



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
 December 2015 Vol. 7, No. 12

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

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING UPCOMING

The 2015 Annual Dinner Meeting is being held **DECEMBER 3RD**, so be sure to mark the change on your calendars. It is a great way to begin the holiday season and we look forward to having everyone there!

This year, as last, we will be meeting at the Iron Grill at Tiara Rada Golf Course. The cost per member or guest is \$25. Of course as in the past, each member will receive a gift plant. There are drawings for door prizes and the Silent Auction is always a great way to obtain very nice “designer” plants and it also helps to raise money for the Society. The agenda for the evening is as follows:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5:30 pm | Registration, Socializing, Silent Auction Bidding and Open Bar |
| 6:30 pm | Dinner |
| 7:30 pm | Business Meeting, Election of 2016 Officers,
Announcing Photo Contest winners |
| 8:30 pm | Door prizes, Gift Plants, Silent Auction Winners |
| 9:30 pm | Adjourn |

A last view of some of the lovely plants that will be available for give-away and silent auction.



Rechsteineria cardinalis



Gymnocalycium spegazzinii



Gasteria sakura "Fuji" var.



Aloe erinacea



Euphorbia lactea monstrose



Haworthia truncata v. crassa



Sarcocaulon herrei



Copiapoa barquitenis



Anacampseros alstonii



Aqave quadricolor



Mammillaria huitzilopochtli



Mammillaria bocasana "Fred"



Flowering Adenium
obesum



NO GHOSTS AT THE OCTOBER 31ST GARDEN PARTY

Chinle members turned out in full force for the last garden party of the season at the WCBG. Present were Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, John Stanus, Sheri Skeie, Janet Hassell, Bill Hassell, Maryann Benoit, Loren Benoit, Glenn Mallory, Joy Bush, Debra Mallory, Ken Weissenburger, Lisa Hamilton, and Lois Davidson.



WHO'S WHO IN THE PHOTOS: (L to R) Top Row: John Stanus, Ken Weissenberger; Shari Skeie. Row 2: Don Campbell, volunteer mushroom, opuntia pad with copious cochineal, Maryann Benoit showing Deb Mallory, Lisa Hamilton & Share Skeie the cochineal. Row 3: Tom Burrow's at Ernie's Garden, healthy and not so healthy break Goodies, Maryann & Loren Benoit. Row 4: Deb Mallory and Joy Bush, Glenn Mallory & Bill Hassell, and Glenn Mallory.

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE WORKED IN THE GARDENS THIS 2015 SEASON!

PLEASE HELP THE BOARD WITH PROGRAM PLANNING FOR 2016

Shari Skiei and Don Campbell, Program Co-Chairs, are wanting feedback from members for next year's programs. Here's a condensed version of the survey forms they shared with members and was printed in last month's newsletter. Look over the list and send Don or Shari the program ideas that do appeal to you. It will greatly help with planning for next year!

SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAMS, SPEAKERS & ACTIVITIES - 2016

Basic Botany, Plant Classification, Master Gardener, CMU Prof as speakers, Ethnobotany and Paleobotany, Member presentations, Travelogs, *Geology of Grand Valley, Colorado Plateau*, or other; Member "Show & Tell", Plants, problems, solutions, tools, tricks, ...Plant Photography, presentation by the Park Service and/or the BLM; Local plant experts: E.g., Erin McIntyre, Daily Sentinel garden columnist, Dennis Hill, - Bookcliff Gardens.

Colorado Cactus & Succulent Society program brought to GJ, Speaker Exchange with Denver, Pueblo clubs; outside speakers, suchg as Panayoti Keliadis,; Curtis Swift, Bob Hammon; "How to" programs: Indoor and outdoor gardening, tools and techniques; Garden Design.

Field Trips: local day trip, hike(s), drive(s), multi-day trips, join with Front Range or Pueblo Groups, Crump Greenhouse Tour, other; Photo Contest, Scavenger Hunt, Annual Dinner Meeting (new location?), Bloomin' Deals, Plants West, Arbor Day; Major "Garden Party" in lieu of a monthly meeting; garden parties only on Saturdays, Eliminate a monthly meeting during summer; Garden Tour of member gardens & picnic; Plant sale(s), Class(es) we charge for; Field Trip we advertise & charge for.

If you are willing to present a program, to organize and lead a tour, or coordinate another activity, please let the Program Committee know!



NOVEMBER PROGRAM A SCIENTIFIC DELIGHT

Nearly 30 Chinle members were fascinated and intellectually stimulated by Kate and Ken Weissenberger's respective presentations at the Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS on November 12th.

Kate expanded on her talk last month on "*Eopuntia Douglassii*" and filled in the presentation with fascinating details about the geologic aspects of identifying plant origins, to include cacti and

succulents, and the researchers who pursued their discoveries. And once again, she shared the inconvenient truth that *Eopuntia Douglassii* was *not* the "Dawn Cactus" but getting to that fact was a very interesting journey.

