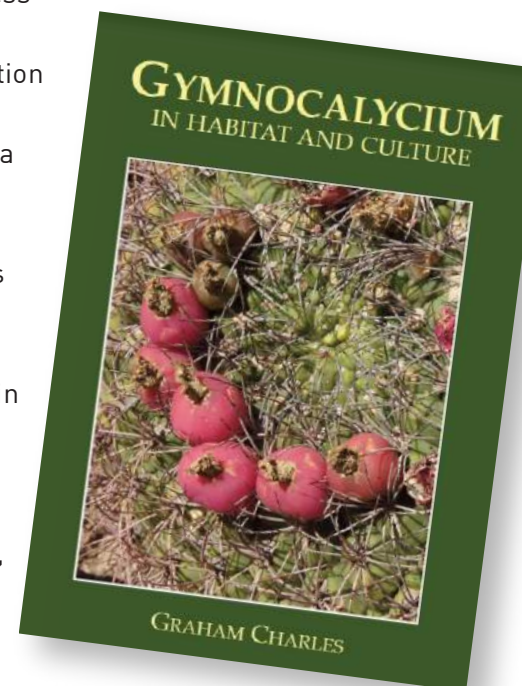
He has given about 1000 talks at BCSS branch meetings and conventions in Britain as well as at events in mainland Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the USA. He has made more than 20 visits to South America to study the plants in their natural habitat. For his contribution to the hobby, the CSSA made Graham a Fellow of their Society in 2005.

His first book 'Copiapoa' was published in 1998 and he has since co-authored 'Cacti in Brazil' with a group of enthusiasts from Germany and the Netherlands. There followed a book titled 'Cacti and Succulents'

about the hobby in general and intended for beginners and those wanting to progress their interest. Graham then served as a member of the editorial group for the New Cactus Lexicon, contributing many photographs to the picture volume. The completion of this book about *Gymnocalycium* was the result of three years research including visits to Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia. The next book project will be about *Matucana* due for publication in 2021.

Graham has organised an annual residential meeting since 2005 for cactophiles looking to expand their interest and knowledge. Known as the Cactus Explorers Weekend, it features talks about more unusual plants and places. Its journal, *The Cactus Explorer*, was launched in August 2011. It was the first free on-line journal in English for cactus and succulent enthusiasts and has achieved a large world-wide readership.

Graham met his wife Elisabeth at a cactus meeting and, for more than 35 years, they and their plant collections have shared a large glasshouse at their home in Rutland, near the historic town of Stamford, England.



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CACTUS CHRONICLE EDITORKimberly Gomez-Tong
newsletter@lacactus.com**MEETING REFRESHMENTS**

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Kyle Williams

ZOOM MANAGEMENT TEAM

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A Word From Our President



If you read the President's message in the November Supplement, you probably thought I had achieved senility and am now repeating myself. Fortunately, I haven't quite reached that point and will blame it on computer error. The computer selected the October message instead of the November one and the rest is history. I felt the November one was worth reading so it is printed in this issue along with this regular President's message.

We made it through this year of interesting times, challenges, and some confusion. For the most part, I think we made some changes that were for the good of the Club. ZOOM is amazing (good) but we miss seeing each other on a regular basis (not-good). This may not change in the near future so we must continue adhering to the safety protocols and maintaining a positive attitude. (Laugh in the face of danger – ha ha ha!!) Outreach to each other is important to keep us all in touch.

LACSS has survived amazingly well during this challenge. We have gained new members almost every month, added a few expenses that have become necessary (e.g. storage unit and Zoom) and covered these costs by hosting a Fall Sale. Although not as heavily attended as our famous Festivals, we had a steady flow of visitors and maintained the six foot distancing requirement. The vendors and visitors were very happy for this event.

We will close out this year with a very exciting December program. We are honored to feature Graham Charles as our speaker. He authored the famous book "Gymnocalycium" which we have in our Library. Graham will be speaking from England and to respect the time difference, our meeting will begin (at NOON) with his presentation. Emily will be sending out the log in information soon. You don't want to miss this!!

After his presentation, there will be a few exciting announcements followed by the Plant of the Month photos and commentary. The 2021 Plant of the Month list has been finalized and will be published in the January, 2021 Chronicle.

To add to some of the confusion, our Second Saturday program is scheduled for the third Saturday (December 19, 2020 at 10 am) and will feature Tom Glavich. His topic is Haworthias – everyone's favorite succulent! More information to follow.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our December program. Stay safe, healthy and positive.

