



**GATES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY of the INLAND EMPIRE -**

**Since 1959**



## **OPEN GATES - OCTOBER, 2025**

**NEXT MEETING: October 10, 2025 - DOORS OPEN 6:00 PM**

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### **2025 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Jeffrey Loew**

Greetings Gates!

Fall is here and it's already starting to get nice and cool... especially at night. I am sure many of you agree that this cooler weather makes working outside with your plants a lot easier.

Last month Gates had a table at the inaugural Heritage Club Fair held by the Redlands Historical Society. Past president Phuc Huynh and Chris Sedmack were on hand to answer community members' questions and show off our club. Despite us being in the area for decades, many people had no idea there was a cactus club! It was a wonderful opportunity to grow our membership and spread the love of cacti and succulents.





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Our annual Cactus Club Cook Off and BBQ was held this past weekend. A big thank you to Judy Horne for once again hosting the event at her lovely home. Members not only enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs, but also had the opportunity to explore Judy's impressive cacti and succulent collections and landscaping. We had 4 entries for the cook off: Barry Urman, 1st place with his nopales salsa; Lindsey Carmillo, 2nd place with her nopales quiche; Robert Krause, 3rd place with his prickly pear cookies; and Miriam Mills with her nopales quesadilla.



Barry Urman: Nopales salsa



Lindsey Carmillo: Nopales quiche



Robert Krause: Prickly Pear Cookies



Miriam Mills: Nopales quesadilla with tunas

Thank you to all that came, brought delicious sides, and once again made this bbq a successful event!



Our speaker for October is Jan Emming. The categories for this month's mini-show are the same for both cactus and succulent: monstrose, crested, and variegated (any genus). As it is October, we will be continuing our tradition of the "dead plant" category. So crack open the tombs, dust off the corpses of your beloved plants-that-have-passed, and showcase the most creepy of your carcasses!

All my best,

Jeffrey Loew

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## **MONTHLY SPEAKER FOR OCTOBER - Jan Emming**



Originally born in the Netherlands, Jan Emming grew up from a very young age in Boulder, Colorado, where he developed a lifelong fascination with deserts and dryland flora. He attended Colorado State University in Fort Collins where he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Botany. By the late 90s, Jan decided that the Colorado climate was too harsh and cold in winter to grow the diversity of succulents in particular that he wanted to grow, so he made plans to find a property in the desert southwest somewhere to expand upon this ambition.

After an extensive two-year-long search for real estate, he settled upon the 40-acre parcel near the

small town of Yucca, Arizona where he now lives, works, and gardens. He moved out of Colorado in 1999 and settled upon the property he calls Destination: Forever Ranch (or D:FR) full time in 2012 after renting in town for over a decade. Living on-site permanently has enabled him to expand upon the selection of plants that he can grow.

Jan has traveled fairly extensively to view native plants of many types in habitat, having visited 5 different continents thus far and countries including Mexico, China, South





Africa, Namibia, Lesotho, Peru, Chile, and Turkey. While deserts are a primary love of his, Jan is interested in the ecological adaptations of all sorts of plants and animals, and the ecosystems they live in. He applies this knowledge and the photos he takes to articles that he posts on his blog at JanEmming.com. His next trip will be to the island of Socotra, and he hopes to visit Australia, Argentina, and Madagascar in the near future as well.

## **Program Description: Building Forever: The Creation of Destination**

### **Forever Ranch and Gardens in Yucca**

In 1999 Jan Emming moved from Colorado to northwestern Arizona to pursue the creation of his dream garden and lifestyle. He found a remote 40-acre desert property at the ecological junction of the Mojave and Sonoran Deserts about 20 miles from the small town of Yucca, AZ and proceeded to craft a large garden of succulents and xeric-adapted plants in this off-grid location. The property was ideal for what he wanted to do since it had the ecologically rare and unique combination of having wild, native populations of both Joshua trees (*Yucca brevifolia*) and saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*) along with a plethora of other charismatic desert vegetation. This program describes elements of what Jan has undergone to make this endeavor successful as well as some of the challenges he has faced.





