



Open Gates

A publication of the
Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
September 2017



NEXT MEETING, WEDNESDAY, September 6th at 7:00 PM
AT THE REDLANDS CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1307 E CITRUS AVE, IN REDLANDS, CA

Plants of the Month

**Cactus – Crested,
 Monstrose, Variegats**

**Succulent –
 Stapeliads**

Save the Date!

SEPT. 16th LACSS
 Plant Sales LACSS
 Plant Sales

SEPT. 24 - LONG
 BEACH CACTUS CLUB
 ANNUAL PLANT
 AUCTION

Oct. 7 -
 BAKERSFIELD
 CACTUS and
 SUCCULENT
 SOCIETY
 SHOW & SALE

From the President:

As summer is wrapping up, I hope you have had a fruitful and productive warm growing season. Although the warm summer season may end soon, we all know optimal growing weather still persists well into early October for many summer succulents. There are five cactus/succulent show and sale events scheduled in the next two months with which you can still attend before the 2017 show/sale season ends. The Thirty-fourth Succulent Plants Symposium will take place during the first Saturday of September at the Huntington Botanical Garden. Information and registration details are in the newsletter.

World-class experts with speak on a variety of succulent topics.

The annual cactus Cook-off and BBQ potluck dinner will be on the first weekend in October. I will be circulating sign-up sheets at this month's meeting for specific food items that individual or family can bring. We will have further details and plans to share with everyone as October 7th nears. In the meantime, put on your cooking apron and concoct up an entry for the cactus cook-off contest. Club officer election is quickly approaching so we ask all members to consider some nominees for six available positions. Please bring any suggestions you may have to any of the current board member.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the nominating committee and chairperson as well. Don't be shy. It's fun and it's all about us... cactus/succulent-lovers.

One final note to share with the club! We are saddened by the news of the passing of one of our current and active member, Karl Trisler. I know I will deeply miss Karl and his fabulous succulent plant collection. He was an avid orchid and succulent/cactus grower. Our condolence, prayer and support go out to his family, loved ones, and friends. Enjoy plant heaven, Karl! - Phuc

President	909-910-9195	Phuc Huynh	Director	909-633-6934	Jo Ann Crabtree
Vice President	760-881-0184	Trisha Davis	Director	909-567-4027	Andrew Gould
Past President	909-783-2477	Don McGrew	Director	909-882-6013	Sande Martin
Treasurer	909-987-5706	Ann Reynolds	Director	909-987-5706	John Reynolds
Secretary	909-380-6671	Connie Ramirez	Librarian	951-682-3795	Karen Fleisher
Editor	760-881-0184	Trisha Davis	Greeter	951-781-8205	Teresa Wassman
Sales Chair	909-626-4197	Isabelle Moon			
Cactus Rescue	330-986-6313	Jeff Leow			
Program chair	661-406-9816	Woody Minnich			

Leadership Team 2017

Our Speaker This Month

Keith Taylor

“Staging -A different approach”

Our speaker Keith Taylor began collecting C&S in 1991 and creating unique containers to

show off his specimens in 2010. He has developed a different style of staging by combining plant, pot, rocks and topdressing to create award winning compositions.

Keith will bring plants from his collection and talk about how to combine these elements create eye catching presentations. He will also demonstrate how to stage



BIO

Keith Taylor began collecting caudiciform succulents in 1991 which began after seeing a large *Cyphostemma juttae* in the ground at a local botanical garden. I was drawn to size and grotesque shape of the trunk. The *Cyphostemma* he saw is also the 1st succulent he purchased and still in his collection of more than 800 plants. Keith prefers his succulents to look like habitat specimens rather than cultivated plants. He grows them hard, meaning limited water, little to no feeding and hot sun to give them the look of collected plants.

