



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
April 2011 Vol. 3, 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

APRIL FIELD TRIP TO FEATURE PLANTS IN OUR LOCAL HABITAT

Saturday, April 30th, Chinle members are invited to participate in one of Don Campbell's interesting and educational Field Trips. This Field Trip replaces the regular meeting of the Chinle C&SS for the month of April. It is also a fund-raiser for the Chinle club with a \$5 per person charge for those attending the field trip, payable at the start of the field trip.

Those who have participated in the past know they will have a great experience, made that much more meaningful by its focus on cacti in Mesa County geographic area. Here is the itinerary for the Field Trip:

Chinle Field Trip - Saturday, April 11, 2011

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 8:00 am | Meet in Albertsons parking lot on the Redlands near the southwest corner close to Blockbuster (more space and less interference with other merchants) -
CARPOOL AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE! |
| 8:15 am | Drive to Cold Shivers Overlook in Colorado National Monument
<i>Short hike to see large spineless hedgehog + other cacti</i> |
| 9:30 am | Drive to Devil's Kitchen Picnic Area
<i>Short hike to see E. missouriensis + other cacti</i> |
| 11:30 am | Drive to Extension Office parking via Albertson's and move all cars to the Extension Office
Lunch and toilet |
| 12:30 pm | Carpool and drive to Escalante Canyon access road
<i>Short hike to see S. glaucus + other cacti</i>
<i>Short drive and walk to see P. sipsonii & S. glaucus</i> |
| 2:00 pm | Drive to Kannah Creek
<i>See S. glaucus</i> |
| 3:30 pm | Drive back to Extension Office - End of tour |

BRING: LUNCH, DRINKS, INSECT REPELLENT, SUNSCREEN, WALKING STICKS, APPROPRIATE CLOTHING & FOOT GEAR.

To assure we don't leave anyone behind who wishes to attend, please email Pam Johnson at pjohnson@fcfpremium.com to let her know you want to join the field trip.

FIRST GARDEN PARTY MARCH 19TH!

Chinle members, Julie Bursi, Maryann Benoit, Bill & Janet Hassell, Al Severson, Don Campbell and Nancy Glover braved the 30 mph winds Saturday morning, March 19th, at the first Garden Party of the season at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens.



Bill Hassell tackles a winter-damaged opuntia.



Julie Bursi (L) & Maryann Benoit (R) dead-head spent foliage.



March 19th Crew (L to R): Bill Hassell, Julie Bursi, Al Severson, Maryann Benoit, Don Campbell and Nancy Glover.

Oh yes, the Goodie Goddess appeared, complete with healthy carrots to go along with the tasty pastries!

The next Garden Party is set for March 31st, 9 am, at the Colorado Extension Office gardens! See ya there!

BLOOMIN' DEALS TO BE COMBINED WITH EARTH DAY ON APRIL 23 NEED VOLUNTEERS & PLANTS!

Plans have changed with Bloomin' Deals! The Western Colorado Botanical Gardens have announced they are making the Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23, the big Spring event. The plant sales and vendor booths usually present at Bloomin' Deals will also be

present at the Earth Day events, open from 11 am to 3 pm. Chinle C&SS plans to have a booth during the event as we have at Bloomin' Deals in past years.

The Club has a large number of winter hardy cacti that are slated to be sold at Earth Day, but they still need to be tidied up, labeled and transported from Meadowlark Nursery to a staging area to be announced prior to the event.

Members who have indoor cacti and succulents they wish to contribute for the sale need to contact Maryann Benoit (254-7471) or Don Campbell (245-5088) at to let them know what plants will be coming. If you are planning to bring this category of plants, please be sure the pots are tidy and attractive and conform to these quality standards:

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 and labeled.
- Ask yourself: Would I personally consider buying this plant?

The schedule for manning the booth as of April 1, 2011 is shown on the last two pages of the newsletter so you can see which slots are available in which to help. Maryann Benoit is handling the work schedule, so give her a call at 254-7471. Be sure to sign up to help with this fun event which is a major fund raiser for the Chinle C&SS.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Earth Day 2011!

***HERE'S WHAT THE WC BOTANICAL GARDEN SAYS ABOUT THIS EVENT:
(Courtesy of the WCBG March 2011 newsletter)***

Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day is soon approaching and the Botanical Gardens is holding its 1st Annual "Celebrate the Richness" Earth Day Celebration on April 23. There will be exhibits, games, contests, live music, a beer garden, food, live animals and more! We will be offering children's art using recycled items. You can help with our art projects for children. Please donate egg cartons, milk jugs, glass jars, felt, pipe cleaners, milk cartons, crayons, large bubble wands, etc. Drop them off at the office.

