



Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society
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To promote knowledge, enjoyment, cultivation, and conservation of cacti and other succulent plants among its members, other individuals and organizations throughout West-Central Colorado

PROGRAM FOR AUGUST MEETING SURE TO STIMULATE INTEREST!

Sheryl Williams, program presenter for the August 12th Regular Meeting of the Chinle CCSS, poses the question:

“Which came first--the flower or the bee?”

Join us for a fascinating look at the co-evolution of plants and their pollinators that lead to an interesting diversity of floral strategies and pollinator adaptation.

We will explore with Sheryl many examples of dependent partnerships, floral sonication, multiple defenses against herbivores, plant guilds, and mimicry and deception. She assures us that we will definitely look at our gardens differently after exploring this subject. Sheryl Williams is the Horticulture Instructor at the Delta Montrose Technical College and long-time Master Gardener.



Above, Sheryl shows Chinle members one of her many garden spots in last year's Garden Tour.

Many Chinle members visited Sheryl's amazing gardens on past Garden Tours and remember her wealth of knowledge and entertaining personality.

Be sure to put the August 12th meeting on your calendar!



Woody Minnich, speaking at the Bakersfield Cactus and Succulent Society.
(Photo by Stephen Cooley)

SEPTEMBER MEETING TO FEATURE CELEBRATED CACTOPHILE/PHOTOGRAPHER, WOODY MINNICH!

Winton Brophy, Vice President and Program Coordinator, is pleased to announce that Woody Minnich has agreed to come to Grand Junction and present our September 9th program. The subject of his program will be focused on his visit to Brazil in the Rio Do Sul region, specifically to find and photograph Brazilian cacti and succulents.

Woody is a most entertaining speaker, and is sure to present a fascinating view of his South American adventures, accompanied by his fantastic, professional photographs. In addition, he is bringing with him a unique selection of plants for purchase from his greenhouse operation.

The Chinle C&SS will be promoting this program in the community among various botanical societies, horticulture programs, and college programs. Because of the expected larger turnout, we have arranged for a larger room in the Community Building at the Mesa State Fairgrounds, adjacent to the Sagebrush Room. Program is to begin at 6:30 pm as usual. Be sure to put September 9th on your calendars for this exciting presentation.

CHINLE MEMBERS ENJOYED ANOTHER GREAT GARDEN TOUR

Thirty-one Chinle members participated in the annual member Garden Tour, including four new members. The tour featured six stops to five private gardens and a visit to Chelsea Gardens, a commercial garden for xeric and native plants. All were unique, and all were splendid examples of Grand Valley gardens at their finest.

Many thanks to all the Chinle members who helped make the Garden Tour a success. A special thank you goes to Bev Biggs and Jim Hayes for arranging for and setting up the delicious lunch. And to Lynn Dunham for her helpful advice in planning the picnic lunch. Thanks to Bill Hassell for helping make sure the tour directions were correct. Thanks to Maryann Benoit for bringing all the paper products, and Curtis Swift for securing the Fairgrounds shelter for our after-tour picnic.



Of course, we are most grateful to the members who graciously allowed their gardens to be on the tour: Terri Wischhoefer, Joy & Tyne Bush, Pam Johnson and Dave McCollough, Chelsea Gardens, Janet & Bill Hassell, and Lilly McAnally. We also appreciate all the Chinle members and guests who participated in the tour, without which we wouldn't have had the tour! The weather cooperated nicely, and we missed brief showers and high temperatures.

For more photos of the tour activities, see pages 5-7.



**Don Campbell found this spectacular *Yucca glauca* (on left) with 22 flower stalks in his back yard.
Photo taken June 3, 2010.**

MEMBERS EARN MONEY FOR CHINLE C&SS

Maryann Benoit, Don Campbell and Tom Burrows performed a “grooming” operation on a garden near Maryann Benoit’s, and garnered \$100 for the CCSS. Way to go, whackers!! The other good news is that the material “whacked” has been set aside to pot up for additional sales later in the season. Loren Benoit also stopped by Lilly’s garden and pulled weeds--something that the Society may take on as a project.

