



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
February 2016 Vol. 8, No. 2

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

## FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

### **BUILDING CACTUS GARDENS** *With Kenton Seth*



Kenton at the new Community Heroes Park Crevice Garden in Arvada, CO

Kenton J. Seth is a Chinle Club member who is currently most interested in miniature cactus and agaves, hardy and tender. He has a small landscape gardening business which builds rock gardens and native landscapes to have an excuse to plant cactus for pay.

February's talk will be about **Design and Cactus: Making it Pretty and Making it Practical.** Part I, "How-to Generally Design Any Outdoor Space", and Part II, Design Considerations and Tricks for Cactus and Succulents in particular."

Kenton's programs in the past have been delightfully entertaining as well as very informative. This is one you won't want to miss.



Purple Knight in snow



Agave chrysantha x parryi seed stem in the Mazatzal Mts, Arizona, with "Crawford" the pickup.

## A New Twist on the Chinle Photo Contest!

### **A PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT**

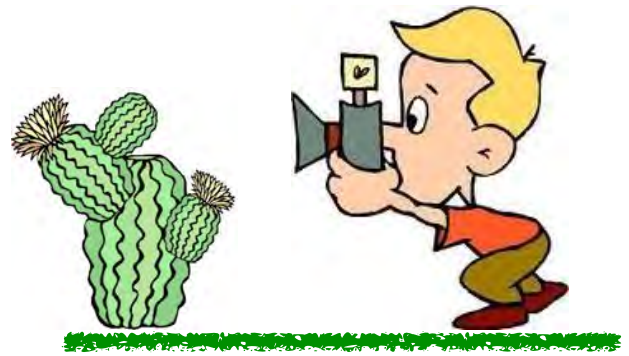
Don Campbell has come up with a fun and creative twist to our annual Chinle photo contest! A Scavenger Hunt! Remember when you were a kid and had a list of "interesting" items to find? Like old false teeth, a 1960 quarter, an old baseball, three penny nail, etc. etc. etc. Well, you won't be looking for these items to photograph, but you will have the opportunity to snap photos in the many listed categories below!

The Hunt began January 1st, 2016 and will run until October 15, 2016. The Rules are listed below. At the November meeting, we will display all the photos in their respective categories and the members will judge them that night. Winners will be recognized in the Club newsletter.



## CATEGORIES

1. Scenery
2. Event or Activity
3. Plant(s) in a natural habitat
4. Plant(s) in a developed outdoor landscape
5. Non-hardy indoor plant(s)
6. Close-up showing detail
7. People
8. Animal(s)
9. Humor
10. Open



## RULES

- + Photos taken between Jan. 1, and Sept. 30, 2016
- + Only one entry per category per member
- + Submit unframed prints 5" x 7" or smaller
- + Include member's Name and the Category on back of each photo
- + Submit photos to Don Campbell by Oct. 15
- + Judging will be done by Club members at the November meeting
- + Winners will be recognized in the Club newsletter

*Be creative & use your imagination!*

## ***Nikki Grant-Hoffman, BLM Educator, on Effects of Climate Change***

Our speaker for the January 2016 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS was Nikki Grant-Hoffman. Her presentation focused on the effects of climate change on the Eco-Region identified as the Colorado Plateau. She walked her listeners through some of the complex methods of developing predictive models, the various data sets used to make predictions, and emphasized the scientific methods used to create the models and apply them.





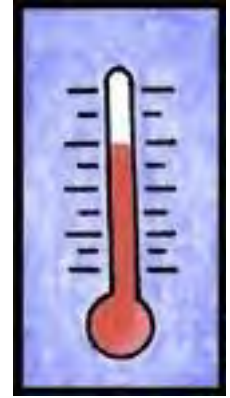


Factors that are affecting the environment include:

- + The Colorado Plateau is on the “dry ends” of two major weather systems, one from the western Pacific and one from the southeastern Gulf. These create a volatile, often unpredictable weather pattern for the Plateau.
- + The gradually warming temperatures have cascading effects that produce longer and more intense drought conditions, reduced snow pack, more rapid spring run-off and consequential erosion and soil loss, larger and more frequent forest fires, significant impact on water sources and the animals, plants and agricultural operations that depend on those sources.

