May

Don’t forget that we will not have a regular club meeting the second Thursday of May. Meetings will resume on June 14th with Dr. Curtis Swift speaking on a cactus-related subject of his choosing – “Bits and Bobs about Cacti: Soil, Irrigation, Fertilization & Photosynthesis.”

There will be two Garden Parties in May: the first on Saturday May 12th at the CSU Extension garden and the second at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens on Wednesday May 23rd.

We will also have a booth at the CSU Extension-hosted Demonstration Day on Saturday May 19th from 9:00 - 1:00. Master gardeners, native plant masters, green industry businesses and others will have informational booths and hold demonstrations and tours. More information and the schedule of events can be found at the Tri-River web site page: Demonstration Day.

Please check the calendar at www.chinlecactusclub.org/calendar for location details and any event updates.

Tom Towner

Tom, a former member of our Cactus & Succulent Society, died March 28, 2018 at the age of 74. Many of you may remember his lovely cactus and succulent garden we visited on a Society Garden Tour two years ago. He suffered severe health issues that required a double lung transplant after he retired. However, this didn’t stop him from continually working on his gardens, even though he was tethered by a long oxygen tube.

In his obituary, his final words (composed by himself) reflected the breadth and scope of Tom’s interests and life: “Thomas G. Towner, MD, Major US Army Medical Corps, Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Patriot, Physician, Gastroenterologist, Humorist, Historian, Astronomer, Sailor, World Traveler. Not so fluent in German, but I tried. F@%k the Lotto. Ahh, sh*t, I’m going to miss the last season of Game of Thrones! It’s been a good life.”

Might we also add, he was an amazing gardener! His love of sailing is celebrated in this final tribute in his front yard, shown here.

- Janet Hassell
CC&SS @ the Annual Southwestern Arbor Fest

A good time was had by all at this year’s Arbor Fest. Our booth was strategically located directly adjacent to the barn, from which we were able to appropriate three 8-foot tables, and somewhat improbably between Vital Earth Minerals and Claws Cat Rescue. We had a few hundred giveaway cuttings from our personal and Club gardens as well as a fair number of potted rooted starts and indoor plants. We could not have pulled the event off as seamlessly with fewer, or less enthusiastic, volunteers. Thank you for collecting, donating, identifying and getting stuck by plants, and just generally pitching in to make this a great PR event for the club: Janet Hassell, Don Campbell, Kate Weissenburger, Lois Davidson, Helen Kempenich, Rachel Lloyd, Leslie Joanis, Eric Baltes, Marj McKenna & Deb Mallory. Delivery services were provided by Bill Hassell & Ken Weissenburger.

Egads! Although the event was scheduled for 12 to 5, we started getting busy at 11

Our newly refurbished tri-fold. Thank you Maryann & Kate!

More photos next page ……
Our plant drawing had 99 entries. Winners went home with some very nice specimens.

The second shift (2:30 - 5:00) was even organized enough have a group picture taken (!)

.... and by the end we had given away virtually everything ....
We caught a break at our early April gardening session with a warm day and light clouds. Thank you gardeners: Eric Baltes & Leslie Joanis, Helen Kempenich, Loren Benoit, Don Campbell, Lois Davidson, Janet & Bill Hassell, Deb Mallory & Kate Weissenburger.

Bits of bindweed persist where there was once a serious infestation. Here, a cocktail of glyphosate and water (+ a bit of dish soap as a surfactant) is being applied directly to the emerging weeds. We prefer these spot treatments to spraying in order to minimize the possibility of damage to desirables due to overspray.
At the CSU gardening session it was a bit crisp but what a glorious day ..... and an excellent mid-week turnout of gardeners. In addition to continuing spring cleaning and beating back some of the perennially unwanted perennials, lots of new dead trees got planted. Thank you Leslie Joanis & Eric Baltes, Rachel Lloyd, Deb Mallory, Helen Kempenich, Kim and Rick Krueger, Doris Schlichter, Don Campbell, Lois Davidson and Marj McKenna.

12- and 16-inch hemostats are indispensable. Here, Doris is using a pair to pull unwanted yarrow out of an Opuntia

These shots were taken at break time. A huge amount of work actually got done!

