



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
August 2014 Vol. 6, No. 8

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

**REMINDER! NO REGULAR CHINLE MEETINGS IN AUGUST!
GARDEN PARTIES STILL HAPPENING ON SCHEDULE!**

COMING IN SEPTEMBER: PANAYOTI KELAIDIS!!!



You'll hear more about this great guest speaker as the September meeting time approaches, but be sure to mark September 11th as a "must go to" Chinle C&SS meeting! His topic this visit is "Cacti & Succulents in Europe" and those of us who have heard him speak can testify his presentation is entertaining, informative, and educational. His gorgeous slides are like frosting on the cake!

Remember: September 11th, 6:30 pm, at the Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds. Be there!

DATELINE: SOUTHERN, ITALY

By Maryann Benoit

"Loren and I recently made a visit to the southern part of Italy in search of my relatives. What I found was not only a whole village of relatives, but a cactus-loving relative as well. His name is Emanuele Mendicelli, he is 24 years old, and has recently been studying in Scotland. He is the great-grandson of my grandfather's brother, Giuseppe. Because not all of his cacti were doing well in the Italian climate, he built a small greenhouse in the backyard of his parent's home. He has indoor and outdoor plants and lots of plants in the greenhouse too. In the yard, in addition to the cacti and succulents, they grow many different fruits and vegetables for their family to eat and process for future use. As they were in season, we got to sample fresh delicious strawberries right off the plants.



"We also were treated to home-made lemoncello they had made with lemons from their yard. Here is a photo showing how much fun we were having getting to know each other and sharing our love for cacti and succulents."

WHAT WAS BLOOMING IN JULY?

By Janet Schaeffer

“Here are some pictures of an Orchid that I got in the silent auction last December at the ADM. The spike it 4 ft. tall ! The name on it is Eulophia paniculata. When I tried to do a little research on it what I found is that it is now called Oeceoclades calcaratom. That is quite a name change so don't know if it is correct. It is native to Madasgar.”



TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CANDIDATES FOR 2015 OFFICERS

It's hard to believe that we are rapidly moving through summer, school will start this month, and soon the Nominations Committee will be calling to find candidates for the 2015 Chinle Cactus & Succulent Board. There are several positions available: **Secretary, Member-At-Large and Vice President**. We will also be asking you to consider an appointed position such as **Program Co-Chair and Archivist**.

We're sure you, as members, understand how important leadership is in a club as small as we are and in a club that has a pretty important commitment to the gardens in Grand Junction. Unfortunately, like many small organizations, the work gets done by a precious few. However, for those of you who for various reasons can't crawl around the gardens pulling weeds, etc., there are positions such as secretary, member-at-large or archivist that are perfect ways to contribute your time and talent, in a way that you are able to do!

So please seriously consider stepping up to the plate and "hitting a homer" for your fellow Cactophiles!

JULY GARDEN PARTIES "SIZZLE"

Six Chinle gardeners braved the heat **Saturday, July 12th**, to work at the Western Colorado Botanical Garden, to include Maryann & Loren Benoit, Julie Bursi, Lisa Cain, and Don Campbell



(L to R) Lisa Cain, Maryann & Loren Benoit, Lois Davidson & Julie Bursi
Photo by Don Campbell



Lisa Cain, Julie Bursi, Lois Davidson & Don Campbell
Photo by Maryann Benoit

Another hot day, **Wednesday, July 23rd**, found “Old Faithfuls” Maryann & Loren Benoit, Don Campbell, Lois Davidson and Bill Hassell at the CSU Extension Garden pulling weeds and deadheading plants.



(Top L to R) Lois Davidson and Maryann Benoit. (Bottom L to R) Loren Benoit, Don Campbell & Bill Hassell. Photos by Bill Hassell

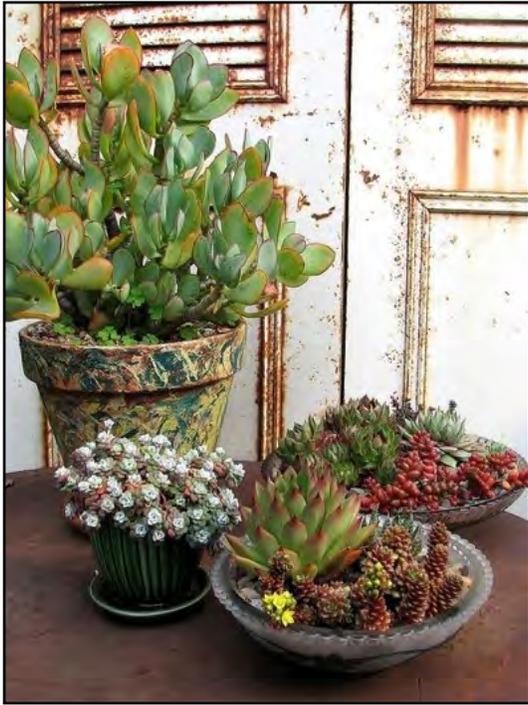
We greatly appreciate all these gardeners and the effort and time they contribute to making our WCBG and CSU gardens lovely places of which we can be proud. Our next Garden Party is August 9th at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens. Ya'll come, ya heah!

