



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
March 2012 Vol. 4, 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*

## PLANT SHOW WEST MARCH 3 & 4 AT BOOKCLIFF GARDENS

The Chinle C&SS and its members will be participating in the first annual Plants Show West to be held at Bookcliff Gardens. We will join several other plant-related societies from the Grand Valley in this event: The African Violet Society, the Bonsai Society, the Orchid Society and possibly others.

The event starts on Friday, March 2nd, with set-up of plants and displays from 1pm until 5 pm. Then on Saturday, the show begins at 8:00 am and runs until 5:00 pm. Sunday the hours are from 10:00 am to 4 pm. Take-down and clean up after 4:00 pm.

Bookcliff Gardens is providing plenty of space to accommodate as many plants as we may want to show and/or sell. We will also set up our Club display and recruitment materials to hopefully generate new memberships as well as provide educational information. The "Plant Show West" organizers are hoping this will become an annual event.

We have published the newsletter a little early to remind members that there is still time to enter plants in the show and/or bring plants for sale. Let Janet know what plants you will show so she can print up an attractive label for them.

**Be sure to spruce up your show quality plants for display!** We have over 50 plants for the show as of press time, but Bookcliff has space to display many more.

**Select any plants you wish to sell.** Provide the name(s) of the plant(s), the price, and your name (so we can give proper credit for the sale). We have plant stakes you can use for this purpose. Members from our Chinle club will handle the sales transactions for our plants: 25% of the proceeds will be donated back to Bookcliff Gardens, 25% to the Chinle C&SS, and 50% to the seller.

**We still need a few more volunteers** to man the show table(s), the sales table(s), and the club information table. The 4-5 pm slots are available for all three stations on Saturday, and the 2-4 pm slot for the sales table on Sunday. Give Janet a call if you can help there.

Members who are showing or selling plants need to bring them to Bookcliff Gardens during the set-up time on Friday, March 2nd, from 1pm until 5 pm.

***If you have a question regarding the suitability of a plant "for show", contact Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, or any of the other board members for advice about your plant.***

***More importantly, get involved and volunteer to be at the Show and support the CCSS! Call Janet or Bill Hassell at 263-0910 to sign up for a time slot at the show.***

## MARCH PROGRAM:

# TOUR THE NEW CHINLE WEBSITE & MEMBER PLANT EXCHANGE!



Tom Burrows, Chinle Webmaster and CCSS Secretary

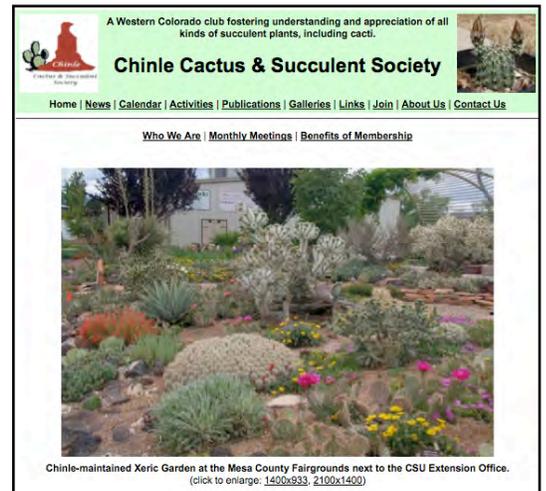
Are you one of us that recently bought a “How To” book, like “Computers for Dummies?” Well, never fear. Our Webmaster, Tom Burrows, will take us on a kind and gentle tour of our Chinle website at the March 9th meeting to show the many features of the site and how easy it is to use.

The website has an incredible amount of information with links to dozens of other information resources, photo galleries of plants and Chinle activities. The Calendar of Events is diligently kept up to date by Tom. He has also added a new feature, “News,” where special events and activities are highlighted-- such as the photo contest. Tom will walk us all through these features at the March meeting. Tom is a retired software engineer who worked mostly at Bell Labs and Autodesk.

