



PRICKLY NEWS

SOUTH COAST CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER | NOV 2023



Pot up your plants! As the cooler weather and shorter days approach, it is time to repot the winter growers and get rid of unwanted summer growth. As you do, please consider planting some cuttings in a 3-inch pot (or larger) for the Society sale table at the April Show and Sale. Many of you are bringing plants for giveaway at the meetings and if you could pot and nurse them until April for donation, it would be greatly appreciated. I have a supply of old plastic pots for this purpose that I will bring to the meeting. The effort is worthwhile; in 2023 our sales table covered all of the expenses for the Sale at the P.V. Art Center. I usually start potting for the show in November so the plants are well established and ones we are proud to sell.

Elections: Election of Board members will take place at the upcoming November meeting. The slate was presented at the last meeting and there is one change: At the last Board meeting, Braulio Mena was approved to be the CGCI (California Garden Club) representative and will serve on the Board in that capacity. Martha Bjerke put up her name as the third Member-at-large candidate replacing Braulio. The final slate is published in the Newsletter. If anyone else would like to serve, we will call for nominations from the floor before the vote.

Newsletter Editor: We need a Newsletter editor. This is a chance for someone knowledgeable with organizing photos and print or willing to learn to publish the Newsletter. Mike Short keeps up the information on the Website and is responsible for getting it out to members. Mike will be available to help you get started and will do initial proof reading. If you have that ability, please volunteer!

Interesting website: After attending a CSSA webinar with Graham Charles, from the British Cactus and Succulent Society, I looked up a recommended website and found <https://www.cactusexplorers.org.uk>. This contains links to British Journal publications for free as well as articles and calendar listings for succulent enthusiasts. I found it very useful.

Mini Show: This month's Mini Show plants for both Cactus and Succulent category are crested and Monstrose plants. Bring your plants clean and free of pests.

Speaker: Our speaker for November is Steven Frieze, who will present Oaxaca, Mexico. Steven has travelled extensively and I am sure discovering the plants in this most southern state of Mexico will be interesting.

Please let me know if you are bringing a guest to the meeting at minniecap@icloud.com before Thursday, November 9th if possible.

I hope to see you there!
Maria Capaldo

GUEST SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

Steven Frieze

November 12, 2023 1:30 pm



“Oaxaca, Mexico”



To learn more visit southcoastcss.org



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<https://www.instagram.com/sccss/>

November 2023
Board Elections



President: Maria Capaldo

Vic-President: Terri Straub

Treasurer: Bernard Johnson

Secretary: Debra Bushweit Galliani

Board Members at Large:

Vincent Darmali

Martha Bjerke

Nancy Sams

IN THIS ISSUE

PRESENTER OF THE MONTH	2
OCTOBER MINI SHOW WINNERS	3
MONTHLY CACTUS	5
MONTHLY SUCCULENT	6
LATIN LOOKUP	7
MINISHOW STANDINGS	8
MINISHOW PLANT CALENDAR	9
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	10
EVENTS	10

“Oaxaca, Mexico”

BY STEVEN FRIEZE



Steven Frieze has been involved with collection, sales and propagation of cacti and succulents for over thirty years. He is a lifetime member of the Los Angeles Cacti and Succulent Society where he served as the President of this club for a number of years and as its newsletter editor for several more. Steven was one of the founding owners of Desert Creations, an exotic cactus and succulent nursery. Steven has made several plant related expeditions to exotic locals such as Chile, East Africa, South Africa, Oaxaca Mexico, Cost Rica, and Brazil. He and his wife have started Distinctive Flora, a plant business that specializes in exotic plants such as tillandsias, bromeliads, cacti and succulents.

Prior to his retirement in 2006, Steven was an Administrator for the California State University system serving in a variety of capacities in the area of institutional research. Subsequent to his retirement he has joined the Psychology Department at California State University, Dominguez Hills as an adjunct faculty member where he still teaches. He also functions as the Director of the Positive Psychology Lab at the same institution where students get the opportunity to design and execute psychological research studies.



OCTOBER

SCCSS Mini-Show OCTOBER Winners

Open Succulent



1st: Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Graptopetalum amethystinum



2nd: Maria Capaldo
× *Graptopetaria*



2nd: Phyllis DeCrescenzo
Graptopetalum paraguayense



3rd: Maria Capaldo
× *Graptopetaria* 'Debbie'

Intermediate Succulent



1st: Terri Straub
× *Graptopetaria* 'Olivia'



2nd: Terri Straub
× *Pachyveria*
'Spring Bouquet'



3rd: Terri Straub
× *Graptopetaria* 'Bashful'

Novice Succulent



1st: Vincent Darmali
Graptopetalum amethystinum



2nd: Martha Bjerke
Graptopetalum paraguayense



3rd: Martha Bjerke
× *Graptopetaria*
'Blue Pearl'



SCCSS Mini-Show OCTOBER Winners

Open Cactus



1st: Maria Capaldo
Copiapoa cinerea



2nd: Maria Capaldo
Copiapoa cinerea
subsp. *krainziana*



3rd: Maria Capaldo
Copiapoa sp (esmeraldana?)

