



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
February 2013 Vol. 5, No. 2

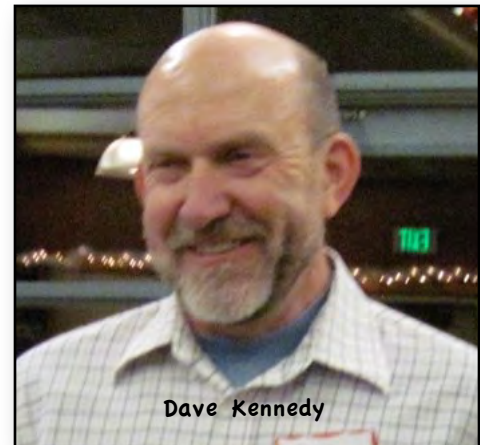
To promote knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants among its members, other individuals and organizations throughout West-Central Colorado

FEBRUARY PROGRAM:

DAVE KENNEDY PRESENTS: "HERE AND THERE ON THE COLORADO PLATEAU"

This program should be a treat for all of us that love the southwest and the beauty to be found there. Dave's excellent, artistic photographic images of his (and Judy's) travels will tempt us to visit some of the featured areas they have visited since Judy retired and they turned into "over-the-road" adventurers.

Dave says "My program will be about 30 minutes or so of slides of well-known and not-so-well-known landmarks and features (mostly arches) of the Great American Southwest, mainly in the San Rafael Swell and Capitol Reef National Park with maybe a side trip to the Page and/or Sedona areas. I hope that length is OK as it should allow some minutes for audience participation" and questions.



Dave Kennedy



Dave Kennedy, doing what he loves to do, explore arches and hike!

Dave is now retired from an accounting career as a revenue agent, Dave Kennedy is a native of Cedaredge, Colorado. He and his wife, Judy, have lived on Glade Park for over 30 years. Dave and Judy are charter members of Chinle CSS and have served in several officer positions.

Dave says he "learned to drive a camera before he learned to drive a car and eventually graduated from the New York Institute of Photography." Since retirement, he has been enjoying taking photos throughout the USA as they travel with their camper and in several other countries. Some of his other interests include woodworking and helping Judy in their lovely cactus gardens with a special affection for succulents.

He is also very active in local hiking groups and the National Arch & Bridge Society, leading many fascinating trips to visit arches. The photo above left is an arch he found on a hike in the West Water area.

Be sure to put the February 14th meeting on your calendar, 6:30 pm at the Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds.

FLOWERS OF THE MONTH: THE MESEMBRYANTHEMACEAE!

(Reprinted with permission from the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society December 2012 newsletter)

African Dreaming

by Panayoti Kelaidis

Of all the South African plants we have grown, none can approach the impact of the “vygies” (Afrikaans for “Little figs”—the common name for plants in the Live Forever family or Mesembryanthemaceae). This “impact” operates on many levels: obviously when these are in full bloom, the impact of their vivid colors is obvious. But the impact of the discovery over three decades ago that so many of these were cold hardy has linked Denver Botanic Gardens to the rich flora of South Africa, and provided invaluable ground covers to home owners in the Northern hemisphere. Some of the showiest are yet to be introduced properly, like the wonderful orange phase of

Delosperma dyeri (the cultivated clone ‘Red Mountain’ which is a darker red—dazzling in its own right.) On the right is the *Delosperma dyeri* (orange form).



Delosperma dyeri, orange form



Delosperma sp Tiffendell

Here is a pretty amazing patch of an ice plant from the highest mountains of the East Cape Drakensberg, the *Delosperma* sp Tiffendell—which is likely to prove very hardy in mountain gardens as well.

Although the genus *Delosperma* is best known thus far in the USA, dozens of other genera are providing hardy plants for xeric gardens. I am particularly taken with the many *Bergeranthus*. I found this species growing on rocky flats on the mountains



Bergeranthus jamesii

near Tarkastad. This specimen is in my private garden where it has bloomed continuously from May to early November. It opens its flowers in late afternoon—a plant designed for commuters who will not mind the closed buds during the daytime.

David Salman of High Country Gardens gave this *Ebracteola wilmanniae* to me as a host gift a few years ago: it has astonished me with the immense flowers (nearly 3’ cross) and its long season of bloom in the winter months: it even bloomed in January one year, although this last year it only came into bloom in March.



