



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
April 2013 Vol. 5, No. 4

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

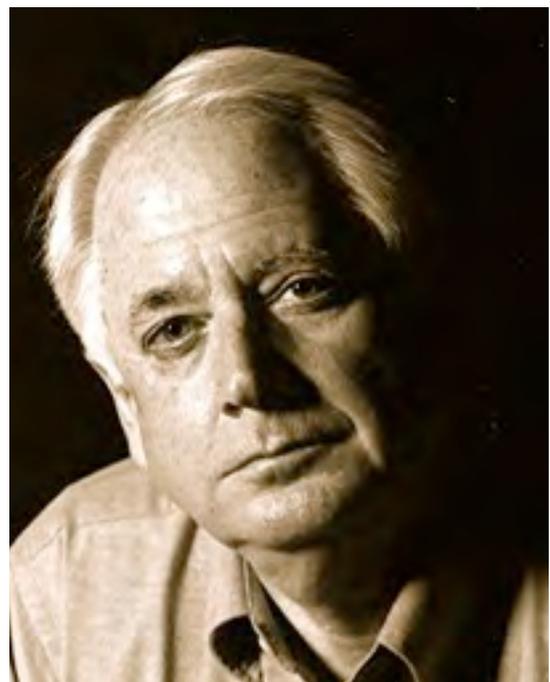
## **APRIL PROGRAM:**

### **DR. GARY McCALLISTER TO PUT BEES IN OUR BONNETS!!!**

Get ready for one of the most unusual (and entertaining) programs of the year at the Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society on Thursday, April 11, 2013.

Gary describes himself as, "By day a mild mannered college professor, on the weekends a crazed beekeeper. Old enough to know better, but doesn't. Husband of a wife so good-looking everyone thinks he's rich, children so smart they know it all, and seventeen grand grandkids".

His topic for the April Program will be bees and some of their idiosyncrasies, and as you might have guessed by his self description above, a program full of humor and wit. Of course, bees are a primary pollinator of cactus and succulents (as well as other plants), so are of great interest to us cactophiles.



Gary wears many hats and has a wide variety of interests. He's a professor of biology at Colorado Mesa University with a specialty in Parasitology (he won't be discussing parasites at our meeting!). His research and scholarly interests include vector biology of mosquitoes and blackflies, entomopathogenic nematodes, artificial life and robotics and science education.

He is a columnist with the Grand Junction Sentinel where he writes a weekly column on a wide variety of scientific concepts and propositions, always discussed with an "out there" twist.

He also is a skilled musician and composer (check out his web site: [www.onemanmormonbluesband.com](http://www.onemanmormonbluesband.com), and of course, a bee keeper.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy his program, "Why I Keep Bees and Why You Should Too!"

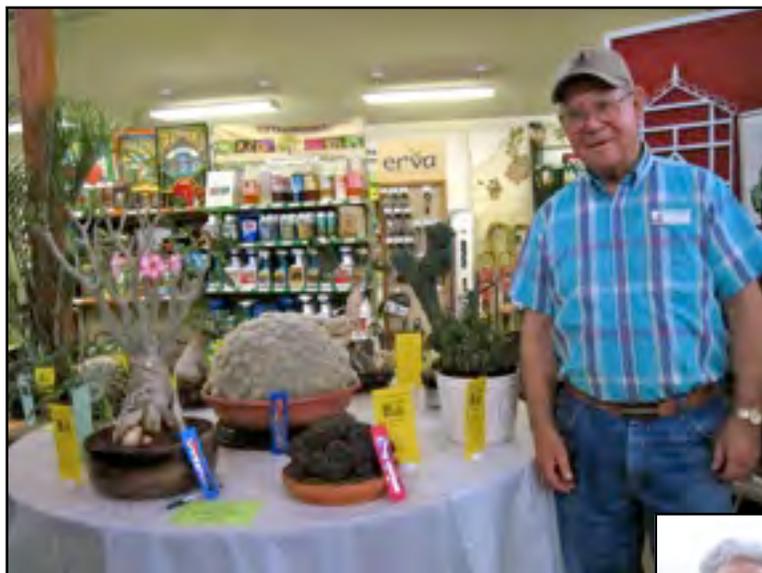
# PLANT SHOW WEST PRODUCED SEVERAL WINNERS!