And thank you Lois for bringing snacks
2018 Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Show & Sale

From Club Member Kathy McCoy

“……Entries were roughly double last year’s number, with an impressive quality level. Novice entries were amazingly good; the majority seemed remarkably equal in quality to the upper category.

The show was pleased to have four great judges, with two deeply experienced cactus experts Woody Minnich and Mike Crump. The duo took a close look and seemed to enjoy the range of entries. Interestingly, the two upper level judges awarded plants in clean well-planted plastic pots and made no comments on pot style.

Show chairs Jackson Burkholder and Roswitha Moehring organized the process. Many club members volunteered, and the show attendees were super enthusiastic. The host table answered a zillion questions from enthusiastic newbies.”

Kathy’s show entries were wildly successful this year: from a total of 26 entered specimens, three won 3rd place, eight won 2nd place and fourteen won 1st place. Here are just a few of her winning plants:

And she adds: “……. Succulents are HOT these days and it seemed like we were the happening place to be! Show/sale attendance was once again amazingly large, with incredibly long purchase lines of dedicated buyers patiently holding their heavy flats of precious succulents. A team of efficient cashiers knocked themselves out, doing their best to keep up with customer demand. By Sunday mid-morning little was left in the sale room – it looked like the site of a feeding frenzy! Nevertheless, cash register lines indicated many shoppers found great plants. In spite of the important holiday, Sunday attendance was nearly as heavy as Saturday.”
At the April Regular Meeting:  
“Creating a Cactus Community” by the Cactus Rescue Project

Our club photographer was unable to be at the April meeting so you simply have to believe our assertion that it was exceptionally well attended by members, guests and guests-turned-members. John “Obie” Oberhausen gave a lavishly illustrated presentation about the Cactus Rescue Project, initially an effort to save the endangered Santa Fe cholla (*Opuntia viridiflora*), that now also builds community interest and involvement in the promotion and use of cacti in southwest gardening. John showed a number of cactus projects that his group has established and maintains. These images are from his talk.

*Opuntia viridiflora* bloom not looking terribly viridis (L. “fresh green”), but many are.

Desolate public space turned cactus garden at La Tienda in Santa Fe. Santa Fe average precipitation is about 14”/year; this and all of the other gardens that John and partners have installed have no supplementary irrigation.

Medians, islands and other public “hell strips” around Santa Fe have been established and are maintained by the Cactus Rescue Project. The “Project” is not a club in the sense of being organized, having by-laws and so on. Instead it is essentially a contact list of citizen gardeners who are called on for gardening duty in return for cuttings and a dose of light Rescue propaganda. An interesting model.
On Facebook
Advice from club member Tom Burrows

Our Club’s migration from Meetup to Facebook earlier this year coincided with a series of disclosures about Facebook’s handling of user data. And, as it turns out, non-user data. This note from Tom Burrows links to an information article and includes a suggestion about how to strengthen your online privacy:

“Here is an article on Facebook’s practice of tracking people who have not even signed up for Facebook:

https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/04/17/facebook_admits_to_tracking_non_users/

Some words of advice:
1. If you use Facebook, never give them any information about other people – e.g., names, contact information, photos showing their faces, etc.

2. Stuff from Facebook that you probably don’t want running on your computer is hidden under the hood of thousands of websites: banks, news, etc. If you are using Firefox or one of its relatives, you can block this stuff with various security/privacy extensions. One of the most useful of these, which is trivial to use, is called “uBlock Origin” (not to be confused with “uBlock”, which is something different). This is intended as a replacement for existing ad-blockers. It has many options, but all of them can generally be left at the default”. - Tom

If you take a look through The Register article you might get distracted by a reprinted tweet about toilet seats (illustrating the point that your tracked data is used by Facebook’s advertisers). If you want to waste some time, go further down the rabbit hole of follow-up tweets and you will eventually land on a Youtube: Kids in the Hall - Plungers Season 2, Episode 18: https://youtu.be/usm7uCfxdo which has nothing whatsoever to do with personal privacy but will make you laugh.

But seriously, if you are concerned about your web privacy, spend some time getting acquainted with the privacy tools at your disposal, including uBlock Origin, mentioned by Tom. Your newsletter editor now has this utility installed (on Firefox) where it is working flawlessly in the background.