Tom shares that “I’ve been growing indoor succulents for about 30 years and still have one of my first (Bowiea voluvis). Since moving back to Colorado I’ve been specializing in growing cacti from seed, landscaping with native plants, propagating plants for club sales, plant photography and running the club’s website.”

Additionally, the program will debut the new digital projector purchased by the Chinle C&SS. This exciting new piece of projection equipment has multiple options for either PC’s or Macs, excellent photo resolution and sound capabilities.

An ice cream social (plus more of Tom’s outstanding cookies/ bars) will follow the “tour” and our indoor cacti and succulent member plant exchange. Cuttings are welcomed, too! This is great time to add to your collection with new plants and share some of your favorite plants.



The Chinle C&SS Website Home Page

## MANY “GARDENING PEARLS” SHARED AT FEBRUARY MEETING



A large group of Chinle members and six guests attended the February CC&SS Regular Meeting, February 9th. Several of the guests told members that their interest in attending was sparked by the recent article about Don Campbell in the Grand Junction Sentinel. The group was treated to an interesting program that focused on the tools, soils, and equipment that are helpful in the cultivation and care of indoor cacti and succulents.

Maryann Benoit did a great job of presenting the entire program despite short notice that co-presenter, Don Campbell, was unable to make the meeting. Attendees (members Tom Burrows, John Moore, Tom Towner and



visitor Glenn Mallory) offered insights and suggestions based on their experience during the program as well.

Maryann's potpourri of medical forceps, hemostats, kitchen tools, knives (large and small), tongs, sand sifters, miniature rakes, tamping sticks, moisture meters, and other items, gave positive evidence to the adage, "necessity is the mother of invention" and proof that cactophiles often "think outside the box" to meet their gardening needs by taking ordinary tools and putting them to extraordinary uses!

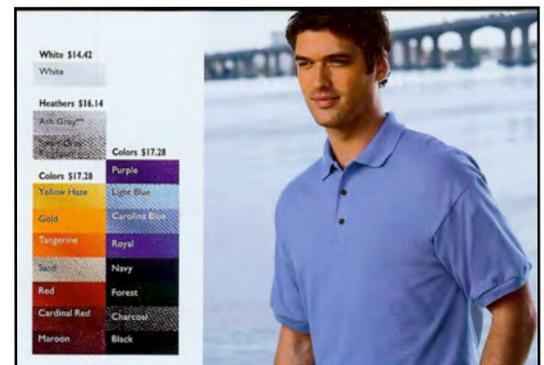
A lively question and answer session followed the program, as well as evaluating several plants brought in by members for "diagnosis and treatment" by the group.



Maryann "in action"

## ORDER YOUR CHINLE SHIRT/HAT NOW UNTIL MARCH 12TH

The Chinle C&SS is offering an opportunity for members to purchase shirts and/or hats with the new Chinle logo or the former logo, if desired. Here is the ordering information for the items. Anyone who wishes to order an item, or have a personal item embroidered with the new logo, should contact Janet Hassell at [janethassell@gmail.com](mailto:janethassell@gmail.com) or 970-263-0910. **Feel free to go to Hole in the Wall store to shop there. They will take your order and process it when the rest of the orders are processed.**



**Vendor:** Hole In the Wall Shirt Shoppe, 826 N. 1st St., GJ, CO 81501

Phone: 241-5581 -

**Embroidery cost:** \$7.00 each for any combination of shirts, hats, or personal items that are embroidered. (If we have 24-49 pieces, the cost becomes \$6.65 per piece.)

**Total cost:** 1. The embroidery cost plus cost of shirt, OR  
2. The embroidery cost plus \$2.00 if you bring in your own garment to have embroidered (total \$9.00)

**Shirt Prices:** Some examples are:

Plain T-shirts, short sleeve (unisex style, Youth sizes, adult SM, MED, LRG, XLRG)

50/50 cotton-poly \$4.40

100% cotton \$4.95

Long sleeved \$8.50

Jersey knit sport shirts: Light weight (5.2-5.6 oz poly/cotton) \$10.26 to \$17.26

