

Succulent Scoop Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society <u>CSSA Affiliate</u> November 2024 Volume 9 Number 11 Mission Statement: The Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society encourages the study, cultivation, conservation, and

appreciation of cacti and other succulent plants.

Email: ConejoCSS@hotmail.com Facebook: Conejo Cactus & Succulent Society Web: ConejoCSS.com



Next MeetingWednesday November 6thDoors Open at 6:30 Meeting starts at 7:00California Lutheran University - Lundring Events Center130 Overton CourtThousand Oaks, CA. 91360



November Speaker

Eli Cohen





About a year ago at this time, I was lucky enough to take a botanical trip into the heart of one of California's more protected deserts. From wacky weather to geometric geology, every piece of the landscape and ecosystem was a wonder to behold. The focus of the conversation today will go beyond the scope of this small trip, but it serves as a great introduction to some of the many hidden gems California has in terms of desert-dwelling plants. Some families and forms will be familiar, such as ferns and crassula, which have taken on remarkable adaptations to survive extreme conditions. I also hope to introduce species that many have not heard of or seen, with a brief introduction to the plants that shed light on the geological history of California. Hopefully, many are encouraged to see new worlds open up before them, even in their own backyards!

President's Message November 2024

Hello CCSS Members!

Our fall sale went well. It was a beautiful warm sunny day with no wind. We had the best turnout of volunteers we've ever had, and everyone was extremely helpful. THANK YOU. The club, and I appreciate your participation. It made everyone's job so much easier.

I'm keeping this message short and sweet this month because my husband and I are leaving for a 9-day trip to Costa Rica and, as all of you who've traveled know, there's a million last minute details to take care of.

I'm planning on taking lots of pictures so I can put together a slide presentation and talk about the country's flora and fauna when I return. One of the excursions is a river trip in a covered canoe called a 'Panga', where we are sure to see great examples of Costa Rica's vegetation.

Hope to see you all at the November meeting.

It's hard to believe we're already making plans for our annual Holiday Party. Where did the year go?

Linda Holub President CCSS

May you celebrate Thanksgiving Day with love in your heart, prosperous vision in your mind and gratitude in your being.





Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society HOLIDAY PARTY

Pecember 4th 6:00-9:00 pm

Pot Luck - whosbringingwhat.com/ccss

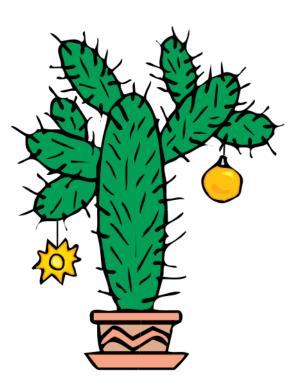
Plant of The Month - Favorites

<u>Optional</u> Gift Exchange - Plant related gift in the \$15-20 range

Auction - Exciting selection donated by members and supporters of CCSS

Come and enjoy good food, friends and cactus and succulent fun! Doors will be open at 5:30. Potluck dinner will begin 6:00. Come early to help set up the feast





CCSS Related News Please send me photos, articles or other information you would like to share with the club. <u>HopkinsonAC04@gmail.com</u>

Happy 8th Anniversary to Conejo Cactus and Succulent Society October 2nd Members were congratulated with a delicious cake!





Sunday October 13th was a beautiful day for the CCSS Fall Plant Sale



Refreshments 2024

November 2024 - members whose last names begin with "W, X, Y,Z " please bring refreshments to share with the club.

In every monthly newsletter there will be a posting on who's turn it is to bring refreshments. We go alphabetically by last name.



Thank you for your participation by bringing refreshments.

Even if it is not your month to contribute, feel free to bring snacks anytime.

December meeting Holiday Party Potluck





WHO TO CONTACT?

Below is listed Conjeo Cactus and Succulent Society's current Officers and Board members.

All members are welcome to politely express any questions, concerns, ideas or improvements to any of the CCSS officers. This is your club and we are your elected officers.

Come up to us at a meeting, call or email.

Club email is ConejoCSS@hotmail.com.

President Linda Holub - cactuscougar@icloud.com 805-501-0761

Vice-President Donna Pachorek - dpachorek@gmail.com 805-279-4801

If interested in being an Officer on the board, please add you name to our nomination list for future elections.

President Linda Holub

CCSS 2024 Officers **Director II, Education**

Treasurer Chris Gailey

Secretary

Ryan Riplev **Director I, Membership**

Glen Smith

Scoop Editor Ann Hopkinson

Terry Wilson

Julie Cox & Liz Gollner

Website Tim Alvord

Librarian Glen Smith

Propagaton **Terry Wilson**

Event Publicity Lisa Gailey

1 st VP, Programs Donna Pachorek

2nd VP, POM & Education **Kyle Williams**

3rd VP. Special Events Lisa Gailey

Hospitality

Assistant to Director I Pam Smith, Membership

Drawing Coordinator Gerry Caruso

0

	Plant of the Month 2024		
	Cactus	Succulent	
January	Echinocactus/Ferocactus	Gasteria	
February	Columnar Cacti	Aloe	
March	Astrophytum	Tylecodon	
April	Gymnocalycium	Mesembs	
Мау	Copiapoa	Adenia	
June	Eriosyce	Pachypodium	
July	Parodia	Senecio	
August	Mammillaria	Euphorbia	
September	Variegates	Variegates	
October	Echinopsis	Sansevieria	
November	Crested/Monstrose	Crested/Monstrose	
December	Favorites	Favorites	

Plant of the Month (POM) What is this all about?

