



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
May 2010 Vol. 2, No. 5

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

Rave Reviews for Kennedy's Tripping in Big Bend National Park Program

Here are just a few comments from the media about the upcoming program (courtesy of Dave Kennedy):

- *"It's an updated version of 'It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World.' A wildly hilarious look at Texas."*
Rocky Mountain News
- *"I was close to being sick with laughter at times, other times just close to being sick!"*
M. John Harrison, Author
- *"Action-packed...fast-paced and colorful...events come thick and fast."*
St. Petersburg Times
- *"[These people] would be shot on sight in any other state."*
The New York Times
- *"It's deranged, depraved and dead-on."*
Les Standiford, Author
- *"[This] cast of dangerous oddballs...skewer the state's stereotypes."*
Publishers Weekly
- *"Twisted hilarity..."*
Belfast News Letter
- *"Jittery, bizarre and utterly charming...dark yet wildly funny..."* *Miami Herald*



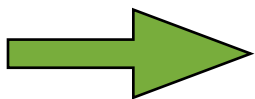
The Texas Rainbow Cactus (*Echinocereus dasyacanthus*) is abundant in Big Bend National Park, favoring limestone hillsides up to 5000 feet in elevation.

What are they reviewing? It is a narrated slide show by Dave Kennedy about the two-month winter odyssey to Big Bend National Park in Texas that he and Judy took in Jan-Feb. 2010!

When: Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 7 pm.

(Note Date and Time Change!)

Where? Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds



Check out late breaking news on page 11 & 12

BLOOMIN' DEALS ON MAY 8th!

Tom Burrows, Coordinator for the Chinle C&SS 2010 Bloomin' Deals reports that this year's event will be one of the best yet. The Chinle booth will be in a better location, amenable to more walk-by shoppers. Volunteers have signed up to man the booth, but more are always welcome and needed. Also, considerable work remains to be done to prepare for the event. So, please check with Tom at his website below or call him to see how you might help!

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



A concerted effort has been made to assure that the plants offered for sale are of excellent quality. At the April meeting, Tom Burrows and Don Campbell showed examples of both desirable and undesirable plants for presentation and discussion. Here's a couple of (obvious) examples. The one on the left is a "Yes"--and the one on the right is an obvious "No!"



Pat Severson and Dieter Kubisch decide which plants to load first.

On April 16th, Chinle members loaded up the plants "wintered over" at Meadowlark Nursery to transport to Carolyn Logan's home, in preparation for Bloomin' Deals on May 8th.

Please let Tom Burrows know (if you haven't already) if you can help pick up plants at Carolyn's on May 7th, and then bring them to Bloomin' Deals on May 8th. "Many hands makes light work!"



Dieter's trusty truck saves the day at Meadowlark!

biomass, cellulosic perennial bioenergy crops in the Fruita, Rifle and Carbondale areas. He also presented a very convincing argument for the need to explore crops that work in the western, arid climate.

The crops they are looking at include various common grasses, and yes, the opuntia “prickly pear cactus.” Morgan also requested assistance from the Chinle C&SS to get the concept demonstration started, to include a letter of intent to assist and volunteer manpower to harvest and plant the opuntia for the concept demonstration garden. Individual members have already volunteered to collect opuntia.

CHINLE MEMBERS WIN RIBBONS AT DENVER SHOW & SALE

Don and Peter Newbury won ribbons at the Denver Show & Sale in March, 2010, shown below in photos of the prize winning entries. The Chinle C&SS was represented at the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society event by the Campbells, Bobbie and Reed Irwin, and the Newbury's.



Don Campbell won a special ribbon for having the best cactus in the advanced Division with his *Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus* 'inermis'. His cactus also won the Jim Sykes Trophy as the best overall cactus in the Show.



Peter Newbury's *Aloe taurii* (on the left) received a well-deserved blue ribbon. On the right is another of Peter's blue ribbon winners, an *Aeonium sedifolium*. Peter entered 4 plants in the Novice Division and won four first place blue ribbons. The Novice Division was very competitive, having more entries than either the Intermediate or Open Divisions.

CHINLE GARDEN PARTY GARDENERS “DIG” THE GARDENS!

Faithful Chinle gardeners in the photo below [(L to R) Tom Burrows Nancy Glover, Bob Bubel, and Pat Severson] were present and accounted for at the April 5th Garden Party at the CSU extension garden. Don Campbell is hiding behind his camera!! The Club is still attempting to overcome the winter’s devastation of the gardens, but new plants are on the way--as well as weeds! Members who worked at the April 14th Garden Party at the WCBG were Bev Boggs, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, and Dieter Kubisch. April 24th gardeners at the CSU Extension were Al & Pat Severson, Bev Boggs, Dieter Kubisch, Maryann Benoit and Janet Hassell. Thanks to all!



PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR: MAY GARDEN PARTIES ON 5/5, 5/12, & 5/26

CHINLE C&SS SAYS “THANKS” TO LILLY & SARAH



Lilly McAnally

The Chinle C&SS extends its appreciation to Lilly McAnally and Sarah Boggs for their work in the Treasurer position for the past several months. Lilly has resigned due to health and other reasons. Sarah will continue her role to coordinate plant donations from members for the meeting drawings. Fortunately, Loren Benoit has stepped up to the plate and has volunteered to take on the

responsibility of Treasurer for the Club. He will be voted

on by the membership at our May meeting. If there are other persons wishing to volunteer for this position, please contact President Carolyn Logan prior to the next meeting.



Sarah Boggs

Spring Is Here!

Here is the best of both worlds--tulips and cacti--photographed by Don Campbell at the CSU Garden Party, April 5th...



