



# Succulent Morsels

News of the Chinle Cactus & Succulent Society  
June 2011 Vol. 3, No. 6

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

## JUNE PROGRAM: DR. CURTIS SWIFT SPEAKS ON INSECTS, INSECTICIDES, HERBICIDES & MORE

After two months of outdoor meetings, the Chinle C&SS will return to the Sagebrush Room on the second Thursday on June 9th for a regular meeting, beginning at 6:30 pm. We have on good authority that Tom Burrows will be bringing his infamous Kalua Cake, as well as the Molasses Cookies he brought to the Garden Tour luncheon.

The program will be presented by Dr. Curtis Swift, Area Extension Agent Horticulture, CSU Extension Service. His talk will focus on Soil Watering, Insects, Pesticides, Herbicides & Applications. Dr. Swift has presented talks on similar topics in the past and his information has been very interesting, educational, and helpful for gardeners in the Grand Valley, regardless of their expertise.

Be sure to put this program on your calendar!!

## *Garden Tour & Picnic 2011: a Great Success*

May 14th, 2011, Pam Johnson, Garden Tour Coordinator, guided at least 25 Chinle members on a fascinating tour of member gardens. Clipboard in hand, Pam made sure everyone had directions, a ride, and any other details that needed to be done.

The weather was perfect (until lunch time), and short sleeves were definitely the uniform of the tour.

**First Stop - The Seversons:** Everyone divided up as assigned into cars, and left the CSU parking lot for the first stop on the tour, Al and Pat Severson's on Rincon Drive.



Pam Johnson (center) busy organizing car pools at the start of the tour.



Before...



After!!!



It was delightful to see how their garden had matured since they first planted it three years ago. Both deserve congratulations on their hard work. Pat has added a succulent bed in the front yard as well. It is unfortunate, however, that their gardens have evidence of a garden gnome infestation. Al says he is doing his best to rid the garden of the pests, but is losing the battle.



Infestation!!!



The combination of cacti & iris in their garden is very effective.

**Second Stop - Tom Burrows:** Our second stop was at Tom Burrow's home, with its monumental views, an example of which is shown here. He has cultured his large piece of property into a near-perfect example of returning an area back to its native grasses and habitat

Additionally, he has planted cacti in and amongst the grassy areas in a very natural way, and fun (and sometimes a



Tom's front yard IS the Colorado National Monument!



challenge) to find! Tom led us on paths he has developed to see a reclaimed corral, an example of rocky habitats with blooming hedgehog cacti, and various other native plants and grasses. At his home, he has an “outdoor cactus nursery” where he has potted plants for future use. And he also has an inside nursery where he cultivates his major interest in growing cacti from seed.



Above on the left, Pam Johnson stands guard over a easy-to-step-on Opuntia. (Center) A blooming pedio hides in the grasses. (R) An example of cacti planted among native grasses & natural habitat.



(L to R), Maryann Benoit with Al & Pat Severson at the Benoit's

**Third Stop - The Benois:** As we saw on our third stop, Loren & Mary Ann Benoit have created a lovely blending of cacti, succulents, grassy areas, & shrubbery in their landscaping and gardens. Rock-ringed areas are perfect for the plants chosen--opuntia, semper vera, and cholla--as well as an errant bowling ball!!

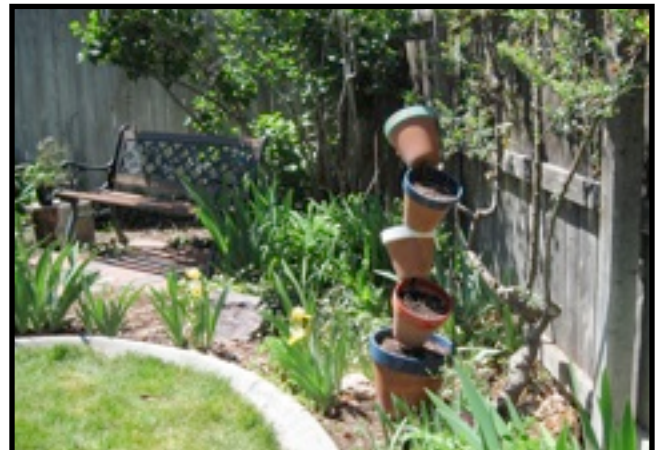
They have lived in their present home for about seven years, and their mature gardens reflect careful and artful planning. Maryann's back patio is “decorated” with many cacti and succulents, beautifully arranged for easy viewing



Above left, Maryann Benoit (R) discusses plant selection with (L to R) Judy Babel, Pam Johnson & Joy Bush. Center, Judy McCart points out the purple bowling ball that accents this part of the garden. Right, the Tour views the Benoit's side garden.