HAVE CACTI & SUCCULENT ITEMS TO DONATE?

Start to look around for interesting items to set aside for door prizes and/or silent auction items for the December Annual Member Meeting. One of our volunteers will be checking with members over the next 3-4 months to collect items, but in the meantime, keep your donation in mind!

As a rule, cactus and succulent related items are best (probably send the bunny bedroom slipper to Good Will!). Books, garden tools, cactus Christmas ornaments, framed pictures, glassware, agave nectar, prickly pear jelly, tee shirts or napkins with cactus motifs, etc., are great door prizes. And of course, a bottle of wine is always a great hit! Gender specific items can be awkward when a guy gets a door prize obviously intended for a gal (and vice versa) so perhaps avoid collecting those items. Be creative. It adds to the fun!

MAKING SUCCULENT DISH GARDENS



Trendy succulents are fun and easy to grow, which makes them perfect for dish gardens. Because they come from parts of the world with hot, arid climates, they can tolerate the dry air inside most homes, and they're happy with little more than a spot by a sunny window.

Since these undemanding plants often have small root systems, you can pot them up in a shallow dish, saucer, or other container. They're seldom bothered by pests or diseases, but be sure to give them well-drained soil, and water only when the soil feels dry, to prevent possible rot.

You can change up your succulent dish garden in many ways. Try growing the plants in a half of a clam shell or conch, and add a bit of driftwood or a piece of beach glass for whimsy. Containers like this easy-to-make concrete planter are perfect for setting off the sculptural forms of succulents.

To pick up subtle colors in their leaves, grow your succulents in a ceramic pot with a complementary glaze. They also look great in simple clay pots or garden urns. You can plant them in large containers, too, and some succulents, like jade plants, will grow as big as the container will allow.

Read the tags on your plants to learn about their mature sizes.

SKILL LEVEL: Easy

TIME REQUIRED: 30 minutes

TOOLS: Optional: Drill, Watering Can, garden trowel

MATERIALS: Succulents, Cacti and Succulent Potting Mix, Small rocks or pea gravel, Pot. Optional: Shells, stones, polished rocks (available at craft stores)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Since succulents dislike standing water, try to use a dish, saucer or other container with a drainage hole. If your pot doesn't have one, drill one in it or put a layer of small rocks or pea gravel on the bottom. This will help drain water away from the roots.

2. Fill your container with a potting soil made for cacti and succulents, or make your own by mixing 4 parts regular potting soil, 4 parts perlite, and one part coarse builder's sand. Leave about an inch of room at the top for the small rocks in step 3.

3. Plant the succulents using your fingers or a small trowel and gently firm the soil around them. Cover the soil with a layer of pea gravel or small river rocks. This helps keep moisture away from the base of the plants, which might cause them to rot. Water lightly, and keep your dish garden near a sunny window. A southern exposure is fine.

4. Wait until the soil feels dry before you water again. If your dish garden is sitting in a saucer to catch any drainage, be sure to empty it. When your succulents are actively growing, feed them with a fertilizer made for cacti and succulents, following the product directions. If you use a potting soil that already has fertilizer in it, you won't have to fertilize for about six months.



5. Succulents need a rest period of about 2 or 3 months each winter, so when the growing season ends, move them to a spot that stays around 50 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. While they're resting, water no more than once a month, and don't fertilize until you move them back into a warm place and they're actively growing again.

(Thanks to the Home Depot webpage for this article and Rosario Douglas of the Central Oklahoma Cactus and Succulent Society for suggesting it.)



DATELINE: BOUNTIFUL, UT

When checking in with Jeff Brimley, our member in Utah, as to “what’s blooming?”, he reports that “Well, it hasn’t been as hot this year, so far, so, things are look’n good. I thought I had lost a few Chollas, but they pulled out of it. *Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa* was hit the hard last winter, but I see a little green growth. I thought I had lost a *C. acanthocarpa thornberi*. I have one tiny piece left, that I hope will root. It has a variegated flower, of pink and green. Super odd. I hope, I sent some to Don, so I can get a start again.” In a later note, Jeff happily reports that “I discovered yesterday, that my last cutting of it, has rooted! Back to the world of the living.”



Cylindropuntia acanthocarpa v. *thornberi* - Photo by Jeff Brimley

MORE "ADOPTABLE" PLANTS AVAILABLE!