Port Authority - fine knit sport shirts, 5.3 oz pima cotton: \$25.98

Pique sport shirts: Light weight (5 oz poly.cotton) \$14.98

Med. weight (6.5/6.8 oz 100% cotton) \$14.42-\$17.28

Heavy weight (7 oz 100% cotton) \$19.98

**Colors:** Most shirts are available in a variety of colors.

**Hat prices:** Baseball-type cap - Structured (twill/canvas) \$4.98

-Unstructured (twill/canvas) \$5.98



CHOOSE EITHER LOGO STYLE

Fisherman's hat - \$8.98

Outback hat - 11.50

ORDERING PERIOD WILL END MARCH 12TH, 2012  
*Questions? Check with Janet for additional information.*

# In Memorium - Bob Shoffner

November 29, 1934 - January 31, 2012

One of the Charter Members of our Chinle C&SS, Bob Shoffner, died early this year--a loss to all of us, and especially to his friends in the Chinle C&SS. Bob and his wife, Celeste, were charter members of the Club, and remained quite active until her death several years ago. Since then, Bob and his very close friend, Becky Brown, have been faithful members of the Chinle C&SS. Although we were aware of his cactophile interests, many of us did not know about his musical background. By permission of the GJ Sentinel, we are sharing this interesting story about Bob which gives a whole other dimension to his personality.



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## Piano tuner busy in rock 'n' roll heyday



By Amy Hamilton  
Monday, February 6, 2012

Bob Shoffner just wanted to do his job tuning pianos.

He worked in the heyday of rock 'n' roll with acts such as Chicago, Elton John, the Beach Boys and Earth Wind & Fire, so invariably there were times when the sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll scene of the day spilled over into his professional life.

Though Shoffner wasn't known for divulging too many details about his clients, at least one colorful story passed down from the father to his son, Robert Shoffner Jr.

While Shoffner was attempting to tune a piano for the band Chicago, a band member literally was trying to get lucky with a woman on said piano.

"He was just trying to get the hell out of there," his son, Robert, said of his dad, laughing. "I know he wasn't a saint, but he wasn't a '70s rocker."

Robert "Bob" Shoffner, 77, of Grand Junction, died Jan. 31.

He recently had two stents placed in his arteries, but died four days after the surgery.

The piano tuner with a storied past was so well-known and respected for his work that officials at several of the major piano manufacturers such as Steinway and Kawai recognized him by name.

"There's not a technician that has been tuning pianos for more than five years that didn't know his name," his son said.

Shoffner was an unselfish man who tuned pianos for the Grand Junction Symphony Orchestra since the group purchased a Yamaha concert grand piano in 2003, according to the symphony's music director, Kirk Gustafson.

"He was very low-keyed, very generous with his time," Gustafson said. "When he tuned a piano, it stayed in tune really well. He will be missed."

Gustafson first crossed paths with Shoffner while in Boulder at the Caribou Ranch, a popular recording studio for famous acts in the 1970s and 1980s.

A piano technician for Yamaha, Shoffner tuned pianos for each of Chicago's albums, his son said.

He also tuned pianos for artists Michael Martin Murphey and Dan Fogelberg, who was a neighbor of the Shoffner family while they lived in Bailey for a time.

# TOP TEN STYLING TIPS FOR CACTI COLLECTORS

By Fred Hill (Reprinted from Dec. 2011, "The Offset", newsletter of the Oklahoma C&SS)



1. **Give it a trim:** Your Opuntias and other hardy cacti may suffer damage as they shrink from winter water loss. Larger varieties tend to droop and shed at their joints; smaller ones recover better with smaller strings of pads. You can also more easily prune out damaged or dead pads at this time. Prune pad-type plants back to 2-3 pads maximum length. Use the healthiest pads for propagation.
2. **Top it off:** If you use top dressing on your hardy beds, fill in any voids or thin spits to reduce erosion, strengthen the anchor points of your plants, and improve the barrier to invasive weeds and nuisance "drooping" of the smaller cholla-type plants.
3. **Step back and give it a look-over:** Judge the performance of your garden layouts. Did the overall shape, elevation, concentration and mix of plants and their surroundings live up to expectations? Maybe a little off the side or a few more highlights would give you the flair it needs.
4. **Do the clothes make the look?** Empty all pots of plants that didn't make it. These pots are now available for dressing up any new or maturing plants. I recycle used cactus soil mix from disease free plants, pouring off the top dressing for the gravel component in the next batch, and remove vegetative matter from the remainder. This is blended with new mix at something less than 50/50.
5. **Maybe a little bleach job?** Clean and sterilize used pots with a 1 to 10 bleach and water solution to keep problems from popping up with new residents.
6. **Get "In the Know".** Use these long winter nights to seek out new specimens, new ways to present plants. Try going against the grain and training your specimen in a new direction.
7. **How about a new ensemble?** Mentally sift through your smaller specimens, plan new dish gardens or rework your existing dishes. Try pulling plants together in different arrangements, document the arrangement that best fits the dish, sizes, and elevations of a good dish garden.
8. **Part it on the side?** How would paring the plant back or shearing sections off improve your specimen? Eliminate standard growth from your monstrose or crestate specimens with cuttings to be discarded or potted up after curing a while.
9. **Take care of those split ends:** Keep close watch on your plants throughout the winter and take care of any damage from wind, ice or other calamities.
10. **Plan to work on that tan:** As winter wanes, plan exposure to sun for plants wintered over in low light areas. Place plants in locations with incrementally more sun exposure to prevent unsightly brown spots caused by too much sun, too soon. This process may take up to 3 weeks.

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!

2012 has arrived, and it's time for membership renewal in the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society! Dues for individuals are \$20, for a family \$25. You may send your renewal check to Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502, or bring your check to the March meeting. Your continued support of the Society is appreciated! And invite your friends to join!

## *Attention Shutter Bugs!*

# GET THOSE GORGEOUS PHOTOS SUBMITTED FOR THE CONTEST!!

Here are the guidelines for our photo contest:

1. Submit your photo(s) for newsletter publication during the contest period (Feb 1 through October 31st). Just submitting them 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 one or two photos for judging.
3. Please accurately identify plants, location of plant, date of photograph, etc. (if possible).
4. Photos need to have been taken in 2012.
5. Subject matter is wide open, but should be related to cacti and succulents in some way. Suggestions? Interesting individual plants, garden photos, plant flowers, "artsy" or photo-shopped photos of plants, plants in natural habitat, or just be creative. It's OK to include people, birds, animals in the photos if related to cacti and succulents.
6. If you have a comment, story, or article to accompany the photo, go ahead and submit it.
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. Janet Hassell will print the photos for viewing by the members at the November regular meeting. She will have the official judging done by knowledgeable from outside the Chinle C&SS and winners announced at the ADM.
9. There are many fine photographers in our membership! Take advantage of this opportunity to share your beautiful work!

**CHALLENGE: "LET'S SEE WHAT OUR CHINLE PHOTOGRAPHERS  
CAN DO IN 2012!!"**

## SOME THOUGHTS ON CACTI IN POROUS POTS

(Shared by Don Campbell. From the [cacti\\_etc@opus.scs.agilent.com](http://cacti_etc@opus.scs.agilent.com), blog 5/27/2011, Malcolm Burleigh, St. Paul, MN)

"You put a plant in a porous pot and a large percentage of the evaporation from the pot takes place from the pot surface itself. This means that the elements, nitrogen, phosphorus & potassium and minor elements migrate to the outside of the pot during the evaporative process. Now the roots will start to grow to the outside of the pot since they have to follow the elements....what you will find if you remove the plant from the pot (is) there is a root structure ball that mirrors the surface of the pot...and there is none in the middle! The roots have followed the nutrients.

"This is where root loss starts. These roots are almost always dry and the nutrients are on the outside surface of the pot! In the desert this is certainly not the case! The smaller plants grow into solid rock and their root systems follow the cracks in the rocks. Larger plants such as the barrels and Saguaro will have roots close to the surface of the soil.