Consequences of these factors:

- + Fewer hard frosts, which enhances the reproductive cycles of insects such as the pine beetle and less winter freeze out of mosquitos and other noxious insects. Fruit trees that rely on a hard freeze to create conditions for fruit production will be affected.
- + There will be winners and losers in this ecological change. “Movers”, i.e., animals, birds and humans are able to relocate to more hospitable areas, and will probably survive. However, “Stayers”, such as amphibians and many insects, will suffer probable eradication due to heat and drought.
- + Xeric desert-adapted plants may be pushed to the limits of their ability to adapt, resulting in an over abundance of non-native growth (e.g. cheat grass) and a crowding out of some native species.



Nikki concluded her presentation with the question, “What can we do?”



Her answer is “everything we can!” Of course this is the conservationists answer with obvious and not-so-obvious conclusions:

- + Conserve water!
- + Shift to xeric landscaping and select “water-wise” plants.
- + Anticipate changes in snow melt and run-off, and encourage communities to address and prepare for that.
- + Anticipate an increase in fires and develop policies and activities designed to minimize the effects.
- + Consider using more environmental-friendly sources of energy, such as wind and solar.

Certainly, Nikki’s presentation gives us all much to consider as we move into a dryer, hotter future!

## GARDEN PARTIES BEGIN AGAIN!

Lois Davidson, Garden Activities Coordinator, announced at the January meeting that Garden Parties will resume on Saturday, March 19th at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens. Parties begin at 9 am and usually last about 2 hours.



Refreshments are served, and the gardening is a great way to socialize and learn about cactus & succulent gardening techniques. There are usually cuttings and/or plants generated from the parties, which participants are free to take home and plant in their home gardens. Bring your tools and buckets!

## PLANT OF THE MONTH - DATIL (BACCATA) YUCCA

Agave Family - Agavaceae

(Information from [DesertUSA.com](http://DesertUSA.com) website page on yuccas)

The datil yucca is also called the banana yucca, Spanish bayonet, Spanish dagger or amole. Yucca (*yuck-ka*) is a Caribbean name for the cassava plant, which originally was named *Yucca gloriosa*. Baccata means "fruited," referring to the plant's large fruits. The name banana yucca also refers to the large fruits. In wet years, when many yuccas bloom over the landscape, they resemble large snowy-white candles; hence, the plants may be called by yet another name, "Our Lord's candles." Unlike agaves, with which yuccas are often confused, yuccas bloom each year (more or less), while agaves bloom only once.



Yucca leaf.

The datil yucca has large, stout strap-like leaves which are twelve inches to forty inches long, one inch to two inches wide, and are sharply pointed. The plant has very short stems, which may occur singly or clumped together. Leaves are arranged spirally at the base of the stem. Individual white fibers along the leaf margins tend to curl. The flowering stalks may barely rise above the leaves. Bell-shaped flowers, which grow in thick clusters during the spring, are one and one half inches to three and one half inches long and are creamy white in color. Each flower has six perianth segments and three stigmas on a stout pistil. The fruits are large, four inches to nine inches long, and fleshy at maturity. The pods contain flat, blackish seeds.

### Range and Habitat

The datil yucca occurs in California, Nevada, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Mexico. It grows in pinyon-juniper, sagebrush, mountain brush and ponderosa pine communities from four thousand seven hundred and twenty five feet to six thousand six hundred and twenty feet in elevation.

### Plant Uses

The Pueblo Indians of the American Southwest utilized the datil yucca for food as well as utilitarian products. The fleshy fruits were eaten green or dried and stored for winter consumption. Baked, the fruit has a flavor which is reportedly similar to potatoes. In some pueblos, the datil pulp was mixed with berries and made into cakes that could be dried for winter use. The young flower stalks were also eaten, like asparagus.



From the yucca leaf came fibers that were either twisted or plaited together to make cordage. Leaves were soaked in water, then pounded with stones to separate the long fibers. Sometimes human or animal hair or even bird plumage was added to the strands, which were twisted into string or ropes. These were used for belts, rope ladders, sandal toe straps, cradle board ties, fishnets and sandals. The fibers were also used for mats and clothing and were incorporated into baskets. Bundles of prepared yucca leaves, called "quids," have been found in prehistoric structures.

The leaves were also utilized as paintbrushes by the Southwest Indians. Women chewed the leaf tip to a fine fringe which created an excellent paintbrush to use in decorating pottery.

From the roots comes shampoo, which has been used both prehistorically and historically. The dry roots were pounded by the Indians then whisked into cold water to create suds. The saponin-rich roots create a soap-like lather which can be used in cleaning. The suds were used to wash the hair in both personal and spiritual cleansing. The white frothy suds reminded Native Americans of the large summer thunderstorms which cleansed the landscape with their rain showers, thus, datil yucca suds represented a spiritual cleansing of the person.

In more recent times, Yucca-Dew Shampoo was a commercial product that utilized the sudsing agent of a yucca plant. Shasta Root Beer contains yucca on its list of ingredients; the yucca ingredient creates the soda's white, foamy head.

The wood rat or pack rat chews through the base of the leaves to separate them from the plant. The rodent then takes the leaves back to its burrow and arranges them on the outer portion of its "conglomerate" nest, which is made up of twigs, cactus pads, animal droppings and shiny human objects like spoons or coins. Occasionally, deer nip off the developing stalks from the plant and eat them.

The nocturnal yucca, or pronuba moth has a special relationship with the yucca, so special, in fact, that there is a specific pollinating moth species for each yucca species. The moth rolls pollen into a small ball and transfers it from plant to plant. While pollinating the flower, the female lays her eggs in the plant's ovary. The growing larvae feed upon the developing fruit. When the larvae is ready to pupate, it leaves the pod and crawls down the stem and burrows into the ground.



**Yucca used in Root Beer.**

### **Interesting Facts About Yucca Plants . . .**

Yucca wood has the lowest ignition temperature of any other wood, which makes it useful as a fire-starter.  
The state flower of New Mexico is the "yucca flower."  
Yucca plants are reliant on the yucca moth for pollination.

*In light of Nikki Grant-Hoffman's presentation this month, we are publishing the Plant Conservation Policy of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society as a reminder of one of our society's mission.*

### **CHINLE CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY PLANT CONSERVATION POLICY**

*In keeping with the Mission Statement of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, "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 Society has updated its Plant Conservation Policy from the originally adopted policy of January 28, 2003, as follows:*

#### **PURPOSE**

*The purpose of this policy statement is to recognize and endorse the Cactus & Succulent Society of America Conservation Code and encourage members of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society to observe the following principles for conserving native succulent plants.*

#### **PRINCIPLES**

- 1. Actively discourage illegal field collecting of entire native plants by all members. Field collecting native plants, seeds or cuttings must be consistent with all pertinent laws and regulations.*
- 2. Prohibit field collecting of entire native plants during any Chinle C&SS sponsored field trip or activity unless such activities are a) to salvage plants imminently threatened with destruction from land development or other habitat disturbance, b) to acquire plants for a Chinle C&SS supported public display garden and c) written authorization by the appropriate jurisdiction or landowner has been obtained.*
- 3. Exhibiting or selling entire field collected plants at any event or activity sponsored by Chinle C&SS shall be prohibited.*
- 4. Encourage acquisition of native plants through the purchase of seeds, cuttings, or entire plants from reputable growers and nurseries.*
- 5. Encourage native plant conservation through the propagation and sharing of seeds, cuttings and offsets.*
- 6. Seek opportunities to promote conservation of native plants by a) providing periodic reminders of the Chinle C&SS conservation principles in newsletters, at meetings and during field trips or other activities, and b) disseminating information about legal and appropriate sources for obtaining seeds, cuttings and entire plants.*

*Adopted January 28, 2003  
Updated at the Chinle C&SS Board Meeting, June 3, 2013*



# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

## THE MATH & SCIENCE CHINLE PROJECT CONTINUES

Photo essay by Don Campbell



Early in 2015 as we were developing the display at the M&S Center I, mostly in jest, suggested to Theresa Coons & Bambi Harmon that I'd like to see an additional neon sign behind the C&S display saying; "But Not as Cool as Cacti & Succulents".

Theresa suggested that such wording might not be appropriate but did offer to look into getting something related to our cactus & succulent display.

It was then that I remembered a birthday card my wife Carol had given me some 20 years earlier. I mentioned this card to Theresa and Bambi at the M&S Center. They seemed interested and I gave them a copy.

The message inside the card read..."You're different...but I love you anyway!"



