



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
December 2016 Vol. 8, No. 12

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

## ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!

DATE: Thursday, December 8, 2016

PLACE: Bookcliff Country Club, 2730 G. Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506

TIME: 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm



1. Make your reservation(s) by calling Julie Bursi at 970-812-5955 or emailing her at [4cyclejeb@gmail.com](mailto:4cyclejeb@gmail.com). Reservations can still be made through **December 3rd**. When you make your reservation, indicate your dinner choice (chicken, steak or salmon).
2. Cost: \$25 per member, \$30 for non-members. Julie needs to have your check(s) no later than December 3rd, made out to Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society.
3. Door Prizes donations: Joy Bush and Pam Johnson are taking care of the door prizes. They can receive donations up until **December 3rd**, but please let them know what you are bringing so they can plan accordingly. Please email or call either Joy ([joytyne@earthlink.net](mailto:joytyne@earthlink.net), phone 255-6467) or Pam ([pjohnson@fcfpremium.com](mailto:pjohnson@fcfpremium.com) phone 970-523-5443) with your items.

Don Campbell has some splendid Silent Auction items to offer at the Dinner. Since this is meant to be a fund-raiser for the Society, come prepared!!! You can contact Don at [campbell.di.cj@bresnan.net](mailto:campbell.di.cj@bresnan.net) or 970-245-5088 if you have questions.

### AGENDA:

- 4:30 pm - Set up (Come early if you are bringing Silent Auction items and/or door prize donations) and feel free to help setting up for the meeting)
- 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm - Registration, Social hour (Cash Bar)  
Check out Silent Auction items
- 6:30 pm - Dinner served
  - Choices: Chicken breast with lemon caper cream sauce
  - 9 oz NY Steak with burgundy mushroom sauce
  - Salmon with mango pineapple salsa
  - Fresh garden salad, Chef's choice vegetable side
  - Roasted rosemary and parmesan potatoes
  - Dessert: Cheesecake, chocolate cake
- 7:30 pm - Rest Room Break, Silent Auction Shopping

- 8:00 pm **Business Meeting**  
**President's Report - Review of 2016**  
**Nominations for 2017 Board - Election of Officers**
- 8:30 pm **Last chance to bid on Silent Auction items**
- 8:45 pm **Door prizes, Gift plants, Silent Auction winners**

**ADJOURN**

## **SO WHAT IS "MEETUP" ALL ABOUT?**

At the November meeting, Lisa did a "live demo" of the MeetUp site and how it works. If you missed the meeting, here is an overview of the program:

From the Meetup site: "Meetup brings people together in thousands of cities to do more of what they want to do in life. It is organized around one simple idea: when we get together and do the things that matter to us, we're at our best. And that's what Meetup does. It brings people together to do, explore, teach and learn the things that help them come alive."

From Wikipedia: Meetup is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group meetings in various localities around the world. Meetup allows members to find and join groups unified by a common interest, such as politics, books, games, movies, health, pets, careers or hobbies.

The service is free of charge to individuals who log in as members, so any of you can log into the Chinle C&SS site at no charge. Chinle C&SS has sponsored a site for our members, and will try it for 6 months to see how it goes.

**Remember to join our Meetup group!** The address is [meetup.com/Chinle-Cactus-Succulent-Society](http://meetup.com/Chinle-Cactus-Succulent-Society) to find out the latest information. See History of MeetUp on page 6.

## **LOOK WHAT'S BLOOMING!**

Don Campbell sends these images and comments: "Election Day, 2016 and just about time for the sun to set behind the cliffs of Colorado Nat'l Monument I headed out the front door on my way to pick up my mail and found these little cuties blooming away. What a pleasant respite from all the political acrimony of the past days, weeks and months. In addition to these three, there were several other flowering succulents.