Ken then followed with a talk on the amazing topic of plate tectonics, with excellent visuals that made the concepts much easier to understand. He even managed to establish the connection between how plate tectonics plays into the distribution of plant forms on the earth's surface.

Both he and Kate are great speakers and combine accurate information with humor. We look forward to having them share their knowledge with us again in the future.

It was also great to have former Chinle members, Judy and Dave Kennedy, join us for the meeting.

NEWEST MEMBER OWNER OF CALIFORNIA NURSERY

Our Chinle "fame" has extended all the way to Imperial, CA, with new member, Andrew Shea, joining this past month. Andrew is the owner of Wild West Landscaping, and features many drought tolerant plants in his inventory, responding to the tighter water restrictions now law in California. Fortunately, we don't have the same level of water restriction in Colorado....YET. And as part of our Chinle Conservation policy, preserving the environment and water resources is something we all need to observe.

If you are interested, we have included a plant and price list of plants from Wild West Landscaping on the last page of this month's newsletter.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Literally "lighter" is this white quail seen at Janet & Bill Hassell's bird feeder on Nov. 15th,



Who says donuts aren't healthy?

INDIAN LORE & MYTHS ABOUT CACTI

(Editor's note: I have always been fascinated about Indian Lore and fireside stories describing the origin of Southwestern plants and animals. Here are interesting examples gleaned off the internet.)

Origin of the Saguaro and Palo Verde Cacti (Pima, Arizona)

Once upon a time an old Indian woman had two grandchildren. Every day she ground wheat and corn between the grinding stones to make porridge for them.



One day as she put the water-olla on the fire outside the house to heat the water, she told the children not to quarrel because they might upset the olla. But the children began to quarrel. They upset the olla and spilled the water and their grandmother spanked them.

Then the children were angry and ran away. They ran far away over the mountains. The grandmother heard them whistling and she ran after them and followed them from place to place. but she could not catch up with them.

At last the older boy said, "I will turn into a [saguaro](#), so that I shall live forever and bear fruit every summer."



The younger said, "Then I will turn into a [palo verde](#) and stand there forever. These mountains are so bare and have nothing on them but rocks, I will make them green."

The old woman heard the cactus whistling and recognized the voice of her grandson. So she went up to it and tried to take the prickly thing into her arms, but the thorns killed her.

That is how the saguaro and the palo verde came to be on the mountains and the desert.

The Mythical Cactus Cat.



(There is a long article about the "Cactus Cat" written by Seanan McGuire <http://seananmcguire.com/fgcactus.php>, but I wonder if it isn't a bit tongue in cheek. Nowhere could I find an actual photograph of such an animal, just these drawings and a "cacti" clone.)

The Cactus cat is a mythical creature and Fearsome Critter that has been reported in the American Southwest. It's described as a bobcat-like animal with thorn-like fur, sharp bones protruding from its front legs and a branched tail. The Cactus Cat has been sighted in the Southwestern desert, in states such as California, Nevada and New Mexico.

Cowboys and pioneers of the nineteenth century reported these strange beasts coming out at night, slashing open cacti and drinking the exposed sap. This caused the cats to enter an intoxicated state, stumbling around and rarely attacking travelers. Attacks by this strange varmint, though considered rare, did happen from time to time, with many frontiersmen waking up to find welts on their body from the cat's barbed tail. Despite these attacks, the Cactus Cat was not considered an aggressive creature (except toward cacti). The critter was also known to have a unique and

haunting "wail" that could be heard at night through the darkened desert, along with the dry sound of its bones rubbing together.

The story of the Cactus Cat is probably fueled by numerous cases of misidentification, most likely being a bobcat, mountain lion or porcupine. The cat's "wail" may have also been that of a puma. It is also likely that the affable Cactus Cat was never believed to exist and, like most Fearsome Critters, was a product of a few bored woodsmen on a warm desert night.



Legend of the Cactus - Argentina

It was said that Quehualliu was the most handsome Indian of the tribe. He was always picking up flowers for Pasancana, the beautiful daughter of the chief. Together they learned how to walk and to play. They played in the most beautiful places of the mountain.

One day when they were older, they fell in love. But Pasancana's father wanted his daughter to marry another boy in the tribe. This other boy was an excellent hunter. When Pasancana and Quehualliu heard about that, they started to cry, and one day the two decided to escape together.

The next day they were walking in the hills and they made a plan: on the following day when the first star came out they would run away to the mountains. They ran away the following day.

When the chief found out that his daughter wasn't there, he got mad! He called together a group of men and started looking for the couple.

Pasancana and Quehualliu were tired, so they sat down for a few minutes. They were just going to sleep when a few men came.