Favorites include *Cyphostemma*, *Fockea*, *Fouquieria*, *Pachypodium*, *Pachycormus*, *Tylecodon*, *Othonna*, *Pelargonium*, *Mesemb*s and *Euphorbia*. Roughly 5% of his collection is tuberous rooted cacti, *Lophophora*, *Peniocereus*, *Turbinicarpus*, *Mammillaria*, *Leuchtenbergia* and *Ariocarpus*.

In 2008, Keith began creating pots to show off his plants. He believes the pot should compliment, not distract. The main focus should be the succulent plants. If the pot is too ornate, colorful, or shiny, it draws your eye toward the pot rather than the succulent. Also

proportion plays a roll. The container needs to be the right width and depth to look balanced. For example, if the succulent is placed in the center of the container surrounded by colorful stones it will look artificial and awkward. Rocks and topdressing add to complete the presentation. His pottery is sought after by collectors as well as bonsai artists due to the natural look of the containers.

Keith has always had the “eye” for what looked good. Whether it’s in his profession as a Pedorthist (design and manufacture of footwear for medical purposes), photographer, cook or potter. Has also served as President of the Cactus and Succulent Society of Sacramento for 7yrs

Keith sells his work at clubs and shows, bonsai clubs, Facebook, Instagram, and his website. He accepts custom orders and ships worldwide.



Mini Show Results

Please remember to completely fill out the Mini show entry forms. **Incomplete forms will be disqualified.** Please note, we will no longer have the Large and Small categories

Cactus

Intermediate

1st *Oreocereus celsianus* – Diana Roman

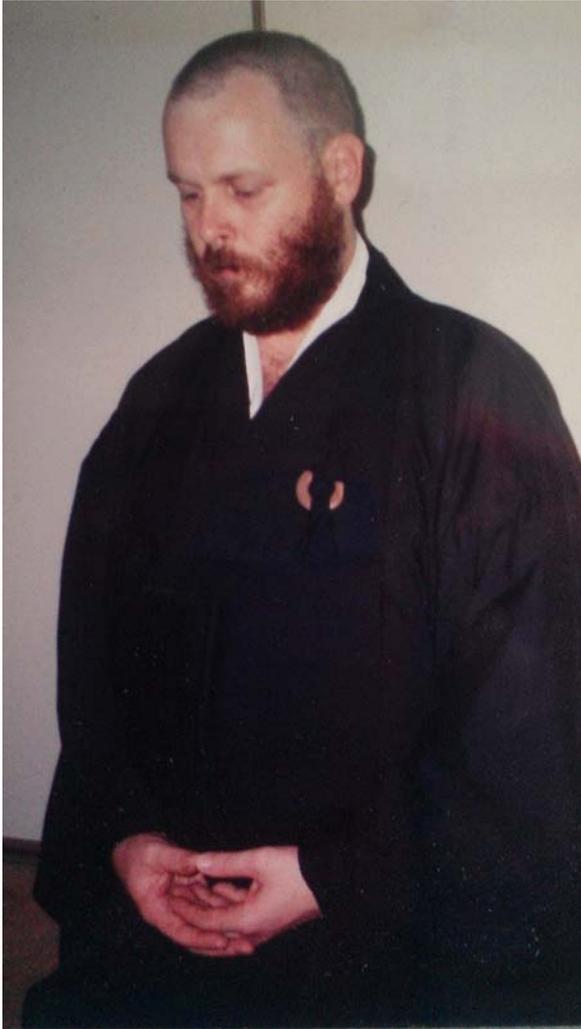
Succulent

Novice

1st *Lithops* sp. – Mike Madrigal

2nd *Lithops* ssp. *Bella karasmontana* – Mike Madrigal

Karl W. Trisler beloved husband, father, grandpa, and friend entered eternal life on 8-16-17 at the age of 61.



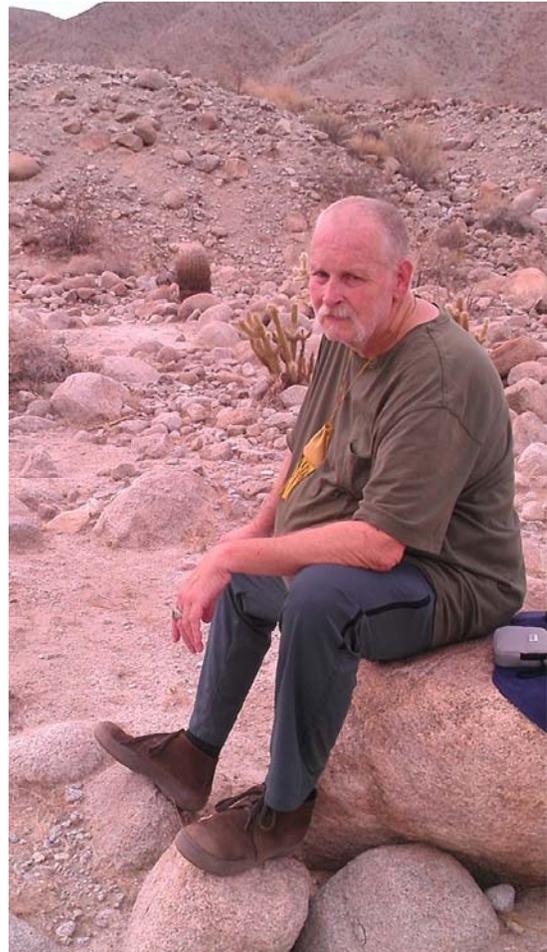
We remember with gratitude a very kind, creative, and devoted man. Karl enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren, folk dancing, reading, taking care of his plants, camping in the desert, and taking part in local plant shows. He was a long time member of the Riverside – San Bernardino Counties Orchid Society and the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society.

He also was an accomplished artist and folk dancer who performed with several folk dance groups. He worked at Hemet Valley Medical Center

as a caregiver and cook and at Valley Resource Center as a vocational assistant for developmentally challenged adults.

He was a man with strong spiritual beliefs who studied Soto Zen under Maezumi Roshi and was an ordained Buddhist priest.

We celebrate his new life with prayers of gratitude and by remembering his kindness to friends and family and his service to the community.



Annual BBQ/Cactus Cookoff

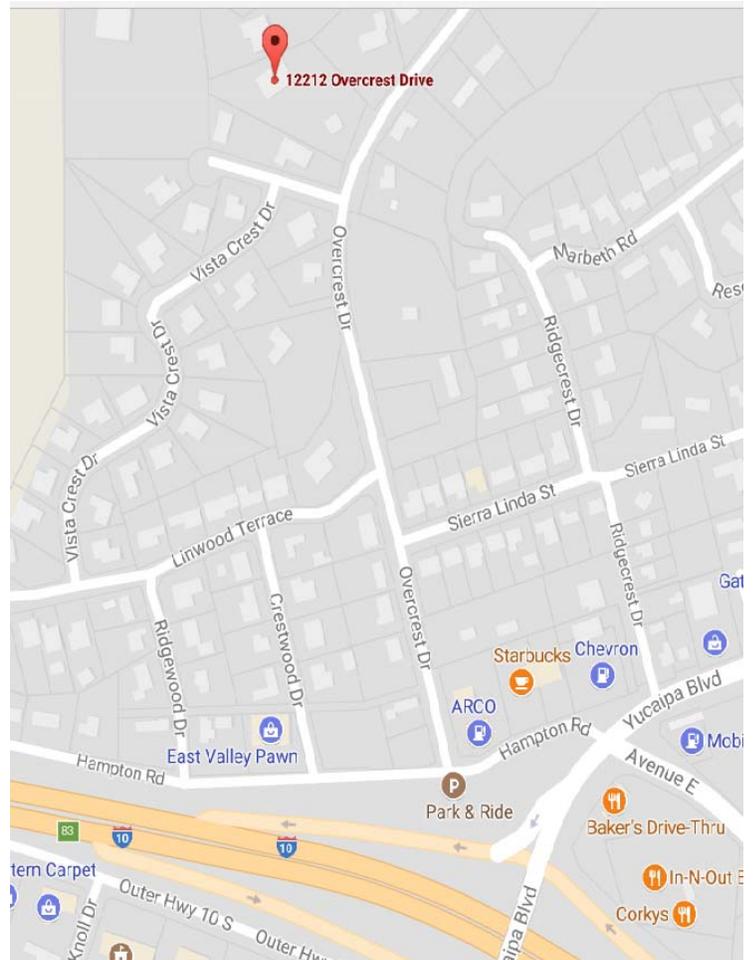
The BBQ will be held at Judy horne's home On Saturday October 7th, 2017.