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## **OCTOBER 2025 - MINI-SHOW**

**Cactus: Crested, Monstrose, Variegated, Dead**

**Succulent: Crested, Monstrose, Variegated, Dead**

'Monsters' by 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 and succulent people are not of that mind. The crazier the deviation from normal... the better for us.

So, in this month, we will 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 slower 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.



*Pachycereus schottii monstrosus*



*Mammillaria bocasana monstrosus "Fred"*

**\*Remember: You must be up-to-date on your membership dues to be eligible to compete in the monthly mini-show. See Elias prior to submitting your plants to ensure you are current on membership.**

## 2025

## Cactus

## Succulent

<b>January</b>	White Spined Mammillaria	Aeonium, Sedum, Sempervivum
<b>February</b>	Rebutia, Sulco, Weingartia	Rosette (smaller than 10" diam)
<b>March</b>	CA, NV, AZ Natives	Pelargonium, Monsonia
<b>April</b>	Gymnocalycium	Succulent Bromeliad
<b>May</b>	Cancelled	Cancelled
<b>June</b>	Echinopsis	Stem Succulent Euphorbias
<b>July</b>	Copiapoa	Dorstenia, Ficus
<b>August</b>	North American Columnars	Lithops
<b>September</b>	Opuntiadeae	Stapelia, Huernia
<b>October</b>	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead	Crested, Monstrose, Variegates, Dead
<b>November</b>	Schlumbergera	"Trailing" Senecios





## **TENTATIVE 2025 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **(MOST CURRENT)**

*(Version# 5 - updated! - Subject to Change based on updates from the below clubs)*

#### **OCT. 25-26: PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY FALL SHOW & SALE**

**San Diego Botanic Garden admission required**

Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 10am-3pm Info. [rwkopfstein@gmail.com](mailto:rwkopfstein@gmail.com)

San Diego Botanic Garden, Conservatory, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas, CA

#### **OCT. 31 - NOV. 2: HUNTINGTON FALL PLANT SALE**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday: 10am-5pm

Info. Reservations- [www.huntington.org](http://www.huntington.org), Sale call 626-405-3571

Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1151 Oxford Rd., San Marino, CA

#### **NOV. 22: LOS ANGELES CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY HOLIDAY SALE & AUCTION**

Sun. 10am-4pm Collectors Live Auction 12pm Info. [www.lacactus.com](http://www.lacactus.com)

One Generation, 18255 Victory Blvd., Reseda, CA

### **ODDS AND ENDS**

Odds & Ends: If you would like to post yard sales or any other updates/information that you believe would be of interest (pictures, plant sales, yard sales that include plants, events, etc) to our club members via this newsletter, please email me at [GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com](mailto:GatesCactusandSucculent@gmail.com) or call/text 303-986-6313 or see me at the General Meeting.

Should you wish your cacti and succulent garden to be featured as a "Member Garden of the Month" in our newsletter, please contact Jeff (per above)





## **GATES CSS CONTACT LIST - 2025**

We welcome your comments, suggestions, or questions. You can reach out to any of the following board members by phone or send an email to [gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com](mailto:gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com)

President/ Newsletter	Jeff Loew	330-986-6313
Vice President/ Rescue Chair	Kim Urman	909-222-3326
Secretary/ Greeter	Nicole Ocegüera	909-935-6218
Treasurer	Camille Gelston	909-645-0975
Board Member	Rene Hernandez	909-875-3607
Board Member/ Librarian	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
Board Member	Tom Perez	951-205-5548
Board Member	Karen Roholt	951-897-2220
Past President	Phuc Huynh	909-910-9195
Mini Show Chair/Judge	Elias Aparicio	909-747-5874
Email	<a href="mailto:Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com">Gatescactusandsucculent@gmail.com</a>	
Web	<a href="https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com">https://gatescactusandsucculentsociety.com</a>	

Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 2025 is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization