



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
January 2016 Vol. 8, No. 1

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

JANUARY PROGRAM:

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE MAY AFFECT BLM LANDS

Our first program of the 2016 season will feature Nikki Grant Hoffman from the BLM to discuss the various impacts the changing weather patterns could have on BLM lands. Nikki has a strong background in developing programs related to preserving our public lands and dealing with problems related to them.

Nikki is the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area Science and Education Coordinator. She was recognized recently at the National Association for Interpretations National Workshop and awarded the Excellence in Interpretation for Education Award. This award recognizes Nikki's efforts to enhance public appreciation and understanding of the natural and cultural resources on America's public lands as well as issues related to the BLM's multiple-use/sustained yield mission. This should be a timely and interesting program and one that will affect this geographic region.

In addition, we will be resuming the plant drawings at the January meeting. This is a great opportunity to build up your collections. As always, feel free to bring in a Show & Tell Plant. These can be unusual plants that you wish to share with the members, or ones that have problems and need some helpful advice to return them to health.



Nikki Grant Hoffman

CHINLE C&SS HAD A BUSY 2015

The Annual Dinner meeting held Dec. 3rd, was well attended and enjoyable. President Maryann Benoit gave an interesting year end report, recognizing the members who contributed to the Society's success during the past year.



Maryann Benoit

Maryann asked the members to remember Charlie Baker and Carol Christlieb, who both passed away this past year. They will be missed.

She then presented a review of the Society's activities during 2014:

- Curtis Swift - Soils, Water, Insects and Plant Diseases
- Don Campbell - Moderated discussion on cacti & succulent basics of care
- Rich Alward, local ecologist - Effects of oil and gas exploration, production on native plants
- Bob Hammon - Native pollinators and cactus pests
- Leo Chance - Care & Feeding of cacti & succulents in the growing season
- Don Campbell, Tom Burrows, Peter Newbury & Kate Weissenburgerer - Unique short presentations on the Math & Science Project, Growing cacti from seed, Haworthias, and Fossil History of Cacti origins.
- Kate & Ken Weissenburger- Geological look at cactus origins and plate tectonics.

Appreciation was extended to **Don Campbell** and **Shari Skiei** for their efforts to arrange for quality programs for the membership during the year. She thanked outgoing past president, **Bill Hassell**, for his work on the Board; **Deb & Glenn Mallory** for keeping the minutes and other secretarial duties; **Lisa Hamilton** for her Member at Large activities, keeping of the Archives and her work on setting up a Facebook page; **Lois Davidson**, Garden Activities Coordinator and her leadership to coordinate the efforts of many **Chinle members** who volunteered over 300 service hours in the Western Colorado Botanical Garden and Colorado State University gardens in 2015. She also thanked **Loren Benoit**, outgoing Treasurer for keeping the club solvent and assisting with meeting setups from chairs and tables to electronics over the past six years. She also thanked **Janet Hassell** for her production of the Society newsletter, now in its 8th year.

Maryann then recognized other members who participated in a wide variety of projects and activities:

Janet Hassell headed up Chinle's participation in Plants Show West with the help of many members who provided show plants and manned the display area.

Lynn Dunham and Janet Hassell conducted a Science Hour activity at the Math & Science Center that taught aspiring gardeners how to build dish gardens.

Don Campbell headed up a committee to build a new cactus and succulent display at the Math & Science Center—included **Walt Scheer**, **Lois Davidson**, **Glenn Mallory**, **Janet Hassell** and **Maryann Benoit**.

The Benois lead the 2015 field trip to Crumps Greenhouse in Buena Vista and **Don Campbell** made arrangements for the visit.

Tom Burrow's efforts as our Webmaster and "Master Cookie Baker" for the delicious and tasty treats he provided for meetings this year.

Lynn Dunham who offered her green house to store plants and for those plants she donated.

Peter Newbury, who donated an entire flat of show quality Haworthia plants.

Kate & Ken Weissenburger, who made very attractive bids on Silent Auction plants, and to other members who also bid on the plants.



Outgoing Vice President and President-elect, Janet Hassell, then expressed appreciation and thanks to **Maryann Benoit** as she steps down after leading the Society for two, very productive years and **Loren Benoit** as outgoing treasurer. The Society has been very fortunate to have the support and willingness of this dedicated couple.

"SCENE" AT THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING



Don, Julie & Tom



Bob, John & Chris



Tyne, Lois, Deb & Loren



Rhonda, Lynn, Maryann & George



Gabrielle & Lily



Walt Scheer



Joy & Judy



Tom, Ken & Kate



Janet & Bill

NEW CHINLE BOARD ELECTED

At the Annual Dinner Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve for 2016: President, Janet Hassell; Vice President, Kate Weissenburger; Secretary, Deb Mallory; Treasurer, Lisa Hamilton; Member at Large, Walt Scheer. Lois Davidson is reappointed as the Chair of Garden Activities and Shari Skeie as the Program Chair, with committee member Don Campbell. Tom Burrow will continue as our Webmaster. Maryann Benoit will remain on the Board as the Past President. Many thanks go out to her for her two years of being President of the Society, her enthusiasm, and her dependability and leadership in moving the Society forward.



Board members (L) to (R): Janet Hassell, Deb Mallory, Walt Scheer, Lois Davidson, Lisa Hamilton, Maryann Benoit, Shari Skeie and Don Campbell.

PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

Winners of the 2015 Chinle Photo Contest were announced at the Annual Dinner Meeting, Dec. 3, 2015.

Don Campell won the grand prize for his beautiful photo of four Claret Cups (*Echinocereus triglochidiatis* on right) snapped 4/15/15 at a rainy Garden Party Day at the Colorado State University Cactus & Succulent Garden in Grand Junction.

First place was awarded to Glenn Mallory for his photo of an Echeveria, shown top left on page 4, taken at the Crumps Greenhouse, Buena Vista, CO, August 29, 2015..





Second place went to Don Campbell's photo shown above on the right, of a *Huernia quinta* taken at his home on April 19, 2015.

Glenn Mallory took the third prize for the bright pink "Marching Martians" photo of grafted Chimeras and honorable mention for the spiny variety of *Notocactus* on the right. Both were taken during the Crump's Greenhouse tour in August.

Congratulations to all the contest winners, and thanks to the many Chinle members who entered beautiful and prize-worthy photos.



PLEASE HELP THE BOARD WITH PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2016

Shari Skiei and Don Campbell, Program Co-Chairs, are wanting feedback from members for next year's programs. Here's a condensed version of the survey forms they shared with members and was printed in last month's newsletter. Look over the list and send Don or Shari the program ideas that appeal to you. It will greatly help with planning for next year! Contact information for Shari and Don is on page 9.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAM TOPICS, SPEAKERS & ACTIVITIES - 2016

Basic Botany, Plant Classification, Master Gardener speakers, CMU Prof speakers, Ethnobotany and Paleobotany, Member presentations, Travelogs, Geology of Grand Valley, Colorado Plateau, etc; Member "Show & Tell" with plants, problems, solutions, tools, & tricks; Plant Photography, presentation by the Park Service and/or the BLM; Local plant experts: E.g., Erin McIntyre, Daily Sentinel garden columnist, Dennis Hill, Bookcliff Gardens.

Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society program brought to GJ and/or Speaker Exchange with Denver, Pueblo clubs; outside speakers, such as Panayoti Keliadis; Curtis Swift, Bob Hammon; "How to" programs on Indoor and outdoor gardening, tools and techniques; Garden Design.

Field Trips: local day trip, hike(s), drive(s), multi-day trips, join with Front Range or Pueblo Groups, Crump Greenhouse Tour, other; Photo Contest, Photo Scavenger Hunt, Annual Dinner Meeting (new location?), Bloomin' Deals, Plants West, Arbor Day; Major "Garden Party" in lieu of a monthly meeting; garden parties only on Saturdays,

Eliminate a monthly meeting during summer; Garden Tour of member gardens & picnic; Plant sale(s), Class(es) we charge for; Field Trip we advertise & charge for.

If you are willing to present a program, to organize and lead a tour, or coordinate another activity, please let the Program Committee know!

WHAT'S BLOOMING? - A *Stapelia gigantea*



Don Campbell snapped this photo on December 14, 2015 of this blooming *Stapelia gigantea* at the Math & Science cactus & succulent display.

