

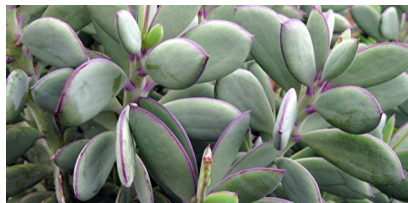


Volume 54, #6

Succulent Senecios ♦ Monday, June 24th, 7pm

Our speaker for the June meeting will be J.D. Wikert who will discuss various aspects about the often blue succulent members of this genus. His presentation will include information regarding taxonomy, distribution, cultivation, and propagation as well as providing pictures of many of the more readily available species. J.D., a member of the Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society for a number of years, has given us presentations on *Stapeliads*, *Dudleyas*, and *Sedums*. Members are encouraged to bring and share their own *Senecios* experiences with the Club.

SHORT INTRO TO SENECIOS – Senecio includes over 1000 species from all over the world. A large number of these species are common perennial or annual weeds, but some are succulent and caudiciforms from tropical and subtropical areas. A number of succulent relatives have now been moved to the genus *Kleinia*. Senecio is one of the largest genera of flowering plants there are with thousands of species found all over the world. Though most are not, some are succulent plants with excellent drought tolerance and great plants for growing in pots and the landscape in a variety of different climates. Senecio are members of the family *Asteraceae*, the same family as daisies are found. Some of the common names for Senecios are ragworts and groundsels. The flowers of Senecio are arranged in clusters at the top of the plants, they vary in color from white and yellow, to red and purple. Most succulent species tolerate no frost.



J.D. will have plants,

hypertufa pots and dish gardens for sale, so be sure to bring some extra money (don't forget the raffle too). J.D. will provide free cuttings from his own *Senecio* stock.

AND as always please remember our Cactus and Succulent Corner where you bring in any of your unknown plants, or plants you are concerned with for any reason and have your questions answered by our Club's plant experts. You receive 1 raffle ticket for each plant you bring. You learn/we all learn!

– Sandy Waters, Program Chair

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Senecio oxyriifolius subs. *tropaeolifolii*

Sacramento Cactus & Succulent Society

- Meetings are held the 4th Monday of each month at 7pm
- Location: Shepard Garden & Arts Center in Sacramento.
- 3330 McKinley Blvd
- Center's phone number – 916/808-8800
- No official meeting in December
- The public is warmly invited to attend meetings

Cactus — Crest/Monstrose

Cristate (or Crested) and *Monstrose* plants are fascinating freaks of nature. Normal plants usually grow from a single point at the tip of the stem, or an areole in the case of cacti that branch or offset.

Cristate plants grow along many points along a line that usually undulates and twists. *Monstrose* plants grow from random points and usually produce plants that are asymmetrical and covered in knobby bumps and whorls. This produces some very interesting effects. When this occurs along with variegation a spectacular plant can be produced, such as the variegated crested *Cereus ferbambuscensis*, (right). Many of these plants can be strangely beautiful and for this reason are highly desired and prized by collectors. The mechanism behind *Cristation* and *Monstrosity* is not entirely understood.



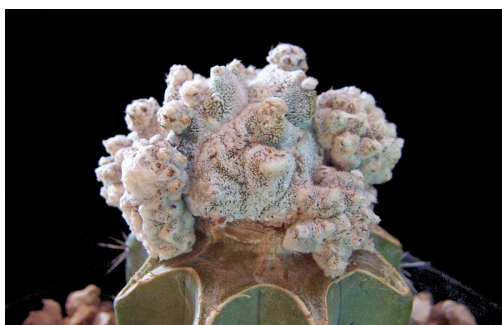
Rebutia einsteinii crest

It can be a natural mutation. It is also thought that damage to the growth point by insects or disease can produce it. But no one has successfully produced the effect artificially. Some plants actually can seem to exhibit characteristics of both phenomena. Many *Crested* and *Monstrose* plants are often grafted to speed growth and make them hardier and easier to grow. Some can't be grown any other way.



Cereus ferbambuscensis
Crested and monstrose?

