



Succulent Morsels

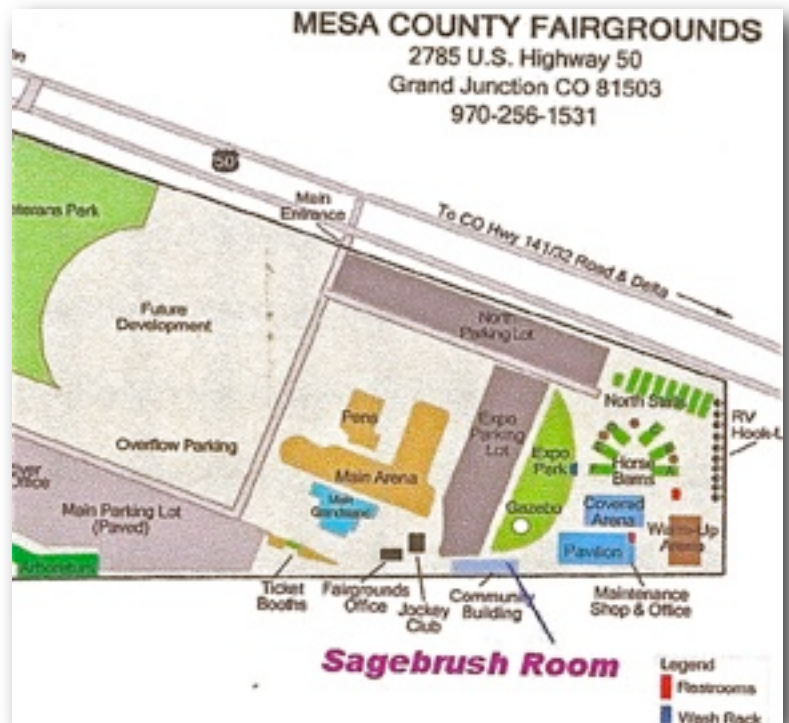
News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
April 2010 Vol. 2, No. 4

To promote knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants among its members, other individuals and organizations throughout West-Central Colorado

NEW LOCATION FOR APRIL MEETING: THE SAGEBRUSH ROOM, G.J. FAIRGROUNDS

With the sale of the former Mervin building to Cabella Sports, and the subsequent remodeling of the building, the Mesa Community Room is no longer available for our Chinle C&SS meetings. Thanks again to Dr. Curtis Swift, CSU Extension, who has arranged for us to meet for the next year in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fairgrounds, starting with the April 8th meeting. This is a very lovely facility, and should meet our needs very well. The Chinle C&SS will meet the second Thursday of the month at the new facility except for the May meeting, which will be on May 20th, since the Sagebrush Room was already scheduled for the second Thursday in May.

The map here shows directions to the new meeting place:



BIOENERGY & CARBON SEQUESTRATION TOPIC OF APRIL MEETING

“OR...HOW TO PUT AN OPUNTIA IN YOUR TANK!”

On April 8th, Chinle members will hear about how the Flux Farm Foundation will use a \$50,000 acre grant from the Colorado Department of Agriculture as part of the CDA's Advancing Colorado's Renewable Energy (ACRE) program to conduct the groups' first study. The principal investigators in this research project, Morgan Williams and Calvin Pearson, will explain how they plan to determine the capacity of this region to grow low-input, high-biomass, cellulosic perennial bioenergy crops in the

Fruita, Rifle and Carbondale areas. The crops they are looking at include various common grasses, and yes, the opuntia “prickly pear cactus.” They will also introduce ways that the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society can participate in this research project. It should be an interesting evening!!!

Morgan Williams shared this additional information about their project:

“Quite a bit of useful information on our bioenergy research is available at www.wccnbc.org . Our interest in cactus for bioenergy production is mainly connected to the attributes of crassulacean acid metabolism (CAM) as a photosynthetic pathway that facilitates the uptake of CO₂ at night and thereby optimizes the water-use efficiency of carbon assimilation in plants growing in arid habitats. A number of CAM species have been exploited agronomically in marginal habitats, displaying annual above-ground productivities comparable with those of the most water-use efficient C3 or C4 crops (grasses) but with only 20% of the water required for cultivation. The sugar composition of many opuntia cactis is also very favorable as fermentable feedstock for ethanol or butanol...production.

