



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
March 2015 Vol. 7, No. 3

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

## **MARCH'S PROGRAM:**

### **CACTI & SUCCULENTS 101**

Every new year, we try to present a "how to" program on growing cactus and succulents and the February meeting is just the right time to do it! We will have educational videos to present and we encourage members to participate in "Show & Tell" time when you have the opportunity to bring your questions and "problem plants" for analysis and obtain recommendations for treatment.

It's a great time for open-ended question and answers with other knowledgeable members. And your favorite (or struggling plants) will appreciate it, too! Be sure to put this program on your agenda. Don Campbell will be leading the discussion, a great resource for information!



### **PLANT SHOW WEST 2015 COMING SOON!**

It's hard to believe that spring is almost here (thank goodness!), and as we have in the past, the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society will participate in the Plant Show West at Bookcliff Gardens on March 7th & 8th. Set up is on Friday, March 6th from 1pm to 4 pm. On Saturday the hours are 10-4 pm and on Sunday the hours are noon-4pm, with take-down to follow.

This year we will not be selling plants at the Show. Instead, our focus will be on showing the public our brightest and best show plants, provide educational information, and promoting memberships.

So far, we have almost 50 cacti and succulent plants lined up to show and a full slate of volunteers to cover the shifts at Bookcliff Gardens. If you haven't already, please let Janet Hassell know the plants you plan to show since she makes up labels for the plants. We can always use more! Janet's email address is [janethassell@gmail.com](mailto:janethassell@gmail.com) if you have further questions.

It's fun to meet the public, offer information and advice, promote new memberships and socialize with fellow Cactophiles. See ya there!

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS AT HAND!**

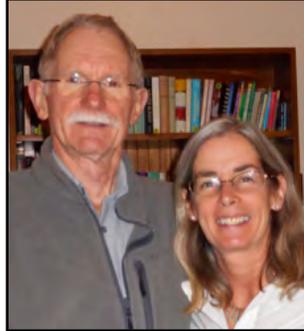
Time to pony up and write your check for your 2015 membership. It remains at \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. Benefits of membership are many: Hands-on cactus and succulent gardening opportunities at club-maintained public gardens, garden tours and field trips, help and advice on growing indoor and outdoor cacti and succulents, monthly meetings with educational programs and refreshments. workshops, plant drawings and exchanges, monthly newsletters, the Annual Dinner Meeting, and best of all, an opportunity to meet lots of really great people.

How can you miss with all the Society has to offer? Either pay your dues at the next regular meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society or send it to "Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society", PO Box 233, Grand Junction, CO 81502. You'll be happy you did it!

## "SCENE" AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING



Presenter Curt Swift (L) chats with Bill Hassell.



Newest Member, Mike Edgar, with Lisa Hamilton.



Prez. Maryann prepares for meeting at our new venue, WCBG.

Dr. Curt Swift entertained us with a fascinating program on soils, water, and insects and disease that are promoted by incorrect soil composition and watering practices. Some of the interesting points he made were:

- *Don't reuse soil! Any bacteria, insect larvae such as nematodes or mealy bugs, will simply reinfest your plant.*
- *Sterilize tools, pots and flats after removing ALL soil debris. Use a 10% bleach soak for 30 minutes or Lysol spray.*
- *New plants? Isolate them for 10-14 days to be sure they are not bringing pests and disease to your collection.*
- *Avoid salt build-up on pots by removing any standing water under the plant after watering.*
- *Just getting rid of those pesky fungus gnat adults won't solve the problem. Must treat soil to kill the maggots.*
- *Pasturize your soil by filling a pan with 4 inches of moist soil, cover with foil, then heat at 180 degrees for 30 minutes.*
- *Root diseases are caused by too much soil moisture, lack of drainage, soil compaction, lack of oxygen as a result.*
- *Be sure to open up the root ball prior to planting.*

If you would like a copy of Dr. Swift's presentation, please contact Janet Hassell at [janethassell@gmail.com](mailto:janethassell@gmail.com) and she will email it to you.



(L to R) Reed Irwin, Don Campbell, Tom Burrows (in background), Walt Sheer & Lois Davidson, "talk cactus" prior to the meeting.



(L to R) Past Chinle C&SS President, Reed Irwin, chats with Don Campbell during Reed's surprise visit to GJ.

# MATH & SCIENCE PROJECT



Doing the preparation work for the display at Lynn Dunham's greenhouse are Don Campbell, Walt Sheer, & Janet Hassell.

The week of February 18th, the Cactus and Succulent display at the John McConnell Math & Science became a reality.

Don Campbell has headed up the project with help from Lois Davidson, Walt Sheer, Janet Hassell, Lynn Dunham, Glenn Mallory, Curt Swift, Maryann Benoit and others.



Walt Sheer & Don Campbell carefully position plants. (Not shown helpers, Lois Davidson & Janet Hassell.)

The project involved many hours of planning, meeting with M&S Center volunteer, Dr. Randy Rottman, selecting plants, repotting them to fit the display, transporting plants to the Center, preparing the site with gravel, drainage, and

lighting considerations provided by Curt Swift. Lois Davidson, Janet Hassell and Glenn Mallory put together descriptive panels to describe aspects of cactus and succulents depicted in the display.



Don Campbell, (L) and Walt Sheer (R), happy to get the "first draft" of the display together.



The "final" product" However this is just the first attempt and will be followed with refining alterations and additional educational information.

## COLORADO STATE CAPITAL DISPLAY FEATURES LOCAL PHOTO

Back in July 2014, The Colorado General Assembly deemed the "Claret Cup Cactus" (*Echinocereus triglodiatis*) the Colorado State Cactus, after considerable lobbying by Douglas County Girl Scout Troop 2518, State Rep. Carole Murray, R-Castle Rock, members of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society in Denver and the Chinle Cactus Succulent and Succulent Society in Grand Junction. The Claret Cup Cactus, along with a variety of "Exceptional Things that Make Colorado Unique" is featured in a new display in Mr. Brown's Attic in the State Capitol. Photos of the display are shown on the next page:



The ribbon cutting for the display occurred on February 20th, at Mr. Brown's Attic in the State Capitol in Denver. Marie Shapiro, member of the design team responsible for the display, sent us these photos.

As you can see, Don Campbell's lovely photo of the Claret Cup is certainly well positioned in the display. Next time you are in Denver, stop by the Capitol and enjoy this new display. It's worth the trip!



# *Attention Shutter Bugs!*

## ANNOUNCING THE 2015 CHINLE PHOTO CONTEST

Our first photo contest in 2012 brought out some spectacular images from our members and we encourage you to start taking photos now to enter the contest.

The purpose of the contest is to see the world of cacti and succulents through the eyes of our members and to share these views via publication in the newsletter. Another purpose is to encourage active participation from the members in the activities of the Chinle C&SS. So what are you waiting for?



Glenn Mallory's 2013 First Prize winner

1. Submit your photo(s) for Chinle newsletter publication during the contest period (Jan 1 through September 30, 2015). Submitting a photo or photos automatically enters the photo into the contest.
2. You may submit as many photos as you like, but at the end of the contest period, you will be asked to choose up to three photos for judging.
3. Please accurately identify plants, where the plant was photographed, date of photograph, etc.
4. Photos need to have been taken in 2015.
5. Subject matter should be related to cacti and succulents.
6. If you have a comment, story, or article to accompany the photo, feel free to submit it for inclusion in the newsletter.
7. Please submit photos in full size jpg format to ensure the best quality. Send by email to Janet Hassell, [janethassell@gmail.com](mailto:janethassell@gmail.com).
8. 2015 Photo entries will be published in the November 2015 newsletter.
9. Official judging will be done by an experienced photographer from outside the Chinle C&SS and winners will be announced at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

### Judging Criteria:

Criteria for judging is taken from The Photographic Exhibitions Committee (PEC) of Professional Photographers of America to define a merit image:

- **Impact** is the sense one gets upon viewing an image for the first time that can evoke awe, imagination, a story, beauty, or the feeling of “wow”, does the photo “knock your socks off.”
- **Technical excellence** is the quality of the image relative to focus, lens selection, . Retouching, manipulation, sharpness, exposure, skillful use of lighting and correct color qualities are included in technical excellence.
- **Creativity** is the original, fresh, and external expression of the imagination of the photographer. Is it a fresh presentation of an old subject, did the photographer successfully “break the rules.”
- **Style & Composition** is important to the design of an image, bringing all of the visual elements together to express the purpose of the image. Proper composition holds the viewer in the image and prompts the viewer to look where the creator intends, often by eliminating distracting elements, attractively grouping subjects, using rule of thirds and leading lines.
- **Color Balance** is when the color tones work together, supporting the image and enhance its emotional appeal.
- **Center of Interest** is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.

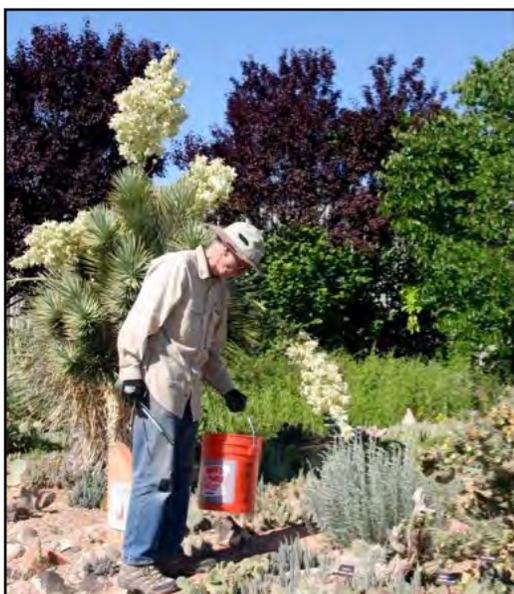


# FIRST GARDEN PARTY MARCH 21ST AT WESTERN COLORADO BOTANICAL!



Garden Activities Coordinator, Lois Davidson, surveys the garden at the CSU Extension last summer. (Photo by Don Campbell)

It really feels like Spring is well on the way when Chinle Garden Parties resume. If you've never ventured out to help at one of these morning events, you are really missing out on a great experience! One of the best parts is the camaraderie that builds as we work together to make the gardens "come alive". Also, the members who are there learn so much from each other, it is really worth making the effort to come.



Tom Burrows "attacking weeds" last summer at the CSU Extension garden. (Photo by Don Campbell)

Another "plus" is that as we trim, prune, and tidy up the gardens, there are many, many cuttings that need good homes. If you are building a cactus and succulent garden, or just refreshing the one you have, this is a great opportunity to take home the starts of many beautiful plants. Those of us who participate find that part the most addicting, and sometimes are just too tempted to take home "just one more".

For the second year, Lois Davidson is coordinating our gardening activities. With her Master Gardening and botany background, she always brings excellent ideas, plans, and methods to the gardens. You can learn a lot from this lady for sure!

The early spring Garden Parties begin at 9 am, but as the weather warms, we will start at 8 am to avoid the heat. The Society has tools, but most of the gardeners bring their own "favorites", as well as large buckets in which to put the weeds and debris that we collect. Hats, sunsreen and sometimes gloves are always a good idea.

See ya there, March 21st!!



## ***PLANT OF THE MONTH: EUPHORBIA FRANCOISII***

**Origin and Habitat:** Taolanaro (Fort-Dauphin and Andrahomana near Ranopiso), Southern Madagascar. It grows at low elevation up to 50 metres at sea level. *Euphorbia francoisii* has a very small extent of occurrence on the sand dunes near the Vinanibe coast, in the open or beneath low bushes.

**Description:** *Euphorbia francoisii* is a very variable caudiciform shrublet up to 15 cm tall. Without question, it is one of the most popular *Euphorbia*s in the *Euphorbia ambovombensis* group with beautiful leaves coming in a dazzling array of shapes and colors that change with the seasons. If the unique leaf

coloration and shape from one plant to the next were not enough, the individual leaves on a single plant can vary in color and shape. In its natural habitat it is a seashore plant with underground stolons. The only above ground growth is a rosette, flat on the ground.

**Roots:** Tuberoses merge with the stem to form a succulent geophytic caudex. The tuberous roots are very decorative and in many plants in cultivation are often raised above the soil to expose the interesting root shapes.

**Branches:** Several, beige, rounded, erect, sprawling or procumbent, 5 - 10 cm long, and 5 mm in diameter slowly enlarging at the bases to reach in time the size and form of a small carrot. The branches sprawl and twists gracefully in a random fashion making each plant a unique living sculpture.

**Leaves:** Evergreen in rosettes at the end of the branches, very variable both as to form, succulence and color. (*Described as oblong, lanceolate or spade shaped, occasionally deltoid or even lyre shaped, 2-8 cm long and 0,3-3 cm wide, leathery, glabrous, smooth, and typically flat in cross section, multicoloured, dark-green, pink, purple, white and variegated. The variegation emerges and radiates throughout the leaf as it matures and changes throughout the year. Margin slightly wavy sometimes of a different colour than the rest of the leaf. Stipules cartilaginous, persistent, up to 4 mm, expanded and divided at the base, whitish.*)

**Inflorescence:** 1-2-forked cymes at the branches tips among leaves, on peduncles up to 2 cm long. Cyathia 3 mm in diameter enveloped by large yellowish green to pinkish, cyathophylls (coloured bracts) spreading, rounded, up to 7 x 12 mm wide. Nectar glands yellow. Ovary subsessile



**Growth rate:** It is a slow growing species and tubers take many years to enlarge. The remarkable tuberous rootstock (caudex) is usually raised above the soil line so that this can be seen and more readily appreciated.

**Known hazards:** Like other *Euphorbia*s, the latex/sap is poisonous and can cause skin rash, itching and general discomfort, and they should be handled with caution, particularly when pruning.

**NOTE:** Don Campbell will be bringing his *Euphorbia francoisii* to the Plant Show West, so come see one up close and personal!

# ON THE LIGHTER SIDE!



Above photo by Don Campbell

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH-MAY 2015

- MAR 2      Chinle C&SS Board Mtg - 7-9 pm  
                 2182 Standing Rock Drive  
                 The Redlands off S. Camp Road
- MAR 6      Plant Show West Set-up: 1pm to 4 pm
- MAR 7      Plant Show West - 10am to 4 pm
- MAR 8      Plant Show West - 12 noon to 4 pm
- MAR 21     First Garden Party for 2015 - Saturday, WCBG at 9 am
- MAR 12     Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
                 6:30 pm  
                 Program: "Those Captivating Cacti" & "Success with Succulents"

Presenter: Don Campbell  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library

- APR 1 Garden Party - Wednesday, CSU Extension Garden at 9 am
- APR 6 Chinle C&SS Board Mtg - 7-9 pm  
2182 Standing Rock Drive  
The Redlands off S. Camp Road
- APR 9 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
6:30 pm  
Program: Sclerocacti Species: Threatened by Oil & Gas?  
Presenter: Rich Alward  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library
- APR 11 Garden Party - Saturday - WCBG at 9 am
- APR 25 Garden Party - Saturday, CSU Extension Garden at 9 am
- MAY 4 Chinle C&SS Board Mtg - 7-9 pm  
2182 Standing Rock Drive  
The Redlands off S. Camp Road
- MAY 9 Garden Party - Saturday, WCBG at 9 am
- MAY 14 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
6:30 pm  
Program: "Insects & Cacti"  
Presenter: Bob Hammon, Entymologist  
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library

May 16 Chinle Field Trip - Old Gordon's Trail  
Meet at Serpent's Trail Parking Lot at 9 am.  
Bring a sack lunch, drinks provided by the Society.  
Lunch back at the Devil's Kitchen picnic area after the hike.  
Remember sun screen, hats, and water.

May 20 Garden Party - Wednesday, CSU, at 9 am

### **2015 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board**

President: Maryann Benoit  
970-270-3287

Co-Secretaries: Deb & Glenn Mallory  
970-245-6168

Treasurer: Loren Benoit  
970-254-7471

Vice President &  
Newsletter Editor: Janet Hassell  
970-263-0910

Web Master: Tom Burrows  
970-462-6767

Member at Large: Lisa Hamilton  
970-987-1418

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

Past President: Bill Hassell  
970-263-0910

Garden Activities Coordinator:  
Lois Davidson  
970-242-2879

**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 Community Room at the Mesa Mall. 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](http://www.chinlecactusclub.org)