**Delosperma coopeeri**



**Bergeranthus jamesii**



**Titanopsis calcarea**

*The following article was sent to us by Judy Kennedy. It was published in the Yavapai Gardens Master Gardener Newsletter from the University of Arizona and reprinted here with their permission.*

## ***Watch out for the Jumping Cactus!***

***By Nora Graf***

You grew up in the desert, if you know that cholla cactus would jump at you if you walked close to it. It is the plant equivalent of a rattlesnake. The good news is that cholla does not wildly leap at you to defend itself, even if the nickname of jumping cactus persists. It is still a wicked plant to grow in your landscape if you have children or pets. On the other hand, the perception of the cactus jumping at you is well-deserved.

Cholla consists of jointed thin cylinders. The connections between cylinders are weak and even the slightest brush can break that connection and the dense detachable spines will penetrate almost anything including skin, leather and clothing. The plant also sheds joints readily. When you are walking in the desert it's easy to bump a joint loose with a foot or elbow. The spines latch on to any surface they touch. The tip of the spine slightly bends when it enters something and becomes a hook, making it difficult and painful to remove....If your pet encounters a cholla, it can be expensive. Pets tend to experience cholla face first and that means a trip to the vet. Humans get into trouble also but chances are you can tolerate it. The larger spines can be pulled out with a pair of tweezers or pliers. (More info on removing cactus spines can be found on page 6.)



That said, chollas can have a place in a native landscape plan. Chollas provide homes for some birds and rodents. The papery sheaths that cover the spines cause the plant to glow when the sun is low in the sky. Think of all the classic photographs of shimmering cholla in the desert. The flowers can be small and are colorful, and can cover the ends of the stems, creating a beautiful show. They also make good barriers if you want to keep people away.

Depending on the species, chollas can be shrubs, bushes, arborescent (resembling a tree in properties, growth, structure, or appearance) or small trees. They can be pruned to keep them under control. Seeds are one way they propagate but those joints on the ground can grow roots. Wildlife, dogs, and even you can spread the plant by carrying joints to new areas. Like prickly pears, the new growth has short green leaves that drop off as the stem matures. The plant is supported by an internal woody structure. Most of you have seen the woody interior as it is used for making a variety of craft items like lamps (quite popular when I was a kid).



They are adapted to our climate and take little special care. Good-draining soil and sun are essential. In Yavapai County (and Mesa County) one of the limitations for them would be cold weather but there are several cold-hardy species. If you don't mind the spines, try one of these.



One of the more manageable species is *Cylindropuntia leptocaulis* (or *Opuntia leptocaulis*), also known as the Christmas or pencil cholla. (There are several different species whose common name is pencil cactus.) It is native to the Verde Valley and is cold tolerant. This cholla grows over a wide area. It grows at elevations ranging from 1000 feet to 5000 feet, from Texas into Mexico, Arizona and California. It prefers heavier soils in desert flats and in bottomlands, and can frequently be found growing underneath or around shrubs and trees, and even fence posts. Birds eat the fruit and spread the seeds in their droppings in those locations. Christmas cholla is often small but can grow to 6 feet. The stems are 1/2 inch with the main trunk reaching 4 inches in diameter. Spines are white to gray, 3/4 to 2 inches long, with some plants being spineless. The flowers show up mid-summer.

*Cylindropuntia kleini* (Kleins pencil cholla), is native to central Arizona. This is a large, over 6 feet tall, plant and will create a dense bush that can be pruned to fit in smaller spaces. Like the Christmas cholla, it has small diameter pencil-size stems. They will turn purple in the winter. It has widely spaced silver spines. The flowers are a pretty rose color about 1 1/2 inch diameter. The fruit is bright red and persists on the plant until fall. It is very cold tolerant and its stems don't droop like some other chollas do come cold weather. Limestone flats and hills are its preferred habitat (perfect for the Verde Valley) and it can be found along washes at elevations ranging from 2000 to 4400 feet.

*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa* (silver cholla, golden cholla) comes in two different forms, one with silver spines, the other golden. It resembles the teddybear cholla, *Cylindropuntia bigelovii*. The spines create a dense cover for the joints. It is considered a medium-sized cholla, only growing four to five feet tall and about half as wide. In colder areas it can be slow growing. Like the *C. kleini* it is a good winter plant because the arms do not droop very much. While the flowers are a pretty greenish yellow, the dramatic spines make this plant attractive. In Arizona it can be found in the high elevations of the Mogollon Rim. Its range includes Arizona, Nevada and California.



*Cylindropuntia imbricata* (tree cholla) as its common name implies is a large plant but is also the one most tolerant of wet and cold conditions. They can grow over six feet tall and can be a dense three to four feet wide. The trunk is heavy and the stems can be over an inch thick. It can make a statement in a landscape. The bonus is it has lovely pink to bright reddish-purple 2 inch flowers in late summer. In the winter the stems get droopy and dehydrated looking. Spines are short, 3/4 inch and are yellow to gray in color. There is a cultivar that has white flowers and there is one with no spines, although I do not know how available they are. Tree cholla can be found in gravel and sandy soils, mostly in grasslands, 4000 to 6000 feet. It has a wide range including Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma and north central and central Mexico.

*Cylindropuntia whipplei* (plateau cholla, Whipple's cholla, snow leopard cactus) is one of the most attractive chollas you can plant. It has large, 2 inch, yellow flowers and silvery spines. The plant can take on different

appearances depending on where it is growing. In high altitudes *C. whipplei* may look different than one growing in Arizona. In Arizona the plant is usually more upright. Its native range goes from 5000 to 7400 feet in elevation and can be found in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada and Arizona. It is extremely cold hardy. This cholla forms dense, low spiny thickets which are hard on livestock. This cholla is very spiny so guard your fingers when planting.

There are several other chollas that will work in cold climates, along with a large variety of other cacti and succulents. For more information check out "Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates" by Leo J. Chance, Timber Press, 2012. Don't forget to pick up pliers, tweezers and band-aids before planting!

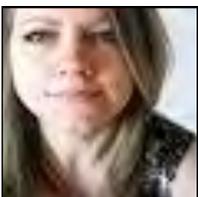
## Greetings from Don Campbell!



Thursday, November 17 - An abrupt change from the mildest November weather I can remember to a blustery, cold, drizzly, snowy morning. And then a very pleasant surprise. This *Matucana madisoniorum* with 14 open flowers...nice way to brighten up an otherwise very dreary morning.

## **LOWEST TEMPERATURE FOR A CACTUS**

**(..OR, CAN I PLANT CACTI NOW?)**



### *About the Author*

*April Sanders is a writer, teacher and the mother of three boys. Raised on an organic farm, she is an avid gardener and believes that good growth starts with a rich, supportive foundation -- a philosophy that serves her well in both gardening and teaching. Sanders has written for Nickelodeon, Warner Brothers, Smarted Balanced, PARCC and others.*

*Photo Credits - Jupiterimages/Photos.com/Getty Images*

"Picture a cactus, and you might imagine a tall, columnar plant covered with spikes in a hot, dry desert. You wouldn't be far from the truth, but if you imagined a short cactus with paddles covered with snow, you would also be correct. The family of cactus plants (Cactaceae or Opuntiaceae) is huge, encompassing more than 2,000 species. Cactuses grow in coastal areas, low deserts, high deserts, mountains and other places. Many cactus species can tolerate cold temperatures, although some can't tolerate winter moisture..

"The lowest temperature for a cactus depends on its species. One of the most cold-tolerant cactuses is the green flowered hedgehog cactus (*Echinocereus viridiflorus*). It can tolerate temperatures as low as 20 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The green flowered hedgehog thrives in full sun or part shade and grows to a maximum height and width of about 8 and 3 inches respectively. Its petite size makes it an excellent houseplant, but outdoors it can grow in U.S. Department of Agriculture plant hardiness zones 5 through 10. The Texas barrel cactus (*Ferocactus hamatacanthus*) can tolerate temperatures slightly below zero in USDA zones 6b to 10. It grows best in full sun to a maximum average height of and width of 2 feet and 1 foot, respectively.

"The fishhook barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizeni*) is named for its long spines that curve at the end. This cactus can tolerate temperatures as low as 5 degrees Fahrenheit and is hardy in USDA zones 7 through 10. It grows to a maximum average height of 6 feet, and width of 2 1/2 feet and thrives in full sun. The horse cripler cactus (*Echinocactus texensis*), unlike its name implies, is a petite cactus that blooms with cheerful purple flowers. It grows to a maximum average height and width of 8 and 12 inches respectively and thrives in full sunlight. This cactus can tolerate temperatures to zero degrees Fahrenheit and is hardy in USDA zones 7 through 11.