In 2000 I used the cactus kissing cow from the front of the card on a recruitment poster for the newly formed Chinle C&S Society.

The first week in January, 2016 I received a call from Bambi that a new neon sign was in place behind our C&S Display. The cactus kissing cow has now joined the neon sign depicting a leaf crawling bug. The "Math & Science Are Cool" sign has been moved to a back wall at the Center.



# In Memoriam



Carol J. Campbell  
January 1937 - January 26, 2016

**UPDATED CHINLE NEWSLETTER INDEX AVAILABLE - SEE PAGES 9-11**

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY - MAY 2016**

- Feb. 1st      *Chinle Board meeting, 6:30 pm (Notice time change)  
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 -Design and Cactus - Making it Pretty and Making it  
Practical  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library  
641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO*
- Mar. 7th      *Chinle Board meeting, 6:30 pm  
Janet & Bill Hassell's Home  
2666 Summer Hill Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506*
- Mar. 10      *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
6:30 pm  
Program: TBA  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library  
641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO*

- Mar. 18-19 Landscapes West
- Mar. 18-20 Annual Show & Sale, Denver Botanical Gardens
- Mar. 19th First Garden Party for 2016 at Western Colorado Botanical Gardens  
Saturday, 9 am
- Mar. 30th Garden Party at Colorado State University Extension Garden  
Wednesday, 9 am
- Apr. 4th Chinle Board meeting, 6.30 pm  
Janet & Bill Hassell's Home  
2666 Summer Hill Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- Apr. 14 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
6:30 pm  
Program: Peter Newbury - Adventures in Africa Travelogue  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library  
641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction, CO
- Apr. 30th Tentative: Local Field Trip to Escalante Canyon and others
- May 2nd Chinle Board meeting, 6.30 pm  
Janet & Bill Hassell's Home  
2666 Summer Hill Ct, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- May 14th or 24th Tentative: Weekend Field Trip to Capitol Reef - Details TBA
- June 9-11 (June 12 optional) 15th Biennial Mid States Cactus & Succulent Conference  
Aurora, Colorado



*A Reminder That Spring Will Come!*



NEWSLETTER INDEX - 2009-JAN 2016 (2015-16 entries)

Note: If there is an article that is in a newsletter not currently on the website, it can be retrieved from the archives. Contact Tom Burrows at [bura@thomasaburrows.com](mailto:bura@thomasaburrows.com) for assistance.

Topics	Newsletter issue	Page			
			Crump's Tour '15	Sept. 2015	6-7
Acidified Water w/Ammonium Sulfate	Aug. 2012	7-8	Easter Lily Cactus (Echinopsis sp)		
	Feb. 2013	9	- T. Burrows	Aug 2011	6-7
Albuca spiralis - D. Campbell	Oct 2013	6	Echinopsis subenudata	July 2015	7
Aloe "Dorian Black"	Dec. 2011	2		June 2015	4
Ariocarpus Trigonus	Nov. 2012	5	Echinocereus reichenbachii baileyi	July 2015	2
Astrophytum asteria -	May 2013	4-5	Echinocereus viridiflorus (Green pitaya)	Sept 2013	5-6
Avonia quinaria ssp alstonii -	July 2013	8	Euphorbia francosii	March 2015	7
Begonia dregei	Dec. 2011	2	Euphorbia millii alba	Feb. 2015	4
Ceropegia armandii - Don Campbell	Jan 2012	5	Euphorbia neohumbertii	Dec 2013	5
Chinle 10th Anniversary History	Jan 2010	10-13	Euphorbia obesa ssp. symmetrica	Mar 2012	7-8
Claret Cup State Cactus	March 2015	4	Euphorbia suzannae monstrose	Dec. 2011	3
Cochineal	Sep/Oct 2009	5	Euphorbias - Handle with Care	Aug 2013	1-2
	Jan 2009	2	Fockea Crispa/Eduli	Oct. 2012	8-9
Cochineal treatment	Oct 2011	7		Dec. 2011	3
Conservation Mission & Efforts	July 2014	1-2	Hardy succulents - P. Kelaidis	June 2013	1-2
	Apr 2013		Haworthia attenuata vari	Dec 2011	2
Container Gardens	Mar 2010	1, 5&	Haworthia, Soft Leafed	July 2012	3
	Jan 2013	11	Hueria schneideriana (Red Dragon Flower)	Sep 2014	3
Container Drainage Myths	Jan 2012	7-8	Huernia somalica hybrid	June 2015	1
Christmas Cactus (Schlumbergera brudgesii or Zygocactus)	Nov 2009	5	Huernia zebrina	Sep 2012	7
	Jan 2012	12-14		Apr 2011	5
	Nov 2013	6	Garden Gnomes	June 2010	9
Discocactus horstii	May 2011	10		Jan. 2016	5-6
	May 2013	2	Gardening tools - gloves	Feb 2010	6
Dish Gardens with Succulents	Aug 2014	5-6	- pruners, tweezers, saws	Sep/Oct 2009	4
Dudleya farinosa "O Dudley, Dudley, Wherefore Art Thou Dudley?" Part 1	Oct 2009	6-11	- where to buy locally	May 2014	7
Dudleys (Seen on Don's trip to Oregon) Part 2	Nov 2009	7-13	Glockids, removing	Aug 2009	5
			Glockid, Ode to	Jul/Aug 2009	10
Controlled Release Fertilizers - Leo Martin	Dec 2013	3-4	Grafting	Nov. 2011	5
				Feb 2014	4-5
Cotyledon Eliseae	June 2013	11-12			

Insects & Diseases of Cacti - Bob Hammon	Feb. 2012	3-4	Plant Culture - Part II (D. Campbell)	Sept. 2010	5
KAFM Cactus & Succulenet Garden	Aug. 2015	4	Plant labels	Nov. 2010	8
Kailua Cake Recipe by Tom Burrows	March 2010	9	Plant Show West 2015	April 2015	2-4
Legend of the Nevada Shoe Tree Lithops	Aug 2009 Dec 2014	7 2-3	Porous Pots & Cacti	Mar 2012	6
Mammalaria lenta - D. Campbell	May 2013	5	Rock Gardens	May 2012	10-11
Math & Science Display	Sept. 2015 May 2015 March 2015 May 2015	4 7 3 5	Saguaro Fruits and Their Uses	March 2013	5-6
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Melocacti - D. Campbell	May 2013	3	Sempervivum arachnoideum	Aug 2013	9
Mesembryanthemaceae - P. Kelaidis	Feb. 2013	2-3	Sclerocactus Wetlandicus	Jul/Aug 2009	2-4
Milkweed (Asclepias asperula) flower	July 2015	4	Sclerocactus mesa verde	May 2015 Feb 2014	3 8
Miniature stapeliad blooms	Apr 2011	5-7	Soil Mixtures	Dec. 2009	5-6
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Narrow Leaf Yucca - Judy Kennedy	Aug. 2015	7	Styling Tips for Cacti Collectors	Mar 2012	5
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Opuntia Biofuel Project/ Fruita Res. Station	Nov. 2010	7	Tarantulas	Dec. 2010	7
Opuntia Biofuel Project Update	Dec. 2012	7	Tamarisk beetle	Aug 2013	6-7
Opuntia Biofuel Project - Cuttings event	Aug 2011	9-10	Transitioning Indoor plants to outdoors	June 2014 June 2013	7-8 12-13
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Orostachys spinosa - P. Kelaidis	Feb 2011	4-6	Turbinicus pseudomacrolele	May 2013	5
Parodia laui	Sep 2014	5	Turbinicus schmidckeanus	April 2015	7
Pachypodium namaquanum	Jan. 2015	5	Turface Soil Condition	Feb 2012	8
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Pediocactus despainii	Feb 2014	3-4	Victoriae-Regeniae Agave	April 2013	8
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			Cacti & Succulents - Leo Martin	Oct 2012	2-3

Winter Care for Cacti	Jan 2014	1-2
Xeric Landscaping with Opuntia	Aug. 2015	5-6
Yucca faxoniana - Jeff Brimley	July 2011	9



Garden Activities Coordinator, Lois Davidson, assesses the Western Colorado Botanical Garden during a garden party in mid-2015.

### **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**  
**Hassell**  
**Don Campbell: 970-245-5088**

**Web Master: Tom Burrows**  
970-462-6767

**Newsletter Editor: Janet**  
970-263-0910

**Past President: Maryann Benoit**  
970-254-7471

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 81**

**CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE: [www.chinlecactusclub.org](http://www.chinlecactusclub.org)**