Don Campbell was contacted by Carol Patton who lives in the Ridges, 243-9481, to say she has four plants she brought back from Arizona that have become too much for her to move in & out of the house every summer. They are in fairly large pots that she wants to keep; however, anyone interested in adopting the plants can take the plant & pot and return the pot to her at a later date. She said the following plants are available to either adopt or to take cuttings from.

Please contact her directly at 243-9481 if you are interested in any of these plants.

- + An Agave with pups in the pot.
- + A large Prickly pear that she sez puts out purple pads in the spring....possibly *Opuntia violacea* v. *macrocentra* or *Opuntia violacea* v. *santa-rita*
- + A "boxing glove" cholla. I suspect this is actually the crested form of *Cylindropuntia fulgida* which is also known as the "jumping cholla",
- + A "fishhook barrel" cactus. This is probably the native "fishhook barrel" from Arizona, *Ferocactus wislizeni*.

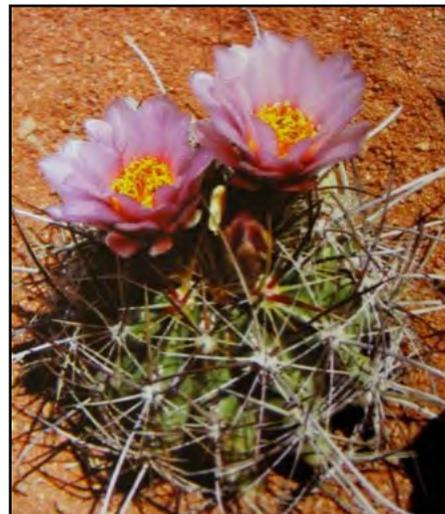
GRANT AWARDED TO STUDY COLORADO HOOKLESS & FISHHOOK CACTI

The Grand Junction based Desert Ecosystem Analysis and Restoration (DEAR) has awarded a \$6,850 grant to the Denver Botanical Gardens Research & Conservation Department. According to the Sentinel News "In Brief", "Research about regional cactus varieties has been limited, especially of the genetic relationship between the Colorado Hookless (*Sclerocactus glaucus*), which can be found in several areas in Mesa County, and its close relative, the Fish Hook Cactus, which is common in the Rabbit Valley area of Mesa County." As hikers in the Colorado National Monument can testify, the Fishhook cactus is also present there. The grant will be used to perform genetic testing to further identify and differentiate populations of these two cacti.

Don Campbell has contacted DEAR to line them up for a future program at one of our Chinle C&SS meetings. It should be interesting to learn what their study discovers!



Sclerocactus glaucus (Uinta Basin hookless barrel - Photo by Leo Chance



Sclerocactus cloverae (Clover's fishhook cactus) - Photo by Leo Chance



The Echinocactus grusonii (Golden Barrel Cactus) is King at the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum located outside Tucson. If you've never been there, put it on your "must-see" list!

☆ ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
AUGUST - DECEMBER 2014

AUGUST - NO REGULAR SOCIETY MEETING
Garden Parties will continue during August!

- AUG 9 Garden Party - Saturday, 8 am
 WC Botanical Gardens
- AUG 20 Garden Party - Wednesday, 8 am
 CSU Extension Garden
- SEPT 6 Garden Party - Saturday, 8 am
 WC Botanical Garden
- SEPT 8 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
 2182 Standing Rock Dr. - The Benoit's
- SEPT 11 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
 Program: Cacti & Succulents of Europe
 Presenter: Panayoti Kelaidis
 6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- SEPT 17 Garden Party -Wednesday, 8 am
 CSU Extension Garden - check for time
- OCT 4 Garden Party - Saturday, 9 am
 WC Botanical Garden
- OCT 6 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
 2182 Standing Rock Dr. - The Benoit's
- OCT 9 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
 Program: Arizona Treasures
 Presenter: Janet Hassell
 6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- OCT 15 Garden Party - Wednesday, 9 am
 CSU Extension Garden
- OCT 25 FINAL GARDEN PARTY OF THE YEAR!
 Saturday, 9 am - WC BOTANICAL GARDEN
- NOV. 3 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
 2182 Standing Rock Dr. - The Benoit's
- NOV. 13 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
 Program: Member presentations
 6:30 pm, Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- DEC 2 Chinle C&SS Board Meeting - 10 am
 2182 Standing Rock Dr. - The Benoit's
- DEC 11 Chinle C&SS Annual Dinner Meeting
 "The Irons" Restaurant
 Tiara Rado Golf Course

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: Vacant
Secretary: Vacant

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Program Committee:
Don Campbell – 970-245-5088
Lynn Dunham – 970-243-1822

Past President:
Bill Hassell
970-263-0910

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



Amazing crested Saguaro is a focal point at the entrance to the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum.