



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
September 2011 Vol. 3, No. 9

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

The Fruits of Our Labors...



Above, Maryann Benoit (L) & Don Campbell (R) survey the over 150 plants that were potted by Chinle members on Aug. 26th for future sales. See the complete story on page 7.

Still time to sign up!

Crump's Greenhouse Field Trip September 17- 18, 2011

At this time, about 10 Chinle members plan to participate in the Crumps Greenhouse Field Trip, but there is still room for more to join this fun event.

Pam Johnson, Co-Coordinator for the trip, has identified two important dates for members:



September 7th: Needs orders for lunches so she can order them from City Market.

Lunch choices: Turkey, ham or roast beef with Swiss or Cheddar on a Kaiser Bun, Lettuce & tomato slice on the side; small potato salad or macaroni salad; a bag of chips, an apple, and a cookie. Cost of each lunch is \$10.00, but the Society is paying half the cost. Pay your share (\$5) to Pam on Saturday when you pick up your lunch at Crumps.

September 14th: Needs to know if you will join the group for dinner at Casa Del Sol, Saturday night, the 17th, so she can make reservations.

Please let Pam know your plans by the dates above at pjohnson@fcfpremium.com or call her at 523-5443 (Home), or Pam's cell 970-250-7004 , Dave's cell 970-210-0716.

HERE'S THE SCHEDULE:

Most attendees are driving to Buena Vista on Friday. If you plan to drive Saturday morning and want to either caravan or carpool, check with Pam who can help you contact others who may be driving that day.

Saturday September 17th

11:00 am Gather at Crumps Greenhouse, 225 S Pleasant Avenue, Buena Vista, CO.

12:00 pm Lunch.

12:30pm until ??? Go around with Mike to pick out and price your plant selections.

The rest of afternoon is open. There may be an opportunity to see local cacti and succulents in their native habitat during the afternoon; more information about that will be forthcoming. Buena Vista has museums, shopping, and other activities if that's your preference.

6:00 pm Dinner at Casa del Sol

For those interested in after-dinner entertainment, Pam is checking into various options that could include a theater-type club, brew pub, shopping, and others.

Sunday September 18

Breakfast: If your motel doesn't have a complimentary breakfast, the Evergreen Café 418 N Hwy 24 opens at 6:30am and is recommended. There is also small bakery on Main street in the 300 block,. Another choice is Jan's Restaurant, that opens at 6 am.

8:30 Meet at National Forest Sign for scenic drive back to Grand Junction.

At Hwy 24 and CR 306--the only stop light in Buena Vista--head west for 4 miles to the National Forest Sign located outside Buena Vista on County Road 306 (Cottonwood Pass), where we plan for the group to meet and caravan. The drive will go over Cottonwood Pass, into Crested Butte, Paonia, and then home to Grand Junction, with plenty of stops for photographs, restrooms, and lunch.

We recommend you make lodging reservations in the very near future if you haven't already done so!

BRIMLEY'S CREATIVE PROGRAM MOST "BOUNTIFUL"



President Bill Hassell calls the meeting to order for the August meeting.

A large group of Chinle members enjoyed an entertaining program August 11th as special speaker, Jeff Brimley, shared his creative and unique landscaping experiences. His artistic touch was evident in the photo essays he presented of his cactus and succulent flowers, enhanced by complimentary music in the background. As Jeff said, "Gardening for me, is a way to express myself artistically. I love unusual plants and their unusual shapes and colors. From cacti to conifers, there are so many I would like to try." He is also a craftsman with metal sculptures, creating graceful gates, doors, and an incredible mobile, metal sculpture fountain that fascinated everyone.

Jeff has visitors to his home nearly every weekend, and has invited any of the club members to stop by when in Utah.