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Astrophytum myriostigma
Commonly called "Lotus Land"

Succulent — Crest/Monstrose

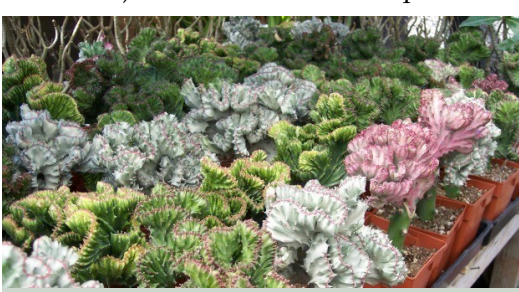
Crested or monstrose mutations are not unique to succulents, but they certainly seem to be much more common in these plants than they are in most other flowering plants and conifers. All plants have a growth center (or growth centers depending on how many



Aeononium "Schwartzkopf" crest

branches, leaves, flowers etc. they have). On most succulents that have been found to crest, this apical meristem is where the primary growth of the plant occurs and normally these primary growth centers

produce cells from a single point and as new cells are formed all the older cells are moved outward in a nearly radially symmetrical pattern (creating columns or branches that tend to be circular in cross section). But when a mutation occurs in this apical meristem, often a linear row of meristematic cells develop creating a growth pattern that originates from a line rather than a single point. This mutation is what causes cresting (aka fasciation) to occur and flattened planes of new growth to



Euphorbia lactea crests

develop. Instead of forming perfectly flat sheets of tissue more often curling develops as a result of external and

natural internal forces. This results in the formation of ornamental waves or walls of new growth that can develop into a wide variety of interesting shapes and patterns (in cacti, many form 'brain-like' structures). Crested plants often look very different than their normal counterparts, but usually there is some recognizable tissue and/or coloration, and often normal growth areas grow out of the same plant alongside the crested areas. Crested plants can develop their mutation early in life but more often a crest develops later on, so a normal looking plant will develop a crested section. Plants that crest early in life tend to stay somewhat immature and rarely flower or develop a reproductive functional anatomy. Those that crest later can usually flower and reproduce normally.

DATES & DETAILS —

➤ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Cecelia Baganz

Claire Bone

Eleanor Low

Tom & JoAnne Porter

Teri Vanairsdale

➤ APPRECIATION & THANK YOU

JoEllen Arnold, Clerks Chair for the 2013 Show & Sale realized that her team had been left out of the “Thank You” from the Show narrative in the May newsletter. Please forgive! JoEllen and her crew show up at 7 AM and work silently directly with the judges, marking places on entry slips, bestowing ribbons and making sure that all Show awards are given. We send our appreciation and thank you to her team – CACTUS, Susan Ballenger & George Krigas; OTHER SUCCULENTS, Greg Lang & Martha Bleshman; NOVICE, Monique Harris & Kathy Rose.

– Keith Taylor, 2013 Show Chair

➤ COUNTRY STORE

COUNTRY STORE! What, you say? Country Store isn’t till September’s meeting! But now is the time to start preparing. There are five different stations – Cacti, Other Succulents, Garden Produce, Houseplants and, to be ever known now as, *Sam’s Sweet Shoppe*. So, make extra cuttings of succulents and divide those cacti for those stations. Plant extra zucchinis, sweet peppers, melons and can up extra jars of peaches, jam, jellies for the Garden Produce. Divide that spider plant for Houseplants. Try new cookie and cake recipes for *Sam’s Sweet Shoppe*. Oh, and while you are cleaning closets, save items for the Silent Auction – anything cactophilic (is that a word?): books, planters, nicer pots, dishtowels, jewelry, travel mementos with C&S motifs. You get the picture. More later!

– Marilyn Vilas, Country Store Chair

➤ GRAFFITI INVASION BRINGS URBAN BLIGHT TO THE WILD

*As Vandals Deface U.S. Parks,
Some Point to Online Show-Offs*

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK, AZ. – When Steve Bolyard checked out a report of black paint on some of the park’s majestic saguaros – cactuses whose towering bodies and upraised arms are as emblematic of the American West as red-rock buttes and skittering



Graffiti discovered on a cactus last week in Saguaro National Park in Arizona. Many of the giant cactuses are 150 years old.

tumbleweeds – he did not expect to see *ganglike* calligraphy covering more of them than he could easily count.

“It was too much,” said Mr. Bolyard, a park ranger. The same sort of symbols one might see on a subway train were scattered along the spiny forest last month. Rangers eventually found at least 45 graffiti tags in the park, including 16 on the slow-growing and fragile saguaro, the paint obscuring part of the green skins where the plants store the chlorophyll to draw nourishment from the sun.

It was the latest example of a trend that has been unnerving park officials from Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado to Arches in Utah and Joshua Tree in California. Just as drought and rapid development have caused a rise in encounters between humans and wild animals on the edges of many American cities, the wilder side of urban life – vandalism, graffiti and litter – has found its way into the wilderness.

