



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
September 2010 Vol. 2, 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

WOODY MINNICH TO PRESENT SEPTEMBER PROGRAM



Woody Minnich, at the
Bakersfield Cactus & SS.
(Photo by Stephen Cooley)

Woody Minnich will entertain the Chinle C&SS on September 9th with a fascinating presentation on his trip to Brazil in the Rio Do Sul region. particular region of Brazil is seldom seen but is rich in cacti, bromeliads, succulents and other unusual plants and animals. A moderate climate, rolling hills and deep barrancas make this area an excellent habitat for fascinating birds and some of the most iconic of the cactaceae. Woody's presentation will walk in the footsteps of some of the most dedicated field explorers (Uebelmann, Horst and Ritter) who roamed this secret place.

Rio Do Sul is the center of distribution of the Parodias family that includes Notocactus, Brasilicactus, Brasiliparodia, malacocarpus and Eriocactus, and Fraileas, as well as some Gymnocalyciums and Echinopsis.

As usual, his presentation will be accompanied by lovely, professional-quality photographs. In addition, he is bringing with him a unique selection of plants for purchase from his greenhouse operation.

The Chinle C&SS will be promoting this program in the community among various botanical societies, horticulture programs, and college programs. Because of the expected larger turnout, we have arranged for a larger room in the Community Building at the Mesa State Fairgrounds, adjacent to the Sagebrush Room. Program is to begin at 6:30 pm as usual. Be sure to put September 9th on your calendars for this exciting presentation.

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO THIS
SPECIAL PROGRAM!!!**



THE ANSWER IS: “THE FLOWER CAME FIRST”

Sheryl Williams, program presenter for the August 12th Regular Meeting of the Chinle CCSS, gave an entertaining and educational talk on the co-evolution of plants and their pollinators, and answered her question posed in last month’s newsletter, “Which came first--the flower or the bee?” the flower! Her amusing “Plant Sex 101” comments created many chuckles in the audience! Sheryl reviewed examples of dependent partnerships, floral sonication, multiple defenses against herbivores, plant guilds, and mimicry and deception. And as she promised, we definitely look at our gardens differently after exploring this subject. Sheryl Williams is the Horticulture Instructor at the Delta Montrose Technical College and long-time Master Gardener.



The meeting and Sheryl’s program was well attended.

CHINLE GARDENERS BATTLE WEEDS.... AND ROCK SQUIRRELS!

Don Campbell photographed recent damage to the two Western Colorado Botanical Garden caused by rock squirrels. The pile of excavated soil in the main garden (shown on the right) was equivalent to a small wheelbarrow load. The one at Ernie’s Cactus Corner was upward of two, five-gallon pails worth of soil. Both piles cover or partially covered some ‘valuable’ plants, to include



Newly purchased and planted *O. basilaris* partially buried...anybody’s guess what other plants are also covered. A squirrel tunnel entrance is visible in the rocks to the right of the Beaver-tail.

newly purchased Beaver Tail prickly pear in the main garden and the Joshua Tree in Ernie's Cactus Corner. Don was informed by the WCBG staff that the squirrel in the main garden was trapped by the City trapper. The one under the boulder in Ernie's Cactus Corner was alive and well, "coming out of its hole to taunt me Saturday morning on August 7th," per Don.

Prefacing his remarks with "I HATE ROCK SQUIRRELS", Don sent out an email on August 14th reporting that "I've just finished a couple of fun-filled hours cursing the Miserable @#%@#% Rock Squirrels at the WCBG, and trying to clear the dirt off of our



A second tunnel entrance was several feet from the Beaver-tail cactus. Even though the original resident has been trapped, it left behind a ready to move in apartment for the next homeless squirrel. (Don says, "In my yard the tunnels extend for many feet underground.")



Ernie's Cactus Corner has its very own Rock Squirrel safely dug-in under the big boulder. The carefully nurtured Joshua Tree just right of the tunnel entrance is partially buried. The pesky squirrels are feasting on the ripe *O. phaeacantha* fruits. Don hopes "the little buggers get glochids in their lips, tongues, mouths, throats...and starve!"

plants. I hope Wednesday we can finish the job and haul some hoses to wash off what I couldn't get with the rake and trowel. All told, I think I managed to clean off about eight to 10.5 gal. buckets of dirt. Unfortunately, I also managed to dig up a bit of the drip system tubing at Ernie's Cactus Corner."