Ebracteola wilmanniae

I have a *Nananthus* blooming as I type this is late November, although the species above only bloomed in February for me this past year! These miniatures are especially well grown in rock gardens where they get the drainage they require and can be raised closer to ones eyes to enjoy during the quiet winter months!

At last count, we have overwintered nearly two hundred taxa of



Nanathus sp.

South African succulents: I would love nothing more than to show you pictures of all of them, but time (and our webmaster) both have limits! So I end with the first plant that has been named from plants derived from specimens grown at Denver Botanic Gardens. First sent to DBG in 1989 by John Lavranos, mistakenly determined by me as Sphalmanthus sp. My mistake was

immortalized when the plant was named a few years later. The gardens at Kendrick Lake have a colony of many dozens of robust specimens of this thriving in a newer planting there. I am thankful for many things in this season of Thanksgiving, and South Africa and her remarkable flora are certainly high on my list of gratitude. Oh, to feel the breeze kissing my cheek on Table Mountain one more time!

We are pleased to announce that Panayoti Kelaidas will be a special guest speaker at the June 13th Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society.



Delosperma sphalmanthoides

ANNOUNCING THE 2013 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?

1. Submit your photo(s) for Chinle newsletter publication during the contest period (Jan 1 through October 31, 2013). 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 five photos for judging.
3. Please accurately identify plants, location of plant, date of photograph, etc.
4. Photos need to have been taken in 2013.
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.
8. 2013 Photo entries will be published in the November 2013 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 will use the elements below as used by 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.

*WE HAVE MANY EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHERS IN OUR SOCIETY!!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?*

FIRST 2013 MEETING: TIPS FOR BASIC CARE OF CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Members and several guests were treated to an excellent program presented by Don Campbell on the basic care of cacti and succulents at the well-attended January 10th regular meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society. Don discussed soil preparation for plants in our region as well as giving details about the watering regime he has developed that uses acidified water and other supplements. A copy of his technique is found on page 9 of this newsletter, and also posted on the Chinle website.

Don showed excerpts of two excellent videos on Cacti and Succulents which the Society hopes to purchase. Tom Burrows treated the group with pineapple oatmeal cookies and chocolate chip whole wheat muffins, always delicious!

Members also discussed problem and interesting plants during the Show & Tell period, which is now a regular feature of the meeting, a good time for learning as well as enjoying special cacti and succulents. We welcomed two new members to the CCSS: Kate Koosa and John Hal, both from Grand Junction.



The next meeting of the Chinle Cacti & Succulent Society will be on February 14th, and feature a presentation by Dave Kennedy on his recent travels “Here and There on the Colorado Plateau”.

OTHER JANUARY MEETING SCENES



Member Janet Schaeffer welcomes her friend, Jean Hudson to the group.



Julie Bursi (L) discusses "life" with Joy Bush.



(Above) In the background, Don Campbell greets guest Eric Reichel as members gather for the meeting



Brrrr! Looking toward the Bookcliffs in January shows winter's frosty presence!

WHAT'S BLOOMING?: *Uebelmannia pectinifera*



Don Campbell's greenhouse comes through again with this lovely *Uebelmannia pectinifera* in bloom. Don reports, "This afternoon (12/29/12) there were three mostly open flowers & a couple of buds just starting to emerge. I really love this plant....." The website, desert-tropicals.com provides further information on this interesting plant":

Scientific Name: *Uebelmannia pectinifera* Buining

Synonym: *Uebelmannia pectinifera* var. *pseudopectinifera*,
Uebelmannia pectinifera var. *multicostata*

Frost Tolerance: Keep above 40°F (4°C) in winter, avoid any frost, Minimum Avg. Temperature: 60°F (15°C) **Heat**

Tolerance: Keep cool in summer **Sun Exposure:** Full sun, possibly afternoon shade in summer in very hot climates

Origin: Brazil (mountain of Minas Gerais)

Growth Habits: Solitary cactus, 4 to 6 inches wide (10-15 cm), 20 inches tall (50 cm); 15 to 18 prominent ribs; close set areoles; 1 to 4 central spines, up to 0.6 inch long (1.5 cm), in the classical look, the spines are straight and give a comb-like effect.

Watering Needs: Regular water. Root prone if kept cold in winter, sometimes grafted to eliminate this problem. Enjoys humid air. Propagation: Seeds The species *pectinifera* comes from the Latin for "bearing combs".