The cause of this recent spike in graffiti on public lands is unclear, but some park personnel say there is reason to believe that it coincides with the rise of social media. “In the old days,” said Lorna Lange, the spokeswoman for Joshua Tree, “people would paint something on a rock – it wouldn’t be till someone else came along that someone would report it and anybody would know about it.”

She added, “with social media people take pictures of what they’ve done or what they’ve seen. It’s much more instantaneous.” And that instant gratification could stimulate the impulse to deface.

While there has been graffiti in national parks since before they were parks, with covered wagon pioneers carving their names into cliff sides as they made their slow way west, this is something new, park officials say. Every year

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

brings more incidents of a sort that evokes the kind of lawlessness and decay more associated with big cities. "We just haven't seen this type of vandalism in the past," said Darla Sidles, the superintendent at Saguaro. Vandals have spray painted over ancient petroglyphs and painted boasts on famous rock formations. They have chopped up precious plant specimens, knocked down stalactites and dumped just about anything you can imagine beside crystal clear streams.

Gannon Frain, 28, a frequent visitor to Western parks, has been accumulating photos documenting the destruction. "You get a lot of the 'Kilroy was here,' sort of thing," he said. "A lot of people just think they are special — the rules don't apply to them and they've got an inflated sense of self-worth about getting someplace remote."

He added, "It's one thing to see a pioneer's inscription on a wall. It's another to see the signature of the 1,237,000th of 2 million visitors." In recent years, that sort of defacement has been on the increase, particularly in remote areas. And in Joshua Tree and Saguaro, it has escalated this year into wholesale vandalism of archaeological sites and remote vistas.

Few of the carvers and painters are caught. Cleanup costs run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. "When budgets are this tight," said Andy L. Fisher, the chief of interpretation and outreach at Saguaro, "it's not like we have a slush fund to go and clean up vandalism. Dealing with this means we're not doing something else."

And while social media may be one reason for the recent rise in incidents, technology can work both ways. Ms. Lange said social media may prove helpful in tracking the origins of a graffiti binge that recently scarred ancient archaeological sites. Cleanup efforts have led to the indefinite closing of Rattlesnake Canyon, a popular hiking area, in part to protect possible sites of native art from copycat graffiti artists.

Among the other park units that count graffiti as an everyday problem are Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on the Utah-Arizona border, where hikers and boaters paint and carve their marks, and Rocky Mountain National Park, where graffiti has appeared at remote destinations like the Twin Owls rock formation.

Not all the graffiti artists get away. Trenton Ganey, 32, a motel manager from the coast of North Carolina, was caught by rangers at Glen Canyon in 2010 after climbing over a fence and scratching "Trent" next to an ancient rock art panel. According to the affidavit filed by a court ranger, a local ranger queried a fishing boat captain who had taken visitors to the site around the time of the damage. The

captain pointed out a pair of men about to get into a car. The ranger approached the pair asking for Trent; Mr. Ganey answered. He admitted he had scratched his name, thinking it would be "cool" to do so, according to court records.

Mr. Ganey pleaded guilty to a felony and is paying restitution of \$10,100 in monthly installments of \$105.

At El Morro National Monument in New Mexico in 2011, two South Korean exchange students added their own contributions to Inscription Rock, a treasured panel where 19th-century soldiers and pioneers etched their names. One wrote "Super Duper Dana," the other, "Gabriel."

Rangers later checked the visitor center sign-in book and saw the name "Dana Choi" followed by the comment "Super Duper Dana Choi." Ms. Choi and another student, Seung Hoon Oh, later posted pictures of their trip on their Facebook pages. When contacted by park officials, they also admitted their acts, eventually pleading guilty to violation of a federal law protecting archaeological resources. They were fined nearly \$15,000 each.

At Coronado National Monument in Arizona, which includes a popular cave exploration, graffiti of the "John-Loves-Mary" variety had been common. The superintendent, H. Lane Baker, said park personnel set up an infrared camera in the cave "to monitor wildlife; sometimes the wildlife happens to be human." After the park publicized pictures of graffiti artists at work, two culprits turned themselves in.

When Saguaro was hit again last month by vandals who chopped up cactuses and left the carcasses by the Douglas Spring Trail, rangers had also set up a camera. They retrieved photos of two men taken by a wildlife camera.