**Fourth Stop - Judy McCart's:** Judy's gardens were a fitting finale to the tour! She literally started from "scratch" and built her landscaping piece by piece. Even though Judy is retired and likes to spend more time traveling than tending to a lot of garden work, you'd never know it by the tidy appearance of her garden. She has made it place of relaxation and beauty, a great place to come home to after a long trip.

Judy, a Master Gardener, is very creative in making the most of a small space, with cozy corners and objects d'art to intrigue the viewer. Her tumbling-pot fountain (which she made) is a charming accent to the sitting area adjacent to it. Lush and colorful iris add color to the entire scene!



**Last Stop-Lunch!** The tour ended back at the CSU Garden area with a catered lunch made possible through Pam Johnson and Dave McCullough's organizing efforts. The food was delicious, with dessert brownies baked by Lynn Dunham and molasses cookies baked by Tom Burrows. The group was cheated out of the usual socializing at lunch by a sudden wind and rain storm which caused everyone to start packing, fortunately after everyone had eaten! The weather, however, couldn't dampen any of the group's enjoyment of the outing!

Thanks, Pam, for all your work, and to the members who made their lovely gardens available for the tour--the Seversons, Tom Burrows, the Benois, and Judy McCart. All is greatly appreciated!



Chinle members "chow down" a delicious meal after the tour.

## GOOD-BY TO DIETER



At the May board meeting, Dieter Kubisch announced that he had sold his home (after a long time on the market) and was moving to Texas where he has purchased a new home, complete with greenhouse and room for his pigeons! He and Nancy will be leaving Grand Junction at the end of May. All the Board members were saddened by this news; Dieter has contributed so much to the club--as President, former President, and Vice President. He has always been willing to offer his help whenever needed, whether it was gardening help, use of his truck, taking responsibility for difficult tasks, or simply providing wise counsel and guidance for the management of the Society. Our community will surely miss him, but also appreciate the many gifts of time, talent and resources he has given freely. We will miss you, Dieter.

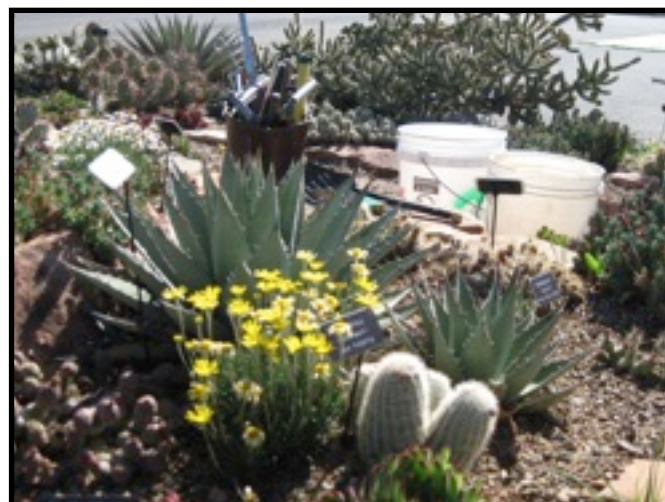
## WELCOME NEW V.P., JUDY MCCART

In lieu of Dieter Kubisch's resignation as Vice President and departing the area, President Bill Hassell has, according to the By-Laws, appointed a successor to the Vice President position. Judy McCart has graciously consented to serve in this role, which includes the important function of being Program Chairman. Let's give Judy all the support we can as she carries on this important work of the Society.



## GARDENERS VISIT CSU FOR MORE GARDENING FUN

A small, but dedicated group of Chinle gardeners met at the CSU Extension gardens for the Thursday garden party, May 12th. Gardeners were Maryann Benoit, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, and Don Campbell.



All the recent rain has rejuvenated the gardens--as well as the weeds!