Thanks to the light of the full moon they saw the men coming after them and asked the Pachamama, the goddess of the land, to hide them. She took pity on the young lovers and opened a hole in the mountain and hid them there. The chief shouted! "They can't hide forever!" So he and his men stayed there all that night. The next day the lovers had changed into a cactus, Quehualliu, protected by Pasancana.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - December 2015 into 2016

Dec. 3 **ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**
Location: The Iron Bar & Grill at Tiara Rado Golf Course

Jan. 4, 2016 Chinle Board meeting: location to be announced

Jan. 14 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
6:30 pm
Program: Nicki Grant, BLM. Climate Change - What could it mean for Western
Colorado's Plant Communities
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library

Feb. 11 Regular Meeting of the Chinle C&SS
6:30 pm
Program: Kenton Seth
Location: Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library

OTHER 2016 EVENTS

Garden Parties usually begin in March.

Landscapes West
March 18-19, 2016

Annual Show & Sale at the Denver botanic Gardens
March 18-20, 2016.

June 9-11 (June 12 optional) 15th Biennial Mid States Cactus & Succulent Conference
Aurora, Colorado

2015 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Maryann Benoit
970-270-3287

Co-Secretaries: Deb & Glenn Mallory
970-245-6168

Treasurer: Loren Benoit
970-254-7471

Web Master: Tom Burrows
970-462-6767

Member at Large: Lisa Hamilton
970-987-1418

V. Pres & Newsletter Editor: Janet Hassell
970-263-0910

Garden Activities Coordinator: Lois Davidson
970-242-2879

Program Committee:
Don Campbell: 970-245-5088
Shari Skeie: 970-963-7266

Past President: Bill Hassell
970-263-0910

Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.
Meetings are held in the Western Colorado Botanical Garden Library,
641 Struthers Ave., Grand Junction, CO. Guests are always welcome.
Chinle Mailing Address: Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society, PO Box 233, Grand Junction, CO 81502
CHINLE C&SS WEBSITE: www.chinlecactusclub.org

WILD WEST LANDSCAPING - PHONE 760-485-4800
Owner - Andrew Shea
wildwestlandscaping@yahoo.com

California License Nursery D1351.001		WILD WEST NURSEY INVENTORY FALL 2015	
DROUGHT TOLERANT	SIZE	RETAIL	
Acacia Steno	3-4'	\$15.00	EBAY SELLER: CACTUSANDROCKTIME FAST PRIORITY MAIL SHIPPING!!!
Yellow Birds of Paradise	1GL	\$15.00	
California Pepper Tree	3'	\$15.00	
Desert Cassia - Senna Bush.	1GL	\$10.00	
Nemophila _ Desert Cassia	1GL	\$10.00	
Mexican Fan Palm -Washingtonia	3GL	\$15.00	
Mexican Fan Palm	PLUG	\$5.00	
Mesquite Tree	7-8'	\$40.00	
Oleander Bush	3GL	\$30.00	
Mexican Fan Palm	5GL	\$30.00	
SUCCULENT		SIZE	RETAIL
Yucca Filamentous	1GL	\$10.00	
Vilmoriniana Octopus Agave.	1GL	\$10.00	
Aloe Vera	1GL	\$10.00	
Blue Star Agave	3GL	\$35.00	
Dasyllirion -Wheeleri	1GL	\$12.00	
Elephant Bush	1GL	\$10.00	
Joshua Tree - Yucca Palm	5GL	\$50.00	
Mojave Yucca	2GL	\$17.00	
Euphorbia - Milk Bush	3GL	\$50.00	
Pinus Eldarica	1GL	\$10.00	
Red Yucca	1GL	\$10.00	
Red Yucca	2GL	\$20.00	
Sensevieria	2GL	\$20.00	
Yucca Baccata	1GL	\$10.00	
CACTUS		SIZE	RETAIL
Boxing Glove Cactus.	3GL	\$40.00	
Cholla Cactus	2-3'	\$30.00	
Easter Lilly	1GL	\$17.00	
Easter Lilly Medium	3GL	\$30.00	
Easter Lilly Large	5GL	\$55.00	
Ground cover Cactus	3GL	\$20.00	
Spruce Cone Cholla	3GL	\$30.00	
Optunia Prickly Pear	3GL	\$30.00	
Purple Prickly Pear	1GL	\$20.00	
Peruvian Apple	1GL	\$10.00	
Peruvian Apple	3GL	\$35.00	
Peruvian Apple Grande	3-5'	\$50.00	
Peruvian Apple Grande	5-8'	\$115.00	
San Pedro Cactus	3GL	\$30.00	

WATER IS LIFE AND CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOW THREATENING OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE. YEARLY EVERY REGION IN THE COUNTRY IS FACING SOME SEASONAL DROUGHT RISK. CLIMATE CHANGE WILL AFFECT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF WATER SUPPLIES IN THE YEARS TO COME. THE WESTERN U.S. HAS ALREADY EXPERIENCED A CRISIS WITH WATER SHORTAGES. WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WILL MORE THAN LIKELY EXPERIENCE DROUGHT CONDITIONS SOME TIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.