Best,
Joyce Schumann

PLANT^{of the} MONTH SUBMISSIONS

THESE PHOTOS HAVE BEEN SELECTED FOR THE CHRONICLE, PLEASE ATTEND LACSS ZOOM MEETING ON DECEMBER 12TH TO VIEW ALL SUBMISSIONS!



ACANTHOCEREUS TETRAGONIS
"FAIRY CASTLE" MONSTROSE
KENT & BARBARA BUTTERWORTH



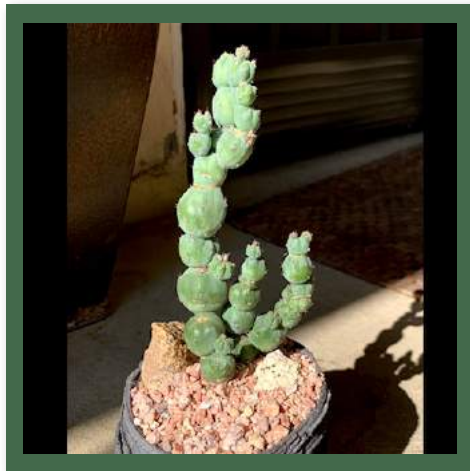
ECHINOPSIS DENUDATUM "GAPPI"
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING



COIPTOPOA TENUISSIMA CREST
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING



MYRTILLOCACTUS GEOMETRIZANS CRISTATA
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



M. GEOMETRIZANS "STACKER"
EMILY AKERS + JOHN GIESING



EUPHORBIA LACTEA CRISTATA
AL MINDEL



CEREUS PERUVIANUS MONSTROSE
FREDDIE + JONICE ANDERSON



AEONIUM SUNBURST CRISTATA
AL MINDEL



EUPHORBIA OBESA CREST
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN

PLANT^{of the} MONTH SUBMISSIONS

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M. GROMETRIZANS "ELITE" CREST
RON BEHAR



UNKNOWN
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



GRAPTOPELUM CREST
GRETCHEN DAVIS



MYRTILLOCACTUS GEOMETRIZANS CRISTATA
RON BEHAR



PEDILANTHUS MACROCARPUS MONSTROSE
ROXIE + JIM ESTERLE



EULYCHNIA CASTANEA SPIRALIS CRISTATA
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN



MEDUSA'S HEAD EUPHORBIA CREST
SUSAN PAVEL



MAMMILLARIA PEREZDELAROSAE CRISTATA
GRETCHEN DAVIS



MAMMILLARIA BOCASANA CV. FRED
COLLIN O'CALLAGHAN

DECEMBER PLANT^{of the} MONTH

CREST AND MONSTROSE BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits:

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

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.



Euphorbia lactea crest



Mammillaria geminispina 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.



Cereus peruvianus crest



Austrocylindropuntia subulata crest

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.

(continues next page)

DECEMBER PLANT^{of the} MONTH

CREST AND MONSTROSE BY KYLE WILLIAMS

Photo Credits:

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

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.



Lithops monstrose



Crested Daisy flower



Dasyliroon crest

PROPOGATION CRESTS 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.

POOR GROWTH AND THAT "WINTER PROBLEM"

BY DAN MAHR - PUBLISHED IN THE HENRY SHAW CACTUS DIGEST,
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI USA

(ARTICLE TAKEN FROM CSSA ARCHIVE, ISSUE 23)

I've found that 99% of the time that a plant is not growing or showing poor growth, the problem lies below ground. Check your roots and soil. If the roots are weak and/or the soil structure is bad, it's time to repot. In these cases I tried to readjust my soil mixture toward the better-draining end of the spectrum.

Another common problem is root health vs. soil mass. If the roots are healthy and actively growing, the plant will usually do well in a larger soil volume, again, as long as soil is well draining and the plant is not overwatered. Under these circumstances, growth can be very rapid. But if the root mass is small or the roots are not healthy and actively growing, the container size should be small. Remember, a healthy root system, on an actively growing plant, is the best way of getting all that moisture pumped out of the soil. If there is a lot of soil and not many healthy roots, the plant is in trouble.

We are now getting nighttime temperatures down into the mid 40's here in southern Wisconsin and most of my Burseras are still outside and in full leaf, but I've slowed down the watering. This weekend is the time for me to completely clean out the greenhouse, repot, prune, throw out the dead and (terminally) sick. And then start moving the outdoor plants into their winter quarters. Realizing that the greenhouse was over-full last winter, and I've acquired an additional 75 plants this year. Just how much do glass and aluminum stretch?