“Through discussions with Dave Ferguson (Albuquerque Botanic Garden) and Don Campbell (Chinle C&SS), we have identified several varieties of opuntia that might be suitable for bioenergy production in the region: Opuntia gilvescens, O. polyacantha rhodantha, O. phaeacantha and O. machinsina. Other plants being considered for biomass production include a native plant mix consisting of Great Basin wildrye, Slender wheatgrass, Bluebunch wheatgrass, and Western wheatgrass; a Switchgrass mix of Blackwell and Dacotah; a single specie of tall fescue (Fawn or Alta), and an introduced plant mix of Meadow brome (Cache), Tall fescue (Fawn), Orchardgrass (Paiute), and alfalfa.

“Biomass crops will be converted to ethanol and butanol at Colorado Mountain College’s Rifle campus, representing one of the state’s first bioenergy processing facilities housed at a community college.”

“CACTUS-SPOTTING TRAVELOGUE” AN EXCELLENT MARCH PROGRAM

Don Campbell presented a beautiful “Power Point” presentation March 11th, that captured his travels and cactus hunting before, during and after he and Carol attended the April 2009 Cactus and Succulent Society of America annual convention in Phoenix. The presentation was remarkable in that all the cacti were clearly identified, most in flower, and artistically presented. Don’s entertaining commentary, as always, was delightful.

Thanks, Don. Looking forward for you to take another trip!!!





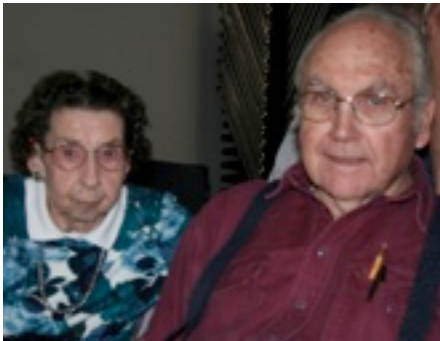
Lorraine Price and guest (on R)



Lynn Dunham



Sue Fuller (L) and Sarah Boggs (R)



Lois and Charlie Baker

Members & Guests enjoyed good fellowship at the March Meeting!



Jack Neckels and Kathleen McGinley



Pat and Al Severson, Bill Hassell (on R)

PLANS ON-GOING FOR CHINLE FIELD TRIP IN MAY

Recapping the article about the field trip in the March newsletter, plans continue to develop for the Chinle C&SS two-day field trip on May 15th and 16th to explore areas north and west of Grand Junction. “Field Trip Coordinator Extraordinaire”, Don Campbell, is coordinating what promises to be one of the best tours ever, with generous participation from Chinle and Front Range cactophiles.

The exact order of the tour is still in the planning stages, but items of interest on the tour should include several stops in Canyon Pintado for native cacti in habitat and ancient Indian rock art with a stop at Dinosaur National Monument before traveling on to Vernal to join together for the evening meal and spend the night. Nancy Glover is helping to coordinate the dinner arrangements.



Also on the proposed agenda is Fantasy Canyon, reputed to have some of the most amazing geologic formations in the world. Then on to Utah to explore a large colony endangered *Sclerocactus*. We'll also explore for "large barrel cacti" that are reportedly in the Rangely area.

Scheduled activities will end with a Grand Junction return on Sunday afternoon, before dark. However, if members desire to stay over and do additional exploring, Don has offered to make suggestions on what to see and do.

According to the number of sign-ups (over 32), we are approaching the maximum number of participants for the tour to keep it manageable. Members who wish to go on the tour but haven't signed up can contact Don Campbell at 245-5088, email campbell.di.cj@bresnan.net or Nancy Glover at 241-0196, email johnslinc@att.net to see if there is space available on the tour.

A charge of \$10 per person or \$15 per couple will be assessed to participate in the tour, payable to Treasurer Lilly McAnally at the April meeting, or mailed to CCSS, P.O. Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

**Participants are responsible for making individual motel reservations.
Below is a list of various motels in the area.**

Holiday Inn Express, 1515 US 40, 435-789-4654
Rode Way Inn, 590 W. Main St., 435-789-8172
Econo Lodge Downtown, 311 E. Main, 435-789-2000
Best Western Antlers, 423 Main St., 435-789-1202
Motel 6, 1092 Hwy 40, 435-789-0666
Travel Lodge, 1015 E. Hwy 40, 435-789-9020
Best Western Dinosaur, 251 E. Main St., 435-789-2660
Studio 6, 1935 S. 1500, 435-789-6625 (NEW motel)
Days Inn, 260 E. Main St., 435-789-1011
Super 8, 1624 US 40, 435-789-4326
Sage Motel, 54 W. Main St., 435-789-1442

For campers, there is also the Vernal/Dinosaur KOA Campground in Vernal.

