



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
June 2010 Vol. 2, No. 6

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

REMINDER: JUNE MEETING WILL BE AT THE CSU EXTENSION GARDENS

CACTUS TOUR A TOTAL SUCCESS!



On May 15th, Chinle C&SS members and Front Range guests met at the Museum of Western Colorado Dinosaur Journey in Fruita, CO, to begin the 2010 Cactus Tour journey, coordinated and hosted by Don Campbell (“Mr. Cactus” to those of us in Grand Junction).

After negotiating Douglas Pass, the tour group entered Canyon Pintado, and stopped at several of the rock art sites that are located on this stretch of CO 139. *Opuntia* (“Prickly Pear”) and *Echinocereus*



Searching for Giant Yellow Pedios....



triglochidiatus (‘Hedgehog’/‘Claret Cup’) were

seen at this site. After lunch, the group met up

with additional Chinle C&SS members at the Colorado Welcome Center in the Town of Dinosaur. Don lead the caravan of 10 vehicles westward to Red Wash Drive, and the ‘Giant Yellow Pedio Colony’. Although most of the pedios were past blooming, there were several with blooms--and certainly their large size was spectacular.

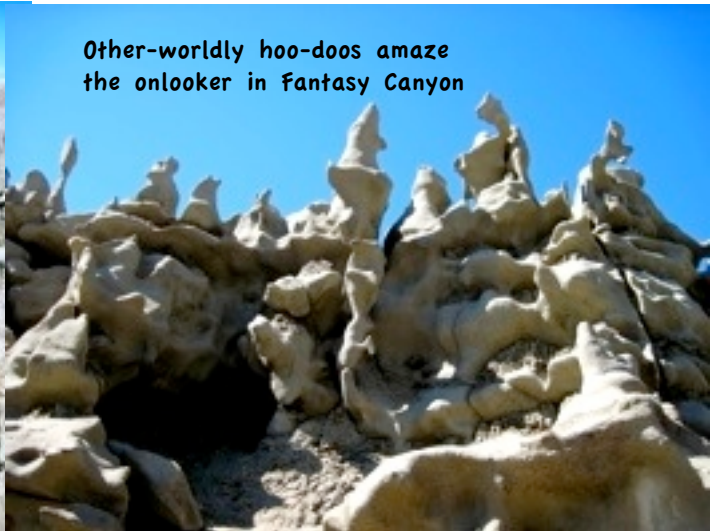
The evening was spent in Vernal, with dinner at the Golden Corral--no one went hungry!!

Bright and early Sunday morning, the group traveled past the Green River to Glen Bench Road and onto Watson Road, unpaved, winding





A rare photo of Judy Kennedy in Fantasy Canyon



Other-worldly hoo-doo's amaze the onlooker in Fantasy Canyon



Janet Hassell & John Moore try to see shapes & faces in the rocks.

through the oil fields to the Fantasy Canyon parking lot. The Canyon was resplendant in photo ops, and tour members enjoyed hiking through the amazing geologic structures.

After an early lunch, the next destination was a visit to a special area with Opuntia and



What a find!! A crested Sclerocactus wetlandicus in bloom!

Sclerocactus wetlandicus, the latter being on the endangered species list, in northeastern Utah. The Sclero's were in full floral attire, showing off their beautiful, intensely pink blooms, and various sizes from very small to very large. This site was a fitting finale to a wonderful tour experience.



More brilliant blooms!

Chinle attendees included: Don and Carol Campbell, Loren and Maryann Benoit, Charlie and Lois Baker, Peter Newbury, Pam Johnson and Dave McCollough, Kay Klausmeier, Dieter Kubisch, Dave and Judy Kennedy, Bev Biggs and Jim Hayes, Nancy Glover, Bill and Janet Hassell, Bob and Judy Bubel and John Moore. From the Front Range, the attendees were Scott Smith, Wilber and Raye Jeanne Blundell, Laurie Mathies and Tom Zuckerman, and Dick and Ann Bartlett.

All the members of the tour expressed their appreciation to Don Campbell for his careful planning and execution of this fine tour. Thanks, Don!