"The Santa Rita prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia santa-rita*) has flat, pear-shaped paddles covered with spines. Hardy in USDA zones 7 through 10, it can tolerate temperatures as low as 15 degrees Fahrenheit. This cactus grows to a maximum height and width of about 1 and 1 1/2 feet respectively and thrives in full sun. The feather cactus (*Mammillaria plumosa*) is hardy in USDA zones 9 and 10 and features white spines that almost completely cover the green flesh of the plant. It can tolerate temperatures down to around 20 degrees Fahrenheit and grows best in full sun or part shade. The feather cactus is a very small cactus that grows to a maximum height and width of about 2 1/2 inches."



*Editor's note: If you have cuttings of any of these cactus and wonder what to do with them now, you can plant them directly at the location you desire, or you can pot them up and allow them to grow roots in the pot to be planted in the spring. Again, your planting choice depends on its species, so check out the suggestions above.*

## **HISTORY OF MEETUP!**

*The company is based in New York City and was co-founded in 2002 by Scott Heiferman and Matt Meeker. Meetup was designed as a way for organizers to manage the many functions associated with in-person meetings and for individuals to find groups that fit their interests. Following the September 11 attacks in 2001, the site's co-founder Scott Heiferman publicly stated in 2011 that the manner in which people in New York City came together in the aftermath of that traumatic event inspired him to use the Internet to make it easier for people to connect with strangers in their community. Launching on June 12, 2002, it quickly became an organizing tool for a variety of common interests including fan groups, outdoor enthusiasts, community activists, support groups, and more.*

## **REMOVING CACTUS SPINES**

At some point, if you spend any time in the desert you will be poked and/or stabbed by cactus spines. Some leave you with a small hole in the skin and a temporary ache. Others can result in you being miserable for days. So grit your teeth and prepare for some pain. However, there are solutions. There are two different types of spines on a cactus. There are the impressive large spines that are readily visible. They range from the giant thick ones like on a barrel cactus to the thinner sharper ones on chollas. Some spines are barbed—some are not. Then there are very tiny ones that can look like soft fuzz. These are called glochids. No matter how soft and fuzzy something appears on cactus, do not touch it with your bare hands.

If you have a cholla joint attached to your clothing the easiest way to remove it is with a comb, preferably a large comb with a long handle (so you can avoid the spines) but any comb will do. Comb the joint out of the fabric. You will likely have to apply some force so don't get your hand close or accidentally flick the joint onto another part of your body or onto someone else.

If you can see the spines, use a pair of pliers or tweezers to remove them. It can be painful but if they aren't pulled the pain won't go away and they could become infected. If you have the misfortune to get covered in spines (see picture) I would suggest going to the emergency room or urgent care.



The tiny fine spines are difficult to see so getting them out with tweezers is possible but difficult. The recommended technique is to tweeze out as many as you can see and then use a thin layer of glue (like a white glue) covered with a piece of gauze. Let the glue dry and use the gauze to peel it away. Using products like adhesive tape, duct tape or a commercial face mask does not work as well and results in leaving spines in the skin and inflammation.

Another option is to use panty hose to remove small spines. Ball up the panty hose and rub it across the affected area. Move the panty hose around so you use a fresh area every few rubs. It may not remove all of them but will help if you have no glue handy. Clean the area with soap and water to help prevent infection once you get the spines out.

## ☆ ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

### How to Install a Western Home Security System

Go to Goodwill and buy a pair of size 14-16 men's work boots

Place them on your front porch, along with a copy of Guns & Ammo magazine.

