



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
October 2011 Vol. 3, No. 10

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

Next on the Chinle Meeting Agenda - October 13th

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly!

The October 13th program for the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society should be another fun and informative evening. In the past, an evening of "The Good, Bad & the Ugly" has been an opportunity for members to bring their plants to the meeting to discuss and share their successes (or failures) with the members. It is also a great time to get advice about special cultivation problems, lighting recommendations, and watering do's and don't's!

Additionally, members are encouraged to tidy up their plant collections and bring extra plants to the meeting they would like to give away--or sell, hopefully with an amount of the sale price donated to the club.

If you bring a plant to discuss with the group, be prepared to provide information about the plant to include its name, place of origin, normal habitat, and your history with the plant, problems, successes, or other interesting information about the plant.

As usual, there will be drawings for attractive and interesting plants as well as Silent Auction plants, which are typically quite special and desirable to own.

Be sure to put this regular meeting of the Society and excellent program on your calendar! If you have questions about the suitability of your plants for this activity, feel free to call Don Campbell at 245-5088 and he can give you some guidelines to consider. In general, however, any plant with any problem--or attractive feature--will be welcome!

GEOLOGY OF THE MONUMENT SUPER "SURPRISE" PROGRAM"

Bill Hood, Retired Geologist, presented an informative and interesting program on the geology of the Colorado National Monument at the September 8th Regular Meeting of the

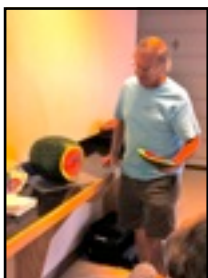
Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society. With

much discussion in the Grand Junction area regarding the Colorado National Monument becoming a national park, the description of its geologic uniqueness was especially timely and noteworthy.

Thanks to Bill for being available to fill in for Don Campbell's originally scheduled program--and for doing an excellent job! Thanks also goes to Judy McCart, Vice President, for doing an excellent job of conducting the meeting in Bill Hassell's absence.



(Photo by L. Benoit)



Curt Swift adds to the evening with a fresh watermelon. (Photo by L. Benoit)

Crump's Greenhouse Field Trip Another Successful Chinle Event!

Eleven Chinle C&SS members traveled to Buena Vista, CO to visit the Crump's Greenhouse on Saturday, Sept. 17th, 2011. Part of the group's "mission" was to purchase plants for the Annual Dinner Meeting silent auction and door prize activities at the meeting. Another part of the trip was a opportunity to visit the Crumps's wholesale greenhouse, and view some of the extraordinary specimen plants that Mike Crump has cultivated. A beautiful selection of plants was compiled by Mike Crump for the ADM. Of course, members were tempted by the variety and beauty of the plants in the greenhouse, and most returned home with their own personal selection of plants.



After dodging a few raindrops at noon in the Crump's back yard as members enjoyed their box lunches, they finalized their selections of plants for purchase.



Rita Crump, Mike's wife, (on the left in the photo below) graciously offered to take a group of attendees after lunch to several



local sites to view cacti in habitat. Some of the “in situ” cacti seen are shown below.



E. triglochidiatus at the Midland Hill site.



Pam Johnson intently photographs a pedio clump.



From Midland Hill just east of Buena Vista, the Collegiate 14-ers are magnificent.



Maryann Benoit captures Janet Hassell and Loren Benoit getting ruffled by the stiff breeze.



Opuntia heacockiae with its unique spines at Midland Hill.



Escobaria vivipara.



A *pediocactus simpsonii* nestled by a rock.



Happy faces and delicious food at the Casa Del Sol in Buena Vista.

Dinner at the Casa Del Sol restaurant was delicious and cozy. Everyone went back to their motel rooms having pushed the limits of “fullness”, but thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

Sunday morning, the group met at the San Isabel National Forest Sign outside Buena Vista and did a bit of exploring, discovering a mother lode of pediocacti and echinocereus viridiflorus. Tom Burrows was so enthralled by the area’s photo opportunities, he waved the rest of us on to enjoy the scenic tour home without him.