Good-sized crowds enjoyed the beautiful displays of member show plants at the Second Annual Plant Show West, March 2 and 3, held at Bookcliff Gardens. The event provided many opportunities to talk about our Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society, answer questions about the cultivation and care of cactus and succulents, and generate interest among attendees to join our Society.

Thanks to the volunteers who helped make our portion of



Major display areas at the Bookcliff event. Photo by Loren Benoit



Don Campbell by his prize winning cacti & succulents (L to R) *Adenium obesum*, *Mammillaria plumosa* and *Neochilenia occulta*.



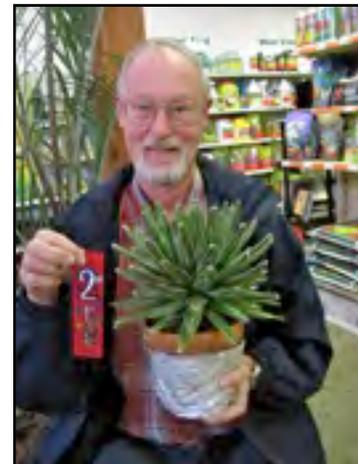
Tom Burrows and his prize-winning *Escobaria vivipara bisbeana* (parent plant, pup & seedling.)

the Plant Show West possible: Maryann and Loren Benoit, Judy and Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Julie Bursi, Don Campbell, Lynn Dunham, Janet and Bill Hassell, Glenn and Deb Mallory, Judy McCart, Sandy McMacken, and John Moore.

The CC&SS joined the African Violet Society, the Herb Society and the Orchid Society in putting on a beautiful Plant Show. Four members of the Chinle C&SS were prize winners in the People's Choice contest (shown here).



Lynn Dunham shows off her prize-winning *Euphorbia grandialata*.



John Moore proudly displays his *Victoriae-reginae* agave (Century Plant)



L to R: Glenn & Deb Mallory share a chuckle with Don and Carol Campbell.



Photo by Loren Benoit

Janet Hassell, one of the coordinators of the Show, with lovely aloe collection owned by John Moore. Photo by Loren Benoit.



Bob Bubel, Chinle volunteer, discusses plants with a visitor.

## MORE PLANT SHOW PHOTOS!



Photo by Loren Benoit

Bill Hassell, Co-Coordinator of Show



Tom Burrows and Judy Bubel, Chinle volunteers.



Volunteer Judy McCart makes friends with a very large raven!



Volunteer Sandy McMacken showing off our display.



Photo by Maryann Benoit

Volunteers Loren & Maryann Benoit



(LtoR) Carol Campbell, Lynn Dunham, Maryann Benoit, Julie Bursi, Loren Benoit & Bill Hassell.

# CONSERVATION EFFORTS HIGH ON THE LIST OF CHINLE C&SS PRIORITIES

From time to time, we are required to seek opportunities to promote conservation of native plants (see Principle #7 below). Many of our members may not know that the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) adopted a "CSSA Code of Conduct" in 1979, and reaffirmed its policy on field collected plants on April 13, 2002. Following suit, and in keeping with our Mission Statement, the Chinle C&SS adopted the CSSA Code of Conduct for the conservation of succulent plants on January 2003.



Endangered Sclerocactus wetlandicus, Utah, 6/10

Why should this be an important policy for the Chinle C&SS? Perhaps the following principles drawn from the Code of Conduct will shed light on this important aspect of our Society's activities. The verbage has been updated from the original document to reflect our Society's change from the Chinle Chapter of the Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society to the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy statement is to recognize and endorse the CSSA Code and encourage members of the the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society) (CC&SS) to abide by both the CSSA Code and the following Chinle C&SS principles for conserving native succulent native plants.

## PRINCIPLES

1. The Chinle C&SS supports the CITES\* (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) convention as an international effort to control the trade of endangered wild plants.
2. Actively discourage illegal field collecting of entire native plants by all members. Field collecting native plants, seeds or cuttings must be consistent with all pertinent laws and regulations.
3. Prohibit field collecting of entire native plants during any Chinle C&SS sponsored field trip or activity unless such activities are a) to salvage plants imminently threatened with destruction from land development or other habitat disturbance, b) to acquire plants for a Chinle C&SS supported public display garden and, c) written authorization by the appropriate jurisdiction or landowner has been obtained.
4. Exhibiting or selling entire field collected plants at any event or activity sponsored by Chinle C&SS shall be prohibited.