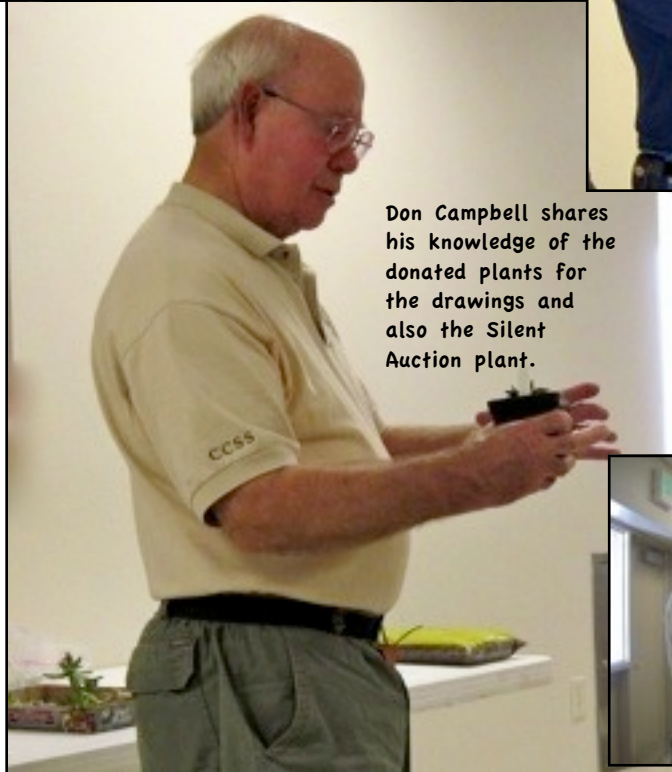


Above is Jeff's amazing fountain creation, the video of which fascinated members during his presentation. Everything moves!



Jeff poses next to one of the lovely flower photos he shared in his program.

MORE "SCENES" AT THE AUGUST MEETING



**GARDEN PARTIES BRING OUT THE BEST IN CHINLE MEMBERS!
(AND A LOT OF SWEAT!)**



AUGUST 3RD GARDENERS AT CSU!

On the left, Jack Neckels works with Kay Shilts, a volunteer Master Gardener who helped at this party. On the right, (L to R), Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Cole Pierce, Bob Bubel, and Bill Hassell, relax after the party.



AUGUST 13TH PARTY AT WCBG

(L to R) Tom Burrows, Pat Severson, Al Severson, Loren Benoit, Maryann Benoit, Kay Klausmeier, Nancy Glover, Bill Hassell. Below the 8/13 Gardeners at work--and on break.





A nice group attended the August 24th Garden Party at CSU, and were pleased with how the gardens looked. Above, Maryann Benoit & Don Campbell evaluated cuttings for the potting party on August 26th. Tom Burrows, Bob Babel, Bill & Janet Hassell, and Pat Severson also participated in the Party.



The August 31st Garden Party at the WCGB focused on rampant spurge--and overgrown 4 o'clocks which Don Campbell & Loren Benoit tackled (shown on the left). They were joined by Maryann Benoit, Bob Babel, Tom Burrows, Janet Hassell, Kay Klausmeier & Judy McCart. As the photo on the right shows, the garden is looking quite beautiful!

The Chinle Annual Dinner Meeting coming up!

Pat Severson, coordinator and her Annual Dinner Meeting committee met August 30 and announce that the Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8th, at The Iron Restaurant at the Tiara Rado Golf Course, beginning at 5:30 pm. Member cost will be \$23.00 and non-member cost will be \$31.00.

The event features a buffet dinner, cash bar, silent auction, door prizes and each attendee receives 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 a meeting. 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!

“LET’S ALL GET POTTED.....THE CACTUS, THAT IS!”

Ten Chinle members descended on Don Campbell's backyard for a Grand Potting Party, organized by Maryann Benoit, on Friday, August 26th. Loren Benoit was the designated “Dirt Guy”, keeping the soil mixed and ready for potters to use. Don, of course, was the technical supervisor, making sure the quality control and “tamping technique” met industry standards. He also provided the dirt, wheelbarrow and shovels. Bill Hassell, Larry Moran and Loren talked about beer a lot--and made bad jokes about their wives! (But worked really hard, too!) Pat Severson, Janet Hassell, Judy McCart, Tom Burrows, Julie Bursi and everyone else potted like crazy for four hours. And of course, everyone took the requisite “Goody Break” on Don's cool back porch. The plants are destined for consignment at Valley Grown Nursery as well as sales at the CSU Tree Sale and Earth Day next year (if it happens again).

Thanks go out to Maryann for her organizing efforts, complete with pre-cut newspaper liners for the pots, making a pot run to Valley Grown midway through the morning, bringing a cooler with water, cookies, fruit, and arranging for work tables and chairs. And thanks to Loren for being “the Man Behind the Woman,” the official car unpacker and packer, in addition to his Dirt Duties.



(L to R), Pat Severson, Bill Hassell, Larry Moran, Maryann Benoit, Loren Benoit and Don Campbell work on “the production line”.



Tom Burrows, Bill Hassell, Larry Moran & Maryann Benoit enjoy the cool morning air.



L to R) Judy McCart, Don Campbell, and Julie Bursi discuss potting techniques!



Janet Hassell (L) complements Judy McCart for spending her Birthday, potting cacti!

As always with these events, the comraderie, banter, and socializing made the time pass quickly, and the work enjoyable. “Many hands DID make light work!” See the results of the Potting Party on page 1.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE!

(Contributed by Don Campbell)

"It's nice to come across something cheerful and uplifting now and then, especially with all of the dreadful dreary news that constantly envelopes us. I recently rediscovered the tale of Charlotte's Web and found it to be a delightful antidote to at least a few of the world's woes. In case you've forgotten, Charlotte was a barn spider who befriended a pig named Wilbur who was in danger of becoming pork chops. Charlotte saved Wilbur from a one way trip to the slaughter house by spinning web messages to the farmer extolling Wilbur's many virtues."