"What you want for your cacti and other xerophytic plants is a very porous and quick draining soil (>1 sec) and a non porous pot--plastic, ceramic or a terra-cotta pot that has been painted inside and out. When you do this and remove the pot from the soil, you will find a much healthier root system that fills the pot throughout."

*Here's an interesting story about an interesting plant!*

*Contributed by Don Campbell.*

"If ever there was a name and plant meant for each other....."



### ***Euphorbia obesa ssp. symmetrica***

(The following is extracted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.)

This plant can look nearly identical to *Euphorbia obesa*, but rounder, flatter and not growing as tall (dimension up to 6 cm , 8 cm diameter; 8 to 10-sided) It has usually more, somewhat different, markings. The flowers are also more numerous with several from each point of origin, it has as well a distinctive long taproot.

It likes a sunny position. It does best in a mineral soil and good drainage is essential. Water sparingly during the summer months and keep dry in winter. It is a slow growing long lived plant and once established, it will be content in its position and with its soil for years. It can tolerate moderate shade, and a plant that has been growing in shade should be slowly hardened off before placing it in full sun as the plant will be severely scorched

if moved too suddenly from shade into sun. It is propagated from seed sown during spring or summer. Flowering can be achieved within 5-8 years.

Euphorbia is a genus of plants belonging to the family Euphorbiaceae and includes over 2000 species. Euphorbia is one of the most diverse genera in the plant kingdom. Members of the family and genus are sometimes referred to as spurges. The genus is primarily found in the tropical and subtropical regions of Africa and the Americas, but also in temperate zones worldwide. Succulent species originate mostly from Africa, the Americas and Madagascar. The common name "spurge" derives from the Middle English/Old French espurge ("to purge"), due to the use of the plant's sap as a purgative.

The botanical name Euphorbia derives from Euphorbus, the Greek physician of King Juba II of Numida (52-50 BC - 23 AD), who married the daughter of Anthony and Cleopatra. He wrote that one of the cactus-like Euphorbias was a powerful laxative. In 12 B.C., Juba named this plant after his physician Euphorbus in response to Augustus Caesar dedicating a statue to Antonius Busa, his own personal physician. Botanist and taxonomist Carl Linnaeus assigned the name Euphorbia to the entire genus in the physician's honor.

## THREE NEW BOOKS FOR 2012 FROM TIMBER PRESS

### ***"Cacti & Succulents for Cold Climates"***

By Leo Chance

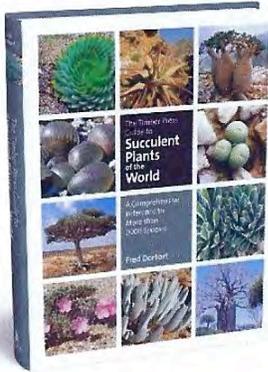
From [cacti\\_etc@opus.scs.agilent.com](mailto:cacti_etc@opus.scs.agilent.com), Chuck Everson, Bookseller Owner/Operator of "The Cactus Bookstore, in Vista, CA, reports this book by Leo Chance will be published in June 2012. Leo is a Colorado Springs, Colorado, resident and has been a CSSA member for many years, and growing cacti for even long than that. Chuck says "I guess he has a lot of practice." The book will be 368 pages long with 306 color photos. Price is estimated to be \$39.95, published by Timber Press.

There's a good chance (no pun intended) that the Chinle C&SS will have Leo Chance as a special speaker later in 2012.

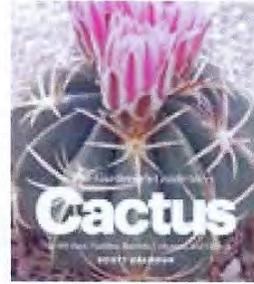


NEWLY PUBLISHED:

**"The Timber Press Guide to Succulent Plants of the World"** by Fred Dortort - \$49.95



**"The Gardener's Guide to Cactus: The 100 Best Paddles, Barrels, Columns & Globes"** by Scott Calhoun - \$24.95



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## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

If you think pollination is cool, take a look at this.