Put four giant dog dishes next to the boots and magazines

Leave a note on your door that reads:

"Bubba,  
Me and Marcel, Donnie Ray and Jimmy Earl went to town for more  
ammo and beer. Be back in an hour. Don't mess with the Pit Bulls.  
They got the mailman this morning and messed him bad. I don't think  
Killer took part, but it was hard to tell from all the blood. Anyway I  
locked all four of 'em in the house. Better wait outside. I'll be right back!  
Cooter"

## Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society – Regular Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Janet Hassell at 6:30PM. Minutes from the previous meeting of October 13, 2016, were available for review and comment. There were no additions or corrections for last months' minutes. We had several guests at the meeting who were introduced and welcomed.

The financial report was presented by Lisa Hamilton. There is a total of \$7,186.05 in the two accounts together, with the expenditures from October noted and explained.

The business portion of the meeting covered the following items:

- 1) The Annual Dinner Meeting will be held on December 8, 2016 at Bookcliff Country Club. Julie Bursi is coordinating activities for the evening. Janet gave an overview of the activities for the evening. Cost is \$25 per member or \$30 for a non-member. Don Campbell described items needed for the door prizes and the silent auction. It appears there will be a nice variety of prizes and plants. Joy Bush and Pam Johnson are collecting door prize items, and would like these in advance of the dinner, preferably by December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so items can be organized. Janet called for volunteers to help with set up prior to the dinner. Volunteers should be available around 4:30 that evening. Anyone interested should let Janet know.
- 2) Kate Weissenburger gave a quick update on the status of the work apron project. She is currently working on some revisions, specifically to the color(s). She hopes to have a sample of the finished product by the ADM.
- 3) Shari Skeie gave a quick overview of upcoming programs. After the ADM in December, we will look forward to a presentation by Lois Davidson in January, of her trip to Death Valley. Other future speakers will include Don Campbell, Curtis Swift, and Susan Honea, in addition to several field trips.
- 4) Lois Davidson gave a summary of the years' volunteer efforts at our two demonstration gardens. There was a total of just over 300 volunteer hours together, for the two gardens. Volunteers worked 140 hours at the CUS garden, and 161 hours at WCBG. She gave a special thank you to Kate and Ken Weissenburger, Don Campbell, and Walt Scheer for their work on the irrigation problems at WCBG. Lois also mentioned that she had brought applications for the 2017 Master Gardener program through CSU. These were available for anyone interested.
- 5) Lisa Hamilton gave a quick presentation on the Meetup.com site and invited everyone to join.
- 6) Janet requested ideas from our guests, on what they would be interested in hearing and learning about, with regard to programs or information published in the newsletter. Several suggestions were offered including: how to overwinter plants and how most members handle space requirements for their indoor collections, what outdoor varieties grow particularly well here, what to do for soil amendments, what to use and how to do fertilization, and basic how-tos for both indoor and outdoor cacti. Janet suggested that we put together a book/publication list and post it in the newsletter or on our meetup site.

We had a break, with some of Tom Burrows' special baked goodies, and then held the plant drawing. Lisa also brought a cactus for show and tell. This generated several questions and some discussion on plant care. For the evening program, we had a very informative and enjoyable travelogue by Maryann and Loren Benoit on their trip to Cuba in early 2106. In addition to some beautiful photographs, they presented some thoughtful comments on current social, cultural, and economic aspects of the country.

The meeting concluded at approximately 9:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Mallory

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: NOVEMBER 2016 TO JUNE 2017

Dec. 5 NO BOARD MEETING IN DECEMBER

Dec. 8 ANNUAL DINNER MEETING - Bookcliff Country Club

The following programs have been tentatively planned for 2017:

January - Lois Davidson - Death Valley travelogue

February - Don Campbell, Capitol Reef

March - Curtis Swift - Water issues

April - Local field trip

May - Out of town trip to Vernal & areas

June - Making Hypertufa pots



### 2016 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

**President:** Janet Hassell

**Secretary:** Deb Mallory

**Treasurer:** Lisa Hamilton

**Vice President:** Kate Weissenburger

**Garden Activities Coordinator:**  
Lois Davidson

**Member at Large:** Walt Scheer

**Program Committee:**

Shari Skeie  
Don Campbell

**Web Master:** Tom Burrows

**Newsletter Editor:** Janet Hassell

**Past President:** Maryann Benoit

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 81502

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