



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
March 2014 Vol. 6, No. 3

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

MARCH PROGRAM:

VISITING BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK!



Lois Davidson, our new Garden Activities Coordinator and Master Gardener, will share a variety of her experiences while visiting Bend Big National Park in southwestern Texas.

Lois tells us, "I lived in Austin, Texas with my family from 1971 until 1993. We moved to Austin while my husband, Forbes, went to graduate school. After he received his Ph. D. we stayed in Austin for a while until our daughter finished high school and headed to N. Y. C. for college.

"I started growing cacti because they thrived on neglect and lack of water. I was one of the charter members of the Austin Cactus and Succulent Society. The ACSS used to have field trips to West Texas, primarily the Fort Lancaster area and



Opuntia (prickly pear) species with Chisos Mountains in the background. Photo by Lois Davidson



Ocotillo with Sierra del Carmens in the background. Photo by Lois Davidson

occasionally the Davis Mountains. My family started going to Big Bend National Park at Christmas time because it was too expensive to visit the extended family in Oregon.

"I have spent time in Big Bend during the fall, winter and spring and each season has something unique. Seeing the results of an ice storm, snow and thunderstorms accompanied by flash flooding on the desert vegetation is quite an experience."

Be sure to put this program on your calendar and look forward to a great vicarious vacation trip!

3RD PLANT SHOW WEST SUCCESSFUL

Judy McCart coordinated the 2014 Plant Show West at Bookcliff Gardens, on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2. As in years past, members provided show-quality plants for display and also helped man the Chinle display area during the show.

We had good participation in this event again this year. It is a lot of fun to get together and “talk cactus”. Look for photos from the Plant Show West in the April newsletter!

“SEEING THE LIGHT” WITH DR. SWIFT

Members of the Chinle C&SS were treated to a fascinating presentation by Dr. Curt Swift on lighting requirements for indoor plants at the February general meeting. Curt explained that the light we see with the naked eye is not at all what a plant “sees” or needs. Most of us remember from science class that plants need light, air and water for photosynthesis and the subsequent production of carbohydrates that support growth. Unfortunately, most of us who have indoor plants on window sills or even with “grow lights”, do not even begin to get enough light to produce growth or flowers.

His technical explanation of photons, measuring them, and plant needs was complicated, but he did a great job of making it understandable. His photon light sensor device proved just how close a lighting source needs to be from a plant to give it enough light for photosynthesis and how bright the light must be. If the light source is cool, it may need to be mere inches from the plant to be sufficient, and stay on for 18-24 hours.



Some pearls from his presentation are:



- UV light does nothing for a plant’s photosynthesis.
- Use a “blue” and a “warm” fluorescent light in the same fixture to replicate the light found in much more expensive “grow lights”.
- Warm (or red) light is necessary for cacti to bloom.
- Very important to rotate your plants relative to a light source, as plants really need 360 degree light.
- Glass windows and plastic covers may significantly reduce the amount of light reaching the plant.
- The area inside cacti ridges does not receive the same amount of light as the outer edges, thus turning the plant is critical to avoid tissue death on the unlighted side.
- Older cacti respire through stoma that open at night to conserve moisture. Younger growth will respire during the daytime, but may change if the environment becomes much dryer and respire at night.

All of us by the end of the evening had a much greater appreciation of the lighting needs of indoor cactus.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

In 2014, we are encouraging members to share articles and photos with the Society for publication in the newsletter. A wide range of topics can be submitted. Submit interesting articles, photos, and information about your experiences with cacti and succulents that you feel other members would enjoy. Two such contributions by Don Campbell can be found on pages 4 & 5.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL THROUGH END OF MARCH!

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone! And with the advent of 2014, it is time to renew your membership to the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society. Dues will remain the same as last year: \$20 for an individual and \$25 for a family. What comes with membership?

- Hands-on cactus and succulents gardening opportunities at club-maintained public gardens
- Garden tours and field trips
- Help and advice on growing indoor and outdoor cacti and succulents
- Monthly meetings with educational programs and refreshments
- Plant drawings and exchanges
- Monthly newsletters
- Annual dinner meeting
- Opportunities to meet lots of really great people
- And best of all, having fun!

"Such a deal, right?" Bring your dues to the next meeting or mail a check to Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 20000-5028, Grand Junction, CO 81502-5028.

"SCENE" AT THE FEBRUARY MEETING!



Who's Who: On the left from left to right, we welcome Pam Johnson back after her hiatus from the club! Judy McCart, Lois Davidson and Lynn Dunham having a good laugh! Middle photo, Kenton Seth discusses scientific botanical details with Curt Swift, our guest speaker. On the right are our newest members, hailing from Castle Rock, Lisa and Carly Cain.

