



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
September 2014 Vol. 6, No. 9

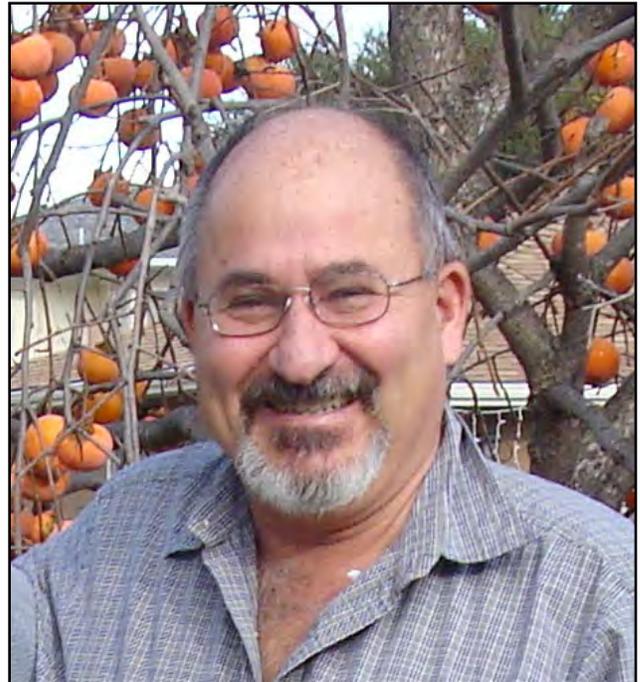
*To promote knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants among its members, other individuals and organizations throughout West-Central Colorado*

## SEPTEMBER'S PROGRAM:

## PANAYOTI KELAIDIS!

Be sure to mark September 11th as a "must go to" Chinle C&SS meeting! An internationally known horticulturist expert, Panayoti's topic this visit is "Cacti & Succulents in Europe". Those of us who have heard him speak can testify that his presentations are 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!



*More about our speaker:*

### **PANAYOTI KELAIDIS, SENIOR CURATOR AND DIRECTOR OF DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS OUTREACH**

Courtesy of the Denver Botanical Garden's Staff Bio's, "Panayoti Kelaidis represents the Gardens in educational, professional and promotional endeavors as an expert in horticulture, science and art. He also acts as a liaison to botanical societies, professional horticulture organizations and green industry members. Kelaidis has worked at the Gardens for 30 years in many capacities. Most recently, he was the Curator of Plant Collections, where he supervised the curatorial staff and directed inventory, maintenance, interpretation and integrity for over 15,000 kinds of living plants. His far-reaching knowledge of horticulture in the mountainous and dry climate of Colorado has aided Plant Select®, a plant introduction program where Panayoti has helped discover and name numerous plants, as well as disseminate nearly 10 million plants. He designed the plantings for the world-renowned Rock Alpine Garden and helped implement Wildflower Treasures, South African Plaza and the Romantic Gardens among many other gardens at Denver Botanic Gardens.

"Kelaidis helped plan and stage over 12 regional, national and international gardening conferences in Denver. He is a past president of the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society as well as the American Penstemon Society, and serves on many professional horticulture society boards. He is also the recipient of the Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs and the 2000 Arthur Hoyt Scott Medal from Swarthmore College. He has delivered speeches in over 70 cities throughout the world on a wide range of horticultural topics and has published over 100 gardening works."

# 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!

## AUGUST GARDEN PARTIES "SIZZLE"

Thanks to a tremendous turnout at the August 9th Garden Party, the WCBG gardens look simply awesome. Thanks to the following gardeners: Maryann & Loren Benoit, Tom Burrows, Julie Bursi, Joy Bush, Lisa Cain, Don Campbell, Bill Hassell, Deb & Glenn Mallory, Kathy Murdock, Peter Newbury and Sherri Sheie. Photos below by Bill Hassell.



The Garden Party on Wednesday, August 20th, was a solo endeavor for Lois Davidson since many of the usual gardeners were working, out of town, or ill. Lois reminds members that there doesn't have to be a scheduled garden party to help pull weeds at the gardens. And since the CSU garden often gets the short end of volunteers, think about doing a little gardening out there if you get an intense weed-pulling urge.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH: Red Dragon Flower, *Huernia schneideriana*

*(Information excerpted from the Ola Brisa Gardens, website)*

Family: Asclepiadaceae, Also known as: Huernia

"They're SOOOO cute!" "Aren't they darling?" "How simply adorable!" Comments such as these seem to be of the recurring nature by lady visitors to Ola Brisa Gardens upon spying the tiny flowers of this lounging, sprawling, gentle succulent. (Most of the guys – if they even acknowledge it – simply grunt or mumble, "Yeah, that's nice.")

Indeed, the flora of this Malawian, Tanzanian, South African area succulent are not only endearing but actually seem somewhat shy and retiring! That is to say that the small – just over a half inch (2 cm) – five pointed, bell shaped, maroon (purplish-brown) with almost black centered flora appear to hide under or below its pendant arms.

Growing to a height of 12-18 inches (30-46 cm) they are said to prefer a bit of shade. They are also most attractive in a hanging pot with their trailing ½ inch (2 cm) across, appendages growing to three to four feet (92-122 cm) – if they touch nothing. On those grey-green hanging segments are numerous fleshy (non-hurtful) teeth that I've found folks like to stroke once they realize they are non-threatening!

Drought tolerant, this plant is also suitable for growing indoors and you may want to re-pot them every three years or so, depending on their growth.

For quite some time, it was thought to be a natural hybrid of *Huernia verekeri* and *Huernia aspera*. However, now it is recognized as a legitimate species all onto itself.

The Red Dragon Plant likes lots of water and fertilizer in the hot climes if it's to flower regularly. Ensure you have well-draining soil and keep in mind that they are rather susceptible to stem and root mealy bugs and fungal problems

If you wish to propagate them, it's very easy! Simply take a stem cutting – or even one that happens to break off – lay it on gritty compost and soon it will then root from the underside of the stem. And – I suppose this is mostly personal bias – but I encourage use of clay pots only which help the plants dry out between watering.



I've found this to be rather easy to grow, attractive and a good conversation piece. So if you seek a succulent but wish to avoid punctures, this may be the guy for you!"



# FROM THE PREZ: SURVEY RESULTS!



**Dear Members,**

In early July,, I sent out a survey to CCSS members regarding your preferences for meetings and gardening events. The survey came about when one of our members, John Moore, sent us a letter requesting the CCSS Board consider making changes. While very few responded to the survey, I have compiled the responses for your information as follows:

## **Monthly Meetings**

The majority of respondents wanted to continue meetings on Thursdays in the evenings.

Two members said they would like Saturday meetings in the mornings after gardening.

Three individuals said that Wednesdays would also be a good meeting day.

One person suggested we change our meeting to the 3rd or 4th week on the month as so many other groups meet in either the 1st or 2nd weeks.

Most wanted to keep our meeting place at the fairgrounds while the Mall or WCBG were also suggested once each.

## **CSU Gardening Events**

- The majority of respondents liked gardening at CSU during the work week due to the availability of bathrooms in the Extension Building.
- Two individuals requested a change to Tuesdays and one to Saturdays.
- One individual suggested occasional evening gardening events from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

## **WCBG Gardening Events**

- The majority of respondents said they wanted to continue to garden at WCBG on Saturdays.
- One said any day was fine while another person preferred Fridays.

**Other ideas** regarding increasing membership and participation from current members:

- Set up a Facebook page about the club
- Give up one garden (CSU)
- Hold fewer meetings
- Require a certain number of volunteer hours toward some CCSS activity
- Put signs up in each garden to recruit new members from visitors
- Hold all garden parties on Saturday

As you can see, there was little support to change most of what CCSS is currently doing. Our Board will take a closer look at the responses and the ideas about membership to see if it makes sense for us to implement changes in 2015. In the meantime, if any of you would like to make further suggestions, please contact a Board member with your thoughts.

*Hope to see you all at our September 11 meeting.  
Maryann Benoit*

## WHAT'S BLOOMING?



This beautifully blooming *Parodia Laui* plant has performed twice on my back porch this summer, the most recently August 15th. Originally obtained from Don Campbell's collection, it had simply muddled along until I put it outside where it got the sunshine it needed to produce the blooms.

According to "500 Cacti Species and Varieties in Cultivation", this plant was discovered by Alfred Laui in 1973. This fast-growing plant became popular in cultivation and grown commercially in large numbers. However it is not seen often these days. With its soft, bright green body it is a distinctive plant that produces large number of brilliant flowers over several weeks of summer.

Originally from Bolivia, it generally flowers from seed in three years. It is not winter hardy and must be maintained a few degrees above freezing at all times. (Notes by Janet Hassell).

## GOURDS, ANYONE?

*Editor's note: A few months back, our Utah member, Jeff Brimley sent Don Campbell some hook necked gourd seeds, which he was kind enough to share with me. Well, they've certainly produced gourds and the vines have sprawled out over the xeroscaped area behind our property. I wonder how big they will get with all this rain?!?*





## Pardon My Bloopers!



We received a note from Donnie Barnett that in last month's newsletter, I incorrectly credited Leo Chance with two photographs of the sclerocacti in Leo's book which were actually photographs taken by Donnie. Donnie notes "I am an active photographer and have even spoke to the club in the past. I just prefer the right owner be printed on all of my pictures." Donnie, we totally agree and apologize for the error!



Also, the tools that Tom Burrows shared with us at the June 2014 meeting were misidentified in the July newsletter. Per Tom, "The one on the left is a 'swoe'. The one on the right is a 'Dutch weeding hoe'."

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2014

- 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 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 20000-5280  
Grand Junction, CO 81502**

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