The pictures were broadcast on news stations in Tucson and published on newspaper Web sites. The next day, Beau Campbell and Colton Salazar turned themselves in. They have been charged with violations of federal regulations protecting park resources, according to Ms. Fisher.

The earlier graffiti tagging of the giant 150-year-old cactuses represented an escalation that echoed far beyond the boundaries of this park.

"Tucson loves its Saguaro forests," said Kevin Dahl, a Tucson-based official of the nonprofit National Parks Conservation Association. "It's much more visceral than if they had thrown a rock through a window. It's like they hurt a family member."

— Felicity Barringer (June 4, 2013, *NY Times*)

DATES & DETAILS — (CON'T)

➤ TOP DRESSING TIP

To avoid getting soil on your top stones when watering, I normally use a smaller stone underneath (neutral color:



white) and the top up with the preferred top stone. Here I have dressed up my *Haworthia truncata var. Maughanii* and the right side is the final product with the Namibe Red top stone. If you want to get fancy and arty, leave as is but always remember to water on the right side. Also keep in mind that

Haworthia truncata does not like to be watered when it is too hot (over 86° F).

– Courtesy [CACTUS & SUCCULENTS](#)

➤ THEO GOODWIN'S TRAVELS



Here is an image of a beautiful hill filled with cacti that I found at a lovely county park in Pomona two days ago (May 7th).

– Courtesy of Theo Goodwin

➤ WHY I CAN'T RESIST CACTUS FLOWERS

I can't help it. I'm fascinated by cactus. Cactus used to be a non-category of plants to me. But here's the thing: I love looking at them. I've started a small collection. I'm wary of course, I know they bite. Cacti are a little like having an exotic pet. You admire it, but keep it caged. And you certainly don't expect it to snuggle with you. Oh,



(c) Debra Lee Baldwin



the flowers! And the Fibonacci spirals! Many of these are mammillarias, from the Latin for nipple. (I know. Pretty racy.) Regardless of whether they

have minimal spines or are so thickly spined they look furry, all mams have nipple-like bumps. From the tips of each (the aureole) emerge the spines. **Care:** Cacti need superb drainage. Grow in potting soil that's 70 percent pumice. These plants are water tanks, so their roots don't



(c) Debra Lee Baldwin

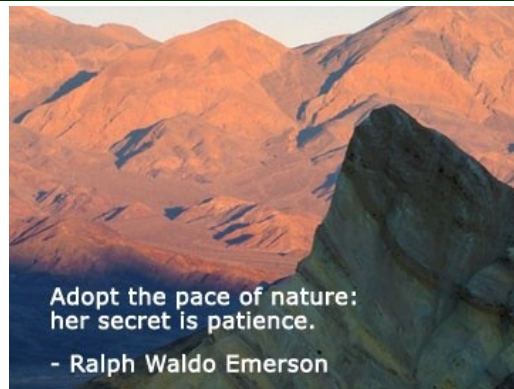


know what to do with too much water. Let them go for weeks without watering, even in summer. Then water thoroughly. Withhold water during their winter dormancy. They need cold winter temperatures in order to bloom in spring, but not freezing temps – between 40 and 60 degrees is ideal. Give them as much sun as possible during the day, and if you overwinter them indoors, 40-watt fluorescent lights

are fine. Cacti also need good air circulation; without it, mealy bugs and other pests may find and colonize them.

– Debra Lee Baldwin, [Gardening Gone Wild](#)

Thought for the Month



Adopt the pace of nature:
her secret is patience.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



From the Editor's Desk –

Publication Deadline – 10th of each month.
Please forward all submissions for consideration to my contact info (per your choice) found on back page.

E-mail: ldybugg6@comcast.net
Respectfully your editor, Mara Aditajs



Echinocereus fendleri
ssp. *Kuenzleri*
(Courtesy Elton oberts)

FIRST CLASS

Next Meeting Date ♦ Monday, June 24th

SACRAMENTO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

c/o Mara Aditajs, Editor

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

E-mail: ldybugg6@comcast.net


WE'RE ON THE WEB!

Click on the 3 links below to go directly to our website, Facebook, or the CSSA website

www.sacramentocss.org



JULY, 2013

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 [Redacted]	4 [Redacted] 	5 [Redacted]	6 [Redacted]
7	8 [Redacted]	9	10	11	12	13 [Redacted]
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21 [Redacted]	22 Sacramento C&S Mtg – 7pm	23 [Redacted]	24 [Redacted]	25	26	27 [Redacted]
28	29	30	31			