The Address is 12212 Overcrest Dr, Yucaipa, CA. See map for directions.

The Cactus Cook-off tasting will start at 4:00. Every member is invited to bring a dish to taste with at least one succulent plant ingredient.

- 1.The club provides Chicken, Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, soft drinks and water.
2. The members provide side dishes and desserts.
3. We will have a tasting competition “Cactus Cook Off” for member prepared dishes using succulent plants in preparation.

Any member who wishes to participate should bring a dish for tasting. This is always the highlight of the evening. Prizes are awarded. Everyone tastes and votes. Dinner is at 5:30. The club provides, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Chicken, plus soft drinks and sodas. Members bring side dishes and desserts, on top of the cactus cook off dishes.



Too many plant cuttings?

Extra pots?

Clean them up and Donate them!

Our club is always accepting donations, just drop them off at the monthly meeting ticket table. All funds for donations go directly into the club and are used towards future events.

Ask the Experts

Have a mystery plant? would you Like to know the species name of your plants? Well the experts are here to help! Bring in your plant, or a good picture, to our next meeting and we will call on our expert members to help solve your mystery

2017 Upcoming Events

- SEPT. 16th LACSS Plant Sales LACSS Plant Sales
Sepulveda Garden Center 16633 W. Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA 91343
Free parking and admission. Info: [818-367-0864](tel:818-367-0864)
- SEPT. 24 LONG BEACH CACTUS CLUB ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION -12-5PM
RANCHO LOS ALAMITOS, 6400 BIXBY HILL ROAD, LONG BEACH, CA
90615 INFO. 562-631-5876
- Oct. 7-8 BAKERSFIELD CACTUS and SUCCULENT SOCIETY
SHOW & SALE SAT. 10-5---SUN. 11-3 ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, 2216
17th STREET BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304 FREE ADDMISSION &
PARKING, INFO661-8318488
- OCT. 28-29 PALOMAR SHOW AND SALE SAT 9-5, SUN 10-3, SAN DIEGO BOTANIC
GARDENS
230 QUAIL GARDENS ROAD, ENCINITAS, CA
INFO brita_miller@yahoo.com ph.858-776-7216
- NOV. 4-5 SAN GABRIEL CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY 9am-4pm BOTH DAYS
SHOW AND SALE---LA COUNTY ARBORETUM 310 NO. BALDWIN,
ARCADIA, CA MANNY RIVERA 626-780-6957 or JOHN MATTHEWS 661-714-
1052

Monsters

Buck Hemenway

Every so often, Mother Nature gets it wrong, or different, or just messes up. We are constantly reminded by the presenters at our meetings, that there is never one exact way for a plant to look. Variability of the genetic code when one plant's pollen is introduced to another plant is what makes them interesting and different.

Occasionally Mom gets wild with her design and gives us really different variations on the norm.

Many plant lovers and scientists consider Crested, monstrose and other genetic differences to be too far from normal and discard those from the seed batches. Cactus & Succulent people are not of that mind. The crazier the deviation from normal the better for us.

So, in this month, when we celebrate the best Dead Plant, we will also get to look at the wildest genetic weirdness that Mom can produce.