Blooming Habits:

The diurnal yellow flowers come sporadically. They are 0.6 inch long (15 mm), 0.5 inch in diameter (12 mm).



Uebelmannia in natural habitat.

CONSIDER JOINING CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The **Cactus and Succulent Society of America** (CSSA) was founded in 1929 in Pasadena, California and has grown to encompass over 80 affiliated clubs and thousands of members worldwide. The primary purpose of the society is to enjoy **succulent** (water-storing) plants through horticulture, travel and scientific discovery, with a particular concern for habitat preservation and conservation issues in deserts worldwide.

Publishing is at the heart of the society's activities, and we believe that professionally produced, accurate, and entertaining reading is what keeps their members engaged, informed, and constantly growing. Many members consider CSSA publications true collectables. Good information never goes out of style.

The **Cactus and Succulent Journal** has been the leading publication of its kind since 1929. It features popular and scientific articles about cacti and other succulent plants, including caudiciform and pachycaul succulents and xerophytes. Each full color, bimonthly volume features horticultural instruction, new plants, research and conservation reports, travelogues, biographical and historical material and book-reviews. Numerous photographs of plants in habitat or in cultivation and fine botanical paintings, often commissioned for the cover, enrich the text. Friendly instructions on cultivation, propagation and pest control encourage a safe immersion in the world of succulents.

Chinle members who do not receive a copy of this publication and would like to read it can contact Judy McCart who keeps the volumes that are sent to our Society. Membership for individuals is \$50 annually.

Information about the CCSA obtained through their website.

To renew your CSSA membership or to become a CSSA member, please fill out the form: You may also renew online at: <http://shop.cssainc.org/membership.html>

Name (please print)		
Address:		
City:	State:	Postal (Zip) Code:
Country:	E-Mail:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa		Total Amt Enclosed:
<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>		Exp. Date: mo. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> year <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

Membership is payable to **CSSA** in U.S. funds. Please mail renewal form to:

CSSA, Inc.
 c/o Gunnar Eisel
 P.O.Box 1000
 Claremont, CA 91711-1000

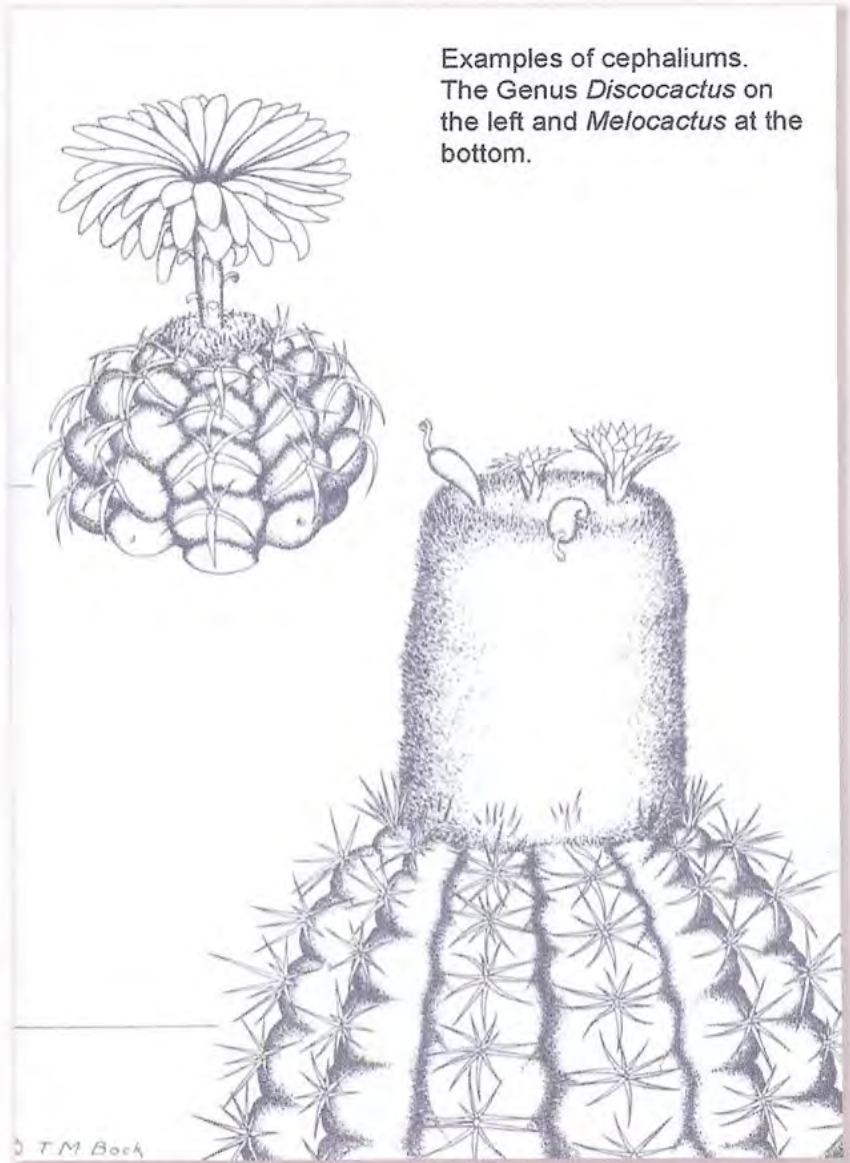
120 Vol 84 No 6 <TO THE POINT> November - December 2012