Each meeting of the CCSS will feature a friendly plant show/competition (POM). The goal of the POM is to introduce the membership to the various cactus and succulent genera and to open up a discussion of the culture, care and display of these plants. We encourage members to share their plants with the other members of CCSS.

POM Submissions

Members may submit up to (3) three plants in each of the two categories (Cactus and Succulent). Plants entered in the intermediate and Advanced Divisions must have been owned and maintained by the member for a minimum of one year. Plants entered in the Novice Division may be newly acquired plants.

POM Divisions

Novice: 0-25 Total points **Intermediate**: 26-100 Total Points **Advanced**: >100 Total points When a member has accumulated the total number points in their Division, they will be moved up to the next higher Division in the following calendar year.

POM Judging Criteria

Plants are evaluated according to the following criteria.

Condition (health, form, damage) - 50%

Maturity and Size - 25%

Staging (artistic composition - container, stonework, etc) - 20%

Nomenclature (proper plant identification) - 5%

Additional criteria may include rarity, difficulty in growing, and whether the plant is in flower.

POM Judging

1st Place – 6 points 2nd Place – 3 points 3rd Place – 2 points All other entries will be awarded 1 point. Entry slips will be collected by the POM Coordinator for tabulation, record keeping and publication in the CCSS Newsletter.

We encourage all members to participate in the POM. This is your opportunity to show off your prized treasures or to possibly learn how to better care for your plants.

November Cactus and Succulent of the Month - Crested & Monstrose

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.



Euphorbia lactea crest



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.

Mammillaria geminispina crest



Cereus peruvianus 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.



Austrocylindropuntia subulata crest

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.

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.



Culture of crested 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.

Dasylirion crest

Propagation of crested and montrose 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. Cresting 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.



Lithops monstrose



Crested Daisy flower

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

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



CONEJO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT OF THE MONTH (POM) October, 2024

Cactus - Echinopsis

Novice:

1st	Echinopsis bridgesii 'Crest'	Chris Biehl
2nd	Echinopsis pachanoi 'Crest'	Chris Biehl
3rd	<i>Echinopsis</i> sp.	Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

No Enties

Advanced:

1st	Echinopsis leucantha	Kathryn Boorer
2nd	Echinopsis eyriesii	Linda Holub
3rd	Lobivia wrightiana	Ann Hopkinson

Succulents -Sansevieria

Novice:

1st Sansevieria sp.

Jonathan Zhu

Intermediate:

1st	Sansevieria masoniana	Susan Krevitt
2nd	Sansevieria suffruticosa	Glen & Pam Smith

Advanced:

1st	Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii'	Ann Hopkinson
2nd	Sansevieria hahnii	Linda Holub
3rd	Sansevieria 'Rookie'	Kathryn Boorer

For the October POM display there were 7 Novice, 3 Intermediate, and 10 Advanced entries for a total of 20 plants. Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all that participated.

POM is one of the educational segments of our club meetings. The POM mini show allows the membership to become better acquainted with the different succulent plant genera and how to effectively care for and stage them. Get involved and enter your plants. This is your show. October - Novice, Intermediate, Advanced Succulent - Sansevieria



Glen and Pam Smith Intermediate 2nd Place Sansevieria suffruticosa



Kathryn Boorer Advanced 3rd Place *Sansevieria* 'Rookie'

Linda Holub Advanced 2nd Place *Sansevieria hahnii*





Susan Krevitt Intermediate 1st Place Sansevieria masoniana







Jonathan Zhu Novice 1st Place *Sansevieria* sp.



Ann Hopkinson Advanced 1st Place Sansevieria trifasciata 'Laurentii'

October - Novice, Advanced Cactus - Echinopsis (no intermediate entries)



Jonathan Zhu Novice 3rd Place *Echinopsis* sp.



Ann Hopkinson Advanced 3rd Place Lobivia wrightiana



Linda Holub Advanced 2nd Place Echinopsis eyriesii





Chris Biehl Novice 2nd Place *Echinopsis pachanoi* 'Crest'





Kathryn Boorer Advanced 1st Place *Echinopsis leucantha*



Chris Biehl Novice 1st Place *Echinopsis bridgesii* 'Crest'

Did you know the CSSA funds an intern at the Huntington?

We are thrilled to introduce our most recent intern, Emily Johnson (right), who spent her summer working in the renowned cactus garden at the Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens. Sponsored by the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, Inc., Emily brought her passion and dedication to the preservation and study of these unique plants.

<u>CLICK HERE</u> to read more about Emily, the intern position, and how you can become the next CSSA intern.



www.cactusandsucculent society.org

Do you regret not purchasing a t-shirt at the recent CSSA Show and Sale? Well, it's not too late! We have a limited number still available. Get them while you can.

<u>Order yours today.</u>

Mail Order Cactus and Succulent Vendors for Your Enjoyment

The list below provides known, established nurseries who ship seed-grown and cutting-propagated cacti and other succulents throughout the United States. We include this list as a service to CSSA members, but it is not an endorsement of any vendor nor has any vendor paid to be included. Let us know if your cactus and succulent related business would like to be included. Please <u>send us</u> a link to your website and a good contact email address.

Botanic Wonders https://www.botanicwonders.com

Cold Hardy Cactus https://coldhardycactus.com

Ethical Desert https://ethicaldesert.com

Plant Delights https://www.plantdelights.com/

> Hidden Agave https://hiddenagave.com

J & J Cactus and Succulents https://www.jjcactus-succulents.net Kyle's Plants https://kylesplants.com

Miles' To Go https://www.miles2go.com

Paradise Found Rare Plant Nursery https://www.paradisefoundnursery.com

Mountain Crest Gardens https://mountaincrestgardens.com

Echo's Cacti and Succulents echoscactisucculents.etsy.com