

# POINTS OF INTEREST

April 2003 Volume 6, Issue 4

---

## Welcome, New Members

The CCSS Show & Sale is one of the main events the club holds annually, and it's when most new members join. The beautiful and unusual specimens featured in the show work their charm, and the variety of houseplants and winter-hardy garden plants available at the sale spark the imagination of both novice and experienced gardeners.

For those new members who signed up at the Show & Sale (and the Denver Home and Garden Show and Echter's Echxpo), it's a good time to become acquainted with the club. Long-time members may also enjoy a chance to catch up on what's going on with CCSS as well.

The Colorado Cactus and Succulent Society has two chapters: the Front Range Chapter centered in Denver and the Chinle Chapter located in Grand Junction for Western Slope members.

Each chapter holds monthly meetings, the Front Range Chapter on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and the Chinle Chapter on the second Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The program coordinators of each chapter do a wonderful job of finding local, national, and even international experts on topics of interest to CCSS members.

Our speakers cover topics ranging from taxonomy to proper soil preparation. Some speakers are experts on a certain type of plant or a certain geographic area. Many of our members have traveled extensively to find and study cactus and succulents, and have shared their experiences with us. To give you an idea of the range of topics, consider April's scheduled meetings. The Front Range Chapter will have Marcia Tatroe, who writes a garden column for the Denver Post, giving us ideas on companion plants to winter-hardy cacti and succulents, while Chinle Chapter members will learn about cycad fossils from Grand Junction geologist Richard Dayvault.

The usual meeting place for the Front Range Chapter is the Waring House of the Denver Botanic Gardens. It is located on the northwest corner of 9th Avenue and York Street, just south of the DBG. The Chinle Chapter recently moved its meeting place to Mesa mall in Grand Junction.

Many areas in Colorado and the Southwest region are of interest to our members. Consequently, our monthly meeting schedule is often modified in the warm-weather months to take advantage of what our home state and neighboring states have to offer. Both chapters sponsor garden tours and field trips, often on weekends, in lieu of the regular meeting, so be sure to watch in *Points of Interest* and the Chinle newsletter for schedule changes.

Last spring, the Chinle Chapter members were gracious hosts to the Front Range members for our field trip to the Colorado National Monument and an excursion into the beautiful canyon lands of eastern Utah. Our Western Slope friends are already planning this year's outing for June 6, 7, and 8. Be sure to mark your calendar for terrific weekend in one of the most beautiful parts of our state.

CCSS also holds an Annual General Meeting and Dinner Party, usually early in December. We elect our officers (volunteers, please step forward) and catch up on club business—and then the fun starts! This year, our bash is tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in December. The Chinle Chapter also holds a similar get-together in the Grand Junction area.

CCSS has for some time sponsored the cactus garden at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster. Because of the renovations taking place at the Pavilion, CCSS members last fall rescued some plants that had to be removed because of building projects.

The Chinle Chapter has provided much time, support, and effort for the cactus and succulent garden at the CSU Extension Office in Grand Junction. And with the opening of the new Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, Chinle members have undertaken a herculean task in constructing the cactus garden there. Front Range members who visited the garden on our Grand Junction trip last spring are no doubt looking forward to seeing the progress that's been made in the last year.

-- Continued on page 3

## Presidential Thoughts

# Volunteers and New Plants

In late winter and early spring, CCSS members turn their attention to the Show & Sale, but members have been supporting the club in other ways the past two months.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for their time at the Denver Home and Garden Show in February and Echter's Echxpo in March. We had many volunteers for both occasions. I would especially like to thank Harriet Olds for organizing CCSS's involvement in both events.

Many of you are probably unaware, but Harriet was in charge of designing a display board that was used for both events. At the Denver Home and Garden Show, CCSS was entered into a contest, and we received second prize for the best display. Thank you, Harriet!

I'd also like to acknowledge David Annable, Jim and Sharron Cuscaden, Sharon and Bob Hall, Kathleen Hamas, Mike Loeffler, Neil Lundquist, Joe McCleary, Suzanne McNamara, Steve Miles, Roswitha Moehring, Mike and Joan Roses, Lonnie Staker, Pam Story, Don Sweitzer, Margo Verkutis, and Ken and Gina Wilkie for all of their hard work

By now, I hope you've all experienced the fun of being at the Show & Sale. I hope everyone got to take home something special. I know every year I buy something rare, unusual, and easy growing.

Last year, I bought a *Pachypodium sp.*, but unfortunately it didn't make it. It died last month, and I think it was because the roots were wet and got too cold. It's so hard when you lose a plant that you like. But our annual Show & Sale allows me to replenish my collection and experiment as well, knowing that if a plant dies, I can always get more!

It's helpful is to keep in touch with other members to see what they've bought. It's come in handy for me to share this information. On many occasions I've found out that my friends have bought the same plant that I did, except mine has died and theirs have thrived. In situations like that, my friends have given me cuttings to start over—or I just buy another plant.

One of the things to remember when buying or acquiring new plants is that no matter where it comes from or how reputable the nursery may be, I always spray the plant with some form of insecticide. It will make your life

easier in the end and you don't have to worry about infecting other plants.