THE BOTANICAL CORNER

By Rosario Douglas

BOTANICAL TERMS

- Bristle** Stiffened hair
- Caducous** Falling off early
- Calcareous** Of or containing lime or chalk
- Callus** The protective tissue formed over a wound, for example, at the base of cuttings.
- Campanulate** Bell-shaped
- Caudex** The swollen water-storage tissue, usually composed of both root and stem, of a succulent woody plant.
- Caudiciform** Possessing a caudex
- Caespitose, Cespitos** Clump-forming growth characteristic
- Central spines** Arising from the center of the areole.
- Cephalium** A woolly swelling at the top or side of certain cactus in which flower buds are formed. The cephalium may be brightly colored as in *Melocacti*.



From *Cactacea* with illustrated keys of all tribes, sub-tribes and genera by W. Taylor and Thor Methven Bock.

Plant Watering with Ammonium Sulfate and Acidified Water

Don I. Campbell - January 2013

In 2010 the *CSSA Cactus & Succulent Journal* had two articles addressing the use of Ammonium Nitrogen and Acidic Water for Xerophytic Plant Growth. Based on these articles, the following is a brief description of the process I've adopted to acidify my tap water and incorporate ammonium sulfate into my regular watering regimen.

Water provided by the Ute Water Conservancy District in the Redlands comes out of the tap with a pH of about 8.0. I've found that adding 2 teaspoons of distilled white vinegar (5% acidity) to one gallon of tap water will lower the pH to the recommended level of about 5.0 to 5.5. (Water from other providers may have a different pH). I use a wide spectrum pH test indicator kit (range from 4.0 to 8.5) purchased from Desert Bloom Hydroponics, 445 Pitkin Ave. in Grand Junction. As indicated in the articles by Keith and in the *CSSA Journal*, one should periodically check the pH of their water.

Following some testing, calculating and a bit of 'guessing', I've adopted the following plant watering formulation. Add 2 teaspoons of distilled white vinegar (5% acidity), 1 teaspoon of a granular ammonium sulfate (21-0-0 guaranteed analysis), 1/4 teaspoon of a granular water soluble fertilizer (20-20-20 guaranteed analysis), and enough tap water to fill a one gallon plastic container. Mix thoroughly and slowly apply the mixture to the soil at the top of the pot. Allow a small amount of the solution to drain out the bottom of the pot but do not allow the pots to stand in any of the surplus water.

Recently, on my watering day, I began mixing a concentrate of the vinegar, ammonium sulfate and fertilizer to speed up the mixing and watering process. I begin with a 1 quart (32 oz) plastic bottle with a screw top lid and add:

- + 4 teaspoons of a granular ammonium sulfate (21-0-0 guaranteed analysis).
- + 1 teaspoon of a granular water soluble fertilizer (20-20-20 guaranteed analysis)
- + 8 teaspoons of distilled white vinegar (5% acidity)

Fill the quart bottle about 3/4 full with hot water, cap and shake vigorously until the ammonium sulfate and fertilizer granules are completely dissolved. Top off the quart bottle with enough cool water to make an even quart (32 ounces). One can easily expand the quantities shown above to mix larger quantities of the concentrate.

I add 1 cup (8 ounces) of this concentrate along with with enough tepid tap water to fill my 1 gallon plastic watering can. Be aware that if acetic acid (vinegar) is mixed with water and allowed to sit for some time, the pH level may climb. Therefore, the concentrate should be used reasonably soon after mixing. Plastic containers are recommended when mixing and applying the low pH and ammonium sulfate water.