FIRST 2014 GARDEN PARTY ON MARCH 22!

Time to sharpen your gardening tools and skills and begin the 2014 Garden Party season. Garden Activities Coordinator, Lois Davidson is encouraging Chinle members to come out and help make the gardens as beautiful as possible. A major function of the Society is to maintain the gardens at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens and the Colorado State University Extension Gardens. A beginning schedule of gardening activities is posted on our Calendar of Events on page 11 of this newsletter. Dates can also be found at our Chinle website, chinlecactusclub.org. Parties begin at 9 am until the weather becomes too warm and then we start at 8 am. The Chinle C&SS has a collection of tools for gardening, but participants are encouraged to bring their own as most people have their favorites!

If you are hesitant to help with the gardening because you don't feel you "know enough" to be of help, don't let that hold you back. There are always experienced gardeners present to give you advice and encouragement. And gardening is a great way to learn about cacti and succulents, as well as take home cuttings to grow in your own garden at home.

Give gardening a try! Every level of effort is appreciated...and there are always tasty treats to be had during the mid-morning break

WHAT'S GROWING?

By Don Campbell

"Sometime last summer Jeff Brimley sent photos taken in his Utah garden of a blooming *Agave utahensis* var. *kaibabensis* (which was shown in the December 2013 newsletter, page 5). He indicated he had collected a number of fruits and bubils following the bloom. Bubil is defined as: 'adventitious bulb, eg. developing in the axils of an inflorescence, etc., and serving as a propagation unit...'"

"Jeff was kind enough to send me an envelope with several bubils and a large number of the fairly small fruits. After squishing several dozen fruits I was able to collect six small flat black seeds that I suspected might be viable. The vast majority of the seeds were very small tan things that obviously had not been pollinated and were not viable."

"Of the five bulbils planted last summer, four have survived and two of the four appear to be thriving. Photo taken on January 20, 2014".

"Six seeds were sown on January 4, 2014. This photo taken on January 20, 2014 shows five seedlings which are still attired in their little black seed caps."



KEEP PHOTO CONTEST ON YOUR LIST

The Chinle C&SS is conducting their Photo Contest again. The submission period will begin in February and runs through October 2014. In order to participate, members need to send their photo files to the Newsletter Editor (Janet Hassell) at janethassell@gmail.com for publication in a Society newsletter. Please identify the photo and any description that would be interesting to our readers. Full-sized jpg files are best. You may submit as many photos as you like, however, at the end of the contest period, you will be asked to choose up to three photos for judging.

As in the past two years, judging will be done by an experienced photographer from outside the Chinle C&SS and winners will be announced at the Annual Dinner Meeting.

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.

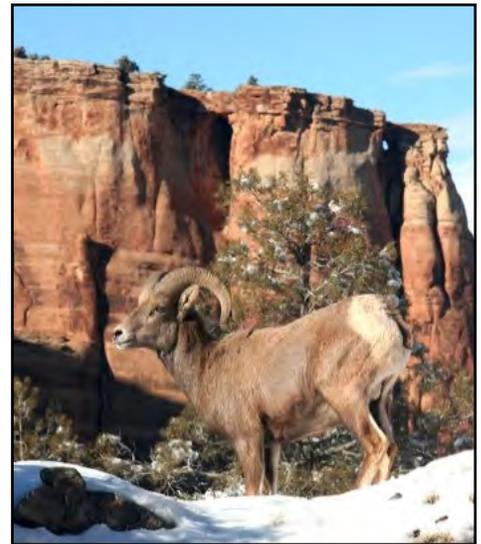
Center of Interest is the point or points on the image where the maker wants the viewer to stop as they view the image. There can be primary and secondary centers of interest. Occasionally there will be no specific center of interest when the entire scene collectively serves as the center of interest.

BIGHORNS ON THE COLORADO NATIONAL MONUMENT

Don Campbell, who lives at the base of the Colorado National Monument, shares “a couple of photos from last Saturday’s (Feb. 2, 2014) drive thru CNM. This makes the third weekend in a row that we’ve seen bighorn sheep adjacent to the road. I’ve recently learned that there were 15 bighorn sheep visible from South Broadway in the vicinity of the “White Rocks”.

On the left below, Don photographed a group of at least six Bighorns and on the right, a half-curl bighorn ram along Rimrock Drive about half way between Balanced Rock and the west entrance.

There is an article about the bighorns in the latest CNM newsletter.



Frost hardiness of South American cacti in the Northern Hemisphere

Thanks to Don Campbell for bringing this article by Peter Breslin, Tempe, AZ from the cacti_etc@opus.scs.agilent.com site to our attention.

“Hello- Many growers in the United States have experimented with a wide variety of South American cacti in outdoor plantings or under shelter. It seems that the great majority of these plants, even from very cold, high altitude regions, do not fare well in unprotected outdoor plantings, even with similar temperatures. It seems it may be atmospheric humidity and moisture during the very cold winters of say, Pennsylvania or Ohio, that kills most South American cacti. When I was working at Santa Fe Greenhouses/High Country Gardens, we experimented

with some species from some extremely cold regions. These were only able to make it undershelter, bone dry. Even then, they were not reliable.

In the Tempe/Phoenix area, a wide variety of Echinopsis (ss) and other frost hardy South American cacti do very well outside, with the occasional light frost, even in very wet winters.

Peter Breslin Tempe AZ

FOLLOW-UP FROM GRAFTING PROGRAM

As a postscript to Don Campbell's program on grafting last month, he brought in the plants on which he demonstrated the techniques. All are thriving, except the one on the left front off which he plucked the scion very easily!



This lovely photo of the Colorado National Monument in winter was submitted by Don Campbell.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A friend went to Beijing recently and was given this brochure by the hotel. It is precious. She is keeping it and reading it whenever she feels depressed. Obviously, it has been translated directly, word for word from Mandarin to English.....



Getting There:

Our representative will make you wait at the airport. The bus to the hotel runs along the lake shore. Soon you will feel pleasure in passing water. You will know that you are getting near the hotel, because you will go round the bend. The manager will await you in the entrance hall. He always tries to have intercourse with all new guests.

The hotel:

This is a family hotel, so children are very welcome. We of course are always pleased to accept adultery. Highly skilled nurses are available in the evenings to put down your children. Guests are invited to conjugate in the bar and expose themselves to others. But please note that ladies are not allowed to have babies in the bar. We organize social games, so no guest is ever left alone to play with them self.

The Restaurant:

Our menus have been carefully chosen to be ordinary and unexciting. At dinner, our quartet will circulate from table to table, and fiddle with you.

Your Room:

Every room has excellent facilities for your private parts. In winter, every room is on heat. Each room has a balcony offering views of outstanding obscenity! . You Will not be disturbed by traffic noise, since the road between the hotel and the lake is used only by pederasts.

Bed

Your bed has been made in accordance with local tradition. If you have any other ideas please ring for the chambermaid. Please take advantage of her. She will be very pleased to squash your shirts, blouses and underwear. If asked, she will also squeeze your trousers.

Above all:

When you leave us at the end of your holiday, you will have no hope. You will struggle to forget it."



Thanks to Maryann Benoit for the cartoon, slightly edited from the original!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH - JUNE 2014

- MAR 1-2 Plant Show West - Saturday, 10-4, Sunday, 12-4
Set up on Friday, Feb. 28th.
- MAR 10 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
2182 Standing Rock Dr - The Benoits
- MAR 13 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: Big Bend National Park
Presenter: Lois Davidson
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- MAR 22 First 2014 Garden Party - Saturday, 9 am
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- APR 2 Garden Party - Wednesday, 9 am
CSU Extension Garden
- APR 7 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
2182 Standing Rock Dr - The Benoits
- APR 10 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Overlooked Oddball Outdoor Succulents:
Beyond Stonecrop and Hens & Chicks."
Presenter: Kenton Seth
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- APR 12 Garden Party - Saturday, 9 am
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- APR 19 Southwest Arbor Fest - Lincoln Park -
Times TBA
- APR 30 Garden Party - Wednesday, 9 am
CSU Extension Garden
- MAY ? Garden Tour to the Front Range - details to be announced
Field trip will replace the Regular May Meeting
- MAY 5 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
2182 Standing Rock Dr. - The Benoits
- MAY 10 Garden Party - Saturday, 9 am
Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
- MAY 21 Garden Party - Wednesday, 9 am
CSU Extension Garden
- JUNE 2 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
2666 Summer Hill Ct - The Hassells
- JUNE 7 Garden Party - Saturday, 9 am
Western Colorado Botanical Gardens
- JUNE 12 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
Program: "Our travels to New Zealand"
Presenter: Dave Kennedy
6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- JUNE 18 Garden Party - Wednesday, 9 am
CSU Extension Garden



Photo by Lois Davidson of terrain in Big Bend National Park.

2014 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Maryann Benoit
970- 270-3287

Web Master: Tom Burrows
970-462-6767

Treasurer: Loren Benoit
970-254-7471

Vice President: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Member at Large: Judy McCart
970-623-9279

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Program Committee: Don Campbell – 245-5088
Lynn Dunham – 243-1822

Garden Activities Coordinator: Lois Davidson
970-242-2879

**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 Mailing Address: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society

**PO Box 20000-5280
Grand Junction, CO 81502**

CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org

CSU WEBSITE LINK: <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/chinlecactus.shtml>