On a more positive note, Don reported that a visitor from Pennsylvania who was braving the heat, complimented our garden and said it was the best cactus garden she'd ever seen.

The Rock Squirrels thought so, too!

Chinle gardeners at the August 7th CSU Garden party were Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Kay Klausmeier & Lorraine Price. The August 18th Garden Party at the main WCBG garden and Ernie's Cactus Corner included Maryann Benoit, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Kay Klausmeier, Lorraine Price and Pat Severson. August 28th gardeners at the CSU extension were Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Nancy Glover, Pat and Al Severson.

Post script to above story: Lain Williams, new Operations Manager at WCBG, reports that the City trapper got 2 squirrels out of Ernie's Cactus Corner within the past couple of days. As Don notes, "we may be squirrel free...at least until word gets out that there are a couple of vacant apartments available and ready for move-in!"

CHINLE "POTTERS" HAVING A FABULOUS TIME AT AUGUST POTTING PARTIES!



(Above L TO R: Lorraine Price, Maryann Benoit and Pat Severson pot up a storm on Aug. 20th.



Above, (L to R) Dieter Kubisch, Tom Burrows, and Don Campbell scoop and pot at Potting Party No. 2 on August 25th.



(L to R), Kay Klausmeier, Maryann Benoit and Lorraine Price continue to have fun potting cuttings at the Aug. 25th party. The "Potters" over the two parties potted up well over 150 cuttings for the Bloomin' Deals event next spring.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT PLANT CULTURE - PART II

A Beginning Guide

By Don I. Campbell

*TEMPERATURE, PESTS, PROPAGATION,
AND GARDENING*



Artwork by Harriet Olds

Temperature

Indoor succulent plants will not tolerate freezing temperatures. Temperatures of roughly 50 to 90 degrees are optimum, with the lower values occurring during dormant periods. Good ventilation is important.

Pests

Cactus and succulent plants can be pretty tough, but insect and disease problems do occur from time to time. Maintaining healthy growing conditions and carefully inspecting plants should minimize such problems. Some of the more common pests are mealy bugs.

They are recognizable by the white cottony substance covering them. Repeated applications of rubbing alcohol applied with a Q-tip will destroy them. Root mealy bugs, because they live on the roots of cacti, are usually undetected until repotting. White chalky webs on the roots indicate their presence. Spider mites are very small and very hard to see. Fine webs and/or pale yellowish white to brownish spots on new growth usually indicates the presence of spider mites. Sprays are available to assist in control.

If rot develops in the roots or at the base of a plant, cut off the plant above the rotted part. You may be able to save the unaffected part by letting the cut callus over for a few days and then repotting it in sandy soil. Water very sparingly until roots develop.

Propagation

Many hobbyists find plant propagation to be an effective and satisfying way to either expand their collection or share plants with others. Plant cuttings and divisions are the easiest and most common propagation methods. While growing plants from seed is slower and may be a bit more challenging, it is definitely one of the more gratifying aspects of the cactus and succulent hobby.

Outdoor Cactus & Succulent Gardening

In addition to growing cacti & succulents indoors, many aficionados enjoy growing cacti and succulents year-round in their outdoor gardens. Beginners are often surprised to learn there is a wide variety of succulent plants able to survive the Western Colorado winters.

The Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society maintains two well-established outdoor Cactus & Succulent gardens at the Mesa County Fairgrounds and the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens.

Learn More and Get Involved

Many hobbyists find associating with other like-minded plant enthusiasts expands their knowledge and enjoyment of these fascinating plants.

Serving western Colorado and surrounding areas, the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society is devoted to fostering understanding and appreciation of all kinds of succulent plants, including cacti.