Intermediate Cactus



1st: Terri Straub
Copiapoa sp. (esmeraldana?)



2nd: Terri Straub
Copiapoa sp. (esmeraldana?)



3rd: Terri Straub
Copiapoa humilis

Novice Cactus



1st: Vincent Darmali
Copiapoa hypogaea



2nd: Braulio Mena
Copiapoa humilis



3rd: Shane Mullen
Copiapoa hypogaea subsp. *hypogaea*



NOVEMBER

Monthly Cactus: Crested and Montrose

Crested and monstrose is the occurrence of growth mutations throughout the plant kingdom, but we happen to be most interested in the topic as it applies to succulents, especially cacti and euphorbias, aeoniums, echeverias, and other succulents too. Crested and monstrose plants are those that exhibit abnormal, distorted or disfigured growth. This happens when a mutation occurs during cell division. But rather than perfectly flat layers of tissue resulting, the damage to the central growing point creates multiple growing points that crowd and push against each other. Peculiar shapes form from this energy — such as those resembling brains, fans, coral, and snakes.



Mammillaria mystax

Monthly Cactus: Crested and Montrose



Crest



Echinopsis lageniformis
f. *monstruosus variegatus*



Lophocereus schottii
f. *monstruosus*



Myrtillocactus geometrizans
'Elite Crest'



Echinopsis lageniformis
forma *mostruosus*



Echinopsis lageniformis
forma *mostruosus*



Opuntia microdasys var. *pallida* f. *cristata*



By Tom Glavich



Monthly Succulent: Crested and Montrose

In monstrose growth, the mutation typically makes random multiple growing points that are not stacked next to each other — there's one here, another over there, pushing the body of the plant all out of shape in disorderly fashion. The crested and monstrose forms generally occur because of injuries to the plant at a young age. In reaction to this injury, the cells at the tip of the branch where growth occurs begin to multiply at a much faster rate and the normal growing tip creates crested plants.

In monstrose specimens, each of those growth tips behaves as if it were the primary point. The result is messy, lumpy, monster-like growth. Cristates look more neat and symmetrical in comparison.

Plants can exhibit mutated and regular growth at the same time. Crests and monstrose growth are unpredictable; no two are precisely alike. That goes for plants of the same species. *(continued next page)*



Euphorbia lactea f. cristata

Monthly Succulent: Crested and Montrose



Crested Echeveria



Echeveria 'Cubic Frost' f. cristata



Echeveria 'Cubic Frost' f. cristata



Echeveria cuspidata var. zaragozae f. cristata



Gasteria nigricans f. monstrosa



Euphorbia alluaudii f. cristata



By Tom Glavich

Latin Lookup

Loquerisne Latine (Do you speak Latin)?
The meanings of latin plant names on the previous pages
– from <http://davesgarden.com/guides/botanary/>

Cactus

cristata [kris-TAY-tuh] Crested.

Echinopsis [ek-in-OP-sis] From the Greek echinos (sea urchin or hedgehog) and opsis (like), referring to the plant's resemblance to sea urchins.

geometrizzans [jee-oh-MET-rih-zans] Geometric; having markings in a formal pattern.

Lophocereus [lof-oh-KER-ee-us] From the Greek lophos (crest) cereus (genus name for cactus, meaning torch).

Mammillaria [mam-mil-AR-ee-uh] Nipple- or teat-like.

microdasys [my-kro-DAS-is] Small and bushy.

monstruosus [mon-STROH-sus] Strange, wonderful; monstrous; also spelled monstruosus.

Myrtillocactus [mir-til-oh-KAK-tus] From the Greek myrtillus (small myrtle) and cactus; referring to the myrtle-like fruits.

mystax [MY-staks] From the Latin, meaning moustache.

Opuntia [op-UN-shee-a, op-UN-tee-a] Named after Opus (Greece), an area where other cactus-like plants were grown.

pallida [PAL-lid-duh] Pale, pallid.

schottii [SHOT-ee-eye] Named for Arthur Carl Victor Schott, 19th century German-born naturalist on the Mexican boundary survey.

Succulent

cristata [kris-TAY-tuh] Crested.

cuspidata [kus-pi-DAY-tuh] Sharp-pointed.

Echeveria [ech-eh-VER-ee-a, ech-eh-ver-EE-a] Named for Anastasio Echeverria y Godoy, 18th century Spanish botanist.

Euphorbia [yoo-FOR-bee-uh] Named for Euphorbus, Greek physician to Juba II, King of Mauretania.

Gasteria [gas-TAIR-ee-uh] From gaster, (belly, stomach); referring to swollen base on flower.

lactea [lak-TAY-uh] Milky.

monstrosa [mon-STROH-sa] Strange, wonderful; monstrous; also spelled monstruosa.

nigricans [ny-grih-kans] Black.