Echinocereus viridiflorus



Pediocacti simpsonii



Indeed, the drive back to Grand Junction was fantastically scenic, with towering mountain vistas, spacious valleys and picture-postcard views, multiple photo ops, and hints of fall colors here and there. We drove over Cottonwood Pass at 13,000+ feet, continued over a dirt road to Crested Butte. The community was having its annual Vinitor celebration (fall celebration of harvest, etc) complete with a parade and the crowning of the Red Mountain Queen. After lunch, the group continued toward Grand Junction over Kuebler Pass and 14 miles of bumpy, dirt roads made tolerable by the impressive mountain ranges, gorgeous scenery and expansive, endless stands of aspen.



Red Mountain “Queens” in Crested Butte, 2010 & 2011

Thanks go out to Pam Johnson and Dave McCullough for their careful planning and coordination of this tour which included bringing lunches to Crumps, finding places to eat and have entertainment, and in general, keeping things moving! Thanks also to the members who brought the cacti safely back to Grand Junction, and to Don Campbell who will keep them in his Cactus Nursery until the ADM.



CHINLE MEMBERS ATTACK WEEDS, GET ASSIST FROM MASTER GARDENERS

September 13th garden party at the CSU Extension garden focused on removing cochinille infected plants, old flower pods, weeds, and a pulling up a gazillion gazinias! Maryann Benoit, Loren Benoit, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Janet Hassell and Lorraine Price were joined by three Master Gardener volunteers to do the work. Thanks to Loren Benoit, the group had goodies to enjoy at the break.



Members hard at work removing debris and dead plants. Tom Burrows and his shop vac made short work of getting up spent flower pods. On the right, the reward for the morning--Goodies!



The September 24th Garden Party participants at the CSU Extension included Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows, Lorraine Price, Don Campbell, and Keith Woestehoff, newsletter editor of the Colorado C&S Society in Denver.

Keith helped with the gardening that day while his wife, Kristin, showed their dog Buffy at the Agility Trials at the Fairgrounds. The pair won the DOCNA (Dogs on Course North America) national championship for Grand Veteran dogs jumping 16" fences. Congrats!



Keith



Tom



Maryann



Lorraine

Thank you, Don Campbell, for taking photos at this garden party!

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

DECEMBER 8TH, 2011

Pat Severson, coordinator and her Annual Dinner Meeting committee have a lovely evening planned for Chinle members at this premier annual event for the Society. The Annual Dinner Meeting is Thursday, December 8th, at The Iron Restaurant at the Tiara Rado Golf Course, beginning at 5:30 pm. Member cost is \$23.00 and non-member cost, \$31.00.

The event features a buffet dinner with three entrees, cash bar, silent auction and door prizes. Each attendee will receive a gift plant. You can reserve your spot by paying Loren Benoit at a regular meeting or by sending a check to:

*Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
PO Box 20000-5028
Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028.*

We are looking for any cactus related items for our door prizes (examples: plant containers, books, gardening implements, gift certificates for nurseries, garden tools - you get the idea). Please call Pat at 255-1005 if you have something to donate or just bring it to one of the next meetings. If you have plants to donate, call Don Campbell at 245-5088.

The Annual Dinner Meeting is one of the highlights of the year. Board Members for 2012 are elected at this meeting, and in general, everyone has a great time. Be sure to put this event on your December calendar!

The Schedule of ADM Events

5:30 pm Social Hour - cash bar

Bid on Silent Auction items

6:30 pm Dinner

7:30 pm Annual Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society

Review of 2011 activities and events

Presentation of awards and recognitions

Election of officers for 2012

8:30 pm Door prizes, plant drawings

Announce winners of Silent Auction items

9:00 pm Adjourn



Jeff Brimley sends this photo of an *Opuntia pulchella* he says "finally bloomed" in early Sept.

BUG ZAPPER FORMULA REVEALED

No, this isn't a scam!!! Kathleen McGinley, member and former Garden Committee chairperson, shared the following information with Don Campbell, who passed it on to the newsletter editor!