PLANT^{of the} MONTH 2020

DECEMBER
Crest & Monstrose
Crest & Monstrose

PLANT^{of the} MONTH 2021

JANUARY
Columnar cactus
Sedum & Sempervivum

FEBRUARY
Mammillaria straight spines
Pelargonium

MARCH
Copiapoa
Bulb

APRIL
Echinocereus
Conophytum

MAY
Cacti staged as miniature
Succulent staged as miniature
(Diameter of pot
NO LARGER THAN 2")

JUNE
Favorites

JULY
Echinofossulocactus
(aka Stenocactus)
Adenium

AUGUST
Echinopsis
Euphorbia with caudex

SEPTEMBER
Ariocarpus
Cyphostemma & Cissus

OCTOBER
Grafted
Grafted

NOVEMBER
Variegated
Variegated

DECEMBER
Holiday Awards Party

SECOND SATURDAYS

GROWING HAWORTHIAS FOR FAME AND FORTUNE

WITH TOM GLAVICH

THIS TALK LOOKS AT HAWORTHIAS STARTING WITH THEIR NEAR RELATIVES AND MOVING ON TO LOOK AT SOME INTERESTING SPECIES. SOME SPECIES ARE VERY VARIABLE AND A FEW OF THESE SPECIES ARE EXPLORED IN MORE DEPTH. THE TALK INCLUDES A SECTION ON MODERN HYBRIDS AND CONCLUDES WITH A SECTION ON CULTIVATION AND PROPAGATION.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19
HOST WILL OPEN MEETING ROOM
AT 10:00AM

A BLAST WILL BE SENT OUT AGAIN!

TOM GLAVICH IS A LONG TIME GROWER OF SUCCULENT PLANTS. HE IS A MEMBER OF MOST OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETIES AND IS A FREQUENT SPEAKER AT MANY CLUBS. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE CSSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR MANY YEARS AND WAS CHAIR OF THE RESEARCH FUND. HE IS ONE OF THE CO-CHAIRS OF THE INTER-CITYCACTUS AND SUCCULENT SHOW HELD EVERY AUGUST AT THE LA COUNTY ARBORETUM. HE HAS A LARGE COLLECTION OF HAWORTHIAS, SOME OF WHICH WILL BE SHOWN DURING THIS TALK.

THE QUEST FOR THE CREST

BY STEPHEN COOLEY - BAKERSFIELD C&SS - THE CACTUS PATCH

(ARTICLE TAKEN FROM C SSA ARCHIVE, ISSUE 23)

In March 2001, Maynard Moe and I went out on our annual trip to the deserts of California. We made a change of plans and, since we were in the neighborhood, went to Tucson, instead. After visits to the Sonoran Desert Museum, Living Stones Nursery, and Miles to Go Nursery we headed back towards California via Organ Pipe National Park. We took in our fill of Arizona and departed. Arriving at our last camp in the Chuckwalla Mountains we hiked out over the washes and hills. At one point, while carefully navigating our way through a thicket of Teddy Bear Cholla (*Opuntia bigelovii*) we noticed a peculiar looking barrel cactus up the hill. Turning uphill, we discovered a crested *Ferocactus cylindraceus*! After we recovered from the giddy enthusiasm that often overwhelms cactophiles when they see something new, Maynard dutifully took pictures of the specimen and we headed back to camp. The next morning as we prepared to leave, we found that the car had a flat tire. We fixed it just in time to discover the other flat tire. From here on, the story gets too gruesome to tell, so I'll just say that we happened to arrive home very late that night and that none of the pictures came out.



Ferocactus cylindraceus is the most common of the two *Ferocactus* in California (the other is *F. viridescens* from San Diego County). Those who went on one of the New York Mountains field trips saw splendid specimens of the variety *lecontei*. In the desert, *Ferocactus cylindraceus* is a single stemmed barrel, which helps identify it from *Echinocactus polycephalus*, that usually is in clumps and has wool at the crown. Of the thousands of these that I have seen, I have never seen one that was crested.

This year as Maynard and I trekked out into the desert once again, we made it a point to relocate the crested cactus. We arrived at 'Two Flats Camp', checked the tires, and headed off in the direction we remembered from the previous year. There it was, protected by an army of cholla, the 9-headed barrel actus. This time the pictures made it home, as did we, with our only delay being a date shake at Hadley's.

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