[http://  
www.youtube.com/v/  
xHkq1edcbk4](http://www.youtube.com/v/xHkq1edcbk4)



## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS MARCH-JUNE 2012

- MAR 2 Plant Show Set up at Bookcliff Gardens - 1pm -5pm
- MAR 3&4 Plant Show West at Bookcliff Gardens  
Saturday, Mar. 3rd, 8am- 5 pm  
Sunday, MAR. 4th - 10am - 4 pm
- MAR 6 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ, CO
- MAR 8 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: "Exploring the Chinle Website"  
Presenter: Tom Burrows, Chinle Webmaster  
**Member Indoor Plant Exchange!**  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- MAR 17 SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY - WC Botanical Gardens - 9 am  
MAR 28 WEDNESDAY GARDEN PARTY - CSU Extension Garden - 9 am
- MAR 31 CCSS Show & Sale - Mitchell Hall, Denver Botanic Gardens
- APR 2 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ, CO
- APR 12 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: "Outdoor Cactus & Succulent Cultivation"  
Presenter: Don Campbell  
**Member Outdoor Plant Exchange**  
6:30 pm - Meet at CSU Garden for program, Mesa County Fairgrounds  
Sagebrush Room for meeting after program.
- APR 14 SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY - WC Botanical Gardens - 9 am
- APR 20 **SPECIAL CHINLE MTG WITH GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Program: Cacti & Succulent Cultivation in the United Kingdom**  
**The English Garden**  
**Presenter: Trevor Wray**  
**6:30 pm - The Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds**
- APR 25 WEDNESDAY GARDEN PARTY - CSU Extension Garden - 9 am
- MAY 7 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ, CO
- MAY 10 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: "Scientific View of Cactus & Succulents"  
Presenter: Albert LaSalle, Retired Botany Educator  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- MAY 12 SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY - WC Botanical Gardens - 9 am
- MAY 18-20 Capitol Reef Weekend Tour & Cacti Hunt (details forthcoming)**
- MAY 23 WEDNESDAY GARDEN PARTY - CSU Extension Garden - 9 am  
JUNE 2 SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY - WC Botanical Gardens - 8 am
- JUNE 4 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ, CO
- JUNE 13 WEDNESDAY GARDEN PARTY - CSU Extension Garden - 9 am
- JUNE 23 Annual Chinle Garden Tour (replaces June regular meeting)**
- JUNE 30 SATURDAY GARDEN PARTY - WC Botanical Gardens - 8 am

**Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**February 9, 2012**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by President Bill Hassell at the Sagebrush Room at the Mesa County Fairgrounds.

**Secretary's Report**

It was moved, seconded [John Moore/Julie Bursi] and approved that the minutes of the January 12, 2012 regular meeting be approved.

**Treasurer's Report**

Loren Benoit presented the Treasurer's Report.  
Members were reminded that now is the time to renew.

**Gardening Committee**

Maryann Benoit announced that the first gardening session of this year will be March 17 at WCBG.

**Programs**

Lynn Dunham spoke about the next couple of regular meetings:

- March: Tom Burrows demoing the club's web site; ice cream social; indoor plant exchange.
- April: Meet first at the Extension garden; Don Campbell will speak about cultivation of outdoor cacti & succulents; outdoor plant exchange.

Pam Johnson spoke about upcoming special events:

- Garden Tour to Montrose and Ridgeway, June 23?
- Capitol Reef field trip, either Mother's Day weekend or the next weekend after.

**Plant Show West**

Janet Hassell needs plant identification info by February 24 from those exhibiting.

**Promotional Items**

Janet Hassell brought shirt/hat/logo samples and began taking orders. The initial ordering period will be until the week after the March meeting.

**Management Changes at WCBG**

It was noted that management changes are occurring at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and we will be planning according.

Prepared by Tom Burrows, Secretary  
February 21, 2012

**2012 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 C&SS WEBSITE: [www.chinlecactusclub.org](http://www.chinlecactusclub.org)  
CSU WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/chinlecactus.shtml>**