CHINLE GARDENERS KEEP ON GOING!

Chinle gardeners started early in July to beat the heat at the CSU and WCBG gardens. Those present for gardening days included: July 7th: Maryann Benoit, Bev Biggs, Joy Bush, Don Campbell, and Kay Klausmeier. July 17th, Julie Bursi, Tom Burrows, Dieter Kubisch, and Nancy Glover braved the heat at the CSU Extension Gardens. On July 28th, Tom Burrows, Janet Hassell, Dieter Kubisch and Jack Neckles weeded at the WCBG garden.

WELCOME NEW CHINLE MEMBERS!

We are pleased to announce the the Chinle C&SS has four new members: Cynthia Grover, Nancy Weibel, Stephanie Jordan. and Julie Bursi. Welcome to you all, and we look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meetings and activities.

Especially for new members (and for current members needing a little refresher course), we will be featuring a two part article by Don Campbell on “Cactus & Succulent Plant Culture”. The first installment can be found on page seven of this newsletter.

OPUNTIA IDENTIFICATION

By Don Campbell

Upon our return from the Vernal field trip, I sent this Opuntia photo to Dave Ferguson at the Albuquerque Botanical Garden. If you’re not familiar with Dave, he is, in my opinion, one of the leading authorities on Opuntias. Since several of you had asked the name of this Opuntia (it’s from the Canyon Pintado area) I



Opuntia polyacantha var. *polyacantha*

thought I'd check with Dave. His response follows:

“Assuming size is ‘average’ I’d probably call the one in your photo O. polyacantha var. polyacantha--being most like plants out on the Great Plains.

“Up in the Rangely to Meeker and Craig area, you get mostly O. polyacantha var. polyacantha in those open sagebrush and grassland hills, but in the lower areas (mostly heading down and west into desert) it blends into var. rhodantha, and the plants can be intermediate. At high elevations (as around Rio Blanco) you will find populations of dwarves that look basically like miniature O. polyacantha var. polyacantha (or if less spiny like var. juniperiana) and these are var. schweriniana. There are no lines between them, so it can get pretty confusing in some areas.

“It’s sort of the same basic sort of thing from Wyoming to the north side of the San Juans, with var. polyacantha in the upland basins and on the plateaus where there is mostly grassland, with var. schweiniana (type locality is Sapinera) near the upper limit of the species, and with var. rhodantha in the most desert-like lower basins. Southward (south from the Uncomphagre mostly) the upland ones, especially in pinon-juniper country become less spiny and instead of var. polyacantha, those are var. juniperiana (they look like var. polyacantha that have had most of their spines removed, not like var. rhodantha). South of about the Abajos, San Miguels, and San Juans, var. polyacantha is replaced by var. juniperiana completely, and var. rhodantha is replaced by var. hystricina. Var. Schweiniana keeps going into New Mexico and a bit into Arizona, but only in the highest areas.”

Thanks, Dave, for this informative piece!

GARDEN TOUR PHOTO ALBUM



Judy Babel & Carol Christlieb
ready to start the tour!



Reed Irwin, Tom Burrows and George
Dunham at the Hassell's garden.



Reed Irwin, Judy & Bob Babel and Tom Burrows at Terri Wischoefer's garden.



Don Campbell points out large chollas at Terri's garden to (L-R) Jim Hayes, Bev Biggs, Kay Klausmeier, and Carol Campbell.



Members took a lovely break at Joy & Tyne Bush's gardens. Joy (above) discusses her lilies with John Moore.



Left, Tony Urschitz & Don Campbell chat, while members tour the Chelsea Nursery gardens on the right.



New member, Stephanie Jordan found several plants to give a new home in her garden.



Member Kay Klausmeier admires Pam Johnson's interesting "Potato" Opuntia in her front garden.