We have lumped all three basic deviations into the same basket. Plants can be entered in the Mini-Show if they exhibit crested, monstrose or variegated leaves and or stems. The plant must have at least 30% of the deviant form to qualify for the show. Judging this miasma is not a simple task, but viewing it is always an exciting experience.

In particular, crested and monstrose plants have a much harder time growing than normal ones. Usually, plants grow from the tips of their branches. New little special cells are always forming at the very tip or apical growing point or meristem and that's what causes a plant to get bigger. Just imagine then that if instead of one apical point at the tip of each stem, you had a line (the crest) maybe 15 inches long that served the same purpose. It would be much harder to grow when the roots must supply energy to that whole crest instead of a few branches.

Monstrose growth is even worse. The plant can't decide where its growing point is and actually creates new growing points all over the plant. That's why many monstrose cacti for example, never get spines and some never bloom. It's because every areole has decided to become the apical growing point and as such has no time or energy for normal functions such as spines and flowers.

Variegated growth brings its own hazards to normal growth. Much variegation is supplied

courtesy of a plant virus. Whether or not it is virus caused, it is obvious that the variegated part of the plant does not have as much green (chlorophyll) in it as the non variegated part. That makes most variegated plants much more slow growing than their healthy cousins and more sensitive to the sun. We should remember that some plants are variegated as a normal growing form.

In general, the Monsters are less hardy than their normal counterparts.

They get the same pests and tend to have a more difficult time with them.

Usually, a plant will contain abnormal and normal growth. In many cases a crested plant will send enough "normals" to cause them to outstrip the crest and soon, it will not be visible. The normal growth will always be more vigorous than the abnormal. It is recommended that one cut the normal growth off of a Monster, so that the abnormal growth persists and is what one sees.

There seems to be no word in the English language as monstrose. We would write *Pachycereus schottii monstrosus* as the proper binomial name of the Totem Pole cactus in the pseudo-latin. The term monstrose is commonly used to describe the condition defined by monstrosus. Likewise "cristata" is used to define the crested stated in a binomial and "variegata" for a variegate.



Haageocereus pseudodomelanostele cristata

Stapeliads

The plants that we refer to as “stapeliads” are from a number of genera belonging to the Asclepiadoideae subfamily in the Apocynaceae family of plants. They are mainly fleshy stemmed succulent plants without leaves, exhibiting an unworldly array of flowers.

The plants of this subfamily are bound together by their specialized pollination techniques that are completely dependent on flies as the pollinating vector.

The family is exclusively Old World in origin, and the plants are found from southern Arabia to the tip of the African continent, in desert and semi-desert environments.

The subject for this month’s mini-show was chosen because many of them as blooming in the late summer to fall seasons.

The plants of this family are generally easy to grow. They like our climate except for our coldest and hottest days. A little protection, under a light shrub or tree allows them to grow to their full potential. They should be allowed to receive a minimum of 4 to 5 hours of sun per day, preferable morning sun in the hottest areas.

There is no thrill for a plant lover like seeing the bloom of one of these fantastic plants for the first time. The flowers range in size from just over microscopic to more than 10” across. Many of them exhibit a smell reminding one of rotting meat, thus their common name of “Carrion Flower” plants.

All genera of plants in this family are eligible for the mini-show. Many of us have Stapelia, Huernia, Duvalia, Carraluma, Hoodia and Orbea in our collections.

Mealy bugs are an ever-present danger to these plants. Care should be taken to make sure they are not present in the foliage as well as in the roots. Root mealy finds these plants and destroys them while all other genera on the bench are untouched.

Buck Hemenway, September 2010



Caralluma schweinfuthii



Orbea variegata



Stapelia gigantea



Piranthus germinatus

From: Gates Cactus & Succulent Society
13312 Rancho Rd. Ste 18 PMB 333
Oak Hills CA 92344

FIRST CLASS MAIL