OCTOBER

SCSS Mini-Show Standings

[Click here for sortable standings](#)

Novice Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Intermediate Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total	Open Class	Cactus	Succulents	Total
Aburto, Carlos	0	11	11	Caplan, Anita	2	21	23	Capaldo, Maria	39	57	96
Bjarkman, M.A.	7	6	13	Ikemura, Bonnie	3	0	3	DeCrescenzo, Phyllis	51	55	106
Bjerke, Martha	11	42	53	Johnson, Bernard	37	26	63	Duke, Gary	21	12	33
Cottrell, Diane	0	3	3	Johnson, Jackie	22	46	68	Fasteau, Sally	9	5	14
Darmali, Vincent	18	16	34	Lott, Lemono	1	19	20	Gardner, Jim	20	35	55
Diaz, Gloria	2	4	6	Short, Mike	9	30	39	Hanna, Jim	0	15	15
Dorsey, Martin	0	12	12	Straub, Terri	58	40	98	Woodley, Laurel	6	8	14
Galliani, Debra	10	1	11								
Marek, Robert	2	0	2								
Mena, Braulio	7	18	25								
Mullen, Shane	13	9	22								
Nisewaner, John	0	23	23								
Smiley, Barbara	0	2	2								
Tillotson, Joseph	0	1	1								
Unrine, Judy	0	1	1								

Mini-Show Rules

Exhibitors must be club members and must be present at the meeting in order to receive points. One name representing the same household must be used unless plants are grown separately. Mini-show coordinator will be consulted if there is any question of entry identity.

Any container may be used, including plastic, as long as it is clean. All plants must be groomed and free of pests and disease.

There are two plant categories, "Cactus" and "Succulents". Up to three plants per individual may be entered in each category.

There are three entry classes: "Novice", "Intermediate" and "Open". Only members new to the hobby would be expected to be in the novice class. After the November meeting, members' point totals will be reviewed by the Board of the Society. Novice members awarded

more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards will be asked to move to the Intermediate class in both categories. Intermediate Members awarded more than 64 points or winning at least 6 first place awards, will be asked to begin showing in the Open class.

All plants must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of six months for novice and intermediate and one year for open class. An individual plant may be entered only once a year.

Scoring:

First Place: 6 points
Second place: 4 points
Third place: 2 points

Placement: all entries that are not disqualified receive one point





Mini-Show Plant Calendar



Mini-Show Plants for 2023-2024

November 2023	Crested and Monstrose	Crested and Monstrose
December 2023	HOLIDAY POTLUCK	HOLIDAY POTLUCK
January 2024	Mammillaria - Hooked Spines	Caudiciform (Beaucarnia, Calibanus, Dioscorea, Fockea, etc.)
February 2024	Coryphantha, Escobaria, Acharagma, Cochemia, Sclerocactus	Gasteria and hybrids
March 2024	Echinocereus	Dudleya, Cotyledon
April 2024	SHOW & SALE	SHOW & SALE
May 2024	Eriogyne, Neoporteria, Neochilenia, Islaya	Crassula
June 2024	Gymnocalycium	Pachypodium
July 2024	Ferocactus, Leuchtenbergia	Kalanchoe
August 2024	Lobivia, Echinopsis	Stapeliads (Stapelia, Huernia, Orbea, etc.)
September 2024	Discocactus, Uebelmania	Sansevieria, Dracaena
October	Miniature (3in or less)	Miniature (3in or less)

Upcoming Events

[Click here for Full List](#)



South Coast C&SS monthly meeting
November 12, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
PDT

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA,

PRESENTER FOR NOVEMBER:
Steven Frieze

“Oaxaca, Mexico”



South Coast C&SS Holiday Gathering
December 10, 2023 @ 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
PDT

South Coast Botanic Garden,
Frances Young Hall
26300 Crenshaw Blvd.,
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA,

2023 HOLIDAY Gathering
(members and their guests only)

Members and guests only: Our yearly
Holiday gathering will be held on Sunday,
December 10th.

The festivities will start at 1PM in the
Auditorium. Awards will be given for the
top winners of the Mini Show for the year.
Please also bring your 2023 “Annual Plant”,
which will be judged. Everyone can pick
up an “Annual Plant” for the 2024 contest.
It will be fun to see how they did – dead or
alive. Please also bring your form for how
you grew your plant.

[For more information and to learn more](#)

2023 Board of Directors

OFFICERS:

President

Maria Capaldo

Vice President

Terri Straub

Treasurer

Bernard Johnson

Secretary

Debra Bushweit Galliani

AT LARGE BOARD
MEMBERS:

Vincent Darmali

Braulio Mena

Shane Mullen



STANDING COMMITTEES:

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Terri Straub

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Jim Hanna

Mini-Show Coordinator

Terri Straub



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Mike Short

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Sally Fasteau

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(TASKED):

Speaker Coordinator

M.A. Bjarkman

LIAISONS:

CGCI

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CSSA

M.A. Bjarkman