The Missouri-based Henry Shaw Cactus and Succulent Society (www.hscactus.org) will be hosting the 16th Mid-States Cactus & Succulent Conference in St. Louis. This event is held once every two years and features a two and a half day program of workshops, travelogues and technical presentations as well as plant sales.

You can find registration and other information at the conference website: http://www.hscactus.org/mid-states/
The November-December 2017 Issue of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America Journal

These synopses were provided by the CSSA. Information about the society may be found on their website: ccainc.org

From the mysterious plant to the most common mammillaria: the story of *Mammillaria luethyi*
Zlatko Janeba recounts the discovery of this Coahuilan species in habitat in 1996 and its description by George Hinton long after it had first been brought to the United States (early 1950s) and many years of conjecture regarding its correct genus. The author also tells how *M. luethyi* eventually became available to the public.

Agaves of Arizona
In this ten-page, well-illustrated article, Ron Parker comments that there are twenty-one Agave species in Arizona and divides them into two groups, the first of which tend to be large, broad-leaved plants with large inflorescences (examples given: *A. parryi*, *A. chrysantha*, *A. palmeri*, *A. deserti* var. *simplex*, *A. mckelveyana*) and the second of which are smaller plants and have spicate or racemose inflorescences (*A. schottii*, *A. toumeyana*, *A. parviflora*, *A. utahensis*). Maps accompany the article.

A new species of cremnophytic Aloe from the Republic of Zambia
Author and explorer Tom A. McCoy presents *Aloe mkushiana*, a long leaved hanging species with downward-facing rosettes from a deep river gorge in the central region of Zambia. Confirmation of the new species status was made in June 2017. The epithet “mkushiana” was chosen in reference to the occurrence on the steep cliffs rising above the Mkushi River.

Cacti Conundrums
Nancy D. Riley shares her findings regarding the status of *Sclerocactus glaucus*, *Echinocereus viridiflorus*, *Pediocactus simpsonii* and *Escobaria vivipara* on her 35-acre parcel of land near Livermore (Larimer County), Colorado. She discusses her method of identifying and tracking plants and notes the depletion of plants in drought years due to rabbit predation.

Dogs sniff out an elusive cactus
Mark Fleming reveals a new ecological scent detection endeavor by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and H.T. Harvey & Associates to rigorously train dogs to identify the highly endangered *Coryphantha scheeri* var. *robustispina* in Pima and Santa Cruz Counties, Arizona, the only American habitat for the species. Distribution is patchy and few locations have significant populations. Tracking these plants has been very time consuming in the past. “Dogs have been used with great success in finding several species of plants…and are able to detect odor originating from a target plant’s roots,” writes Mr. Fleming. The dogs are trained during a period of approximately sixteen weeks.

Additionally, Fred Katterman offers “Molecular analysis of the genus Eriosyce part II,” Leo Chance continues his series “Pushing the Limits: landscaping with cacti and succulents” with his article #27, “Sansevieria rosulata, a new species in Uganda,” is presented by Tom Forrest and John Lavranos and “The Aloes of Uganda, A Field Guide,” by Thomas Cole and Tom Forrest.
May (reminder: no regular meeting this month)

May 12 Garden Party 9:00 - 11:00 am at the CSU Extension Garden, 2775 US-50, Grand Junction

May 14 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Don Campbell’s home

May 19 Demonstration Day 9:00 - 1:00 am at the CSU Extension Garden, 2775 US-50, Grand Junction

May 23 Garden Party 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, 641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction

June

June 4 Board Meeting 6:30 pm at Don Campbell’s home

June 9 Garden Party 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, 641 Struthers Ave, Grand Junction

June 14 Regular Meeting of the CC&SS 6:30 pm 536 Ouray Ave., Grand Junction - Program: Dr. Curtis Swift on: “Bits and Bobs about Cactus: Soil, Irrigation, Fertilization & Photosynthesis”

June 23 Garden Party 9:00 - 11:00 am at the CSU Extension Garden, 2775 US-50, Grand Junction

There once was a cactus named Sally, Who’d found a nice home in The Valley.

By Don Campbell

Chinle C&SS Poet Laureate

But along came Peter Rabbit, and true to his habit...