We are also in need of volunteers for our Earth Day Celebration. If you want to join the fun please contact Christine Dingman at 245-3288.



Here's the Home Page of the new website, bright & beautiful on-line.

CHINLE C&SS HAS ITS OWN WEBSITE!!!!

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Burrows, our Chinle Webmaster, and the contributions of Chinle Board members our Chinle website is up and running at www.chinlecactusclub.org.

The site is beautifully done and very user friendly. One of the best features is the Calendar, which is kept current regarding meetings, activities, events, and other items of interest.

Take some time to visit the website and click on the headings to access various areas and discover how much excellent information is available about our amazing Cactus C&S Society. Take an opportunity to thank Tom for his expertise in making this a possibility for us.

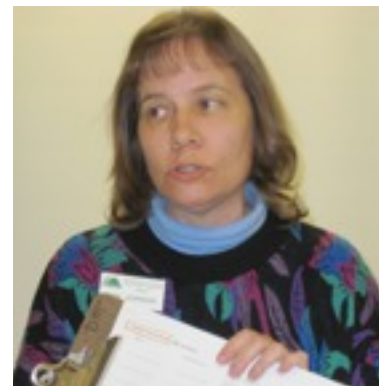
If you go to the CSU website, you will still find Chinle C&SS information there, as well as a link to our new website. We owe a debt of gratitude to Curtis Swift for all his efforts in keeping our information up to date on the CSU website for the past decade, and his support related to the CSU website.

Chinle C&SS is indeed fortunate to have such talented and willing individuals to make the Chinle C&SS's activities, events, educational aspects, and contributions available to a large segment of the population. Thanks, guys!

Keith Woestehoff of the Denver Cactus & Succulent Society sent Don the following note: "Good job on the Website! It's good to see your society thriving. I really like the work your society has done at the CSU extension and the Western Botanical Gardens..."

GARDEN TOUR SHAPING UP TO BE A GREAT EVENT

Garden Tour Coordinator, Pam Johnson tells us that she has identified several Chinle member gardens for the tour May 14th, 2011, and is needing for members who wish to attend to let her know at pjohnson@fcfpremium.com or by phone, 523-5443. Since the club provides lunch, we need a head count to know how much food to order.



Pam Johnson, talked about the Garden Tour at the March 10th meeting.

DONATED CACTI TO BE COLLECTED



Ruth Johnson

Ruth Johnson, a former member of our Chinle C&SS, is “retiring” her outdoor cactus garden. She has offered club members the opportunity to take cuttings or entire plants before her husband, Rich, gets rid of them permanently. The following photos are of some of the plants she has to give away. A “harvesting party” will be held this month (April), and members will be notified by e-mail as to the day, time(s), and location. Collected plants are slated for members’ gardens, as well as for re-planting at the CSU and/or WCBG gardens.



Examples of Cholla available for harvesting.

STAPELIADS....REAL BEAUTIES IN MINATURE

Photos & Text By Don Campbell

Stapeliads are part of the Milkweed Family (Asclepiadaceae). There are several hundred species of Stapeliads which are grouped into 20 or more genera. The Stapeliads are all stem succulents with thick, often soft and juicy branches covered in low ribs or tubercles. They are often referred to as "starfish flowers" because of their five-pointed flowers.

Stapeliad flowers are structurally the most complicated of all succulents and show a high level of evolution comparable to that of orchids. Stapeliad flowers come close to qualifying as having succulent flowers. Their texture is thick and leathery and they are able to stay expanded in full sun for several days without unduly draining the the plant's water reserves. The flowers of



Huernia zebrina

The flower is 1-1/8 inch from tip to tip

many species are covered in ridges, pimples or tiny bristles. The margins and even the surface may be covered in fine hairs which quiver and wave with the slightest breeze. This combined with their purplish-brownish-greenish-yellowish coloration and rotten odor, is the basis for another common name, "carrion flowers".

Following are a few Stapeliad flowers that I found blooming in my sunroom during the first week in March, 2011.



