



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
November 2010 Vol. 2, No. 11

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

## CACTUS VINES AND VINY CACTI: A VERY UNIQUE NOVEMBER PROGRAM



*Pereskia weberiana*. Yes, it's a cactus!

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of noncactus succulent plants that are vines, so they're not so unusual, and this program makes only casual reference to them.

"Almost all cacti are succulents (there are apparently a few that aren't) and are generally considered in a separate category. This program, illustrated with some live plants, deals only with creepy-crawly cacti."



*Selenicereus testado*. Aerial roots are visible on this plant.

Sounds intriguing, right?

Bobbie and Reed Irwin are founding members of the Chinle club. Bobbie tends to favor the cacti and is trying to limit herself to only acquiring new plants that can live outside. Reed likes leafy things that obviously grow and look alive, and so their sunroom is filled with viny succulents, including some cactus vines

Bobbi Irwin is scheduled to present a fascinating and informative program on a unique category of cacti that are vine-like.

She introduces her program saying, "You probably don't think of vines when you think of cacti; however, some cacti are true vines, and others are straggly/sprawling enough to be considered viny.



*Rhipsalis teres*. Bobbi considers this a true vine with aerial roots.

By her own description, Bobbie is a writer who likes puns, and she's a weaver who travels extensively to teach workshops that have nothing to do with cacti. (Sometimes, however, she teaches in places that have lovely cacti outside the classroom windows.) She loves public speaking, has an inflated ego but doesn't take herself seriously, and fancies herself as a stand-up comedienne. If you've heard any of her other talks for the club, you can expect this one to be typical.

Bobbie was educated as a scientist many years ago, so she thinks she can poke fun at scientists. She's not a botanist, only knows a little bit about cacti (just enough to be dangerous), and she won't confuse you with a lot of technical jargon. In her program, you can expect some interesting facts she learned from books; some speculation based on her observations and an overactive imagination; and a liberal dose of her weird humor.

You might even learn something new.



Mammillaria sp. probably *M. bombicina*. What Bobbie calls a viny cactus but not a true vine but one that tends to sprawl.

Photos by Bobbi Irwin.

*Make reservations now!*

## *Chinle Annual Dinner Meeting*

*When: Thursday, December 9, 2010*

*Where: Pinon Grill at Tiara Rado Golf Club  
2057 South Broadway, Grand Junction.*

*5:30 pm – 6:30 pm: Register and Socialize (bid on silent auction items)*

*6:30 pm – 7:30 pm: Dinner*

*7:30 pm – 8:15 pm: Business Meeting, including nomination and election of officers*

*8:30 pm – 9:30 pm: Door Prizes, Gift Plants and Silent Auction*

*Cost for members: \$21.00. Cost for non-members: \$31.00.*

*Please pre-register by November 30<sup>th</sup>.*

*Reserve a spot at the next Chinle meeting, or mail your check to:  
Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 20000-5028,  
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028.*

### *Buffet Menu*

*Spinach and Gorgonzola Raviolis with Tomatoes, Scallions and Alfredo Sauce  
Sirloin Tips in Burgundy Sage Sauce  
Chicken Breast with Dried Apricot/Cilantro Compote  
Tossed salad, the Chef's fresh vegetable, Roasted red potatoes, Fresh baked rolls,  
Dessert, Coffee and tea  
Cash Bar*

*We are looking for any cactus related items for our door prizes (examples: plant containers, books, plants, gardening implements, gift certificates for businesses that sell plants, containers, decorations or tools).*

*Call Nancy Glover at 241-0196 if you have something to donate or have any questions.*

*If you have plants to donate, call Don Campbell at 245-5088.*

*If you have any questions, call Pat Severson at 255-1005.*

*Don't forget to wear your name tag.*

*Note: Any of you that have interesting pictures of Chinle activities, please forward them to Loren to include in the slide show he does for the Annual Dinner Meeting.*



Donnie Barnett, October speaker

## **CLARET CUP CACTI PROGRAM WELL ATTENDED IN OCTOBER**

Donnie Barnett, guest speaker at the October 9th regular meeting of the Chinle C&SS, entertained a large group of attendees with a program that focused on the Claret Cup cacti in multiple locations and habitats. Members were introduced to the concept of male/female cacti as opposed to separate gendered plants, and how to recognize each of them.

His underlying theme was that "there is an exception to every rule," and showed photos to illustrate this point.

His photographs, as usual, were lovely. Many of his

photographs have been reproduced in the form of notecards/postcards, and he graciously donated a set of them to the traditional Chinle drawing. Thanks, Donnie!

All those attending went away with a fresh way of looking at the Claret Cup cactus. For more information about Donnie's work and photographs, visit his website at [donnie-barnett.artistwebsites.com](http://donnie-barnett.artistwebsites.com).



Members admire Donnie's artistic cards & ask questions about Claret Cup cacti.

