



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
December 2011 Vol. 3, No. 12

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

Still time to register!

Annual Dinner Meeting



The Annual Dinner Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society on December 8th will wrap up a busy and productive year for the Chinle C&SS. The dinner event offers good opportunities to socialize with other members, enjoy an excellent meal, participate in the Silent Auction, and look forward to the many door prizes that will be offered. Pat Severson, Annual Dinner Coordinator, and her committee, have organized a fun evening as detailed below.

Here's the schedule, with details:

- 5:30-6:30 pm Register, Socialize
Bid on Silent Auction items
Cash bar
- 6:30-7:30 pm Buffet Dinner featuring three entrees:
Citrus seared salmon
Pork Chops with red chili-peanut mole
Grilled Chicken Breast with a prickly pear honey glaze
Seasoned vegetables
Dinner Rolls
Dessert: Apple Cranberry crisp with sunflower seed streusel
Coffee and/or tea
- 7:30-8:30 pm Annual Business Meeting
Chinle C&SS Year in Review
Nomination and election of Board for 2012
- 8:30-9:30 pm Door prizes, gift plants, Auction results

Please pre-register by November 30th, but payment must be received prior to the dinner meeting, as the Society must pay for the number of persons registered, even if they do not attend or pay.

If you plan to attend, contact Pat Severson at 255-1005, and mail your check to Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028. Cost for members is \$23 per person, for non-members, \$31.

PLANTS OF THE MONTH

We are highlighting some of the silent auction plants for the Annual Dinner Meeting Silent Auction--perhaps to whet our appetites (no pun intended) for the Auction.



Haworthia attenuata varl

This is a striking plant with pointed leaves banded with white transversal stripes and spots that forms fast beautiful clusters. It is highly variable and offsets profusely with several forms, variety and cultivars.

Description: Stemless clustering perennial-succulent, that eventually form large clumps.

Rosettes: 6-12cm diameter, 6-13(25) cm tall, heavily clumping.

Leaves: Dark green, pointed and strikingly banded or spotted with white with varying amounts of variegation. Tubercles are "patterned" on the upper surface of the leaves. The lower surface of the leaves have transverse bands of tubercles

Flowers: White-greenish keels.

Bloom time: Can be ever blooming if you snip off each bloom when it dies.

Remarks: Haworthia attenuata-fasciata comes in many varieties. This species vary from solid green with only few tiny white bumps forms to heavily white horizontal banded forms, and also individual clump that has broad, heavy horizontal stripes will sometimes throw off a pup with just bumps, or some will be smoother, knobbier, etc., and vice-versa.

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Aloe "Doran Black"

Aloe species, which are widespread from Arabia to South Africa, range from a 1 in. stemless rosette to a 30 ft tree. The 300 or so species are often confused with Agave, but differ in several ways. They flower annually and the rosette is formed by leaves that grow, rather than unfurl, from the center. Long flower stems bearing clusters of small, long-lasting tubular blooms which can be red, orange, green, or sometimes, yellow, appear mostly in winter and spring. The small oval berries are green.

The name of the Aloe 'Dorian Black' plant comes from its hybridizer's name, not the color. The Aloe 'Dorian Black' is delicately colored with green shards on creme. The Aloe 'Dorian Black' plant flowers continuously, even when only two inches tall.



Begonia dregei

This plant was discovered by J.F Drège in the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa in 1836. While the plant is classed as semi-tuberous, it actually forms a caudex at its base, not a tuber. Because the plant has been in cultivation for so long, much has been written about it. It has also been extensively used in hybridization.

B. dregei is an easy plant to grow, but does need careful watching. Mealy bugs will appear on this plant in abundance before they even show up on nearby plants. It is also very prone to powdery mildew. It does not need a lot of water, nor does it require a large pot as the caudex stores moisture. B. dregei appreciates a lot of light, but not direct sun which easily burns its thin leaves. There does not seem to be a particular time of year during which its white blooms appear. B. dregei is often called the 'maple-

leaved' begonia which has led to some confusion, because there are a number of caudex-forming begonias from South Africa that fit that ambiguous common name. Further information about this group of plants can be found in the March 1974 issue of The Begonian on pages 62-71 written by Carrie Karegeannes.



Euphorbia suzannae monst.

Euphorbia is a genus of plants belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae and is one of the most diverse genera in the plant kingdom with 2008 species. The genus is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas, but also in temperate zones.

Members of the family and genus are sometimes referred to as Spurges. The common name "spurge" derives from the Middle English/Old French *espurge* ("to purge"), due to the use of the plant's sap as a purgative.

The plants are annual or perennial herbs, woody shrubs or trees with a caustic, poisonous milky sap, and therefore should be handled with care.

This plant shows the monstrous form of the Euphorbia.



Fockea Crispa

Fockea crispa species is from the Eastern and Western Cape Provinces of the Republic of South Africa. Like *Fockea edulis*, *Fockea crispa* is a great cucurbit caudiciform with shiny crinkled leaves; unlike *F. edulis*, this species grows inland in the Karoo. The stem protrudes above ground and has little warts on the gray skin. The stems have milky sap that has been used to treat wounds by indigenous people.

Growing difficulty is described as easy and the growing season is spring and summer--fall and winter if kept warm and protected from frost.

(Info from Lindsey Online Services)

Don Campbell reports that these are just a few of the excellent plants that will be available in the Silent Auction. In addition, many lovely plants will be offered in the drawings and as door prizes.

Don't miss this chance to acquire some very special plants!

**The December newsletter has been sent out early
as a reminder it is NOT TOO LATE to register for the ADM!**

Back By Popular Demand!