FOR ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM THE CACTUS TOUR, TURN TO PAGE 10.

BLOOMIN' DEALS SALES UP FROM 2009



Dieter Kubisch erecting one of the tents.



Don Campbell & Carolyn Logan arrange tables.

A chilly but sunny Saturday morning set the stage for the 2010 Bloomin' Deals sale at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, May 2, 2010. Thanks to Peter Newbury's loan of an easily set-up tent and Dieter Kubisch's pre-planning to set up the Club's tent, members were able to set up the tables (transported to the WCBG by Sue and Gil Fuller) and ready the booths for the event with a minimum of effort...or confusion! Buoyed up



Maryann Benoit, Carolyn Logan & Dieter Kubisch make sure plants are set!



Booth is ready for the sale!

by coffee and donuts brought by the Hassell's and the Benoit's, members unloaded plants and set up the tables.

Thanks to Tom Burrows, event coordinator, for obtaining desirable booth locations and coordinating the preparations for the event. Members of the club may not be aware that a large number of the plants sold at Bloomin' Deals were planted and wintered over at Meadowlark Nursery in preparation for the May sale. Judy Kennedy, Tom Burrows, Pat Severson and Don Campbell were involved with watering and maintaining the plants over the winter in preparation for the sale.

Members who worked the booth or otherwise assisted included Don Campbell, Dieter Kubisch, Pat & Al Severson, Janet & Bill Hassell, Maryann & Loren Benoit, Tom Burrows, Carolyn Logan, Bev Biggs, Sue Francis and Sallye Lahue. Special thanks and appreciation to these members for helping to

make this event a success, netting the CCSS in excess of \$700 after expenses--well over twice the sales from the 2009 Bloomin' Deals.

BIG BEND--HERE WE COME!

At the May 20th Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS, Dave Kennedy gave an interesting and entertaining program on the trip he and Judy took to Big Bend National Park back in January-February 2010. Dave's photographic skills and humorous commentary made the program effective and educational. Thanks, Dave!



The Texas Rainbow Cactus, very common in the park.



Lechuguilla--the bane of Dave and Judy's hiking experience!



The Hechtia texensis plant, a relative of the pineapple, seen in Big Bend.



"Donut Hole" arch, one of many arches cited in Dave's presentation.

MEMBERS COLLECT CACTI FOR RESEARCH AND GARDENS

Tuesday, May 11, a group of Chinle members (Don & Carol Campbell, Sue Francis, Janet & Bill Hassell) joined Morgan Williams and his mother, Mia Williams, for a trip to BLM land in the Gateway area for the purpose of harvesting *Opuntia polycantha* and *Opuntia pheacantha*. The plants are destined for planting in the demonstration gardens as proposed by the Western Colorado Carbon Neutral Bioenergy Consortium to conduct research on possible sources of biofuel, with varieties of opuntia being a source investigated.



The group finds a lush growth of opuntia in the Gateway area.



(L to R) Morgan Williams, Don Campbell & Bill Hassell fill bins with polycantha & phaecantha opuntia.

After obtaining sufficient *Opuntia*, (of course, with the appropriate permits in hand), the group moved to a second site off 4.1 road going west out from Gateway, and were pleased to find many *Echinocereus* (Hedgehog Claret Cup Cacti) and *Sclerocactus parviflorii* in their natural habitat. Our permit allowed removal of some of the plants for use in the WCBG and CSU gardens.



Mia Williams and Sue Francis search out healthy, plump specimens.

Dr. Calvin Pearson, Research Agronomist at Western Colorado Research Center

in Fruita, CO, wrote the Club and Morgan Williams of Flux Farms, "Many thanks to you and the other volunteers for collecting the cactus today. They look really good. We will plan to plant them in a couple of weeks. Thanks for your support and participation."



Examples of the large flowering *Sclerocactus parviflorii* harvested for the WCBG and CSU gardens.





NEW TREASURER ELECTED

Loren Benoit was elected by the Chinle C&SS members at the May 20th meeting to fill the vacancy of Lilly McAnally, who recently resigned. The Society again extends appreciation to Lilly for her work as Treasurer, and congratulates to Loren for his election to this position.