During periods of plant dormancy, you should probably use only the acidified water, eliminating the fertilizer and ammonium sulfate from your water mixture. Twice a year (about March & September) I add one ounce of Bayer Advanced 12 Month Tree & Shrub Formula to each gallon of my acidified plant watering mixture. The active ingredient in the Bayer Advanced formula is 1.47% Imidacloprid, a systemic insecticide. Be aware that my rate of application of the Bayer Advanced Tree & Shrub formula is greater than what is recommended on the label. The Bayer Advanced also contains a guaranteed 2-1-1 fertilizer. There is also a Bayer Advanced 3-in-1 Insect, Disease & Mite Control formulation that contains only 0.47% of the Imidacloprid. If you use the 3-in-1 formula you will need to add about 3 ounces per gallon to get the same level of the active systemic Imidacloprid ingredient. The authors of the *CSSA* articles indicate that the low pH regimen aids in the absorption of systemic pesticides such as Imidacloprid.

CCSA BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN JUNE '13

The 35th Biennial Convention of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America will be held in Austin TX, from June 15 - 20, 2013. All members of the Society are invited to join in the gathering which will feature world renowned authors and experts in the field of Cacti & Succulents. The web site for the Convention is located at <http://cssa2013.com>.

Following is a synopsis from editor Tim Harvey of the CSSA Journal which will be mailed in the next week. Remember, one of the main benefits of membership in the CSSA is the receipt of all members of this very professional journal 6 times per year. Please feel free to use this in your Newsletter.

Volume 85 begins with an account of exploration in Mexico by Julia Etter and Martin Kristen. So far, two new species (an *Echeveria* and a *Sedum*) have been described as a result of their work, named in honor of the authors in the recently-published *Haseltonia* 18. Here they tell us more about the extremely challenging terrain around the Rio Piaxtla as well as other plants seen in the area, several of which still await better understanding. Socotra is once again difficult to travel to, after a short period when tourists could visit relatively freely. Despite the current difficulties, the intrepid Alain Rzepecky managed to find a new arborescent *Euphorbia* species, described here and accompanied by spectacular habitat images. The second new species described in this issue is a member of the genus *Eriospermum* from near the Orange River area in Southern Africa. Graham Williamson provides some beautiful drawings to illustrate the finer points of this plant. *Euphorbia schoenlandii* and a Kelly Griffin hybrid *Aloe* 'Red Ridge' feature in Duke Benadom's Superb Succulents article. Jeff Chemnick provides an in-depth guide to the cycad genus *Dioon* as it occurs in Oaxaca, in an article held over from the Special Edition on the CSSA tour to that state, which came out in 2012. Finally, Elton Roberts' article on the genus *Micropuntia* is sure to be the first encounter for many with this fascinating group of plants, and again he provides an alternative and informed view of current taxonomy.



Lovely *Turbinicapus schmidickeanus*, blooming in Don Campbell's greenhouse on 1-18-13.
Photo by Don Campbell

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 2013 - July 2013

- FEB4 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- FEB 14 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Here and There on the Colorado Plateau"
Presenter: Dave Kennedy
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- MAR 4 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- MAR 14 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: Ute Learning Garden - Part II
Presenter: Mike Callabro
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- MAR 16 FIRST GARDEN PARTY! WCBG! - 9 AM
- MAR 16 & 17 - Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society
Show & Sale - Denver Botanical Garden
- MAR 27 GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - 9 AM
- APR 1 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- APR 11 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: TBA
Presenter: Dr. Gary McAllister
- MAY 6 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- MAY 18 Garden Tour - (Replaces May Regular Meeting)
Janet & Bill Hassell, Coordinator
- JUN 3 *Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am*
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- JUNE 13 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: TBA
Presenter: Panayoti Kelaidis
- JUN 15 35th Biennial CSSA Convention, Austin, TX
- JULY 13 Crumps Tour (Replaces July Regular Meeting)
Maryann & Loren Benoit, Coordinators
Details forthcoming

FUTURE EVENTS:

FIRST GARDEN PARTY OF 2013 - MARCH 16, 2013

GARDEN TOUR - MAY 18, 2013

FIELD TRIP TO CRUMP'S GREENHOUSE - WEEKEND OF JULY 13, 2012

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
Don Campbell 970-245-5088

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