He ate Little Sally that day.
The meeting was called to order by President Don Campbell at 6:30PM. We hosted several guests at this evening’s meeting, who were introduced and welcomed.

Don conducted the evening business meeting, which included the following announcements and discussion:

1) Don mentioned that we had a variety of raffle plants for this evening’s plant drawing, and additionally that there were some free cuttings of Santa Fe cholla featured in tonight’s program, and some haworthia.

2) Don announced that the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society from Denver had originally planned a field trip to the Grand Junction area for this spring, but that apparently will not happen this year.

3) Shari Skeie gave a quick report on upcoming programs. Tonight’s speaker is John “Obie” Oberhausen who comes to us from Santa Fe to talk about his gardening projects and plant rescue activities. In May, the regular meeting will be substituted by the out-of-town field trip. June’s speaker will be Curtis Swift, and July will be an informal plant/cutting exchange and ice cream social.

4) Lois Davidson gave an update for the Gardening Committee. The WCBG garden is in very good shape right now. Extensive work was done on that garden last year, and it is close to being ready for revisions. The CSU garden is still in need of much work. The next garden party will be Wednesday, April 18, at the CSU garden. Lois also mentioned that Kenton Seth has graciously offered to donate some plants from his landscaping business, for our use. May dates for garden parties are: May 12 at CSU, and May 23 at WCBG.

5) Kate Weissenburger gave an update on the termination of our Meetup account, and the beginning of our Facebook page. This had previously been announced at last month’s meeting. Both of those projects have been completed. It was pointed out that one does not have to be a Facebook subscriber to access a Facebook page. Those with privacy concerns can still explore our page without being a member. Along those lines, Tom Burrows has offered to make available some information which addresses privacy concerns. This may be helpful to individuals wanting to make their online presence and personal data more secure. Kate indicated she will publish this in our newsletter once Tom has sent her the information.

Kate also reported for Janet Hassell on several items. All of our brochures have been updated with accurate and current information and these are being printed. Janet has also been working on writing a Policies and Procedure manual for the Club, as an ancillary document to our Bylaws, the purpose of which will be to detail our policies and activities separately from the Bylaws. In relation to this, the Board has been working on bringing the Bylaws up-to-date and this project is almost complete.

6) The financial report was given by Treasurer Eric Baltes. There were no major expenses in March. He reminded everyone who will be attending the May field trip, that their trip fees are due. Also, we are putting together a new list for name tags, in case anyone wants or needs one. Lastly Eric mentioned that he has put together a membership list which only includes the person’s name, city, and email address. If anyone does NOT want to be listed on that list, the member needs to let Eric know. The list will be made available online, but only to paid members.

7) The field trip was discussed and the guidelines were briefly mentioned. Everyone MUST sign a waiver to
participate in the field trip. It was also mentioned that we will be going into some National Parks site(s), so anyone with a Golden Age pass or an annual parks pass should bring that along to help with entry fees.

We had a social break complete with refreshments by Tom Burrows. Following the break, our evening program was “Creating a Cactus Community” by John “Obie” Oberhausen. Obie described how he and a friend got involved in protecting the endangered Santa Fe cholla, and how that project has grown into the creation of several cactus gardens in their neighborhood near Santa Fe, NM. Obie described how not only the installing of the gardens, but the increased interest of the neighbors in cacti and other succulents has created an extended community of native and protected plants, and also a human connection to one another and the gardens – what has become a true cactus community. Following Obie’s program, we had the plant drawing(s) and announcement of the silent auction winner.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Deb Mallory

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2018 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board & Appointees

President: Don Campbell   Vice President: Bret Seligman
Secretary: Deb Mallory   Garden Activities Coordinator: Lois Davidson
Treasurer: Eric Baltes   Newsletter Editor: Kate Weissenburger   Member at Large: Walt Scheer
Program Committee: Shari Skeie   Governance & Public Affairs: Don Campbell
Facebook: Lisa Hamilton   Web Site: Kate Weissenburger

The Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Meetings are held in the Unitarian Universalist Church, 536 Ouray Ave., Grand Junction, CO. Guests are always welcome. For information about upcoming meetings, please check our website.

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

Phone: 1-970-773-7637

Website: www.chinlecactusclub.org
Contact Us: info@chinlecactusclub.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/chinlecactusclub