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT PLANT CULTURE - PART I

A Beginning Guide

By Don I. Campbell

Succulent plants, including cacti, are among the most beautiful and bizarre in the entire plant kingdom. Their distinctive, sometimes weird, adaptations for survival in hostile habitats endear these fascinating plants to a growing number of plant enthusiasts.

The tremendous diversity of succulent plants and their natural habitats makes their cultivation and care as much an art as a science. Growing many of them can be quite easy as long as their basic needs are satisfied. Even though many succulent plants originated in harsh and arid conditions, they still need a bit of tender loving care to flourish and flower. In general most succulent plants do best with bright light, not necessarily direct sunlight, and high daytime temperature during their growing season. Also required: a well-drained porous soil; properly regulated watering; occasional light fertilizing; a cool, dry rest period; and attention to possible pest problems.

Soil and Containers

Most plants, when purchased, come in a container with nursery-provided soil and can be kept this way for some time. Excellent soil mixes are commercially available, but many hobbyists mix their own.

A mixture of one-third standard compost, one-third coarse sand and one-third perlite is a good general composition. Rapid drainage and good aeration are the main requirements for growing healthy plants.

Many types of containers are available. Soil dries out more quickly in unglazed clay pots than in plastic or ceramic pots, and large pots tend to retain moisture longer than small ones. Be sure the container you select provides plant stability and good drainage.

Light

Southern exposures provide the maximum light, but many plants will grow quite well in bright western or eastern exposures. With insufficient light, plants will show weak, pallid growth and poor flowering. Too much direct sunlight can result in damage from sun scalding to stems and leaves. Artificial lighting can be used to provide or boost lighting in darker situations. A timer will help regulate lighting from some plants which prefer 14-18 hours of light each day. All lighting requirements are less during the plant's dormant period.

Water and Nutrients

Over watering is probably the most common problem when growing cacti and other succulent plants, though under watering can also be a problem during growth periods. The basic rule is: water when dry! Plants may require weekly (or more) saturation waterings during the spring and summer and only occasional light waterings during the fall and winter. Beginners may find a moisture meter helpful. Experience is the best teacher with respect to timing, frequency and amount of water. Watch your plants. They can tell you a great deal about their needs.

Light fertilization during the growing season is usually beneficial. Use a standard 10-30-10 plant fertilizer at about one-half the recommended amounts.

NEXT MONTH - PART II OF CACTUS AND SUCCULENT PLANT CULTURE

TOPICS: TEMPERATURE, PESTS, PROPAGATION, AND OTHERS

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Submitted by Donnie Barnett



EDITORS NOTE: I send the newsletter in a reduced format as my email service cannot handle a file greater than 2 MB. With the many photos I use, the number of KB/MB counts up in a hurry. For those of you that prefer a full-size file for viewing or printing (to produce the highest quality photos), you can go to the following website where newsletters in full-size format are archived:

<http://thomasaburrows.com/chinle/newsletters.html>

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Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society 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 C&SS WEBSITE:

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

2010 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- AUGUST 7** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
- AUGUST 12** REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: "Which Came First--the Flower or the Bee"
Presenter: Sheryl Williams, Horticulture Instructor
Delta Montrose Tech. College
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- AUGUST 18** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
- AUGUST 28** GARDEN PARTY - 8 AM - CSU EXTENSION
- SEPT 8** GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM, WC BOTANICAL GARDENS
- SEPT 9** REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: "The Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil"
Presenter: Woody Minnich
6:30 p - Community Building Room, Mesa County
Fairgrounds
- SEPT 18** GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM - CSU EXTENSION
- SEPT. 28** GARDEN PARTY - 7 PM, WC BOTANICAL GARDENS*
- OCTOBER 9** GARDEN PARTY - 9 AM, CSU EXTENSION
- OCTOBER 14** REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS
Program: "What's New in Donnie's Land of Cactus"
Presenter: Donnie Barnett
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room, Mesa County Fairgrounds
- OCTOBER 20** LAST GARDEN PARTY FOR 2010 - 9AM, WCBG

*Note change of date and time