MAY GARDEN PARTIES' FOCUS WAS ON NEW PLANTS...& WEEDS

Despite the cool weather, WEEDS have been growing with a vengeance in the WCBG and CSU gardens. Gardening parties have been focused on keeping the weeds under control, with active removal of the pests and applying preemergent to reduce their occurrence in the future.

Chinle C&SS Gardeners at the May 5th Garden Party at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens were Tom Burrows, Janet Hassell and Cole Pierce (her grandson), Dieter Kubisch, Jack Neckles, and Al & Pat Severson.

Gardeners at the May 12th Garden and Planting Party at the CSU Garden were Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Janet Hassell, Kathleen McGinley, and Jack Neckles.



Jack Neckles dutifully weeding on May 5th.



Nice to have Kathleen McGinley back at a Garden Party after foot surgery.

At this May 12th Garden Party, Don Campbell brought a variety of new plants to be planted in the CSU gardens. The new plants will replace the dead and/or dying plants currently in the garden. A similar set of plants was designated for planting in the WCBG gardens over the next few weeks.

Don Campbell, Tom Burrows and Janet Hassell helped to plant some of the new plants for the gardens at a special planting party on May 18th, 2010.



Cole Pierce found the hoppy toad discovered by Maryann Benoit just as fascinating as pulling weeds!



Plants waiting patiently to be planted!



Pat Severson smiles despite the glockid infested earth.

On the evening of May 25th, Peter Newbury and Bob Bubel gathered for an evening garden weeding party at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens. The next day, May 26th, Chinle members Don Campbell, Tom Burrows, Pat Severson, Joy Bush and Janet Hassell met at the WC Botanical Garden to remove dead plants and plant new ones.

KUDOS TO CHELSEA GARDENS--AGAIN!

Per an article in the May 7th, 2010 “Free Press,” Chelsea Gardens has been honored with the 2010 Excellence in Sustainable Horticulture award presented by the Western Colorado Gardening Foundation. Owners Stacy Stecher and Tony Urschitz, long-time members of the Chinle C&SS, grow 20 varieties of cacti, 20 kinds of succulents, as well as a variety of shrubs, flowers, grasses and trees, all designed for use in xeric gardens to promote water resource conservation and sound gardening practices. The Chinle C&SS will be visiting the Chelsea Nursery to see their plants first hand during the July Chinle Garden Tour. Congratulations!

ERNIE’S GARDEN AT THE WCBG SHOWS ITS COLORS!

Members, friends and the Grand Junction Community are reminded to take advantage of the lovely blooms at both the Western Colorado Botanical Garden and the CSU Extension Gardens. They are spectacular!



Mark your calendars now for the July 10th Chinle Garden Tour!

SCENES FROM THE MAY 20TH MEETING



Winton Brophy did a great job filling in for President Carolyn Logan in her absence.



Chinle Members eagerly wait for the "show" to begin.



Nice to see Carol Campbell and John Moore at the meeting. Thanks, John, for the beautiful donated plants!



Dave Kennedy, featured speaker for the meeting, shares a humorous moment with Carol Christlieb as Lynn Dunham looks on.



Curtis Swift's buddy especially enjoyed the program!

GARDEN GNOMES SPREAD TO ORCHARD MESA & WESTWARD!

As a public service to our members, we wish to sound the alert that Garden Gnomes have now been sighted in Orchard Mesa as well as the CSU Gardens in Grand Junction. Gnomes were also sighted as far west as Fantasy Canyon and seen invading a *Sclerocactus wetlandicus* site in northeastern Utah. Don Campbell spied the pests hanging out around a *pediocactus winkleri* in Capital Reef National Park, and by a very rare *sclerocactus sileri* in the Arizona strip.



Here Norman infests the C&S Garden at the Mesa County Fairgrounds.



Norman and Sigfreid tag-team this giant yellow *pediocactus*.

Those of you who wish to learn more about this dreadful pest can view additional information by going to U-Tube, and searching for "Gnome Management in the Garden." This is something EVERY gardener needs to view--and be prepared for.