This year I received an *Aloe sp.* from a friend, and it did fine the first four months. Now it seems like it's always infested with aphids. I've been using diluted Neem Oil, which seems to help a lot, but the aphids always come back.

Situations like this can be really irritating. I found out from the same friend who gave me the plant that the *Aloe* has had a history with aphids. My lesson learned in this: spray your plants to minimize the problems you might encounter later on.

In the meantime, enjoy the goodies that you've bought and hopefully you'll cherish yours for many years to come.

### April Meeting

Our featured speaker for our next regular meeting is Marcia Tatroe, who writes a garden column for the Denver Post. An enthusiastic gardener and well-known lecturer, she will talk about and show slides of companion plants to winter-hardy cacti and succulents.

Anyone who has an outdoor garden of cactus and succulents or is contemplating starting one will get ideas and inspiration from her on how to complement the garden with other companion plants.

We will meet at our regular time and place: Tuesday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. at the Waring House of the Denver Botanic Gardens. The Waring House is located on the northwest corner of 9th Avenue and York Street, just south of the DBG.

We look forward to seeing veteran members of the club and greeting new ones at the meeting.

Our speaker for May is CCSS member Steve Miles. Based on his personal experience and his success with the use of rocks in his great and well-known cactus garden in Boulder, Steve will give a presentation "Stone—the key to successful gardening."

--Roswitha Moehring

--Meetings Coordinator

# Chinle Chapter News & Notes

## CSU Extension Demo Garden Featured in Tour

As Denver digs out from the biggest snowstorm of the century (think about it), the first iceplants have been blooming for weeks already in our CSU Extension demo garden in Grand Junction, and Chinle Chapter members are gearing up for spring with our first weeding party scheduled for Saturday, April 5.

This year we have even more incentive to keep the cactus gardens looking good, because the CSU gardens will be featured in the annual spring garden tour sponsored by the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens. This prestigious event, scheduled for May 31 to June 1, features a selection of the finest of Mesa County's gardens each year

## April Meeting: Fossils of Living Fossils

Cycads, caudiciform "living fossils," are considered to be intermediary between tree ferns and palms. They've been around for a long time: more than 100 million years ago, our region enjoyed a more tropical climate in which cycads flourished, just as they do in today's tropics. The fossils of these cycads that lived in our region long ago are the subject of the Chinle Chapter's April 10 meeting.

Richard Dayvault, a Grand Junction geologist, will be our featured speaker. He'll share his study of petrified cycad trunks from southeastern Utah, complete with beautiful slides of these most unusual and distinctive fossils.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The April meeting will be our first in our new location at Mesa Mall in Grand Junction. No more hauling boxes of cacti and other sundries up and down stairs; our new meeting room is on ground level and accessible for wheelchairs!

Our meeting time remains the same: 6:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month, year-round (with occasional exceptions for special events).

Front-Range CCSS members and other visitors are always welcome!

## Ready for the S&S!

Based on the number and variety of cacti and succulents on display at the March meeting, it was obvious that Chinle Chapter members are well prepared for the CCSS Show & Sale in Denver. We brought both exhibit and sale plants for last-minute advice and

preparation for our participation in the annual extravaganza. This year's \$5 incentive to bring show plants was having an obvious effect, as some who had never before exhibited plants were sprucing theirs up for the end of March.

The temptation was strong to buy up a substantial portion of our for-sale plants ourselves, but we decided to share them with the rest of the organization, as well as the Denver-area customers in general.

Plans for another exciting weekend with CCSS members from throughout Colorado are in the works! Once again the Chinle Chapter will host three days of field trips, garden tours, hikes, driving excursions, picnics, and opportunities to enjoy our Western Slope hospitality and sunshine. We're even throwing in some dinosaurs for good measure. These activities are planned for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 6, 7, and 8.

We look forward to a great time with all our CCSS friends!

--Bobbie Irwin  
--Chinle Chapter Newsletter Editor

---

## A Welcome to New Members

-- Continued from page 1.

As a society, CCSS has as part of its mission to promote the use of cactus and other drought-resistant plants in landscaping, preserving these plants, and educating people about them. Despite the recent heavy snows in Colorado, we are still in a drought, and so the mission of CCSS becomes even more crucial.

For gardeners and plant lovers, springtime is the start of a new year. Because we gain most of our new members in the spring, it is also, in a sense, the start of a new year for CCSS.

As CCSS moves into our new year, we hope that our new members will join us in learning more about the plants we care for and share their experience, ideas, and knowledge with us. Most of all, we invite them to help us in fulfilling our mission.

--Suzanne McNamara  
--Points of Interest Editor

## Denver Chapter Membership Renewal

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your CCSS membership.

If the information on the mailing label on this newsletter is correct, please be sure it is still attached to the back of this form.

If the information is incorrect, use this form to correct it.

Membership fees are \$10 for individuals and organizations and \$15 for families.

Make your check payable to CCSS.

Mail to:

Dave Martin

9330 West 90th Drive

Broomfield, CO 80021

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Plant species  
of interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Points of Interest

Suzanne McNamara

8257 West Virginia Avenue

Lakewood, CO 80226

Scot Hume  
4523 Bella Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

