



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
September 2013 Vol. 5, 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

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

COMPANION GARDENING TIPS....

Ann Barrett is doing an encore performance of one of her favorite subjects, combining various plants in the garden. The title of her talk is "Plants That Grow With Cactus". Her presentation and photos will give lots of ideas for "decorating" our gardens with not just cactus, but a variety of other plants.

Ann has been the owner of Meadowlark Nursery since its purchase in 1997 and opening for business in 2000. She describes herself as having an entrepreneurial spirit having owned a book store previously.

Her interest in plants was sparked when working with an architect who built underground houses. Her task was to identify plants that could be planted on the roofs of these homes--and she grew to enjoy that aspect of her work more than the architecture. Ann grew up in Ventura, CA. She received her BA in Medieval Literature and after graduation, married a guy from Grand Junction and located here in 1972.



.....and ICE CREAM SOCIAL & MEMBER SHOW'N'TELL, SWAP/SALE



Lest members are concerned they missed out on the August meeting Ice Cream Social, never fear! We will be doing ice cream at the September meeting. In addition, this is a time for members to bring plants to swap or sell, or use for show and tell. It's a good time to trim down your collection before fall and possibly acquire some really neat plants in return. If you choose to sell your plant, we usually collect 10% for the CC&SS from the sale price.

Remember, this is also the time to bring your problem plants for advice and healing! So be sure to put this interesting and fun meeting on your calendar!!!

AUGUST GARDEN PARTIES GO ON DESPITE VACATION SCHEDULE

A generous number of gardeners tackled the WCBG garden on August 3rd to include Tom Burrows, Lois Davidson, Bill Hassell, Deb & Glenn Mallory, and Kathy Murdock. The recent rains have encouraged the weeds, but the moist ground made it easier to remove them!

On the right, Tom Burrows uses a spring-loaded device to sterily harvest seeds from plants. The technical name for his device is a de-soldering pump, or in common terminology, a “solder sucker”. Tom tells us it is a Precista Okab T3B, made in Sweden. Wouldn't you know he'd come up with something like that!



Tom Burrows, Joy Bush, and Janet & Bill Hassell attended the Garden Party on August 14th, at the CSU Extension Garden. More weeds to pull, and a general agreement to think twice about planting any more gazenias or sedum, and it seems we spend a great deal of time keeping both plants under control!



Janet Hassell, 2 weeks after shoulder surgery, says “I can still pull weeds with my left hand!”



Above, Tom Burrows, Bill Hassell and Joy Bush enjoy a snack break.



Joy Bush lends her hands and expertise to the August 14th Garden Party. Thanks, Joy!

CAN I PLANT CACTI & SUCCULENTS THIS TIME OF YEAR?

As the end of summer approaches and fall is not far away, members may be asking, "Can I plant cacti & succulents this time of year? And if not, when is a good time plant for a nice spring bloom?"

Of course, this applies to outdoor, hardy cacti & succulents. Actually, fall is a good time to plant, especially if the cactus you choose has a well established root system. The cooler nights and sunny days help get the plant established. Outdoor cacti are designed to "winter over", so planting them now gets them in the ground soon enough to give them a good start before winter begins.

There are some things to consider if you want to plant now. First, when you plant, resist the temptation to water for about a week. This reduces the shock of planting. However, after a week or so, it's OK to give your new plantings a nice drink of water and about every two weeks until about mid-October, since this is the time that cacti begin to go dormant for the winter.

As fall progresses, don't be dismayed if your cactus appear to be shriveling or flopping over. This is the natural response of the plant to the upcoming winter cold. Come spring, you will be pleased to see them plump up as the days warm and you begin watering them again.



SPIDER MITES EPIDEMIC IN THE GRAND VALLEY

Just a word of caution from observation and information obtained from local nurseries and landscape managers: the mites are out!!! The high temperatures stimulate their breeding and since they lay eggs weekly, a new crop hatches before you know it!!!

Symptoms of infestation? As we've said in previous articles, a cardinal sign is webbing. On plants such as creeping juniper, the first sign you may see is a browning out of branches. Other plants, spirea for example, will

turn a sickly yellow, dry up and die. Mites can “do in” a potentilla in 3-5 days if the conditions are right. If by chance you have trees in the cherry family, mites can also attack them.

You can flush the mites away by spraying the plant with a strong stream of plain water. A little more permanent solution is to treat with a hose-end sprayer using triazacide insecticide according to package directions. Weekly follow-up is still important until evidence of the mites has disappeared.

Fortunately, cacti are not significantly prone to mite damage. But since most of us have other plants, keep an eye out for the mites!

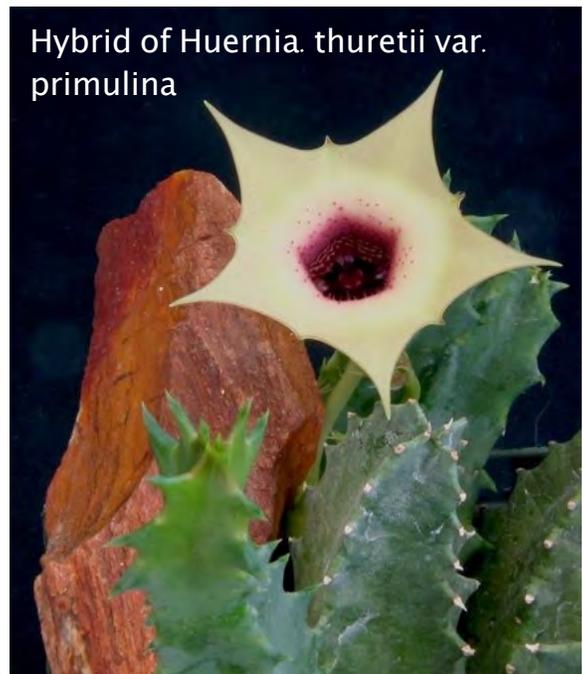
WHAT'S BLOOMING?

On the right is an open pollinated hybrid of *Huernia thuretii* var. *primulina* with *H. confusa* or *H. somaliensis*, also known as *Huernia Stretched Hide*.

It was acquired by Don Campbell in June 2013 from the Huntington Botanical Gardens as part of their International Succulent Introductions.

Below is one of the many free-flowering species in this easy to grow genus, *Huernia somalica*, from Don's sunroom. This entire genus is distinguished by small points (teeth) between the lobes.

Photos by Don Campbell





This *Rebutia* spp. is grafted onto an *Echinopsis* stock and has been outdoors all summer, apparently coaxing it into producing a few delicate blooms in early August 2013.

Photos by J. Hassell



PLANT OF THE MONTH: ECHINOCEREUS VIRIDIFLORUS



Echinocereus viridiflorus (green pitaya), is according to Leo Chance in his book "Cacti & Succulents for Cold Climates", among the most cold and moisture tolerant of all of the hedgehog cacti. It is second only to the *Opuntia* spp. in abundance on the plains of eastern Colorado.

The plant also has a wide distribution from the Black Hills of South Dakota and eastern Wyoming, south into western Kansas and the Oklahoma panhandle. It is also common in nature throughout most of eastern New Mexico and West Texas.

As you can see from the photo to the left from Leo's book, The plant produces an attractive but small (2 cm) flower in green to yellow green. The plants offset readily and make nice clusters and stems can be level with the soil or grow several inches tall. New spines are often bright red at the top of the stem, but turn white as they age.

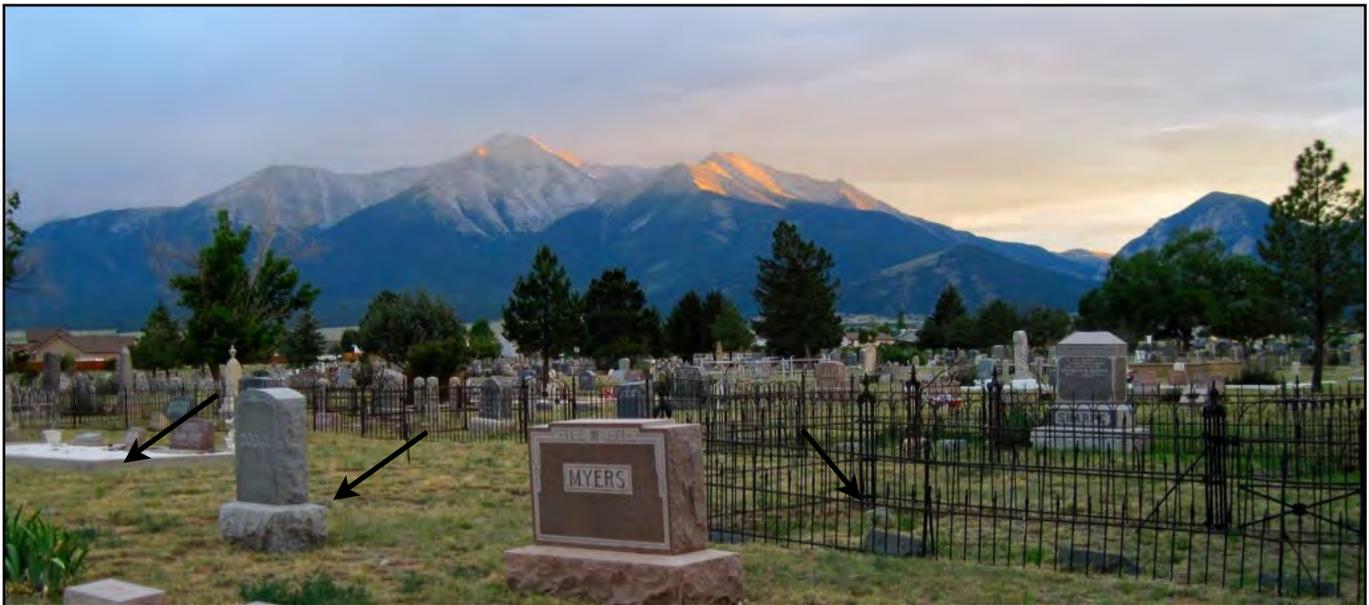
So why is this little, ubiquitous plant so fascinating to us Chinle cactophiles?

On the Chinle field trip to Crumps Nursery in Pueblo, Colorado, a group of us ventured out to explore an old cemetery outside of town. We were amazed to find, in the oldest part of the cemetery, the ground literally

carpeted with *E. viridiflorus* cacti. True to Leo's description, these plants were nearly flush with the ground, and hidden in the grass.

The photo on the right shows one such clump at the cemetery in habitat, but they were so numerous, it was difficult to walk without stepping on them! It was a fun discovery!

Below is the view from the cemetery toward the Capital Mountain Range near Buena Vista with the setting sun reflected off the peaks. The arrows on the photo show where the carpet of *E. viridiflorus* was spread. We wondered if they needed a sign that warned people about going barefoot in the area because the cacti were so hidden in the grass, you would have a problem avoiding the spines!



AN OPPORTUNITY TO "GET INVOLVED"

As the end of 2013 approaches, it is time for the Society to look to the members for prospective leaders for the 2014 year. President Bill Hassell is appointing a Nominating Committee, and if one of the members calls you to serve, please seriously consider saying yes. Following are descriptions of the duties of each of the Society officers.

President

1. Presides at all general membership meetings of the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society.
2. Presides at all Board of Directors meetings.
3. Is an ex-officio member of all committees, except the nominating committee.
4. Provides general overall management of the affairs and business of the Society.
5. Coordinates with Member At Large to maintain liaison among the Society Board and the general membership.
6. Ensures appropriate and timely goals and objectives for the Society are established and achieved.

Vice President

1. In the absence of the President, performs all of the duties of the President.
2. Is the Program Chair and coordinates all of the Society's programs and activities to include arranging for monthly speakers, assuring audio-visual equipment is available, and introducing the speaker at monthly meetings.
3. Provides timely announcements about upcoming programs and activities to the Newsletter Editor.

Secretary

1. Is the official secretary and recorder of all meetings and activities of the Society.
2. Provides summaries of appropriate activities to the Newsletter Editor.
3. Makes minutes of the monthly meetings available to members of the Society via e-mail or hard copies, as needed, in a timely manner.
4. Records all activities and actions of the Board of Directors meetings and distributes the minutes to the members of the Board in a timely manner.
5. Maintains the official membership roster of the society and notifies Board Members and other Society members as needed of changes in membership.
6. Sends appropriate cards or other correspondence as directed by the Board of Directors.
7. Signs appropriate documents required for bank accounts.

Treasurer

1. Responsible for managing all funds and financial activities associated with the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society.
2. Communicates with the Secretary regarding paid or unpaid members.
3. Reports the Society's financial status to the general membership at their monthly meetings as well as to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings.
4. Keeps full and accurate records of all financial transactions and activities and shall make such records available to the Board as required.
5. Is a signatory on the Society's checking account.
6. Assures the timely and accurate filing of all financial reports, taxes, insurance payments, and other financial responsibilities of the Society.

Newsletter Editor

Prepares and distributes the Society's Newsletter and meeting notifications on the frequency prescribed by the Society's Board of Directors.

Immediate Past President

1. Assists the Board in maintaining continuity for the Society by attending Board of Director meetings.
2. Performs other duties as assigned by the Board for the benefit of the Membership.

Member-at-Large

1. Coordinates with President to maintain liaison between and among the general membership and the Board of the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society.
2. Provides coordination and liaison with the activities of other Colorado organizations such as the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society which have interests, goals & objectives similar to the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society.
3. Functions as the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Affiliate Representative to the Cactus and Succulent Society of America.

Garden Committee Chairperson

Coordinates all activities necessary to ensure the various gardens supported by the Society are maintained at acceptable levels that reflect favorably on the Society.

Nominating Committee

1. Annually, at least six weeks prior to the Annual Dinner meeting, the Nominating Committee provides the Board of Directors a list of one or more nominees for each position on the Board.
2. The Nominating Committee provides the list of nominees to the Newsletter Editor for publication to the general membership in the November newsletter.

Being on the Board is a rewarding experience, during which you participate in the success of the Society, interact with other Board members, and help to follow the Mission Statement found under the mast head of the newsletter. Think about saying "yes" when you are called!

MEMBERS UPDATE!

We'd like to welcome three new members to the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society this month: Seth Kenton, Kate and Ken Weissenburger. All three are from Grand Junction, and we hope to see them often at our meetings and garden parties!

Also, an update on our Lilly McAnally, who fell several months ago, breaking her neck. I spoke to her today and she tells me she is extremely fortunate, according to her doctors, since where she sustained the fracture



is at the "hanging vertebrae"--where the hangman fastened the noose because the vertebrae snaps so easily and usually severs the spinal cord. After a stay at Larchmont for rehab, she returned to her home about three weeks ago. She must wear a cervical collar at all times. Lilly notes she loves to get phone calls because she can manage conversations much better than if the person is actually present--she can't move her head in any direction. So give her a call to cheer her up at 243-2640.

Also, one of our newer members from 2012, Dr. Tom Towner, reports "*Greetings from Glendale CA, Living here near sea level the past year, I have enjoyed so much your monthly newsletter, thank you for keeping me on the mailing list.... Not sure when I'll be returning to CO, last month I underwent single lung transplant for this pulmonary fibrosis. I am doing well, very blessed.*

"Yes, please do give my best to the membership, and let them know I'm in a better place than for a long time now. My doctors have advised me to keep my hands out of soil, i.e. give up gardening b/o micro organisms in the soil. But I still enjoy the gardens, esp the Huntington and the gardens in Santa Barbara. My son Bryan is living at the house (on 26-1/2 Road) and I have a garden lady doing the landscaping. We lost all the agave, and several yucca (last winter) :(

Very best wishes to all, Tom Towner"

Also, I've received word that our Member At Large, Judy McCart, is having foot and ankle surgery on Sept. 19th. If any of you have equipment (knee scooter, shower chair, etc.) that she could borrow or buy, give her a call at 623-9279.

One last note, your Newsletter Editor, Janet, had a shoulder replacement on July 30th and is doing great! Can even type again (with both hands) to put out the newsletter!

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

When Insults Had Class



These glorious insults are from an era before the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

1....An opposition member of Parliament said to Disraeli. "You sir will surely die on the gallows or, of some unspeakable disease." "That depends sir", said Disraeli, "on whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

2....."He had delusions of adequacy." - Walter Kerr

3...."He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." - Winston Churchill

4..."I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure - Clarence Darrow

5...."I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it." - Mark Twain

6...."He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.." - Oscar Wilde

7...."I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one." - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill. "Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... If there is

one." - Winston Churchill, in response.

8...."I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here." - Stephen Bishop

9...."He is a self-made man and worships his creator." - John Bright

10...."I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial." - Irvin S. Cobb

11...."Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

12...."His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." - Mae West

13...."Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go." - Oscar Wilde

14...."He has Van Gogh's ear for music." - Billy Wilder

15...."I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it." - Groucho Marx

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS SEPTEMBER 2013 - DECEMBER 2013

SEPT 3 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ

SEPT 7 *GARDEN PARTY - WCBG - Saturday - 8 am*

SEPT 12 *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS*
Program: Anne Barrett, Meadowlark Gardens
"Companion Gardening"
Plant Swap/Sale, Ice Cream Social
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room - Mesa County Fairgrounds

SEPT 18 *GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 8 am*

OCT 5 *GARDEN PARTY - WCBG - Saturday, 8 am*

OCT 7 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ

OCT 10 *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS*
Program: Randy & Marcia Tatroe
"How Cacti & Succulents are used in Commercial Plantings, and
Southern California botanic gardens and missions."
Note Change:
6:30 pm - Jockey Club Room - Mesa County Fairgrounds

OCT 16 *GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 8 am*

OCT 26 *LAST GARDEN PARTY FOR 2013- WCBG - Saturday, 8 am*

NOV 4 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ

NOV 7 *Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS*



Program: Members to discuss favorite species; demonstrations on propagating by seed; photographing cacti & succulents; & other topics
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room - Mesa County Fairgrounds

DEC 2 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ

DEC 12 CHINLE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING
The Iron at Tiara Rada
5:30 pm - Registration, Social Hour, Silent Auction Bidding
6:30 pm - Dinner
7:30 pm - Business Meeting, Election of 2014 Officers
8:30 pm - Door Prizes, Gift Plants & Silent Auction Winners
9:30 pm - Adjourn



2013 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: Lynn Dunham
970-243-1822

Member at Large: Judy McCart
970-623-9279

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Garden Committee: 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 Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds. Guests are always welcome.
Chinle Mailing Address: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**

**PO Box 20000-5028
Grand Junction, CO 81502**

**CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org
CSU WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/chinlecactus.shtml>**