Information about the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society can be found by calling Colorado State University Extension at 970-244-1834 or by going to:

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

In addition to joining a cactus and succulent club, there are many books aimed at helping beginners become proficient cactus and succulent hobbyists. Two such books are: [The Complete Illustrated Guide to Growing Cacti & Succulents](#) by Miles Anderson and Simon & Schuster's [Guide to Cacti and Succulents](#).

MORE FOR NEW MEMBERS! Here's a source for some very helpful C&S gardening tools: <http://www.cactuspruner.com/>

A Special Tribute...

Elizabeth Neubauer Leaves Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

Elizabeth Neubauer recently left her position as Operations Manager at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens (WCBG) in search of new opportunities. She plans to remain in the Grand Junction area.

During her three-year tenure as Operations Manager, Elizabeth was instrumental in overcoming a number of challenges faced by the WCBG. For the past year or so, she's worn two hats at the WCBG. In addition to Operations Manager, she served as Interim Director. A number of much needed updates and improvements to the greenhouse facilities and its operations were completed under her leadership. The outdoor gardens were expanded and temperamental facilities such as the irrigation system were whipped into submission.



The WCBG benefitted from Elizabeth's ability to work effectively with other organizations, club and individuals. She helped expand the volunteer program at the WCBG and developed a very productive relationship with the City of Grand Junction. A joint venture between the WCBG and the Tamarisk Coalition resulted in the newly established "Upland Garden" which is located between the dike and river.

Elizabeth provided outstanding liaison and coordination between the Chinle C&S Society and the WCBG. She could always be counted upon to facilitate our gardening activities, maintain the watering schedule and keep us informed about all things affecting our C&S garden. Her enthusiasm, cheerful demeanor, smiley face, and can-do attitude will be greatly missed, especially by the 'Chinle Gardeners.'

Farewell Elizabeth! We hope you'll maintain contact with the Chinle C&S Society as a friend, and even consider becoming a member.

Elizabeth was honored at a farewell luncheon (complete with a very yummy chocolate cake) on August 6th for her service as Operations Manager at the WCBG.



Lain Williams has replaced Elizabeth as the new Operations Manager at the WCBG, and the Chinle C&SS looks forward to working with Lain to maintain the beauty of the Cacti & Succulent Gardens as we have in the past.

Welcome, Lain!!

(Thanks to Don Campbell for this tribute to Elizabeth!)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

.....been hot enough for ya???



Geezer Cactus?

By Don Campbell

About fifteen years ago Carol and I found a large “ball” cactus west of the Glade Park Store near the Utah state line. When we first spotted the plant it was large, tall and wide. During subsequent visits we

noticed the plant began leaning, eventually assuming a horizontal posture. It seems to have shrunk somewhat in diameter. Our conclusion, it's either a "Geezer Cactus" of a very lazy *Pediocactus simpsonii*. *Notice the juvenile cactus near the right edge of the photo.*



EDITORS NOTE: I send the newsletter in a reduced format as my email service cannot handle a file greater than 2 MB. With the many photos I use, the number of KB/MB counts up in a hurry. For those of you that prefer a full-size file for viewing or printing (to produce the highest quality photos), you can go to the following website where newsletters in full-size format are archived:

<http://thomasaburrows.com/chinle/newsletters.html>

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

Meetings are usually held in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds;

NOTICE: the September 9th meeting will be in the larger room adjacent to the Sagebrush Room.

Guests are always welcome.

CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE:

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

2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- SEPT 8 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM, WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
SEPT 9 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: "The Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil"
Presenter: Woody Minnich
6:30 p - Community Building Room, Mesa County
Fairgrounds
- SEPT 18 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
SEPT. 28 GARDEN PARTY - 7 PM, WC BOTANICAL GARDENS*
OCTOBER 9 GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM, CSU EXTENSION
OCTOBER 14 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: "What's New in Donnie's Land of Cactus"
Presenter: Donnie Barnett
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- OCTOBER 20 LAST GARDEN PARTY FOR 2010 - 9AM, WCBG
NOV. 11 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: Cactus Vines & Viney Cacti
Presenter: Bobby Irwin
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- DEC. 9 CHINLE C&SS ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
Location: Tiara Rado Golf Club
Details to be announced!

*Note change of date and time