...as well as a pedio cactus, beginning to flower the same day.

KUDOS TO CHELSEA GARDENS!

Appreciation is extended to Stacy Stecher and Tony Urschitz, owners of Chelsea Garden, for their generosity to sell plants to our Chinle C&SS at wholesale cost, to replace and augment plants in the WCBG and CSU gardens.

Stacy and Tony and are long-time members of the Chinle C&SS and their support is greatly appreciated. It certainly helps make the Club's dollars go a lot further!! Thanks again!!

Here's a Sneak Preview of the Chinle Field Trip in May

Photos and narrative by Don Campbell

CANYON PINTADO

Canyon Pintado National Historic District encompasses over 16,000 acres of public land along 15 miles of State Highway 139. Canyon Pintado (Spanish for "Painted Canyon") received its name in 1776 when Fathers Dominguez and Escalante noted numerous examples of ancient Native American rock art as they traveled through the Douglas Creek Valley.

The photo below on the left shows a part of the Canyon Pintado Site which was described in the journals of the Escalante Expedition of 1776. Of particular interest at this site, shown in the photo on the right, is a figure of Kokopelli, the hump-back flute player of Anasazi mythology. A cable crossing the center of the photo was installed to prevent further deterioration of the panel.



FANTASY CANYON

Fantasy Canyon is the official designation of an area composed of unique erosional features located about 25 miles south of Vernal, in northeastern Utah. Even though the area is somewhat small (it is not really a canyon), it contains some of the most unique geologic features in the world. The site adjoins Coyote Wash and is locally called "Hades Pit" or "Devil's Rockhouse" and is a part of "The Devils Playground."





SCLEROCACTUS WETLANDICUS

'Uinta basin hookless cactus'

The photo below shows two large *Sclerocactus wetlandicus* plants northwest of Bonanza, UT. Photo taken April 18, 2010.



Sclerocactus wetlandicus is listed as a threatened species and is protected under the Endangered Species Act. The cactus is morphologically very similar to *S. glaucus* and has been frequently treated within *S. glaucus*, but the two populations are geographically separated and Phylogenetic analyses of the chloroplast DNA are ambiguous regarding the closest relative of *S. wetlandicus*. However, this species is related to *S. brevispinus*, *S. glaucus*, *S. wrightiae*, *S. whipplei*, and *S. parviflorus*. We refer to this species as the *Sclerocactus glaucus* complex.



Here is a *Sclerocactus wetlandicus* photographed in flower northwest of Bonanza, UT, on May 10, 2009. There's a very high probability that we'll see these plants flowering during the May field trip!

EXTRA, EXTRA -- LATE BREAKING NEWS!

By Roving Reporter, Don Campbell

Eastern Utah. A long-lost breeding colony of 'Giant Yellow Pedios' has just been rediscovered in eastern Utah. According to the intrepid rediscovery team, this is the largest assemblage of 'Giant Pedios' they've observed in over 25 years of diligent searching!

This easily accessible concentration of very large, mature, yellow-flowered *Pediocactus simpsonii* cacti should provide an exhilarating conclusion to the Saturday portion of the Chinle Field Trip. There is, however, an unfortunate footnote to this exciting, late-breaking news. The 'Giant Yellow Pedios' will most likely be completely exhausted, bloomed out, by the time the Chinle Field Trippers arrive at the long-lost Colony on May 15th.



Four 'Giant Yellow Pedios' milling about on a high point overlooking the Green River in eastern Utah.



Close up of a contented 'Giant Yellow Pedio' basking in the afternoon sun.

More breaking news!

The 'cedar gnats' are beginning to appear. Chinle Field Trippers should add insect repellent to their list if "must have" items to bring.

...and still more breaking news!

As if cochineal and noxious weeds aren't enough of a threat, the Saturday Garden Party gardeners reported catching a glimpse of another aggressive, invasive species--Garden Gnomes! This species, its habits and habitats has been well documented by the University of Utah's Biology Department. We were lucky enough to get photos of the pests, shown here. Gardener's beware!





The Henry Shaw Cactus Society invites you to attend the 13th Biennial Mi-States Cactus & Succulent Conference in St. Louis. It will be held at the Drury Inn and Suites in St. Louis. The event will offer a diverse program of informative presentations, plenty of plants for sale, and a bit of local flavor--brought to you by the organizers of the Midwest's largest annual cactus and succulent show. For more information, contact Mike Hellmann at 1-618-656-1803, or email cactus1803@yahoo.com, or go to the Mid-States website, www.midstatesconference.org for registration and program information.

2010 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Officers

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Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.
Remember! 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>

2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- MAY 5** GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
- MAY 8** Bloomin' Deals - Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
9am to 4 pm
- MAY 12** GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
- May 15** Chinle Field Trip to Dinosaur NP, Vernal, Fantasy
Canyon and Bonanza Power Plant area
Coordinator: Don Campbell
- May 20** Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
NOTE CHANGE TO THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
Program: "Tripping in Big Bend National Park"
Presenter: Dave Kennedy
7:00 pm, (time change)
Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- May 20 & 22** Cactus Hikes: Don Campbell leads two Colorado National
Monument hikes on Old Gordon's Trail. Is free, but must sign
up with the CNM Visitor Center and the groups are limited to
20 participants each hike.
- 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: What's New at CSU Extension Gardens?
Presenter: Susan Rose, CSU Horticulturist
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds
- JUNE 10-13** 13th BIENNIAL MID-STATES C&S CONFERENCE - St. Louis
- 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 12** Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Program: To be Announced
Presenter: Sheryl Williams
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, GJ Fairgrounds