Typical of the stapeliad family of succulents, the flower's scent is a great deal like rotting flesh, the purpose of which is to attract bottle flies, not bees, as pollinators. The flies then attract lizards which enjoy an easy meal of flies.

The University of Florida Lawn and Garden webpage identified the common names of this plant as Carrion Flower, giant stapelia, giant starfish flower and toadflower.

The origin of the plant is in Tanzania, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It has a sprawling habitus and is often used as an attractive succulent ground cover.

The flower buds begin small (1-2 mm) but over 1-2 weeks will enlarge as shown here. They spontaneously open

within a few minutes after they begin. When fully open, the flower may be 12 to 18 inches in diameter.

Flowers are buff colored (as this specimen is) which is the most common color in South Florida. In other areas, the flower is red with maroon stripes.

Unfortunately the flowers only last about two days, but the plant clump may have flowers that appear in succession and be in bloom for up to two months during the peak blooming season from late summer into early fall. Despite their putrid odor, these flowers are really quite lovely!



TRUTH IS OFTEN STRANGER THAN FICTION.(OR THE OTHER WAY AROUND?)

Garden Gnomes: The Shocking Truth - December 16, 2015

Reprinted with permission of Jeff Schalau, Agent, Agriculture & Natural Resources University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County

"As a public servant and faculty member of the University of Arizona, it is my duty to provide the residents of Yavapai County the best available science-based, horticultural information. That is why I chose to reprint this important article about garden gnomes and their unique place in landscapes around the world. It takes a special person, usually someone with uncommon fortitude, to successfully incorporate garden gnomes into their home landscape.





“Gnomes are often featured in Germanic literature and are described as resembling a gnarled old man (females are less commonly encountered), living deep underground, who guards buried treasure. Throughout their home range of Central, Northern and Eastern Europe, they are known by a variety of names: kaukis (Prussia), tomten (Sweden), and barbegazi (France and Switzerland). In Iceland, gnomes (known as vættir) are so respected that roads are re-routed around areas said to be inhabited by them.

“Gnomes work at night in the woods and sometimes in human dwellings. It is not a coincidence that the word gnome itself is derived from Kuba-Walda, which means "home administrator" in the ancient Germanic language. In rural areas these home administrators often live in the rafters of barns, where, if they are well-treated, they keep a close eye on the livestock as well as crops.

“According to the best available science, male gnomes average about 15 cm in height, have a life span of 400 years, develop beards at an early age, are seven times as strong as a human, wear brightly colored clothing, and indulge in pipe smoking which contrasts starkly with their strict vegetarian diet. Female Gnomes tend to wear colors that blend with natural surroundings (gray or khaki). She wears a green cap with her braids sticking out until she is married after which her hair disappears under a scarf and darker cap. When 350 years or older she begins to show a light beard....she usually only stays at home and doesn't wander about. This may also be the reason garden gnome sculptures most commonly depict males.



“The earliest known production of gnome sculptures dates from Germany during the mid-1800s. Ceramic gnome production is a rare occurrence today. Instead plastic-resin materials are often used. This allows them to endure for several years, but they do not last as long as their ceramic predecessors. Most often, gnome sculptures have a pointy red hat, a blue shirt (sometimes green), and leather-like shoes. They are most commonly available at garden centers and big box stores in the spring, but discriminating shoppers know where to find them year-round. These sculptures often depict a male gnome in a thoughtful pose while holding a pipe or crouching under a toadstool. They may also be fishing or napping. Some companies are degrading the gnome's reputation by selling statues that are engaged in uncouth activities, shouting insults, and emitting realistic sounds. While it seems distasteful, I suppose this provides consumers with choices that match their own habits and preferences.



“In 2009, I reported that “real” gnomes had not been scientifically documented in North America, and immigration laws remain controversial in the U.S. At that time, the American public had to be satisfied with gnome sculptures. However, in 2010, they were captured on video near Ogden, Utah. Shortly thereafter, they were identified as an invasive species and have

been known to out compete other yard ornaments such as plastic pink flamingos and pagodas. Utah State University has posted a YouTube video that details their management and eradication. I have included a link to this video below.