Norman relaxing in Capital Reef National Park



Siggie visits Fantasy Canyon!



A new species of gnome has emerged in Orchard Mesa threatening a *pediocactus*.



Peering over an endangered *S. wetlandicus* in northeastern Utah.

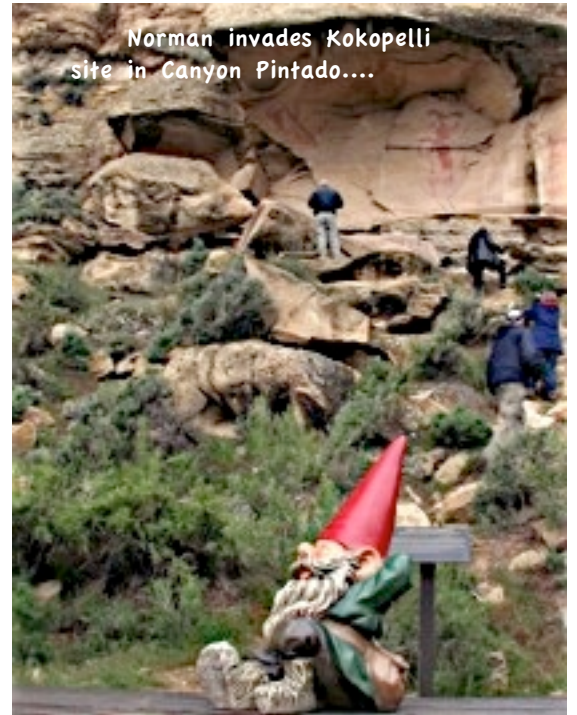
MORE SCENES FROM CACTUS TOUR
Photos by Don Campbell



SUN DAGGER PICTOGRAPH AT
CANYON PINTADO



Inset: Detail of the Sun Dagger rock art



Norman invades Kokopelli
site in Canyon Pintado....



....and the Cow Canyon site.



Waving Hands



Notes from the Denver Botanical Gardens website:



Posted May 26, 2010 by Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator & Director of Outreach



Dryland Mesa RIGHT NOW!

You may *think* you don't like cactus, but it would take a hard-hearted soul to deny that Dryland Mesa at Denver Botanic Gardens wasn't a work of towering garden art. Where else can you find those brilliant reds, blues, oranges and pinks combined so whimsically and well? Right **NOW** is when the hedgehog cacti in all their variety and color are at their best.

Sorry: you'll miss this one. It only blooms like that ONE DAY a year, and that day was this past Monday. But it has cousins around the garden that will wait for your visit...**provided** you come quickly!



Echinocereus reichenbachii var. *albispinus*



Echinocactus texensis

Where else in Denver will you find a horse crippler like this one blooming? There are idiots around the West who uproot these gorgeous plants, fearing their horses will be crippled by them. They obviously don't have much regard for the intelligence or perspicacity of horses...these cacti once grew abundantly in much of Texas and New Mexico. The microclimate of Dryland Mesa is such that we can succeed with many Chihuahuan and Sonoran treasures here...saving you lots of gas money.

Thanks to Panayoti Keladis for his sage comments!

2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 5** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
June 6 Santa Fe Garden Tour.
June 10 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program: What's New at CSU Extension Gardens?
Presenter: Susan Rose, CSU Horticulturist
NOTE LOCATION CHANGE:
6:30 pm, CSU EXTENSION GARDENS
- JUNE 10-13** 13th BIENNIAL MID-STATES C&S CONFERENCE - St. Louis
For info, contact Mike Hellmann at 1-618-656-1803, or email cactus1803@yahoo.com, or go to the Mid-States website, www.midstatesconference.org
- 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 10 CHINLE C&SS ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR & PICNIC
(This activity replaces the regular monthly meeting for July. Details to follow)
- JULY 17** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
JULY 28 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
AUGUST 7 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
August 12 Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program: To be Announced
Presenter: Sheryl Williams
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- AUGUST 18** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
AUGUST 28 GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION

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: Loren Benoit

970-254-7471

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.

Meetings are held 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>