GARDEN COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2010 GOALS, BUDGET REQUESTS

Nancy Glover, Chairperson of the Garden Committee, and members Maryann Benoit, Bob Bubel, Don Campbell and Dieter Kubisch, have developed the Garden Committee Goals for 2010 as shown below. In addition, budget requests have been submitted to the Chinle Board for approval.

Chinle C&S Club Garden Committee Goals for 2010

Establish the schedule for garden maintenance for the entire year by mid-January. Distribute copies of the schedule at the February and March monthly meetings and publish in the March newsletter.

- Recognize members who help in the gardens in the monthly newsletter.
- Publish reminder notices in the monthly newsletter about gardening days.
- Notify members of gardening days via e-mail (Don Campbell).
- Encourage participation in gardening days by providing refreshments. Request \$125 from the Board of Directors for goodies.
- Record the number of volunteer gardening hours and report to WCBG, Extension Service, and the Chinle Chapter Board of Directors (Maryann Benoit and Nancy Glover).

Maintain an accurate inventory of plants in the WCBG and Extension Service gardens.

Request \$300 from the Board of Directors to label new and replacement plants in the gardens with the same types of labels and stakes selected in 2008.

Order and place new labels by fall of 2010.

Publish updated lists that provide an accurate catalog of the plants and their names, as appear on the labels. Reproduction costs for the Extension Service plant list will be requested from Curtis Swift. Request \$50 from the Board of Directors for reproduction of the plant list for WCBG.

Coordinate watering schedules for the gardens with the Extension Service (Nancy) and WCBG (Don). Make sure the gardens are watered before gardening days for ease of weeding. Susan Rose is contact at Extension Service and Elizabeth Newbaur is contact at WCBG.

Follow the guidelines on adding and removing plants. All plant introductions, replacements, thinning, and removals should be coordinated through the Garden Committee.

Remove dead plants.

Donations have been received from Curtis Swift of up to \$500, WCBG of \$300 and Lilly McAnally of \$200 for plant replacements at the Extension Office and WCBG.

Don Campbell will coordinate purchasing of replacement plants, pesticides, mulch, and hard scape.

Schedule major pruning/replacement days annually at each location to make the gardens easier to maintain, to improve view ability, and to tame the bullies. Make cuttings available to club members.

Follow the club Pesticide Policy (available upon request) and manage the gardens to minimize the use of pesticides.

- Schedule the applications of pesticides at appropriate times and intervals.
- Avoid the use of pesticides while work is in process on gardening days.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicide in the early spring, late summer, and fall.
- Target control of cochineal scale insects and Opuntia bugs with the use of contact and systemic insecticides or by replacing heavily infested plants with varieties less susceptible to infestation by those insects.



Maryann Benoit ala earmuffs tackles a damaged opuntia.

ESKIMO-GARDENERS “CHIP THE ICE” AT FIRST 2010 GARDEN PARTY!

Bob Bubel, Garden Committee member, reports that ten, brave, cold-hardy, 2010 precedent-setting weeders came out for the first Chinle Garden Party at the CSU Extension Office garden. As you can see by the photos taken by Don Campbell, there was much work to do to deal with the harsh winter we experienced here in Grand Junction, and a dumpster filled with garden residue was proof positive of that.

However, as Bob notes, more sprucing up/cleaning up wil be needed,

hopefully without a “big, cold, breeze” hindering the efforts.

Thanks to Maryann Benoit, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Nancy Glover, Janet Hassell, Bill Hassell, Jack Neckels, Pat Severson and Al Severson for showing up in spite of the cold! Oh, yes--AND the Goodie Goddess!