Crested Endangered Sclerocactus wetlandicus, Utah, 6/10

5. Encourage acquisition of native plants through the purchase of seeds, cuttings, or entire plants from reputable growers and nurseries.
6. Encourage native plant conservation through the propagation and sharing of seeds, cuttings and offsets.  
  
*When we go on field trips or other outings, we customarily remind attendees of these principles*
7. Seek opportunities to promote conservation of native plants by a) providing periodic reminders of the CC&SS conservation principles in newsletters, at meetings and during field trips or other activities, and b) disseminating information about legal and appropriate sources for obtaining seeds, cuttings and entire plants.

*\*CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), also known as the Washington Convention) is a multilateral treaty, drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The convention was opened for signature in 1973, and CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species in the wild, and it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 34,000 species of animals and plants. The guiding principles of the IUCN include valuing and conserving nature through biodiversity, fair and effective governance of nature's use and nature-based solutions to global challenges.*

## **UTE LEARNING GARDEN - PART II WITH MIKE CALLABRO**

Members had an interesting evening at the March 14th Regular Meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society as Mike Callabro revisited Ute history and customs.

He brought samples of the 4-winged salt brush that was such a staple of the Ute lifestyle. He also encouraged attendees to visit the Ute Museum in Montrose, CO for more information about Ute culture. A display there describes the Bear Dance which is central to the Ute gatherings and social life.



One of the fun parts of our monthly meetings is the Member Show & Tell. Maryann Benoit brought the plant shown on the left--but introduced it as "Show & SMELL". The beautiful star-shaped bloom, like most stapeliads, had the characteristic smell of carrion---"whew!". We were happy when she put it back into its plastic bag!



Mike Callabro discusses Ute's survival plants.

## **IT'S MEMBERSHIP DUES TIME AGAIN!**

We know that none of you want to miss a single Chinle C&SS event in 2013, so it's time to pull out the checkbook and make out a check for your Chinle membership. What a deal!!! Twenty dollars for an individual and \$25 for a family. You can pay at the next Chinle meeting or mail your check to PO Box 20000, Grand Junction, CO 81502.

Membership makes you eligible for a good variety of benefits: Monthly educational and entertaining programs, opportunities for hands-on learning at WCBG and CSU Extension garden parties, tasty treats at meetings, field trips, garden tours, and the always popular, Annual Dinner Meeting.

Probably the best benefit of membership is the fellowship enjoyed by being around folks with similar interests and expertise in cactus and succulents. Be a Cactophile and renew today!!!

# TIME TO SIGN UP FOR THE MAY GARDEN TOUR!



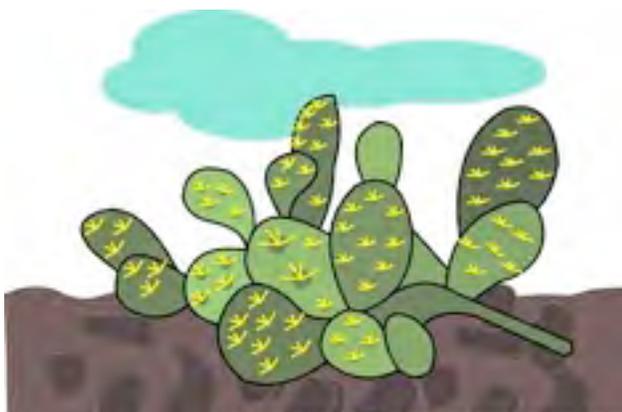
We are pleased to announce the Annual 2013 Chinle Garden Tour set for Saturday, May 18th. This event replaces the regular meeting of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society for May.

Here is the tentative agenda:

- 8:30 am Gather at the Gazebo across from the Sagebrush Room/Community Buildings at the Mesa County Fairgrounds. Maps and directions will be handed out as well as details about the stops.
- 8:45 am Begin the tour - car pool as much as possible! It's about a 17 minute drive to our first stop.
- 9:15 am Arrive at Judy McCart's updated garden (from our visit two years ago) at 525 Sabra St. We'll explore there about 20 minutes. It's about a 16 minute drive to our second stop.
- 10:00 am Arrive at Lynn & George Dunham's to see their brand-new cactus garden, finished last fall, at 840-1/2 26-1/2 Road. We will stay there about 15-20 minutes. It's about a 2-5 minute drive to our third stop.
- 10:30 am Arrive at Janet & Bill Hassell's, 2666 Summer Hill Ct., for a look at another "new" garden and potty stop. We'll stay there about 15-20 minutes. It's about a 9-10 minute drive to our next stop.
- 11:00 am Arrive at John Hall's garden at 209 Willowbrook Rd, our fourth stop. He is one of our new members! We'll visit there about 10-15 minutes. It's about a 15 minute drive to our next stop.
- 11:30 am Arrive at Don Campbell's, our fifth stop at 2171 Avenal Lane (off S. Camp Road), to experience his awesome sun room and terraced outdoor garden. We'll stay about 20-30 minutes and it's about a 20 minute drive to our last stop.
- 12 noon Arrive at Sandy McMacken's garden, our sixth and final garden stop on Lumley Road (near the Fair Grounds). We'll spent 15-20 minutes there.
- 12:30 pm Return to the Gazebo at the Fairgrounds (across from the Sagebrush Room. We may use the restroom facilities there as needed).

Our tour this year will feature several new or nearly new gardens, to give members ideas on various approaches to xeric landscaping with cacti and succulents.

The club will be providing a picnic lunch but plan on bringing your own beverages/water, sun hat, sunscreen, camera and a readiness to have a good time and socialize!



**"IMPORTANT: LET ME KNOW BY MAY 15TH IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND SO WE CAN ARRANGE FOR LUNCH. CALL 970-263-0910 OR EMAIL ME AT [janethassell@gmail.com](mailto:janethassell@gmail.com).**

If any questions during the day of the event, give us a call on our mobile phones at 970-210-5537 or 210-5538

**Hope to see you Saturday May 18th!**

# WHAT WOULD THE QUEEN DO FOR PESKY SUNROOM PROBLEMS?

By Don Campbell

"Whenever I'm faced with a pesky problem in my sunroom, I ask myself, what would the Queen do? The Queen, of course, is the 'lovable' Queen of Hearts in Lewis Carroll's book, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". The Queen is portrayed as "a blind fury", who is quick to decree death sentences at the slightest offense. The Queen had only one way of solving all difficulties, great or small. 'Off with the head!' she would decree, without a second thought.

"In March of 2008 I purchased a lovely little Japanese cultivar, Mammillaria 'Ginsa-maru'. Initially this small, single stemmed, cactus grew normally and was quite healthy. However, being one of many smallish cacti in my collection, I had failed to notice in time that the little guy had become badly infested by the bane of all Mammillaria growers, spider mites. My first reaction was to solve the mite problem much as 'The



Little Mammillaria "Ginsa-maru", with an infestation of spider mites indicated by the brown discoloration.

Queen' was inclined to do. However, not knowing exactly how to go about beheading spider mites, I employed chemical warfare.

"The pesticide solved the mite problem. However, the nasty little buggers had permanently disfigured Ginsa-maru before I had discovered and solved the problem. A year or so later, little Ginsa-maru had popped out a normal, mite-free, head at the top of his badly disfigured body. I was now able to solve my problem just as "The Queen" would have done, I beheaded little 'Ginsa-maru'.

"After a brief period of mourning (callousing), I applied some resurrection (rooting) compound to Ginsa-maru's little severed head and gently placed it on a bed of freshly prepared potting soil.

"Happily the severed head responded favorably, rooted and developed into a



Happy, healthy (and larger) replanted severed 'head'.

beautiful blooming cactus nearly twice the size of the original.

"The spider mite damaged base of the original Ginsa-maru after my original beheading and after the plant had produced several additional healthy, spider mite-free heads. This disfigured plant is now ready for a multiple beheading and potting up of the offsets. It will then be time to assign the disfigured base to the compost heap.

"Occasionally I encounter a plant problem where beheading just doesn't seem right. I've found that there is another possible approach, albeit probably not one The Queen would likely pursue. I jerk the entire plant out of the pot, remove the soil and see what the roots may be able to tell me. If the roots show evidence of rot or mealys, I'll do an "off with the roots" trick followed by a bit of callousing, some rooting compound and a pot of fresh soil. Done in time, this very often solves the problem."



Mite-infested parent Mammillaria on the right with "decapitated, calloused heads" on the left, dusted with rooting powder for potting.