## PREPARATIONS FOR BLOOMIN' DEALS & PLANT SALES CONTINUE

On October 27th and 29th, Maryann Benoit activated her team of Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Janet Hassell, Dieter Kubisch, Larry Moran, Pat & Al Severson to clean-up, top-dress and ready for transport the plants that had been potted earlier this summer.



Approximately half of the plants are being prepared for sale at Bloomin' Deals this coming spring, and will be wintered over at Meadowlark Nursery as they were last year. However, another outlet for sales has been developed through Valley Grown Nursery, who has agreed to take plants on consignment for sale in their greenhouse. The balance of the plants were taken to Valley Grown on Friday. This should hopefully represent a source of income for the Chinle C&SS and expand the Society's ability to promote the goals of the Society.

Thanks to the members who volunteered to participate in this Society activity!



# CHINLE GARDENERS COMPLETE SCHEDULED GARDEN PARTIES

Gardeners at the Penultimate Garden Party, Oct. 9th, at the CSU Extension garden included Don Campbell, Tom Burrows, Kay Klausmier, Al Severson, Janet Hassell and Nancy Glover.



Gardeners at the final garden party of 2010, at the Western Colorado Botanical Garden were Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Kay Klausmeier, Judy McCart and Pat Severson.



Thanks to ALL the members who participated in Garden Parties this year, to Don Campbell for his entertaining and timely invitations, and everyone who supports these efforts, even if they are unable to attend. The Society can be very proud of the work they have done this year!

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We are pleased to welcome new members, Larry & Mary Moran, 3240 Applewood St, Grand Junction, CO 81506, 970 245-6544, email [msclancygj@bresnan.net](mailto:msclancygj@bresnan.net). We are happy you have decided to join our club!

## QUESTION: WHAT IZZAT?

*Contributed by Don Campbell*

“Recently, while on plant patrol in my sunroom, I came across this strange leafy thingie with a pretty little pink flower. After watching it in flower for 3 or 4 days, I decided to break out my camera and offer up a quiz.”

**HINT:** “This relatively young rooted cutting has smooth, slender, spineless stems with leaves that look to be ever so slightly succulent. The leaves are up to about 1 1/2 inches long and the flower about 3/4 inch across. In it's native dry-forest habitat in the Andean valleys of Bolivia it can grow into a slender, shrubby clambering plant up to 9 or 10 feet tall with a stem diameter up to 4 or 5 inches. With maturity it develops spines up to about a 1/2 inch long on the stem and branches.”



**ANSWER:** *Pereskia weberiana*

Edward Anderson in his book titled, "The Cactus Family" notes that the genus Pereskia contains some 17 species of remarkable cacti that, to most people, do not look at all like cacti. The Pereskia clan is a true oddity within the Cactus family.

## **IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE FOR NEXT YEAR'S OFFICERS!**

Carolyn Logan and Winton Brophy are heading up the Nominations Committee for next year's slate of officers. Serving on the Chinle C&SS Board is a great opportunity to get involved with club activities and have input into the operations of the organization. All positions are open for nominations since the terms for service are one year at a time.

Official nominations and election of officers takes place at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

Contact Carolyn (523-6363) or Winton (243-7145) if you are interested in being nominated, have questions, or wish to review any of the job descriptions for the positions.

*"Thank you to all of you who sent cards, called, and/or attended my mother's memorial mass on September 17. Your support and caring means so much to me at this sad time."*

*Kathleen McGinley*

## CC&SS MEMBERS VISIT FRUITA RESEARCH STATION

Saturday, October 23, 12 Chinle members and guests (Tom Burrows, Julie Bursi, Joy & Tyne Bush, Don & Carol Campbell, Pam Johnson, Kay Klausmeier, Dieter Kubisch, Judy McCart, Lain Williams & friend from WCBG) visited the Western Colorado Research Center in Fruita for a brief presentation by Dr. Calvin H. Pearson, Professor, and Research Agronomist at the Center.



Dr. Calvin Pearson



Chinle members & guests at the Opuntia plot with Dr. Pearson.



The plot--11 rows, 50 feet long, with Opuntia plants, many with new pads.



Oops! Cochineal on O. phaeacantha at the plot

The Opuntia Project certainly looks like it is off to a good and healthy start!!! All of us will eagerly watch to see if opuntia will be the next newest source of biofuel!

Persons who would like to visit the research site are welcome to do so at any time.

**IMPORTANT SURVEY ON ATTITUDES TOWARD THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**  
Your help is needed!

The Loma Linda University Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Studies is conducting a ground-breaking survey on attitudes toward the environment and conservation by those who love plants and animals. The results from this study, to be published in a professional journal, will contribute to our understanding of the role of plants and animals in society.

Participants are urgently needed to complete the survey, which should take about 5-10 minutes of your time.