“An emerging issue for gnome lovers is that of “gnome hunting.” This deplorable practice removes the gnome from the landscape and purports to take them to a place of refuge. Other kidnapped gnomes are made to travel while held hostage and forced to pose in photographs near famous landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower and the Statue of Liberty. I dare say there may be some unfortunate gnomes whom did not make it home from the Grand Canyon. Leaving that question to future archeologists, I would like to close by stating that to the best of my knowledge, the above information is true – it has to be, I read it on the Internet.” <http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/byg/archive/gardengnomes2015.html>

YouTube Video: Gnome Management in the Garden,
Utah State University Cooperative Extension

Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County, 840 Rodeo Dr. #C, Prescott, AZ 86305, (928) 445-6590
December 8, 2015 - Content Questions/Comments: jschalau@ag.arizona.e

IN MEMORIUM

We extend our sympathy to our Chinle member, Walt Scheer and his family, on the recent loss of his wife, Yvonne, on December 20th. She had dealt with Multiple Sclerosis since 1990, and developed metastatic lung cancer three years ago which eventually took her life. May she rest in peace.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Kate Weissenburgerer sported a lower leg cast and a rolling walker at the ADM—complete with decorative bird (was it a partridge?)!



Bill Hassell's white elephant gift at the ADM (a Little Crocheted Mexican taking a siesta under a saquaro cactus was donated by Judy McCart), was actually a bottle of Hot Sauce—perfect for Bill!

Happy
New
Year



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - January – February 2016

- Jan. 4, 2016 *Chinle Board meeting*
7:00 pm
Janet & Bill Hassell's Home
2666 Summer Hill Ct
Grand Junction, CO 81506
- Jan. 14 *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS*
6:30 pm
Program: Nicki Grant, BLM. *Climate Change - What could it mean for Western Colorado's Plant Communities*
Location: *Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library*
641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO
- Jan. 16 *Desert Forum at the Huntington (see description below)*
- Feb. 1st *Chinle Board meeting*
7:00 pm
Janet & Bill Hassell's Home
2666 Summer Hill Ct
Grand Junction, CO 81506
- Feb. 11 *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS*
6:30 pm
Program: Kenton Seth - *Designing a Cactus Garden*
Location: *Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library*
641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO

OTHER 2016 EVENTS

Garden Parties usually begin in March. Days & dates to be announced

Landscapes West
March 18-19, 2016

Annual Show & Sale at the Denver Botanic Gardens
March 18-20, 2016.

Bloomin' Deals
May 14, 2016 - WC Botanical Garden

June 9-11 (June 12 optional) 15th Biennial Mid States Cactus & Succulent Conference
Aurora, Colorado

DESERT FORUM AT

THE HUNTINGTON

LIBRARY, ART COLLECTIONS, AND BOTANICAL GARDENS
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, California 91108 (626) 405-2100

Saturday, 16 January 2016

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 9:00 – 10:00 Registration – in front of new visitor entry area
Please bring your CSSA or affiliated club badge or membership card for admission
- 9:00 – 11:00 Desert Garden
Knowledgeable staff and docents will be stationed throughout
the Desert Garden and Desert Conservatory
Aloes will be flowering
- 11:00 – 1:00 Plant Sales
Gate opens by the Teaching Greenhouse at 11:00 for plant sales - *please, no early bird shopping*
Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted
- 1:00 – 4:30 Free Time
Attendees are welcome to tour the gardens and galleries as of 10:30 am.
- Lunch:
The Café in the new visitor center features a variety of sandwiches and grilled items
The tea room at Liu Fang Yuan is a lovely option for fresh Chinese food

2016 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Secretary: Deb Mallory
970-245-6168

Treasurer: Lisa Hamilton
970-987-1418

Vice President: Kate Weissenburgerer
970-270-5345

Garden Activities Coordinator
Lois Davidson - 970-242-2879

Member at Large: Walt Scheer
970-985-9629

Program Committee
Shari Skeie: 970-963-7266
Don Campbell: 970-245-5088

Web Master: Tom Burrows
970-462-6767

Newsletter Editor: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Past President: Maryann Benoit
970-254-7471

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

Meetings are held in the Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library,
641 Struthers Ave., Grand Junction, CO. Guests are always welcome.

Chinle Mailing Address: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 233, Grand Junction, CO 81502

CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org