## PLANT OF THE MONTH: VICTORIAE-REGENIAE AGAVE

*(Info from Dave's Garden Website)*

This stunning plant is named for Queen Victoria, the 19th century monarch of Great Britain. It is also frequently spelled "victoria-reginae". The beautifully marked agave with veined foliage grows to a height from 6 inches to 24 inches and is hardy in Zone 9a to 20 degrees F. In other zones it is hardy from 25-40 degrees F.

This plant needs full sun and requires extreme caution when handling due to very sharp spines or edges. It blooms in mid-summer and produces a pale to bright yellow blossom. It is drought tolerant and suitable for outdoor

xeriscaping in areas where the temperature doesn't fall below 20 degrees F. It prefers a mildly acidic (pH of 6.1 to 6.5) to mildly alkaline (pH 7.6 to 7.8) soil.

This plant is considered monocarpic, or one that flowers one time and then dies, similar to the Century Plant Agave. The plant is propagated by dividing rhizomes, tubers, corms or bulbs (including offsets); or through seed collection by allowing pods to dry on the plant and breaking them open to collect the seeds.

John Moore's *Victoriae Reginae Agave* won second place in the People's Choice contest at the recent Plant Show West Show and Sale (see page 2).

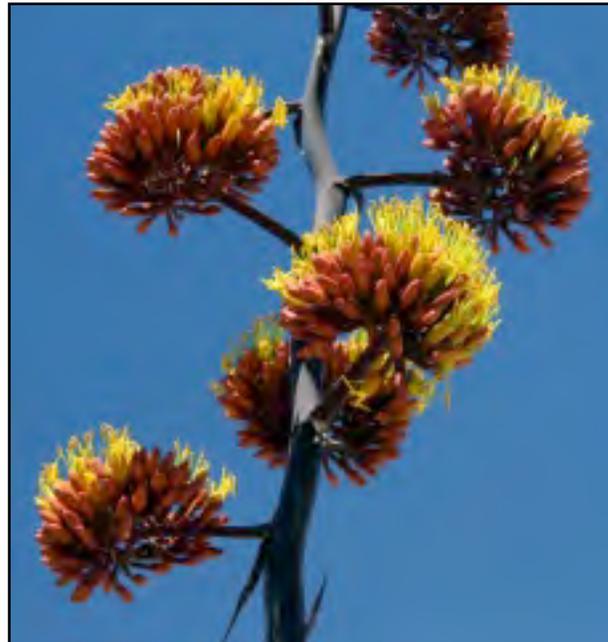


Very large Victoriae-reginae agave seen in native habitat.

## CONGRATULATIONS, DON!

Don Campbell garnered an Honorable Mention for this striking photo of the Agave Neomexicana he submitted to the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society photo contest. The winners were announced in the CCSS March newsletter.

Many of you will remember the saga of this beautiful plant at the CSU Extension Garden this past year. Don captured the plant in bloom before it “gave its all”, drying up and falling over!



Agave neomexicana, summer 2012, CSU garden. Photo by Don Campbell

## MORE CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER!

Members of the Chinle C&SS (Don & Carol Campbell, Dave, Judy and Tatum Kennedy) attended the Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society the weekend of March 16-17, 2013, and were successful in bringing home



several ribbons. Don Campbell took the pictures above and commented that a “budding young cactophile, Tatum Kennedy, granddaughter of Judy & Dave Kennedy, was the proud recipient of a red ribbon for her entry!”

In addition, both Dave & Judy brought home a bunch of ribbons for their spiny show plants. On the left is one of Dave’s blue ribbon beauties and on the right, one of Judy’s. They all “did us proud!”

# ARBOR DAY/EARTH DAY APRIL 20TH IN LINCOLN PARK

The Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society has been invited to participate in the Annual Arbor Day festivities held in Lincoln Park on April 20th from 10am-4pm. Instead of having a separate Earth Day event, the two will be combined into one, larger event.

We will have our tent set up with our Chinle display, and have a number of plants to sell. The venue should be excellent for a lot of exposure for our group, and hopefully will result in new members and robust plant sales!

As the time draws nearer, we will be asking for volunteers to help at the Chinle tent, so mark the day on your calendar. If you are wondering if we will participate in Bloomin' Deals, the Board decided to invest our time and our members efforts in the bigger event at Lincoln Park, foregoing Bloomin' Deals this year.

Stay tuned!!!