"Hi Don,

While visiting Helen last week, I noticed she had cochinita on the Opuntias in the cactus garden I planted for her. She had seen them earlier and had drenched them with her Bug Zapper formula (that her daughter-in-law Karen Hyashi had given her years ago). I checked the little buggers and found that they were dead and totally dried up. Maybe this formula will work for the club (or members' plants).

Here's the recipe:

2 Tablespoons Castile Soap

2 Tablespoons Tabasco

1 Quart of water.

Mix together and drench infected plants. Helen says it works on all sorts of insect pests.

I found the "Dr. Bonner's Pure Castile Soap" in the Wellness Center of the new City Market store on 24 Rd, Grand Junction.

Kathleen"



"On a Clear Day, you can see forever" at the top of Cottonwood Pass.



Tom Burrows photographed this awesome view on Hwy 92 near Gunnison.



Bright red fruits on the Opuntia (L) and a craggy perch for the Claret Cup (R) were subjects for these photos by Tom Burrows.



(L to R) Loren & Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows, Janet Hassell, Mary Moran, Pam Johnson & Dave McCollough, Danny & Larry Moran at Midland Hill area.

TOP DRESSING AT WCBG GOES SMOOTHLY!

With the assistance of a half-dozen Work Enders, Chinle members Loren & Maryann Benoit, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Janet Hassell, Jack Neckles, Peter Newbury, and Lorraine Price, applied over 2 yards of top dressing gravel to the Cactus & Succulent Garden at the Western Colorado Botanical Garden, Thursday morning, Sept. 29th.



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Many of you remember seeing last summer's infestation of garden gnomes at Al & Pat Severson's during the Garden Tour. Well, like the Rocky Mount canteloupe problem and pine bark beetles, garden gnomes have spread--even as far as Buena Vista and the Crump's Greenhouse. Hopefully, Mike and Rita have figured out a way to eradicate these pests before they close for the winter and they take over the place!



(Members who wish to read minutes of the past meeting or meetings can go to our website and click on the "About Us" heading. For convenience, however, here are the minutes from the September 2011 meeting to read before voting to approve them in October.)

**Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2011**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Vice-President Judy McCart at the Sagebrush Room at the Mesa County Fairgrounds.

Treasurer's Report

Loren Benoit presented the Treasurer's Report.

Crump Greenhouse Tour

Tour coordinator Pam Johnson announced that the tour is pretty-much organized.

Gardening Committee

A top-dressing session is scheduled at the WCBG demo garden for September 29. Material will be delivered at that time.

Annual Dinner Meeting (ADM)

Donations of cactus-related items (for door prizes) are requested.

Tool Order

Maryann Benoit is assembling a group order of tools from Cactus Pruner.

Nominations

People should start thinking about running for office or nominating others to do so for the upcoming club officer election.

Program

Geologist Bill Hood presented a program on the geological history of the Colorado National Monument.

Prepared by Tom Burrows, Secretary
September 25, 2011



Taylor Reservoir with Elk & Collegiate Mountains in the background.
(Photo by Maryann Benoit)

OCT-DEC 2011 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- OCT 3* *Chinle Board of Directors Meeting*
- OCT 5* *Garden Party - Wednesday - 9 am - CSU Extension*
- OCT 13* ***Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS***
Program: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly Show & Tell
Night - Member participation
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- OCT 15* *Last Garden Party of the Season - Saturday - 9 am - WCBG*
- NOV 7* *Chinle Board of Directors Meeting*
- NOV 10* ***Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS***
Program: Cacti of Arizona
Presenter: Don Campbell
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- DEC 8* ***Chinle C&SS Annual Dinner Meeting***
The Iron Restaurant (formerly Tiara Rado restaurant)
5:30 pm - Social hour
6:30 pm - Dinner

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 Committee: Don Campbell
970-245-5508

Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Meetings are held in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds. Guests are always welcome.

CHINLE WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org

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