*It's just plain beautiful at the CSU Garden.*

May 16th was a special planting party at the CSU Garden to place a number of new and replacement plants.. Members who participated in this project included Maryann & Loren Benoit, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Don Campbell, Nancy Glover, Janet Hassell, Kay Klausmeier, Jack Neckles, and Pat & Al Severson. It should be noted that most members encountered hail or snow on the way to the CSU site, and a bit of cold rain at the beginning of the garden party! Mother Nature took pity on the gardeners later in the morning and held off further rain, altho there was plenty of thunder and lightening during the time at the garden.



*(L to R): Jack Neckles, Maryann Benoit, Nancy Glover, Pat Severson, Loren Benoit & Al Severson brave the rain at the Planting Party.*

Saturday, May 21st, Chinle gardeners met at the Western Colorado Botanical Gardens for a regularly scheduled Garden Party. Gardeners included Don Campbell, Bob Bubel, Tom Burrows, Nancy Glover, Janet Hassell, and Al and Pat Severson.



Kay Klausmeier wrestles with a Cholla from Ruth Johnson's garden prior to replanting at WCBG.



Don Campbell, choreographer of plant placement.



The Severson's are a Wicked Weeding Team!



Nancy Glover & Bob Bubel take a break from planting & weeding.



This apparently dead agave manages to put out a flower stalk.

## 2011 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- JUNE 2      Garden Party - Thursday - 8 am (note time change)  
CSU Extension Garden
- JUNE 9      REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS  
Program: Soil, Watering, Pesticides  
Herbicides & Application  
Presenter: Dr. Curtis Swift  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room., Mesa County  
Fairgrounds
- JUNE 11     Garden Party - Saturday - 8 am  
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- JUNE 11-12 20th Annual Grand Valley Garden Tour  
9am to 3 pm - Chinle Volunteers wanted  
at the WCBG & CSU Gardens
- JUNE 16     Garden Party - Thursday - 8 am  
CSU Extension Garden  
(RESCHEDULED FROM JUNE 23RD)
- JUNE 25     Hydratufa Class - Level II - Making a bowl  
9:00 am - Location: 3032 Milburn Court  
Host: Pam Johnson - 523-5443
- JUNE 30     Garden Party - Thursday - 8 am  
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- JULY 14     REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS  
Program: Saquaro Sensations & CCSA Update  
Presenter: Dave Kennedy  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room - Mesa County  
Fairgrounds
- JULY 14     Garden Party - Thursday @ 8 am  
CSU Extension Garden

- JULY 23 Garden Party - Saturday - 8 am  
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- JULY 23 Making "Rocks" Class - Creating a Bonsai Landscape  
9:00 am - Location: 3032 Milburn Court  
Host: Pam Johnson - 523-5443
- AUGUST 4 Garden Party - Thursday - 8 am  
CSU Extension Gardens
- AUGUST 11 REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHINLE C&SS  
Program: Jeff Brimley, Guest Speaker  
6:30 pm - Sagebrush Room - Mesa County  
Fairgrounds
- AUGUST 13 Garden Party - Saturday - 8 am  
Western Colorado Botanical Garden
- AUGUST 25 Garden Party - Thursday - 8 am  
CSU Extension Gardens

Visit the website and click on the headings to access various areas and discover how much excellent information is available about our Cactus C&S Society.

**NEW CHINLE WEBSITE:** [www.chinlecactusclub.org](http://www.chinlecactusclub.org)

**CSU WEBSITE LINK:** <http://www.coopext.colostate.edu/TRA/PLANTS/chinlecactus.shtml>

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This version of the newsletter is in a reduced file format. If you want a larger-size file to print, go to [www.chinlecactusclub.org](http://www.chinlecactusclub.org) Chinle Website and click on the newsletter link.

## 2010 Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society Board

President: Bill Hassell  
970-263-0910

Secretary/Web Master: Tom Burrows  
970-462-6767

Treasurer: Loren Benoit  
970-254-7471

Vice President: Judy McCart  
970-623-9279

Member at Large: Maryann Benoit  
970-254-7471

Newsletter Ed: Janet Hassell  
970-263-0910

Garden Committee: Don Campbell  
970-245-5508

**Chinle Cactus and Succulent Society usually meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30pm. Meetings are held in the Sagebrush Room at the Grand Junction Fair Grounds. Guests are always welcome.**