Please click on the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/R9PFYRN>

William K. Hayes, Ph.D., Professor of Biology

Loma Linda University Loma Linda, California, USA [whayes@llu.edu](mailto:whayes@llu.edu)

## **POTTING SOIL, ANYONE?**

*Note from Don Campbell*

“Last weekend I visited Paulino's Nursery in Denver & brought back a sack of their cactus potting soil mix. I've repackaged part of the bag into one gallon plastic jugs which are available to anyone who needs a relatively small amount of this C&S soil mix. I've been using this mix for many years and have found it to be a generally good blend, however, I sometimes modify it by adding a bit more organic material.” Contact Don Campbell if you would like to purchase some of this excellent potting soil mix.

## **PLANT LABELS 101**

(From **CACTI\_ETC Digest 5580**)\*

**Question:** Where can I find durable plant labels? *(And some interesting answers from various Cactophiles)*

Andrew from San Diego replied:

I get mine from Woodland Creek in Lebanon, Oregon. They have a wide range of sizes. Come in thousands. Get the thickest ones for longest life. In Southern California sun they last four years without being brittle but I would not

guarantee many years beyond that. Use a very soft (6B) pencil(used in artwork) to avoid fading by sun or rain. Excellent for pot plants. Cost about \$25 per thousand (2.5 cents per label).

I use aluminum labels very rarely. Too much work. Useful only for trees. If you want something that will take any climate and for as long as you'll want, engraving stone using Dremel is the way to go. But that is really a lot of work and something you use only for specimen plants. Otherwise, for potting and propagation the vinyl label is the best solution.

Robert Wallace of Iowa State notes:

I agree with what Andrew said, and will only add that to improve the "writeability" of the sometimes very smooth surfaces of plastic labels, I often lightly sand the surface of the labels with 600 grit sandpaper which makes the pencil marks darker and more adherent to the label surface. I used to get plastic labels that come in sheets of 8 labels stuck together at their sides, so using a small vibrating 1/4-sheet sander allowed sanding 8 labels at a time that only took about 5-8 seconds or so for a sheet of 8 labels. A few swipes with some very fine sandpaper (or even some 0 or 00 steel wool) would roughen the label surface enough to improve the writing properties for whatever plastic labels are used. Robert S. Wallace, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Botany, Iowa State University,

**(From CACTI\_ETC Digest 5581)\*:**

I am a bit tired of plant labels. They are basically designed for much shorter-lived plants. When I go into my friends' greenhouses I look at an ID tag and then the whole thing snaps off. I have my own labels and in the case of a marker pen it eventually is oxidized off. When I use pencil it either gets rubbed off or washed off. Aluminum labels corrode in my greenhouse.

As a chemist I know that the reason for the labels snapping off and the ink getting oxidized is that they do not have enough UV stabilizer in them. You may remember some American Cars in the '80's -- All of the vinyl parts eventually decomposed. Everybody thought that this was "how it was" This was until the Japanese cars came in and showed everyone how to do it. Put in more (expensive) UV stabilizers!

Now I use yellow electrical tape for my labels, I use a regular black marker pen. But I put them on the bottom of the pot. I also put another on the side where they won't see as much sunlight. Not elegant but I'm tired of losing ID's. I'm lazy so I only give my plants a number which I can look up. ( i.e. Mammillaria tetrancistra from Newberry Mts NV is 280) I don't have to look that one up.

Malcolm Burleigh

Tony Furrh, Oklahoma City. I would suggest looking up American Plant Products(OKC) They are a Nursery supply co. and have all kinds of labels in sizes and colors and ranging from 500 to 1000 and up amounts. I buy all my labels, soil etc. from them. You should be able to just type the name as I wrote it above and their website will come up with ph # also. I have found that color sometimes has an effect on longevity, but in time they all become brittle and fail. When I re-pot-up for about the third time automatically start a new tag so at times there will be 2 in a given pot then I always have a fresh tag in the pot.

I am using old luxaflex shades myself. I only have these in use for just a few months, so it is a bit too soon to tell you about all the advantages and disadvantages from my own experience. Luxaflex is made from aluminium, but I assume you can find plastic ones as well. The advantage above plastic from regular labels, is that luxaflex should be able to withstand sunlight much better, and not becoming brittle by sunlight as years go by.

I would suggest that you go to a hardware store that sells vinyl blinds. They always cut them off to size; ask for the left over ends. These last along time, they have uv blockers and they are slightly curved. You may have to cut them to length, but they are inexpensive. Try it, you'll like!--Joey Betzler

**\*CACTI\_ETC Digest is an on-line blog for persons with questions and answers about cactus & succulent hobbying.**

## **FREE CACTI SOON AVAILABLE TO GOOD HOMES!**

Tom Burrows is the proud owner of a large Echinopsis cactus that has a number of pups and is scheduled for beheading in the near future to provide 4-5 nice pieces for potting. It is one of