## FIRST GARDEN PARTY EQUALS LOTS OF WORK



Sad evidence of winter damage to the opuntia.



Top: Bill Hassell, left, and Don Campbell, right, remove dead and damaged opuntiae. Lower left: Tom Burrows, Loren Benoit & Bill Hassell tackle weeds. Lower right: Maryann Benoit deadheads sedum.



Ahhh, the painful appearance of this agave!



L to R: New member, John Hall and "Oldies", Loren Benoit, Janet and Bill Hassell, enjoy a goodie & coffee break.

## ...AND SPEAKING OF GARDENS...



*(Photo by Don Campbell)*

"During a visit to the C&S garden on the Spring Equinox was pleasantly surprised to discover some golden yellow Crocus flowers peeking out from the midst of a sedum patch." *Don Campbell*

# WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?



Don Campbell titled this photo:  
"The Ten Top Reasons Why I Love Little Turbie"  
*Turbinicarpus pseudomacrochele*, photo taken March 17, 2013



*Turbinicarpus alonsoi*, blooming on 3/24/13  
Photo by Don Campbell



*Lobivia pentlandii*, in Judy Kennedy's collection, blooming on 3-24-13.  
Photo by Dave Kennedy.



Matucana aureiflora, blooming 3/24/13.  
Day-old flower on left, fresh new flower on right, with  
several buds ready to bloom. Photo by Don Campbell.



Copiapoa barquitenis, blooming 3/25/13  
Photo by Don Campbell

## What Is It?



***(Answer in May Newsletter!)***

# ☆ On the Lighter Side



**Bufo fredii**

Don Campbell sends us information of a recently discovered toad species. Note the very unusual greenish excrescences and protuberances on the back of this unusual specimen.

(*Mammillaria bocassana* cv. 'Fred' in a ceramic Mexican novelty pot)

## **A COUPLE OF PROGRAMS OF INTEREST AT THE MATH & SCIENCE CENTER**

Teresa Coons sends this information regarding upcoming programs that may be of interest to Chinle members. Unfortunately, the April program falls on the night of our Regular Chinle meeting. However since we do not have a regular, second Thursday of the month meeting in May, you might consider attending their May and July programs.

April 4 - Family Science Night  
May 9 - Space Weather: Our Dynamic Sun and Our Vulnerability To It  
July 11 - Shuttle Manned Space Flights

Also the Chinle C&S will have a display and information at the April 4th Family Science Night on April 4th at the John McConnell Math & Science Center, starting at 6pm. There is a \$5 charge per family, so bring the kids, old and young!

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### April 2013 - August 2013

- APR 1 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- APR 3 GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 9 AM
- APR 11 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: "Why I Keep Bees...and You Should, Too"  
Presenter: Dr. Gary McAllister  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- APR 20 GARDEN PARTY - WCBG - Saturday, 9 am
- APR 20 Arbor Day/Earth Day event - 10-4  
Lincoln Park
- MAY 1 GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 9 AM
- MAY 6 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- MAY 11 GARDEN PARTY - WCBG - Saturday, 9 AM
- MAY 18 Garden Tour - (Replaces May Regular Meeting)  
Janet & Bill Hassell, Coordinators
- MAY 29 GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 9 am
- JUN 3 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10am  
2666 Summer Hill Ct., GJ
- JUN 8 GARDEN PARTY - WCBG - Saturday, 9 am
- JUNE 13 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: "Hardy American Succulents"  
Presenter: Panayoti Kelaidis
- JUNE 19 GARDEN PARTY - CSU EXTENSION - Wednesday, 9 am
- JUN 15 35th Biennial CSSA Convention, Austin, TX
- JULY 14 CRUMP'S GREENHOUSE FIELD TRIP - Loren & Maryann Benoit,  
Coordinators (Replaces July Regular Meeting)
- AUG 8 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS  
Program: Member Show & Tell - Ice Cream Social  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Rom, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- 

### 2013 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Bill Hassell  
970-263-0910

Secretary/Web Master: Tom Burrows  
970-462-6767

Treasurer: Loren Benoit  
970-254-7471

Vice President: Lynn Dunham  
970-243-1822

Member at Large: Judy McCart  
970-623-9279

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell  
970-263-0910

Garden Committee: Maryann Benoit  
970-254-7471

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 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 Mailing Address: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
PO Box 20000  
Grand Junction, CO 81502**

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