BOB HAMMON ON BUGS & PLANT DISEASE

The first Chinle CSS program of 2012 will be held January 12th, at 6:30 pm, in the Sagebrush Room, on the Mesa County Fair Grounds. Bob Hammon, CSU Extension agent has a wide range of expertise in agronomy and entomology. His program on the 12th will focus on insects and diseases that affect plants to include cacti and other succulents.

He is responsible for organizing, coordinating and implementing entomology and pest management programming in the Tri River Basin. Bob has a wide range of expertise that includes plant diagnostics, insect management for agriculture, forest and shade trees, and household and structural problems. Plant diseases and control of invasive weed species is another area of his expertise.

Bob is entertaining and informative, and will present an interesting program. He will also be able to answer most questions related to bugs and plant disease. Be sure to put this meeting on your calendar!



Bob Hammon, CSU Extension Agent
(Photo courtesy of CSU website)

ARIZONA TRAVELOG NOVEMBER'S PROGRAM

Don Campbell gave another excellent program Nov. 10th highlighting "Arizona Favorites" that he and Carol have visited over the past few years. Certainly one of the special places for them was to visit the Saguara National Park near Tucson, AZ (see photos).



Saguaro photos courtesy of the National Forest Service



Unusual crested version of the Saguaro.



(L to R) Pat Severson, ADM Coordinator, and Pam Johnson, ADM Committee member, discuss details with President Bill Hassell



A nice crowd came out for the November meeting and for Don's excellent program.

THANKSGIVING AT THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

If you don't receive the CNMA newsletter, this may be of interest to you!

"The Colorado National Monument Association invites you, your family, and your out-of-town guests to our annual Holiday Open House, Thursday, November 24th through Sunday, November 27th. Stop by the Visitor Center for holiday shopping and see our new exhibits. We have gifts for all ages - t-shirts and hats, Junior Ranger gear, puppets - large and small, and Centennial souvenirs. Join CNMA or renew your membership Thanksgiving weekend and receive the award winning Rocky Mountain PBS documentary, Celebrating 100 Years of John Otto's Dream.

**Exclusive to CNMA Members: 20% off all merchandise throughout the holiday season - November 24th to December 31st."*

NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN FOR 2012 BOARD POSITIONS

Nominations Committee members, Janet Hassell and Julie Bursi, report that nominations are still being accepted for any and all positions on the Chinle C&SS Board. The committee has obtained candidates for all the positions but do not wish to discourage anyone from being nominated. There will also be opportunities to become involved in Chinle C&SS activities through membership on any of the several committees--the Garden Committee, the Program Committee, Field Trips and Garden Tour committees.

If you are interested in being more involved, please contact Janet or Julie.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE:

THANKSGIVING FUN FACTS

How much do you know about Thanksgiving? Here's a list of fun facts to test your knowledge or find trivia to amuse your friends and family.

- *The Plymouth Pilgrims were the first to celebrate the Thanksgiving.*
- *They celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day at Plymouth, Massachusetts.*
- *The Wampanoag Indians were the people who taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate the land.*
- *The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford, organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621. He invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians to the feast.*
- *The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted three days.*
- *Mashed potatoes, pumpkin pies, popcorn, milk, corn on the cob, and cranberries were not foods present on the first Thanksgiving's feast table.*
- *Lobster, rabbit, chicken, fish, squashes, beans, chestnuts, hickory nuts, onions, leeks, dried fruits, maple syrup and honey, radishes, cabbage, carrots, eggs, and goat cheese are thought to have made up the first Thanksgiving feast.*
- *The pilgrims didn't use forks; they ate with spoons, knives, and their fingers.*
- *Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of the United States.*
- *Sarah Josepha Hale, an American magazine editor, persuaded Abraham Lincoln to declare Thanksgiving a national holiday. She is also the author of the popular nursery rhyme "Mary Had a Little Lamb"*
- *Abraham Lincoln issued a 'Thanksgiving Proclamation' on third October 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.*
- *The annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade tradition began in the 1920's.*
- *In 1939, President Roosevelt proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23rd, not November 30th, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season.*

Turkey Trivia

- *In the US, about 280 million turkeys are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations.*
- *Each year, the average American eats somewhere between 16 - 18 pounds of turkey.*
- *The average weight of a turkey purchased at Thanksgiving is 15 pounds.*
- *The heaviest turkey ever raised was 86 pounds, about the size of a large dog.*
- *Turkey has more protein than chicken or beef.*
- *It takes 75-80 pounds of feed to raise a 30 pound tom turkey.*



NOV 2011- MAR 2012 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- NOV 30th** *Last day to register for the Annual Dinner meeting.*
- DEC 8** *Chinle C&SS Annual Dinner Meeting
The Irons at Tiara Rado Restaurant
5:30 pm - Social hour
6:30 pm - Dinner
7:30-8:30 pm - Business Meeting, Election of Officers
8:30-9:30 pm - Door prizes, Gift plants, Silent Auction*
- JAN 12** *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Bugs & Plant Diseases"
Presenter: Bob Hammon, Entemologist, CSU Extension
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds*
- FEB 9** *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Indoor Cactus & Succulent Cultivation"
Presenter: Maryann Benoit, Don Campbell
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds*
- MAR 8** *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Speaking Cactus"
Presenter: TBA
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds*

EDITOR'S NOTE: This version of the newsletter is in a reduced file format. If you want a larger file for printing, go to www.chinlecactusclub.org , the Chinle Website and click on the newsletter link.

2011 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: Judy McCart
970-623-9279

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 6:30 pm.
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>