Rhytidocaulon sheilae

These flowers are 1/4 inch from tip to tip. Notice the tiny quivering hairs extending from the tips of the petals (corolla lobes)



Pseudolithos dodsoniana

These flowers are 1/4 inch from tip to tip



Caralluma gracilipes

The flower is 1-3/16 inch from tip to tip, individual petals are 1/16 inch wide. Notice the tiny quivering hairs that extend from the edge of the petals (corolla lobes)



Laryleachia cactiformis

The flowers are 1/2 inch from tip to tip.



Actual size

Rhytidocaulon macrolobum
These flowers are 9/16 inch from tip to tip. Note the teeny, tiny tassels fluttering from the ends of the petals (corolla lobes) as well as the distinctly different markings on the tops and bottoms of the petals (corolla lobes).

INTERESTING CLASSES OFFERED

Hydratufa Class - Level II - Making a bowl
June 25, 2011
9:00 am
Location: 3032 Milburn Court
Host: Pam Johnson

Making "Rocks" Class – Creating a Bonsai Landscape
July 23, 2011
9:00 am
Location: 3032 Milburn Court
Host: Pam Johnson

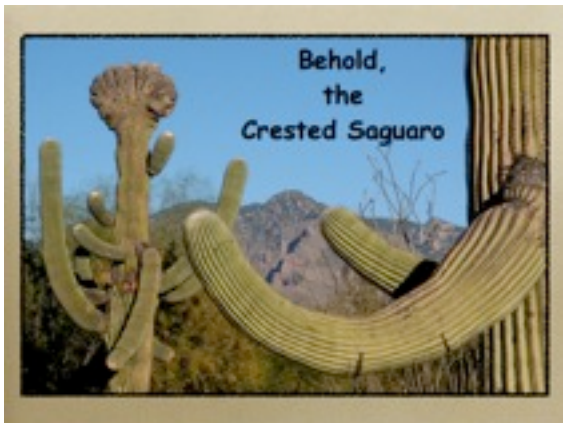
Give Pam a call at 523-5443 if you are interested in attending.

Spring is Here!



Crocus a-bloom amid the Opuntiae!

Photo by Don Campbell



Former Chinle member, Dave Kennedy, took these photo in January 2011 as they drove on the highway leading to Organ Pipe Cactus NP in New Mexico. The photo on the right shows some Saguaro "weirdness", perhaps caused by uranium mine tailings in the area--or just nature "doing its thing!"



2011 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- APR. 4 CHINLE C&SS BOARD MEETING - 10 AM
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ, CO
Members Welcome
- APR. 9 Garden Party - 9:00 am
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- APR. 14 NO REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
April 30th program replaces this meeting.
- APR. 21 Garden Party - Saturday - 9:00 am
CSU Extension Garden
- APR. 23 WCBG Celebration of Earth Day
Chinle C&SS Plant Sale 11 am to 3 pm at WCBG
See article on p. 2
- APR. 24-29 Cactus & Succulent Society of America 2011 Convention
San Diego, CA
- APR. 28 Garden Party - Thursday - 9:00 am
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- APR. 30 ONE-DAY FIELD TRIP (Replaces regular April meeting)
Featuring Local Habitat Plants - See article on p. 1
Coordinator: Don Campbell
- MAY 12 Garden Party - Thursday - 9 am
CSU Extension Garden
- MAY 14 ANNUAL CHINLE GARDEN TOUR AND PICNIC
Meeting Location and time to be announced.
- MAY 21 Garden Party - Saturday - 9 am
Western Colorado Botanical Garden

Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2011

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Bill Hassell at the Sagebrush Room at the Mesa County Fairgrounds.

Treasurer's Report: Loren Benoit presented the Treasurer's Report. We have \$10,809.99 in the treasury. 2011 dues are still being collected.

Bylaws: It was moved, seconded [Dieter Kubisch/Pam Johnson] and approved that the proposed bylaws change concerning the composition of the Board (Gardening Committee chairperson and others to be appointed by the President) be adopted. Landscapes West

Our participation in **Landscapes West** has been cancelled.

Garden Parties: The completed garden party schedule was announced.

Bloomin' Deals: Bloomin' Deals has been moved up to April 23. Volunteers for booth staffing signed up. There will be some plant labeling and potting parties coming up.

Group Order: Don Campbell suggested those who were interested do a group order for specialty equipment (e.g., 16" hemostats) from Miles2Go.com and made a catalog available.