"Throughout time, spiders have been associated with numerous myths and superstitions, many of which link spiders and good luck. An early childhood memory involves my grandmother reciting an Old English nursery rhyme; "If you wish to live and thrive, let a spider run alive." To this very day that bit of 'wisdom' has remained imbedded in my psyche. (Wilbur's serendipitous acquaintance with Charlotte certainly brought good luck his way)."

"A year or so ago I discovered my own 'lucky' spider. A ceiling spider I named Cecil had taken up residence in our upstairs bathroom. He built a comfy, albeit quite disheveled, web in one corner of the bathroom ceiling high above the electric toothbrush stand. Cecil wasn't exactly the most active arachnid I'd encountered. In fact, he was a real 'web potato', rarely showing any perceptible movement from day to day. After days of apparent inactivity, I began a morning ritual of blowing a large breath of air into Cecil's corner. This was usually enough to cause Cecil to briefly wiggle about within his corner web, however, my hot breath was never enough to cause him to move more than a couple of inches."



"Lucky" Cecil

"Cecil was definitely not the most fastidious creature I've encountered. Leftovers from his periodic meals were left dangling amongst the loose strands of his web. He also made periodic deposits on the electric toothbrush recharger. Some might call these little spots 'fly specks', I personally think 'spider poop' is a more correct term."

"This routine continued for weeks and months. And then, one day I noticed another ceiling spider, obviously named Cecilia, in a corner directly opposite Cecil's corner. Sometime later, when I wasn't looking, Cupid apparently visited the darkened bathroom and worked his special magic."



"Mother Cecilia" and her little arachnoids!

"If one spider brings good luck...perhaps it's time for me to go on a lottery ticket buying binge!?"

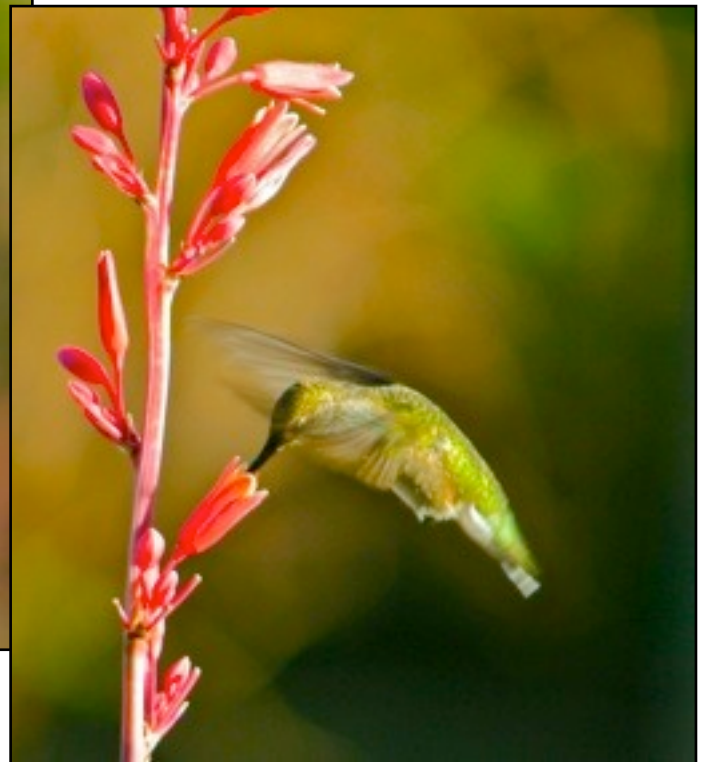
Don Says, "Should you be interested in learning a bit more inane drivel about spiders, you may want to try one of the following sites:

Spiderz Rule: <http://www.spiderzrule.com/superstitions.htm>

The Spider Myth Site: <http://www.washington.edu/burkemuseum/spidermyth/>

FROM SPIDERS TO HUMMINGBIRDS!

These perky little fantail hummers regularly enjoy the blooms and nectar of the Red Texas Yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) planted in the Hassell's cactus garden.



Photos by J. Hassell

SEPT-DEC 2011 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPT 8	Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS Program: A Surprise! Presenter: Mystery presenter! 6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
SEPT 14	Garden Party - Wednesday - 9 am - CSU Extension Garden
SEPT 17-18	Crumps Field Trip Coordinators: Pam & Dave McCollough
SEPT 24	Garden Party - Saturday - 9 am - WCBG
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: Bill Hood, Geologist - Colorado National Monument -
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: "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly", i.e., Member Show & Tell Night 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.

OFFICIAL CHINLE WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org

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