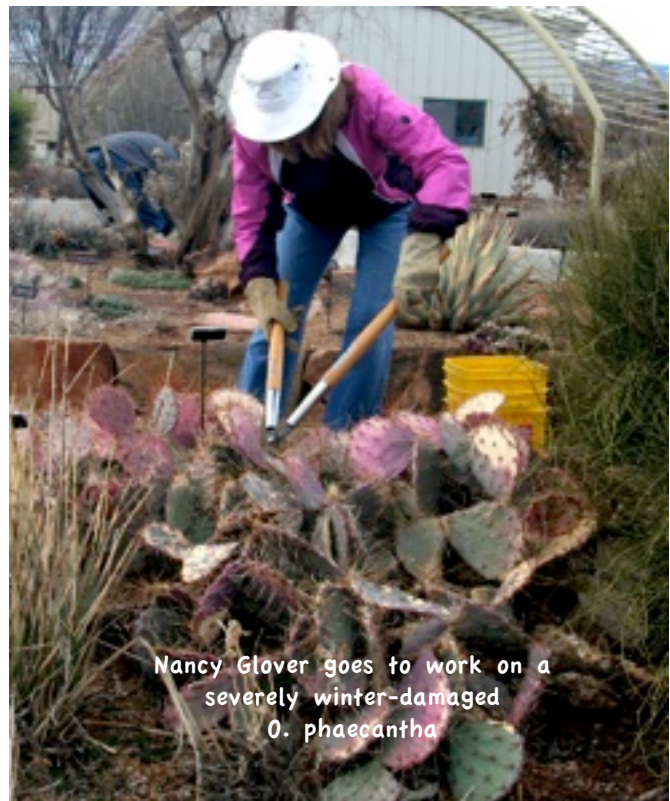
O. macrocentra, just before its departure to the Mesa County Landfill



Winter--Mom's Secret Cochineal Cure (kill the host and the pest magically disappears!)



Agave neomaxican, in extremely critical condition suffering from severe frostbite, and unlikely to recover.



Nancy Glover goes to work on a severely winter-damaged *O. phaeacantha*

GARDEN PARTY GARDENERS AT THE MARCH 24TH WCBG PARTY



Above, Joy Bush and Don Campbell; lower right, Pat Severson



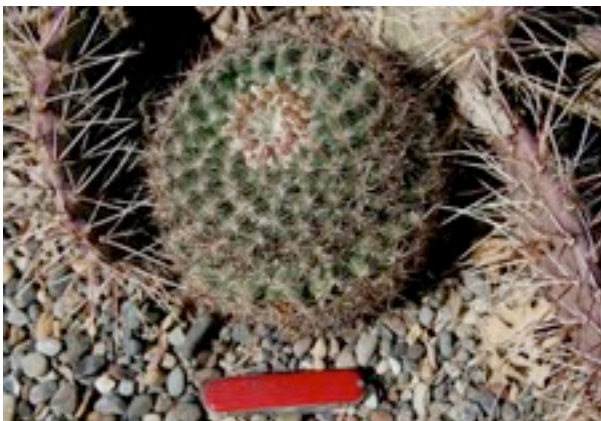
(L) to (R): Bev Biggs, Tom Burrows, Dieter Kubisch, and Pat Severson--on break!

Gardeners at the March 24th Garden Party were: Dieter Kubisch, Pat Severson, Beverly Biggs, Tom Burrows, Janet Hassell, Don Campbell, Joy Bush--and the Goody Goddess appeared right on



....BUT THERE'S HOPE!!!!

As noted by Don Campbell after the March 24th Garden Party, "The abnormally harsh winter of 2009-2010 was not kind to many cacti in the two Chinle Club sponsored gardens. However, on March 24 immediately following the regular 'Garden Party' at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, it was especially pleasant to find a few very happy cacti.



Pediocactus simpsonii

Ernie's Cactus Corner at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens has some of the biggest, happiest, healthiest 'Mountain Ball Cacti' one is likely to find anywhere on the Western Slope. In fact these *Pediocacti* are so happy they're getting ready to celebrate spring with a profusion of flowers. The plant show to the left is slightly over 6 inches in diameter and loaded with flower buds. Count 'em, there are over 20 with the possibility of still more to emerge. Depending on the upcoming weather, one could expect to see flowers in about 10 to 14 days. If

you go looking for flowers, be sure to give old Sol enough morning time to work a bit of magic and coax the flowers into opening!”

BLOOMIN’ DEALS PLANS UNDERWAY



Tom Burrows, Coordinator for the Chinle C&SS 2010 Bloomin’ Deals reports that preparations continue toward making it a success. He was able to procure two booth sites, somewhere in or around the “big tent”, which should be a more attractive location amenable to more walk-by traffic.

An essential part of Bloomin’ Deals preparations is assuring that the plants we offer for sale are of excellent quality. Below are the quality guidelines that we will use for the plants at Meadowlark as well as for individual members who are donating plants from their own gardens. At the April meeting, the Bloomin’ Deals committee will bring examples of both desirable and undesirable plants for presentation and discussion. All those submitting plants should report the information for label making to Tom Burrows before mid-April.

QUALITY CONTROL GUIDELINES FOR PLANTS

All plants need to be:

- **Obviously alive, well-rooted, clean and pest-free.**
- **Nicely top-dressed with coarse sand, small gravel or scoria.**
- **Stable in an appropriately sized, clean pot**
- **Properly identified with the botanical name, common name, and flower color (if known), and labeled with this information.**

The bottom line is to ask yourself and answer honestly:

“Would I personally consider buying this plant?”

Tom notes that we will be computer-printing labels for all donated plants to ensure readability and consistent appearance. If you have specimens you aren’t sure about, bring sample(s) of each species you would like identified to the April meeting. Don Campbell and other members will assist in plant identification. For up-to-date information on Bloomin’ Deals, check Tom’s website at the following link:

<http://www.thomasaburrows.com/chinle/bloomindeals2010.html>

FUND RAISING ALTERNATIVES COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lynn Dunham, Coordinator of the Fund Raising Alternatives Committee, met with members of the Chinle C&SS during the April meeting and reported on new ideas for fund-raising. Lynn brought a collection of container gardens she had made as something that might do well at Bloomin’ Deals. A group of volunteers could produce “little gardens” in an afternoon get-to-gether--and if the container gardens at the last meeting are any example, they are very attractive and sale-able.

Sarah Boggs has volunteered to coordinate the acquisition of plants each month for our drawings. To help the club save money (rather than spend it), she asked members to volunteer plants for our drawings each month. Persons who wish to commit to 3-4 plants for a meeting can contact her at 970-243-7145, or as an alternative, you can put your name on a “on-call” list when plants are needed and she will call you.

The members voted to sell three drawing tickets for \$2 instead of \$1 per ticket. Also, Peter Newbury volunteered to investigate what would be involved if the CCSS had a spot at the Downtown Farmer’s Market, and he will report at our next meeting.

Lynn also invited the members to share any fundraising ideas they might have. Even though our treasury is substantial at this time, Carolyn Logan, president, reminded the group that if we bring in quality speakers or participate in special projects, it doesn’t take long to deplete our funds.

DON’T FORGET THIS MONTH’S GARDEN PARTIES ON APRIL 3RD, 14TH AND 24TH!

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NOTE: Members who have not paid their dues by the end of March will be taken off the membership list and no longer receive the CCSS newsletter. Do it today!

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2010 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Officers

President: Carolyn Logan
carolyn.logan@bresnan.net
970-523-6363

Vice President: Winton Brophy
wbrophy@sprynet.com
970-243-7145

Secretary: Peter Newbury
haworthia81@yahoo.com
970-434-8199

Member at Large: Maryann Benoit
mxbenoit@bresnan.net
970-254-7471

Treasurer: Lilly McAnally
970-243-2640

Asst. Treas: Sarah Boggs 970-243-7145
Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell
janethassell@gmail.com
970-263-0910

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.
Starting in April 2010, meet in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds.
Guests are always welcome.**

CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE:

<http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/chinlecactus.shtml>

2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- APRIL 3 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
APRIL 8 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program: "Put a Cactus in Your Tank"--Investigating
Bioenergy & Carbon Sequestration
in Western Colorado
Presenters: Morgan Williams and Calvin Pearson
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- APRIL 14 GARDEN PARTY - 9AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
APRIL 24 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
MAY 5 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
MAY 8, 2010 Bloomin' Deals - Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
9am to 4 pm
- MAY 12 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
May 15-16, 2010 Chinle Field Trip to Dinosaur NP, Vernal, Fantasy
Canyon and Utah locations
Coordinator: Don Campbell
- May 20 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
NOTE CHANGE TO THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
Program: "Adventures in Big Bend"
Presenter: Dave Kennedy
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- MAY 26 GARDEN PARTY - 9AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
JUNE 5 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
June 10 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program:
Presenter:
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- JUNE 16 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
JUNE 26 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
JULY 7 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
July 8 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program:
Presenter:
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- JULY 17 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
JULY 28 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS

Late Summer, Early Fall - Field Trip to Crumps Greenhouse, Phoenix, AZ