Field Trip: Don Campbell talked about the upcoming April 30, 2011 Field Trip. Cost will be \$5 and bring-your-own lunch. A signup sheet for organizing car pools was made available. Don will also be doing a Walk & Talk on the Old Gordon Trail May 18, 2011.

Garden Tour: The Garden Tour will be May 14 and, as with the Field Trip, there was a signup sheet for car pool organization. Pam Johnson is coordinating this event.

Crump's Greenhouse Tour: Since the Crump's Tour will be a two-day affair (with an overnight stay), we will try to combine the trip with something additional. (Fall color?)

Program: Janet Hassell presented a slide show of Cacti of Big Bend National Park.

Prepared by Tom Burrows, Secretary
March 15, 2011

ERROR CORRECTION: In the March issue of Succulent Morsels, page 5, the person donating the plants to the Chinle C&SS was incorrectly identified as "Kay Johnson." It should have been "Ruth Johnson". We apologize for the error.

EDITOR'S NOTE: **This version of the newsletter is in a reduced file format. If you want a full-size file, go to:** <http://thomasaburrows.com/chinle/newsletters.html>, or go to the new Chinle Website and click on the newsletter link.

ROCKIN' ON AT WCBG!

Photos and story by Don Campbell



Tom, along with one of the Work Enders watches as a large rock is maneuvered into its 'planting' hole.

Promptly at 9:00 AM on Monday, March 28, Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows and Don Campbell along with Lain Williams, Facilities Manager at the WCBG, were



Lain Williams and his faithful 'Bobcat' assisted with the really heavy lifting during the 'rock planting'.

Note: Maryann & Tom are busy looking busy. (Actually they planted several smaller rocks and did cleanup in the existing garden.)

joined by 11 stout young members of the elite Mesa County Work Enders Crew for a bit of 'rock planting' near the WCBG Cactus & Succulent Garden. A number of large rocks had been previously removed from the flood control dike and dumped in the area adjacent to the C&S garden.



Part of the Mesa County Work Enders Crew apply finishing touches to the disturbed area surrounding some of the newly "planted rock".

In 2002 we had some very good assistance from a similar crew during installation of the original garden. The guys pictured at the top of this page were an especially effective crew. They worked hard, quickly grasping the concept of making the newly 'planted' rocks look 'natural'. Their strong backs and cheerful willing attitude are greatly appreciated.

Once we intermingle a few more small rocks and assorted plants we'll have a greatly enhanced entry into the C&S Garden at the WCBG.

“MR. CACTUS” TAKES TOP HONORS AT DENVER SHOW & SALE

Photos by Keith Woestehoff, Editor of the CCSS News



Don Campbell (photo on left) stands next to his entry, *Dioscorea elephantipes*, which received the most votes by visitors to the March CCSS Show in Denver and was awarded the "Peoples Choice Ribbon"

On the right, Don proudly displays his entry, *Raphionacme flanaganii*, that won "Best Succulent" in the advanced class and the "Lynn Wilson Award" for overall best succulent in the show.



Call Maryann Benoit at 254-7471
to sign up for your shift!

Bloomin' Deals –Earth Day Volunteers Sign-Up - April 23, 2011		
Shift Times	Name	Phone Number
7:00am-9:00am Setup & Start		
1	Loren Benoit	
2	Maryann Benoit	
3	Don Campbell	
4	Dieter Kubisch	
5	Janet Hassell	
6	Bill Hassell	
7		
8		
9:00am-11:00am		
1	Julie Bursi	
2	Don Campbell	
3		
4		
11:00am-1:00pm		
1	Susan Fuller	
2	Lynn Dunham	
3		
4		
1:00pm-3:00pm		
1	Pam Johnson – will be a little late	
2		
3		

4		
3:00pm-5:00pm Close & Teardown		
1	Pam Johnson	
2	Dave McCollough	
3	Janet Hassell	
4	Bill Hassell	
5	Maryann Benoit	
6	Loren Benoit	
7		
8		

2010 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Bill Hassell
970-263-0910

Secretary/Web Master: Tom Burrows
970-462-6767

Treasurer: Loren Benoit
970-254-7471

Vice President: Dieter Kubisch
970-243-7861

Member at Large: Maryann Benoit
970-254-7471

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Garden Commtee: Don Campbell
970-245-5508

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm.
The April Meeting will be replaced by a Chinle C&SS Field Trip (see page 1).
Meetings are held in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds. Guests are always welcome.**

NEW CHINLE WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org

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